



REFLECTIONS OF

LOWE FARM

1899



1999

REFLECTIONS OF LOWE FARM
A Centennial project of the Community of Lowe Farm
A history of the Lowe Farm area
1899 – 1999

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A special thank you to all those who submitted valuable information and timeless photographs in helping to make this publication possible.

The evolution of this book marks the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the community of Lowe Farm. Persons of diversified ethnic origins founded this community and, as in most prairie communities, there are many colorful stories to tell.

If it weren't for individuals who were totally focussed and committed to a job well done, histories like these would never be formalized into a published document.

Paul Joyal has been the driving force behind this book. He is a relatively new citizen of Lowe Farm and has been the person "behind the scenes" to whom we owe our thanks for the completion of this book. Paul has spent a considerable amount of time in researching, typing, photographing, and making sure the copy deadlines would be met. (i.e. bugging us all to make sure our stories were completed!) Paul has interviewed many Lowe Farm Residents and has studied and researched the many facets of this community history to create an outstanding finished project.

On behalf of the citizens of Lowe Farm, we gratefully acknowledge and thank Paul for his time and effort in publishing Reflections of Lowe Farm.

PREFACE

One hundred years ago our ancestors arrived to farm the vast expanse of the prairie land. Most arrived with little more than a vision, a deep faith in God, and belief in themselves and each other. Far removed from their homeland, their courage and resourcefulness would be taxed to the limit. Through their determination to succeed, the community of Lowe Farm slowly evolved. It is to their memory and their visions that this history book is dedicated.

By preserving the past we are reminded of how deeply we are indebted to it. To paraphrase the words of John L. Braun, who wrote in the 75th Anniversary Book, "By telling us what our forefathers did, history inspires us in two directions. To respect their achievements, great in their day, and to inspire us to strive to equal their resourcefulness and courage."

This book is dedicated to the Lowe Farm Pioneers.

It is our sincere hope that through written text and photographs we have been able to capture in some measure the rich and colorful heritage of Lowe Farm.

In this our Centennial Year, may we, as modern day pioneers, pass along to succeeding generations the resourcefulness and courage handed to us by our ancestors. Let our visions, our faith in God, and our belief in ourselves and each other continue to inspire to make Lowe Farm a strong and vibrant community.

Paul J. Joyal



Parliamentary Secretary
to the Minister of Indian
Affairs and Northern Development



Secrétaire parlementaire
du ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
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DAVID W. IFTODY
M.P. / DÉPUTÉ
PROVENCHER

January, 1999

Lowe Farm Centennial History Book Committee
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Dear Committee Members:

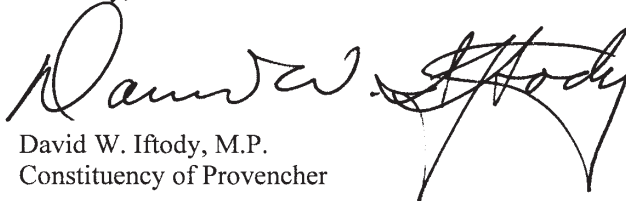
It gives me great pleasure to extend my most sincere congratulations to you on the occasion of the Centennial of the community of Lowe Farm.

100 years ago your community was founded largely by Mennonite immigrants whose desire for a better life led them to settle in Lowe Farm. Today, many of your residents are direct descendants of those hard-working settlers and you have much reason to be proud of your traditional roots.

Indeed, this history book will chronicle the early years of the local residents and will serve as a reference for those who seek to know more about their background and the lives of those who have lived in the local area. It is truly an ambitious undertaking for a small community to publish a thorough history. Your committee has tackled the job and the result is a wonderful history book that all can be proud of and that many will cherish for years to come.

I wish you all God's greatest blessings as you begin the next 100 years of Lowe Farm's history.

Sincerely,



David W. Iftody, M.P.
Constituency of Provencher

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LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL
THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

RIDEAU HALL
OTTAWA

I am pleased to send my best wishes to everyone in Lowe Farm as you celebrate the town's 100th anniversary. This is a chance for you to learn about your history and to come together, as neighbours, to show your pride in your beautiful and vibrant community.

Your celebration recalls the founders of a community whose determination remains a model for Canadians today. They and other pioneers like them, who were motivated by strong convictions and principles, contributed to the fabric of our great and diverse country. I think they, too, would be very proud of how the area has developed over the years.

I wish everyone in Lowe Farm continued success and prosperity in the next century.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roméo LeBlanc".

Roméo LeBlanc

July 1999



It is an honour and privilege to contribute a message into the Lowe Farm Centennial history book. On behalf of the entire Rural Municipality of Morris, please accept my congratulations on the celebration of your centennial.

One hundred years ago, Lowe Farm was a farming community and over all these years, farming has remained the mainstay and the basics of the community. Lowe Farm can be well proud of it's past, it's heritage and it's forefathers that built and created Lowe Farm.

Over the past many years, there have been many hurdles which have had to be overcome. There have been many difficulties facing the agricultural industry in the past. There has always been the pull of people into the larger cities and there are many other issues which all affect the survival of small towns. Lowe Farm has weathered them all and has maintained its status. Where many small centres have diminished and disappeared, the uniqueness of Lowe Farm has allowed it to prosper and grow.

Lowe Farm has shown its community spirit many times over the years. But none shows greater than during the flooding of 1950, 1979 and 1997 in which the people of Lowe Farm took in flood victims and helped others to sandbag and protect their properties. The great spirit of coming together to feed and shelter others in a time of adversity is a town that can be well proud of itself.

The future is always an unknown and this unknown creates our challenges that are yet to come. Lowe Farm and its people will meet those challenges and have a rich and full future.

As Reeve of the Rural Municipality of Morris and on behalf of the residents of the Rural Municipality of Morris, I congratulate Lowe Farm on its centennial and our best wishes on your future.

Herm Martens,
Reeve,
Rural Municipality of Morris



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF MANITOBA

For many Manitobans, the ties between past and present, between the arrival of their ancestors in this land and the modern communities where they live today, are maintained by memories and family history passed on by word of mouth. Such connections are vivid and personal but they are also imperfect and fade in time. Writing down these histories in black and white both keeps the past in focus and helps us share our own stories with generations to come.

Therefore, as Premier and the son of immigrants myself, I welcome the publication of a history book celebrating the founding of Lowe Farm 100 years ago this year. This documentary record and the dedication of a special summer weekend to commemorate the community's centennial are a fitting reminder of Manitoba's pioneer heritage.

The story of the early days and more recent development of Lowe Farm is, of course, especially significant and poignant to longtime residents of the Red River Valley, as it recounts the challenges and achievements of the region's settlers. To others across the province, it emphasizes the enduring values of hard work and determination, close-knit communities, and a shared vision of the future – the bedrock our province was founded upon.

I commend all those involved in producing this notable contribution to the historical and cultural understanding of Manitoba.

Gary Filmon

July 2, 1999





Message from
The Honourable Franklin P. Pitura
Minister of Government Services
MLA for Morris

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings in this book chronicling the history of Lowe Farm.

The Community of Lowe Farm has a rich and colourful history. The community's leadership role in the co-operative movement in Manitoba is well proven with the oldest credit union in Manitoba being the Lowe Farm Credit Union. This book chronicles the hard work and dedication of the pioneer families of Lowe Farm. The vision and hope for the future recorded by the stories in this history will affect those families today and the future generations of this great community that read this book.

I believe that Manitoba's greatest asset is the people of Manitoba and this book proves it.

Congratulations on this great project.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Franklin Pitura".

Franklin P. Pitura



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 100th anniversary of Lowe Farm, Manitoba.

For one hundred years, area residents have shared their hopes and dreams, building a better life for their children and their children's children. As you gather on this festive occasion, you will doubtless take the time to reflect on the vibrant history of your community. Our past holds the seeds of our future, and it is appropriate that we should honour those who have come before us by keeping their memory alive and cherishing the traditions that have shaped our heritage.

I know that Lowe Farm will continue to grow and flourish as part of our strong and vigorous nation. Please accept my best wishes as you prepare to meet the challenges of the years to come.

OTTAWA
1999



LOWE FARM AND AREA: AN HISTORICAL POLITICAL OVERVIEW

By Emerson MLA, Jack Penner

When the town plan for Lowe Farm was drawn up in 1898, Manitoba was still the “postage stamp” province. Even so, as the boundaries of the province would grow and change, the political constituencies within which the prairie town of Lowe Farm would fall would remain the same for the next 100 years.

The Rural Municipality of Morris, in which Lowe Farm is located, was founded in 1880. In the last decade of the 1800’s, the R.M. of Morris was experiencing a period of rapid growth, of which the establishment of Lowe Farm was a part. The continuous influx of new settlers required the creation of new schools, such as the Lowe Farm School, opened in 1899, and the building of new roads around the region.

One of the major forces behind the growth and development of the R.M. of Morris during this important period was Reeve Henry Snarr, an exceptional farmer who was also known for his friendliness and hospitality. Snarr held the position of Reeve first in 1893, and then from 1894 to 1898 and again from 1901-1904. During his tenure, land tax and drainage legislation was passed that proved beneficial to the municipality.

In the 100 years that Lowe Farm has been a part of the R.M. of Morris, it has been served by many other distinguished municipal officials, but perhaps none was more special to the community of Lowe Farm as Bernard W. Thiessen was. A farmer of the Lowe Farm district, Thiessen served for sixteen years as a councillor, and was Reeve from 1950-1951. Thiessen was also a very active within the community of Lowe Farm. He was president of the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op, the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce and director of the Lowe Farm Credit Union Society.

Thiessen’s term as Reeve coincided with the flood of 1950, which caused great damage and chaos throughout the municipality. As a result, the major issue of this period for the residents and municipality became the discussions with the federal and provincial governments for flood damage compensation.

In the arena of provincial politics, Lowe Farm has consistently found itself within the Morris Constituency, and as a part of this area, has been served by many accomplished Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The first MLA to serve the people of the Lowe Farm area was a Liberal by the name of Stewart Mulvey. However, he served only one term in office, and the election of December, 1899, brought in Conservative MLA Colin H. Campbell, who would hold the seat until 1914. Campbell became an important member of the Conservative Party caucus, holding the position of Attorney General from 1900-1911 and then serving as Minister of Public Works until 1913.

Another Conservative, Jacques Parent, followed Campbell as the MLA for Morris. He served until 1920, when Farmer candidate William Reid Clubb won the seat, after four years of service on the R.M. of Morris Council. He went on to hold this legislative seat for 21 years, earning him the honor of being the longest sitting MLA from the Morris Constituency. Over that time, he ran under the United Farmers of

Manitoba (UFA), Progressive, and Liberal-Progressive banners as the political coalition to which he belonged evolved.

In 1922, under the banner of the United Farmers of Manitoba, and led by John Bracken, members of this movement won control of the legislature. This ushered in an era of 'non-partisan' government in Manitoba, which would last until the 1950's. Clubb, known for his political aptitude for dealing with farm interests, became a key player in the Bracken Cabinet. He was Minister of Public Works from 1922-1940, as well as Labor Minister from 1932-1940.

Clubb's successor in the Morris seat was farmer John Cameron Dryden. He was first elected in 1941 as an independent candidate, but sat his second and last term as a Liberal-Progressive. Dryden was also a member of the provincial cabinet, as Minister of Education from 1944 to 1948, and later served as Provincial Treasurer.

In 1950, Harry Proctor Shewman took over the seat, and served the people of the Morris Constituency for 19 years. Shewman, who was also the Mayor of Morris from 1948 to 1954, ran originally as an independent candidate, but later became a member of the Progressive Conservative caucus, as traditional partisan politics reemerged within Manitoba in the early 1950's. He became the first of a continuous line of P.C. MLA's to be elected by the people of the Morris Constituency.

From 1969 to 1981, Walter H. Jorgenson served as the Morris MLA, after having spent several years as a Member of Parliament. He was Government House Leader from 1977-1979 and was then named, first as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and later as Minister of Government Services.

In November 1981, Clayton Manness, a farmer from the Domain area, was elected to the Legislature from the Morris Constituency. Like many of his predecessors, he became an important member of his caucus and of government. During his fourteen years at the provincial legislature, Manness served as Government House Leader, Minister of Finance and Minister of Education and Training.

Today, as Lowe Farm celebrates its 100th anniversary, the Honorable Frank P. Pitura sits as their Member of the Legislative Assembly. He was first elected in 1995 and in 1997 was appointed Minister of Government Services.

This history, in my view, clearly demonstrates the importance of the Municipality of Morris and the community of Lowe Farm as having a profound impact in directing the destiny of the province of Manitoba, as well as Canada.

The people of Lowe Farm are to be congratulated for their contributions to the well being of the nation, as well as recognizing its past history and all the people that contributed to it. May Lowe Farm grow and prosper for another 100 years.



Town of Lowe Farm from NE angle



Lowe Farm 1908

JOHN LOWE

FOUNDER OF LOWE FARM



JOHN LOWE

Founder of Lowe Farm

Submitted by Ralph Groening and Paul Joyal

Source: Dictionary of Canadian Biography



John Lowe

(photo courtesy of the National Archives of Canada)

John Lowe was born February 20, 1824, in Warrington England, son of James Lowe and Anne Clarke. After studying in a private school, he set sail for Montreal in 1841, where on arriving found employment in a fur trading - house. He soon discovered that he preferred literature to business and began a lifelong habit of reading for five or six hours every evening.

In 1848, he put his interest to work as a reporter and assistant editor of the Montreal Gazette. In 1851, he left for Toronto to become editor of the British Colonist, the first daily newspaper published in Canada.

On August 16, 1852, John Lowe married Almira Chamberlin in Frehligsburg, Lower Canada (Quebec). Within this marriage were born four children, two sons and two daughters.

On November 1, 1853, Lowe along with his brother-in-law, Brown Chamberlin, joined with a co-owner of the Gazette, James Moir Ferres, in buying out the other partner, John Milne. On April 1, 1854, Lowe and Chamberlin, with financing from Lowe's father-in-law, bought out Ferres and became owners and co-editors of the paper.

The editors rapidly made changes. They moved into larger quarters, bought a new steam press and began publishing daily throughout the year. In 1855, they launched the Canadian Mail or Montreal Weekly Gazette for Europe. The Gazette flourished affording Lowe a comfortable living.

In May of 1867, Lowe and Chamberlin sold the Gazette to a new entity, the Montreal Printing and Publishing Company, which was in fact the principal investment of the firm Lowe and Chamberlin.

On May 1, 1869, Montreal Printing and Publishing bought the Montreal Evening and Commercial Advertiser. By February of 1870, employees of Montreal Printing and Publishing had defrauded the company of at least \$ 14,000.00. The telegraph was bankrupt and Lowe and Chamberlin were in financial ruins. At age 46, John Lowe was wiped out.

During his time in Montreal, Lowe made many influential friends including Christopher Dunkin, Federal Minister of Agriculture. Dunkin rescued Lowe by offering him a position as census staff officer. On July 9, 1870, John Lowe began his career in the civil service. On February 8, 1871, he was named temporary secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and on May 7, 1873, the appointment was made permanent. The job was favor, but for the civil service Lowe was an inspired choice. He enjoyed gardening, plant breeding and agriculture in general, and had also produced statistical publications. Moreover, Dunkin had especially wanted him to take responsibility for immigration, a job to which his writing, promotional and managerial skills were well suited.

Population growth was essential to the financing of capital projects and to the development of the Dominion's vast resources. Given a free hand, John Lowe threw his boundless energy into directing the web of immigration agents stationed in Canada and abroad. He developed strategies to succeed in the competitive market for desirable immigrants, and negotiated special arrangements for their passage with his Montreal friends, Hugh and Andrew Allen, of the Allen Steamship Line.

John Lowe's enthusiasm for promoting Canada was redoubled by a visit on departmental business to the northwest and Manitoba in 1877. The company of his friend William Watson Ogilvie had shipped its first load of wheat from Manitoba that year. In January of 1878,

Lowe would tell Ogilvie that the vast region was “destined immediately to become the great wheat growing region of the North American Continent....I saw...black Alluvium over 10 feet in thickness.” Lowe’s knowledge, liking for agriculture and entrepreneurial drive combined in his determination to get a piece of the Manitoba dealings.

By 1878, Lowe had persuaded his brother James, an affluent merchant in Manchester, England, to invest in Manitoba land and establish their sons on it to farm. He used his departmental contacts in Manitoba to acquire settlement land and Metis scrip until in 1879, he held 16 sections of land at the present day village of Lowe Farm and properties in town sites nearby. By 1881, James Lowe had invested over \$50,000.00 in the scheme with almost no return. Damage caused by early frost, drought, drainage problems and fire was compounded by the evident unfitness of either of the Lowe boys for farming. Later attempts by Lowe to market a steam plough and sustain an irrigation and drainage company would also fail.

In the 1880’s, during the second Conservative administration of Sir John A. MacDonald, Lowe managed a tremendous campaign to attract immigrants, particularly farmers and farm laborers, for Manitoba. The number of immigrants peaked in 1883 at 133,600, and immigration expenses reached over half a million dollars in 1884-85. However, depression, government restraint and the North West Rebellion of 1885 had precipitated a cutback in spending and immigration levels by 1890.

In the midst of this decline Lowe’s responsibilities increased when on July 1, 1888, he was appointed Deputy Minister of Agriculture. John Lowe’s initiative effectively complimented the enterprise displayed by John Carling, Minister of Agriculture from 1885 until 1892.

The year 1895 was not a good one for John Lowe. In August 1895, while visiting Manitoba, the 71-year-old Lowe read in the Manitoba Morning Free Press that he was to be replaced as deputy. Outraged he appealed to political friends, but on December 1, 1895, John Lowe was superannuated (retired) and succeeded by William Bain Scarth, a political appointee.

The death of his beloved wife, Almira, added a further burden in this grim year. He, none the less, remained vigorous; he continued to garden and write and tried to salvage his encumbered Manitoba farm.

The functions of the Department of Agriculture, which included patent and trademark registration, immigration and agriculture seem disparate, but for John Lowe and his contemporaries they were closely related. Canada was engaged in a struggle with other colonies

and the United States to attract labor. The Department viewed every cow as an advertisement as well as income for Canadian farmers. Statistics were used as a measure of the Dominion’s success and as ammunition in the immigration campaign. The volume of inventions measured the ingenuity of Canada’s entrepreneurial sector and provided new means to exploit resources.

John Lowe himself, not content with a steady civil service job, took part in the risk and opportunity. His personal and professional life became almost indistinguishable in the 1880’s. Lowe Farm was meant to be not only an investment, but also a model farm and a testing ground for farming innovations. Its early progress was even documented in the Department’s Annual Report.

John Lowe managed to outlive all of his children. At age 89 years he became ill and passed away on November 7, 1913, at his home in Ottawa. He was buried at the home of his friends the Chamberlins in Frehligsburg, Quebec.

John Lowe devoted all of his personal and professional resources to an integrated and national goal; the peopling and development of Canada, particularly Western Canada. He was responsible for the immigration process, acted as liaison between the Federal Government and the Russian delegations of Mennonites and outlined the responsibilities of the government toward Mennonite immigrants coming to Canada to settle.

Unfortunately for John Lowe, the time was not ripe for the realization of his schemes, but he should be remembered for the talent, energy and unshakable belief in the future of Canada. The Village of Lowe Farm will always be proud to bear his name.



Department of Agriculture,

IMMIGRATION BRANCH,

Ottawa, 23rd July 1873.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour under instruction of the Hon: the Minister of Agriculture, to state to you in reply to your letter of this day's date the following facts relating to advantages offered to settlers, and to the immunities afforded to Menonites, which are established by the Statute Law of Canada and by Orders of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, for the information of German Menonites having intention to emigrate to Canada via Hamburg.

1. An entire exemption from any Military service is by law and Order in Council granted to the denomination of Christians called Menonites.

2. An Order in Council was passed

Messrs.
David Klaassen,
Jacob Peters
Heinrich Wiebe
Cornelius Toiv
Menonite Delegates from
Southern Russia.

passed on the 3rd March last to reserve eight Townships in the Province of Manitoba for free grants on the condition of settlement, as provided in the Dominion Lands Act, that is to say "any person who is the head of a family, or has attained the age of 21 years, shall be entitled to be entered for one quarter section or a less quantity of unappropriated Dominion Lands, for the purpose of securing a homestead right in respect thereof."

3. The said reserve of eight Townships is for the exclusive use of the Menonites, and the said free grants of one quarter section to consist of 160 acres each, as defined by the Act.

4. Should the Menonite settlement extend beyond the eight Townships set aside by the Order in Council of March 3rd last, other Townships will be in the same way reserved to meet the full requirements of Menonite immigration

immigration.

5. If next Spring the Menomite settlers in viewing the eight Townships set aside for their use, should prefer to exchange them for any other right unoccupied Townships, such exchange will be allowed.

6. In addition to the free grant of a $\frac{1}{4}$ section or 160 acres to every person over 21 years of age on the condition of settlement, the right to purchase the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ of the section at \$1⁰⁰ per acre is granted by law so as to complete the whole section of 640 acres, which is the largest quantity of land the Government will grant a Patent for to one person.

7. The settler will receive a Patent, for a free grant, after three years residence, in accordance with the terms of the Dominion Lands Act.

8. In the event of the death of the settler the lawful heirs, can claim the Patent for the Free Grant upon proof that settlement duties for three years have been performed.

9. From the moment of occupation, the settler acquires a "homestead right" in the land.

+ 10. The fullest privilege of exercising their religious principles is by law afforded to the Menonites, without any kind of molestation or restriction whatever; and the same privilege extends to the education of their children in schools.

+ 11. The privilege of affirming instead of making affidavits is afforded by law.

12. The Government of Canada will undertake to furnish Passenger Warrants from Hamburg to Fort Garry for Menonite families of good character, for the sum of \$30⁰⁰ per adult person over the age of 8 years; for persons under 8 years, half-price, or \$15⁰⁰; and for infants under one year \$3⁰⁰.

13. The Minister specially authorizes me to state that this arrangement as to price shall not be

be changed for the seasons 1874, 1875, and 1876.

14. I am further to state that if it is changed thereafter, the price shall not, up to the year 1882 exceed \$40⁰⁰ per adult and children in proportion, subject to the approval of Parliament.

15. The immigrants will be provided with provisions on the portion of the journey between Liverpool and Coldingwood; but during other portions of the journey they are to find their own provisions.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

John Lowe
Secretary of Department of Agriculture

EARLY HISTORY of LOWE'S FARM

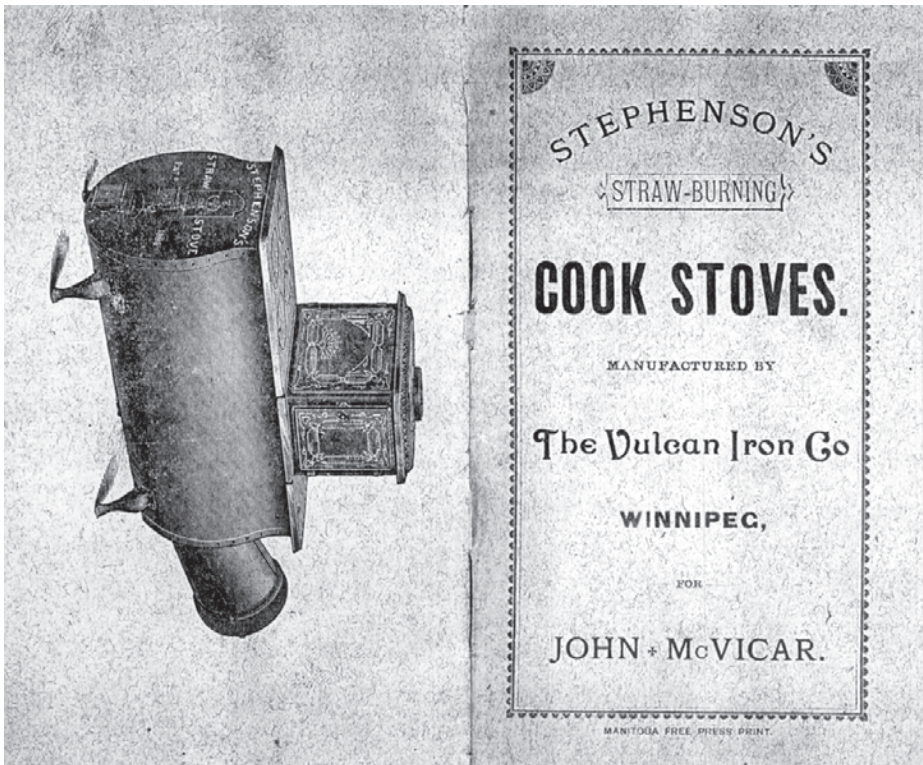


EARLY HISTORY OF LOWE'S FARM

Submitted by Ralph Groening



The John Lowe Farm house. (National Archives photo)



Stephenson's cook stove. (National Archives)

As secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, John Lowe had the opportunity to become familiar with the immigration of Mennonites to Manitoba. John Lowe wrote all the early letters to the Mennonite leaders. John Lowe and other officials in Ottawa observed the development of the Mennonite people with great interest. Perhaps it was the visit of the Governor General of Canada, Lord Dufferin, to the East Reserve in 1877, that gave Lowe the impetus to become involved in the development of southern Manitoba. These were boom times in Manitoba. Winnipeg had grown from a town of 750 people in 1872, to 5,000 by 1875. The problems with Louis Riel and his provisional government in the early 1870's had been temporarily solved by the use of troops. The development of western Canada had begun and John Lowe, being a man of vision, hoped to benefit from this opportunity.

Unfortunately, John Lowe had limited resources. However, his brother James offered to provide the finances required to develop John Lowe's dream. With the help of different agents, John Lowe began to purchase land in southern Manitoba. Two major parcels of land were purchased in the Rural Municipality of Morris. John Lowe acquired sections 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 34, 35 and 36 of township 6, range 2 west, located southeast of the present village of Sperling. A cart trail, used by early settlers travelling to Winnipeg from Nelsonville, went through this land.

The expansion of the railroad network in Manitoba had begun and John Lowe hoped that this property would be used to run a rail line to the west. Unfortunately, the rail line, when built, used a route a few miles north. John Lowe's disappointment was apparent in letters written to land agent and immigration specialist, William Hespeler.

Letters written to the municipal administrator in Morris in the mid 1880's complain about taxation policies. Apparently not all properties in the municipality were being taxed and yet the swampy lands in township 6 range 2 were being assessed. Without drainage, this land was of no value, John Lowe argued.

John Lowe also purchased half share in the village of Pembina Crossing and the town site of Clearwater in western Manitoba. The hope again, was that future settlement encouraged by the expansion of the railroad would add to the value of these properties. Unfortunately, the dollars spent on these properties was wasted, and by 1890 John Lowe had lost \$10,000 in the western Manitoba venture. Various river lots along the Red and in the towns of Morris and Emerson were also purchased at this time. None of these properties proved to be of any particular value to John Lowe

and his financial fortunes.

The major purchase of land by John Lowe was in the Lowe Farm area. By 1881, he owned sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 28, 30, 31, 32, and 33 of township 4 range 1 and sections 23, 24, 25, 34, 35, and 36 of township 4 range 2. By 1881, John Lowe, with the help of his brother James, owned 15,000 acres in the R. M. of Morris bought at an average price of 68 cents an acre.

In 1879, John Lowe hired Colonel Asa Westover and his wife to coordinate the development of the acreage at Lowe Farm. Col. Westover was hired for a two-year term and was paid \$1,000 per year plus board and lodging costs. Joseph Bertrand was hired as farm manager and paid \$40 per month plus board and lodging for himself, his wife and two children. Mrs. Bertrand was to do all the housekeeping for the first year as part of the contract. Joseph Bertrand made a homestead on SE 6-5-1w and purchased SW 6-5-1w. This included all the land, which later became known as Lowe Farm. The development of the original Lowe Farm took place at N 31-4-1w a few hundred yards east of the yard owned today by Tony and Joyce Dyck. There is no evidence left of the original Lowe Farm.

In the spring of 1879, Col. Westover and Joseph Bertrand began the work of creating a farm site. Carpenters were hired to build a house. Granaries, a blacksmith shop and a barn were also built. Four hundred acres of prairie were broken in preparation for seeding the following year. The first year of work went well, and the plan was to keep a number of men on staff for the winter months to care for the animals and bring in hay that had been cut in the fall.

However, the winter of 1879 – 1880 was very cold and stormy. Mrs. Westover wrote in February, 1880, complaining that they have had 38 storm days to that point in the winter. In another letter she complains about the cold, stating that a cat had frozen in the house overnight, and that the mens' beards were freezing to the bed clothes overnight and creating considerable inconvenience.

The spring of 1880 arrived with great welcome. The farm home was completed. Originally, the house was intended to be constructed of brick from the factory in Morris, and some bricks were delivered to the farm site. However, the decision was made to construct all of the farm buildings with wood.

The house was a full two and a half story building, measuring 32 by 36 feet, with a 20 by 26-foot addition. Insurance records indicate its value in 1882 at \$6,000 and John Lowe wrote in a letter to his wealthy brother, James, that the accommodations at Lowe Farm would be very adequate for James and his wife. There is no indication that James Lowe, the investor, ever visited the farm.

Four outbuildings were also constructed. They measured 32 by 36 feet, 30 by 62 feet, 14 by 62 feet, and 20 by 32 feet. Their total value was listed at \$4,000 in 1882.

One hundred and seventy acres were seeded in 1880. Eighty acres of Red Fife wheat, 60 acres of oats, 20 acres of barley, 10 acres of buckwheat and half an acre of potatoes. All of the seeded acres were on the north half of 31-4-1w. However, 1880 was a very wet year. Only 100 acres were broken and there was general discouragement about farming in Manitoba.

Better drainage was essential and Col. Westover sent a request to John Lowe requesting a surveyor's level. Some drainage east along the second baseline road (present day highway 23) was completed in 1880.

John Lowe also wrote a letter to the municipality asking for money to build a bridge over the Lewis coulee near Morris. That winter, Joseph Bertrand was hired by the municipality to build a bridge. Despite the problems, the farm expanded. A new Watrous steam engine, four Osborne self-binding harvesters and two Osborne mowers were ordered. Mr. Massey of Brandford, Ontario, visited the farm to evaluate the success of his seeders and harrows. Twenty-five men worked on the farm during the summer of 1880. The average wage was \$20 per month. John Lowe visited the farm in October of 1880, and wrote his brother James about the disheartening struggle with the elements.

After the disastrous winter of 1879 – 1880 the decision was made to lay off all workers for the winter and hire a Mr. Minty to watch over the property. Despite his efforts, considerable theft of grain and household effects took place. Letters suggest farm workers from the previous year were responsible.

The year 1881 was crucial for the Lowe Farm. Four hundred and eighty three acres of crop were seeded and a reasonable return was essential. John Lowe now owed his brother James \$50,000. The farm had generated very few dollars and James had apparently lost confidence in the investment. There was one other factor. One of the original considerations in the creation of the farm was to give the wayward sons of John and James an opportunity to develop to their potential.

Willie S. Lowe, son of James, homesteaded NE 26-4-2w and John B. C. Lowe, son of John Lowe, homesteaded NE 27-4-2w. Very little mention is made of John B.C. Lowe, other than his homestead application.

Willie S. Lowe did make somewhat of an effort. Willie had broken 100 acres of NE 27-4-2w in 1879 with the help of four workers, and built a house on the NE 27-4-2w. Since this was his cousin's quarter, there is the possibility that the two men were working cooperatively.

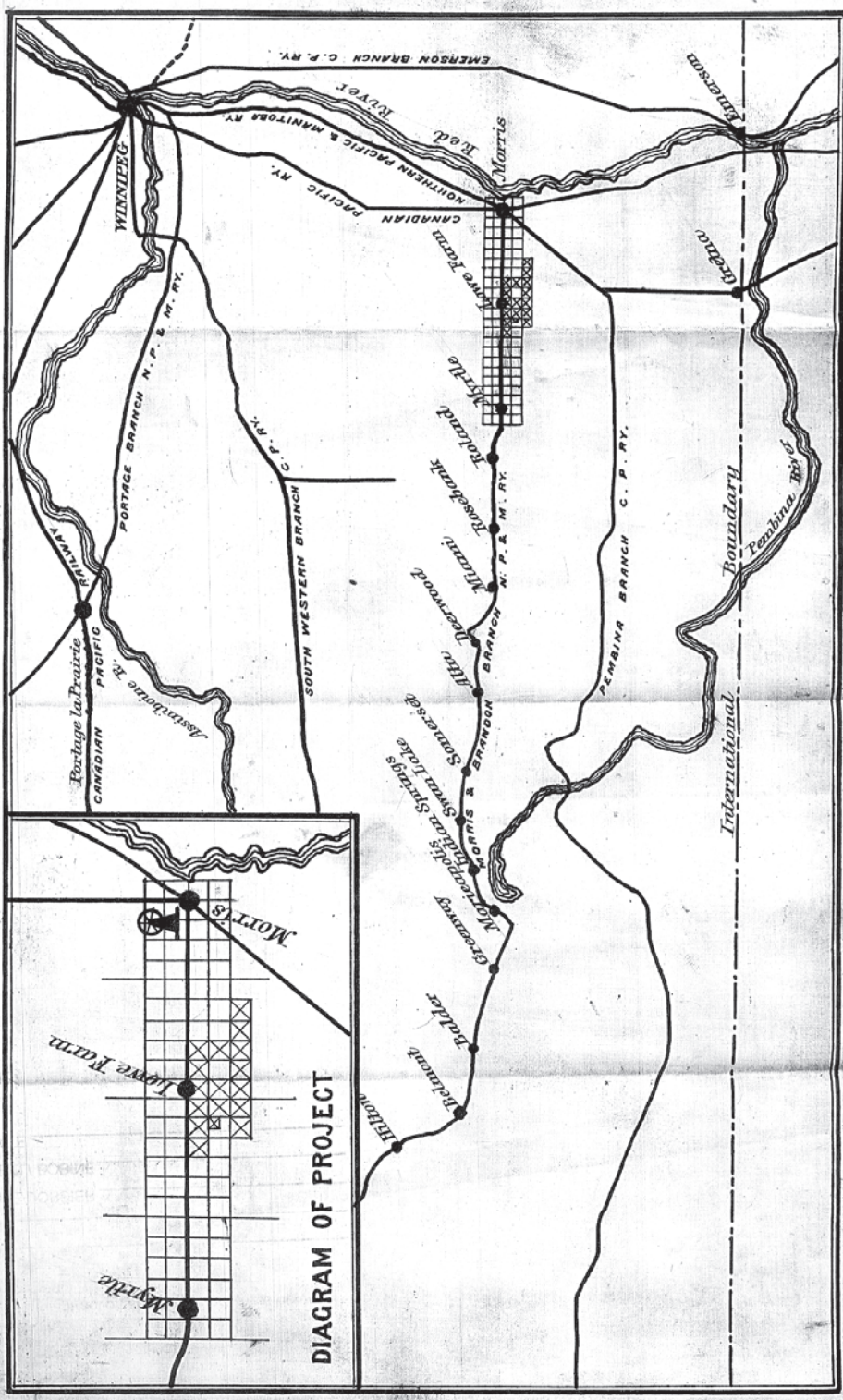
Willie complained bitterly in letters to his Uncle John about the management of the farm. Willie suggested that everything was in shambles at the farm and that John Lowe should come and see for himself. He concluded the letter by asking for three months of allowance. The money was apparently not always spent wisely and John Lowe in writing to his brother James, suggests that Willie will not learn farming in Winnipeg. Occasionally, Willie would bring his Winnipeg friends out to the farm for

some relaxation. This created problems for Mrs. Westover and the kitchen help. One maid complained that no self-respecting woman would work at the Lowe Farm because of Willie Lowe and his friends. Col. Westover established new farm rules for the 1881 season apparently in response to some of these problems. Willie was limited to the use of one room in the house and was not allowed to bring any of his friends to the farm. Strict limitations were also placed on the consumption of alcohol. The year 1881 was Willie S. Lowe's last attempt at farming in Manitoba.

The crop on NE 27-4-2w looked reasonable, but apparently pigweed took over the crop. The solution to this problem, apparently, was to mow the pigweed with it grew taller than the wheat. Timing was crucial and Willie happened to be in Winnipeg during this time and because of this, lost the crop. Willie injured his hand during the winter of 1881 and wrote a letter to his uncle, asking him to write the Interior minister requesting an extension of his homestead claim. In the spring of 1882, John Lowe purchased NE 27-4-2w for \$10 an acre, higher than the market value, in his opinion. James Lowe, with his son Willie now out of the farm, lost interest and requested a settlement on his brother's indebtedness.

In 1882, John Lowe paid out his brother with a \$60,000 loan, received from George Burland, a Montreal financier. Of this money, \$50,000 went to James and the other \$10,000 was used to continue operating the Lowe Farm. Total value of the farm buildings and equipment in 1882 was \$22,000. This, plus the 15,000 acres that John Lowe owned, still put the business in a close to break even position. Lowe had offered up the land at \$3 per acre the year previous, but had no takers.

John Lowe now decided to hire a new farm manager. William



This water project map was part of Lowe's plan for the "Lowe Farm Hydraulic Colonization Syndicate." (National Archives)

Stephenson, from Dundas, Ontario, was hired in February, 1882, for \$1,000 a month, plus \$500 for room and board. Stephenson was a mechanic and inventor and used his new position to help further the development of his patents.

Stephenson and his son worked with Col. Westover in 1882 and then took over the entire Lowe Farm in 1883. The Lowe Farm netted \$624 profit in 1882.

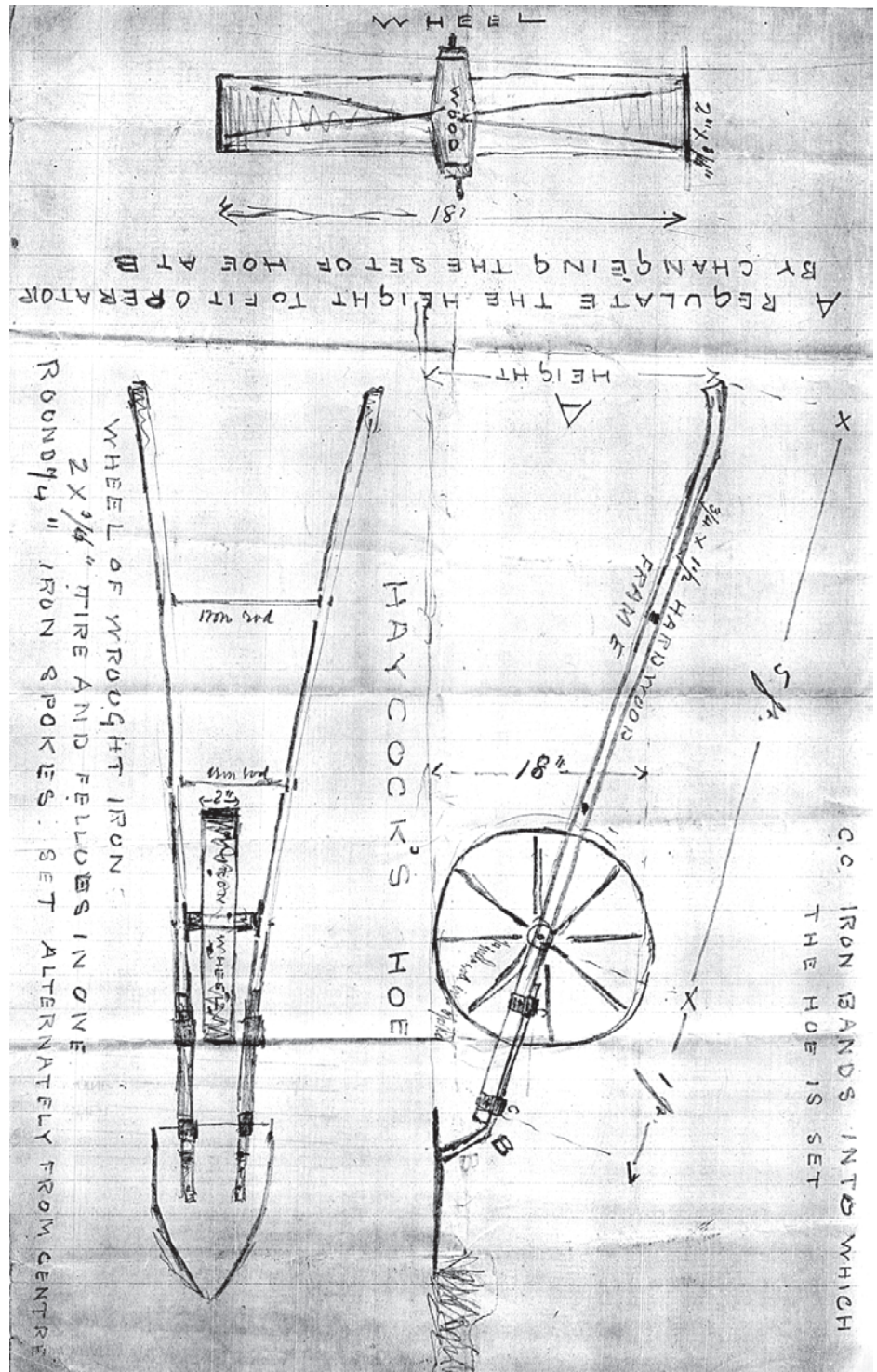
Stephenson introduced greater mechanization to the farm. Despite greater mechanical power, 1883 yielded very little profit because of an early frost. In 1884, Stephenson and his sons put in most of the crop themselves using hired help only for harvest, and managed to net \$1,050 for the farm.

In 1885, farm operations netted \$700, plus an additional \$1,200 earned custom harvesting. The year 1886 was a drought year, and again yielded very little profit. The wheat crop averaged 18 bushels an acre with a price of 52 cents a bushel.

John Lowe wrote a letter in the fall of 1887 to George Burland, describing the misfortunes on the farm, and indicating that he would be unable to pay the interest on the \$60,000 owed. There was reason for optimism, however. The R.M. of Morris had begun drainage projects in 1885 with a budget of \$1,600. Stephenson had also purchased a New Erie grader from the railroad for \$500 and this machine was used to create many of the early drainage canals. The machine scooped dirt from the ditch and deposited it by means of a rubber belt to the center of the road. This machine must have been used quite extensively in the Lowe Farm area, because it was described as the "Lowe Farm grader." The machine was often hired by the municipality at eight cents per cubic yard of dirt, or approximately \$18 a mile.

The province of Manitoba also became more active in land drainage after the federal government passed the "Better Terms Act" in 1885 which transferred back to the province all federally owned swamp lands after they had been drained. The purpose was to provide additional tax dollars to the province from the newly created lands.

Rumors of a rail line past the Lowe Farm proved to be accurate and by the fall of 1889, the Northern Pacific rail line from Morris to



Haycock's hoe diagrams found in John Lowe's personal papers. (National Archives.)

Hartney was completed. Grain could now be conveniently shipped to market and a trip to Winnipeg was now hardly more than an hour away. Twice daily service from Winnipeg to Lowe Farm was sometimes available. Some years, however, the train did not stop at Lowe Farm at all. In 1891, John Lowe wrote a letter to the deputy Post Master, asking why Myrtle and Roland were receiving daily mail and not Lowe Farm.

In 1891, William Stephenson and John Lowe began working on a partnership arrangement for managing the Lowe Farm. The decision was to lease out

the land either to Stephenson and his son John, or other interested individual. George Moyer, a Mennonite from Ontario, was given special consideration in the agreement for the purchase of 320 acres. The agreement spelled out charges for custom harvesting, and breaking sod for new settlers. Custom harvesting charges were \$1.25 per acre and breaking sod charges were \$1 an acre. Stephenson and Lowe were also very busy trying to negotiate a contract with the CPR for plowing fire guards, using Stephenson's new steam engine and plow. These discussions were never successful.

In 1891, John Lowe wrote a letter to Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of the newly patented engine, asking whether the diesel motor could possibly be used for a steam engine substitute. There is no indication whether a reply was ever received.

Farm operations changed during the 1890s at the Lowe Farm. Stephenson concentrated on his inventions and the production of flax. The Mennonites had been successful at growing flax as a first crop after the sod had been broken. The price varied between \$1 and \$1.50 during this period, and Stephenson claimed to be growing 20 to 25 bushels of the flax per acre.

Unfortunately for John Lowe, the entire agricultural venture in Manitoba, and particularly at Lowe Farm, proved in the end to be a huge financial drain. By 1894, Lowe owed George Burland \$140,000, plus \$14,000 interest, calculated at seven per cent. The entire debt was rewritten to be payable in full by July, 1900. It was time for one more venture in an attempt to save the business. John Lowe and William Stephenson formed the Lowe Farm Hydraulic Colonization Syndicate. The plan was to trench a five or six inch water line from the Red River at Morris to Lowe Farm or Myrtle, depending on the success of the share venture they were planning to offer. By purchasing two miles of land on either side of the present #23 highway, and offering these lands as improved with access to water, the company planned to entice new settlement into the area. This company was to offer shares in England as well as New York City. George Burland was offered stock in the company to cover part of John Lowe's debt. He wisely declined, and instead insisted on the land owned by John Lowe be collateral. By 1895, almost all of the Lowe property in Manitoba transferred to George Burland. The water project never materialized for lack of investor interest.

The year 1895 was a difficult year for John Lowe. He lost his job as deputy minister of agriculture at the age of 71, his wife Almira passed away, and his final business venture failed. John Lowe was unable to pay George Burland in July of 1900 and the land ownership transferred officially.

In 1899, the R.M. of Morris began listing Lowe Farm as a separate village in its tax books. This is the first official acknowledgement of Lowe Farm. Settlers moved into the village and surrounding area. During one of John Lowe's final trips to Lowe Farm in August, 1900, he

traveled to the Mennonite settlement near 27-4-2w and observed the new settlers working. The land had been purchased for \$10 an acre. These were the people who would develop the land to the potential that John Lowe had hoped for when he began accumulating property in 1878.

WILLIAM STEPHENSON

The history of the village of Lowe Farm dates back well over a century. During this time John Lowe, who was Deputy Minister of Agriculture in the Dominion Government, was buying large sections of land west of Morris and immediately north of the Mennonite West Reserve.

To manage his vast land holdings, Lowe employed the services of William Stephenson. Being mechanically inclined and possessing an inventive mind Stephenson put his talents to work and successfully built a single disc seed drill. The patent for this invention brought in considerable money returns for Stephenson. Along with the creation of the seed drill, Stephenson made attempts at improving the methods used in plowing and harvesting crops grown in the heavy soil around Lowe Farm. These devices however, proved too cumbersome to be of satisfactory use for purposes intended.

During his time in Lowe Farm, William Stephenson made use of two steam tractors he managed to obtain. One tractor, using five foot rims and an 80 horse power boiler, was a long unwieldy-looking steam tractor that could draw 16 bottoms without sinking too far below the surface. Stephenson's second tractor may as easily have been at home in the military, as on the farm, as it somewhat resembled a crude looking cannon. Both of these monsters, however, proved useful in helping to break up vast areas of virgin prairie soil around Lowe Farm. Unfortunately, the first of these tractors lay idle for many years and was eventually sold as scrap. The second tractor, however, rendered several more years of service in Saskatchewan.

During The winter of 1884 – 1885, Stephenson invented a straw burning stove, which was used to heat the house. William Stephenson worked in partnership with Vulcan Iron Company of Winnipeg to manufacture these stoves. Assembly of these stoves took place during the winter months on the Lowe Farm. Profits generated from this enterprise were used to help finance the development of his own steam engine.

William Stephenson, given a free hand, next put his inventive mind to work and constructed an attachment that cut the prairie grass ahead of the steam engine. The cut grass could then be used as fuel for the boiler. In an attempt to expedite harvesting, he placed a threshing machine on a platform built on to the side of the tractor. As this device moved along, field hands pitched the sheaves on to a platform near the cylinder where the sheaves were cut and fed into the machine. Traveling along a field, the grain was bagged then placed into a chute that let a certain number of these bags fall at given

intervals to the ground. The grain filled bags were then placed onto an old fashioned wagon consisting of two parallel beams and no floor. There is, perhaps, some justification to the claim made that Lowe Farm became the first district to use a combine.

Besides managing John Lowe's farm, William Stephenson was buying land of his own. On July 26, 1882, he bought two quarter sections of land from a Joseph Bertrand who was also in the employ of John Lowe. This namely being the SE quarter and SW quarter of Section 6, part of which would become Lowe Farm. During the year 1897, William Stephenson built a home to the east of the unsurveyed town site.

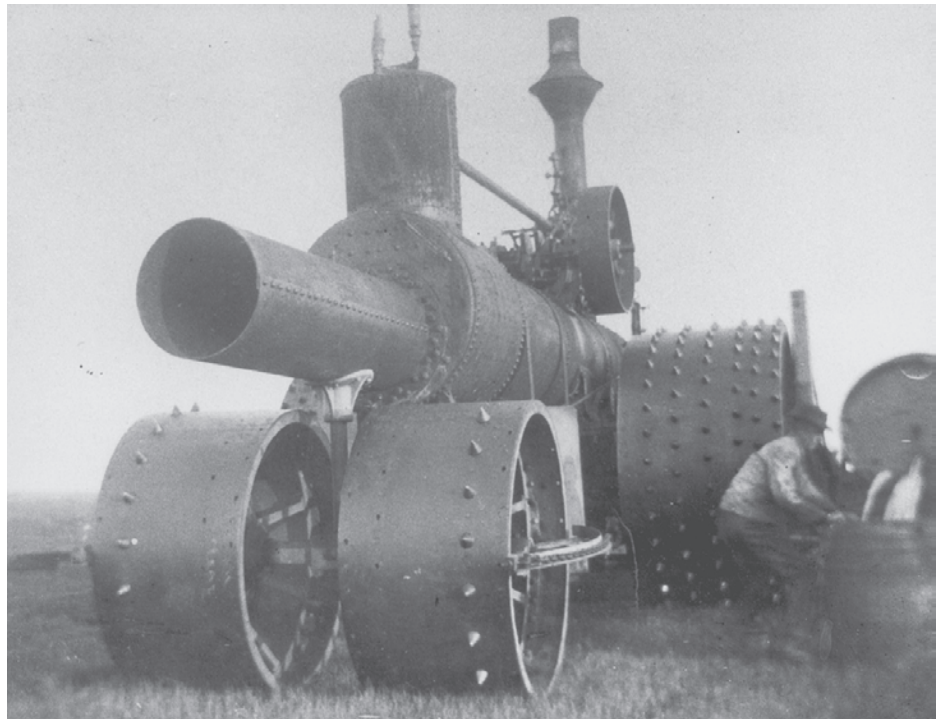
In 1898, perhaps wishing to diversify his equity, Stephenson engaged the services of Charles Clifton Chataway, Provincial Land Surveyor, to draw up plans for a town site. Twenty acres of the SW quarter of Section Six, divided into five blocks, would become incorporated into the plan. On June 16, 1898, at 1:40 p.m., the newly surveyed town site of Lowe Farm entered into the Winnipeg Land Titles Office as Plan Number 522. It would not be until 1899, however, that the village Lowe Farm would come into existence.

William Stephenson contemplating leaving Lowe Farm, began to liquefy his assets. The first part of liquidation involved the major portion of the town site. On October 24, 1898, the majority of the newly surveyed town site of Lowe Farm was sold to a Jacob Heppner. For the next couple of years, Stephenson continued to farm and maintain his home in Lowe Farm.

William Stephenson, by this time an elderly gentleman of 61, would make his final sale in Lowe Farm. On January 20, 1900, a business transaction carried out in Minneapolis, Minnesota, would see Stephenson sell the SE quarter of Section Six along with the E half of Block One in the SW quarter of



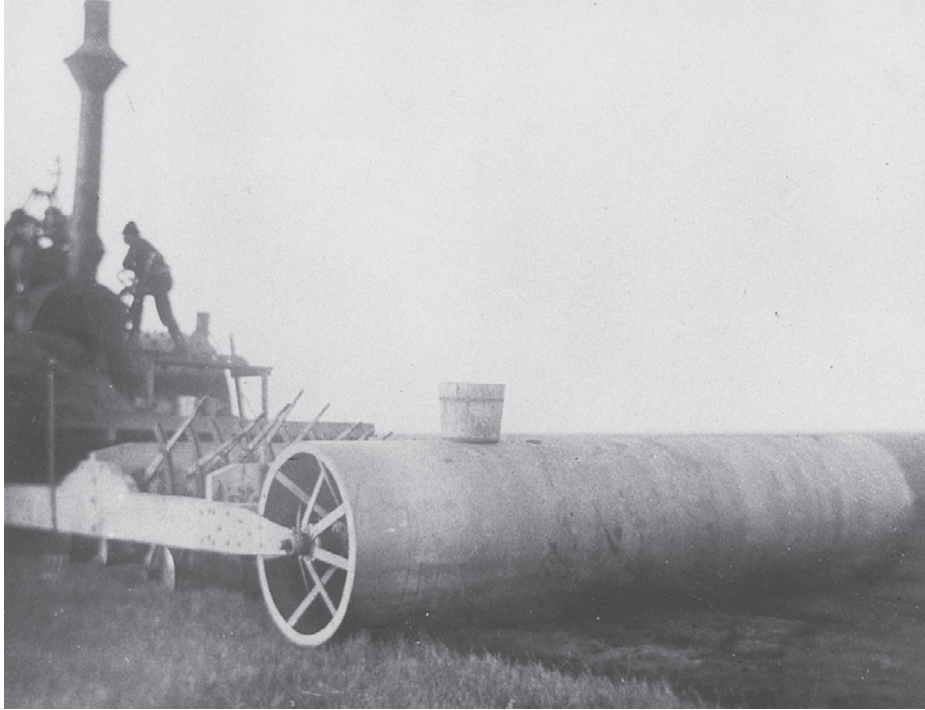
*Steam tractor used by William Stephenson on the Lowe Farm.
(Photo courtesy National Archives.)*



This 80 horse power steam engine had five foot rims on the wheels was used on the Lowe Farm. It could draw 16 bottoms and could traverse the wet low-lying land without sinking too far below the surface. (Photo courtesy National Archives.)

Section Six, to Jacob Wiens of Lowe Farm. At the time of this sale, William Stephenson was living in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, a suburb of Minneapolis, working as a supervisor for a company called Monitor Manufacturing.

If John Lowe is recognized as the founder of Lowe Farm, William Stephenson should be remembered as the architect. Not only did he help manage and farm Lowe's vast holdings, he used his ingenuity to aid the advancement of farming. In a quiet, competent manner, he also orchestrated the events that led to the creation of Lowe Farm. William Stephenson, farm manager, inventor, and architect, is in every respect one of the true pioneers of Lowe Farm.



*William Stephenson used this early seed drill and packing roller on the Lowe Farm.
(photo courtesy National Archives.)*



*Teams of horses and oxen preparing for the day on William Stephenson's farm.
(photo courtesy National Archives.)*

LOWE FARM PIONEERS



LOWE FARM PIONEERS

JACOB J. & MARIA (BRAUN) HARDER

Submitted by Tina (J. H.) Peters



Jacob and Maria Harder, standing in front of Harder's Cafe in Lowe Farm, which Maria operated.



J. J. Harder family. Back row: Annie Wilkie, Jake Harder, Hattie Buckbee. Front row: Mary Giesbrecht, Helen Melbourne, Alice Wiebe, Tina Peters.

Our father, Jacob J. Harder, was born in 1882, and grew up in the Altona-Gretna area of Southern Manitoba. His parents came to Canada from the Ukraine, South Russia, as part of the Bergthal Colony that immigrated to Canada in 1874.

Our mother, Maria Braun, was born in 1885, near Plum Coulee. Her parents were also among those who immigrated to Canada in the 1870's. Both our parents had very little formal education, and that mainly in the German language. However, by the time they were of school age, they could read and converse quite fluently in the English language.

They were married in 1904 and had 10 children, one son and nine daughters. Two of the latter died in early childhood. Our parents were residents in the Rural Municipality of Morris from 1915 to 1943.

In his younger years, our dad was sometimes referred to as 'California Jake' because he had the distinction of having lived in the 'Sunshine State' for several months when his parents moved there for health reasons in 1896-1897. Later on he became better known as 'Little (Kleena) Harder' because of his size or as 'Trader (Toosha) Harder' because of his many and varied dealings in horses.

His career along this line began at an early age when, much against his father's wishes, he managed to buy, on credit, a well matched team of bays for the astronomical sum of \$350.00. By the time winter set in however, his wheeling and dealing had brought him to the point where he still owned a good team and had his \$350.00 debt paid off.

From that time on, until soon after the depression, his main interest in life revolved around dealing with horses. It would be impossible to estimate the number of horses that changed hands through his dealings in the intervening years. In fact, as we remember it, no crop on our farm was ever harvested with the same horses that had been used to put it in the previous spring.

His dealings took him over a large area, all the way from Gretna and Winkler in the south, to Morris, Rosenort, Sperling and Carman in the north.

His superb horsemanship made him an excellent driver of almost any type of horse, slow or fast, spirited or dull. Once he picked up the reins, the horse instinctively knew who was in control and responded accordingly.

There were times when our dad owned as many as 14 or 16 horses. At other times he was down to two or three. Since horses were his stock-in-trade, his fortunes must have been at an all time low when for a short time in 1915, he did not have a single horse to his name. By harvest time, however, he again owned three horses, one of which was killed in a freak accident in October of that year.

This was the state of affairs when my parents, with a family of six, arrived in Lowe Farm on November 6, 1915. The move was one from New Kennedy, a distance of only eight or nine miles, but at that time Lowe Farm was considered by some people in the south as being on the very outskirts of civilization. We took up residence in what we later referred to as the 'Spalding House', but which at that time was part of the Jacob Heppner estate.

Our Dad's business of dealing in horses lent itself very well to various means of earning a livelihood. There was the livery and dray business, several years of farming in the Gretna area, a ditch and road building contract at Rosenfeld in 1912, more years of farming and making of water ponds, to mention only a few. Since the water pond was an essential part of almost every farm west of the Red River, it might be said that Jacob Harder made his most important contribution to the farming community in this field of endeavor.

In the light of today's technology, the making of water ponds with horses was a major operation. It required at least five or six well-matched teams, four to six slushers, a good brush or hand plow, plus at least six to eight strong men skilled in handling both the teams and the slushers. It also required some knowledge of soil makeup, and judgement as to how to shape the slope and edges so as to be compatible with the dimensions and lasting properties of the finished water pond. With favorable weather and no unforeseen interruptions a fairly large pond could be completed in a week to ten days. At best it was a grueling task for both men and the horses, especially in the heat of midsummer or when rain made the sides very slippery as they grew steeper and steeper before the job was completed.

Consequently there was not too much competition in this field of endeavor so that in 1916, together with his brother-in-law, P.U. Braun, he made between 16 and 20 water ponds, most of them in Southern Manitoba and a few in the area around Rosenort.

In the spring of 1917, our parents had the opportunity to rent what was known as the 'Harkins Farm', one mile south of Lowe Farm. There was much conjuncture as to how 'Little Harder' intended to farm a half section of land when all he owned at the time of take-over on April 1, was six horses and practically no implements. By the time seeding was completed, however, he owned a full compliment of 13 horses, enjoyed a full time hired man, and proceeded to make at least five or six water ponds between seeding and harvest. Besides this, he was working 60 acres of summer fallow and putting up some feed for the winter. Being able to lease the 'Harkins Farm' for another term he continued to make water ponds, digging another four or five before freeze up which came in late November that year. Earlier that fall he had purchased a 160 acre farm in the Rose Farm District, seven miles southwest of Lowe Farm. Due to the transactions being made after October 1, the deadline for notice of evacuation, it was necessary to

take up residence in a small house in town for the winter months. Unfortunately, during this time, the old house on the newly acquired farm was destroyed by fire, making it necessary to construct some sort of dwelling for the family before April 1. A few lean-tos were added to an almost new 12 by 16 foot granary and this constituted our home for the next 16 years. This was on the SW 1/4 of Section 15-4-2w in the Rural Municipality of Morris.

Some fairly prosperous years followed, but mostly our parents experienced the ups and downs of farming like everyone else. Good crops, bad crops, grasshoppers, rust, depression prices and all the rest.

The family grew up, got married, or left home to make a living elsewhere so that in 1934 our parents gave up the farm and built a small home in town. Dad still kept a few horses with which to ply what little trade there was left. Mother took up dressmaking, which gave her a sense of achievement, and literally speaking, some 'pin money' of her own.

In good times or bad, Mother was known for her pleasant manner and well dressed appearance and Father was her greatest admirer! She never owned a 'store bought' dress. She did all the sewing for herself and her family. She was also a born cook, a trait and talent that stood her in good stead when for a short time (1939-1941) they operated what came to known as 'Harders Cafe' in Lowe Farm.

Those were the war years, and Dad decided there was more money to be made in a war industry job. Consequently, they moved to the city in 1943. Mother continued with her dressmaking while Dad worked in the Cordite Plant, for the Winnipeg Sanitation Department, and various construction firms.

After Dad's age made him ineligible for employment, he took to selling papers at various places along Portage Avenue. On his better days, which became fewer and fewer as his advancing years and progressive illness took their toll, he gave it his best.

Dad's was not a nature that could endure idleness; he enjoyed being with people and when his hearing became impaired to the point where conversation became difficult, he was often a very lonely man, especially after Mother passed away in 1958. Dad passed away early in 1963.

NOCOLAI J. & ANNA HEIDE

Submitted by Justina Funk

Nicolai J. Heide was born in the Horndean district in April 1896. He married Anna Goertzen of Morden in 1919 in the Winkler Mennonite Brethren Church.

Nicolai had left his farm home in 1916 to begin a teaching career. In those days it was possible to obtain a position as teacher with only a Grade VIII standing. He taught in the Heabert School for two years, then in the St. Peters School for two years. He was noted for having

good discipline in school. After teaching in Steinfeld for several months in the 1920-1921 school term, Nocolai was asked to change schools with Mrs. A. H. Wiebe who was teaching at Kronsweide at that time. It was felt that a man of his standards would qualify to teach the 21 students in the Kronsweide private school.



N. J. and Anna Heide.

The school situation was quite unsettled in Kronsweide at that time. There were actually two separate school buildings in the district; the private school where German was the main language taught, and the public school. It was only when the government school officials became very insistent that the parents would send their children to the public school. As soon as the pressure eased somewhat the children would again attend the private school. In the spring term of 1921 the situation was such that the children changed back and forth frequently between the public and private schools. In the summer of 1921 the Heides took up residence in Lowe Farm and Nocolai began his career as postmaster as an apprentice of A. A. Giesbrecht who was the official postmaster at that time. In May of 1924, he was appointed as official postmaster and served in this capacity until September, 1958.

Nocolai took an active part in many community activities including the programs held every other Sunday in school, originally sponsored by a Literary Society which later became known as the "Christlicher Jugend Verein zu Lowe Farm."

A memorable experience for Nocolai was in 1959, when he spent one month visiting his daughter Louella in Toronto. The Queen and Prince Philip were visiting Ottawa at that time and Nocolai, whose son Henry had been killed while on active duty, was invited as an honorary witness to laying of the wreath for the victims of the war.

He was also interested in wood work and made a good deal of his furniture from scraps. He enjoyed reading and putting together Jig-saw puzzles. Nocolai died in September, 1983.

Nocolai and Anna were the parents of 10 children. Henry, who served in the Air Force, was killed in action; Louella, John, Annie (Sagert), Nick, Eleanor (Schlick), and Frank, all live in Winnipeg; Sara (Derewianchuk) lives in Morris; Jacob lives in The Pas and George is deceased.

Heides' former home in Lowe Farm is the only building in the business section remaining of the buildings dating back to the early 1920's with the exception of Derksens' Store (which has since been rebuilt and renovated).

DIEDRICH HEPPNER

Submitted by Mary J. Loewen

Diedrich Heppner was born on Jan. 5, 1889, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hoepfner on a farm South of Plum Coulee. His parents were immigrants from Minnesota. They left the farm and moved to Plum Coulee where Mr. Hoepfner had a general store in partnership with Hiebert and Kenty. Here young Diedrich was introduced to business by the time he was tall enough to look over the counter.

Education was of prime interest to the Hoepfners and Diedrich attended the M.E.I of Gretna. Later he became a director of the M.E.I. at Altona, where he met his future wife, Susan E. Loewen, daughter of John J. and Anna Loewen of Winkler.

The elder Hoepfner sold his share of the store and bought Lowe's farm, west of Morris. As people moved in nearby, lots were sold along the Canadian National Railway tracks, giving the town its long, narrow profile. The name came from the fact that they lived on Lowe's Farm.

Diedrich Heppner was very fond of children, and had time for his nephews and nieces and in-laws, who were much younger than his wife. He initiated his nephews into the business he built up and taught them hard work and good management. He also served on the school board for many years and paid his taxes faithfully so that the children of Lowe Farm got free books and supplies, which was not the case in other schools in the days of the Depression. Susan Heppner also liked children and helped out in her profession whenever the teachers were in short supply or ill.

Diedrich was connected with church work and served for many years as one of three trustees of the Berghthaler Mennonite Church. During the final years of the struggling Waisenamt, (Orphan's administration - a Sommerfeld church organization which helped orphans and the elderly with financial management) when it was already moving toward bankruptcy, the ministerial of the church asked Diedrich and several other business men to serve as advisors to save the institute. He was also asked to come into the finance committee of the Berghthaler Church during that period. They found his advice to be sound and well thought out.



Photo taken from Diedrich Heppner's yard, 1929.

In the many years he served as a trustee on the Lowe Farm School Board he did much to shape the education of the community. When all the schools around Lowe Farm arranged to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Canada in 1927 he was the Master of Ceremonies of the first part of the program. It had been pouring rain during the night and it looked as though there would be no celebration. Diedrich's remarks about two rains that day was appreciated by the children. He said, "One rain fell from the clouds and the other rain came from the eyes of the children."

Diedrich was active in public life for many years. He served as a councillor of the Municipality and as reeve for many years. During the flood of 1950, he saw that even those who refused to leave their flooded farms were cared for, even though riding a small boat on the widened Red River was very risky in the high winds. People and animals were rescued and brought to Lowe Farm and other dry places. He also managed the Red River Flood Office in Morris to see that the rebuilding could go forward.

In spite of all his community, school and business activities he also managed the farm. Diedrich had not only horses but also a pair of strong mules to plow the gumbo. In the beginning he used part of his barn for his business and started fuel distribution to help the farmers. The 1929 stock market crash and general depression hit him very hard. H. J. Gerbrandt recalls Diedrich telling his father that he would be willing to trade his four quarters for one if his debts could go along with the trade. However big his own problems were, he was very active during that time to save other people from going bankrupt. He worked with various farm credit corporations and government departments which he used to help farmers stay away from bankruptcy.

H. J. Gerbrandt says, "I recall how my father had his own debts and those for whom he co-signed (securities). With the collapse of the Waisenamt and the depression, the people began to collect. About nine o'clock one evening the sheriff came from Morden to tell us that our farm would be seized. Next day my father went to see Mr. Heppner. It was not long before Mr. Heppner had worked through one of his organizations to finance the farm. As better years came along my father was able to liquidate his debts."

There were many other people in the Lowe Farm community who owed their livelihood and the farms they kept during the Depression years to Diedrich's intervention on their behalf. It took until 1947 before Diedrich paid the last of his Buergschuld (securities for others) but he paid to the last penny. He never went through the debt adjustment board but had to mortgage his own farm many times. However, he let people run up bills for their fuel, and many unpaid bills were burned after his death.

Diedrich was a friend to people and trusted them to be as honest and above-board as he himself was. It will never be known how many he helped

through small loans. When money was hard to come by and someone needed a suit to join church or be married, many would go to him. He would pull out the required amount and not ask for a promissory note. Some were appreciative of his trust and kept it by repaying him when they had the means. Others thought he was an easy mark and used him until he found his trust was utterly misplaced when he tried to collect or refused to help any longer.

Whenever there was a need to get the doctor or to take a patient to hospital it was considered a natural thing that the "Father of Lowe Farm" should be ready. As a wedding gift from the Loewens the Heppners received a car, so he used this car as a mission vehicle in the service of others many times.

Diedrich was also the notary public for a number of years and was always considered to be a man who knew the law and could give sound advice. One story he liked to tell was this one: In his employ was a man by the name of Hoepfner. One day a man came in and asked for Heppner. The employee asked, "Which one do you want?"

"The wise one", was the terse reply.

Even after his health was failing, he was busy intervening for others. Mr. Gerbrandt reminisces, "My two younger brothers had bought land through an agency which had not done its homework to clear the titles. They had invested \$1,000 and then discovered that the land was to be sold on a certain date. My father went with his two sons to Winnipeg to try to negotiate a new deal with this man, who was now going to sell the same land he had sold to them. Once more Diedrich was brought into the picture in rather a strange way. My father and my two younger brothers were standing on Portage Avenue after having seen the lawyer and having failed to persuade him not to sell that land.

Accidentally Diedrich drove by, stopped and asked, 'Why do you stand there as 'aufyereyente Hones' (rained on roosters)?' They got into the car and told him what had happened. Diedrich said they would go back and see this man. After explanations were given, Diedrich pulled a cheque book out of his pocket, asked the man what he wanted for the two quarters, and then bought them on the spot for cash. He told my brothers that he would settle with them later. He had shared with them that he had another business deal going which would give him the \$1,000, which they had lost in the deal. In the end this saved them the farm and I am told he did not lose on the deal."

He could also be sarcastic on occasion. One morning someone asked him if he had been in church on Sunday morning. His answer was, "No, I couldn't go. I had to keep the garage open to service the cars of all the other Christians who wanted to go on trips on Sunday."

Diedrich was a shrewd administrator in municipal work. The Rural Municipality of Morris is benefiting to this day from programs he initiated. When discussing municipal affairs with the mayor of Winkler one time, the mayor mentioned that he had problems between the demands of strong church groups and the rest of the community. When asked if he had the same problem, Diedrich replied, "To a lesser extent, but one thing you have to bear in mind; are you running a church or are you running a town?"

Heppner helped many Lowe Farm people get established in businesses, especially construction and quite a number of them turned out to be very successful.

Every community needs a Heppner. Unfortunately they don't all have them, and it is only once in a long, long time that one comes along.

SUSAN HEPPNER



Susan Heppner and Mrs. Warkentin digging potatoes in Heppner's garden, 1930.

Susan Heppner, nee Loewen, came to Lowe Farm in the year 1917 as the bride of Diedrich Heppner. What was the background of this tall blue-eyed, brown-haired woman who came to be the mistress of the big farmhouse on the north side of the village?

Susan E. Loewen was born in Altona, October 28, 1895, the oldest child of John J. and Anna Loewen. Her father sold machinery to the progressive farmers in the area. She attended the local school. Next she had a year of school in Regina where the family moved so that the father could increase his business opportunities. One memento Susan brought back to Manitoba was this school rhyme which she taught her younger siblings:

*"Brandt, Brandt is a great big giant
He goes to church on Sundays
He prays the Lord to give him strength
To whip the kids on Mondays."*

The family returned to Altona and in 1905 moved to Winkler where Susan completed the elementary grades. She attended the Mennonite Educational Institute, a private Mennonite boarding school in Altona where music, drama and literary evenings aroused much interest among young people. She developed ability in piano playing, singing and reciting in this school.

After completing Grade X, it was necessary to go to the teacher training center at Morden for a few months, where the inspectors trained the teachers for their districts. When qualified, Susan accepted the country school at Haskett. Her next position was in Altona, where she met her future husband who was attending the neighboring school.

In those days married teachers were not permitted to teach, so her desire to teach found satisfaction in substituting when no teacher was available. This she did at Lowe Farm and at the Mennonite Educational Institute. Susan also gave organ lessons to children. She fostered education by taking students as boarders during the winter months when they could not go home to their families on the farm. I'm certain no homework was neglected under her watchful eye.

She also expressed love of music by singing. When she had to bring the cows home to milk, she would raise her voice in song and her husband could tell how she was feeling by the songs she sang, even though he was half a mile away in the field.

In the home, strangers and friends were always welcomed. Diedrich Heppner was on friendly terms with many people, so open house was the policy followed in that home.

When new immigrants arrived in the country, some of them found employment there. Here Susan taught them English while Diedrich taught Canadian ways of farming. It was hard work to feed the large threshing gangs, when all the food had to be prepared at home, baking, canning and cooking for 10 or 12 men with enormous appetites who relished five meals a day that had to be served.

Hospitality was extended to strangers as well as friends and relatives. One stormy November day Diedrich Heppner sent his helpers out on the highway to bring in stranded motorists and Susan had to prepare the house to receive them. (There was no hotel or motor inn, in Lowe Farm). That night every bed was occupied as eight extra people spent the night while the storm raged outdoors. Not until the snowplows came through the next day could they return to their homes in Roland and Winkler.

Susan was very loyal to the monarchy and took great delight in attending ceremonies for King George and Queen Elizabeth in 1939 in Winnipeg. When Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip toured Canada, she faithfully viewed their progress across the country on TV, and invited others who had no TV to come and watch also.

After Diedrich Heppner became ill, most of her time was spent at home. After her husband's death, she spent more time at her blind brother's bedside. He was ill in Winnipeg, and she went to be there with him.

In March, 1961, she went to help the ladies with their supper. She returned to Winnipeg and visited her brother on Monday, but on Tuesday morning a call came for her to be with her Lord.

JOHN & GERTRUDE (HEPPNER) MARTENS

Submitted by

Betty (Martens) Hinkema for Lena St. Vincent

My Grandparents, John and Gertrude Martens, were one of the pioneering couples who settled in Lowe Farm. They helped the founding fathers make it what is today. John Martens came to Lowe Farm in 1911 as a single man, and set up a blacksmith shop. Besides working as a blacksmith he also built cutters, bobsleighs and, for a short while, wooden coffins. In 1913 he married Gertrude Heppner, and they proceeded to raise a family of five sons and one daughter, who were all born and educated in Lowe Farm.

Grandfather tried his hand at many different businesses. He sharpened ploughs, machined new parts, and did some welding. For a short while, he was involved in selling cordwood, flour and even some groceries. If he needed an extra pair of hands, Grandma was there to

help him, becoming quite adept at repairing car upholstery.

In 1934, the businessmen of the community persuaded grandfather to run a plant that would provide electric power to the town of Lowe Farm. Businesses were supplied first, and then wires were strung to the homes that had been wired by Pete, one of the Martens sons, and A. B. Schroeder. This power plant was usually started by my Grandmother at 7:00 a.m. and run until midnight. We still remember stories of how the lights would be blinked off and on to warn people that the power would soon be turned off. This method of supplying electrical power continued until April 1946, when Manitoba Hydro took over.

During World War II the three eldest sons, Pete, Frank and Johnny enlisted in the service with Pete and Frank serving overseas. The other two boys, Jake and Henry, were too young to enlist, so they stayed behind to complete schooling and help their father with the business. Lena, the only daughter, was studying at Normal School and then teaching in Lowe Farm and St. Hebert. Grandma used her knitting skills to help the Red Cross and helped bake fruit cakes, which were sent to the boys overseas.

After the war, the boys came home with new mechanical skills, so another shop was built and the Lowe Farm Garage was established. Their reputation as good mechanics was well known. Frank stayed with his father in the blacksmith shop and together they ran the business until grandfather passed away in 1953.

In 1951, with financial support from the Rural Municipality of Morris, the Martens brothers converted a Ford truck into a fire truck by adding a 750 gallon water tank. In the same year, a brick building was built to house and warm the fire truck. Frank took over the job of Fire Chief in which capacity he served until 1969. The Volunteer Fire Department attended several large fires such as the Pool Elevator in 1953, but also saved some homes from being ignited by chimney fires. The fire siren was tested everyday at noon, but when it rang at night it had an ominous sound, alerting the volunteers to the fact that they were needed.

In the late 1950's, the Martens children slowly left Lowe Farm. Lena got married in 1955 and moved to Ontario where she lived for five years before moving to St. Pierre, Manitoba. She currently lives in Steinbach. Pete followed her to Ontario in 1960, moving again to British Columbia and returning to Winnipeg where he died in 1990. Johnny moved to Winnipeg where he worked for Stern Trucks until his retirement. He passed away in 1996, the same year as his brother Jake. Jake had moved to Stonewall where he worked for Bristol Aerospace. Frank stayed in the blacksmith/machine shop until 1969, serving the local farmers and bridge gangs with fast, efficient repairs and manufacturing of equipment. He passed away in 1998.

Grandma stayed in her house in Lowe Farm where

she took in different boarders, planted a huge garden every year and make the best "kompst borscht" ever! She left her grandchildren with a strong work ethic and memories of family gatherings, hand knit sweaters and a listening ear. She passed away in 1962. Even though there are no more of the Martens clan living in Lowe Farm, we wish you well in your Centennial year. We know it will continue to be a safe and happy place to raise your families

A tribute from the family of John Martens

We, the members of the John H. Martens family, would like to pay a tribute to our parents. As pioneers go, they did not start the village of Lowe Farm, but, in their own particular way they helped make it what it is.

Father, who came from a farm close to the area known as Rosenbach (between Plum Coulee and Winkler), decided that the farm was not for him. What he enjoyed doing was tinkering around with tools, repairing machinery, and the like. So he decided to venture forth, and Lowe Farm was the extent of his ventures.

Here, in around 1911-1912, he set up what is commonly referred to as a blacksmith shop. Being unmarried he stayed with the Jacob Wiens family, half a mile north of town. However, a bachelor's life was not for him, so in October of 1913 he married and brought his young bride out to Lowe Farm.

He could not very well board with a family, so a house was rented which served partly as a residence and also as a shop. This was the house later occupied by Abram Klassen and his mother. Just how long they stayed here is not known. The next house was bought and was situated about a block west of there. It was purchased from Cornelius Gerbrandt.

A family of six, five sons, and one daughter were born in one or the other of these houses.

Father started off blacksmithing, but, as he was also handy in woodworking, he was called on to make cutters and bobsleighs. During the influenza epidemic after World War I he made coffins because a purchased coffin was unheard of in those days. Old-timers had him make coffins for their dead till customs changed and more people went to undertaking establishments.

JACOB J. REIMER & FAMILY

*Originally submitted by
Wm. Friesen*



*Kathrina Reimer and her daughter
Hanna Reimer with granddaughter,
Kathleen.*

Jacob J. Reimer was born June 1, 1877, in the village of Hochfeld, about 12 miles east of Niverville, Manitoba. A year or two before this event his parents, Jacob Reimers, had emigrated from the Bergthal colony in Russia to Canada. A few years later they moved to the West Reserve and settled in Schonhorst, northeast of Gretna, which later became part of the School District of Silberfeld. The early years were extremely hard for the Mennonite pioneers and young Jacob, being the eldest son, was needed at home most of the year. Conse-

quently he got very little schooling.

On July 5, 1898 Jacob married Katherina Wiens from the neighboring district of Edenburg. In the fall of 1899, her father, Jacob Wiens, bought two quarters formerly owned by Wm. Stephenson, SE 1/4 of Sec. 6 and SW 1/4 of Sec. 5, which lay just east of the newly surveyed site of Lowe Farm, and moved into the old Stephenson house.



*Kathleen and Bruce Reimer,
Hanna's children.*



Tina and Bill Friesen.



Bill and Tina Friesen with their children, Thelma, Irene and Richard in 1940.

In time his failing health made it impossible for Jacob Wiens to look after the farm himself and the Jacob Reimers moved to Lowe Farm to live with the Wiens family and look after the farm. After Jacob's death, Reimers bought the land and continued to farm it.

In addition to farming Jacob went into partnership with his brother-in-law, Peter Abrams, husband of Mrs. Reimer's younger sister Helena, and operated a general store under the firm name of Reimer and Abrams. In 1910 the partnership was dissolved. Peter kept the store and Jacob concentrated on farming.



(l - r) Jacob W. Reimer, Tina (Bill) Friesen, Hanna Reimer and Henry Reimer.



Bill and Tina Friesen with their children, Thelma, Irene and Richard.

In 1912, he rented the farm to Henry Friesen and moved to Foam Lake, Saskatchewan., where he and his wife's brother, Henry Wiens, built a mill and operated it for a number of years. Wiens was the engineer and Reimer the miller. The business thrived for a time but in the final years of World War I various government restrictions and regulations made the going hard. Jacob also found that constant exposure to the dust of the mill was beginning to have an adverse effect on his health. In March of 1919, he moved back to his old home in Lowe Farm and took up farming again. He went back to Foam Lake with his son to operate the mill one winter and then sold it to Klaas Barkman of Steinbach. He farmed the two quarters himself for several years and then rented them in turn to Peter Loewen, Henry Giesbrecht, his son Henry, and his son-in-law, Jac. D. Reimer.

The Reimers continued to live in the old farmhouse until the time of his death in December, 1949. After her husband's death, Katherina Reimer, who was an invalid by this time, stayed with her daughter Hannah for a while, then with Mrs. Peter S. Braun of Lowe Farm and spent her last years in the Bethania Nursing Home. She died December 14, 1955.

The children of Jacob Reimer:

Jacob got his education at the public schools of Lowe Farm and Foam Lake. He helped his father in the mill and on the farm. In 1922, he married Martha Mudro (foster daughter of Rev. J. J. Hooges of the Bloomfield district). After their marriage he worked in the mill for Mr. Barkman a short period and then went into farming. With the help of his father they purchased a farm in the Kronsweide district and farmed it until they retired. On this farm their children grew up, receiving their elementary education in the Kronsweide School. Jacob W. died in 1985. His wife, Martha, died in 1977.

Henry followed up his elementary education with several years' attendance at the M.E.I. in Altona and then taught school for two years on permit. However, his major interest lay in business, for which he had gained some experience clerking in Lowe Farm before he went teaching. In 1926, he married Marie Siemens of Schonthal. With the help of Father Reimer they built and stocked a store on Lot One of Block Three and started storekeeping. For a time they lived in a three-room suite attached to the store building. Later they built a substantial home on the south end of what was then part of the family farm. His chief helpers in the store during the early years were his father and his sister Tina. In time he added a small lumber business to the store. In the thirties he sold his store building and bought J. J. Schroeder's garage which he remodeled to serve as a general store and the International Harvester Company agency. About this time he became interested in farming, rented his father's two quarters and bought one of his own. His chief clerk John Harder served as manager of the store while he conducted the farming operation. He was experimentally inclined and tried his hand in a small way at raising crops that had not previously been tried in Lowe Farm. In 1946 he moved to British Columbia, where he carried on various activities in turn and finally ended up with a lumber yard, which he operated successfully for many years and sold to his son when he retired. Henry passed away in 1981 and Marie passed away in 1995.

Tina also received her elementary education in Lowe Farm and Foam Lake, and attended the Altona M.E.I. for a few years. When the high school was opened in Lowe Farm she helped to bring the number of prospective students up to ten, the minimum required to open the school. In 1931 she married Wm. Friesen, who was teaching in Lowe Farm at the time. From 1932 - 1934 she and her husband operated a small store in Kane. After living the life of a teacher's wife in various towns and rural school districts she came back to Lowe Farm in 1946. In 1949, the Friesens moved to Eriksdale where he assumed the duties of school inspector. Wm. Friesen is deceased and Tina, at 95 years of age, lives in Stonewall.

Johannah received all of her high school and part of her elementary education in Lowe Farm. She went to Normal School in Winnipeg and started teaching. She taught at Flowery Bank, Winkler, and for a little more than three years in Lowe Farm. She married Jacob D. Reimer in 1940, moved back to Timmins for a while where he worked in the mines and then came back to Lowe Farm to farm the home farm. In 1956 they moved to British Columbia where she went back to teaching until she retired on June 30, 1974. Johannah died in 1994 and Jacob died in 1999.

The Reimer family made many contributions to the economic, social, educational and spiritual life of the Lowe Farm Community.

Jacob Reimer, senior, was a quiet man who served

his family and the community well. He was a constant supporter of the cause of church and school. After his early retirement his role was that of advisor and helper. When Jacob needed help on the farm in spring or fall he was there to give it. When Henry needed help in the store he could be depended upon to give it. He provided labor and financial support at the time of the building, and, later, the renovation of the church. His religion was a quiet one but it was sincere and deep. His home was always a place for ministers to stay when their itinerary for regular or special services brought them to Lowe Farm, and in the horse and buggy days he made sure that their horses were well looked after.

His wife Katherine was a good homemaker, a good mother to her children and a vigorous supporting member of the community. She had an active intelligence and a quick wit. She was very strongly imbued with the ancient Mennonite virtue of hospitality. No one who came to her door went away hungry, be it a begging tramp, a neighbor, or a visitor from out of town. Her home was a home away from home for the ministers who came to preach and teach in Lowe Farm, and for their wives when they accompanied their husbands. The quality of her cooking and baking was well known. She always kept a large garden. When her children demurred at the extra labor involved she reminded them of needy families in the district with many mouths to feed who would be able to put any surplus potatoes or other vegetables to good use. She practiced economy at all times and had an especial abhorrence of waste, whether it be of money, goods, or time.

The Reimer sons and daughters and their helpmates usually tried to do their share in contributing usefully to the life of the community while they lived in it. Although Jacob Reimers did not live in the district, they attended and supported the Lowe Farm church for many years. Their children later sang in the choir and participated in other church activities. For a time Jacob III conducted the choir.



Jacob and Katherine Wiens and family.



Jacob and Katherine Wiens.

Henry had a long record of community service. As young lads, he and Jake were members of the local ball team. In business he helped people with credit when times were hard. When the co-op movement began he played an important part in helping it get on its feet. He also helped to get the Credit Union started. In the year of the Literary and Debating Society he was a hard working member of the Executive. He served for a number of years as school trustee, some of them as Chairman of the Board. His wife, Marie, was always a solid support to her husband and an active member of the community, especially in the work of the Church Women's group.

Tina was an active participant in the work of the church and young people's groups in the years before the church was built and she took her turn as church organist before and after it was built. She sang in the choir when there was one and occasionally sang duets with her sister. She took part in the activities of the Literary and Debating Society and also in the dramatic entertainment later directed by Mrs. (Bourgeois) Streight. After returning to Lowe Farm in 1946 she helped to organize a Women's Institute, which carried on many years of successful and useful activities in the community. As wife of the Principal of the school she had many duties that were a service to the community or that helped her husband to serve the community, which she carried out faithfully.

Hannah, more fully than her sister or brothers, was a product of Lowe Farm. She served the community in many ways. She sang in the choir, played the organ in the church, and conducted the choir for a number of years. She worked hard in the Women's Institute when such work needed, as for example, in the time of the 1950 flood. She taught school from 1937-1940 and participated in many other activities relating to school and community. Her husband, J. D. Reimer, was active in the Consumer Co-op, in the Credit Union, and in the Farmers' Union. His somewhat unusual reports on various conferences, which he was delegated to attend, used to attract considerable interest.



Jacob W. Reimer and Martha on their wedding day.



Henry W. and Marie Reimer.



Henry W. and Marie Reimer with Donald and June.

JACOB WIEBE (J. W.) & MARIA (BANMAN) WIENS

Submitted by Justina B. Wiens



Jacob and Maria Wiens



J.W. Wiens

Perhaps no other pioneer settler of Lowe Farm would be more proud and thrilled to see the present co-operative establishments built along Main Street today, than the late Jacob Wiebe Wiens, the man with a vision greater than his community real-



The J.W. Wiens house on Main Street.

ized. His ready quote would be, "Do you see, men, what can be done when we pool our ideas, interests and resources to work for the good of all?" as he pushed his battered hat back revealing a shock of silver-gray hair, flashing brown eyes and a satisfied smile on his face.

Jacob W. Wiens was the only child born to Peter and Justina (Wiebe) Wiens in the village of Schonsee in the East Reserve on February 5, 1879.

He did not relate many stories of his unhappy childhood. Being an optimist he would much more prefer discussing and planning for a happy future. But he did mention being fatherless at the early age of five and by the age of twelve his stepfather hired him to the neighbors nearby. This child laborer helped supply the 'bread and butter' to a fast growing family at home. Consequently his formal schooling was ended and he was educated for the adult world, 'learning by doing'.

Besides farming, he learned trades such as woodworking, building, blacksmithing and later on the work of machinist. One of his favorite trades was that of tinsmithing. It was amazing to see the products and utensils he made. After his mother's death in 1896 the young lad of seventeen was invited to live with his aunt and uncle. Here he assisted in the construction, operation and maintenance of a steam powered flour mill in Plum Coulee.

Jacob inherited mechanical ability from his father Peter Wiens who, in 1876 helped Johann Braun build the first steam powered mill near Chortitz (East Reserve) so settlers no longer needed to buy their flour from Winnipeg. Jacob did not mind the long hours of hard work for he loved his job at the flour mill. Here he also had an opportunity of learning to speak and read the English language as well as assisting with the Miller's bookkeeping and accounts, for he loved mathematics. All this learning proved very helpful to him later in his business. But the best was yet to come, for when he joined the Sommerfelder Church in 1900, he fell in love with a shy young girl from Lowe Farm who was baptized at the same time.

On July 17, 1900, he married Julius Banman's daughter, Maria ("Mitchje" she was called), our mother. The wedding took place in the house which Maria had helped to build in 1898 south of Lowe Farm (SE 36-4-2W). As yet there was no church or school.

The J. W. Wiens family included: Maria, Jacob, and Peter (died in childhood), Anna, Jacob, John, Justina, Julius, Frank (died as an infant), Alvin, and Henry. Julius and mother passed away in 1972.

J. W. Wiens lived on the farm where he, along with his father-in-law and

three brothers-in-law, built a wind driven grain crushing machine to do custom work for the early settlers. But young J.W. was restless to start his own business and in 1901 built his own tinsmith shop in Block 5, Lot 5. Once more he was busy at the trade he had learned in his boyhood.

The community was hard pressed for water because the wells dug brought forth only brackish water that was not fit for neither man nor beast. Therefore rain water helped to meet the need. Consequently a tinsmith was very much in demand to construct and install the necessary eavestroughs, pipes and cisterns. In 1905, he sold the building and business to J. Riter and Charles Spalding.

Grain marketing facilities were very inadequate and J.W. turned his attention to the farmers and helped them organize and form their own Farmer's Elevator Company in 1905. J. W. Wiens became the first manager. They sold the elevator around 1911 to Western Canada Flour Mills. Years later, in 1937, my dad also took an active part in helping to organize the Lowe Farm Co-op Elevators.

J. W.'s various business ventures were never a roaring success, nor was this exactly his goal. His aim was to please the ones he was dealing with and to stay on friendly terms, meanwhile making enough to keep his family provided. The homes we lived in were far from palatial, but what they lacked in size and comfort was made up for with plenty of happiness and love within. Surprisingly, the walls withstood the boisterous games of family and friends at play. Young people were encouraged to enjoy their socials in our home, even if it meant moving out 'some in the way' piece of furniture. Although we were crowded, whenever someone came who needed shelter and food, he was accommodated even if it meant that someone in the family would have to sleep at the foot of the bed.

In 1914, the family moved to the farm where J. W.'s grandson, Ronald J. Wiens now farms NE 6-5-1w. Only one of the original buildings built by J.W. in 1920 remained. This hog barn, somewhat changed, was used to house J. W.'s registered Red Polled Cattle, noted for good beef and rich milk.

Farming then, as now, had its ups and downs. Pests such as grasshoppers, rust, droughts, floods and poor marketing prices brought great hardships to the family but the necessities of life were provided for in some way. In 1928, when the wheat crop had never looked better, a cloudburst drenched the fields and resulted in a crop failure. In desperation as to how to provide for the winter, J.W. and Charles Spalding decided to take up their well-known trade of tinsmithing again. They found work to do in the city of Winnipeg; repairing and installing furnaces.

J. W. Wiens worked diligently on the local School Board for about twenty years, serving as its chairman for much of the time. He was determined to raise the level of formal education in this community. His accomplishments during his period of service were several. He convinced the School Board to purchase textbooks and school supplies for pupils and requested the teachers to fill out pupils' report cards. He helped with the intro-

duction of night school classes for Grade IX to XI to be taught in Lowe Farm. As well, J.W. encouraged the formation of "Boys and Girls Club" (1920). In August 1926, Mr. I. J. Warkentin was personally interviewed by J. W., which resulted in this dedicated educator becoming the high school teacher and principal. His contributions to this community are many and varied and shall not be forgotten.

It was during the years of the First World War that J.W. served as the Lowe Farm representative on the council of Rural Municipality of Morris. Meeting days always dawned early for him. The spirited Bronco had to be fed, curried and harnessed to the two passenger sulky. On one such a journey he had an exciting experience. When riding through the swollen Lewis Coulee, the sulky with all its contents slipped into a washout. When the rig and drenched councillor arrived safely on the other side he was minus his horse's bag of oats and his own lunch but he had not let go of the valuable drainage map and papers to be up for discussion at the meeting. During his term of office there were improvements made but the drainage system was not corrected to his satisfaction.

For many years J.W. served the community as a thresher. He had purchased a new one-cylinder International tractor that easily pulled six bottoms and a new threshing machine. Every fall, whenever there was custom threshing to be done, he had his outfit ready for the early ripened crop and kept going until he was forced to stop because winter was setting in. One year when it was time to overhaul the machinery, Isaac J. Warkentin, the school principal, volunteered his services. "I would like to donate my time as I have found it relaxing and could reminisce of my days on my father's farm," was his remark to J.W.

During the years of the depression, neighboring farmers formed a co-operative threshing "bee". This method of banding together to cut costs and make work easier proved quite successful. J. W. envisioned cutting the cost of food supplies, fuel and gas by the co-operative method. Long discussions, planning and finally organizing on a small scale followed, and J. W. volunteered the use of his downtown tinsmith shop as the place of business in the fall of 1929. He sold flour and coal while continuing his tinsmithing work. The following spring gas and oil was sold in bulk. This was the initial start of the present organization, Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op. It was presented with a charter in 1930 with Bernard W. Thiessen serving as president and A. E. Heppner as first sales manager.

J. W.'s interest in provincial and federal politics was especially great during the election campaigns when he and his cousin J. D. Wiens, the well-known auctioneer of the time, would join the Liberal Party Bandwagon. There was enough local Conservative opposition to make it a most heated battle.

J. W. Wiens was forced in his fifty-nine years of life to fight many battles. He was often successful, but the final battle for life against cancer could not be won and so this man of vision and stamina closed his eyes in death August 15, 1938.



Lowe Farm Main Street 1930's



Lowe Farm around 1904

PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

FAMILY HISTORIES



FAMILY HISTORIES

JIM & DOREEN (PENNER) BAKER

Submitted by Doreen Penner

I am the daughter of Ben and Tina Penner, granddaughter of Peter P. and Anna Penner.

After completing my education at Lowe Farm and the Provincial Normal School, (Only those of a certain generation will understand that term) I taught school for five years. It was during this time that I met Jim Baker, who later became my husband.

Jim took his barbering/hairstyling course in Winnipeg, after which time we settled in Morden, where he has been our local barber for the past 39 years.

Our four children were all raised in Morden. They are all married and have presented us with 10 grandchildren.

Our oldest son, Terry, and his wife Margaret Ann (McKerlie) live in Winnipeg with their two little girls; Lisa, 8, and Terry, 4. Terry is working at Eldorado Hospices, and Margaret Ann has a secretarial position at the University of Manitoba.

Our daughter Joanne and her husband Larry Dyck, with their children, Tyler, 15, and Brittany, 12, live in Morden. Joanne is a hairdresser, working with her dad. Larry has an upholstery business in town.

Joanne's daughter Nicole and her husband Lee Perreault live in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Nicole is also a hairdresser and Lee is working with his dad in their abattoir.

Our son Tom and his wife Cara (Scammell) and their two little boys, Steven, born March 12, 1997, and Joey, born August 11, 1998, live in Fort St. John, British Columbia. Tom is a youth pastor.

Bob and his wife Darlene (Jacobs, Titchkosky) and family, Brent, 12, Stephanie, 10, and Kristen, 8, live in Morden at the time of this writing, but intend to move to Winnipeg. Bob has been hired as a constable in East St. Paul, after serving in that capacity in Morden for the last five years. Darlene, who is our local Justice of the Peace, is in the process of transferring to Winnipeg as well.

JULIUS & ANNA (ENNS) BANMAN

Submitted by Sarah Banman

Julius Banman, 32, and his wife Anna Enns, 25, arrived in Canada July 27, 1874 aboard the S. S. Nova Scotian, which docked in Quebec. They had two children with them; Julius, 1, and Ann, 4. They had come from Russia and were listed in the 1843 - 1876 Berghthal Gemeinde Buch.

At first they lived east of the Red River. In the 1881 census, they are listed as living at Blumengard. Their family at that time included Anna, 10, Anganeta (Aganetha), 5, Kathrina, 2, and Maria, one month. By this time Julius had died.



The Banman brothers and sisters, taken February 2, 1969, at the time of Peter Banman's funeral. Back row: (l - r) Jake, Jule, John, Henry, Pete; Front row: Mary, Kay, Ann, Sarah.



Four generations, 1977: great grandmother Aganetha (Nettie) Banman, grandfather Peter Banman, father Greg Banman and son James Banman.



Four generations, 1979: great grandmother Aganetha (Nettie) Banman, grandfather Peter Banman, mother Marian (Kozuska) Kish, and son, Jonathon Kozuska.



Four generations, 1980: great grandmother Aganetha (Nettie) Banman, grandfather Peter Banman, father, Orlando Banman and son, Patrick Banman.

Sometime after 1888 and before 1899 the family moved to the Lowe Farm area. In 1888 their youngest child, Peter, was born at Blumengard. In 1899 Julius was a school trustee in Lowe Farm. They farmed one mile south of the west end of Lowe Farm. The family was larger now, including: Anna, born in 1869 and married to Heinrich H. Dyck; Aganetha, born in 1876 and married to Peter Falk, they later moved to Mexico; Kathrina, born in 1879 married Jacob W. Wiens; Franz, born in 1884, married Maria Kehler; Susanna, born in 1886, married Schroeder, Hildebrand, and Peters; Peter was born in 1888. He married Aganetha Kroeker.

Julius died in October, 1901 and Anna died in December, 1904.

Franz Banman and his wife Maria died in 1922, leaving two children, Frank and Mary.

Frank married Verna and lived at Innisfail, Alberta, where they raised four children; Sherry, (married with two children), Marlene, (married with one child), Jim, and Bonnie. All of the children live near Innisfail.

Mary married Isaac Friesen and lived in Lavenham, Manitoba. They had four children, including; Mary (Massey) of Brandon, Anne (Leask) of Nevada, Jake (Claudette) in Alberta, and Susan (Ostopowich), who makes her home in Portage La Prairie.

Both Frank and Mary have died.

Peter was 12 years old when his father died and 16 years old when his mother died. He married Aganetha (Nettie) Kroeker on October 22, 1914. At first they lived with her parents half a mile south of the east end of Lowe Farm. Later they moved four miles north of Lowe

Farm where they built a house, barn and other buildings. They were living there in 1919 when Jake was born. They lived across the road from the Neufeld School where Peter was the secretary. After having repeated crops drown because of a lack of drainage, they moved south-east of Lowe Farm, across a large drainage ditch to the north of Aganetha's parents, the Cornelius Kroekers. They moved there in about 1923. Some years later they moved two and a half or three miles further south. The final move was about the fall of 1930 when they moved their house north of Lowe Farm onto the land of J.W. Wiens, Peter's sister. Peter did odd jobs to feed his family. The children grew up and started to work. Henry, Ann, Julius, Sara, Pete and John all worked in Sanford at one time or another. At different times, all of the boys and Jule's wife Susan worked at Leitch Gold Mines in Beardmore, Ontario. In June of 1953, Peter got a job at the Leitch Gold Mines. He worked there for 10 years. When he retired, they moved to Steinbach. Peter died in 1969 and Aganetha died in 1981. Both are buried in Steinbach. They had 11 children. The first two boys, Cornelius and Peter did not live to reach their first birthdays.

The rest of the family included:

Mary, 1918, who married Frank Yuzwa and lived in Toronto. When they retired, they moved to Walkerton, Ontario. Both have died of cancer. They had three children: Gerald lives in Calgary and has two children, Eric and Lara; Francie (Mann) lived in Neustadt, Ontario and had two children, including Monica, who married in September 1998 and Andreas. Francie died of cancer in February, 1996; Kim (Yuzwa-Rielly) has a daughter, Anne, and lives in Cranbrooke, Ontario. Her Post Office is Brussels, Ontario.

Jacob, born in 1919, started farming at Plumas in the late 1940's. Henry was also there. They farmed in summer and worked at the Leitch Gold Mines in the winter. Around 1958, Jake stayed on the farm for the winter. He has now retired and lives in Neepawa. He married Kathrine Funk who had a family: Menno, Rudy, Harry, Fred, Florence and Norman. Jake and Kathrine had four more children: Jim works on the farm; John lives in Souris and has two children, Jennifer and Jacob; Dorothy (Falk) lives in Brookdale and has three children, Shannon, Dana and Kyla; Marion (Kolesar) lives in Arden and has two children, Jeremy (Mission, British Columbia) and Rachel. Kathrine died in 1986. Jake remarried Sarah McGreevy in 1993. She was Sadie Dyck who went to school in Lowe Farm.

Henry was born in 1921. He worked with Jake for a couple of years on the farm and in the fall went to work at the Leitch Gold Mines. He married Dorothy Graves and moved to Bannerman, Manitoba, southwest of Killarney. There he worked for Claude Blixhaven for three years. From there he moved to work for his cousin, John Wiens, as a baker at the bakery in Morris. When John sold the bakery, Henry found a job with Manitoba

Pool Elevators. After working for Pool Elevators for 26 years, he retired while living at Moore Park. Dorothy died in 1985. She brought to the marriage five children: Bill lives near Drayton Valley and has four children. All are married and some have children; Mary (Lewis) lives on a farm at Medora, Manitoba. She has two children and has grandchildren too; Tom lives in Edmonton and has four children. All are married with children; Anna (Kowbel) lives in Brandon and has two children. She also has grandbabies. Henry remarried Sarah Banman (see Peter) in 1991 and lives in Winnipeg.

Anna was born in 1923. She married Gordon McDonald from Sanford. They farmed at Sanford and Wakopa, Manitoba before moving to Grande Prairie, Alberta. They still live there, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October, 1998. They had eight children: Carol died in a car accident with her husband; Alex (Sandy) has two children, Shannon and Ferron, and lives in Grande Prairie; Barb (Tarnowski) lives in Grande Prairie; Don has one daughter, Charlie, and lives close to Grande Prairie; Marie (Froelich) has three children, Erin, Clinton and Jessica. They live close to Grand Prairie; Andy has a daughter, Shawna, who has two girls, Anjoulee and Samantha. All live close to Grande Prairie; Jo-Ann (Miller) has two boys, Shamus and Dana. They live at Slave Lake; Jacquie (Grunke) has two boys, Ben and Cole. They live in Edmonton.

Julius, born in 1925, married Susan Falk and lived at Beardmore, Ontario, working at Leitch Gold Mines. After the mine closed they worked in bush camps. When they retired, they built a house at Kleefeld and moved there, where they still reside. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May of 1998. They had two children: Lorraine (Franz) lives in Kenora and has two children,



Three Banman children celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries. Photo taken November 22, 1998: (l - r) Gordon McDonald, Ann McDonald, Elwin McDonald, Sarah McDonald, Susan Banman, Jules Banman.

Duane and Zandra. Both are married and have two children each; Wayne lives in Ear Falls, Ontario and has five children, Jonathan, Jeffery, Joelle, Joshua and Jana.

Sarah, born in 1927, married Elwin McDonald. They farmed at Sanford until 1976. In 1991 they moved to Winnipeg. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in November, 1998. They had four children: Terry lives in Winnipeg; Miles lives in Winnipeg. He has a daughter, Lori, and a granddaughter, Cheyenne, living in Winnipeg; Murray lives in Yellowknife, North West Territories. He is married and has two stepchildren, Adam and Audrey; Mark lived in Morris. He died in May, 1998; Vincent was adopted. He is Terry's son and lives in Winnipeg.

Peter, born in 1929, married Sarah Parker from Sanford. He worked in Sanford for Jim Cuddy. After he married, he went to work for Leitch Gold Mines. He worked there from 1953 to 1965 when the mine closed. He then moved to Winnipeg and worked for Canadian Tire until his health dictated he retire. He died in August of 1988. There were five children:



Wedding photo of Aganetha (Kroeker) and Peter Banman, October, 1914.

Greg has seven children, James, Aaron, Joshua, Jared, Heather, Natasha and Katie. They live in Barrie, Ontario; Kim has two stepchildren, Jonathan and Rebecca. They live in Grand Prairie, Alberta; Wright lives in Edmonton; Orlando has two boys, Patrick and Shawn. They live in Port Moody, British Columbia; Marian (Kish) has two boys, Jonathon (married) and Nathan.

They live in Winnipeg.

Kathrina, born in 1931, married Henry Falk. They lived in a variety of Manitoba towns while Henry worked for Canadian National Railways. After retiring they moved to Killarney where they still live. They have four children: Irene lives in Winnipeg; Sandra also lives in Winnipeg; Ronald lives in Boissevain; Karen lives in Winnipeg.

Johan Cornelius was born in 1938. He married Susan Kilborn. They lived mainly in mining towns where John worked. They first lived in Beardmore as John worked at Leitch Gold Mines. They moved to Elliot Lake where they lived for about 30 years. They now live at Whitefish, Ontario, near Sudbury where John is employed. They have three children: Rosemarie (Albert) has two children, Dorion and Desiree. They live at Val Caron, Ontario, north of Sudbury; David has two children, Jeni-Lee and Adam. They live at Wawa, Ontario; Norman lives at Sudbury.

JACOB P. & MARIA BERGEN



Jacob P. and Maria Bergen, 1964.

Jacob Bergen was born to Peter and Katherine Bergen on July 14, 1893, near Plum Coulee, Manitoba, where he grew up and received his schooling. He married Anna Thiessen on November 16, 1913. Anna died in 1919.

On July 3, 1919, Jacob remarried to Maria Thiessen (nee



Spring flooding at the Bergen farm, 1948.

Heinrichs), a widow with four children; Abram, Mary, Lena and Peter. In 1928 the family moved to Lowe Farm and the children went to school at Kronsweide. They also attended the church at Kronsweide.

In 1932 they moved one mile farther north to Section 34-4-2. There, the children went to Kane school.

Dad farmed with horses until about 1937, when he bought his first tractor, a model BR John Deere, on steel. He also had 12 working horses and two good driving horses.

The Bergens were a poor family. During the thirties, they had a real struggle. There was drought, grasshoppers and flooding. Drainage was not too good and their half section flooded every year.

Dad was chorister in the Kronsweide church for many years. In 1937 he was ordained minister in the Rudnerweider church at Rose Farm. In the early years of his ministry, he would go as far as 40 miles for services. Later he bought a 1928 Chevrolet to make his rounds.

They made their fuel for the winter heating by pressing manure. The manure pressed bricks were piled up to dry in the summer and then used as fuel in a home made stove. This stove was made from a 45-gallon gas drum.

Dad worked for the Municipality of Morris, dragging roads in the summer, which he did mostly with four horses and a wooden "drag", made of bridge planks. Later the tractor was used. He also used the tractor to haul grain to the elevator in a wagon that held about 60 - 70 bushels of grain. On his way home he would stop at Rosner's General Store, where he would park parallel to the store. This would sometimes give farmers coming to town by car an idea. They would park in front and also behind his rig so he couldn't move forward or back up. Being a big man, this did not stop him. He could lift his John Deere up in front, set it diagonal to the sidewalk, and with one flip of the wheel he was on his way again.

The Bergens did a lot of visiting. They had a lot of friends. In 1948 they had an auction sale and moved to Abbotsford, British Columbia, where they cleared a few acres of land on Clearbrook Road and built a new home. There they grew strawberries and raised some chickens. Dad also worked at the gravel pit on King Road. He worked for B.C. Hydro and also remained active in church work.

In 1964 they came back to Lowe Farm where they settled in the former Post Office on Main Street. They were here for three years when Mom passed away. Dad remarried a third time to Susan

Giesbrecht on December 3, 1967. Dad passed away on July 29, 1969.

The Bergens had seven children: Henry married Pauline Stobbe in Abbotsford, British Columbia, where they reside. Tina married David Wiebe. They served with New Tribes Mission in Bolivia for 34 years. They now live in MacGregor. Susie married Allen Johnston and they live in Winnipeg. Jake married Susie Heinrichs and they reside in Lowe Farm. Agnes married Ben Heinrichs and lives in Vernon, British Columbia. Agatha married John Harder and lives in Portage. Anne married Jack Clark and resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

JACOB H. & SUSIE (HEINRICHS) BERGEN

Submitted by Susie Bergen



Jake and Susie Bergen's family at the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, August 11, 1996. Back (l - r) Glen, Joan, Brian, Donna, Waldo, Jeannie, Pat, Debbie, Jeff, Harvey, Chris. Front: Jake, Erin, Susie, Laura.

Jake was born to Jacob and Maria Bergen near Horndean, Manitoba. He came with his parents in 1928 to live south of Lowe Farm. He attended Kane School

Jake married Susie Heinrichs on August 1, 1946, in the Lowe Farm Berghaler Church. We went to live in Abbotsford, British Columbia from 1948 until 1949, but came back to the farm. In 1956 we moved into town.

Jake worked for the Municipality of Morris as gravel checker, weed inspector, mower operator, and planting shelterbelts. In 1959 he started working for the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op, first as truck driver and then as assistant manager.

In November of 1970, we went to work as custodians of our school, and in 1974 Jake added a school bus run to his list of duties. We also took care of the Lowe Farm Berghaler Church for 12 years. In addition we were custodians of the Prairie View Apartments.

We have three children:

Pat married Harvey Edel (deceased 1998) and lives on a farm near Morris. Their children are Donna, Jeffrey and Christopher.

Joan married Del Stonehouse. They live in Winnipeg and have one son, Brian. Joan has her own business, Puma Transport, where they service highway tractors. They also own their own truck.

Waldo married Debbie McLeod. They have two daughters, Laura and Erin.

Waldo works for Beaver Bus Lines as parts manager, while Deb works for Manitoba Telecom Services Inc. (MTS).

Jake and Susan built a new house in 1985, and are currently enjoying retirement in Lowe Farm.

JOHN P. & ELIZABETH (THIESSEN) BERGMAN

From Furrows in the Valley



John P. Bergman built this house in 1918.



The Bergman barn was built in 1911.

John P. Bergman was born in the village of Gnadenthal, November 16, 1885. In 1911, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Thiessen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thiessen of the Shoenau district, Altona.

After their marriage, they moved to Rose Farm (four miles south of Kane, on SE 1/4 28-4-2). In 1918, they built a house, which was later the home of the youngest son, Cornie. As farming progressed, a big improvement was made when they changed from the use of the horse and plow to a new Titan tractor. In 1924, John was able to purchase another new tractor. (McCormick) He had a special interest for music and organized the Rose Farm choir.

John worked hard until his death in 1930 at the age of 45 years.

John, 14 years old at the time, continued the farming with his mother and six children. Many hardships were involved for the family, including grasshoppers and poor crops. Through all these hardships, the family managed fairly well.

It was in 1937, that mother's health failed and rheumatism set in, and she was confined to a wheel chair for about 21 years. In spite of her illness, she was always pleasant and cheerful. Many visitors called during this time, which she deeply appreciated. She passed away in 1963 at the age of 76 years.

The family included: Eva, Katie (Pete) Ginter, John (Emma Born), Sharon (John) Epp, Deanna (Ken) Friesen, Elizabeth (Jake) Schellenberg, Don (Ann Rempel), Anne (Jim) Bueckert, Trudy (David) Schellenberg, Sam (Caroline Loewen), Lois (Derrik) Wimble, James (Henriette Klassen), Agatha (Gary) Moir, John, Cornie (Tina Hildebrand).

JACOB & AGANETHA (GIESBRECHT) BLATZ

Submitted by Dora Hildebrand



Jacob and Aganetha Blatz taken in the 1940's. The Martens Garage is across the street.



The 50th anniversary of Jacob and Aganetha Blatz in 1941.

My grandparents, Jacob and Aganetha (Giesbrecht) Blatz were married on July 9, 1891 at Neuhoffnung, near Gretna, Manitoba and moved to Rose Farm (NW 9-4-2w) in 1896.

In the same year Grandpa donated one acre for a school and one acre for a cemetery on the northeast corner of the home quarter. The frame construction, 24 by 30 feet, was erected in 1897 with the teacherage on the north side, a classroom on the south, and a hall in between. Classes were conducted in German. Grandpa Blatz served on the school board for many years and in 1912 the school was moved half a mile west and one mile south.

A large two-story house was built in 1919 and the Blatz family enjoyed many gatherings there, including their Golden Anniversary in 1941. Few people celebrated 50 years together in those days, not due to marriage break-ups, but to the death of a spouse.

In 1928 Grandpa lost his left leg from above the knee due to blood poisoning and so most of the grandchildren remember him only with crutches.

Apparently Grandpa never owned a car, nor did he ever learn to drive one. But he had a horse named "Sid" and I remember a few rides on the buggy with Sid pulling it. He had raised the horse from a colt and the two were a team. He would untie the horse in the barn, put on the harness and tell him to go out to the buggy. The horse obediently went and waited for his master to come on his crutches and hitch him up. He always trotted nicely for Grandpa, but if the sons wanted to go with him, Sid would take off. Grandpa said, "You don't treat him right!"

Since Grandma was the oldest in her family, her schooling had been limited, and Grandpa taught her how to read and write. Many an evening the couple read to their children from the Bible in the German language as they relaxed in their rocking chairs, each with its own particular squeak. Grandma also had her spinning wheel in the kitchen and her hands were never idle when there were a few spare minutes or when Grandpa read in the evening.

Grandma and Grandpa Blatz retired to Lowe Farm (now #15 on Fourth Street West) in 1939, but my single uncles stayed on the farm. They now had a very small house, two rooms on the main floor with a lean-to, and one room and a storage room upstairs. They worshipped in the Berghaler Church.

Grandpa was a real people person and a good friend of his was Moses Rosner, who originally came from Romania. Moses couldn't speak Low German and I never heard Grandpa speak English, but the High German was common ground for both of them. Moses used to keep sheep in a pen on Main and Fourth Street and it was a point of interest on the way uptown for us.

Grandpa took sick and had to go to the Winkler Hospital where he got pneumonia and died on June 24, 1947 at the age of 78. His funeral was in the Rose Farm Rudnerweider Church (later called the EMMC). He was buried in the cemetery that he had looked after for so many years (his son Dan took over the job after Grandpa, and now grandson Frank D. Blatz is on a committee of two that organize its care).

Grandma remained in the house in Lowe Farm for a number of years and her last year was spent at the home of a Mrs. Braun in Lowe Farm. She passed away in March 9, 1953 and was buried alongside her husband.

Their children include: Jacob (1892 - 1918) remained single and was training for the dentistry in Toronto at his passing; Agnes (1893 - 1981) lost her first husband John Dyck in 1918 and then married Peter Rempel. They farmed at Lowe Farm; Daniel (December, 1894 - January, 1895); Helen (1896 - 1971) married John N. Dyck and they farmed at Lowe Farm and Rivers; Frank (1897 - 1980) married Maria Dueck and farmed at Horndean, Kane, and retired to Plum Coulee; Peter (1898) stillborn; Mary (1900 - 1963) remained single and was an Registered Nurse at Winkler, Altona and Ninette Sanitarium; John (1902 - 1907) diphtheria; Susan (1903 - 1968) married Abram Dueck and they lived at Horndean and Fort Garry; Anna (1905) stillborn; Andrew (1906 - 1991) married Justina Toews and they farmed at Homewood, then at Killarney and had years of construction when living at Morden; Daniel (November, 1907 - February, 1908); Daniel (1909 - 1990) married Edna Loeppky and they farmed at Rose Farm and Graysville; Abram (1911-1995) married Tina Klassen and they farmed at Kane, then moved to Winnipeg; Tina (1912) remained single and served as a missionary in Germany; Eva (1916) married Henry Braun. They farmed at Sperling and Kane, then moved to British Columbia.

AGNES BLATZ

From Furrows in the Valley

Agnes was married to John Dyck of Lowe Farm (Kronsweide district) on January 23, 1913. Born September 29, 1893, he died in November, 1918 in a flu epidemic on their farm at Lowe Farm. Born to this marriage were four children: Helen married George Hodge of Myrtle; Agnes worked as a licensed practical nurse in Winnipeg. She died there July 19, 1973. Jake lived on the farm with his parents, the P. P. Rempels. (Agnes remarried to P.P. Rempel in 1936). Jake attended RAI at Altona for one year, then married Nettie Loewen of Gretna, 1939. He enlisted in 1940 and served in the army until 1945, then moved to British Columbia with his family, where he passed away while working his Gradall machine in 1968; Sarah married Henry Derksen of Lowe Farm in 1938. Later in the 1940s, they moved to the Vanderhoof, British Columbia area.



Agnes (Aganetha) Blatz, with her second husband, Peter P. Rempel of Lowe Farm, in 1936. Her first husband, John Dyck, died in 1918.

HELEN BLATZ (JOHN DYCK)

From Furrows in the Valley

Helen married John N. Dyck from Lowe Farm (Steinfeld School District). They moved to section 8-3-2w (St. Peters School District) where they farmed and raised their family of six children. In 1952, the whole family moved to Rivers, northwest of Brandon, to a two and a half section farm. Their children are: Andrew, Jake, Elmer, Jake, John, Mary (Morley) Mitchell, and Helen (Gerald) Rigby.

FRANK & MARY (DUECK) BLATZ

From Furrows in the Valley



Frank G. Blatz family, 1946, Henry, Dora, Frank, Anne, Jake and Norman with parents, Frank and Mary (nee Dueck).

Frank married Mary Dueck from Altona (Schoenthal School District) in July, 1922. They lived around Horndean at first, later moving to the Kane District with the family in 1938, to the Jim Miller place. Later they moved to George Miller's. They have a family of six children, four boys and two girls.

JACOB & TENA (PENNER) BORN

*From Furrows in the Valley
Originally submitted by Jacob Born
Updated by Jacque Eidse*



Jake, Larry and George Born, hauling snow for water.



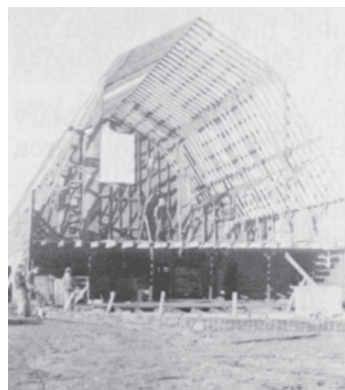
The Jake Born Family and their "caboose" in 1945

Jacob Born was born north of Winkler in the Rosenbach School District in 1914, to Peter W. and Maria (Dyck) Born. In 1919, my parents moved six miles north of Plum Coulee.

I left home in 1933 to earn my own living, with a Grade VIII education.

In 1938, I married Tena Penner, daughter of Henry P. and Margaret (Wiebe) Penner of Rose Farm. We lived north, and later west of Kane. When we started farming, the times were pretty hard. Our first house was a two-room 12 by 20 foot structure. We also had a small barn and a few granaries. In 1941 we added to our house because our family was growing in size.

We were raising cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys. The first litter of pigs we had all died except for two that we had to feed by bottle, because the sow was sick. When our turkeys hatched, we managed to raise 18 of them for market in fall. We kept two turkey hens and one gobbler over the winter to start the flock for next spring. One stormy winter night, the old barn toppled over, and our turkeys with it. That incident ended our turkey business.



Jake and Tina Born, married two weeks, April, 1938.



Tearing down the old J. B. Davidson barn, 1964.

In 1959, we bought the old J. B. Davidson farm from Waldo Fredrickson. The buildings were quite old. We dismantled the old barn in 1963 and built a machine shed. In 1967 we sold the old house and built a new one. We farmed there for 15 years, until we retired to Lowe Farm in 1974. We are members of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm.

We raised four children into adulthood. Larry is retired from the Canada Post and works part time in maintenance at IGA in Winnipeg. Perry, deceased in 1988; Penny married Gerry King, she works at Palliser Furniture in Winnipeg. Gerry is a letter carrier for Canada Post. They have two children, Tristan and Savannah. Nancy and her husband Gary Asselin live in Victoria, British Columbia where they both work for Canada Post; Margaret and Allan Friesen live in Kenora where she works at McDonald's and he is owner/operator of a truck, hauling pulp. Their oldest daughter Tammy teaches pre-school on a Kenora reserve. She is engaged to Mike Peters, also a trucker from Kenora. Their son Darcy is studying to be an occupational therapist at Kingston University. His wife Yvonne works at a video store. Carson is enjoying various jobs and travelling; Jacque and Wes Eidse live at Rosenort where she works as secretary/resource aid at the school and Wes has his own business, Wesco Autobody Ace sandblasting. They have three children. Their son Angelo and his wife Esther live in Abbotsford, British Columbia where he works at a park for Greater Vancouver Regional District and Esther is supervisor at a Starbucks store. Lola lives in Winnipeg and works as an activity director at a community center. Cherry is studying at the University of Winnipeg and works part time; Lisa lives in Winnipeg and works in a restaurant. She has three children, Dustin, Asia and Jesse.

Jacob died in 1994. Tena lives in the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris.

EDWARD & MARGARET SUSAN (GEISBRECHT) BRAUN



The Braun family, April, 1978 at Norma's wedding. (l - r) Gordon, Margaret, Ed, Norma (seated), Marvin and Vernon.

Ed Braun was born on a farm south of Lowe Farm, where he lived with his parents (Jacob E. and Marie Braun) until 1936, when his parents moved into town. Ed's love of sports - skating, baseball and hockey - led to the beginning of his leadership career. Ed became manager of the boys' hockey team, as well as manager of the Lowe Farm girl's softball team.

After high school, Ed worked briefly for three local businesses. He worked as a gas jockey for Diedrich Heppner, kept the books for Peter Marten's garage, and also worked as branch manager/bookkeeper for George Klassen's Morris branch of the Lowe Farm Transfer. In 1943, Ed received his call-up notice from the Federal Government and within two weeks, he was a soldier on his way to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Following basic and advanced training, Ed was attached to the 25th Heavy Artillery Regiment.

In 1944, Ed married Margaret Susan Giesbrecht, daughter of Abram A. Giesbrecht and Agatha Heppner. Upon discharge from the services in 1945, they returned to Lowe Farm where Ed operated a dragline for a time.

In 1948, he began his co-operative career with the Lowe Farm Co-op Store, the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op, and the Lowe Farm Co-op Locker Plant. Each of these was a separate co-op with its own Board of Direc-

tors, and Ed successfully managed all three at the same time. During this time Ed gave leadership to the first five-day short course for co-op directors to be held in Western Canada. Fifteen or 20 directors from the three local co-ops attended the course which was held in the Lowe Farm Co-op Hall and conducted by G. A. "Smokey" Robson and Don Slimmon of Manitoba Co-op Wholesale.

Ed also served on the Board of the Lowe Farm Mutual Hospitalization Association for four years, and was a founding member and President of the Lowe Farm Co-op Medical Plan in Lowe Farm which operated successfully before the Manitoba Government introduced the Manitoba Medical Plan.

In 1955, Ed became a District Representative with Manitoba Co-operative Wholesale and continued as a District Representative after the Wholesale amalgamated with Federated Co-op. Ed served Northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, calling on 26 retail consumer co-operatives. During this period, the Brauns moved a lot, living in Swan River, Dauphin, Roblin, Yorkton, and Morden.

In 1958, Federated Co-operatives moved him to Regina as Retail Petroleum Sales Manager with an office on the Co-op Refinery grounds. With Ed's guidance, the refinery successfully fought off an attempt by a major oil company to put the co-op refinery out of business. He also gave leadership to the "Tempo" program, and is gratified to see Tempo stations all across Western Canada today, selling co-op gasoline and helping to balance the production of products at the co-op refinery.

In 1963, Ed became a Public Relations Officer for the educational federation, District No.2, followed by a move to Melville, Saskatchewan as General Manager of that co-operative. In 1965, two Altona consumer co-operatives hired Ed as their general manager, asking him to guide them through amalgamation, as well as through raising funds and building a new shopping center.

In 1971, the Canadian Co-operative Implements Ltd. engaged him as Corporate Secretary and Member Relations Director, a position he held until his retirement in 1978.

Ed's cooperative career was recognized in October, 1998, when the Manitoba Cooperative Council presented him with the Distinguished Cooperator Award for outstanding contribution to cooperation and cooperative development.

Ed and Margaret had four children: Marvin Edward Braun who is a Crown Prosecutor living in Abbotsford, British Columbia, with his wife, Maxine and daughter, Darla; Gordon Dale Braun is a senior government official with the Saskatchewan Department of Transportation. He is living in Regina with his wife, Donna and stepsons, Scott and Chad Ferguson; Vernon Roy Reynolds-Braun is an independent video director, writer and producer living in Calgary with his wife Kate. They have a daughter, Norma Jean Wuerz, who is a clinical teacher of nurses with the University of Manitoba, and a nurse with the Health Sciences Centre. She lives in Winnipeg with

her husband Steve Wuerz and their children, Terry and Maggie.

Upon his retirement in 1978, Ed and Margaret moved to British Columbia, where they had a part interest in a real estate company. Within a few weeks of their move, Margaret was diagnosed with cancer and regrettably spent most of her days in British Columbia battling the disease which claimed her life in 1979.

Ed acquired sole ownership of the real estate company, and with the help of his second wife, Mary-Lynne, he successfully guided the business until 1992 when the final shares were sold. During this time, Ed also wrote and published his memoirs in a book called *A Charmed Life*.

During all these years, Ed has been an active member of the United Church in whatever community he was residing, and has always felt strongly that co-operation was the best way to put Christian ethics into practice in business.

On October 1st, 1998 Ed and Mary-Lynne Braun returned to Manitoba and now reside in Winnipeg.

GORDON & DONNA (GIESBRECHT) BRAUN

Submitted by Gordon Braun



Gordon, Donna, Scott and Chan Braun, 1998.

I am the son of Ed and Margaret Braun. My grandparents were Jacob and Marie Braun and Abe and Agatha Giesbrecht.

I was born in Lowe Farm on July 8, 1949 and lived there until 1954. My family then moved to Swan River where my father worked for the Co-op. My mother worked at raising four children (Marvin, Vernon, Norma Jean and myself) and at providing a supportive home environment wherever we happened to be living.

Over the years my father worked for a number of different co-operatives, and we lived in various Manitoba and Saskatchewan communities, including Dauphin,

Roblin, Regina, Carman, Melville and Altona.

I received a Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree from the University of Manitoba in 1970 and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Western Ontario in 1973. After working in Ontario for two years I moved to Regina to take a position with the Government of Saskatchewan in 1975. Over the years I have worked for several different departments, and am now with the Department of Highways and Transportation.

Donna and I were married in 1986. Donna was previously married and so, in addition to a loving partner, I also gained two tremendous stepsons. Scott, 23, is currently working in the food service industry; and Chad, 17, is in his Grade XII year. Donna is originally from the Milestone, Saskatchewan area where her parents farm. She has worked for over 25 years in the co-operative movement, first with the Regina Teachers' Credit Union and until recently with the Regina Community Clinic. As you can see from the photograph, the other member of our family is Molly, our Jack Russell terrier.

JACOB F. & MARY (DYCK) BRAUN

Submitted by Betty Freeman



The Jacob F. Braun family. Back row: (l - r) Abe, John, Edd; second row: Dad, Betty, Harry, Ann, Mom; Front row: Edna, Art and Shirley.



Harry Braun



John Braun



Brum Tops

In the early years the folks were farmers, living at Sewell, Plum Coulee and then at Lowe Farm. They last farmed four miles south of Lowe Farm in the Kronsweide area. After moving off the farm Dad did a lot of different jobs using the horses, building spillways and roads with his horse-drawn scoop. His son-in-law in later years would do the same job using cat and scraper. Dad loved horses and had a good-looking team until ill health forced him to sell them.

In the mid 1930's when Mom and Dad lived in Lowe Farm we were visited one New Year's Eve by a group of entertainers that called themselves Brumtops. The Brumtops was a barrel with a horse tail attached that the musician would strum. Dad volunteered to take the musicians door to door with his team of horses. Dad enjoyed music and played the violin. He taught all of us to dance and sing in tune as well as to harmonize and keep time. Harry had a piano accordion which he and Ann played. We had lots of jam sessions with all of us singing and dancing.

Dad was also a mathematical whiz. We often played number games with him. He'd start by having us pick a number between one and ten. We'd then have to do the multiplication, division, addition and subtraction to find the correct answer. He always knew what the answer would be. I'm sorry I forgot the sequence of how to do that. My children learned a lot of their multiplication table doing the number game with him.

We left Lowe Farm in 1936, moving to Morris, first in town and then two and a half miles west on the Lewis farm. From there we moved to Kane. While living in Kane, Harry and John were in the army overseas. In 1946 we returned to Lowe Farm. Dad had contracted sleeping sickness and also typhoid fever as a young man and in later years suffered from Parkinson's disease. He died of pneumonia in 1972.

In 1976 Mom and Abe moved to Plum Coulee. In 1982 Mom moved to British Columbia where she had always wanted to live. She joined her daughters Ann and Betty in the sunny Okanagan. She lived with Ann for two years followed by a stay in a nursing home where she passed away in 1990.

Jacob F. Braun and Mary Dyck were married July 15, 1917. To this union nine children were born. John (1918) worked in a lumber mill in British Columbia. He married Mary Grousel (1918 - 1988). John now lives in Abbotsford, B.C. Harry (1920) worked at Eatons in Winnipeg. He married Annie Penner (1926). They have two children, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. They reside in Winnipeg. Edd (1922) worked in a lumber mill in British Columbia. He married Ella Varty. They live in Campbell River, B.C. Abe (1924) worked as a farm laborer. He lives in Plum Coulee, Manitoba. Ann (1926) married Victor Rood (1924) who farmed in Saskatchewan until they retired to British Columbia in 1976. They have three boys and two grandchildren - one of whom died in 1986 - and three great grandchildren. Ann and Vic live in Winfield, B.C. Betty (1929) married Jake Rempel (1927 - 1996) who was in road construction. Betty went into nursing in 1967. They had four children - one of whom died in 1993. There are 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Betty moved to British Columbia in 1976 and later remarried to Jack Freeman (1925). They live in Kelowna, B.C. Art (1932) worked in a pulp and paper mill in British Columbia as a paper machine supervisor. He married Isabelle Strueby (1934). They have three girls and nine grandchildren. They live in Campbell River, B.C. Edna (1935) married Benny Remple (1931 - 1959) who worked for J. A. Keddy Parts. Edna worked as a clerk in a bank in Winnipeg and later as a service representative at Manitoba Telephone System. Edna remarried to Lloyd Sandmoen (1936), a farmer at Vogar, Manitoba. They have three girls and still live at Vogar. Shirley (1938) married Lawrence Miller (1932 - 1980), a fireman in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Shirley was an accountant for Tupperware. They had two children and three grandchildren. Shirley remarried to Jim Dalglish (1929), a machine and construction superintendent at Hudson Bay Mining in Flin Flon, Manitoba. Jim and Shirley retired to Abbotsford, British Columbia.

JACOB E. & MARIE (KLASSEN) BRAUN

Marie and Jacob E. Braun.

Jacob E. Braun, the oldest child of Jacob J. Braun and Elisabeth Bergen, was born in Eigengrund, but spent most of his adult life living in and around Lowe Farm. He married Marie Klassen in 1920. Marie was born near Lowe Farm and was the third daughter of Peter A. Klassen and Katherina Klippenstein, whose farm was situated in the Kronsweide District near the school.

Jacob and Marie farmed near Lowe Farm. For several years, Jacob was also manager of the Lowe Farm Consumer's Co-op. Following that employment, he began a career with the Manitoba Pool Elevators, and this resulted in a move to Giroux, as grain buyer during the early part of World War II. When the Pool Elevator in Giroux burned in 1944, Jake was transferred to Ogilvie Elevator Co. at Rosenfeld, where they lived until Jake retired in 1960.

Jake, called "Big Jake Braun", was a highly respected man and community leader. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Kronsweide School for many years and gave leadership to the planning of many school picnics, community sports days, and ball games.

Marie was a hard working and intelligent woman, who could do the work of two people in the fields and then have energy left over to cook, clean, and bake for the family. Construction gangs, threshing gangs and hydro gangs often boarded at the Braun household. At times, Marie cooked meals on a wood stove to feed two gangs of a dozen men each, serving one gang at 11 a.m. and the other at 12 noon. Marie also excelled at quilting and crocheting, capturing many prizes at local fairs.

Jake and Marie had three children: Edward married Margaret Susan Giesbrecht, of Lowe Farm, and they had four children, Marvin, Gordon, Vernon, and Norma Jean; Arthur married Lorraine Martel of Rosenfeld, and they had four sons, Leroy (stillborn), Stuart, Lindsay and Murray; Betty married Harold J. Giesbrecht of Rosenfeld and they had two children, Ross and Lois.

Both Jake and Marie rest in the Lowe Farm Cemetery.

JOHAN J. BRAUN

From Furrows in the Valley

Originally written by Sara Peters and Tina Gollan



Maria Braun and her family. Back row: (l - r) Tina, Annie, Sara, Mother. Front row: Elizabeth, Mary and Cornelius

Our father was legally married five times. He was born July 18, 1868, in Berghthaler Village, Russia. He came to Canada with his parents, Jacob and Henrietta (Unger) Braun, in 1879.

In 1890 Johan J. Braun married Elizabeth Funk. To this union was born John (1894) and Jacob (1895). Jacob died in January, 1895, followed by Mother, Elizabeth (Funk) Braun three months later.

In 1896 Johan married Anna Friesen. To this union was born Jacob (1897), Anna (1899), Henrietta (1902) and Sara (1904 - 1991). Mother, Anna (Friesen) Braun, died in January, 1906, followed by Anna in November. Henrietta died December, 1912.

In 1906 Johan married Maria Bergmann. To this union was born Anna (1907), Tina (1908 - 1991), Maria (1910), Cornelius (1913 - 1996), Elizabeth (1915) and Henrietta (1919). Maria (Bergmann) Braun died in September, 1919.

In 1926, Johan married Anna Kroeker. Anna Braun died April 1930.

Then, in 1934 Johan married Margaretha Loewen.

Johan J. Braun died in August, 1942, at the age of 74 years.

We lived in Weidenfeld, Manitoba before we moved to Lowe Farm. We remember seeing Haley's Comet in April, 1910, at Weidenfeld.

The move to Weidenfeld was made in 1914 with a

family of seven: (John, born 1894; Jacob, born 1897; Sara, born 1904; Annie, born 1907; Tina, born 1908; Mary, born 1910; Cornelius, born 1913;) (Elizabeth, born 1915, was born at Lowe Farm). John married Tina Klassen in 1915. Jacob married Mary Dyck in 1917.

The years from 1914 to 1918 we lived on Section 1/4 18-4-1w four miles straight south of the town of Lowe Farm. East of us lived John Dycks. West was the Cornelius Driedgers and the Bietzen family. North was Peter Remples and south was Peter Martins. John, 18, and Jacob, 16, did not attend school at Lowe Farm but Sara, 9, and Annie, 6, and later Tina and Mary, attended the Steinfeld School.

We well remember walking the mile to school every day in the summertime, driving a horse and cutter with a little caboose built over the cutter for shelter from the winds in the winter, always taking our lunch in those double-decker lunch pails. Anybody living in Southern Manitoba will well realize when a storm breaks out in the winter time, you better stay home. In 1915, we did not have radio weather news.

The snowdrifts in the cold winter were hard enough for the horses to walk on. Often the snow banks were above those present day telephone lines. We usually had a 10 foot snow bank between house and barn and many a sleigh ride was enjoyed on the hills of snow.

Remembering the great dust storm that almost filled the ditches with dirt, was quite an experience. Our neighbors were out visiting friends when this dust storm hit our area. They always had the horsehide robe in the buggy as well as in the cutter. This couple unhitched their horses, separated them, and thought they would run for shelter. Then they knelt down and covered themselves with the robe. The horses did not go away - they just stuck their nose under the robe too and stayed with them until the storm was over. Talk about horse-sense!

Father and the two brothers John and Jacob worked the land. This meant there had to be three full teams of 12 horses plus two drivers. In harvest time after the two older brothers had married, Father would pull a hayrack and wagon into the field. The children would be playing around the hayrack, while Mother was running the binder with four horses. The two older sisters, Sara, 12, and Annie, 9, had to make sure the odd sheaf that fell off the sheaf holder was carried in the line of the stooks. This was pretty hard, especially for Sara as she remained a small shrimp.

During threshing they had a stook loader which eliminated the need for the field men. This sheaf loader loaded the stooks into the hayrack and the stooks had to be a straight line.

One fall season after the wheat field was in stooks we had a bad thunderstorm and one bolt of lightning hit the stooks close to the house, and they burst into flame. The hard clap of thunder must have opened the sky, as the rain pelted down so hard that the fire only burned a

couple of stooks, sparing the stubble field.

With our family, pranks were commonplace. One time Cornelius and Elizabeth were getting dressed in the morning, with Cornelius wearing his fleece lined underwear with trap seat. Being just five years old, he did not have it buttoned up, so Elizabeth who was three at the time, grabbed a young kitten and stuffed it down his trap door. You can imagine the scuffle! I don't know who won, the boy or the kitten.

By 1915, some people had cars. Our grandparents from Altona were really in style because they had a four-door Chevrolet. The top came down and folded up behind the back seat. For colder weather, it had snap shutters to snap over the door opening. Cars also came in handy as rat exterminators. The car was backed to a building, an extension put on the exhaust, and left running, so as to kill the rats underneath the floor. Rats built tunnels underneath any floor that did not have a basement.

While living at Lowe Farm, Mother raised turkeys to butcher in December when they were packed in a lightweight coffee barrel and shipped to Eatons in Winnipeg. The proceeds from the turkeys were used to buy Christmas presents and any new clothes we needed.

Shopping for groceries with Mother in Lowe Farm was a treat for us children. Moses, who ran the grocery store, always had a barrel of doughnut shaped cookies with red sugar sprinkled on them, and of course each child was given one. Coffee beans were sold by the barrel - everybody had a coffee grinder. Clothes were ordered from Eatons in Winnipeg, as well as the material to sew dresses, make quilts, sheets, pillowcases, wool for knitting, and crochet cotton. Spices, pepper, liniments and salves, especially carbolic salve that was used for livestock, were purchased from the Watkins dealer who traveled from house to house.

Axle grease was another item you could not run out of, because it was used for all implements, wagons and buggies. It was even used for poultices, and to remove grease from clothing.

By 1914, there was a crop, a garden, milk, butter, cream and eggs. We thought we were living like Royalty. All this was achieved by manpower.

After reading this epistle you will realize that with a family of 12 children, everyone had to work so there would be enough to eat. This size family was average in those times.

People found less to criticize because one had to work and plan harder for one's survival. There was no demanding things from the government, no strikes, just plain hard work, and we did it.

Sara Peters died in 1991. Tina Gollan died in 1991. Cornelius Braun died in 1996.

JOHN & ANNIE (FALK) BRAUN

Submitted by Annie Braun

In 1933, when I was 10 years old, we (the family of Peter and Helen Falk) moved to Lowe Farm from the Ed Anderson farm, about five miles east of Lowe Farm.

We moved into a rented house on Main Street, just west of Rosner's General Store. On the west side of our house was an empty building that had been Altman's Store, I think.

We moved during the summer holidays, and in fall, myself, along with my brothers and sister, started school in the big, square, stone two-story school house with Ida Hoffman as my teacher.

I have many good memories of my school days there, playing hide and seek in the basement at recess in the winter. In spring and fall we played baseball and pump pump pull away, which is a game I do not think is even played anywhere, anymore.

We had to come to school one half hour early. Our classes started at 8:30 a.m., but the first half hour was for High German instruction, including reading, writing, grammar and speech.

In Lowe Farm I started going to Sunday School for the first time, with Helena Wiebe as my teacher.

In 1935, my dad bought a lot on what is now Centre Street, from J. J. Reimer. That summer a house was built, and we moved into it in July. That summer, my brother Ed and I herded the town cows along the railway track.

In town we had wooden sidewalks, but on Centre Street we had a very low dirt road, so when it rained, it was always very muddy. Our house was the last house on the street, and east and north of us was pasture land where Mr. Reimer kept his cattle.

When I was about 18 years old, I was hired as the first female employee at the Lowe Farm Co-op Store. John Wiens was manager at the time, and John Braun from Kane was already employed. The store hours were from about 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the winter and 8 a.m. to about 9 or 10 p.m. in the summer. During harvest time, the store was open as late as 11:30 p.m., especially on Saturday nights.

We also took in eggs in payment for groceries. These had to be candled in the back of the store. Often, children would come in with an egg or two to buy candies. We would candle the egg and determine its worth and give the child a few candies, or a sucker.

At this time, the Co-op Store was located at the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. In 1942, we moved into a fairly new building that had been remodeled.

In 1944, I was hired as the first female employee of the Lowe Farm Credit Union, as manager and secretary-treasurer. I worked there for a year, and then married John L. Braun, and became a full time homemaker.

By this time, my parents had bought a lot on First Avenue, on the east side of where the Abe Harders now

reside. My parents had their house moved there in June of 1945. We were looking for a place to buy a lot and build a house. We decided to buy my parents' property and John started building a 20 by 24 foot house in October. On November 25th, our wedding day, it was ready enough to move into.

In the meantime, many changes had taken place downtown. The old John Schroeder garage and other buildings had disappeared and new ones were put in place. I remember the Consumers Co-op was built next to the Co-op Store. This was a two-story building with a community hall on the second floor. Later, this building gave way to the new Credit Union. Two new churches were built along with a fabric store that I visited quite frequently.

Over the years, business in Lowe Farm has generally been holding its own.

The families living there, stayed pretty much the same for many years, until the older couples moved out to retire in Altona, Winkler, Morris, or Winnipeg. Younger couples becoming married, were often the children of retired couples who decided to take up residence in Lowe Farm.

Until the year 1987, I could say I knew most of the people in Lowe Farm. I lived in Lowe Farm for 61 years.

John and I moved to Winkler in 1994, and since then, the people residing in our neighborhood have changed a lot. Most of those who were our neighbors have either moved to other towns, or have passed away, and new people have moved in. And so the changes go.

I think Lowe Farm has been a great place to live and I thank God that my parents chose to raise their family there. I am also very thankful for the many wonderful people and neighbors we had in Lowe Farm to be able to fellowship with, and still continue to do so from time to time.

KATHERINE (KAY) & BERNHARDT (BEN) BRAUN

Kay and Ben Braun have been long time residents of Lowe Farm. Ben was born in Rush Lake, Saskatchewan on November 14, 1917, and spent his growing years in Winkler and Winnipeg. However, Lowe Farm was his home town for the majority of these formative years.

Kay and Ben met in Lowe Farm and were married in 1941. Their wedding took place in Banff, Alberta where Ben was working at a construction site on the Manawonka Dam.

Ben was the twelfth child of the 13 children of Jacob and Elizabeth Braun (nee Bergen). Ben was a self-employed construction worker for most of his career, operating heavy equipment. He also spent three years in the Canadian Army during the Second World War, and was stationed overseas for nine months.

Construction took Ben to many locations in Canada,



Ben and Katherine Braun with daughters Sandra Penner and Merelyn Hunkin, son-in-law Colin Hunkin, granddaughters Dana McKee (Penner) and Devon Hunkin, and grandson Aiden Hunkin.



Ben Braun on pure bred Arabian, "Redwood" at the Shannon Festival in Lowe Farm.

such as Banff, Canmore and Kananaskis in Alberta, Dog Creek, British Columbia, Maclean and Balognie, Saskatchewan and various sites throughout Manitoba on drainage maintenance and road construction. He was also appointed postmaster in Lowe Farm for 11 years. Ben retired from construction in 1988, at the age of 71. He encountered many trying yet interesting experiences during



Attempting to pull Ben Braun's Caterpillar out of a pond.

his construction career. Ben made a big splash in the local news in 1978.

As reported in the paper:

"No, it wasn't the Loch Ness Monster or the Great Ogo Pogo that invaded a dugout near Lowe Farm early last week, but rather a 25-ton D8 Caterpillar. The big heavy construction crawler belonging to contractor Ben Braun of Lowe Farm, slipped into the pond on Tuesday morning, June 6. Only an inch of the exhaust stack remained above water."

Ben had been in the process of closing the dugout for Wilfred Harder of Lowe Farm, when he encountered a mechanical failure. While pushing fill into the pond, the clutch on his D8 Caterpillar failed to disengage. Ben instinctively hit the brakes when the clutch failed to work but the big crawler tractor continued to inch its way to the edge of the dugout. By the time he shut off the throttle it was too late. The big D8 was slipping into the pond. The bank began to slide under the approximately 25 tons of iron and the next thing Ben knew, he was up to his neck in water.

With only about an inch of the exhaust stack remaining above the water level it appeared that a periscope on a submarine was just poking its head above water. In order to get the crawler out of the dugout, Ben set about pumping water out of the pond.

A day later the water level was low enough to expose the hitch on the tractor. The plan from that point was to get two or three large four-wheel drive agricultural tractors to pull the Caterpillar out of the dugout.

Three large four-wheel drive tractors were eventually hooked onto the D8 that evening, but, although they were able to move the big crawler tractor, they were unable to pull it all the way out.

A front-end loader was brought in to remove part of the bank, but still the big Caterpillar remained stuck. With darkness coming on the operation was postponed for another day.

The next day a back-hoe was brought in to remove more of the dugout bank and the dozer was unhooked from the crawler tractor. Then four big

four-wheel drive tractors belonging to Wilfred Harder, Abe Matthies, Anton Dyck and Bill Giesbrecht of Lowe Farm were hooked on with cables. The tractors were hitched two abreast, tandem fashion.

It was enough to do the trick. The big D8 was hauled up onto the bank, leaving the dozer behind to be retrieved at a later date. The big crawler was waterlogged and Ben set about working on the engine immediately.

Kay was the second child of three children born to John and Maggie (Margaret) Giesbrecht (nee Funk). Her older brother Henry, whose occupation was also heavy equipment construction, was a long time resident of Lowe Farm. He married Tina Little and later moved to Morris. Peter, her younger brother, was also employed in heavy construction all of his life. His career took Peter to many locations across Canada such as Yellowknife, North West Territories, Edmonton, Alberta, Leaf Rapids, Manitoba, Sioux Lookout, Ontario and Squaw Rapids, Saskatchewan.

Kay attended elementary and high school in Lowe Farm. She held various summer jobs during her school years. Following her marriage to Ben, Kay assisted him with book-keeping, catering to his employees when necessary and at times, helping Ben service his machines. During the time when Ben was the postmaster, she was his able assistant. Following his retirement from the post office, Kay became Lowe Farm's postmistress for five years.

Construction life was never boring for Kay either. The following tale tells of her close encounter of the bear kind:

When living at Kananaskis Lake, we lived in a tent. One night when Ben was on the night shift, I was awakened by a noise outside the tent. It was a bright moonlit night. I was so frightened that I couldn't even scream when I saw the shadow of this big black object through the white canvass tent leaning against the wall. I knew it was a bear. Luckily, Ben's machine had broken down and he was coming home early, so as soon as the bear heard someone coming, he ran away. After this, when Ben was on the night shift, I had the foreman's dog sleep in the tent.

Ben and Kay had two daughters: Sandra and Merelyn.

Sandra, the eldest, was born in Carman and received her education in Lowe Farm. She married Doug Penner at the age of 18, but was later divorced. She has one daughter, Dana McKee (nee Penner) of Winnipeg. Sandra trained for and became an accounting technician and moved to Winnipeg in 1992.

Merelyn was born in Morris and went to school in Lowe Farm and Morris. She graduated as a teacher from the University of Manitoba and has followed this career throughout her working life. She was married to Colin Hunkin in 1973. They have two children; a daughter, Devon, and a son Aiden. Colin and Merelyn have lived near Oakville since 1978.

Ben and Kay joined the Morris United Church in 1953. Ben has served on the board of Stewards and Session.

Kay has been involved in various activities and organizations, including the Lowe Farm Ladies Baseball Club, Lowe Farm Curling Club, Lowe Farm Women's Institute as Secretary-Treasurer for five years, the Morris Legion Auxiliary, the Manitoba Order of the Eastern Star Sheba Chapter No. 51 as Worthy Matron in 1987-88 and the Lowe Farm Friendship Center.

Over the years, of great concern to Kay was trying to keep up the appearance of the Lowe Farm Cemetery.

Ben's hobbies were photography and horseback riding. Photography gave him much pleasure, especially after grandchildren entered onto the scene. Horseback riding enabled him to be part of the Khartum Arabian Horse Guard, and with his pure bred Arabian "Redwood", he traveled to many parades in Canada and one in the United States.

Ben was involved in various activities and organizations over the years, including the Lowe Farm Curling Club, Chamber of Commerce, committee member of the Lowe Farm Prairie View Apartments, Lowe Farm Friendship Center serving as president for six years, Masonic King Solomon Lodge No. 8 in Morris, Manitoba, serving as Worshipful Master in 1969 and 1981, the Shrine Khartum Temple in Winnipeg, the Order of the Eastern Star Sheba Chapter No. 51 as Worthy Patron in 1987 - 1988.

For 20 years Ben made an appearance as Santa Claus at the annual family Christmas celebrations.

PETER U. & HELENA (WARKENTIN) BRAUN



Peter and Helena Braun.

Our father, Peter U. Braun was born June 5, 1887 at Plum Coulee, Manitoba. His parents were Jacob and Henrietta (Unger) Braun. They homesteaded at Altona and later moved to Plum Coulee.

Our mother, Helena Braun, was born May 23, 1889 at Altona. Her parents were Jacob P. and Helena Warkentin (Derksen) Braun of Altona village.



(Standing), Edd Braun, Hattie Braun, Henry Braun, Eva Wiebe, Mary Friesen. (Sitting), John Braun, Jake Braun and Pete Braun. August 8, 1993.

Our parents were married October 1, 1908 and had six daughters and five sons. Two daughters died in early childhood. Dad passed away August 15, 1957. He had been ailing since April 9, 1956 when he suffered a severe heart attack and stroke. Mother passed away at the Morris Hospital on Sunday, March 2, 1975 after a fall at her home on Christmas Eve 1974.

Our parents lived in various places in southern Manitoba, and also at Lost River and Chaplin, Saskatchewan. In the early years of their married life dad worked at a variety of jobs, including making water ponds and baling hay. His main interest lay in farming, and in 1925 dad rented the south half of Section 12-4-1w, one and a quarter miles west of the Steinfeld School. Here they resided until they moved in 1936 to a farm two miles east and half a mile north. From Kane they retired to Lowe Farm.

Their children:

Peter, born November 27, 1911 at Gretna, Manitoba. Peter married Justina (Braun) on November 27, 1937. They have four children; Walter, Norma, Julia, and Clara, and are now residing in Winnipeg.

Lena, born December 14, 1913 at Rosenfeld married Peter L. Harder on November 5, 1932. They had four children, Alvin, (deceased) Stanley, Rosie and Stephen. Lena passed away on November 11, 1973, and Peter on February 15, 1993.

Jacob was born September 23, 1915 at Steinfeld. He married Olga (Schroeder) on November 19, 1944. Their children are Katherine, Joan, Eugene, Ailene, Bernice, Milton, Earl, Dorothy, Janet, and Linda. Jacob died on December 2, 1993, and Olga predeceased him on December 2, 1990.

John was born November 13, 1917 at Chaplin, Saskatchewan. He married Annie (Falk) on November 25, 1945. They have five children, Linda, Evelyn, Eileen, Marilyn and Raymond. John and Annie Braun are living

in Winkler, Manitoba.

Henry was born August 5, 1921, at Kronsweide School District. (Lowe Farm). On August 8, 1948 he married Wanda Reimer. They had three children, Elaine (deceased) James, and Audrey. Wanda passed away May 12, 1962. Henry married Nettie (Dyck) Braun on October 5, 1962. They added three children to their family, Keith, Sharon, and Judy. They are making their home in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Henrietta was born September 22, 1993 at Kronsweide School District. She is now residing in Altona.

Mary, born September 13, 1925 at Lowe Farm, married Cornelius A. Friesen on October 9, 1949. They have seven children; Henrietta, Eina, Harold, Donald, Judy, Karen, and Dennis. They live in Lowe Farm. Erdman, born May 8, 1925, married Margaret Hildebrand on September 7, 1952. They have five children, Joyce, Leona, Ronald, Diane and Terence. They are making their home in Morris, Manitoba.

Eva, born August 28, 1929 at Lowe Farm, married Benjamin Wiebe on October 8, 1950. They reside in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba and have six children, Reginald, Patricia, Howard, Thomas, Carol, and David.

PETER L. & JUSTINA (BRAUN) BRAUN

Peter L. Braun was born to Helena and Peter U. Braun in their home in the Rhineland Municipality in November of 1911. He grew up there, the eldest of nine surviving children.

Justina Braun was born to Peter S. and Mary Braun in their home in the Montcalm Municipality, around the St. Joseph school district. She grew up the eldest of four children.

On November 27, 1937 (coincidentally also on their shared birth date) Justina and Peter Braun were married in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Following their marriage, they moved to and settled down in Lowe Farm, where Peter worked as a general laborer in many local businesses for their first twelve years of marriage.

Two years after their marriage, in April of 1939, Peter and Justina had their first child, a son they named Walter Peter. In November of 1941 they had their second child, a girl they named Norma Justine. Two years following, in July of 1943, they had their third child, also a girl they named Julia Jeanette.

In 1949, they decided that it was time that they establish themselves. Peter wanted to work for himself rather than remaining an employee, and so he decided to open up a shop on Highway #23. With only a rickety old shed, a hammer, saw and a few dollars in the bank, Peter managed to establish an oil and repair shop, which was eventually also a gas station. There he repaired cars, supplied gas and delivered oil to homes with oil fur-

naces. As business improved, Peter built a new shop building and ran his shop successfully until his retirement in 1979.

Three years after the opening of the shop, in November of 1952, Peter and Justina had their fourth child, a girl they named Clara Helen Marie.

Peter and Justina lived in Lowe Farm until 1993 at which time they moved to an apartment in Winnipeg. In February of 1996 Peter moved into the Riverview Health Center and June of that same year Justina moved into Bethel Place.

From the beginning of their marriage it was obvious that the church played a vital role in the lives of Peter and Justina. Justina sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, sang in a ladies double trio and was President of the ladies group for several terms. Peter also sang in the choir for many years. He also sang in a quartet, taught Sunday School, was deacon and also lay minister. The years that Peter and Justina served in the church community were very important to them and a vital part of their life together. Justina continues to be part of the church community at Bethel Place.

Serving in the church was not the only place where Peter and Justina served in the community. Justina was always sensitive to local community concerns and would always go out of her way to welcome newcomers to the community and help them to get settled, especially the Mexican Mennonite families that moved up to Lowe Farm during their time there. Peter was concerned not only with local issues, but also with issues outside of the community. This was apparent through his interest in the Aboriginal communities in Northern Manitoba (which he and Justina visited on more than one occasion) as well as his interest in helping international refugee families find their place in Canada and in the community of Lowe Farm. A highlight in both of their lives was a six-week trip took to Kenya, Africa to visit their daughter and family who were there on a one-and-a-half year term. Peter and Justina, through their service and dedication to community and family, were an important asset to the community life in Lowe Farm.

BRIAN & ALICE (FRIESEN) BROWN

Submitted by Alice Brown

Brian farms the southeast quarter of Section 33-4-2w. He was born on November 21, 1951 to Peter and Matilda (Groening) Brown of Rosefarm. Brian attended the Rosefarm and Kane elementary schools, going to Lowe Farm for high school. On September 29, 1973, he married Alice, daughter of Jacob J. and Agatha (Schroeder) Friesen.

Always active in sports, Brian has played baseball and hockey in the Lowe Farm and Kane communities. He has also enjoyed hunting, and is currently interested in fishing and golf. Over the years Brian has served on the Chamber of Commerce, Curling Rink Executive, and



Back row: (l – r) Henry, Brian. Middle: Trina and Edward. Front: Stephanie, Alice, Emily, Angela.

the local Pool Elevator board. He was a volunteer with the Lowe Farm Fire Department for a number of years. At present he is a member of the Agricore board. For 10 years he was employed at Manitoba Sugar in Winnipeg during the winter months. Over the past year and a half he has worked on building construction as time permits.

Alice went to school in Lowe Farm, Morris and the University of Manitoba. She teaches at the Lowe Farm School. She is interested in various sports, in the past as a participant in and coach of community baseball, currently coaching various teams at school. Formerly she was on the executive of the Lowe Farm Home and School, and presently is part of the Lowe Farm Recreation Commission board. Alice has enjoyed her work on the Lowe Farm Centennial Committee the past year and a half.

Brian and his dad, Peter I. Brown continue to farm together. Brian and Alice still raise some livestock (poultry and hogs) for their own and family use. Because of their children's interests and involvement in 4-H, they also have two horses.

Brian and Alice have three daughters who received their elementary and high school education in Lowe Farm and Morris. All three of the girls have been involved in sports, music and other interests over the years. The "Brown Family" continues to increase as the oldest two girls both married in the summer of 1995.

Trina (December 2, 1973) married Edward Landry of Morris on July 15. They make their home in Lowe Farm.

Trina is employed by Home Hardware in Morris and Edward works at Landmark Feeds, Riverbend.

Angela (January 13, 1975) and Henry Isaak of Winnipeg were married on August 29. They also live at Lowe Farm. Their daughter Emily was born on January 16, 1998. Angela is in her final term of Library Technology at Red River Community College. Henry is self-employed in the building construction trade.

Stephanie (April 9, 1980) is a student at the University of North Dakota Lake Region at Devil's Lake, North Dakota, having received a volleyball scholarship. She is a swimming instructor and lifeguard during the summer months.

ISAAC G. BROWN

Isaac G. Brown was born in 1888 to Gerhard and Anna (Janzen) Brown of Burwalde, Manitoba. He came from a family of seven boys and four girls. Isaac Brown grew up in the Burwalde area, attending the Burwalde School, of which his father was one of the organizers in 1888. He was baptized into the Mennonite Brethren Church.

On December 13, 1914, Isaac married Gertrude (b. 1894), the daughter of J. J. and Anna (Toews) Giesbrecht. The wedding took place in the Giesbrecht home.

Isaac and Gertrude Brown moved into the Rose Farm area of the Rural Municipality of Morris in 1917, where Gertrude had previously been a teacher. Buying two farms for a price of \$7,000, they moved a brick house from Plum Coulee to Section 5-4-2 and started their new home.

Isaac Brown was involved in the local school board and assisted in the organization of the Rose Farm Sunday School. Music was an integral part of the family circle as Isaac played the guitar, Gertrude played the piano, while other instruments played by members of the family included a violin and an autoharp. Enjoying sports, Isaac occasionally found time to take the boys out for a good game of baseball.

Isaac and Gertrude had a family of five boys and four girls. The eldest, Annie, married Arnold Hiebert of Plum Coulee, and had five children. Annie passed away in 1953 at age 37 years. Jake, of Lowe Farm, married Mabel Karlenzig and had a family of eight children. He died on March 18, 1997. George and his wife, Sophie, also had eight children and live in Steinbach. John was a teacher for 35 years before his passing in 1977. His wife, Ann, and their eight children lived in Winnipeg. Pete and his wife, Tillie (Groening) are living on the Brown home farm, where they raised their family of five children. Gertie and her husband, Bill Giesbrecht, raised their two children and farmed in the Lowe Farm area. They have since retired to Winkler. Hannah married Ed Penner and lived on the Penner home farm south of Kane, also retiring to Winkler. They

have five children. Billy, formerly a teacher at Garden Valley Collegiate, and his wife Annie (deceased November 16, 1998) have four children. Billy lives in Winkler. Luella and husband, Abe Peters, make their home on the farm west of Plum Coulee. They have three children.

After their home on the farm was destroyed by fire in January, 1947, Isaac and Gertrude Brown moved to Plum Coulee. In 1954, at age 66, Isaac Brown passed away of leukemia. Gertrude moved to Winkle

HOWARD & BEV (EIDSE) BROWN



Howard, Bev, Chantel and Nikki Brown.



Howard and his dad, Jake I. Brown.

We got married April 2, 1983 and made our home on Reimer Street, a former home of Tony Friesens. We sold this house one and a half years later and bought a house on Centre Street. Former residents of this home were Benjamin Wiebes and Ben Brauns. This is still our home today.

We started our family January 5, 1987, with our first daughter, Chantel Leanne. Our second daughter, Nikki Tinielle was born on May 6, 1990.

Howard worked for Butch Harder full-time until 1986. Bev worked at the Lowe Farm Credit Union for about one-and-a-half years. We bought Brown's Septic Service from Howard's parents Jake I. and Mabel Brown. At this time Howard also took over his Dad's job as water plant operator. On December 15, 1992, Howard also got his Auctioning Diploma and joined Harder Bros. Auctions. Howard became the Lowe Farm area trustee on the MMSD board in the fall of 1998. Several years later. She remarried to A. G. Giesbrecht in September of 1959. Gertrude (nee Giesbrecht, formerly Brown) Giesbrecht died in 1982. A. G. Giesbrecht died in 1994.

PETER I. & MATILDA (GROENING) BROWN

Pete (born October 1, 1922) and Tillie (born September 25, 1921) Brown were married on December 31, 1942. They lived on the Brown home farm until spring of 1943, then moved to a yard site northeast of Kane. In September of 1943 they moved to Tillie's parent's home, the A. A. Groenings, when Mr. Groening lost his arm in a farming accident.

In the spring of 1948 they moved to the Isaac G. Brown (Pete's father) home farm, on Section 5-4-2w. The original house had been destroyed by fire so they moved a house to the yard and

settled down to farm and raise their family. They operated a mixed farm, raising cattle, hogs and poultry to supplement their income from grain. The Browns no longer maintain livestock, but continue to farm sharing the work load with their son, Brian. Of an age to retire, they still prefer their farm home over retirement to a town setting.

Pete's interest in mechanics and "tinkering" has been useful in the maintenance of his farm machinery as well as providing him with a hobby. His "blacksmith's" shop has serviced many a vehicle or farm implement. His knack for repairing clocks, appliances, and a variety of other items helps to pass the months between harvest and seeding.

Tillie's flower beds are well-known in the community. Tillie's garden starts blooming in the beginning of June and continues throughout the summer, often to the end of September and beginning of October. The great variety of plants ensure a continual display of color. The yard is a lovely setting for family gatherings and photographs.

The Browns both enjoy music. The piano has often been the centre of activity in the living room. The grandchildren have all sat beside Grandma on the bench, singing Sunday School choruses. Pete plays the violin and has entertained in church and at other events, including the weddings of two granddaughters.

Pete and Tillie have five children: The eldest, Virginia (born October 5, 1943) and her husband, Gerald Doell live in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Virginia and Gerald have two children. Curtis and his wife, Donna and daughter Kaitlin, live in Sardis, B. C. Their daughter, Andrea and her husband Dale Enns live in Redding, California.

Terry (September 6, 1946) and his wife Ricki (Parkin) farm in the Lowe Farm area. They have two

daughters. Jenny lives in Langley, B. C. and Shelly lives in Winnipeg.

Bruce and Brian were born on November 21, 1951. Bruce married Vivian Harder. They and their three children; Vanessa, Derek and Kendra live in Starbuck.

Brian and his wife, Alice (Friesen) farm close to Lowe Farm. They have three daughters: Trina and husband, Edward Landry live in Lowe Farm; Angela, husband, Henry Isaak and daughter, Emily live at Lowe Farm; Stephanie attends college in Devil's Lake.

Donald (March 5, 1957) is married to Geraldine (Kroeker). They farm east of Lowe Farm and have two sons, Justin and Jason.

TERRY AND RICKI (PARKIN) BROWN



Shelly, Ricki, Terry and Jenny Brown

Terry, first son of Pete 'n' Tillie Brown received his education at Rose Farm, Kane and Lowe Farm Schools.

Ricki, daughter of James and Lenore Parkin attended schools in Dryden, Ontario.

Terry and Ricki met at the Winnipeg International Airport where Terry was employed by General Aviation and Ricki as a

flight attendant with Transair. Married on February 27, 1971, they were blessed with two daughters; Jenny on February 9, 1972, and Shelly on January 22, 1974. Both were born in Winnipeg.

Terry worked at the airport full time, farmed his land, helped his father farm and in his spare time played baseball and hockey.

We purchased the former Frank Groening farm 28-4-2w in 1974, and moved from Winnipeg to the farm in February 1975.

Jenny attended school in Lowe Farm and Morris and then graduated with honors in UE and Cosmetology at Roseau Valley School in Dominion City. Presently residing in Langley, British Columbia, Jenny is employed as a hair stylist at Enviro Trends. She also owns land that her dad farms.

Shelly attended school in Lowe Farm and Morris, where she graduated with honors in Business Education. She attended classes at Red River College and graduated with honors from Success Compucollege School of Business. Presently residing in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Shelly is employed as an administrative assistant with a clothing import business.

As a family we shared the joys and heartaches of raising horses, being with Shelly in her 4-H with many horse shows. We also traveled to Ontario, North Dakota, Australia, Hawaii and many trips to British Columbia. Terry enjoys farming - his life's work - as well as his hobbies of welding with wrought-iron, hunting, and relaxing with family and friends.

Ricki, after raising a family and tending the home, returned to class to obtain her certificate from Red River Community College for Medical Secretary/Transcriptionist/Doctor Assistant and enjoyed a period of employment at Morris Clinic and Morden Clinic. She enjoys sewing for family, friends and just being at home.

TINA HARDER (JOHN A.) BROWN

Submitted by Leona M. Deorksen



Tina Brown's house in 1947, immediately south of the Bergthaler Church property.



Tina (Harder) Brown and daughters Luella, Irene and Leona, 1938.



Tina and Jacob H. Peters, March, 1955.

When, on May 6, 1950, hundreds of tired and hungry people fleeing from the rampaging Red River suddenly arrived in Lowe Farm, it seemed quite natural that Tina (Harder) Brown would be asked to co-ordinate the Women's Institute's efforts to feed the throng. From the time of her moving to Lowe Farm in 1938 she had earned the reputation of being a leader and a great organizer.

Tina's return to Lowe Farm had not been a happy circumstance. From the time of their marriage in 1924, the John Browns had farmed near Lowe Farm. They had given up farming when John had the opportunity to become a well-paid dragline operator in Saskatchewan, and had returned to farming north of Lowe Farm when the Great Depression put an end to construction work everywhere. Then, during the summer of 1937, having endured seven long years of unemployment and crop failures, John Brown got a job as dragline operator in

Northern Quebec and seized the opportunity to mend the family's battered fortunes. Their hoped-for return to prosperity was, however, not to be. John Brown was killed in a construction accident after less than a year on the job. Tina Brown moved back to Lowe Farm to be near her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Harder and her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Braun and their extended families.

At first, she dedicated her energies to establishing a new home for herself and her three daughters who were then 10, eight, and three years of age. While doing so, she introduced the concept of "landscaping" to the community by seeding the first true lawn in town and designing flower beds and foundation planting to complement her home. For guidance in these efforts, she relied on bulletins she obtained from the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and the Morden Experimental Farm. To supplement her limited income, she converted her garage into a chicken barn and raised chickens, employing the latest methods recommended by the Extension Service.

As a result of these contacts, she was approached in 1939 by a representative of the Extension Service to act as a local organizer for a number of courses they had to offer. Every winter after that saw groups of Lowe Farm women taking an Extension Course on some subject of domestic improvement such as food and health, gardening, canning, sewing, and tailoring. As the local convener, Tina enlisted the group members, arranged the teaching locations and schedules, and organized the closing Achievement Days.

Another early exercise in community leadership came about when the Royal Visit of 1939 was in the offing. Tina convinced the teachers of the Elementary School that this opportunity for their students to see the royal couple was not to be missed. She not only helped organize transportation for the students, she made the dozens of red, white, and blue crepe paper hats that would identify Lowe Farm students amid the anticipated crush of spectators. She studied the parade route well in advance so that the truckload of students would disembark at a strategic corner where the royal entourage would have to slow down and thus get the best view possible of the King and Queen. She went along on the outing to help supervise the group at the parade and during lunch in Assiniboine Park. She then persuaded the manager of a biscuit and candy factory to allow the students to tour the plant before returning to Lowe Farm.

During the war years, Tina also helped to organize Pie Socials and Box Socials in aid of the Red Cross. Similarly, she enlisted the help of her neighbors to make up parcels of food and clothing for shipping to hungry families overseas. Having been active in such a variety of efforts she was a natural choice for membership in the first executive of the Women's Institute when it was founded in 1947. As part of the Women's Institute

program in the ensuing years, she continued to coordinate home improvement courses and outreach projects.

When, from 1949 to 1953, she was teaching sewing to the girls of Grades VI to VIII in the Lowe Farm Public School, she organized them into a 4H club so their efforts could be displayed under the 4H banner at the Carman Fair. That also meant arranging rides to the fair for them all and acting as their chaperone at the event.

Thus it was by this time that the Red River overflowed its banks and flooded the Valley in 1950 Tina had considerable experience with mobilizing the human and physical resources of her community. The flood, however, became a severe test of her organizational skills. Within a matter of hours the population of Lowe Farm was more than doubled by the refugees. Caring for about 365 homeless people was an enormous task, and it stretched the town's human and logistical facilities to the limit. For a whole month, three meals a day were provided in the Co-op Hall where the kitchen boasted only two hot plates and all the food and water had to be carried up a long flight of stairs. Many women of the town who were not members of the Institute and women from communities to the west of town assisted by sending quantities of prepared food to the Hall from time to time. However, Tina Brown was at the center of the exercise each and every day, allocating portions to individual housewives for the cooking, organizing committees for the serving, washing up, and cleaning of the kitchen and dining hall. No one was more relieved than she was when on June 6, the last of the refugees was able to return home.

In 1955, after 17 years of widowhood, Tina married J. H. Peters of Steinbach. During the ensuing years she turned their bare lot on Town Line Road into a setting that became a favorite among Steinbach brides as a background for their wedding pictures. She became an active member of the Steinbach Women's Institute, but for about ten years, from 1969 onward, her organizational energies were concentrated on her role as President of the Women's Auxiliary of the Mennonite Village Museum (now the Mennonite Heritage Village). In recognition of her efforts she was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Mennonite Historical Society in 1974. Her final community project was reclaiming the derelict Vollwerk Cemetery, burial place of Oberschultze Peters, one of the Berghthaler Colony's delegates to Manitoba prior to their exodus from Russia in 1874. Unfortunately, Tina Peters, the former Tina Brown, died in August, 1996, before that project was quite complete. In accordance with her wishes, she was returned to the Lowe Farm Cemetery for burial.

ABE F. and KATHARINE DERKSEN

The Derksens in 1965. David, Verna, Katharine (Harder) and Abe F. Derksen.

Abram and Katharine Derksen are longtime residents of the Lowe Farm community. Abe Derksen, first son of Aron and Maria (Friesen) Derksen, was born in the Rosenfeld, Manitoba area. Katharine Derksen, youngest child of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Martens) Harder, was born four and a half miles northeast of Lowe Farm. She has lived in this community all her life. Abe Derksen came to Lowe Farm as a farm laborer in 1936 and has remained in the community ever since.

In 1940, Abram and Katharine Derksen were married in the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. Two children were born to them: Verna married Edward Har. They have four children: Angela, Rosalynn, Alexander and Jonathan; David married Martha Toews. They have two daughters, Shauna and Sandy. They reside on the family farm four and a half miles north of Lowe Farm.

In addition to raising their own children, Abe and Katharine Derksen were Foster Parent to many young children in need of temporary homes.

They spent the early part of their marriage managing and operating a farm near Lowe Farm for Charles Rosner. Being an ambitious young couple; they ventured into farming on their own in 1942. Starting with only a small acreage on Section 29-5-1w, some livestock and poultry and a few implements they worked hard and the farm prospered.

During the years of World War II, Abe Derksen was called upon to enlist in the army. Since he was a Conscientious Objector, he was committed to make monthly payments to the Canadian Red Cross in return for staying on the farm. The money payments were hard to come by and sometimes had to be borrowed first. Along with the end of the war came more settled times for the country and farmer's livelihood improved. With hard work and careful planning they built up their farm. In 1950, they purchased some land on Section 30-

5-1w where they moved in order to be closer to school and a better road. Later on the farm was added to in acreage.

Abe and Katharine farmed until 1974, when they sold the farm to their son David and his family.

The Derksens have been active in the community in numerous capacities. Christianity had top priority, and both have served in church as needed. Abe was a school trustee for many years, and was a director for the Co-op organizations for many years as well. He took an active part in curling and enjoys fishing and snowmobiling. Katharine is an excellent seamstress, and her decorated cakes are quite popular. Her other activities included the Women's Institute, Mission Groups and various volunteer services.

At the present time Abe and Katharine reside in Lowe Farm. Abe having 'retired' early from farming was Supervisor of Transportation and Buildings for the Morris MacDonald School Division. Katharine spends the spring working in the greenhouse and although she is not full time employed, is finding her varied skills keep her busy, both at home and away from home.

HENRY G. & BERTHA (NEUFELD) DEORKSEN

Henry G. Deorksen, son of Heinrich Deorksen and Katherine Loepky, was born October 23, 1880 in his parent's house in Schoenhurst, Manitoba. His wife Bertha Neufeld was born December 6, 1888 in Beatrice, Nebraska.

Bishop Abraham Deorksen married Henry and Bertha January 2, 1910 at his parents' home. Henry bought a half section of land and they moved to NW19-4-1w, two miles south of Lowe Farm, in the spring of 1919.

The Deorksens had 11 children, so mother always had a big garden and did a lot of canning. The basement had a large bin for potatoes and an even larger one for coal. It was a beautiful sight in the fall with all the pickle barrels of cucumbers, cabbage, watermelons and pigs feet. There were also crocks of jam and lots of pumpkin. Neighbors would get together and bring in a box car of apples for themselves. Dad would get 29 sacks of flour from the mill, dried fruit from the Neal Bros. and coffee called "Reo."

Dad and the boys would fix harnesses during the winter and in spring overhaul the threshing machine. Herman would work with the Titan tractor, but Bertha could operate the Twin City tractor too.

Mother raised a lot of geese that were sold dressed to Eaton's in Winnipeg. They kept some for eating and would also butcher three pigs, one beef and some turkeys. As well, 100 or more pigeons were butchered and promptly canned for later use. In the spring some meat would be canned for summer use, as there was no electricity. The power plant was used mainly for lighting.

About 1934, during the depression, Herman and some friends rode freight trains to British Columbia. They took no money, but worked and sang for their bed



Sugar beet harvesting at the Henry G. Deorksen's farm in 1939. The best time of the day was lunch time and a chat afterwards.



Sadie Deorksen and Pete Zacharias wedding at her parents home, two miles south of Lowe Farm in 1937. Note the customary twig lean to for the accommodation of guests.

and board. They returned a couple of months later.

There was a well that was filled with ice in the winter and used to cool milk, cream, and butter in the summer. The drinking water, mostly rain water, was taken out of the cistern. In later years Modern Dairies came to pick up the cream and carried ice blocks for sale for the ice box.

The summer kitchen was the cold spot where things were kept frozen- things like sauerkraut, sausages and up to four jackrabbits at a time. Mother loved to cook and try out new recipes. She was an excellent cook. On the back of the wood stove there was always a bottle of Pinex cough syrup being

kept warm.

The fruit garden had black, white, and red currants, gooseberries, plum trees, chokecherries and asparagus.

A typical wedding feast would include cauldron kettles of hot coffee and borscht. From the cellar would come large stone crocks of pluma moos, big enamel pans of potato salad, cold beef (from the soup), baloney, and lots of squares. In the kitchen a lot of willing guests were happy to help with all the preparations and clean up. No catering was necessary here.

The children all worked on the farm to help with chores and harvest. Some of the older ones



The 50th wedding anniversary of Henry G. and Bertha Deorksen, January 2, 1960.

went out to work at other places. Dad always had quite a few milking cows and mother and the girls did the milking. Some of the cream was shipped and some was made into butter. Mother worked hard stooking in the field, while raising children and cooking for all.

There were no trees for firewood so it had to be hauled from Arnaud, about 35 miles away, east of the Red River. This was done with horses and sleigh.

Dad grew some sugar beets and sold most, but did make some into delicious syrup.

After the war, Dad decided to have an auction sale and move to Mission, British Columbia. It was 1946. They lived there for a number of years and then returned to Altona to retire. Dad passed away on April 2, 1964, Mother on December 7, 1969. They are buried in Altona Cemetery.

Children of Henry G. And Bertha Doerksen: Bertha, married to Harry Seager; Katherine, married to Henry Shapansky; Henry, married to Sara Dyck; Herman, married to Marge Dyck; Sadie, married to Peter Zacharias; Louise, married to Peter A. Friesen; Mary, married to Jake Penner; Martha, married to George G. Elias; Jake, married to Leona Braun; Fred, married to Betty Wiebe; Anne, married to Bruce Russel.

WILLIAM DEUTSCHMAN*Submitted by Carol Wiebe*

33. Bill Deutschman with Norman, Carol and Ruth Wiebe, 1963.

William Deutschman came to the Lowe Farm area in 1919. He was born September 14, 1891 and died November 24, 1969. He bought the west half Section of 3-5-2w from Robert Miller. He also bought the east half Section of 4-5-2w, after renting it from Miller. Later he bought the west half Section of 3-5-2w.

He came from Joliet, Illinois, in the United States, where he grew up. About that time, many Americans came to Canada to buy land for speculation, but William Deutschman came to stay. He came from a church going family and he claimed to have taught Sunday School as a 17 year old boy. He knew more about beliefs than people realized.

He remained a bachelor and did much of his own cooking, though in the later years he usually had a hired couple working for him. The last couple who worked for him was Abram and Betty Wiebe who stayed with him for 18 years. He was very pleased with them, and was especially attached

to the Wiebe children; Norman, Carol and Ruth who grew up at the place. In his will, William left generous inheritances to the Wiebes.

William was a careful spender. He held onto his farming equipment longer than his neighbors did. He humorously said the old machine should be used up before getting new ones. His machine shop was well stocked with tools, and he had the know-how to do the fixing. Abe Wiebe was instrumental in convincing him that more modern equipment was a means to better farming.

In June 1937, at about age 45, William purchased a Model D John Deere tractor 24-37 with steel wheels and 6-inch spade lugs for \$1,291. He put down \$500 cash, with the rest payable at 7 per cent interest. According to the Property Statement on the bill of sale, he had two horses worth \$100, six hogs worth \$60, a Case threshing machine worth \$400 and other assorted machinery worth \$1,000.00. Besides his crop, William raised hogs that he periodically hauled to Winnipeg in his own truck.

William Deutschman minded his own business, and was well accepted by the neighbors and business people in town. There were certain people he got together with from time to time. In winter, he sometimes went south to Illinois for a few weeks to see his relatives and attend to the business of his property out there. Even though he was often alone, he was a ready socializer, attending weddings or other community affairs. William's place was often referred to as a reference for people far and wide, who knew where the William Deutschman place was.

HEINRICH H. & ANNA (PENNER) DOELL*From Furrows in the Valley*

Dad and Mother moved to the Morris municipality in September of 1936, on the farm on NW1/4 14-4-2w in the Kronsweide School District, near Lowe Farm. Dad farmed with horses and was proud of them. B. B. Hildebrand usually did the threshing, the "company" Dad worked for, going from one farmer to the other until the harvest of the company was finished. He hauled all his grain to the elevator by horse and wagon or sleigh. He was a self-taught veterinarian at times as well.

Mother had a big garden to supply the needs of the family and a lovely flower garden, which she enjoyed. They also raised geese and ducks. Many a pillow and comforter was made from the down of these fowl, to keep us warm when the winter winds blew. They also had turkeys, laying hens and some pigs. Cows gave milk and cream and provided a small income. Dad was not a wildlife hunter, but once or twice a winter, he would like a rabbit or partridge roast.

In 1946, they moved to the Kane school district and farmed for a few years. After that, Dad took a van route for the Kane School. In summer and winter, he would drive with horse and van. In winter, he had a small heater to keep the children warm. Later he used his car and then a panel truck to pick up the children. In summertime, he did odd jobs. One summer, he worked on the construction of the Lowe Farm school. While working there he broke his leg, and at age 62, he went to the hospital for the first time in his life!

In the late 1950's, the flood waters made their way into their home with about six inches of water on the floor. They did not move out and got no compensation either.



The Henry H. Doell family. Back row: Annie (Anton) Dyck, Henry and Susie (Ernie) Winther. Front row: Anna and Henry H. Doell.



Unloading the grain by shovels into a granary in 1938, on the H. H. Doell farm. B.B. Hildebrand helping.



Anna Doell feeding her chickens, daughter Suzie at left.

Again in 1965, the flood waters went over the dike and water filled the basement and came onto the small kitchen floor (which was lower than the rest of the house). The cattle were chased out of the barn, so they could go to higher ground. This time, Dad and Mother went to stay with mother's brother, Peter Penner. Dad was able to take this all, he had a great sense of humor.

He passed away on March 20, 1967. Mother stayed in the home till May 1970, when she moved to the High-Rise Apartments of Winkler.

Their children are: Henry, who married Katherine Klassen; Annie, who married Anton Dyck; Susan, who married Ernst Winther.

JACOB P. & ANGANETHA (GIESBRECHT) DUECK

Submitted by Peter G. Dueck

Father, Jacob P. Dueck, was born on May 6, 1884 in the Kronsart District, southeast of Plum Coulee, to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dyck. His parents emigrated from Russia to Canada in 1874. Peter Dyck was a minister in the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. They had six sons and two daughters and two adopted sons and one adopted daughter.

Mother was born on July 5, 1892, to Mr. and Mrs. John P. Giesbrecht, of the Rose Farm District. Mother had five brothers and four sisters.

Mother and Dad were married on July 13, 1916 and made their home with Dad's parents for a year or so, until they moved into their own new home across the road from Dad's parents.

In 1926, when a lot of Mennonites moved to Mexico, Dad bought a farm in Rose Farm from the Cornelius Thiessens, who moved to Mexico. Mother had not seen the place.

When we moved in March, 1927, she saw it for the first time and later confessed that she had sat down and cried that evening. They had been living in a new house-barn combination and now they had moved into an old house and tumble-down barn. But Mother was not one to complain and lament about her situation. Together as a family, we worked hard and built up the place to where they had a nice home when they retired.

Dad never regretted the day they moved away from the sandy soil he grew up on to the sticky gumbo of the Rose Farm area. Peter remembers the first day Dad took him to the new school he was to attend. It was only one and three quarter miles, but there were at least a dozen places where the water ran across the road. When they got there, they were told that school had been cancelled until the roads were better.

Mother and Dad both attended private schools, where they learned to read, write and do arithmetic in the German language. Later, Dad took some English night classes. Reading was always an important part of their lives.

They were also involved in community life, visiting with neighbors and relatives and taking part in pig killing bees and threshing bees. Dad also served as trustee of the Rose Farm School and as secretary of the school board for some time. During his first years as a farmer, Dad and his oldest brother owned a steam threshing outfit, which they used to thresh their own and their neighbors' grain "in company" as it was called.

Mother and Dad were hard working people and taught us that if a person wanted to eat, he also had to work. They may not have been rich, yet we always had food and clothing. Dad never endeavored to get a large farm. If we had enough to live on, then he was satisfied. He would not make debts just to have what others had. That may have been one reason why he only bought his first car in 1939, and his first tractor in 1940. Mother and Dad had set high principals for themselves and expected us as a family to follow them.

The church was also an integral part of their life. They attended the Grosweide Sommerfelder Church until it was moved to Plum Coulee, and then they attended the Kronsweide Church, where Dad also served as "Vorsanger" (song leader). He also served on some church committees.

Mother and Dad had a large family. Twelve children were born to them, two of whom died in early childhood. We often wonder how mother stood all 10 of us at home at the same time. While our parents had a very limited formal education, they were able to see some of their children graduate from high school, college and university. It is through their children that they continue to make their contribution to the world. Five of them are making their homes in the Rose Farm - Lowe Farm area.



The Jacob P. Dueck farm in 1978.



Anganetha Dueck and her children and grandchildren.

Peter married Helena Gerbrandt of Lowe Farm and they have made their home at Lowe Farm. Peter has also served as pastor and assistant pastor of the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite church since 1957.

Mary took her training as a practical nurse and served in that capacity in Morris, Fisher Branch and Vita until her marriage to Jacob Voth of Altona.

Tena took her training as a practical nurse and worked in Altona until her marriage to Dave Zacharias of Altona.

Nettie married Jacob Gerbrandt of Lowe Farm and they



Jacob P. and Anganetha Dueck.

are making their home on the Peter Bergman farm in the Rose Farm district.

Jacob married Agnes Goertzen of Morden and they are making their home on the family farm, where we all grew up.

John is farming the Charlie Rosner farm at Lowe Farm. He spends his winters working at various voluntary service assignments.

Margaret trained as a registered nurse and served as a missionary nurse in Mexico for 14 years and is continuing her career in the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg.

Agatha married Elmer Groening of Rose Farm and they are making their home on Elmer's grandparents' (Henry Groenings) farm at Lowe Farm.

Lena took her training as a teacher and then later in linguistics, and has served with the Wycliffe Bible translators first in Papua, New Guinea for three years, and then at their headquarters in Calgary, Alberta, for five years, and is now back in Papua, New Guinea.

Henry took his training in teaching and later in pastoral work. He is married to Marie Kehler of Abbotsford, British Columbia. He has served as Bible School teacher in Altona and with Mennonite Central Committee in Winnipeg, and is now on a two year assignment as Pastor with the EMEC Church in Belize.

Mother and Dad retired from the farm in 1956 and moved to Altona. Dad passed away on March 6, 1958 at the age of 73 years. Mother stayed in her home as long as health permitted, and then moved into the Ebenezer Home in Altona. Mother passed away on August 1, 1977 at the age of 85 years.

Four sons and six daughters, 22 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren survive them.

Post script to Jacob P. Dueck family.

In our family story (above) we were all actively involved in our vocations. Now, 20 years later, we are all retired. Peter, Mary and Tina live in Altona. Jake, Margaret and Agatha live in Winkler. John and Henry live in Winnipeg, and Lena lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Elmer Groening passed away May 26, 1989. Nettie Gerbrandt passed away November 2, 1989. David Zacharias passed away November 12, 1991. December 28, 1991 Jake Gerbrandt married Nettie's sister Margaret. Jake Gerbrandt passed away August 26, 1992. Helena Dueck passed away February 20, 1994.

PETER G. & HELENA (GERBRANDT) DUECK

Submitted by Peter G. Dueck

I was born on July 3, 1917 to Jacob and Aganetha Dueck in Rudnerweide southeast of Plum Coulee. I started school in 1924 and my first teacher was Isaac Enns.

My grandparents lived across the road from us and I loved to run over and eat gooseberries and plums and pick flowers. I also remember helping Grandma pick dandelion flowers for dandelion wine. Dad's family lived

close together. Grandpa and Grandma, two sisters, and three brothers all lived within a four mile stretch.

In 1927 our family left the sandy Rudnerweide community and moved to the Rose Farm School District five miles North of Horndean. Dad had to relearn how to farm on sticky clay soil. But he never regretted it. Here I finished my elementary schooling. I worked on the farm. We did not have a large farm but we had food and clothing, and the necessities of life. We all knew that we were loved and cared for in a Christian way.

It was in 1937 that I found assurance of salvation through faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Rev. D. D. Schulz baptized me on May 16, 1937.

I was married to Helena Gerbrandt on October 24, 1940. Helena was born to Jacob and Helena Gerbrandt on January 5, 1918 in the Kronsweide School District Southwest of Lowe Farm. Helena received her schooling in the Kronsweide School. Her first teacher was Henry Friesen, a much loved and respected friend of the family. Helena found peace with God and assurance of salvation when she was 16 years old.

The first winter after we were married, we lived at my parents' place while we built our first small house near my parents' home. We moved into our house in the spring of 1941. That summer we also built a barn. I worked for the neighbors in the community and I also started building. In the early days I earned 30 cents an hour. In the fall of 1942 we were able to rent 70 acres of land and felt very rich to be on our own. But World War II was raging in Europe.

Our son Henry was born January 28, 1943. Ten days later I received my call to report at a Conscientious Objector (C.O.) camp at Radium Hot Springs, British Columbia. I served for 10 months and then I was allowed to stay home and start over again on our small farm.

In March Dad bought a quarter of land on 27-4-2w. We could not farm it that year. In September we moved our small house to that farm. It was here on the southwest quarter of 27-4-2w that we made our home for the next 36 years. The first few years were difficult years to get started. Late seeding and wet harvesting made it hard to make ends meet. But with the help of family, neighbors and friends we made it.

There were many community involvements. One year I served on the Kane School Board. Then the church called me to the preaching ministry. This brought our family into many contacts in the community. It opened many doors of service. Helena and I enjoyed our life on our farm and in the church. It gave us great satisfaction that we were able to improve the yard and have a comfortable home.

During those years there were many beginnings. In 1944, Helena and I and our one-year-old son, Henry, moved into this community. Margaret and Esther joined us later on. The children all received their elementary and high school training in Kane and Lowe Farm. The

children also went to Bible School and Teachers College and Assiniboine College to further their education. That is where they met their spouses and joined hands and started their own homes and vocations.

We are not living within four miles of each other as my uncles and aunts used to live in Rudnerweide, or, as my grandfather and seven of his brothers and sisters who lived within nine miles of each other in this community.

Henry married Erna Peters and they are living in Steinbach where both of them are teaching. They are active in choir and serving as deacons in the church. They have three sons. Wes is married to Norinne Danzinger and they are living in Winnipeg. Wes is working at Investors and Norinne is teaching and working on a voice degree. James is living in Calgary, Alberta and is creating computer programs for a company in California. Curtis finished Bible College and is now studying at the University of Manitoba to become a teacher.

Margaret married Ernie Thiessen and they live on a farm at Austin. They are operating a grain and cow-calf-finish beef operation. Margaret conducts the church choir and teaches piano. They are deacons in the church. They have three children. Jeff married Donna Funk, and they live at Killarney where Donna is teaching and Jeff works part-time for the Department of Education. Joanne is married to Myron Martens and they are living in Winnipeg where Myron works at a renovation company and Joanne is finishing her Agri-Science degree at the University of Manitoba. Jennifer is finishing her studies in theology at Canadian Mennonite Bible College in Winnipeg.

Esther married Abe Krahn and they are making their home at Rivers on a farm. They have a grain farm and also are Select Seed Growers. Esther and Abe are Lay ministers in their church. They



Peter and Helena Dueck.



Twenty-fifth anniversary of Peter and Helena Dueck. Children, (l - r), Henry, Margaret and Ruth, 1965.



Peter G. and Helen Dueck and children and grandchildren at 50th wedding anniversary.



The Peter G. Dueck farm in 1980.

have three children. Ron is married to Anita Voth. They live in Winnipeg. Anita works for a trucking company and Ron is working on an Agri-Engineering degree at the University of Manitoba. They plan to go into farming. Ruth is finishing her third year at Providence Bible College. She spent her last year in a Voluntary Service assignment in Kansas, United States. Robert is attending a Caponray Bible School in British Columbia. He worked on the farm and plans to go into farming.

Helena and I enjoyed our years together, serving the Lord and the community at Lowe Farm. We enjoyed reasonably good health. In 1980 we sold part of the farm to Clifford and Gloria Matthies and then retired from the farm and moved to Altona. In 1991, Helena suffered her first stroke. She recovered from that one. Then, in January, 1992, she suffered a very severe stroke after which she was wheelchair and bed bound. She never walked alone again. On February 20th, 1994, the Lord took her home at the age of 76 years. Rest in peace.

ANTON & ANNIE (DOELL) DYCK

Submitted by Anton Dyck



Anton and Annie Dyck.

I grew up in the Rose Farm district and Annie grew up in the Grossweide district (near Horndean) and later in the

Kronsweide District. We met through young people's gatherings.

We were married at my parent's home on July 1, 1942. The first year we lived with my parents and farmed 115 acres. We drove horse and buggy-cutter in the winter time. Sometimes the snowdrifts were too steep and we would upset! That meant we would have to get our belongings together and pack them back into our cutter. Away we'd go.

In September of 1943, my father bought a quarter section of land for \$4,100 in the Melba School District. We moved to this farm, renting it from my parents. The buildings were poor. We operated a grain and livestock farm and had a couple of horses. The first years were very wet. Hail and too much moisture continued to take their toll on our crops.

September of 1947 saw us move again, this time to Myrtle (SW 1/4 16-5-3 W). We rented two quarters from John I. Dyck. This was home for 17 years. I was a school trustee for many years. Annie was involved in the Women's Institute.

In 1956 we bought the Bert Altman (N1/2 31-4-1 W) farm at Lowe Farm. The fall of 1963 we started a new house and yard West of the original Oltman yard. This half section still had virgin land that I broke and farmed.

I will quote some prices to compare with today. I bought a new BN International tractor for \$760. In 1949 we bought our first quarter section of land for \$4,000, in 1953 we paid \$7,150 for another quarter.

We have both been active in the community. I have been chairman of the United Grain Growers local board; president, board member and credit committee member of the Lowe Farm Credit Union, and on the Lowe Farm Co-op Board. I have also been on the finance, mission, and ministerial committees of the Lowe Farm Berghaler Church. When there was a concern about all of the seniors retiring to Winkler, I worked hard to get senior housing built in Lowe Farm.

Annie has also been interested in community and church activities. She took part in the Women's Institute, Church Ladies Group, Youth Group, Chamber of Commerce and judging for the Horticultural Society. Annie also took many courses of interest to her, such as sewing, cake decorating, Spanish language, evening courses from the CMBC and Elim Bible School. She even taught some courses on cake decorating and crocheting. At the age of 72 she bought a computer and took some computer courses. Annie busied herself with her garden of flowers, vegetables and many fruit trees. When she had spare time she worked on her hobbies, including a salt and pepper shaker collection, spoon and plate collection, bottle collection, and her photos.

On August 30, 1972, on a beautiful hot summer evening, I was combining when some heavy clouds rolled in. Before it began to rain, a bolt of lightning hit me. God spared my life.

In May, 1994, we retired to our new home in Winkler. Annie and I traveled extensively throughout North and South America, Europe and Russia. We befriended many people on our travels and have kept in contact with many of these new friends. In our retirement we have had the time to spend with our children and grandchildren.

In March of 1995 Annie was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. After a long battle she went to be with her Lord and Savior on November 18, 1998.

Our children:

Lawrence married Thelma Fehr December 1, 1967 and they live near Roland. They have a grain seed and special crops farm in the Roland, Kane, Homewood, and Myrtle districts. They have two children; Barbara and Jennifer.

Harold married Lesia Skochelias on October 23, 1976. They live near Kane. They have a grain and oilseeds farm in the Lowe Farm, Kane and Myrtle districts. They have four children; Ryan Vanessa, Kevin and Matthew.

Dorothy married Warren Earl on April 28, 1973. They live in Winnipeg.

They are both teachers and also do some land developing. They have three children; Angela, Andrea, and Alayna.

Tony married Joyce Krahn on July 1, 1981 and they live at Lowe

TONY & JOYCE (KRAHN) DYCK

Submitted by Tony Dyck



Tony, Joyce, Kristin, Michael and Timothy Dyck.

My parents, Anton and Annie Dyck, moved to Lowe Farm from Myrtle in February of 1964. My school education took place in Myrtle, Lowe Farm, and Morris, where I graduated in 1971. I was a member in the 4-H seed division for a number of years. After high school I attended Elim Bible School and graduated in 1973. In 1972 when Dad was hit by lightning and had cancer surgery, I decided to farm with him. During the winter months I worked at Versatile, Winkler Toyota and Elim Bible School. Traveling, sports and music took up my spare time.

My grandparents, John P. and Aganetha (Wiebe) Dyck were married on July 1, 1915. Twenty-seven years later, on July 1, 1942, my parents Anton and Annie (Doell) Dyck were married. Thirty-

nine years later on July 1, 1981, I married Joyce Krahn. Joyce grew up in the Miami community, where she was active in her church in Graysville and also attended Elim Bible School. Joyce lived in Winkler from 1979 - 1981 and worked at the Winkler Credit Union. After our honeymoon we moved in with my parents until our new house at 30 Centre Street was finished. When we finally moved in, the house wasn't finished, but we had running water and a roof over our heads. In 1994 Mom and Dad Dyck retired to Winkler and after selling our house in 1995, we moved into the home place.

We have three children; Kristin, Michael and Timothy. Kristin loves being on the farm where she can have lots of pets. She is attending the Mennonite Collegiate Institute and is enjoying the music program as well as all her new friends. In spite of the physical and mental challenges that Michael and Timothy face, they love watching the farm activity on the yard or the traffic on the highway. They are both integrated into the Lowe Farm School.

We try to fill our spare time with our many hobbies and interests, crafts, music, and our family. We continue to farm in the Lowe Farm/Kane area. I continued Dad's tradition by becoming involved in the United Grain Growers local board, serving as chairman for a number of years.

The Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church, where we attend, has been an outlet for nurturing our spiritual lives. Joyce and I have been involved in different singing groups within the church. We have also been involved in many different areas of church work, such as youth leaders, music and worship, ministerial, council and Sunday School teachers.

Farm, on the yard he grew up on. They have a grain and oilseeds farm in the Lowe Farm and Kane districts. They have three children; Kristin, Michael, and Timothy.

Corinne married Ray Peters on April 12, 1981 and they live in Gnadenthal. They have a hog, grain and special crops farm in the Gnadenthal district. They have three children; Paul, Jordan, and Shanley.

BILL & SADIE (PENNER) DYCK

Submitted by Charlotte Dyck



Back row: (l - r) Ron, Randy, Charlotte, Bernadine, Gordon, Murray, Bill. Middle: Marion, Donna, Sadie, Rob, Bill, Jean, Front: Crystal, Scott, Lorrina, and Cheryl.



Bill and Sadie Dyck

Sadie was born May 23, 1924, and raised in the Kane area. She was the daughter of Peter and Sarah Penner.

Bill was born in Aberdeen, Saskatchewan on June 29, 1919, to Abram and Justina Dyck. He grew up in Horndean.

Bill and Sadie were married in 1940. They lived and farmed in the Kane area with a brief time in between building houses in Winnipeg. They moved to Lowe Farm in 1970 where they built a new house.

Bill was a carpenter by trade and was active in the building in 1969 of the first "new" Emmanuel Gospel Church building which burned down in 1982. They were very involved in the life of Emmanuel and its outreach programs. Besides being on the building committee, Bill was also a deacon, an usher, and was on the Outreach Committee. He worked with the Mennonite Disaster Service, travelling where help was needed. Sadie served with the Ladies Mission Group and in Sunday School. She loved music and sang with a ladies trio and other ladies on many occasions.

They loved people and a highlight of their travelling was being able to visit friends and relatives. This, to them, was even more enjoyable than seeing places.

Bill and Sadie were killed in a car crash in Saskatchewan on April 1, 1977, while on their way to visit their children in British Columbia.

They have three children: Gordon, Jean and Marion.

Gordon married Charlotte

Murner. (See their story).

Jean married Bill Giesbrecht, who grew up in the Lowe Farm area. He is the son of Ben and Annie Giesbrecht. They have two children; Murray and Cheryl.

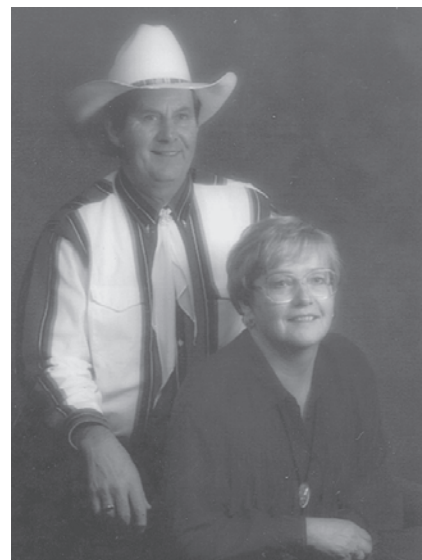
Murray lives with his son Dylan (1992) in Bella Coola, British Columbia. Cheryl is married to Brian McLean. They live in Campbell River with their two daughters; Carly (1993) and Lindsay (1996). Jean lives at Saratoga Beach, British Columbia, with her husband Mel Fitzgerald.

Marion married Ron Heinrichs, son of Ed and Tina Heinrichs of Lowe Farm. They have three children; Donna, Crystal and Scott.

Donna is married to Tavis Serefini. They live in Victoria, British Columbia, with their three children; Mikayla (1993), Jordon (1995) and Sarita (1997). Crystal and her son Stewart (1990) live in Eaglesham, Alberta. Scott and Melanie live in Roland with their four children; Alisha, Kirsten, Jeremy (1995) and Bailey (1997). Marion and Larry Fraser live in Eaglesham, Alberta.

GORDON & CHARLOTTE (MURNER) DYCK

Submitted by Charlotte Dyck



Gordon and Charlotte Dyck.

We moved to Lowe Farm in the spring of 1967 with our 10 by 50 foot mobile home and our two children, Bernadine (Berni) and Randy. Gordon had been driving truck, hauling pulp in Kenora, Ontario in winter and gravel in Manitoba in summer. The summer of 1967 we spent trucking in



Back row (l - r): Jason, Rob, Randy, Michele, Steve, Jonathan. Sitting: Lorri, Heidi, Malissa, Gordon, Charlotte, Jasmine, Joshua. Front: Lanna, Laurel, Jacob, Leticia, Joel, Andrea, Jessica, Katie, Berni. Inset: Lynae.

Saskatchewan and Snow Lake, Manitoba. That fall we became permanent residents of Lowe Farm and a year later we moved out of our mobile and into a house. Angela Pauline was born during this time, but her life was only nine short days. Rob and Lorri joined the family in 1969 and 1970. In June of 1974 we moved to Rosenort where we lived for two years before leaving Manitoba for British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

Lowe Farm has always been a part of our lives.

Charlotte's mother, Mary Rempel, had grown up in Lowe Farm where she continued to live the first 10 years of her married life to Adolf Murner.

Gordon grew up in the Kane area, the son of Bill and Sadie Dyck and grandson of Peter and Sarah Penner. He was never very far from Lowe Farm. He attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church with his family.

Our days in Lowe Farm were filled with many activities along with raising our children. We attended he Emmanuel Gospel Church and were involved with the many programs that went on there.

In 1969 Randy attended the first private Kindergarten Lowe Farm had. It was taught by and held in the home of Justina Wiens. Berni started Grade I that same year and had Justina's sister, Anna Wiens, as teacher in one of her last years of teaching.

Gordon coached the boys, 12 and under baseball team in 1968 and the 14 and under in 1969. He played hockey in the winter for the Lowe Farm Kings (better known as "the Cellar Dwellers" - so named because of their many losses). He also played ball with the Lowe Farm Astros, for which they fared much better, and even won a trophy in 1971.

He served on the Lowe Farm Fire Department and was Fire Chief for a time. One of the big fires they attended in town was the Consumers Co-op Garage in 1971. I remember the morning well, as we were awakened from our sleep by the fire siren. Gordon, half asleep, headed for the front of the house. In his rush to get out he started to climb out of the window, but realized he was on the second floor.

We were here to see the start up of the Shannon Festival. The excitement of the parade and the friendly home town atmosphere were great! Gordon dressed up in the clown outfit and walked the parade route while Randy decorated and rode his bike in it

February was the time of the "Winter Carnival," another great event where the whole town took part!

Gordon worked for the Municipality on the "bridge gang." He also worked at Consumers Co-op as fuel truck driver and later as a mechanic. In 1972 he became assistant manager at Consumers and Charlotte worked there part time as a bookkeeper. This lasted until May of 1974 when Gordon started as manager of the Rosenort Co-op and we moved there.

We have many fond memories of our days in Lowe Farm. It was a safe haven compared to the hustle and bustle of life now. Of course there was the time a

"drunk" wandered into our home in the wee hours of the morning. (We didn't lock the doors then). Someone had butted a cigarette in his eye at a party and he stumbled his way to our house. Gordon got up and drove him to the Morris Hospital.

On our frequent trips back to visit family and friends we like to check in at the Co-op Store or the Coffee Shop, as there's always some familiar faces to see. Things have changed in Lowe Farm in the 25 years that we've been gone. But one can still get a sense of how things were for the streets are the same, some of the old places remain, and the people are friendly.

We are still living on Vancouver Island.

In January, 1978, we took over Campbell River Auctions with weekly sales held every Thursday and extras as needed on Saturdays. We're still at it!

Our four children have all grown up in our auction business. Along with Gordon, Randy and Rob are also auctioneers, as well as our son-in-law Jason. Berni worked at the auction in the early years and also ran the concession stand. Lorri has worked off and on over the years in the office. She left in September, 1998, awaiting the birth of her third child. Charlotte continues to do the book work.

Our children are all married and have families of their own. We have been blessed with 13 grandchildren.

Berni (Bernadine) married Steve Hansen. They have four children; Jessica (1988), Joshua (1990), Katrina (1994) and Jonathan (1996). They own and operate ABC Printing and live in Comox, British Columbia. Berni home schools and is also a hairdresser.

Randy married Michele DeRegt. They have three children; Jasmine (1990), Andrea (1993) and Joel (1997). Randy is youth Pastor at Courtenay Baptist Church in Courtenay, where they live. He works at our Auction on sale days and Michele runs the concession during sales.

Rob married Heidi Matheson. They have three children; Jacob (1988), Leticia (1991) and Malissa (1995). They own and operate R & H Transport, which picks up in Edmonton and delivers in Flagstaff County, Alberta. They live at Daysland, Alberta.

Lorri (Lorrina) married Jason FitzGerald. They have three daughters; Larel (1994), Lanna (1997) and Lynae (1998). Lorri is also a preschool teacher, but has taken time off to raise her family Jason works full time at our Auction. They live in Courtenay, British Columbia.

DANIEL & MARY (WIEBE) DYCK

Daniel W. Dyck was born on September 13, 1902, about a mile and a half southwest of Lowe Farm, to Henry and Aganetha (Blatz) Dyck. He was the fourth of five children, the second son. While in his second year, his mother died, and he and his brothers went to live with his grandparents. Two years later, his father married Tina Redekopp and the family was reunited. From this union, David subsequently gained another five



Mary and Daniel Dyck on their wedding day, September 27, 1931.

sisters and four brothers.

His father owned a farm, where Daniel developed a love for farming. They experienced plentiful harvests during this time. However, during the 1930s, grain prices fell to 70 cents a bushel and eventually to 25 cents a bushel, which made wheat farming a futile exercise and resulted in the eventual sale of the family farm.

Mary Wiebe was born on October 27, 1913, in the town of Grigorievka in the Ukraine to Mary (Froese) and George A. Wiebe. Her father, while serving with the Red Cross during the Russian Revolution, contracted tuberculosis and died in 1920. As so many Mennonites did at the time, in 1926, when Mary was only 13, she emigrated to Canada with her mother and two brothers, George and Jake, to seek a better life. Mary went to work for a family in Gnadenfeld while her mother and brothers lived in Sommerfeld.

In the 1920's, while Daniel was living near Plum Coulee, he met Mary Wiebe, who was working for a family nearby. On the 27th of

September, 1931, they were married in the Bergthaler Mennonite Church in Lowe Farm. After they were married, they lived near Plum Coulee where their first child, Joyce, was born. They then moved to Kronsart where another daughter, Evelyn, was born. Sadly, Evelyn died in her first year. In 1938, the family moved back to Lowe Farm where three more children; Verna, Ervine and Alvin, were born.

During the Great Depression, steady work was non-existent, but Dan and Mary provided for their family by many things, such as cutting cordwood into firewood, painting buildings and picking potatoes. In 1940, Daniel started working for the Canadian National Railway as a section crewman. He worked for the CN for the next 24 years, retiring in 1964.

After Daniel retired from the CN, he and Mary moved to Winnipeg, where Daniel worked as a custodian for the Fort Garry School Division while Mary worked as a cook at the University of Manitoba. In 1970, they retired to Winkler. Daniel passed away on February 27, 1986. Mary later married William Berg of Altona and currently lives in the Lions Senior's Residence in Winkler.

Joyce (Dyck) and Ed Kroeker live in Winnipeg and have five children: Jim, Lloyd, Randall, Stanley and Garth. Verna (Dyck) and Abe Bergen live in Stephenfield and have two children; Anthony and Stephen. Barb (Halloway) and Ervine Dyck also live in Winnipeg and have two children; Tracy and Robert. Martha (Farkas) and Alvin Dyck live in Osgoode, Ontario and have one son, Matthew.

There are currently 20 grandchildren.

DAN & ESTHER DYCK

Submitted by Esther Dyck



Dan, Esther, Jeremy, Randall and Tyler Dyck.

Dan and Esther Dyck were born and raised in the Altona area. They both attended the elementary and high schools in Altona. The couple was married on October 22, 1978, in Altona where Dan worked at D. W. Friesen's and Esther worked at Galaxy Garments until she became a mother to Jeremy Daniel on January 21, 1982. Then, in October of 1982, we moved to the Lowe Farm area where Dan worked for Altona Co-op. On March 26, 1985, our second son, Randall Waylon was born.

About this time Dan started working for the Lowe Farm Co-op as a salesperson. On December 1, 1988, we took possession of the farm yard two-and-a-half miles east and one-and-a-quarter miles south of Lowe Farm on PR #332, where we still reside. Tyler Darnell was then born on December 3, 1988, and is now in the fourth grade in Lowe Farm School.

Randall is in Grade VIII, also in Lowe Farm, and Jeremy is taking Grade XI in Morris High School.

In 1990 Dan started driving the fuel truck for the Lowe Farm Co-op (which he is still doing today), and Esther is doing Home Care in the Lowe Farm area.

HENRY I. DYCK

Submitted by Abram Dyck



Old Timers of Lowe Farm at the Winnipeg Exhibition in 1912.

Back row: (l – r) Henry Giesbrecht, Abram Giesbrecht, Diedrich Heppner, Peter A. Giesbrecht, Henry Funk, Henry I. Dyck. Front row: (l – r) Abram P. Dyck (Village blacksmith), Martin Rempel (long time Morris resident).



Henry and Aganetha (Hiebert) Dyck's family, taken in 1947 on the day of Aganetha's funeral. Back row: (l – r) Henry, John, Isaac, Abram, Cornelius, Bernhardt. Front row: (l – r) Katherine, Annie, Lena, Agatha, Elizabeth, Sadie, Nettie, Margaretbe.

Henry Dyck was born on May 10, 1877, in Neuenburg in the Chortitz Colony in the Ukraine. He came to Canada with his parents Isaac and Maria (Krahn) Dyck and brothers Isaac and John, and sisters Maria and Aganetha in 1891. Supposedly they came on a sailing vessel, but we have never found out where they landed. They settled in Alt-Bergthal, near Altona and stayed there until 1898, when Grandfather Isaac's brother Abraham and Maria (Martens) Dyck arrived from Russia. Maria's brother Wilhelm was living at Rosthern, Saskatchewan and he was encouraging Abraham and Isaac and their families to come there since they were offering free land (a quarter section) to anyone over 21 years of age.

Abraham and Maria arrived in Alt-Bergthal in April 1898. By the middle of May both families had all their possessions loaded on the train in Altona and they were on their way to Rosthern. By the beginning of June, 1898, Abraham and Isaac as well as Abraham's sons, Frank and Henry, and Isaac's son Henry, had all found land that suited them. Grandfather Isaac Dyck homesteaded on SE 32-42-4w of the third meridian and my dad, Henry I. Dyck, homesteaded on NW 30-42-4w of the third meridian. These quarter sections were eight and a half and 13 miles west of Rosthern, which was close to the Eigenheim Mennonite Church. In the next four years Grandfather and his younger sons had cleared 60 acres and my dad had cleared 25 acres. Now, since I have seen the land, I can understand why it took a lot of backbreaking labor. The farmers that own this land now are still using rock pickers on these quarter sections and this was almost 100 years later.

On October 23, 1905, Grandfather Isaac Dyck died and is buried in the Eigenheim Church Cemetery. Isaac and Maria's children didn't want to continue with the farm, so Maria sold it and moved to Alt-Bergthal to her daughter Maria and Bernhard Klippenstein, where she stayed until she died in 1918. Her other two sons, Isaac and John, moved to California and her daughter took up nursing in Altona.

My dad, Henry, married Katherine Banman, whose parents also lived in Alt-Bergthal, on January 3, 1899. Their son Henry was born May 14, 1901 and died on December 11, 1911 and was buried in the Eigenheim Church cemetery. A second son Henry was born January 1, 1903. Then, after Grandfather died, Henry and Katherine moved to Lowe Farm where Katherine's parents, Julius and Anna (Enns) Banman, had moved in 1900. Katherine's sister Aganetha, who was married to Peter Falk, was also living in Lowe Farm and her other sister Tina was married to Peter Doerksen of Altona. Katherine wasn't well at this time and she died on the March 3, 1907. Shortly afterwards, their second son, Henry, died on the 11th of May, 1907. Henry and Katherine also had a daughter, Katherine, born on March 11, 1905.

Shortly thereafter Dad was remarried to my mother, Aganetha Hiebert, who was the daughter of Johan and Anna (Harder) Hiebert who had moved to the Lowe Farm area in 1892 (NE 9-5-1w) from Bergfeld which was four and a half miles southeast of Plum Coulee.

Around 1910, Dad went into business with J. I. Wiens as owners of a hardware store, but it didn't last long. On March 16, 1911, Dad bought the NE 1/4 of section 36-4-2w of the principal meridian from Emile Greunke. This was located one quarter mile west of Lowe Farm on the south side of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway tracks. The site had been the location of a wind-driven grist mill in the 1890's. There was a house on the northwest corner and also a two-story building on the southwest corner of the farm, which had

been left by the previous owner. Dad had the two-story building moved to the farmyard on the northeast corner and dismantled it, using the lumber to build an addition to the family home. The rest of the lumber was used to build a granary and barn. Dad also dredged two ponds in the yard - one for the horses and cattle, and one for household water.

Dad soon became involved in the grain trade. He helped in forming a co-operative with local farmers and he operated the elevator, but the co-op went out of business in a few years. Then Dad became the agent for the Canadian Grain Company. He held this position until the 1930's. During this time he was also the agent for the Monarch Lumber Company. They handled coal, which most people heated with at this time.

Dad was a trustee on the Lowe Farm School Board from 1915 to 1920 and assisted as Secretary/Treasurer for many years. Dad was also a founding member of the Burial Aid Society and he maintained the Cemetery Records for a number of years.

During these early years, Dad would sometimes take a wagon or sleigh box full of wheat and set off to Morden or Altona, with his team of horses, to have the wheat ground into flour, bran and shorts. This was a two day round trip. Some winters he would get together with other farmers and they would take sleighs with teams of horses and travel to St. Malo or La Rochelle to cut poplar trees into long lengths and load them onto the sleighs and haul them home and cut them up for firewood. It was not uncommon to see 10 or more sleighs head out at one time.

Henry was always willing to help other farmers get started. However, in 1920 he co-signed two loans from the Waisenamt for two farmers, but in the ensuing years these farmers did not repay their loans, and Dad ended up losing his farm, which was seized as payment for the loan. This was 1930 and we ended up living in Lowe Farm in a crowded home. This was my second year in school and Dad was still a grain buyer at the elevator. Some days one of my brothers and I would have to bring flour home on our small wagon for mother.

In 1937 the Lowe Farm Co-op Elevator Association built an elevator costing around \$21,000. This took a large crew and they all had to be fed. My mother and sister Agatha inquired about feeding them and subsequently they were hired to provide the meals for these carpenters. This meant there was quite a change in our household. Everyone had to chip in and help with setting tables, washing dishes and preparing all the food. I believe there were about three dozen workers and they ate in two shifts. We always had to wait until they were all finished eating before we could eat. As near as I can remember Henry, John, Annie, Lena and Lizzie were all working away from home at this time and Tina and Mary were already married. That still left Agatha, Sadie, Nettie, Marge, Isaac, me (Abe), Cornie and Benny at home with Mom and Dad. So our table was still always full at meal

times.

When we were still living on the farm Mother and Father would attend the Sommerfeld Church at Kronsweide, but there were too many of us children to take us all to church. I remember starting school on the farm and continuing after we moved to Lowe Farm. I enjoyed it in school. I remember we had German in our first class in the morning and as a rule we had to learn catechism verses. I enjoyed learning geography, mathematics, spelling, history and German. I remember some of my teachers, including Ida Hoffman, Anna Wiens, I. J. Warkentine and Schellenberg.

When Dietrich Heppner became Reeve of the Morris Municipality in 1938, Henry Dyck went to work in the office for him for quite a few years. A few years later World War II broke out. My brother John was the first one from our family to enlist. He joined the Royal Canadian Signal Corps and became an instructor in Camp Borden, Ontario. Henry enlisted in 1943 and was assigned to the Lincoln and Welland Regiment of Ontario, and went overseas with them where they transferred him to the Manitoba Dragoons which was a tank regiment. He was a mechanic with them. Isaac enlisted in early 1944, and was assigned to the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders. I enlisted in June of 1944, and joined the Lake Superior Regiment. I joined them in Ghent, Belgium in late 1944.

After the war was over John got his release in 1945, and started work for the Canadian National Railroad as a mechanic. Henry came home from Holland, also in 1945, and started working on construction shortly after. Isaac was sent to the Occupation Force in Aurich, Northern Germany, to guard prisoners of war and to do sentry duty on the Ems Canal as well as guard an American radio station on the North Sea Coast of Germany.

Just before the war ended, we were advancing into a small village not far from Hamburg, we were passing a hospital and German soldiers were starting to shoot at us from the hospital. We took cover and our officer sent our flame throwers in. They set fire to the hospital and before long the Germans were throwing mattresses, bedding, and furniture out the windows. We went in after the German soldiers and I injured my left leg on some debris. I had gotten shrapnel in my leg earlier and it didn't take long and my leg was all swollen. My sergeant sent me back and soon I was on my way by ambulance to Belgium. I ended up in the 108th British General Hospital in Brussels, Belgium and stayed there until the war was over.

On V-E Day a lot of us in the hospital managed to find some crutches and we went into town to celebrate that the war was over. After my leg was better I was sent back to Hengelo, Holland to our regiment. We were all billeted out in civilian accommodation for three months. I was living with a family by the name of Rex, who lived at Oleweg Tachtig (80). From there I was sent to Aurich, Germany where my brother Isaac was also. We stayed

there until the spring of 1946. When left there we took a boat from Cuxhaven on the North Sea to Southampton, England and we were all given two weeks leave. Isaac went to Scotland and I went to London, England with a friend, Smokey Smokorski. We enjoyed London, we had free accommodation at the Salvation Army Hostel on Park Avenue directly across from Hyde Park. It was interesting watching all the orators on their boxes giving long-winded speeches. Smokey and I went to quite a few museums including Madam Tissaud's Wax Museum. I also went to Buckingham Palace to see the changing of the guard and to see the Royal Family up on the balcony. In the evening we would go and play penny-ante in the shops close to the "Sally Ann".

When our leave was over we went back to Southampton and boarded the Ile De France, which was considered a luxury liner at that time. The meals were excellent compared to army food.

We arrived home in the middle of May, 1946, and were released on the 6th of June, 1946. Isaac went to work for our brother-in-law Francis and Sadie McGreevey at Fannystelle. I worked with my brother Henry on a drag-line, cleaning out the Shannon Creek south Lowe Farm, and also some other drainage ditches around Cartwright. After that I went and worked the mines - Red Lake and then to Falconbridge Nickel Mines.

Mother died on the 14th of November, 1947 and Father died on November 9, 1948. Most of our family left Lowe Farm at this time except for Nettie and Bill Braun, and Lena who worked for Bert Oltman until he died. She then married Martin Kehler and they moved to Myrtle. My brother Cornie and I were still in Lowe Farm during the 1950 flood. We both worked for the CNR during the flood. I worked for my uncle John Groening and Cornie worked at St. Norbert on the CNR also. We sure changed a lot of rails and spread a lot of gravel. I can't recall where Cornie went from there, but eventually he ended up as a carpenter in north-west Ontario. When I left after the flood I went to Churchill for a year. Then I came back to Winnipeg and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and stayed in for 22 years. After my retirement from the RCAF I hired on with Transport Canada (DOT) and spent 15 years with them before my final retirement.

All of the rest of the Dyck family is past retirement age now, but most of them still live in Manitoba.

JOHN I. AND ELIZABETH (NEUFELD) DYCK

John I. Dyck, a fairly tall, stoop shouldered man, was noted for his restlessness and quick temper, but more especially for his advanced farming methods and his inventive mind. In 1910, John, along with his auburn-haired wife, the former Elizabeth Neufeld (1874 - 1960) and their growing family, moved from their homestead just north of Plum Coulee into the Morris Municipality, taking up residence on N 1/2 7-4-1w, in the Steinfeld School District. This location, which at that time was

wide open prairie, was to be the home of three generations of the Dyck family for 42 years.

John and Elizabeth must have been an odd looking couple, as Elizabeth was only 4'10" tall and had a lifetime average weight of 88 pounds. Her small stature, however, did not deter her from bearing 10 live, 10 pound children, eight of whom were to reach maturity. They were Elizabeth (John F.) Harder (1894 - 1961), John N. (1896 - 1985), Mary (Jacob F.) Braun 1898 - 1990), Abe (1900 - 1991), Agnes (1902 - 1905), Peter (1905 -1992), Hank (1907 - 1980), Tina (1910 - 1919), Jack (1913 - 1993), and Bill (1917 - 1996).

John loved to venture. In 1910 he bought a Case 75-110 steam engine, the largest model made. He hitched it to a 10-bottom plow, hired men, and broke about 1,000 acres of virgin soil north of Lowe Farm for Americans such as one Chester Crouch, who then rented the land to others. His young sons, John and Abe, helped by cooking and doing odd jobs, until they themselves were able to run whatever steamer their father owned. It seems they did a lot of custom breaking, as son John N. was still at it during the early years of his marriage after 1918.

In time, they traded their large, romantic monolith for the more maneuverable gasoline engine. They owned a threshing outfit, threshing for many farmers, and son Peter remembers that they once, unwittingly, camouflaged an illegal "still" for their employer, by threshing a stack over the framework enclosing it, by being made to think that it was for a pig-sty.

John's inventive mind was always at work. At one time, he acquired a bale of tobacco from Quebec and set about to build a tobacco cutter. He then retailed this product to his neighbors. All this proved to be illegal. So, men from the Excise Department arrived just in time to see this very unique machine in action, marveled at its perfection, took it and the tobacco bale with them, and fined him.

His generation, however, would remember him better as the full-bearded blacksmith, who repaired their machinery. As a school trustee, he fought for better education. He helped organize the United Grain Growers and promoted war bonds from 1914 - 1918.

During the winter months, John I. read novels to his illiterate wife, who took great delight in retelling the stories in great detail, to all whom she could corner.

The family was active in community activities. The boys took part in the local literary club, when it was active, but they especially loved to dance.

Not all members of the family were agriculturally inclined. Abe joined Elizabeth and husband John F. Harder at Herbert, Saskatchewan, where they ran a garage. Peter waged a 10 year battle with tuberculosis, was treated at the sanitariums at Ninette, Winnipeg and Qu'Appelle, and headed west after being cured.

By 1929, John I., along with sons, John N. and Hank, and son-in-law, Jacob F. Braun, were farming seven

quarters of land. He owned the north halves of sections seven and nine, and rented 3/4 of section eight. But John I. again became restless. In order to give his second youngest son, Jack, a better education opportunity, he moved his wife and youngest children to Plum Coulee, where he had, before moving to the Lowe Farm area, farmed and owned a flour mill in partnership with his brother-in-law, John Wiens.

His son, John N., and family took over the family farm. However, the crash of 1929 intervened and the results were disastrous. When the convulsions reached their climax in 1933, John I. sold his remaining half section (N 1/2 7-4-1), packed up his wife, two youngest sons, son Hank and family, and headed for British Columbia to join Elizabeth, Abe and Peter at Mission City in the Fraser Valley. He believed that greater opportunity was to be found there. His tiny wife, who remembered the milder climate, the fruit trees and mountains of South Russia, where she had lived till 1891, longed for that type of countryside, and was all for it.

Their son John N. and their daughter Mary (John F.) Braun, and their families, remained in Manitoba. John's older sons remember their tears at their departure. The British Columbia group were not to be spared the rigors of the Depression, and with the exception of John N.'s visit to British Columbia in 1934, it was to be eight years before visits back and forth commenced. However, Elizabeth wrote faithfully and in great detail, and family ties remained intact.

But John I. Dyck never again saw Manitoba. He succumbed to cancer in 1940. His widow was to outlive him by 20 years. This tiny woman, who habitually wore three petticoats to keep warm, and was never known to be seriously ill, slipped away quickly and easily at age 86.

JOHN N. & ELIZABETH (NEUFELD) DYCK

Submitted by Mary Mitchell VanDaele

My grandparents, John I. and Elizabeth Neufeld Dyck, homesteaded on the N 1/2 of 7-4-1w. They raised a family of six boys and two girls: John N. (my Dad), Elizabeth (John) Harder, Mary (Jacob) Braun, Abram (Jeanette Hiebert), Peter (Geneva Hartsell), Henry (Hank) and Helen Giesbrecht; Jacob (Esther Wall), and William, a bachelor. Two daughters who died in their early years were Tina and Agnes.

They broke their land and others with a Mega Steam Engine pulling a 14 bottom plow. This was a very large piece of machinery in its day. My grandfather, as well as my dad, believed in keeping abreast with modern machinery and new methods of farming. They progressed fairly well until the Great Depression bit in 1930. It took them down as it did most people all over the world.

In 1933, Grandma and Grandpa Dyck, along with all the family (except my parents and Aunt Mary Brown and her family), moved to British Columbia where Grandpa

John I. died in 1940. All the original family is gone now but many descendants still live at the Coast.

My parents, John N. and Helen Blatz Dyck, were married in 1918 during the height of the influenza and just at the end of the Great War. They settled on NE 9-4-1w, just two miles east of their parents, the John I. Dycks. Here they gave birth to five boys as well as being flooded out eight years out of ten due to poor drainage. The five boys were: Andy, born September 18, 1919; Jake, born July 23, 1921; John, born December 18, 1922 (deceased in February, 1925); Elmer, born July 18, 1924; and John, born October 15, 1928.

In the summer of 1930, they moved to 7-4-1w and Mary was born on September 18, 1930. Another move to SW 8-4-1w and in January of 1933, Helen was born. Later that summer when the John I. Dyck family went west another move to the home place took place and then back again to 7-4-1w. We remained there until April of 1952 when our whole family left the area and expanded the farming operation at Rivers, northwest of Brandon.

While at Lowe Farm where our whole family grew up, we were all very much involved in the community. This involvement very much evolved around the Co-operative movement. This was of much interest to my Dad. He was a founding member of the Credit Union, director of the Consumer's Co-op, Co-op Store, Pool Elevator and the once very much needed Burial Aid Society.

During the 1950 flood we all pitched in. My brothers helped evacuate people and livestock north of Morris. Mother was kept busy baking bread to help feed the evacuees that descended on our small community overnight. The bread was taken to town by wagon box and a team of horses across the spillway, as it was then referred to. The spillway between the dikes filled with run-off from the Pembina Hills. Going across was a mean feat as the horses had to be blindfolded so they would not go with the current.

I have many fond memories that I have shared recently with friends about how we danced at our house to the tune of an old gramophone. By the way, someone had to stay to keep cranking so the speed of the record would stay up. However, we all seemed to have lots of rhythm and had a great time. Nobody had any money so we got together and made our own fun and entertainment. Also, our house was always open to all the young people in the district to play cards - 500 and rummy. As we got older we were allowed to go to the Hy-Way Hall in Morris and dance to the "Toots Top Hatters", a band out of Winnipeg. Morris was always our Saturday night town. What a disaster when we couldn't go due to rain. Red River gumbo I shall not forget.

In 1949, I started to work at the Lowe Farm Co-op store. Ed Braun was the general manager and Jake Friesen was the store manager and meat cutter. He was a "great guy". Those were the days when the customer stood at the counter and read off his list of groceries

individually while the clerk went for each item as demanded. Girls did not have coffee breaks. Everything came in volume. Ninety-eight pounds of flour in sacks, 100 pounds of sugar in sacks, coal oil in 20 gallon barrels, vinegar in five gallon barrels, etc. Everybody brought in crocks and containers to be filled. The store was a general store. They sold everything from yard goods to thread to white shirts for men, socks, shoes, and you name it. The powers that be decided at one of the board meetings that the store needed a lunch counter. I was designated to make the pies. This caused me much grief as I had not had too much experience making pies. However, with the help of my friend and supervisor, the late Jake Friesen, I learned quickly and we sold pie and coffee for 25 cents. The facilities were far from what the health department would allow today. Jake Friesen had been a cook in lumber camps so was a great teacher.

After we moved to Rivers in 1952, we all again got involved in the community. Dad got the Co-operative spirit once more and helped found the Rivers Credit Union (now Westoba C. U.) and the Farmers Co-op Seed Plant. He joined the Kiwanis Club and Mother joined the Women's Institute. My dad, John N. Dyck, died May 19, 1985, and Mother on January 19, 1971, after retiring to Brandon. Dad spent his last 14 years at Fairview Home in Brandon.

All my brothers, except Andy, farmed until a few years ago. Three of John and Helen's (Dueck) sons and their families are still farming: Harold and Pat, Barry and Heather, and Steve and Tammy. Their son Jeff and wife, Linda and their children are at Watrous, Saskatchewan and their daughter Pat, together with husband Les Wood and children, farm a Century Farm at Bradwardine, Manitoba.

Andy and Helen (Giesbrecht) are retired in Minnedosa. Their daughter, Carol and Kelvin Montoute and daughter are at Toronto and son Jack and wife Gail and two children reside at the west coast. Ina, the youngest daughter, married Malcolm Hollett and now reside in The Pas. They have one son.

Jake passed away in January of 1991 after suffering a stroke and cancer.

Elmer and Lena (Fast) retired in Rivers.

Helen and I married neighboring farmers. Helen married Gerald Rigby whose grandfather homestead N 1/2 of 30-3-17 in the late 1880's. Their son Grant and wife Judith and children are farming it now, being the fourth generation. Daughter Lorraine married Les Boake. They live at Beaumont, Alberta with their two children.

I married Morley Mitchell (deceased 1978) whose grandfather bought that farm in 1921 after coming to Manitoba from Ontario in 1900. My son Wally and wife Jackie and their children are farming this as well as raising a herd of registered Herefords, "Roselawn Polled Herefords" which was established by his great grandfather, the late W.R. Mitchell in 1918. Daughter Barb

married Marlin Vanrobaeys and they and their daughter live in Winnipeg. My son, Don and his wife Kim and children live in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and my son David lives in Brandon, Manitoba. After Morley's death, I married Maurice (Dusty) VanDaele. We are now retired on the lake at Killarney.

JOHN P. AND AGANETHA DYCK

Submitted by Agatha Gerbrandt



John and Aganetha Dyck, 1941.



The Rose Farm EMMC, 1937 - 1975.

The John P. Dyck's settled in the Rose Farm area in 1916. They were newly married, ambitious, and ready to meet the challenges of farming. Having grown up south of Plum Coulee on light soil, it must have been quite an adjustment to farm on heavy clay soil that is so typical of the Lowe Farm area.

They raised a family of nine children, three of which are farming in the Lowe Farm area. All of the children received their education in the Rose Farm one room

country school. John P. served as school trustee for many years. He was also on the board when the Rose Farm Rudnerwieder (EMMC) church was organized. In fact, the first summer, the services were held in the lean-to part of their barn.

Travel was by horse and sleigh in winter, so once a week my father would take eggs to be graded at the local egg grading station. Also, cream was shipped to the city by train in three or five gallon cream cans. This gave us money to buy groceries and also the occasional order from the Eaton's catalogue.

A lot of repair work was done at Marten's garage.

My parents retired to Plum Coulee in 1955, and we took over the home place. John P. Dyck passed away in 1956. His wife Aganetha died in 1977.

ABRAM & KATHERINA (UNRAU) FALK

From Furrows in the Valley



Abram and Katherina (Unrau) Falk.

Abram Falk, the fourth child of Heinrich Falk, was born September 12, 1860. He was married to Katherina Unrau December 31, 1883. They had no children of their own but "adopted" (perhaps not in the legal sense) three children, one of whom, Nettie, was severely handicapped. After their retirement they moved to Plum Coulee where they were caretakers of the Sommerfelder church. The Falks also used their home as an old folks home for a number of years.

Both Abram and Katherina died in 1949.

CORNELIUS FALK

From Furrows in the Valley

Cornelius Falk (1873) was the 11th child of Abram and Katherina Epp Falk. He married Anne Rempel, the daughter of Peter and Olga (Wall) Rempel in 1901. The Cornelius Falks had 13 children, two of whom died in infancy. They later moved to the Rosenheim District, north of Horndean. Upon retirement they moved to Schoenthal. Cornelius died in 1943 and Anna died in 1945.

Their children: Cornelius, born November 15, 1901; Anna, born July 4, 1904, married David H. Wiens; Katherina, born January 21, 1906; Olga, born September 5, 1907; Abraham, born August 3, 1909, married Helen Barkman; Maria, born June 8, 1911, married Jacob Giesbrecht; Peter born January 19, 1913, married Elizabeth Janzen; Margaretha, born August 2, 1915, died August 17, 1919; Susanna, born June 3, 1917; Helena, born October 19, 1918, married Diedrich Funk; Elizabeth, born November 8, 1919; Agatha, born March 10, 1921, married Jacob Bergen; Margaretha, born July 25, 1922, died July 31, 1922.

HEINRICH FALK

Submitted by Margaret Friesen



Henry and Elizabeth Falk in Kronsgradt, 1922

The family history goes back to the village of Schoenwiese in the Chortitza Colony in Russia. Heinrich Falk, who was born in 1799, together with his wife, Maria (Janzen), moved from there when the Bergthal Colony in Russia was founded in 1836.

Heinrich and Maria had nine children. The oldest seven migrated to Canada in the 1870's. The youngest daughter, Helena, stayed in the Molotchna Colony. She married H. Unger. Son William died in Russia at the age of 21.

Heinrich and his second wife, Anna (Peters) came to Canada in June, 1875, on the S. S. Maravian, when they were 75 years old. Heinrich died in 1895, and his second wife died in 1897.

The family: David Falk married Catherina Wall. They had 11 children. Their tenth child, Johan, was killed by lightning in 1889 near Lowe Farm; Heinrich married Susanna Harder. They had no children; Peter married Helena Funk. They had six children; Maria Reimer had two children; Elizabeth Dyck had three children; Peter and his third wife came to Canada in 1874 on the S. S. Peruvian.

Some descendants have been and may still be living in the Lowe Farm or Morris area.

Anna married Abraham Harder and they have five children. Jacob married Maria Penner; they have seven children. Abraham Falk (1833 - 1918), married Katherina Epp in 1854. She was the daughter of Cornelius Epp and Maria Abrams. (These are my great grandparents).

The Falks had 12 children: Cornelius, Heinrich and Abram lived near Rose Farm; Henry Falk, (my grandfather) was born April 15, 1870. On October 24, 1892 he married Elizabeth Dyck, daughter of Aaron and Helena (Falk) Dyck of Schoenthal. Henry worked as a farm laborer for his brother-in-law, Diedrich Wiebe, of Rosenfeld, and later moved to Rose Farm. Henry never had the opportunity to go to school, but his wife taught him to read and write. He was a (Vorsenger) songleader at the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church, two miles south of Lowe Farm.

In pursuit of these duties he purchased an organ, and using a music book based on numbers, learned new melodies. It was he who was generally called upon to lead the singing at the graveside services, during funerals, and while the grave was being filled in.

During the time they lived at Rosefarm, Henry purchased more land, and in 1917 he purchased a threshing outfit (separator and engine), and also his first car, a Model T Ford. In 1920, the Henry Falks sold their land and moved to the Hoffnungsort District about seven miles northwest of Plum Coulee. Here they farmed until he passed away suddenly in 1931. Grandmother passed away in 1952. They had 13 children, at least nine of whom were born at Rosefarm.

The children: Helena, (1894 - 1986) married Jacob A. Elias, a blacksmith from Plum Coulee; Abram (1896 - 1918) died during the flu epidemic; Heinrich (1897 - 1974) married Sarah Wall. They had a garage in Altona; Elizabeth (1898 - 1993) married John P. Hamm. He worked at Hometown Ford in Winkler; Katherina (1900 - 1985) remained single; Aaron Falk (1901 - 1987), married Helena Hiebert and was a farmer at Schoenthal and Graysville. (These were my parents); Maria (1903) married George Hoepfner, a farmer from Hoffnungsort; Anna (1906 - 1997) remained single; Peter (1907 - 1994) married Tina Hiebert. They farmed at Grunthal; Sara (1909 - 1997) remained single; Cornelius (1911) married

Sadie Hoepfner and farmed close to his parents; Susanna and David both died in infancy.

PETER F. FALK

Peter was born and raised on a farm north of Altona. At the age of 25, he decided to go north, to a community called Lowe Farm.

He then started farming just south of the town.

In 1954, he moved from Altona to a farm yard south of town, farming during the summer time and working in Winnipeg during winter time.

Peter married Sadie Zacharias of Bergfeld in 1959. They purchased the property, No. 2 Main St. in 1967 and moved to town. They raised three children; Sandra, Rosalie and Peter J.

In 1987 Peter lost his wife through death and continued to live in Lowe Farm with his children. In 1992, he sold his old house, moved off the property and started building a new one.

Peter really enjoyed living in Lowe Farm. It is a great place to live, with wonderful people.

Peter served the community as director of the Co-op and Credit Union. He also served on the board of the Manitoba Pool Elevator. He doesn't regret anything, and still enjoys farming at Lowe Farm.

As life goes on, he plans to get married in the near future to Tina Nickel (Kehler) of Winkler, and live happily ever after.

CORNELIUS & RUTH FEHR

Submitted by Ruth Fehr

The Cornelius and Ruth Fehr family came to the Lowe Farm community from the Homewood area in 1961 to fill a teaching position with the Lowe Farm Consolidated School. Cornie was born and raised on a farm south of Morden, while Ruth was born in Winkler, but resided in various places in Manitoba.

We were a family of three with Douglas being seven months of age when we moved. Later additions were Terry, in 1963, and Sandra, in 1967.

Cornie taught at the Lowe Farm School for 18 years, teaching all subjects areas mostly in Grades V and VI. He also taught junior high subjects for several years, when teaching was done by subject area.

Douglas, Terry and Sandra all received their education in the Lowe Farm and Morris Schools. They attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church Sunday School, Young Peoples and summer camps. Douglas and Terry were active playing hockey, baseball and worked at being paper boys for both dailies for many years. Sandra played school sports, enjoyed crafts, studied piano and did babysitting.

As a family we attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church under the ministry of Jake Wiebe. We continue to the present, 1999. Cornie taught adult Sunday School



The Cornelius Fehr family.

for many years, served as Sunday School Superintendent and in various committees. We also sang in church choirs, served with special music, worked in church club programs and helped in church building programs.

Cornie served as volunteer for the Lowe Farm Fire Brigade for many years with a number of those years as Fire Chief. Presently he serves as secretary-treasurer for the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation. After Cornie discontinued teaching he kept busy working the farms at Morden and Austin, Manitoba.

Ruth kept busy being a homemaker and doing various other activities such as painting and serving as a volunteer hairdresser at the Red River Valley Lodge. In 1978, Ruth started part time work in the Lowe Farm Coop Grocery Store. Today, in 1999, she still works at the Coop as store supervisor.

As a family we enjoyed camping, travelling and other family activities. We traveled to Ontario's Niagara Falls, west to Vancouver, to Disneyland in California and into Mexico.

Today our three children are all married and have families of their own:

Douglas is married to Bernie with a family of three; Melanie, 10, Patrick, 8, and Stephanie, 5. They live in LaSalle, Manitoba. Douglas is a sales representative for Elias Woodwork in Winkler and Bernie is a library technician at LaSalle School.

Terry is married to Brenda with a family of three boys; Bradley, 5, Jordan, 3, and Matthew, an infant. They live in Altona. Brenda, who worked many years as a credit union clerk is now a full time homemaker. Terry works as an assistant administrator in the office of the Rural Municipality of Rhineland.

Sandra is married to Tim Bergen and has a family of two daughters; Tiffany, 3, and Candace. They live in Winnipeg. Sandra is a Registered Nurse at the Health Science Center where she has worked for 10 years. Tim works at Westeel Industries in the manufacturing of various types of bins.

Since Lowe Farm is the place our family has grown up in, where they made friends and went to school - to them this is home.

JACOB P. & HELENA (PENNER) FEHR

Jacob P. Fehr was born on August 30, 1914 and was one of nine children born to Peter and Katrin Fehr (nee Geswein) of the Reinland village southeast of Winkler. Helena was born on April 23, 1911 to Jacob and Katherine Penner (nee Remple) from the Grimsby School District south of Plum Coulee. She was the sixth of seven children.

The Fehr family history began on September 6, 1939 when Jacob and Helena married and moved to the northeast corner of Section 18-5-1w, three miles north and one mile east of Lowe Farm.

This quarter section of land was part of the dowry that included three cows, one steer, eight chickens and one horse. The yard consisted of a small, two-room house and Jacob constructed a large barn for the livestock which still stands today. Helena loved to garden and the new homestead was soon graced with fruit trees, a large garden and trees for shelter.

The Fehr family had its first addition in August of 1940 when Katherine was born at Winkler Hospital. Jacob purchased the southeast quarter of section 18 shortly after their daughter Susan was born in February of 1942. A larger home would soon be needed and was built just prior to the birth of their third daughter, Erna, who was born in July, 1943. A fourth child, Linda, was born in December 1944.

Katherine was nearing school age and, since Jacob and Helena wanted to expand the farming operation, they purchased a yard with a two story house, old barn and a quarter section of land across the road from the Neufeld School, four miles north of Lowe Farm along what is now PR #332.

Finally a son, William (Bill) Jacob was born in February, 1947. The second story of the house was finished, a large hip roof barn was



The Febr farm.



Jacob and Helena Febr.



Back row: (l - r) Erna, Susan, Kathy, Linda.. Front row: Mabel, Bernice, Gladys; Missing: James.

built to accommodate the ever increasing livestock, and machinery was expanded to work the newly acquired land.

Gladys was born in October, 1948 just prior to the Olaf Erikson Crusade at the Lowe Farm Coop Hall, where Jacob and Helena accepted Jesus and became members of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm.

In August, 1951, Mabel was born and the dining area became too small for the family to enjoy meals together so Jacob added a large sun filled dining room to the house. Hydro was finally made available to this rural area and soon two large chicken barns were moved onto the

yard and turkeys were added to the livestock.

Jacob and Helena loved music and greatly encouraged their children to learn to sing and play a variety of instruments. The Febr children became well known for their musical talents in the local area.

The seventh daughter, Bernice Fay was born in December 1954 and a second son, Darryl James (Jim) was born in 1956.

From 1966 to 1971, Jacob and Helena farmed together with son Bill, his wife Maria, their daughter Erna and her husband Lawrence. They built a large farrow to finish hog operation and expanded the grain farming operation.

In 1971, Jacob's health caused him to retire from the hog business and they moved to their third farm yard, across the road from the family farmstead. Helena drove school bus to Winkler each day and Jacob continued with grain farming until the fall of 1975 when they retired to Lowe Farm. In 1977 they decided to move to Winkler and in the process of constructing their new home, Jacob passed away on September 30, 1977 at the age of 63.

Helena and her son Jim moved to the new home in Winkler after Jacob's death and lived there together for 16 years. In 1993, Helena married Gerhard (George) Harder who had formerly been a resident of Lowe Farm area (1947-1949). George passed away in May of 1998 and Helena decided she wanted to be closer to her family.

Where are they today:

Katherine graduated from Grace Hospital as a Registered Nurse. She married Bill Toews from Altona in 1963 and had two children, Kevin and Tammy. They all live in Winnipeg, where Kathy continues to work as an R.N. and works together with Bill for Child Evangelism. They are now proud grandparents of Alyssa and Corey Toews, and Brittany and Miranda Trowbridge.

Susan trained as a receptionist at Angus Commercial College. She married Henry Martens from MacGregor in 1963 and raised three children; Corrinna, Christopher and Crystal. Henry worked as finishing carpenter and Susan retained and continues to work as a home support worker. They have settled on an acreage near Rosser and enjoy their grandchildren Cayla, Catie and Brady.

Erna trained as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Red River Community College and married Lawrence Dyck of Altona in 1965. They had three children; Jacqueline, Steven and Mark. Lawrence and Erna have farmed and continue to live on their farm that was the Febr home-stead four miles north of Lowe Farm. Erna now works at Ebenezer Home in Altona and Lawrence continues to work in the farming industry. They have two grandchildren, Brandon and Andrea Olson.

Linda trained as hairdresser at Marvel and married Helmut Lehmann in 1965. They had two children; Richard and Laurie. Linda, Helmut, their son Rick and his wife Brenda are busy with their expanding farming

operation three miles east of Morris. Laurie and her husband live in Ottawa. They have been blessed with five grandchildren; Dale, Victoria, and Troy Lehmann and Hannah and Leah Doermer.

Bill farmed until 1971 and then trained as an electrician at Red River Community College. He presently works as the Chief Maintenance Electrician for the River East School Division. He married Maria Klassen of Grunthal in 1970 and together they had three sons; Russel, Michael and Cameron. They live in Niverville.

Gladys trained as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Red River Community College and married Jacob Friesen of Lowe Farm in 1970. They have two sons; Vincent and Mark. Gladys presently works as a home care coordinator and Jake is a home construction contractor. They live in Langley, British Columbia.

Mabel married Barry Rempel from Starbuck in 1970 and had one daughter, Heather. Barry passed away in 1977 and Mabel moved to Alberta where she obtained her diploma in Business Administration. She presently lives in Cremona, Alberta and operates a real estate agency. She has two grandchildren, Alaura and Jillian Wood.

Bernice married Raymond St. Godard of St. Jean in 1974 and moved to the third farm yard after Jacob and Helena retired from farming in 1975. They have two daughters, Jamie and Rachel and continue to live four miles north of Lowe Farm. Bernice works as the Administrative Coordinator at Morris Hospital and Raymond works in the farming industry. Jim works at the Valley Rehab Centre in Winkler and presently resides at the Mountain View Residence in Morden.

Jacob P. Fehr will always be cherished by his family as a loving father and husband, and remembered as a hard worker who always provided for his family. Helena moved to Morris Manor in June 1998 where she still resides today.

CORNELIUS A. & MARY (BRAUN) FRIESEN



The C. A. Friesen family in 1994.

On August 23, 1923, Cornie (Cornelius) A. Friesen was born to Martin M. and Anna (Schroeder) Friesen. Cornie attended school at Steinfeld School District just one and half miles south of his parents' farm.

On October 9, 1949, he was married to Mary Braun, daughter Mr. and Mrs. Peter V. Braun of Kane. We lived with Cornie's parents on the farm until they retired to Lowe Farm in the fall of 1950. In the spring of 1952 we moved across the road to the NE 1/4 of Section 18-4-1w, where we farmed until September, 1989. We retired to Lowe Farm.

We have seven children who grew up on the farm in the former Steinfeld School District south of town. They attended school at Steinfeld, Lowe Farm and Morris.

Henrietta is married to Ken Wiebe of Winkler. They have two daughters, Tammy (married to Jeremy Harder) living in Winkler, and Melissa.

Erna is married to Don Falk. They farm in the Crystal City area. They have three children; Greg (married to Christine Lufka) of Winnipeg, Derek and Teresa.

Harold married Lois (Klassen). They live in Winnipeg with their three children, Angela, Michelle and Tim.

Donald is married to Karen (Fehr) of Winkler and they have three daughters; Lynn, Jacqueline, and Katelin.

Judy lives in Lowe Farm with her husband Jerry Brown and their two children, Jennifer and Jeffrey.

Karen married Randy Brown. They are living in Winnipeg with their two children; Chris and Ashley.

Dennis lives on the home place, and is married to Heather (Hildebrand). They have two children; Kevin and Maisie.

DAVID PETER & JACQUELINE (WIEBE) FRIESEN

David Peter Friesen was born on December 1, 1962 in Winkler, Manitoba. Dave attended school in Lowe Farm and graduated in Morris, Manitoba. His vocation was building trades.

Dave married Jacqueline Wiebe in Winnipeg on July 23, 1983. Jackie was born on October 7, 1966 in Morden, Manitoba. She grew up and attended school in Winnipeg.



Dave, Jackie, Crystal, Angela and Jessica Friesen

Dave is currently working at N.R.S. Construction as a builder. He has had the pleasure of working at many different jobs, but always comes back to his real love, building. He is a song leader in the Kronsweide Church. He enjoys singing, building, woodwork and yard work. He also likes spending time with his family and friends.

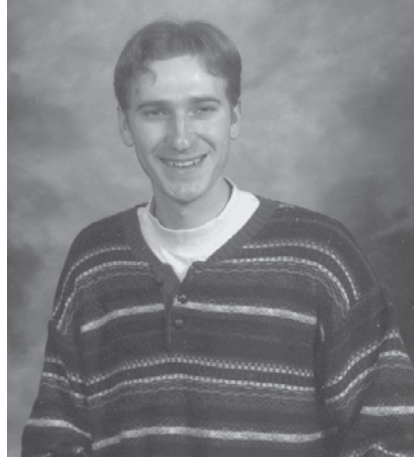
Dave and Jackie were blessed with three daughters: Crystal Dawn, born in Winnipeg December 16, 1985; Angela Marie, born in Winnipeg March 19, 1989; Jessica Mischelle, born July 28, 1993.

Jackie is currently working at the Lowe Farm Grocery Store as a meat lady. She spent most of her 15 years of marriage as a stay-at-home mom. She also enjoys keeping house, baking, cooking and volunteering with Daily Vacation Bible School and religion classes in school when time permits. She also enjoys singing.

Dave and Jackie have recently joined the Sommerfeld Mass Choir.

The Lord is the main Leader of our family. He has blessed us very richly in our married lives. Our daughter Crystal is currently involved with Young Peoples in the Kronsweide Church. All the girls enjoy Sunday School. May the Lord continue to bless, not only our family, but also everyone in this community as He has for the past 100 years.

DONALD MARK FRIESEN



Donald Friesen

Donald was born on November 6, 1971 at the Bethel Hospital in Winkler, to Jake and Margaret Friesen. He was baptized on May 19, 1991 at the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church.

Don attended Sunday School and Youth at Kronsweide Church. He is currently teaching ages 10 - 12 in class 4. He is presently attending young adult Bible Study in Winkler. He enjoys singing, music and sports.

He attended elementary school in Lowe Farm and high school in Morris and Altona. He graduated in 1990 from Miller Collegiate, Altona with University Entrance, as well as a Building Construction Diploma. In 1992 - 1993 Don attended Red River Community College in Winnipeg where he graduated with a certificate in Electrical.

Don lives with his parents and is farming with his parents and brother Leonard. At the same time he owns an 80 sow, farrow to weanling barn.

JACOB H. & NETTIE (THIESSEN) FRIESEN

Jacob H. Friesen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Friesen was born at Grossweide in October, 1897. Here he attended school and in 1913 the family moved to Lowe Farm into the Jacob Reimer place.



Jacob and Nettie Friesen

In 1921, Jacob was married to Nettie Thiessen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Thiessen of the Kronsweide District.

The Friesens farmed in the Lowe Farm area. In 1923 they moved to the Harken farm, half a mile east and half a mile south of Lowe Farm. They later purchased this land, where they raised their family and resided until their semi-retirement in 1996. At this time they sold the land to Anton Dyck.

The landscape has completely changed as the yard is gone and the old bridge that the kids used to play on and under is gone. The neighboring yard south of the Shannon is gone as well, with the exception of a few old granaries. All that is left there now is farmland. On their retirement Jacob and Nettie purchased a home and moved it onto the lot on the corner of First Street and Centre Street in Lowe Farm where they enjoyed visiting with their friends and relatives and family.

In the early 1930's when farm prices were poor, Jacob supplemented his income by filling bridge approaches with scoops and horses for the municipality. Later he purchased a tractor to operate the pile driver in the years when Diedrich Heppner was Reeve of the Municipality. Jacob enjoyed politics and was a staunch supporter of the Conservative Party. Honesty, integrity, and generosity were part of his lifestyle.

Nettie, a person with much stamina and optimism, was always a good cook and gardener in the Mennonite tradition.

Jacob and Nettie, members of the Sommerfelder Church, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1971 with many friends and relatives in attendance.

Jacob passed away in 1973. Nettie remained in their home until 1980 when a seniors apartment building, Bethel Place, was built in Winnipeg. Upon completion of this complex, she moved into an apartment in this building. Nettie passed away in 1985.

They had three sons and three daughters: Nettie and Henry Loeppky, of Langley, British Columbia; Edward (deceased 1989) was married to Mary Braun of Abbotsford, British Columbia; Martin (deceased 1992) was married to Mary Klassen (deceased 1994); Edna and Ben Marten live in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Sally and Don Lewis live at Rural Route #1, Morris, Manitoba; Herman died in infancy.

MARTIN J. & MARY (KLASSEN) FRIESEN

Martin Friesen, born in 1926, was the son of Jacob H. and Nettie Friesen. Mary, born in 1928, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Klassen. All were from Lowe Farm. Martin and Mary both received their education in Lowe Farm, and were married in Lowe Farm in 1948.

At the age of 18 Martin lost one eye, but through much perseverance and strength of character would not let this stop him from carrying on a normal life and work. Martin started working at Funk's Massey Harris Dealership, and among other jobs, he got his Mechanic's Certificate and worked at Marten's Garage and the Lowe Farm Co-op Garage, and later at the Morris-Montcalm Weed Control District. Mary worked for many years at the Lowe Farm Co-op Store.

They had one daughter, Janet, who is married to Ken Howard. They have one son, Matthew and live in Winnipeg.

Martin passed away on July 20, 1992, and Mary passed away on March 29, 1994.

JACOB W. & AGATHA FRIESEN

Submitted by Cornie Friesen

Jacob W. and Agatha Friesen, together with their two young sons, moved into the Lowe Farm area around 1918. They started farming four and a half miles south-east of Lowe Farm on 160 acres. This was increased by another 320 acres of land rented from A. Chisholm from Morris. They farmed this land till 1945. Their family of seven sons and three daughters were all raised on this farm.

In the early years I remember hitching up the horses and driving to Lowe Farm with eggs and chickens to trade for goods not produced on the farm. We traded these commodities at Rosners General Store. I fondly remember old Moses Rosner coming to the stables at the back of the store and checking out what I had brought

and giving us the coffee, sugar, spices, etc. in trade. In the latter years, Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op opened and we bought some groceries there also, but it was not as interesting as Rosners'.

Our farm repairs were mostly done at Martens Service in Lowe Farm or at Martin A. Friesens on the farm in his machine shop. Around 1937, we bought the first combine in the area. The small Massey Harris tractor could not handle the combine so we traded the tractor for the larger Model D John Deere. We never owned a truck and either hired someone to deliver grain or hauled it to the elevator with horses.

We all started our education at St. Peters School District southeast of Lowe Farm. Jake took high school at Lowe Farm. I started school in St. Peters in 1935 when Anna Wiens was the teacher and I have good memories of my schooling with her.

In March, 1937, Dad was called to serve as Minister of the Sommerfeld Church at Kronsweide. This involved preaching in other Sommerfeld churches in the province.

In 1938, we got a Model A Ford to help Dad with his travels in the ministry. During the war years he was called to visit the Conscientious Objectors serving in the Prairies and British Columbia. He enjoyed visiting the young men in the different camps, hospitals, farms and coal mines. When he returned home between these duties there were many relatives of the young men who eagerly waited for some news and greetings from their loved ones.

In our family, four sons and one son-in-law were involved in the alternative service. This meant that Dad had additional incentive for visiting the camps. Being of short stature he was known as "Kjeena Freisuh".

Dad passed away November 30, 1945, at the age of 52 years. Mom sold the farm and moved to Altona in October 1947. She was an inspiration of courage to her many visitors during her wheelchair years. She passed away in Altona in August 1968, at the age of 73 years.

Bill passed away in October 1971, at Morris at the age of 55 years. Jake passed away in October, 1977, at Lowe Farm at the age of 60 years. Dave still resides at the elevator site where he delivered grain as a boy. John lives in Winnipeg. Tiena and Mary live in Altona. Ed lives in Grand Forks, British Columbia. Pete passed away in Thunder Bay in April 1992 at the age of 64 years. I, Cornie Friesen, live in Altona where I moved to in 1948. Dorothy lives in Regina.

DAVE & MARGARET (REMPER) FRIESEN

From Furrows in the Valley

Originally submitted by Agatha (Schroeder) Friesen

Dave Friesen was born on April 2, 1919, in the Rosenfeld area in Manitoba. With his parents he moved to the farm in St. Peters District, where he grew up and also attended public school. After leaving school he

hired out as a laborer, working in various places.

In the early fall of 1941 he went as a Conscientious Objector to a camp at Clear Lake Manitoba, remaining there until the end of November.

On December 7, 1941, he married Margaret Rempel, daughter of Peter and Margaret (Ewart) Rempel. Dave and Margaret are members of the Sommerfeld Church.

They lived with their parents for the first year of their marriage and then moved to Melba in 1942. A year later a house was moved on to his father's farm and they lived there until 1946, when they settled on a farm at Plumas, Manitoba. In 1949 they took up residence in Morris. For a while Dave was employed in an elevator at McTavish, Manitoba. Then, in 1960, he became manager of the elevator at Smith Spur.

Dave and Margaret Friesen have four children (one son and three daughters), and three granddaughters: Jim Friesen and his daughter Shannon reside in British Columbia; Judy and Ron Fawcett and daughter Laura live in Calgary, Alberta; Joanne and Gary Irwin and daughter Dawn live in Winnipeg; Janet Friesen, student, also makes her home in Winnipeg.

Besides raising their own family, they also provided a home for many foster children for a number of years. Margaret divided her time between household duties and occasional volunteer work at the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris.

vator site where he delivered grain as a boy. John lives in Winnipeg. Tiena and Mary live in Altona. Ed lives in Grand Forks, British Columbia. Pete passed away in Thunder Bay in April, 1992, at the age of 64 years. I, Cornie Friesen, live in Altona where I moved to in 1948. Dorothy lives in Regina.

JAKE L. & MARGARET FRIESEN

Submitted by Margaret Friesen



Jake and Margaret Friesen

Jake L. Friesen, born October 3, 1939, grew up on his parents farm south of Lowe Farm and received his public and high school education at Steinfeld and Lowe Farm Schools.

Margaret Falk, born April 26, 1938, grew up on a farm at Schornthal, near Altona, Manitoba. In 1948, her parents emigrated to Paraguay, South America. However, in 1949, they returned to Canada to a farm at Graysville, Manitoba. For several years she was employed at Winkler Hospital.

Jake and Margaret were married September 18, 1960, at the Kronswiede Sommerfelder Church. They moved onto the farm, two miles south of Lowe Farm where Jake's grandfather, Henry G. Doerksen had started farming in 1919. They farmed there until October, 1972, when Jake's dad, Rev. Peter A. Friesen, passed away. They then moved to the old home place where they presently reside. The whole family attends church at Kronswiede. Since 1972, Jake has been a song leader there.

Children of Jake and Margaret Friesen: David is married to Jacqueline Wiebe; Leonard is married to Wendy Giesbrecht; Donald farms at home.

JACOB (JAKE) J. & AGATHA (SCHROEDER) FRIESEN

Jacob J. Friesen was born February 19, 1917, to Rev. Jacob and Agatha (Stoesz) Friesen in the Rosenfeld area. At an early age, he moved with his parents to the St. Peter's School District, where he grew up and also attended Public School. Jake was fortunate in that his parents were educationally minded, and so he was able to attend High School in Lowe Farm. However, this meant a four and one half mile walk in the summer and a cold trip by horse-drawn sleigh or caboose in the winter.

After leaving school, he worked for various farmers for some years. On January 1, 1942, he married Agatha Schroeder, the daughter of John and Agatha (Driedger) Schroeder, of Sommerfeld, Altona. Jake and Agatha were both baptized in the Kronswiede Church and became members of the Sommerfeld Church.

In early April of 1942, Jake went as a Conscientious Objector to camp at Clear Lake, Manitoba. Three weeks later he, with a number of other young men, was transferred to Campbell River on Vancouver Island and other places in British Columbia for the duration of the war. He was in B.C. for 19 months. During that time his wife remained with her parents. Returning from camp, he, his wife, and little daughter continued to live with them till the spring of 1946, when they bought a lot in Lowe Farm and moved to town.

He worked for a while on a gravel gang, and later became manager of the local Lowe Farm Co-op Store. Then, having a natural ability and a desire to build, he gathered a crew, including his two teenage sons, and started out in the field carpentry.

For years he was in charge of the Red Cross drive, helping to organize whist drives in aid of the skating rink, and served as secretary of the Lowe Farm Burial Aids,

all on a voluntary basis.

During the 1950 Flood, when Jake was Manager at the Co-op Store, the Co-op Hall opened its doors to the flood victims. The hall was adjacent to the Co-op Store, which was used as a supply Depot. As a result he very often worked around the clock, looking after the people's needs.

For years whenever an election rolled around, he would be asked to be one of the Deputy Returning Officers. He was known for his impartiality and was trusted by all parties to run a fair and unbiased poll.

In spring of 1969, Jake suffered his first heart attack and his days as a carpenter were over. He recovered sufficiently to continue with his gravel checking job in summer, for the Morris Municipality for some time, but eventually gave that up also. He kept his workshop though, creating cupboards, spoon racks, kindergarten sets, and various other items with artistic flair and meticulous precision. He excelled as a craftsman and built things that his grandchildren will be proud to inherit. You would often find him standing on his latest project, giving it the "Friesen test of strength", (e.g. Alice's doll house and Herman's rocking chair). He never refused anyone who came down for advice or to borrow a tool.

As soon as the roads and fields were dry in spring, he enjoyed nothing better than to take his children on a trip to the old Friesen farm to hunt for arrow heads and relive the magic of those days when he, as a boy, chased ducks and other wildlife along the edges of the old slough.

He was proud of his Mennonite heritage. He well understood the essence of some of the more humorous Low German short stories and poems. With a twinkle in his eye, and in deep, gravelly tones, he would make these stories come alive for friends and neighbors.

A part of his daily routine was a trip (or two) to Derksen's Coffee Shop to discuss the usual topics of "local interest", and it also being a gathering place for the farmers, he could keep up with current farming news.

Like his father, he enjoyed visiting, his genial personality allowing him to converse and work with all ages. It was hard not to be his friend, if you knew him. He loved life, his family, and his friends.

During all these years, Agatha was always at Jake's side, quiet and unassuming. Jake passed away at his home in Lowe Farm on October 11, 1977, after having spent several days in the hospital. He was 60 years of age. He is buried at the Kronsweide cemetery, beside his brother Bill and his parents.

After Dad died, Mum went to work at her son, Herman's, Motel 75 for several years. She became a very independent person, taking trips on her own, etc. She joined the Lowe Farm community seniors group and served on several committees. She enjoyed this immensely and had a lot of friends.

Above all, Grandma Friesen was most beloved by her grandchildren - ones near and far. She became Grandma Friesen and Mum to a lot of young folks, friends of her children and grandchildren. She had only been living in the seniors' complex for about a month when she suffered a stroke while visiting her daughter, Ruth and family in Portage. She passed away on December 10, 1995. She and Dad are very much missed.

Jake and Agatha Friesen had four children. Ruth, the eldest, and her husband Keith Johnson live in Portage la Prairie. They have three children: daughter Kari, husband Kevin Knox and daughter, Kiaran of Portage; Brent in Edmonton, Alberta; Marla and her husband, Shane Maly of Westbourne, Manitoba.

Paul, his wife, Adrienne (Oliviero), and their daughter, Lisa, live in Kelowna, B.C.

Herman and his wife Carol (Klassen) of Victoria, B.C. have four children: Aynsley, Melissa, Mackenzie and Spencer.

Alice and her husband, Brian Brown have three daughters: Trina and her husband, Edward Landry; Angela, husband Henry Isaak and their daughter Emily; and Stephanie.

They are all of Lowe Farm.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JAKE FRIESEN

*Kindly and respectfully submitted by
Mary Dyck Mitchell VanDaele, a co-worker
at the Lowe Farm Co-op from 1949 to 1952*

Jake Friesen was also known as "Little Jake Friesen." (This was more or less because his father was known as this) Jake had a personality all of his own and one would have to go a long way to meet his equal.

Jake was short of stature - on the husky side - he was very muscular, with a short neck. One would not have wanted to tangle with him as there was strength in those short husky arms. He always came to work with a smile, full of vim and vigor. Nothing ever ruffled him too much, nor was any task too large. His eyes always had a twinkle and they were as true and blue as one would want them. He could put you in your place without hesitation and just as quickly turn around and all was over and done with - no hard feelings remaining. In the same breath he could compliment and praise and put one on cloud nine.

To sum up Jake Friesen, I would say he was one of the best. His word was good and his million dollar smile melted everyone. Everyone who knew him will remember his heart of gold.

LEONARD & WENDY FRIESEN



Len, Wendy, Corey, Amanda, Jennifer and Bradley Friesen, 1998.

Leonard John Friesen was born October 21, 1966 at Winkler, Manitoba. He married Wndy Pearl born August 6, 1966 in the Kronsweide Church on June 20, 1987.

Leonard attended school in Lowe Farm and later in Dominion City where he studied Power Mechanics. Leonard has always attended church in Kronsweide where he was baptized in 1986. He chose a life of farming, starting with grain farming and then adding a hog operation to this when he purchased his own yard. His hog operation has continually been improving with the addition of modern hog barns and expansions that now include 45 sows, farrow to finish.

Leonard married Wendy in 1987 and they have four children. Leonard and Wendy built an addition to their home in 1997.

Wendy was born and raised in Winnipeg where she attended school and also worked before she married. She graduated from Grade XII with honors and during high school she also completed her

Health Care Certificate. She worked in a Personal Care Home as a Nurse's Aide and also in the kitchen. Wendy has taken various courses since then, including courses in Accounting and Income Tax.

Wendy has been organist for the Kronsweide Church for several years. Although she attended Sunday School and church in Winnipeg, she was baptized in the Kronsweide Church in 1983.

Leonard and Wendy are very family oriented and try to include their children in their activities, even in the barns occasionally. After all, children are the spice of life!

The children of Leonard and Wendy: Corey Allan, born March 3, 1990, in Winnipeg, is always on the cutting edge. He enjoys trying new things, friends, and school; Amanda Louise, born October 16, 1991, in Winnipeg, is an avid reader. She enjoys playing dolls and story writing; Jennifer Rose, born October 7, 1997, in Altona, is very much a toy lover. She has a vivid imagination and uses it well; Bradley Justin, born November 28, 1997, is just beginning his journey into fun and freedom. He is a happy, loving little boy.

MARIANNE (KLASSEN) & FRANK FRIESEN

Submitted by Marianne Friesen



Frank and Marianne Friesen with their family: Ward and Karen, Conner and LaDawn Friesen, Shelley and Eldon, Danika and Mackenzie Reimer, 1996.

I, Marianne Friesen (nee Klassen) the youngest daughter and fifth of six children was born March 2, 1946, to John K. and Nettie Klassen. At the age of six in August of 1952, I was paralyzed by the polio epidemic, spending 100 days in King George Hospital in Winnipeg, followed by almost five years of exercising three hours daily and weekly physiotherapy sessions in Winnipeg. I can't thank my parents enough for all the time and love they gave me. I'll never win a race, but life has been good.

Frank was born November 23, 1941, in a little house two miles north of Morris to Bernhard and Tina Friesen. He has a brother Allan who is one year older, and a sister Florence who is four years younger. They moved to Mexico when Frank was eight and during that time his father died of cancer at age 37 in Kansas City, Missouri. They moved back to Manitoba when Frank was

thirteen and could not continue high school due to working and supporting his mom. Following our marriage on June 6, 1964, he got his Grade XII equivalency.

I received my education in Lowe Farm. I took Grades I and II with Miss Wiens and Grades III and IV with Miss Wiebe in the "Little Red Brick School" house. Grades V - VIII were in the now Lowe Farm Community Center, and Grade IX in Kane when the High School was built. I finished Grade X, and Grade XII typing by correspondence. I couldn't finish high school because my dad passed away and we needed to support the family.

I started working at Ike's Cafe in Lowe Farm, and later at the Worker's Compensation Board in Winnipeg until my marriage to Frank Friesen. We've resided in Rosenort for over 34 years with Frank in the lumber business all that time; first working for, then managing Loewen Lumber and then owning (with partners) Rosenort Building Center until the end of 1998.

We've been blessed with two children and four grandchildren. Our son Jeffrey Ward was born May 14, 1965. He married Karen Diane Wiebe of Lowe Farm on November 28, 1987. They have a son Connor Dane, born December 10, 1992, and a daughter LaDawn Nicole, born January 22, 1996. They live in Winnipeg where Karen works part-time as a nurse in emergency at the Victoria General Hospital, and as of January 1999, Ward owns and manages Friesen Floor and Decor in Rosenort.

Our daughter Shelley May was born May 28, 1966. She married Eldon John Reimer of Crystal City on November 1, 1986. They have a daughter Danika Coryn, born January 11, 1990, and a son Mackenzie Reed, born September 21, 1991. They live in Winnipeg where Eldon is employed at Videon Cable and Shelley is a consultant for Partylites. Together they enjoy crafting and craft sales.

Frank and I enjoy our grandchildren, travelling, camping with family and friends, some golf, and lots of yard work. Frank has been a volunteer fireman with the Rosenort Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, played hockey for the Regals, coached the Regals, been on the Rosenort Credit Union Boards, as well as involvement in various community projects. I was an Avon lady for twelve years making it possible for me to be home with my children as they were growing up. I also worked at the Rosenort Eventide Home as an activity director for six and a half years until a few days before I became a grandmother for the first time.

We are members and fellowship at the Rosenort Fellowship Chapel and are quite involved serving as deacons and in various positions. We have enjoyed being a part of the community.

MARTIN M. & ANNA (SCHROEDER) FRIESEN

In the spring of 1920, they moved north to NW 17-4-1w, south of Lowe Farm. There were no buildings here and the land was only partially broken. They came with



Martin and Anna Friesen with sons, Cornie and Jake.



Martin and Anna Friesen with sons, Cornie and Jake.

The Friesen yard, taken from the road around 1950.

Martin M. Friesen grew up in the Weidenfeld District north of Altona. In July, 1909, he married Anna Schroeder, daughter of Johann Schroeder of Kronsweide.

two hayracks piled high with feed, lumber and personal belongings.

The first morning Anna went to cultivate the field while Martin began to build the first building. When she came home at noon he already had the rafters in place. Together they worked hard to establish a farm. The barn was built first in stages. The house was built in 1919. The yard and the gardens, with a white fence all along the front, were always well kept.

The Friesens were members of the Kronsweide Church. In this family, Christian values were taught and church attendance was encouraged. The children attended the Farmfield private school, one mile north, until it closed. After this they attended Steinfeld School.

Martin and Anna retired in the autumn of 1950 and moved to Lowe Farm. Martin died suddenly on February 27, 1953, and Anna 14 days later on March 13, 1953. They are buried in the Kronsweide Cemetery.

Children of Martin and Anna Friesen: Martin, married Agatha Thiessen. John married Sarah Gerbrandt and later, Tina Letkeman. He was ordained as a minister in June, 1950, and ordained as Bishop in April, 1955.

Mary was married to Ed E. Klassen.

Peter married Louise Doerksen and was ordained as minister in February, 1958.

Jake married Elizabeth Klassen.

Cornelius married Mary Braun.

Annie married Peter Toews.

All of the children of Martin and Anna Friesen became farmers in the Lowe Farm community.

MARTIN A. & AGATHA (THIESSEN) FRIESEN



Peter and Susie Friesen, Andy, Carol and Joanne, 1981.



Andy, Kim, Matthew and Travis Friesen.



Todd, Joanne, Nicolas and Amanda Paetkau.

Martin, son of Martin M. and Anna (Schroeder) Friesen was born on August 6, 1910, on Section 17-4-1w in the Steinfeld School District, four miles south of Lowe Farm. He had two sisters, Annie (Pete) Toews and Mary (Ed) Klassen, as well as four brothers, John, Peter, Jake and Cornie.

Martin was born and raised on his parents' farm and married Agatha Thiessen. She was born April 19, 1913, the daughter of Aaron and Aganetha Thiessen of the Kronsweide School District.

After Martin and Agatha married they bought a farm and

moved a quarter mile east of Martin's parents' place. Here they had a grain farm, as well as some animals to chore. Martin also ran an area blacksmith shop. Martin passed away on the farm at the age of 52 years after suffering from a heart condition for many years. Agatha was a good partner for Martin, cooking, serving, and lending a helping hand on the farm.

Agatha bought a house in Lowe Farm and later moved to the Prairie View Apartments, where she resides and is enjoying fairly good health. (November, 1998)

Martin and Agatha raised two daughters: Annie (Cornie) Reimer and Susie (Pete) Friesen.

Annie, born November 15, 1936, enjoyed the farm. She married Cornie Reimer from Plum Coulee in October, 1957. Cornie farmed and did custom work for a living. Cornie also served on numerous boards in the community. After farming for 40 years, they sold the homestead to George and Mary Penner and moved to Winkler. The move took place in April, 1997, just before the "Flood of the Century."

The Lord blessed us with five children: Ken, Wayne, Sharon, Randall, Daryl and their spouses, as well as 10 grandchildren. What we are thankful for is the Lord's guidance, health, and keeping our family, and us safe here for 40 years.

Susie married Peter Friesen of Roseisle May 10, 1964. They bought her parents' farm four miles southeast of Lowe Farm. Peter and Susie had three children, Andy, Carol and Joanne. They moved to Lowe Farm in 1980. Peter worked at Westfield Industries in Rosenort until he passed away on November 11, 1990, at 51 years of age. Susie still lives in Lowe Farm.

Their family: Andy married Kim Wiens (daughter of Ron and Susan Wiens of Lowe Farm) on September 12, 1987. They have

two boys; Matthew and Travis. They live in Lowe Farm. Carol married Jim Derksen of Miami, Manitoba on April 23, 1989. They have two daughters and live south of Miami. Joanne married Todd Paetkau (son of Abe and Esther Paetkau from four miles north of Lowe Farm) on August 29, 1993. They have two children; Nicolas and Amanda. They also make their home in Lowe Farm.

PETER A. & LOUISE (DOERKSEN) FRIESEN



Rev. Peter A. and Louise Friesen.

Peter A. Friesen, son of Martin and Anna Friesen of Lowe Farm was born October 30, 1914. He grew up on his parents farm and received his education at Steinfeld School. He married Louise Doerksen, born February 11, 1918, daughter of Henry G. and Bertha Doerksen. The wedding took place at her parents home, two miles south of Lowe Farm on Sept. 30, 1937.

Together they started a new farm yard on SE 7-4-1w, just across from the Steinfeld School. Here the children received their early public education. Later they attended Lowe Farm High School. Peter was a school trustee for many years. The Friesens were members of the Kronswiede Church and in February, 1958, Peter was ordained there as a minister. Rev. Peter Friesen died suddenly at his farm home on October 2, 1972. Louise moved to Winkler in 1976, where she still resides.

Children of Peter and Louise Friesen: Jake married Margaret Falk; Fred married Helena Penner; Bertha married Bernard Penner; Barbara, married Ed Rempel.

PETER FRIESEN

Submitted by Peter Friesen



The Peter Friesen family, 1998.

The writer of the following article had the privilege of being part of a family whose parents made the choice in the prime time of their life to emigrate to a country that they believed was the best country to live in.

Because of that choice, my parents, Abram J. and Maria Friesen and family, including the writer, left the troubled and unpeaceful country Russia, namely the Ukraine to journey by train, ship and train again in 1924 to our chosen and adopted country Canada.

We traveled many a mile to arrive in that part of Canada where my parents had been informed there was a need for new settlers to come to and pick up the profession of farming which had been their mainstay in the old country. I was too young to remember anything of that country, for I was only one year old.

It was the middle of August when we arrived in Winkler. Harvest was in progress so Dad was able to help in this and earn some money. Dad bought land near the village of Blumenfeld and we settled down in that village to live there a few years. I even started school here, but farming was not that productive and the parents bought some land northeast of Lowe Farm in the winter of 1931.

This was the time that by now is known as the Dirty Thirties, but we were able to come through those times reasonably well. Prices were very low, feed grains had a price of about seven cents a bushel and wheat from 25 to 40 cents. By and large we were self-sustaining except for the few staples of life

that we could not produce ourselves and had to be bought in the store.

All families were in similar situations and so we all did the best we could in those trying times. Below normal crops and a few years of many grasshoppers were experienced.

The later thirties did improve considerably. As a Friesen family we grew up four brothers and four sisters. We all pitched in doing the chores in the barn and the household duties, learning life's lessons, being faithful and obedient all helped to get a good start in what life expected of us. Many happy and profitable experiences come to memory in thinking back to those growing-up years.

We all got our public school education in a little white country school called Heabert School District No. 1282. Fortunately we were only half a mile away from school, so many a time we walked there. Several times we'd take the old horse, "Old John" and go to school by stone boat, I'd turn the horse to face going home, hang up the reins and he'd head back home, where Dad was waiting for him.

Most of the family had the privilege of getting their high school education in Lowe Farm. Three of the brothers took up the teaching profession. Abe and David stayed with it right to their retirement. John went to the University of Manitoba and was later working for the government. Helen and Betty took up employment in Winnipeg. Except for Helen, the rest married and raised their families in other Manitoba communities.

I stayed on the farm and took over after our parents deceased. I got married to Elizabeth and we raised a family of five children. We carried on in farming much in the fashion of our parents, but with much improved prices and to be sure better machinery. In my growing-up years, I started in helping Dad by driving a team of either two or four horses. The

change over to mechanization came when Dad was still here, he bought our first tractor in 1937.

When it came time for our children to go to school, the smaller school districts had consolidated with Lowe Farm. They were picked up by a school van and were transported to our town school. They received their Grade I through Grade IX education here. All our five children graduated from high school in Morris, attended Bible school and are gainfully employed. They are all married and have their own families.

Grace and Peter Petkau work and live in Winnipeg. Betty and Eldon Pullman and family enjoy city life and work there as well, and so are Gwen and Pat Wasyliv and their family. Bernie and Cheryl and family live near Rosenort and are farming. Ron and Lyn and family live in Hague, Saskatchewan. He is employed in Prince Albert.

As a family we all were active in our home church, the Emmanuel Gospel Church in town. We worshipped and served there. My present helpmate Sara and I are retired from farming, but still reside on the farm. There is always something to do, or somewhere to go to - somehow we keep busy. We do some traveling, we have taken a few bus trips into the United States. We have been in Washington, D. C. and other points of interest in our neighboring country. We both enjoy fairly good health, and are active in maintaining the farmyard, garden, etc. We do a lot of reading, fellowship and worship in our home church, and endeavor, with the Lord's help, to be good witnesses for Him. Lord, We keep forgetting all those who lived before us, We keep forgetting those who lived and worked in our communities, We keep forgetting those who prayed and sang hymns in our churches before we were born, We keep forgetting what our fathers have done for us,

We commit the sin, Lord, of assuming that everything began with us,
We drink from wells we did not find,
We eat food from farm land we did not develop,
We enjoy freedoms which we have not earned,
We worship in churches which we did not build,
We live in communities we did not establish,
This day, make us grateful for our heritage.
Amen
Selected and contributed (but not authored) by Peter Friesen.

PETER & HELEN FRIESEN



Peter and Helen Friesen.

Peter and Helen Friesen moved to Lowe Farm in August of 1967 together with five children. Their sixth and oldest was married and living in Winnipeg.

Peter was the manager of the United Grain Growers Elevator in Lowe Farm from August of 1967 until August of 1975. They were very active in the community. Peter served on the Chamber of Commerce, Curling Club and helped organize baseball teams and umpired many games.

Helen served many years on the Women's Institute and did Home Care in and around the community. They were involved in the Kronsweide Church where Helen taught Sunday School and

was part of the ladies group in the church.

Peter and Helen moved to Winnipeg in October, 1975, where Peter attended school and changed careers, becoming an accountant. On moving, they left behind three daughters, who had all married and settled in the Lowe Farm area. Peter and Helen moved to Carman in 1986, where they are currently enjoying their retirement.

**PETER M. & SUSANNA
(SCHROEDER) FRIESEN**



*The wedding of
Peter and Susanna Friesen.*



Peter and Susanna Friesen in 1954.



The bagger.



The entire Friesen family, excluding Hank, who was in British Columbia.



Cars lined up at a Friesen Christmas gathering.



Peter Friesen's machinery repair shop.

Peter and Susanna (nee Schroeder) Friesen moved into Lowe Farm in 1937, from the farm that was north of the town, with their family of four daughters. Mary (died at age seven), Susanne, Agatha and Margaret. Then they had nine sons, Peter, John, Marten, Anthony, twins Isaac and Cornelius, Henry, Abram and Bernard. Another daughter, Annie, came along, but died at the age of seven.

Peter M. and sons built a house with shop attached in Lowe Farm and moved into town with family, poultry and assorted animals. The shop was called the "Machinery Repair Shop." Peter did not want to call it a black smith shop because he did not want to shoe horses.

Regardless of the economic condition of the times, work ethics were taught at a very early age. Peter bought a brand new anvil which one of the sons wore round by sharpening plow shears. Two sons herded up to 75 head of town cattle to help meet the financial needs. They made 75 cents per head a month but sometimes the money was hard to collect. People complained they had not watered the cattle right, nor watched what weed they were feeding on, causing the milk not to taste right.

Other sons helped in the shop and got their training from Dad or from Mom in the kitchen until they started to work for local farmers. Everyone had a job to do. The daughters, being the oldest, left home first.

Peter M. enjoyed research work, and was an inventor. He invented such things as a grain elevator (bagger), a pump to pump out ditches with a fan instead of a gear, an auger, and a spinning wheel attachment for the sewing machine. Peter obtained a patent for this last invention. He was offered money for it, but declined. He also invented a remote trap door, and manufactured a rocker washing machine and a rotary lawn mower. Almost all the tools in the shop were home made. Peter made a tractor from an old Model T and many more items, too numerous to mention. A number of his sons inherited his inventive mind, which was passed on down the generations.

Susanna was a very gentle, loving, and caring person. She was a busy lady - washing clothes and gardening (her garden had to have flowers). In the kitchen, cooking for a gang often necessitated one course dinners. For one of those meals she would place a stack of pumpkin plats in the middle of the table for everyone to

enjoy. Another common meal was one big pot of borscht with buns on the table. Susanna would use a 100 pound bag of flour a week to feed the family. The meals were simple but there was always enough. All but two of the family grew up to be very tall.

Peter M. was always concerned that each son had to have his own car. Susanna's concern was that every one of the children had their own home.

There was a big trend for nick names in the area. In this family, all were called the Schmatte (blacksmith) Friesen, and Patent Friesen. The shop closed for service in 1950, when Abe moved to Winnipeg and there was no one left to take over.

EDWARD & JUSTINA (REMPLE) FUNK



Edward and Justina Funk's family: (l - r) Coleen, Terese, Beverly, Debra, Jeffrey, and Leslie.



The grandchildren of Edward and Justina Funk. Back row: (l - r) Jennifer Hudson, Josbua Hudson, Tyrel Schroeder, David Funk, Laurie Giesbrecht, Meghan Schroeder. Front row: Matthew Hudson, Michael Funk, Colin Funk, David Funk, Kelsey Funk, Caitlin Funk, Kaeleigh Schroeder.

Edward Funk was born in July of 1929, and was raised in the Lowe Farm area. He was the second son of Henry J. and Katherine Funk. At the age of 11, his father died of leukemia, leaving his mother to look after seven children ranging from age one and a half to 13 years of age.

Frank and Edward went out as farm laborers during the summer holidays in order to help their mother financially.

Edward received his education in the Steinfeld School and attended Lowe Farm High School. He worked as clerk in the Lowe Farm Co-op Store and some years later was in the position of manager of the store.

In 1950, he married Justina Rempel, whom he got to know during high school. Justina, daughter of Ben and Eva Rempel, was born in the Kronsweide School District and began school there. By the time of her second school year, she attended the Lowe Farm school and later the high school.

Justina was a store clerk in Dyck's Store as well as a substitute clerk in the Co-op store. Later she worked in Robin Hood's Store at Victoria Beach.

The romance between Edward and Justina resulted in their becoming engaged. At the time, a family employed Justina in Darlingford where she looked after three children and tended to housework.

Justina and Edward were married in the Morris United Church on October 14, 1950. Edward was working for the Canadian National Railways at the time. The young couple moved into a house in Lowe Farm that was owned by Edward and his brother Frank.

Edward was encouraged by a friend to work for a road construction company. This took the couple to Saskatchewan for one year. Justina's father also owned a construction company and asked Edward to work for him, which he did for two years. In 1952, their daughter Debra was born and in 1954, Leslie and Beverly arrived. This was the end of camp life and so, in 1954, Edward started working for the Rural Municipality of Morris, also on road maintenance. This meant long days at work, so the young children saw their dad mostly on weekends.

This changed somewhat when Edward accepted the job as store manager at the Lowe Farm Co-op in February, 1959. He remained with the Co-op until February, 1963, when he again worked for the R.M. of Morris.

In 1959, Terese was born and a year later, 1960, Colleen joined the family. The three older children were in school by this time and two little girls became great friends. In November, 1963, another son, named Jeffrey Alan, was born.

Justina's dad died on November 7, 1961, and Edward, Justina and family bought the parents large home. Here there was plenty of space for the six children who were quickly growing up.

In August 1975, Edward was called to Graysville to serve as full time pastor. This meant giving up his job as grader operator for the R.M. of Morris, selling the prop-

erty, finding a home and moving to Graysville. This also meant a cut in salary and income. The three children who were still at home were rather reluctant at first but after talking it over, they were agreeable to making the move.

Thus, in 1976, after commuting for a year, the family moved a house onto a one acre yard, which they had to clear of bush and trees. They made the change of residence just before the school year began. Jeffrey entered junior high, Colleen was in Grade XI, and Terese in Grade XII. The change of school was good for them. We lived in the country now so they took more time for their studies.

In 1975, Edward and Justina celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church. At this time they already had two sons-in-law and two grandchildren. Debra married James Hudson on September 4, 1971, and Beverly married David Hudson on May 20, 1972.

Marriage dates of the other children of Edward and Justina Funk are as follows: On July 2, 1977, Terese married Richard Schroeder and on August 2, 1980, Colleen married Harvey Giesbrecht. Lesley married Glenda Anderson on March 5, 1983, and Jeffrey married Sandra Zacharias on June 16, 1984.

In the latter part of August 1982, Edward, Justina, and Jeffrey moved to Plum Coulee where Edward served as pastor in the Bergthaler Mennonite Church of Plum Coulee for seven years. They made many friends and felt like retiring in Plum Coulee but in August 1989, they moved to Burns Lake, British Columbia for a three year term.

This was a rather difficult move to make, but being adventurous and knowing that it was God's will, they moved. The area was beautiful and the people were very acceptable and hospitable. They developed close friendships with many people there and still keep in touch with them.

The move back to Plum Coulee was made in September, 1992. It was time to be re-acquainted with the grandchildren who, by this time numbered 13. The youngest two were born while their grandparents were in B. C. Upon returning, they moved into their home on PR#306 and River Avenue and after a while, started remodeling.

They tried being retired, but soon they were hired to visit seniors in the high rise apartments in Winkler. It was a blessing to them to be able to bring a bit of cheer into some lonely lives. After about a year, a church near Elm Creek asked Edward whether he would consider ministering in their church at Wingham as an interim pastor. He consented to do this for one year, but wound up serving them for three years. To this day he ministers there once a month and also serves in other churches in the area as guest speaker.

Edward enjoys doing wood work and other small projects when called upon. Justina enjoys various crafts,

substitutes as correspondent for some local papers and has served, and is still serving, on the committee for the local thrift store. She spends time restoring, dressing, and also making dolls. She tries to keep her collection down to 200.

Their family is presently as follows: After the divorce of Debra and Jim Hudson in 1989, Debra married Kirk Brabant on June 30, 1996. Debra works as secretary for an investment brokerage and Kirk works as supervisor at an electrical firm. Together they have five children; two from Debra's first marriage, Joshua and Matthew, and three from Kirk's first marriage, Charles, Allan, and Craig. They reside in Calgary.

Beverly and David Hudson have two children, Christopher and Jennifer. Christopher married Leanne Ducharme on May 21, 1995, and they have one son, Andrew, born May 20, 1997, and one daughter, Jade Anne, born October 25, 1998. David, Beverly and Christopher run their own business, Mid-West Tire and Auto Centre in Winnipeg. Jennifer was born September 2, 1974, and is working in Winnipeg.

Leslie and Glenda (Anderson) Funk reside in Morris and are the parents of three children; David Leslie, born July 12, 1985, Michael Andrew, born June 11, 1988, and Caitlin Nicole, born December 15, 1990. Les owns DMC Interior and Exterior Painting, and Glenda works as a secretary for Brunet's Construction. Glenda has also been in various singing groups and is often called to sing at weddings and funerals.

Terese and Richard Schroeder are the parents of three children; Tyrel Brennan, born October 6, 1979, is presently attending college in Calgary. Meghan Adele, born April 28, 1982, is attending the Morden Junior High. Rick is employed as a machinist by Kroeker Farms Machinery in Winkler and Terese is a teacher's aid in school. They reside in Morden. Colleen and Harvey Giesbrecht's marriage also resulted in a divorce in May 1998. They have one daughter, Laurie Ann, born August 15, 1981. Coleen is presently employed as secretary for Linear Grain Inc. in Carman, and Laurie attends the Carman Collegiate. They reside in Carman.

Jeffrey and Sandra (Zacharias) Funk are the parents of two children. Colin Jeffrey was born January 11, 1988, and Kelsey Alexandra was born August 28, 1990. They are both attending school. Jeffrey, works for the Decor Cabinets in Morden and Sandra is a receptionist at the Bethel Hospital. They reside in Morden.

PETER P. & KATHRINA (GROENING) FUNK

From Furrows in the Valley

Peter P. Funk, son of Peter and Cornelia Funk, came from Heuboden, Mariampole, Russia.

They left Russia, March 31, 1875, and arrived in Canada, May 10, 1875. Peter, my dad, was born May 1, 1875. He had five brothers and six sisters.



Peter Funk and Kathrina Funk.

Kathrina Funk was the daughter of Abraham and Helena Groening, who came from Russia in 1874 and landed at Niverville, Manitoba. Kathrina, my mother, was born February 2, 1878 at Rheinland, Manitoba. She had two brothers and one sister. Both Dad and Mother were of Mennonite origin.

The reason both of their parents came to Canada, was because Russia was continuously at war and there was always conflict. Mennonites were opposed to war and, besides, land in Canada was cheap and homesteads could be taken up. Most of them were good farmers. Grandpa Groening took up four homesteads, one for each child. They were situated between Rose Farm, Lowe Farm and Kane. It was nicknamed the 'Cutta,' Lowe Farm being their post office.

Their education left a lot to be desired. Dad reached the great Grade of III or IV, while Mother only got in about 10 months; she was constantly sick when cold weather set in.

They were married in 1889, and had 11 children, four of whom died in childhood. The others were Cath, Nora, Pete, Helen, Ben, Anne and Billy.

They were farming on one of the quarters that Grandpa Groening bought and their possessions were few. They belonged to the Rudnerweider Church.

Their social life consisted of going to church regularly, attending weddings and funerals and visiting friends and relatives. The annual killing of pigs was work, but usually enjoyed by five or six couples. The best food was put forward, and, maybe for the men, a snifter of two out of the bottle, (brandy most likely), and fresh spareribs and liverwurst.

They both learned to read at school and at home they spent many nights reading the Yugen Freund, Bible, the Runschau, the Nor-western, the Almanac, and a series of Minshausen detective books, which made the rounds in the 'Cutta' and were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Mother did lots of knitting, sewing and mending, making patchwork quilts and hooked rugs. She enjoyed gardening immensely, and was always up at the crack of dawn to tend her plants. I remember one particularly bad year for the gardens, except for Mother's. Relatives and friends came and loaded their cars, and some came with stone boats! One year Dad hid watermelon in the granary in the wheat and we had watermelon at Christmas. What a great treat that was!

Mother was a fairly good shot, and used to shoot prairie chickens for supper. She could also shoot tin cans off fence posts. She was always asked to bake buns for weddings and funerals. Delicious!

She delivered many babies and looked after the mothers. She was also asked to help with the dead, like washing bodies and dressing and fixing up the coffins that were homemade, fixed with eyelet lace and geraniums.

Dad was a putterer, fixing thing like spokes in wagons and buggies, greasing the machinery and the wheels. I always had a swing, but also, on Sundays, the gang would come over and the result would be another broken chair or window - something else for Dad to fix!

During the big influenza outbreak, everybody in the 'Cutta' was sick, with the exception of dad and Cath. He would go from neighbor to neighbor to feed the stock, milk the cows and bring enough fuel for them to keep warm. It kept him pretty busy.

When Queen Centre School was to be closed, dad gave a corner of his land for a new school and enough room for a barn and a playground. Mary Wiens from Lowe Farm, with Grade VIII education, was the first teacher and taught grades I to VIII. Later on a consolidated school was open in Kane, and we were all taken to school in vans.

In the Dirty Thirties, we had 30 acres of oats, allotted for the milk cows. Helen and I had just finished

stooking it and Mother had "yahooed" for a while. (Her yahoos could be heard for a mile or two). The black clouds overhead turned into a tornado, which hit and smashed a hayrack, and took every bundle of oats up 20 or 30 feet into ditches and neighbors' fields. There was not a lot of oats left for the cows.

Dad had cancer of the lips in the twenties and had it operated on. He liked his smokes and coffee, and the odd glass of beer or a shot of brandy. He was always very interested in his grandchildren, and what progress any of his children made. He was quick tempered but cooled off just as fast and became quite docile in his old age. He died of cancer of the throat at the age of almost 93 years.

Mother was always ready to help the sick or anybody who needed it and was very generous. She was a deeply religious woman and had much faith. She looked after her mother three years after Grandpa died and again three years before Grandma died at the age of 83.

They retired from farming and moved to Lowe Farm. When unable to look after themselves, (Mother was blind the last eight years of her life), they were in

Winkler Old Folks Home for one year, then at the Altona home for the rest of their lives.

They thoroughly enjoyed their grandchildren and were interested in their comings and goings.

JACOB P. & HELENA (PENNER) GERBRANDT

Submitted by Agatha Gerbrandt



Jacob P. and Helena Gerbrandt.



The John Gerbrandt family, 1993.



The John Gerbrandt farm, 1986.

The Jacob Gerbrandt family, together with seven children, moved to the Lowe Farm area in 1898. They had already homesteaded in Lichtfeld, southwest of Altona. Their son Jacob was the only one who became a farmer in the Lowe Farm area. He married Helena Penner of Lowe Farm. They bought NW13-4-2 from his father.

Jacob and Helena had a family of nine children, all of them attending Kronsweide School, southwest of Lowe Farm.

Helena passed away in 1930, leaving a large family behind. The youngest were twins, aged two.

Two years later, Jacob remarried to Susanna Giesbrecht Heinrichs, a widow with 10 children.

The Gerbrandts have always considered the church and Christian fellowship a very important part of their lives. Grandpa, Jacob Gerbrandt, was active in the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church.

John and Agatha, together with their family, were involved in the Kronsweide Church until it closed in 1975. We then joined the Emmanuel Church in Lowe Farm.

John has many pleasant memories of Lowe Farm. Some of the businesses were Rosners Store, Schroeders International Agency, Martens Garage and Braun's Garage.

Spending time at the Penner grandparents meant meeting lots of cousins and aunts and uncles. Also, he could watch the cow herder chasing the cows out to pasture after their daily milking was done.

Grandpa Penner was known as "Butcher" Penner in his day. Later he went into building bridges for the many drainage ditches in the area. Son Jacob P., together with others, started the Rose Farm Rudnerweider Church in 1937. (It was later known as EMMC.) In 1938 he became a minister, often travelling long distances with horse and sleigh on Sunday morning to bring the message in other churches.

Jacob's son John stayed in the Lowe Farm area and continued farming on 16-4-2w. He took over Box 65, the same post box that his father and grandfather had. This box number had stayed in the family for almost 100 years.

John married Agatha Dyck in 1951 in the Rose Farm Church. Her parents, John P. Dycks, lived in the Rose Farm area.

We bought the Dyck home place in 1956 and farmed, expanding as the years passed. We also raised hogs and livestock.

Our family of one boy and three girls attended Rose Farm School, later going to Kane, Lowe Farm and Morris High School.

In 1988 we moved to Winkler, but continued farming until 1993. Our children have found their occupations in other areas. Eldon, our oldest son, together with his wife Bonnie, is in the furniture business in Morden. They have four children. Lorena and her husband Wayne Favel work as house parents in a children's home in Alberta. Glenda is working for Family Services in Winnipeg. Eleanor married Tony Rose. They have three children. Tony worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris for 18 years. He is presently employed at Westfield Industries in Rosenort. They lived in the Lowe Farm area until 1998, when they moved to Morris. Eleanor is a spare bus driver for the Morris Macdonald School Division.

JAKE & NETTIE (DUECK) GERBRANDT



Jake and Nettie Gerbrandt, 1988.

Jake H. Gerbrandt grew up in the Kronsweide School District, south of Lowe Farm with his parents, Jacob and Helena Gerbrandt and brothers and sisters.

Nettie (Dueck) Gerbrandt grew up in the Rosefarm School District, southwest of Lowe Farm

with her parents, Jacob and Aganetha Dueck and brothers and sisters.

After their marriage in 1945, they lived in Ontario and then Bergfeld before moving back to the Lowe Farm area in 1953. They farmed southeast of Lowe Farm, in the St. Peters School District and then southwest of Lowe Farm, in the Rose Farm area. They retired from farming and moved to Winkler in 1986.

Jake and Nettie were actively involved in the community and church. Jake was a school trustee during the process of consolidating the small country schools into the Lowe Farm Consolidated School. Jake was also involved in planning the senior's residence in Lowe Farm. After the closure of the Rose Farm Church in 1975, Jake and Nettie became active members of the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Church.

Nettie passed away at the age of 66 in November of 1989. Jake was married to Margaret Dueck for less than a year before he also passed away at the age of 71 in August of 1992.

Jake and Nettie Gerbrandt's children are: Dorothy and Ken Fisher and Eric of Winnipeg; Linda and Ken Warkentin, Philip, and Jonathan of Morden; Edwin and Mavis Gerbrandt, Kevin, Bryan, Darren, and Brent of Morden; Elma and James Dean, Matthew and Charlotte of The Pas.

ANNA (REMPLE) & ED GIESBRECHT

From Furrows in the Valley

Anna was the second daughter of Peter P. and Nettie Remple. On October 6, 1932, Anna married Ed Giesbrecht, son of Peter A. and Katherine Giesbrecht. For 31 years, they farmed northeast of Lowe Farm, in the Heabert School District.

They had four children.

Abe married Mary Pylypiuk. They are living in Kamloops, British Columbia and have two children.

Ben married Judi Braun and they have three children. Ben passed away in 1970.

George married Vivian McWilliams and lives in Vernon, British Columbia. They have three children.

Margaret married Eddy Klassen and is living in Armstrong, British Columbia. They have two children.

Anna and Ed sold their farm in 1965 and moved to Lowe Farm. In 1971, they moved to Morris.

WILHELM GINTER

From Furrows in the Valley

In 1930, Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Ginter moved to 15-4-2, two miles west and four miles south of Lowe Farm, onto a quarter section of land which they purchased for \$2,500. They lived on this farm until 1967, at which time they moved to Altona.

The Ginters had seven children: Freda, Anne, Henry,

Jake, Albert, Bill and Ed.

Freda is a nurse in Altona. Anne (Dave) Wiebe lives at Lowe Farm and has four daughters. Linda (Ernie) Neufeld of Altona, has three daughters; Shirley, Sharon and Valerie. Henry married Evelyn Wiebe. He is a carpenter in Thompson. Jake died in 1956. Albert married Justina Wolfe. They live on the home farm with their three sons, Robert, Ronald and Allen. Bill, who married Joyce Suderman, taught in the Morris Collegiate. They live in Morris with their three children: Michael, Audrey and Steven. Ed, who lives in Vancouver, married Irene Pedroche.

ABRAM & HELENA GROENING

submitted by Norman Groening



The Henry Groening residence built 1912 – 1913.



*Loading sheaves with sheaf-loader
for threshing, possibly 1936.*

Abram and Helena Groening, my grandparents, moved into the community in 1897. They built their home on the SW corner of section 21-4-2w and lived there until Abram Groening died in 1917.

They had four children: Henry, who married Maria Penner; Katherine married Peter Funk; Abram married Maria Martens; and Helen married Dr. Cornelius Wiebe. Except for Helen, the family continued to farm on section 21.

Henry A. and Maria Groening, my parents, were married in 1903, and began building their farm home near the middle of section 21. The first building was a barn with living quarters at the south end. In 1912 to 1913 they built their house which is presently occupied by Agatha (Elmer) Groening. Much of the building was constructed of cedar and was very well built.

While farming was good on the mostly virgin soil, it was done with much hard work. The field work was done mostly with horses which meant a lot of work year round. A threshing machine was purchased in 1911. It was of wood construction and was kept in repair and stored indoors. It was last used in 1940. A Fordson tractor and later a 10-20 Titan were used on the farm. A shief loader was used at threshing and also for some haying. It was pulled by four horses. My sister Mary drove the loader at harvest time when she was only 16 years old, a courageous and skillful accomplishment.

Henry Groening was seriously crippled due to arthritis bouts in childhood and in later years. In spite of his limitations he worked very hard. Not able to sit in the popular Ford Model T because of a stiff hip, he purchased a Reo tutoring car, which was used in the mid thirties. The car was not used in winter, at least not when there was snow.

Communication, like transportation, was limited. Not everyone had public (government) phones. A small private hook-up of phones was used with Uncle Abram Groening and Uncle Peter and Katherine Funk, as well as brother Abram and Lizzie Groening. Another private phone connected with about 12 neighbors in the immediate community. Lines and phones were maintained by owners and were often in need of fixing. My dad, Henry Groening, was often called upon to find and correct a malfunction. Lines were often down or shorting out somewhere.

Maria, my mom, like all farm wives, did an awful lot of work to take care of family and a large garden, plus helping with the livestock, cows, pigs, hens, and usually some geese. There were no conveniences such as refrigerators and deep freezers. An ice cellar was added in the early thirties. It was helpful, but still a lot of steps to run. Animals were slaughtered occasionally as needed for meat. A chicken roast meant catching some roosters or hens and butchering them. The meat was always fresh! Everyone had some assigned chores to do. Mom, Maria Groening, was a good organizer.

Maria Groening moved to Lowe Farm in 1949 or 1950. She had a house built a few lots south of the Berghthaler Church. She lived there together with daughter Mary and son Detroy, until her death in 1959.

Detroy purchased the egg and poultry station in Lowe Farm in 1946. Abram, Theodore and Ed continued to farm. Ervin and Norman started a new farm yard in 1948 on section 28. We farmed together until the early sixties when Ervin and Agatha went into church ministry in Saskatchewan. George was a teacher plus minister for a

number of years. He taught in several local schools, including Kronsweide, St. Peters and Rosefarm. Dora married Ben Hamm and lived in Winnipeg. Helen married Henry Giesbrecht and spent many years in the ministry in Ontario. Clara married Aaron Siemens, and lived in Winnipeg until retiring to British Columbia. Theodore and Tina retired from farming to continue their ministry in Winnipeg.

Anna and I, Norman Groening, were married in July, 1947 and made our home on the NW quarter if section 28. We continued on the farm until we retired in 1991. Our oldest daughter Joyce is presently teaching in Lowe Farm Elementary School, after teaching for many years in Thompson and with Black Forest Academy in Germany. She is married to Bill Siemens and lives in Morris. Leta is married to Jerry Maksymyk. They live in Portage and are employed in the church and Tim Horton. Karen and husband, Bob Toews, live near Altona. Bob works at Friesens. Sheryl and husband, Doug Braaten are working with Gospel for Asia in the office in Hamilton, Ontario. Wendi, our youngest, married Phil Tolley. They have now moved from Washington to Colorado.

Recollections of Norm Groening

We lived six miles from the town of Lowe Farm when I was a boy. Going to town was usually a weekly event. Roads were often poor in rainy spells and in wintertime horse and sleigh was often the only means to go. There was little or no gravel in our area. Even the highway, after a prolonged wet time did not look like a highway but a series of rests.

I will try to share some things as best I can recollect from when I was small.

I remember the long series of huge snow drifts across much of main street after blizzards. What an obstacle course! (There was no snow break north of town). Main Street had a board walk of planks. I think some of the other streets had some narrower ones too.

I remember the train (steam engine) and the railway station with its large wooden plank platform and the wagon cart. The station and train service was used a lot as mail orders were quite popular. I remember the large cast iron pot bellied store in the centre of the station room, also the benches along some walls. I was intrigued by the almost constant clicking of the telegraph which tapped away all day even when no one was present. The train would come through from Winnipeg in the late morning and return again about three or four in the afternoon Monday through Friday. I remember the hiss of the steam engine, the bell, the whistle and the chug as the train started to move. Train passenger service was used a fair amount to Winnipeg and other towns.

On occasion we could ride along to town with dad on our Rio car. I remember Ervin and I shopping for mixed candies, a then popular hard candy, while Dad was getting parts for the binder at the McCormick

Deering shop, somewhere-more toward the east part of town. We looked at the different candies in the display windows in store counters. I remember going to a different store because the store man was quite unfriendly towards little boys. We were turned off by his attitude. Fortunately I do not remember who it was or in what store. Anyway, five cents bought a nice little bag of candies.

I was very intrigued with Martens black smith repair shop. It had shafts and pulleys and belts on the wall and ceiling. It was very dimly lit. That was before we had hydro electric power. Even towns like Lowe Farm did not have hydro power. Mr. Martens provided some electricity for some of the town with a generator plant. I think it was 21 volt and powered by a large stationary diesel engine – possibly a Fairbanks-Morre. I remember Mr. Martens showing us how he started the diesel by hand on the huge fly wheels. He was meticulous in his preparations. It was quite a feat to get that first compression round. I remember the neat clicking sounds of the engine as it gained speed. Electric power was very limited. Those who were hooked up used it only for special conveniences-not for cooking and baking. Some used very small bulbs -15 watt to save power. It was a great convenience compared to kerosene lamps. At 10:00 p.m. each evening the plant was shut down. I think there was a warning signal of light flicker shortly before the engine was stopped.

I was also fascinated by Rosner's general store. There were so many things for sale, on shelves and hanging on the walls – even horse harnesses. The store was operated by the Rosner family. They were a Jewish family in a community of mostly Mennonites. They were friendly and courteous and my impression was that they did a good service. I remember that they took eggs etc, as credit for groceries. Many people had

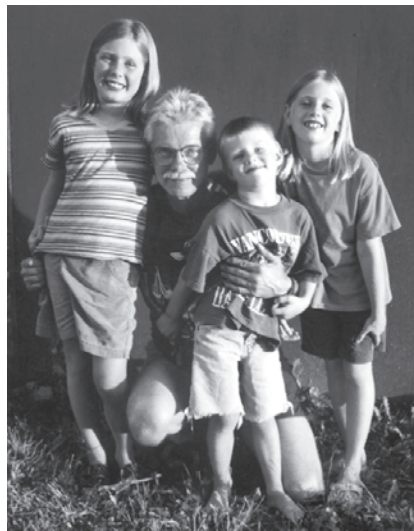
accounts and paid periodically. Some accounts were difficult to collect. I remember Cornelius Dueck working in the store. Also I remember the railing back of the store on which to tie horses.

I remember being at a community picnic or perhaps it was a field day. There was a booth to buy goodies even ice cream and bananas hanging in huge bunches. There was real baseball or hard ball as it was called in those days. A spectacular event was the parachute jumping. Planes were quite rare at the time for us and to see someone jumping out of the plane, seeing the chute open and then floating down was quite awesome.

Even though Lowe Farm for not large at the time it had a surprising number of stores and businesses. Most of the basic groceries and well as our gas and kerosene were bought there.

EDD & MARGARET GROENING

Submitted by Ralph Groening



Allison, Ralph, Michael and Jillian Groening.

Edd Groening was born February 5, 1913, at the Groening farm located on 21-4-2w. Edd attended the Kane Consolidated School for Grade I – XI and finished high school in Lowe Farm at

the age of 27. After graduation Dad taught school on permit at Nedrob in western Manitoba. Education was very important to Dad and he had planned to attend the University of Manitoba, but World War II intervened and his plans changed. He received conscientious objector status and worked at the coal mines in Bienfait, Saskatchewan and at a lumber camp in Kapuskasing, Ontario, as alternative service.

In 1942, Dad met Margaret Heinrichs from Horndean. Margaret enjoyed school and learning, but, unfortunately the expectation of the time was that children leave school at age 14 and help support the family. For two years Margaret worked for Dad's mother, Mrs. Henry Groening, during the summer and attended Elim Bible School in Altona during the winter.

Edd and Margaret Groening were married on June 17, 1944, at the Rose Farm Church by Rev. J.N. Heppner. They built a home and farmstead on the northeast corner of 33-4-2w just across the railroad track from the Bill Deutchman farm.

In addition to farming, Mom and Dad were very busy with church and school activities. Dad served as lay minister in the Kane Church until it closed in 1973 and was a school trustee in Kane for 13 years. After the Kane Church closed, my parents attended the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church.

Dad farmed with his sons, Ralph and Tim, from 1978 until his official retirement at age 80 in 1993. In 1981 Edd and Margaret Groening moved to Winkler.

Six children were born to Edd and Margaret. Ralph was born May 23, 1946. After graduating from high school, Ralph attended the University of Manitoba, and then travelled through Europe for three months on a quest for adventure and to meet the requirement of the 1960's youth culture. He worked as an aircraft serviceman at the



*Standing (l-r): Tim, Roger, Ralph, Anita, Charles.
Sitting: Edd, Paul and Margaret Groening.*



The Edd and Margaret Groening family, 1995. Standing (l-r): Keith Shackelford, Ralph, Charles, Paul, Tim and Roger Groening. Sitting: Anita Shackelford, Krista Shackelford, Edd and Margaret Groening, Cheri Froese, Teresa Rempel, Ruth Loepky. Front row: Michael, Allison, Jillian, Laura, Tom and Amy Groening.

airport in Winnipeg until 1976, then moved back to Lowe Farm to farm with his dad and brother Tim. In 1983, Ralph married Rhonda Sommerfeld. They have three children: Allison Zoe, born July 28, 1928; Jillian Lindsay, born April 17, 1990; and Michael Edd Arthur, born January 9, 1993. Ralph and Rhonda were divorced in 1995. In addition to farming with his brother Tim, Ralph has served as a municipal councillor for the Rural Municipality of Morris since 1995.

Anita Julia was born July 27, 1948. Anita graduated from the faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. In 1973, she married Keith Shackelford. They have

a daughter, Krista Dawn, born June 27, 1982. Anita and Keith live in Edmonton where Keith works for the federal government and Anita teaches school. Krista is a high school student.

Mark Roger was born May 2, 1951. Roger earned his Masters degree in Education and has established his own educational training school in Winnipeg. Roger married Ruth Loepky in 1980. Ruth works for the provincial government as family services regional manager for Winnipeg. They have three children: Laura Danielle, born September 25, 1985; Thomas Mark L., born July 10, 1989; and Amy Rebecca, born December 21, 1989. Roger and Ruth and family live in Winnipeg.

Timothy Edd was born April 23, 1955. He earned his Arts degree at the University of Manitoba. Tim worked as an instructor for agriculture diploma program at the University of Manitoba for seven years. He has farmed with his brother Ralph since 1976. In 1984, Tim married Teresa Rempel. Teresa has worked as a florist for many years, and is presently employed as a floral manager for Safeway in Winnipeg. Tim and Teresa live in La Salle.

Paul Anthony was born May 14, 1963. Paul has worked as a musician since leaving high school. He has played with a number of Winnipeg alternative rock bands, the latest group called, "Twelve Elves." Paul works presently as a computer programmer for the Angus Reid Group. He lives in Winnipeg.

JOHN F. & ANNA (HIEBERT) GROENING

Submitted by Russell Greening



John F. and Anna (Hiebert) Groening.

John Groening was born on December 19, 1896, and married Anna Hiebert on September 13, 1913. Our parents lived most of their lives in the Lowe Farm area. Our father, John Groening, was an adopted child and had no known relatives. Our mother, Anna Hiebert Groening, was born October 4, 1896, and was the daughter of John Hiebert, who homesteaded in the Lowe Farm area. John Hiebert was the donor of the land on which the Heabert School (northeast of Lowe Farm) was

built in approximately 1903.

John and Anna Groening had two children born to them: Estelle on March 30, 1927, and Russell, born on July 30, 1934.

John Groening passed away on September 15, 1967, and our mother passed away on March 10, 1989. Our parents did the best they could for their children under some very difficult circumstances. It was our mother's deep faith and determination that made a difference in tough times. Her strong principals have always impacted our lives.

Estelle married Paul Charach on July 31, 1959, and they had four children: Robert born on April 17, 1960; Lawrence born on September 8, 1962; Rosalie born on January 17, 1964; and Bradley, born on October 23, 1967. Paul Charach passed away on January 20, 1992.

Robert, a teacher, is married to Alison Bickle and they have two children; Brenda and David. Lawrence is married to Elizabeth Labun. They reside in Kuwait where they are both teaching. Rosalie is married to Kim Olson and they have three children; Ryan, Sara and Steven. Brad is married to Susan Ens. Estelle has retired to a Seniors High Rise on Wilkes Avenue and her children and grandchildren are her pride and joy.

Russell married Lenore Hyde of Kane on September 15, 1951. They had one son, Dale, who was born on June 19, 1952. Russell and his family moved to Edmonton, Alberta in November of 1965 and have resided in this province to the present. Their son married Iris Dolhaniuk in September of 1973, and they had two children; Donavon and Patricia. Dale passed away on July 21, 1982, as a result of a swimming accident. Russell and Lenore retired in 1996 and moved to a retirement village in Sherwood Park, Alberta. They are very much enjoying their retirement, they bowl, play bridge and have many other activities and find most of the days are just not long enough.

ABRAM H. & ELIZABETH (PAETKAU) GROENING

Submitted by Edwin Greening



Abram and Elizabeth Groening, 1964.



Back row: (l - r) Elmer; Second row: Albert and Arnold; Front row: Burton, Elizabeth Groening, Edwin, Abram Groening, Linda; Front: Margaret; 1944.

When my dad wanted to make himself understood he would say, "Soll eck die dann eh mole op Dietch saya?" (Should I tell you in German?) Just like Grandpa Henry, Dad had a determined will, although he was a lot more easy-going. Anyone who could farm successfully in the Lowe Farm gumbo soil, and starting out in the Great Depression, must have been a man of iron character!

Abram was the oldest of a family of twelve, seven boys and five girls, born to Henry and Maria Groening. Ten are alive at the time of this writing. In 1927, Dad married Elizabeth Paetkau, who had come from Russia only four years earlier, and together they raised a family of seven.

The first son, Elmer, came along in 1928, after which five children were born smack bang in "Dirty Thirties!" Arnold was born in 1930, Albert in 1933, myself, Edwin, in 1935, Burton in 1937, Linda in 1938, and finally, in 1942, Margaret was born. What made matters worse, at least at first, was when war broke out in 1939 and food rationing began. I can remember our parents getting sugar coupons, but we always had enough to eat, because we all had to work.

Dad managed to buy a new Model D John Deere in 1937, and was content driving a Hupmobile car that he converted to a semi-trailer to haul grain off the fields. We had horses for work and transportation in those days until the 1950's, especially in winter.

Dad believed in being practical, and as children we rode in the back of a 1929 Dodge truck until 1949, when we bought our first car, a 1937 Buick, for \$900. Were we ever delighted! It was the same year that our family moved to Dad's homestead, located one mile north of our home in Rose Farm School District.

In our earlier years, work was king, and we seldom played ball. We were taught how to play games such as checkers, crocinole, and "malechi" (Nine Man Morris). Dad was very hard to beat in any game, however, to keep our spirits up, he might let us win sometimes. What we

learned in the malechi game, was to set up the nine blocks in such a position that each move made a row of three blocks. This would enable the player to take off an opponent's block, a sure way to win the game. Dad applied this to everyday life where we were encouraged to set up our life so each move would make us win.

We were also encouraged to play a musical instrument, although we never received formal lessons. Dad played the violin, as did Elmer. Arnold played steel guitar, while Albert played guitar, violin, or the steel guitar. I played the mandolin, and Burt played the guitar. Linda played the accordion or pump organ. Sometimes Mother used the organ to discipline us. I had to play the organ when I was naughty, but Margaret never learned to play the organ because she was never naughty! Instead, she learned to sing. Dad did not mind spending many hours playing together with us, even during busy times. Our family, along with friends, often provided music in our little home church at Rose Farm. This was his way of serving the Lord, even during Sunday morning service.

Throughout the years, Dad kept a running handwritten diary of day to day activities. These scribbles and notebooks are now in the hands of family members, and reveal as much about Dad as about his work. In the 1936 notebook is an entry that caught my eye.

"February 29. In the evening I and Lena practiced one song, 'You go to your church and I'll go to Mine.' We kind of got the little boy Edwin excited and he wouldn't get to sleep till 5:30 in the morning, so we got tired too. I slept about 4 1/2 hours."

This song, which continues, "But let's walk along together," still gets me excited!

"Lena" was Dad's sister Helen, and would have been 20 when she played the pump organ while Dad played the fiddle. Mom and Dad belonged to the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Church but attended the local Rose Farm Church and supported them both.

Dad was a skilled carpenter, and with rather simple tools, he built a kitchen hutch and buffet, a writing cabinet, and many household items. He enjoyed repairing musical instruments such as a fiddle, and showed much skill and patience. His mechanical ability enabled him to repair the old farm machinery, and to teach his boys resourcefulness. Perhaps his most important daily activity, besides his work, was Bible reading, as seen in his diary entries. Those of us who remembered him, would agree that he lived what he read, as evidenced by his kindness, generosity, and patience.

Mother was a hard working, loving, and intelligent person, and her faith in God stood firm. If I could choose a mother, I would choose her, because she came as close to the Proverbs 31 description as anyone could expect. Hospitality, cooking, gardening, sewing, pickling peppers, nursing hurting children - you name it, she was equal to the task. She could recycle things so well back in her days, it would put anybody to shame nowadays. She would dig food and veggie scraps directly into the garden, and didn't bother composting anything. Her garden, as a result, was very productive! Besides looking

after her own family, she had time to teach Sunday School. And guess who was the best story teller? Yep! She could tell a story in Low German while reading it in English. She had the gift to bring out the story at its best. Mother took her Ladies group seriously, and contributed knitting, bandage rolls, and whatever was needed that she could do.

What became of the family?

Elmer married Agatha Dueck in 1954. They raised Harold, Melvin, Janice, Donald, Marilyn and Leroy. After a few years teaching public school, they took over the family farm. Elmer went to his eternal home in 1989. Leroy now runs the fourth generation farm.

Arnold, an accountant, married Lilly Hiebert in 1960, and moved to California where they had two children, Barbara and Allan. Arnold had limited lung capacity due to a deformed chest and back, and died unexpectedly in 1972, following a short illness.

Albert married Wilma Penner in 1956, on the first of April! They had four children; Clarice, Goldie, Connie, and Kenny. Albert, the first in the family to become a private pilot, also taught school, and did some nursery, grain and strawberry farming in the Portage area. Wilma passed away in 1995.

I, Edwin, the second pilot, married Alice Loewen. I had met her at camp and Bible School. We had four sons: Barry, Bruce, Brent, and Tim. I taught school, too, then moved to Calgary where I tune pianos. We are now raising Jessica, the daughter of Brent and Lori Lynn. She is, therefore, both our granddaughter and daughter, and is doubly special.

Burton married Martha Froese in 1959, and had five children. Grant, Calvin, Audrey, Rodney, and Wanda. Audrey passed away in 1963, and was laid to rest in the Rose Farm Cemetery. Burton worked as a printer, and played guitar and double bass. They make their home in Winnipeg.

Linda married Jerry Morevec in 1958, and had Bonnie and Richard. Jerry died in a car crash in 1974. Linda was fortunate, later, to run into Wally Jergens, literally, whom she soon married. They are now retired and have moved to Ontario, where Wally continues to write music, play the piano, and fly model airplanes.

Margaret, the youngest of the family, married Abe Zacharias, the singer, in 1962. This family consists of Angela, Kevin, Laurel, and Trevor. Abe and Marge live near Salmon Arm, British Columbia and like to travel to churches, where Abe sings many of the songs that he has written over the years.

Our parents farmed until 1967, when they retired to Gretna and let Elmer take over the homestead. It was too early in life for Dad to retire, but he found things to do, fixing and puttering. Mother would continue her gardening hobby, and grow vegetables and flowers.

It is hard to believe they are both gone to be with the Lord. In 1984, Dad began showing signs of Parkinson's disease. He was admitted to the Altona Personal Care Home in January 1990. Mother then moved to an apartment in Altona. Dad passed away on April 3, 1991, and was laid to rest in the Rose Farm Cemetery. Mother

never seemed to show her age, and did very well on her own till age 91 when she had surgery in Winnipeg. She began to recover during the biggest flood Manitoba had ever seen, and went back to Altona. She suffered a stroke, which left her helpless for nearly a year. She was laid to rest beside Dad following her passing on March 5, 1998.

ELMER & AGATHA (DUECK) GROENING

Submitted by Agatha Groening



Elmer and Agatha Groening, 1953.



Back row: (l - r) Melvin, Janice, Harold; First row: Agatha, Donald and Elmer with Marilyn and Leroy Groening.



*Leroy Groening, 1998,
on the farm he bought in 1996.
The house was built in 1912.*

Elmer Groening was born at his parents home on April 16, 1928 in the Rose Farm School District. They had a house-barn combination home. He was the first child of Abram H. and Elizabeth (Paetkau) Groening.

The family lived half a mile north of the Rose Farm Rudnerwiede Church, which they attended. Elmer attended Sunday school and public school in the Rose Farm School, and took Grade IX by correspondence there as well. He accepted the Lord as his personal Savior at an early age, was baptized at the Rose Farm Church at the age of 20, and became a member there.

His father taught him to play the violin and through the years Elmer and his father and four brothers spent many enjoyable hours making music together. Many times they were asked to bring music at special occasions such as weddings and at church services. Elmer also sang in the choir and fellowshiped with other young people.

In 1948, his family moved to their grandmother, Mrs. Henry A. Groening's farm, one and a quarter miles north of their place. They were happy for the move, as they now had a big house. Elmer and his brothers helped with the farm work. In 1952, Elmer bought a

Model A Ford car.

On September 21, 1952, Elmer married Agatha Dueck, daughter of Jacob P. and Anganetha (Giesbrecht) Dueck of Rose Farm at the Rose Farm Church. We had six children, who are all living. After our marriage we lived on a farm near Lowe Farm for four years, where Elmer worked for his Uncle and Aunt, the Theodore Groenings.

A few years later Elmer took some high school subjects, studying at home during his spare time during two winters and wrote his June Exams at Kane School.

In the fall of 1956, he entered Winnipeg Normal School, and studied to become a teacher. He took his grade XII Physics class at evening school, and another subject at summer school later. We lived in two rooms (there was also a hall and a bathroom) in the upstairs of a house and paid \$35 a month rent.

In the summer of 1957, we moved up north to Riverton, and Elmer taught at the Mennville School for eight years. The first two years he taught Grades I - VIII, but then another room was added to the school and Elmer taught Grades V - VIII. He was the principal the next six years. We gained many friends during our time there. The Mennville Church had an outreach in Riverton and Elmer taught Sunday School there.

In 1965, we moved to Moosehorn and taught at the Kissman country school for two years. We attended the Moosehorn Baptist Church and Elmer taught a Sunday School class there as well.

In 1967, Elmer's parents were planning to retire to Gretna, and our children were very anxious to move to Grandpa's farm. It was time for a change. The move was made in July. Teacher's salaries went up and farm prices went down at the time. At first farming was not so successful. The first year we seeded our crop (1968), the harvest was completed on

November 26, after a long wet fall. Elmer hired a combine with rice tires in order to drive the wet fields. After a few years things farming went better.

We attended the same church we left 11 years before. Elmer taught a Sunday School class again, and after a while I taught as well. In 1975, the Rose Farm Church closed and we began attending the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm and became members there. Elmer was secretary/treasurer of the Sunday School and the Missions treasurer for five years.

Harold, Melvin and Janice attended young peoples at Rose Farm and some of the children attended young peoples meetings and choir at Emmanuel Church as well. The children attended Kane school, and when it closed they attended the Lowe Farm School, and all graduated from Morris High School.

Harold was born June 13, 1954. After high school he attended Winnipeg Bible College and graduated there. He worked at home on our farm during the summer months, or else helped a neighbor. He married Lillian Friesen of the Altona area on June 14, 1980. After living and working in Calgary for several years, they took linguistic training in Grand Forks, North Dakota and Dallas, Texas. They have been in the Asia area for 11 years doing Bible translation and promoting literacy, producing a dictionary and other booklets for the people to read in their own language. They have three sons, Bryce, 16, Mark, 12, and Evan, 8.

Melvin was born May 11, 1956. After high school he took one semester at Winnipeg Bible College. Melvin married Elva Groening, daughter of Frank and Tina Groening on June 19, 1976. They lived in Morden and Melvin worked at the Macleods store from 1977 - 1980, and Elva worked at Stedmans. In 1981 they moved to Melita, Manitoba and were owners of the Macleods store for 11 years. In 1991, they moved to the Norman Groening farm. They started out with mostly grain farming. Presently Melvin is manager of the True Value store in Winkler, and Elva works there as well. They have some cattle and do quite a bit of haying on the farm. They have three sons. Blair, 19, graduated from Morris School in 1997. He has a job at Homestead Plumbing Warehouse in Winkler. Brock is 16 years old and is in Grade X in Morris School. He is actively involved in sports. Mitchell is 11 years old and in Grade VI at Lowe Farm School. He enjoys the farm very much.

Janice was born February 11, 1959. She graduated from Winnipeg Bible College in 1980. While there she met Gordon McGillivray of Edmonton. They got married on October 24, 1981. They lived at a Bible Camp at Beauval, Saskatchewan for four and a half years. They are now farming west of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, and are involved in a country church. They have six daughters; twins Erin and Kelsi, 14, Shannon, 11, Misty, 9, Emily, 3, and Kaylie, 1.

Donald was born on May 26, 1965. After graduating from high school, he managed our farm when his Dad

got sick. He attended Winnipeg Bible College in 1985 - 1986. He married Lillian Redekopp on October 24, 1989. She is a registered nurse, and works half time at Winkler Hospital. They bought Donald's grandparents, Jacob P. Dueck's, former farm in 1995 and grow grain, alfalfa, etc. He also has some cattle and feeds hogs. He is superintendent of the Emmanuel Gospel Church Sunday School at Lowe Farm. Donald and Lillian have two children; Rylan, 3, and Jillana, 1.

Marilyn was born March 23, 1970. After her graduation from high school, she attended Winnipeg Bible College for two years. She is living in Winkler and is manager of Warehouse One "The Jean Store". She taught a Sunday school class at Emmanuel Church at Lowe Farm for several years. Marilyn also plays the piano.

Leroy was born on June 25, 1971. He is living on the farm where he grew up, and grows grain, alfalfa, etc. He also set up a biotech and had hogs and some cattle. A number of years ago he took an electronics course. He also enjoys welding, manufacturing and inventing things. Leroy plays guitar.

Leroy bought my farm yard and 80 acres in 1996. This farm land, plus the rest of the section 21-4-2w was first bought by Leroy's great-great-grandfather, Abram Groening for \$8 an acre in 1897.

Elmer was a quiet man. He loved working in the shop fixing machinery. In the first years of farming he grew sunflowers. He and his dad made an attachment for the combine to combine the sunflowers.

In 1983, Elmer got sick. A surgery was done to remove a brain tumor in August. Radiation treatments followed in November and December, which made him sick and unable to work for some time. In time he regained strength and went back to work. He had six more surgeries from 1986 - 1988 and became blind in January of 1989. During his time of illness he had much time to meditate on Bible truths he had studied through the years.

After a month of home care from Morris and a week at the Altona hospital, he passed away on May 27, 1989. I was living on the farm with Leroy, but I have now moved to Winkler.

JOHN K. & KATHERINA GERBRANDT

John K. and Katherina Gerbrandt came to the Lowe Farm area in the spring of 1919. They settled in the Steinfeld School District, buying land from Fred Wall. Their family consisted at that time of Margaret, John, Nick, Mary and Cornie. Later Jake was born here, as well as Helen. Mom and Dad remained on this farm all their lives. The Depression years were hard on everyone, but with a hard working Mom who raised chickens, milked cows and had a large garden every year, we managed quite well as far as food for everyone to eat. Hogs were part of the food chain as well and there was always beef for butchering.



Back row: (l - r) Diedrich Dyck, Cornie Gerbrandt, Nick Gerbrandt, John Thiessen, Henry Dyck; Front row: Helen Dyck, Elsie Gerbrandt, Mary Thiessen, Margaret Dyck.

Money to pay for the land was another story. Prices were so low in the Thirties, it was hard to make ends meet.

John K. Gerbrandt was a public minded person serving on the Steinfeld School Board as a trustee for a number of years. He was in poor health for awhile and passed away on February 9, 1939. Katherina Gerbrandt passed away in 1965.

Their family:

Margaret Gerbrandt, born 1903, married Henry D. Dyck in 1928. After moving around many times in their early married years they settled at Altberghthal west of Altona, where Henry was a carpenter by trade. They retired to Altona. Margaret passed away in 1992, and Henry in 1991. Their children were Helen, Tina, Martha, Mary, and Anne.

Helen married Joe Pope. They were missionaries in Northern Canada and are now living in Alberta. Tina (deceased 1994) married Pete Kroeker and lived in Winnipeg. Martha married Ernie Martens and they reside in Winkler. Mary married Henry Arendt. They reside in Winnipeg. Anne married George Funk and they reside in Vermette, Manitoba.

John J. Gerbrandt, born 1905, married Mary Gerbrandt in 1932. They lived in the Steinfeld area. They have one son, Benjamin. John had rheumatic fever as a child that affected his heart. He died in 1938 when his son was three months old. His wife Mary passed away in 1991. Benjamin became an accountant, and now lives in Toronto.

Nick Gerbrandt, born 1907, remained a bachelor and farmed the home place. He was very involved with the Co-op movement around Lowe Farm from the very beginning, being a director at the Consumers for some time. He was also a founding member and a Director for many years at the Lowe Farm Credit Union. He passed away in 1971.

Mary Gerbrandt, born 1910, married John W. Thiessen in 1928. They lived at Myrtle for a few years and then moved to the Kronsweide area where they farmed. They retired to Lowe Farm. Mary passed away in 1979. Her husband John passed away in 1990. They had five children; Tina, Mary, Peter, Hilda, and Nettie.

Tina Thiessen married Jake Hildebrandt, a transfer truck driver. They lived in Roland. Jake passed away suddenly in 1985. Later, Tina married George Friesen who passed away in 1996. Tina now lives at Halbstadt, Manitoba.

Mary Thiessen was working in Winnipeg. She has multiple sclerosis and is in Meadow Wood Manor in Winnipeg.

Peter Thiessen married Ruby Driedger. They live in Winnipeg, but continue farming the home place south of Lowe Farm.

Hilda Thiessen married Werner Janz. They live at Lorette, Manitoba. Nettie Thiessen lives in Winnipeg and has been employed at Manitoba Hydro for many years.

Cornie Gerbrandt, born 1913, married Elsie Dyck in 1940. They built their own home across the road, and Cornie continued farming along with his brother Nick. Cornie was a school trustee for many years and also a school bus driver. This was before the big yellow school buses took over.

Their children are Zelma, John, Mary, Peter, Betty, Irvin and Dorothy. Zelma married David Coombs and they live at Russell, Manitoba. John married Margaret Watts. They live in Burnaby, British Columbia. Mary married Ray Hildebrandt and they live in Winnipeg. Peter married Bonnie Bronson and lives at Selkirk, Manitoba. Betty married David Froese. They lived at Lowe Farm. Betty passed away in 1988 at the age of 40 years. Irvin married Betty Dredgeon. He is a carpenter and they live in Nanton, Alberta. Dorothy married Ken Froese. They are both teachers, and live in Fort St. John, British Columbia. Elsie Gerbrandt passed away in 1996. Cornie is in a care home in Altona.

Jake Gerbrandt, born 1920, moved to the west coast after the war years. He got married to Doris Williams in Chilliwack, British Columbia. They then moved to Calgary where he was a carpenter all his life. Their family includes; Jim, Robert, Linda, Ron, Helen, Gloria and Shirley. They all live in Calgary. Jake passed away in 1991 and his wife still lives in Calgary.

Helen Gerbrandt, born 1922, married Diedrich (Richard) Dyck in 1947. He worked for Herman and

Bill Brown where he learned to operate the dragline and did that for two years. In 1950 they bought land northwest of Lowe Farm and farmed after that. Living next to the Tobacco Creek drain has had its ups and downs through the years, but they managed to stay above water. Diedrich passed away in 1987.

Their children are; Lynda, Ed, Les, Gary and Chris. Lynda Dyck married Ron Schroeder in 1970 and they are living near Lowe Farm. They have three children; Kelly, born 1971, resides in Winnipeg. Kelly married Kim Galbraith in 1993, and they have a son Brenden, born 1994. Theresa, born 1973, resides in British Columbia. Keith, born in 1976, resides at home.

Ed Dyck married Gina Saban. They are living near Morden and have three children, including Kayle, born 1984, Jennesa, born 1985 and Megan, born 1989. Ed and Gina own and operate Olympic Sports in Morden that opened in 1979.

Les Dyck married Jackie Matthies. They lived at Roland and then moved to the Lowe Farm area. Les is a carpenter by trade. They had three children. Kere was born in 1988, Riley was born in 1991 and Kelsey was born in 1994. In early 1996 Jackie became ill with a rare disease and after a 14 month valiant struggle to overcome it, she passed away in April, 1997, of aplastic anemia.

Gary Dyck married Marielle Desaulniers in 1990. They live on the outskirts of Lowe Farm. Gary works for the Department of Highways as Supervisor and Marielle works for the Morris School Division #19 as an educational assistant. They both enjoy gardening and rustic furniture.

Chris Dyck married Ronald Janke in 1992, and they reside in Morris. They have two children, Sabrina, born 1994, and Adam, born 1995. Chris is currently working part-time at the Lowe

Farm Credit Union, and Ron is working as an executive assistant for the Minister of Government Services.

The only direct descendants of John K. and Katherina Gerbrandt living in the Lowe Farm area are the family of Diedrich and Helen (Gerbrandt) Dyck.

MARVIN & BETSY GERBRANT



Marvin and Betsy Gerbrant with Leah, Robin, Tanis and Mark.

Located three miles south and half a mile west of Lowe Farm (13-4-2w) is the farm that has been in the Gerbrant family for three generations. In the mid-1900's it actually had two families living side by side, divided only by a water pond. Cousins would play and send messages back and forth from the hay lofts.

The yard that remains eventually became the home of Jake E. Gerbrant, son of Cornelius Gerbrant and later was home to his son Marvin.

Marvin's school years began in a one-room country school, Kronsweide. Grades I - VIII were filled with happy memories, including ball games, craft making and programs. He went on to complete his grades IX - XI in Lowe Farm School and graduated from Grade XII in Morris. After a brief

employment at the sugar beet factory in Winnipeg and bus welding, he settled down to farm.

Marvin's city born wife, Betsy, on the other hand, attended a Winnipeg school from K-III and then her family relocated to Carman where she graduated Grade XII from Carman Collegiate. From there it was on to Elim Bible School in Altona to complete a two year program there. Betsy worked as a nurses' aide part time during high school, spent a short time with MTS as a service representative and then worked as a medical secretary.

What started as a casual jest between a table full of Bible school students eventually became a reality. Marv and Betsy were married by Ed Funk on September 20, 1975, at the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Mennonite Church. They have resided at the family farm for 23 years and farm a modest 600 acres.

Their first child, Leah, was born in 1978. Leah has attended Kindergarten to Grade VIII at the Lowe Farm School, Grades XI - XII at the Morris School and Providence College. She was employed at Colonial Inn Coffee Shop in Morris during high school. After high school she worked as a travel agent for Network Travel in Winkler for one year. Recently she has been at Camp Evergreen in Alberta. Her future plans are to take a Child and Youth Development course at Red River Community College.

Robin was born in 1980. She also attended Kindergarten to Grade VIII at the Lowe Farm School and Grades IX - XII at the Morris School. She has been employed by Dueck's Big Way, and is currently employed at Bruce Gregory Law Office in Morris. She is the main caregiver to our horses.

Tanis was born in 1981, and also attended Kindergarten to Grade VIII at the Lowe Farm School, and Grades IX to XI at Morris School. She has a part-time

job at the Colonial Inn Coffee Shop in Morris and is looking forward to graduating in the summer of 1999. Her future plans are to attend Herzing Career College to become an ambulance attendant.

Mark was born in 1986. He currently attends Lowe Farm School, Grade VII.

ABRAM R. GIESBRECHT

Submitted by Katbrine (Giesbrecht) Hiebert



*The Abram R. Giesbrecht family including:
Susan, Abram Jr., Peter, Jake and Margaret.*

My Giesbrecht great grandparents were brought with their parents from the Bergthal Colony in "The Ukraine", Russia, to Canada in 1874.

After they married in Canada, they moved to a village called Lichtfeld, near Altona. They farmed but also operated Giesbrecht General Store in Altona.

Peter, Abram, Susan, Jacob, Margaret and John were born in Altona. In 1900 the parents decided to settle on a farm near Lowe Farm - one and a half miles east, and one mile north of the town site. Henry and Eva were born here to complete their family of eight children.

After my great-granddad died in 1923, at age 63, my great-grandmother continued on the farm with the help of her youngest son Henry, until about 1933. At that time her children built her a one-bedroom cottage in Lowe Farm. Here she lived in excellent health to a nice old age of 92. She enjoyed her garden, especially her flowers, and kept up her talents of baking the best peppernuts in Lowe Farm. At about this time her eyesight began failing, so her last years were spent being taken care of at the home of Mrs. P.S. Braun, in Lowe Farm, and later in the Steinbach nursing home.

I remember going to my great grandmother's home in Lowe Farm while I was attending high school. My best friend was acting out the part of an elderly lady, and we went to borrow one of her black head pieces with satin ribbon on it, for our high school production.

JOHN B. & MARGARET (FUNK) GIESBRECHT

John Giesbrecht, resident of the Morris Municipality from 1900 - 1967, was born on May 1, 1897 in Altona, Manitoba. He was the fifth child in a family of eight. His parents, Abram R. Giesbrecht and Susanna Braun both had traveled

*Abram und Susana Giesbrecht
laden freundlich ein*

zur Doppel-Hochzeitsfeier ihrer Tochter

Margaretha

mit

Johann Funk

und ihres Sohnes

Johann

mit

Margaretha Funk

zu Sonntag, den 27. Juli 1919

1 Uhr nachmittags

in ihrer Wohnung zu Lowe Farm, Man.

*A double wedding. John Giesbrecht
married Margaret Funk and Margaret
Giesbrecht married John Funk.*

far from their native land in Holland before reaching Canada in 1874.

John and his family settled on a farm one and a half miles east and one mile north of Lowe Farm when he was three years old. Studying both in English and German, John was able to attend elementary school. He was employed thereafter on his family's grain farm.

On July 27, 1919, John was married to Margaret Funk, the great-granddaughter of Peter and Margareta Funk, who immigrated to America from Prussia in 1875. After their marriage, John and Margaret began raising cattle and grain on his farm two miles north of his parents farm. John and Margaret's wedding on July 27, 1919, was part of a unique double ceremony, as John's sister Margaret also married Margaret's brother John on that day.

Unfortunately, in the winter of 1927, the Giesbrecht family home was lost in a fire. They managed to save very little - one truck of belongings, one oil lamp, a hymn book, and a barrel of freshly packed meat. A new farm house was built and the family remained on the farm until 1932, when they moved into the town of Lowe Farm.

John operated a blacksmith shop for five years until his health forced him to turn away from his profession. From 1938 - 1954, John worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris. At first he used his 3/4 ton truck, providing transportation for bridge construction supplies. Later he worked as an operator of caterpillar tractors and road graders. In the 1940's, he also operated a small feed grinding plant to supplement his income.

From 1956 until he retired in 1967, John worked at Hy-Way Motors in Morris as a service station attendant. After this he worked only part time for H & W Construction of Morris, and was still working part time when he passed away suddenly in 1967 at the age of 70 years.

John was predeceased by his wife Margaret in 1949, but had remarried to Mary Klassen (nee Harder). Mary passed away in 1999.

John and Margaret's children: Henry, born October 8, 1920; Katherine, born July 16, 1922; and Peter, born October 8, 1929.

Henry, residing in Morris, married Tina Little of Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. He was employed in road construction until retirement.

Katherine married Bernhard Braun. They reside in Lowe Farm and have two daughters: Sandra Penner residing in Winnipeg; and Merelyn and Colin Hunkin (born in England), reside near Oakville, Manitoba.

John and Margaret's youngest son, Peter, never married. He was employed by Mannix Construction of Alberta for 22 years, and later worked in road construction in Manitoba. He was residing in Morris when he passed away in 1998.

John and Margaret have two great granddaughters, Dana McKee of Winnipeg, and Devon Hunkin of Oakville, Manitoba, as well as one great-grandson, Aiden Hunkin, also of Oakville.

John and Margaret, having experienced hardships during their lifetime, were always willing to lend a hand to those less fortunate, especially those who faced illness and stress.

BILL & GERTY GIESBRECHT

Submitted by Gerty Giesbrecht

We began our life together on October 1, 1944. We moved to Winnipeg where Bill continued working for Burns meat packing plant and I also worked there for awhile.



Gerty and Bill on their 25th wedding anniversary with Rick and MaryAnn in 1969.



Bill Giesbrecht with his 1010 Case combine in 1963.



Teacher Menno Friesen with woodworking class of Kronsweide School displaying some of their articles.

In April, 1946, we decided to go back to full time farming and moved to the Kronsweide school district which is two miles west and three and a half miles south of Lowe Farm. The school was a one room school where Grades I to VIII were taught. It also had a church (the Sommerfeld church) where we worshipped for a number of years. Farming became more difficult because of low prices and very slow movement of grain. As a result Bill went into part time trucking.

There was a lot of togetherness in this district. We had our annual social events such as Christmas programs, school picnics and Red Cross programs, as well as auction sales where items made by the teacher and students were sold. The proceeds were donated to the Canadian Red Cross. These social events were highlights for our community.

Shortly after we moved to the farm we got involved in the affairs of the community. Bill served on school board for a number of years and I assisted teaching craft in school and taught music to our children as well as a number of students of the community.

Bill served as director on the Lowe Farm Co-op Store Board, local Manitoba Pool Elevator and the Lowe Farm Credit Union. We both found these experiences not only interesting, but educational as well.

RICK & LIZ (FRIESEN) GIESBRECHT

*Submitted by Rick and Liz
Giesbrecht*

Rick and Liz (Friesen) Giesbrecht were married on July 26, 1975, in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church.

Rick (son of Bill and Gerty Giesbrecht) grew up and attended school in the Kronsweide School District and completed High School in Lowe Farm and Morris schools. Rick has been active in



Rick and Liz Giesbrecht

sports, such as hockey, baseball and curling in Lowe Farm. He served on numerous boards including the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce, Lowe Farm Co-op, Lowe Farm Credit Union, Manitoba Pool Elevators (local and sub-district) and is an active member of the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church, serving as treasurer and singing in a local gospel quartet (Shannon Gospel Quartet).

Liz moved to Lowe Farm in 1967 with her parents, Peter and Helen Friesen (UGG agent). She completed her schooling in Lowe Farm and Morris. She has been active in the Lowe Farm Curling Club, Home and School Association and Daily Vacation Bible School Program. Liz is also a member of the Ladies Fellowship of the Bergthaler Church.

After their marriage, Rick and Liz began farming 1,160 acres on SW 14-4-2w of Lowe Farm together with Rick's parents. They now live on the farm started by Rick's parents, who semi-retired to Winkler in 1981. Rick and Liz are both active on the farm, maintaining a grain and oilseed farm, operating a hog barn for over 20 years, and maintaining a large yard and garden.

They have two daughters, Rhonda, born June 27, 1977, and Kimberly, born May 22, 1980.

Rhonda resides in Winnipeg, attending Faculty of Management at the University of Manitoba as well as working. Kimberly graduated from Morris Collegiate in 1998 and is attending Red River Community College, taking Child and Youth Development courses.

FRANK & AGANETHA (GERBRANDT) GIESBRECHT

*Researched and copied from
different stories and genealogies
by great-grandson Peter G. Dueck*



Franz and Anganetha Giesbrecht.

Great-Grandfather Franz Giesbrecht was born November 4, 1844, to Jacob and Katharina (Bergen) Giesbrecht in Russia. Great Grandmother Aganetha (nee Gerbrandt) was born January 2, 1846, to Jacob and Katharina (nee Bergen) Gerbrandt in Russia.

They were married on November 6, 1866, and came to Canada in 1874. The last lap of their journey was on the boat, the International from Fargo, North Dakota to Fort Garry, Manitoba where they landed September 5, 1874, with five children.

They settled in the East Reserve and at the first opportunity took up a homestead in the New Hope District west of Altona where a sod house was their first shelter.

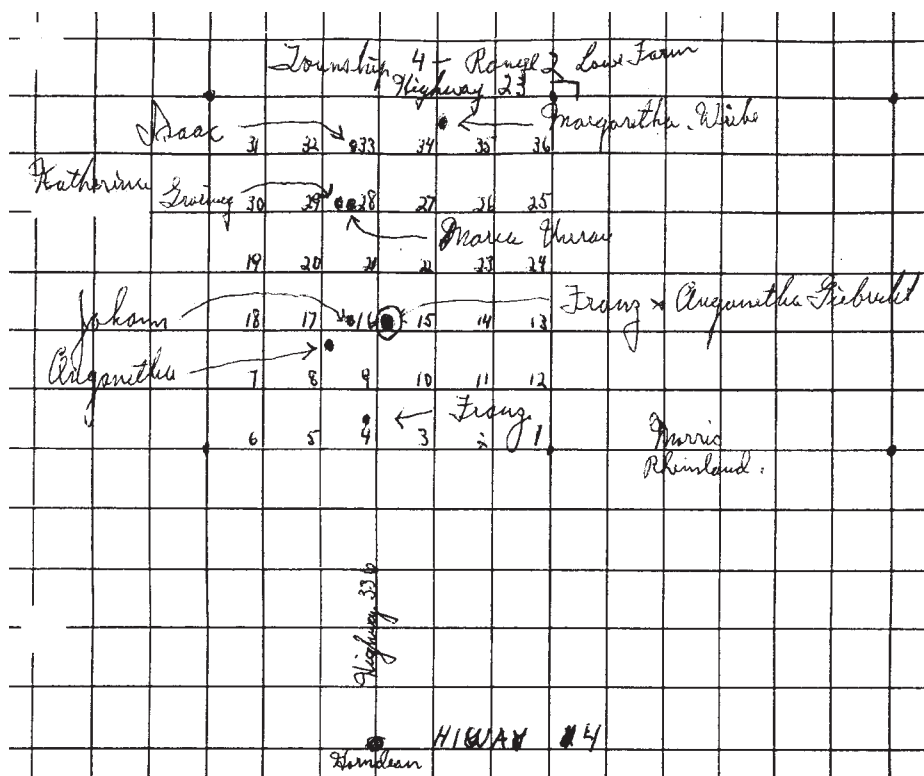
In 1897, they sold their home-

stead and moved to 15-4-2w, three miles west and four miles south of Lowe Farm. Here they continued to farm until they retired and had a small house built near their children, Jacob and Aganetha Blatz. Franz died June 4, 1912, at the age of 65 years. Aganetha spent her remaining years living with her daughter Margaretha until her death on January 4, 1920, at the age of 74 years. Margaretha later married widower Henry P. Wiebe. They had 12 children: Johann (September 15, 1867 - January 11, 1953); Jacob (September 13, 1869 - August 7, 1951); Aganetha Blatz (September 16, 1871 - March 9, 1953); Anna Stoesz (February 19, 1873 - November 29, 1896); Franz (January 19, 1875 - May 29, 1959); Heinrich (November 22, 1876 - May 9, 1963); Peter (July 18, 1878 - April 26, 1897); Helena (Kehler) (February 2, 1881 - December 24, 1974); Katharina Groening (December 11, 1882 - January 16, 1950); Isaak (October 25, 1884 - July 15, 1960); Margaretha Wiebe (April 16, 1886 - November 12, 1960); Maria Unrau (August 25, 1888 - May 7, 1967); Susanna Wall (March 8, 1890 - April 26, 1977).

Eight of these children - Johann, Aganetha, Franz, Heinrich, Katharina, Isaak, Margaretha and Maria - settled in Township 4-2w. Starting on 4-4-2w and zigzagging your way north you needed only drive nine miles to visit all of them. Son Heinrich remained single and worked in the area. Susanna, the youngest, married John Wall and lived in Plum Coulee. Helena married John Kehler and lived north of Morden, and Jacob married and moved west to Killarney. Presently four of the above families are represented in the Lowe Farm area by grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of Franz and Aganetha Giesbrecht.



The children of Franz and Anganetha Giesbrecht. Back row: (l - r) Johann, Franz, Henry, Isaak. Front row: Anganetha Blatz, Helena Kehler, Katharina Groening, Margaretha Wiebe, Maria Unrau, Susanna Wall.



Map

JOHANN F. & AGANETHA GIESBRECHT

*Submitted by grandson
Peter G. Dueck*



Johann and Anganetha Giesbrecht.

Johann F. Giesbrecht was born in Ekataerinoslow, Heuboden, South Russia on September 15, 1867. Together with his parents and siblings he immigrated to Manitoba in 1874. The last lap of their journey was made on the "International," from Fargo, North Dakota to Fort Garry, Manitoba where they landed on September 15, 1874.

Aganetha was born to Cornelius and Helena Wiebe on December 26, 1871, at Friedrichsthal, South Russia. The Wiebe family immigrated to Canada in 1875, reaching Quebec on October 5, sailing aboard the S. S. Sardinia of the Allen Line. From here the family moved to Manitoba where they settled in the West Reserve.

The Frank Giesbrecht family settled in the East Reserve but soon took up a homestead in the Neuhoftung (New Hope) district west of Altona. It was here on June 25, 1891, that Johann was married to Aganetha Wiebe and settled

down in the Rome district, on the very place that Tim and Dorothy Stoesz, great-grandson of Johann and Aganetha, now live and farm. It was here that their children were born and the older ones grew up. In 1915, they moved to Rose Farm settling on half a section of land where they farmed for many years. They attended the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church, where Johann served as a Chorister (Vorsanger). In 1937, Johann donated three acres of land for the building site of the Rosefarm Rudnerweide Church, to which they also changed their membership at that time. A note of interest is that the very first wedding to be performed in the new church was that of daughter Mary to Abram A. Lepp of Saskatoon in April of 1938.

Aganetha loved plants and flowers and the parlor windows were always ablaze with brightly blooming geraniums. She was also an avid gardener and together with her daughters spent many hours raising vegetables for the family. Some of the recollections that the grandchildren have of their grandfather is that he was always whittling something or sitting near his "corner" cupboard reading. On the occasion that an evening would be spent there, without fail, Grandfather would send Aunt Tina or Mary down to the dark cellar for a large bowl of apples and what a treat that was! What fun the Grandchildren had playing in the hay loft when they weren't supposed to. The smell of fresh bread baking in the outside oven and seeing rows of smoked hams hanging in the machine shed are a few of the memories that come to mind.

After the death of Aganetha, Johann retired and moved to Altona in the early 1940's. His daughter Tina made the move with him and cared for him until his death in 1953.

PETER A. GIESBRECHT

*Submitted by Katherine
(Giesbrecht) Hiebert*



Peter and Katharina Giesbrecht.

When my grandpa was growing up they lived at Altona. In 1900, his parents moved the family one and a half miles east and one mile north of Lowe Farm. In 1903, when Peter and Katharina married, they moved one quarter mile north of Peter's parents yard. They farmed here, raising their family of two sons and one daughter; Ben P. Giesbrecht, Ed P. Giesbrecht, and Susan (Peter M.) Wiebe.

Granddad Peter A. Giesbrecht was an extremely creative individual. He built his own tractor around 1915, and also bought a kit for a Model T Ford Tractor. He was secretary- treasurer of the Lowe Farm Grain Growers Grain Company from 1914 until 1917, according to records I've seen, but it may have been longer.

After Grandpa passed away, Grandma remained on the farm. She spent one winter with her daughter Susan and lived in a seniors home in Morden, helping with meals and laundry. Then she met Grandpa Harder from Plum Coulee, married him and spent five happy years in Plum Coulee, enjoying gardening and new companionship. Grandma baked the most buttery light buns ever, and wonderful peppernuts!

BERNHARD P. & ANNIE (PETERS) GIESBRECHT

Submitted by Kathrine (Giesbrecht) Hiebert



Ben and Annie Giesbrecht.

When my parents were married, they lived with his parents, the Peter A. Giesbrechts, until they built their own home half a mile north of his parents yard. They farmed a quarter section, and later rented 80 acres from his mother. Here they raised their 10 children to adulthood.

These children included: Doreen (Carl) Asplund of Thompson; Peter of Coombs, British Columbia; Edna (Gordon) Stewart of Brandon, Manitoba; Katherine (Allan) Hiebert of Fannystelle, Manitoba; Elaine (deceased) of Ontario; Viola of Calgary; Verna (Frank) Froese of Rossendale, Manitoba; Marlene (Alfred) Fruck of Winnipeg; Bill of Campbell River, British Columbia; Beverly (Ed) Neufeld of Campbell River British Columbia.

My mother was well remembered for the 20 loaves of deliciously light home made bread she baked every week, as well as for hearty wholesome meals. Thankfully, none of us 10 children had allergies so we ate what was prepared. My dad was a Heabert School trustee for a few years and a very conscientious farmer, letting the wild oats germinate before starting to seed in spring. Until the last few years no crops were sprayed, and my dad never applied fertilizer, although they always summerfallowed in those years.

In 1965, they sold their farm to their neighbors, Peter and John Friesen. They bought a comfortable two-bedroom house in Morris. Dad worked at trucking for Herman Wiebe, and cultivated many gardens in Morris. I remember the time when a street was being dug out and

back filled with gravel and sand, Dad asked the crew how they expected water to run uphill. They informed him that they used instruments and that the far end was the right height. Eventually they admitted they needed to lower the far end by 11 inches. Dad was usually right, or so he thought. His thought was, "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing it well." We were taught as children never to gossip, and not to repeat gossip we heard from others.

Mom passed away in September, 1982, and Dad in December, 1987.

JAKE & KATIE GINTER



Jake and Katie Ginter and family.

We have lived in Lowe Farm for almost 50 years.

We got married in 1948, in the Plum Coulee area and lived in Morris that first winter. During the summer we moved back to Plum Coulee to work. The next summer we moved to Sperling to do farm work. The following year we had our first son, born in the Morris Hospital. In the fall we moved again, this time to Winnipeg, where Jake found employment at Winnipeg Supply. By this time it was the spring of 1952. We moved back to Lowe Farm to work on the farm of George Wiebe.

In 1957, we bought our house in Lowe Farm. Jake started working for C. H. Klassen Trucking and worked there until 1959. Ben Klassen took over the business and Jake worked for him for a while. A new school was being built in Lowe Farm and required a caretaker. Jake put his name in and got the job. Together, we worked for the school for a total of 25 years. At the age of 65 Jake retired, but I continued working, doing cooking in the hotel restaurant, and also some domestic work. I also worked for 24 years for Braun, Schmidt, Gregory Law Office in Morris.

We attend church in Lowe Farm. We have four children, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild. All of our children were born in the Morris Hospital.

Larry, born May 3, 1951, is married to Claudia Komstra of Thunder Bay, Ontario. Larry is a long distance truck driver. Claudia is a great gardener. They live in Warren, Manitoba and have three sons.

Geoffrey was born August 25, 1976. After finishing school in Warren he took a small engine repair course in Brandon where he finished at Level II. Geoffrey was diagnosed with muscular sclerosis shortly after he began working, which was very upsetting for him as for all of us. Friends are very good to him.

Gregory, born July 28, 1978, also finished school in Warren, where he took University Entrance courses. He graduated in 1996, and is now working for the pipeline.

Gordie, born April 25, 1982, is still in school.

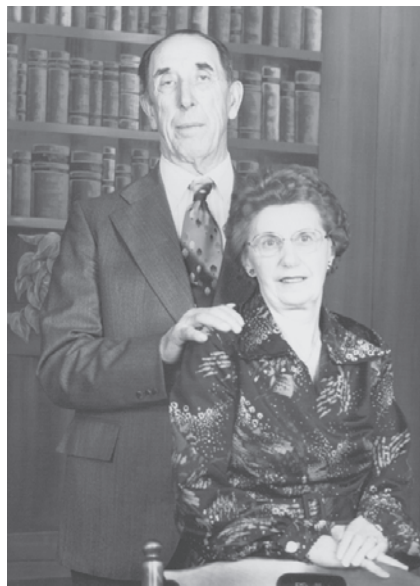
Reney was born March 5, 1955. He married and has one daughter who was born on March 28, 1981. Reney's daughter had a baby boy, Jayden Matthew, born on August 12, 1998. Reney and his daughter live in British Columbia where Reney is employed at a tire shop.

Our daughter, Cordelia, born May 4, 1960, lives in Winnipeg where she is currently employed with a catering company.

Kelly, born April 13, 1963, lives and works in Winnipeg.

ROY & IRMA (SCHWARZ) GLUCK

Roy Gluck was born to Herman and Mathilde (Dreger) on March 9, 1906, in Morris, Manitoba, and grew up in the Rose Farm area. In 1938, Roy moved to the Lowe Farm area where he purchased the NE 12-5-2w parcel of land and began his farming career.



Roy and Irma Gluck.

On June 15, 1940, Roy married Irma Schwarz of Graysville, Manitoba, and they continued farming together until 1971, when they retired and moved to Morris, Manitoba. They have three sons: Paul of Winnipeg Beach; Terry of Regina, Saskatchewan; and Larry of Lowe Farm.

Roy died on May 25, 1986. Irma continued to live in Morris until 1997, when she sold their home and moved into the Prairie View apartments in Lowe Farm.

Irma Gluck was born to Reinhold and Bertha Schwarz on December 12, 1912, in Poland. At the age of 17, Irma immigrated with her parents and siblings to Canada. She has many memories of this important event in her life, and often expresses her appreciation of the wonderful qualities of life in Canada, and how fortunate we are to live in a country such as this.

Irma is known for her fine cooking, baking and gardening skills. When Roy and Irma retired to Morris in 1971, she began working as a cook at the Red River Valley Lodge and became famous with the staff there for her awesome cinnamon buns and apple pies! In 1981, Irma suffered serious

burns as a result of a house fire, and spent four months recuperating. She went back to work and then retired in 1985. After Roy passed away in 1986, Irma continued to cook, bake, garden and enjoy her grandchildren.

In 1997, Irma sold their family home and moved back to Lowe Farm where she is presently enjoying the company of other tenants at the Prairie View apartments, and the freedom of apartment living.

LARRY & MARGARET (PETERS) GLUCK



Larry, Margaret, Eric and Heidi Gluck.

Larry and Margaret (Peters) Gluck were married on October 9, 1971, and began farming on the Gluck's family farm, which is located one and a half miles north of Lowe Farm on PR 332. They have two children: Eric, born July 23, 1976; and Heidi, born October 29, 1979.

Larry was born on March 29, 1949, and received his schooling in Lowe Farm and Morris. After high school graduation, Larry began farming with his dad, and has continued to farm with Margaret since 1971, when they were married. He has been a life-long resident and an active community member. Larry has served on the



The Gluck yard in 1994.

Lowe Farm Fire Department for many years, serving as Fire Chief for five of those years. He was also a councilor for the R.M. of Morris from 1983 to 1988.

Larry has served on the board of the Lowe Farm Recreation District and has volunteered many hours for various fund raising events in the community.

Margaret was born on September 6, 1952, in Morris, Manitoba and grew up in the Broadview and Sewell areas until she was married to Larry.

Margaret received her education at Sewell and Morris, and graduated in 1969. She taught piano lessons from 1970 until 1988, when she took on a full time position at the Valley Agricultural Society in Morris. In 1993, Margaret started working for Manitoba Agriculture at the Morris District Office, where she is still employed.

Margaret has also served in various community and church activities. She is on the Lowe Farm Co-op Board of Directors. She also served as secretary for the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce, has been the organist at Morris United Church since 1973, and has volunteered for many other community activities.

Eric Gluck was born on July 23, 1976, and graduated from Morris School in 1995. In 1998, he purchased a parcel of land and is presently farming together with Larry and Margaret.

Heidi Gluck was born on October 29, 1979, and graduated from Morris School in 1997. She is in her second year of university, working towards her Bachelor of Arts (Music Education) degree.

EDWARD & SUSAN (GIESBRECHT) GROENING

*Submitted by Edward and
Susie Groening*

Edward's elementary school days were in Queen Centre and later in Kane Consolidated School. My high school days were in Lowe Farm except for one year (1924 - 1925) in the Mennonite Educational Institute in Altona.

I remember principal Peter H. Neufeld and Isaac J. Warkentin challenging the students that when they went back to their respective communities, they would lend their spare time to the needs of mankind, not necessarily for personal gain or fame. This challenge always lingered in my mind, and later, I had the privilege to



*Ed and Susie Groening,
November 3, 1935.*

become involved in municipal, political, education and co-operative philosophy dialogue.

I became impressed with the co-operative philosophy that seeks to establish a brotherhood of mankind, irrespective of race, creed, or nationality. It seeks to minimize greed, and looks forward to having every man equal at annual meetings, and uses our savings or surplus to do the greatest amount of good to the greatest number of people. It has been my privilege in the past 40 years to serve in all the various executive positions, and to help in the 1930's and 1940's to organize many co-operative societies in our and other communities.

I married Susan Schroeder Giesbrecht in Nov. 1935. Susan and I had the joy of being active in our local church and community activities for many years which now gives us many occasions to reflect and recall.

I started farming in 1927, five miles northwest of Lowe Farm and by 1967 farmed 600 acres. On several occasions I took a short



Susan Groening's childhood home, one mile south of Lowe Farm. Evelyn Giesbrecht in foreground.



Ed Groening's childhood home, seven miles southwest of Lowe Farm in the Rose Farm district. This was home to a family of 12 children.



Back row: (l - r) Tanya, Ed, Susie, Andrew, Vicky, Myron and Kevin. Front row: Kenneth and Patrick. Inset: Marlene.

agricultural course, and on one occasion, the late Dr. Peter Olson, our instructor at the university, challenged us to remember that any Tom, Dick and Harry can raise grain for the commercial elevator, but it's only a farmer that can produce pure seed. This challenge lingered and plagued my mind and as a result I started growing Registered and Certified seed which warranted acquiring seed cleaning equipment in the 1950's and 1940's. It was a partial success, later becoming known as Farmex Seed Supply of which my son Kenneth assumed the responsibility in 1967.

He continued with a variety of cereals for a number of years and switched to alfalfa, a clover like plant used for fodder for livestock and also for natural nutrition products for humans. This too is a very technical plant and with the uncertain weather conditions that we experience in our Manitoba province this proved to have too many hazards to be successful.

Our family as of January, 1999:

Son Kenneth and wife Vicky (Fedoryshen) are residing on our original farm yard four miles north and a mile west of Lowe Farm. For the last couple of years Ken has been self-employed with Echo Star Satellite Systems, installing the newer 18 inch dishes and receivers in area homes. Their three sons are now grown and all living in Winnipeg.

Son Myron and wife Anne (Tarpea) are very busy establishing their own business. Myron has had his own business called "Commercial Brushworks" specializing in painting and building repairs. Ann is trying her hand at a shop for Indonesian art works.

Son Patrick and wife Sandra (Goertsen) recently moved to Winnipeg in order to eliminate a lot of traveling to work. Patrick is an accountant and Sandra (herself a musician) is employed with a mail order music company.

Son Andrew (single) is still busy going to school at University of Manitoba and earning a living planting trees in summer.

Our daughter Marlene and her two grown children, Tanya and Kevin, also live in Winnipeg and are all busy establishing their own homes and careers. Marlene and Tanya (engaged to Darin Weslak) are each employed with child and Family Services doing social work, mostly with aboriginal teenagers. Marlene's son Kevin and his wife Chantel (Zebier) are busy raising their two little girls, Teagan, 5 1/2, and Lauren, 3, as well as both working at full time jobs. Chantel works at Zellers in the cafeteria and Kevin works at an egg processing plant.

Susie's contribution:

In adding up and summarizing this brief history of our years together living in Lowe Farm and on our farm north of Lowe Farm, I don't know of any other place that I would have rather been. I was raised just south of town together with two brothers, Jac and Abe, and sister Evelyn (Henry) Wiens. We are children of the late Jacob and Annie Giesbrecht. I had a "fairly normal" childhood

and adolescence.

I married at 17 and a half to a handsome young man 11 years my senior. We lived through the Depression, floods, hailstorms and more. Now, at 81 and 92 years respectively, we can look back and say that by God's grace and mercy we have survived. We will be married 64 years this coming November (God willing), are in fairly good health, still living in our own home, and provoking and challenging each other just enough to make us aware that we are still human beings on the way to perfection. Life has been good and we are blessed. A sense of humor has been a valuable asset.

Our many years in Lowe Farm have given us a wealth of memories. Along with the many physical changes that have taken place in and around Lowe Farm are the many people that have become part of our lives during these years. Many of them have gone on to their eternal reward, but the contribution that each of them have made in influencing and molding our lives can never be measured. We look forward to meeting many of those that we share memories with at Lowe Farm's 100th birthday party on July 2, 3, and 4, 1999. Then we'll have something to talk and laugh about for the next 100 years, in fact for all eternity - what a blessed hope.

ABRAM & NETTIE (KLASSEN) HARDER



Abe and Nettie Harder.

Abram Harder was born at home on the farm on November 8, 1921, to Abram and Tina Harder. Abe is one of three boys and six girls.

Nettie was born to John and Nettie Klassen on October 14, 1929, at home on the farm, just outside of Lowe Farm. Nettie is the second oldest child of six children. Nettie has spent all of her life in Lowe Farm, surrounded by her entire family, except little brother Peter who lives in Sanford with his family.

Abe left home at a very early age of 15. He had many jobs growing up, but the best job he had was when he was working for a friend and met his beautiful wife-to-be. From that day on, Abe and Nettie have been inseparable. They married on February 16, 1950. They share three daughters.

Once married, Abe farmed with his father-in-law. A couple of years later Abe started work as a mechanic for the Co-op Garage. In the early 1960's, Abe began working for the Rural Municipality of Morris as a cat and scraper operator. After 22 years of service, he finally retired from the R.M. of Morris. Abe was tired but not retired! He now fixes lawn mowers and small engines as a hobby.

As long as Abe worked, Nettie kept the house, children and yard in ship shape order. Nettie has always been very particular with the way things are done and how they look. Abe and Nettie have enjoyed being a part of Lowe Farm.

Betty Anne was born on April 29, 1950, and suddenly passed away on September 9, 1996. Betty was diagnosed with polio in 1952, and had to spend a lot of time in the hospital growing up. Doctors weren't sure if Betty would make it, but she was such a fighter, and lived 20 plus years longer than the doctors figured. She was a very smart person, who helped people in many ways. Betty never married.

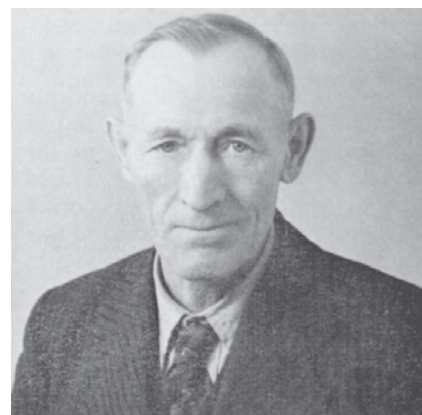
Doreen was born on October

20, 1951. She married Walter Friesen of Lowe Farm on November 2, 1968. They share one daughter, Paula Lynn, born August 9, 1971. In 1981, Doreen and Paula moved back to Winnipeg from British Columbia, and on December 23, 1985 Doreen married Paul Joyal of Winnipeg. Doreen and Paul now reside in Lowe Farm. Paula is married to Terry Melanson of Winnipeg. They reside in Morris with their son Kyle, born July 6, 1998.

Patricia Louise was born on January 21, 1959. Louise married David Knutt of Morris on June 24, 1989. Dave and Louise have two daughters; Carmelle, born on November 19, 1992, and Raena, born February 16, 1996. Louise has her own business, "Louise's Printshop" which she works out of their home in Morris.

CORNELIUS HARDER

Submitted by Katharine Derksen



Cornelius Harder in 1936.

My father was born at Fargo, North Dakota on October 20, 1880, son of Abram and Agnetha (Toews) Harder. He came to Manitoba at a very young age with his parents who settled in the Halbstadt area where they built a sod shack to live in for the first years. They plowed potatoes under in sod furrows, the potatoes grew flat but never the less were good food.



The Cornelius Harder farm at 20-5-1 W, 1925.

My mother was born at Schanzenfeld, January 25, 1880, the daughter of Peter and Elizabeth (Fehr) Martens.

My parents were married at Halbstadt in 1904, where they farmed until 1918. They ventured out to four and a half miles northeast of Lowe Farm where they bought three quarters of Section 20-5-1w in the Rural Municipality of Morris.

Drainage ditches were few and far between. Several sloughs had to be filled in to make the land usable, and there were trees and bushes to be cleared. Several huge rocks, five and a half by two and a half feet were removed from the fields with the use of the old Universal Rumly tractor. The Rumly and Titan tractors were also used for field work to help lessen the load of the horses, which usually numbered at least nine.

There were some large old buildings on the yard when my family moved there. A large new barn was built in 1920 to house livestock and horses, and other buildings were later added to accommodate the scores of hogs, chickens, turkeys and sheep, usually numbering between 100 and 300, which my sister and I faithfully tended during the summer months.

There were eleven children in our family: Nettie married David Enns and moved to Paraguay. Nettie passed away June 10, 1998; Peter deceased in adolescence; Cornelius married Eva Harder of Lowe Farm. Cornelius passed away October 1, 1973; Elizabeth married Jacob Froese of Grunthal. Elizabeth passed away June 5, 1979; Mary resides in Winnipeg; Annie married Peter Harder of Grunthal. Annie passed away September 1, 1984; John married Margaret Falk of Winnipeg. John passed away December 24, 1988; Julius married Annie Kehler of Morris. Julius passed away July 12, 1990; Daniel married Annie Harder of Morden; Justina married Otto Herkert of Oak Bluff; Katherine married Abe Derksen of Lowe Farm.

Life was quite difficult for my father when, in 1924, my mother passed away suddenly leaving him with 11 children to look after. My parents were members of the Sommerfeld Mennonite Church. Christian principle were not neglected at home, even though going to church eight miles distant regularly was not always possible with



The Cornelius Harder farm at 29-5-1 in 1942.

the horse drawn vehicles. It was especially difficult during poor road and weather conditions. At times there were church services held in our home, or in the local schools. Seeing the need, Father was active in distributing the necessities to the needy through church channels.

In the late twenties he bought the south half of Section 29-5-1w through which the Tobacco Creek drain was running diagonally. This drain was upgraded to make a double dyke in 1935 and again in 1943 when it was made into one large drain.

During the early thirties he bought the NE 1/4 of Section 15-5-2w and the S half of Section 16-5-2w. Being several miles away, my brothers would sometimes go there with implements to work, and stay for the week, sleeping in a tent.

To help with income during the lean thirties, Father bought a truck and set up somewhat of a livestock transfer in the neighborhood to haul farm animals to market in Winnipeg. Also round about that time, he went into partnership with John Martens to build and operate a grocery store in Lowe Farm. This was helpful also in purchasing some goods in bulk for the large family that we were. However, the store proved to be too inconvenient and didn't last many years before the partnership was dissolved and the store closed.

Father was interested in gardening for production as well as a hobby. He planted dozens of fruit trees and shrubs. As well we always had a huge vegetable garden. As far back as I can remember there were always a few hired hands around, especially during harvest, when the crew moved from farm to farm in the neighborhood with the threshing separator and Rumly and Titan pulling the machine. This was followed by several horse drawn racks and grain wagons. I recall listening for the rattle of the racks after dark to signal the days end and rest. Oh, how delicious were the breaks for coffee with country cream and oven fresh buns and homemade butter sugar cubes for the sweet tooth.

Those aforementioned implements were of course replaced with combines, tractors and trucks in the late thirties.

In 1936, after several of my sisters had married and

left home, Father hired a housekeeper for the summer. The single state of life and prospective lonely years in later life probably influenced him to change that. In December of that year he sought out the maiden Sarah Heppner, (she had worked in our home during the summer) and made her his wife. Three children were born to them: Frank married Maria Doerksen. They are living in Winnipeg;

Eva married Abram Friesen; Margaret married Jacob Brown.

Crops and prices improved during the forties and Father purchased one and three quarter sections of land in the MacGregor area, however he never worked the land himself and resold it again in 1950.

The war years of 1939-1946 brought spiritual hardships to many families, and when part of the Sommerfeld church planned an exodus to Paraguay in 1948, my parents felt the need to emigrate there, taking the three young children with them as well as three older married daughters; Nettie, Elizabeth and Annie with their families. Elizabeth and Annie have since moved back to Manitoba.

It was a hard struggle to make a living in that foreign country, but succeed he did. After a lengthy illness and much suffering he passed away in Paraguay on his 79th birthday, October 20, 1959. Sarah, Cornelius Harders second wife, passed away on July 19, 1985.

CORNELIUS C. & EVA (HARDER) HARDER

Submitted by John C. Harder



Cornelius C. and Eva Harder, 1938.



*Cornelius C. and Eva Harder and family. Back row: John Harder; Middle row: (l - r) Anne, Eva, Cornelius and Abe; Front row: Helen, Henry and Justina, 1955.
From Furrows: Page 704 and 705.*

Cornelius C. Harder was born September 12, 1909, at Halbstadt, Manitoba to Cornelius and Elizabeth (Martens) Harder. They moved northeast of Lowe Farm in 1918, where they farmed.

Cornelius attended Heabert School for four years and helped out at home. Later he worked at Martens Machine Shop in Lowe Farm for a few years. In 1937, he started farming on his own, on SE 16-5-2w, northwest of Lowe Farm.

He married Eva Harder, daughter of Peter P. Harders in 1938. Both are baptized members of the Sommerfeld Church at Kronsweide.

Six children were born to them: John, Annie, Abram, Helen, Justina and Henry.

In 1949, they moved to SE 25-5-2w, four miles north of Lowe Farm, where the children attended Neufeld School.

Cornelius served for a number of years on the Pool Elevator board and on the Consumers Co-op in Lowe Farm. As well he was a school trustee at Neufeld School for many years.

Cornelius and Eva traveled to Paraguay and Mexico before retiring to Lowe Farm in 1973. Dad passed away on October 1, 1973, of cancer, leaving Mom alone in retirement. Mother passed away on December 17, 1998. She was 83. We thank Thee, Lord, for a Christian heritage.

JOHN C. & EVA (UNRAU) HARDER*Submitted by John Harder**John and Eva Harder and family.*

Back row: (l - r) Marc Piche and Martha Harder, Eva, John and Frank Harder; Middle row: Peter, Ann and Heidi Harder, Aneta, David and Scott Harder; Front row: Rebecca and Kevin Harder, December 26, 1997.

I was born John Cornelius Harder on August 25, 1938, in Winkler, Manitoba to Cornelius C. and Eva Harder of Lowe Farm. I grew up and attended school at Kane and Neufeld schools. I loved working at home, especially with Dad as advisor, and particularly after Dad suffered a farm accident which left him handicapped in 1960.

In 1960, I started farming, with Dad's help, buying the north half of 14-5-2w, northwest of Lowe Farm.

In 1963, I married Eva Unrau, daughter of C. P. Unrau, and rented 40 acres with some buildings which we later inherited from Eva's folks. We are both baptized members of the Reinland Mennonite Church and attend church in Altona.

Four children were born to us; David J., 1965, Peter E., 1968, Martha A., 1972 and Frank C., 1978. They attended schools in Lowe Farm and Morris and Sunday School in Altona.

I served as Sunday School teacher for 27 years, until 1998. This has brought many blessings. I also served for 25 years as delegate for Manitoba Pool Elevators and a few years on the Consumer Co-op board.

We own 496 acres now, including some land inherited from my dad. We grow wheat, oats, barley and canola and some hay. We also have a small egg layer operation.

Farming has been up and down over the years, but the Lord has been good to us and we have much to be

thankful for.

Our children:

David, born in 1965, attended Sunday School in his growing up years and was baptized in 1985. He started grade school in Lowe Farm and finished high school in Morris. He also took a building course in Altona. David rented some land for a few years, and then left for Winkler to work for Shell Canada. He married Anita Martens of Winkler and they have made their home in Winkler, where they attend the Baptist Church.

Peter, born in 1968, attended Sunday School in his growing up years and was baptized in 1987. He also started school in Lowe Farm and finished high school in Morris. He took a welding course in St. Jean. Peter rents some land from his dad, besides buying his grandfather's yard site of 40 acres on SE 25-5-2w, north of Lowe Farm. He works as custodian for the Lowe Farm School besides farming and machining. He met and married Ann Doerksen of Altona. They have a family of three; Rebecca, born in 1993, Heidi, born in 1995, and Joshua, born in 1998. They attend the Morris Fellowship Chapel in Morris.

Martha was born in 1972. She also attended Sunday School in her younger years and was baptized in 1992. She started school in Lowe Farm and finished in Morris. She took a course at Success Business College in Winnipeg. Martha was employed by Lowen, Martens and Rempel law firm in Winnipeg for some years and spent a year at Concord College. She met and married Marc Piche of Winnipeg and in 1998 they moved to Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, where Marc works as a newspaper reporter. They attended the Mennonite Brethren Church in Winnipeg.

Frank was born in 1978. He, our youngest, also attended Sunday School and was baptized in 1996. He also attends Morris Fellowship Chapel in Morris. He attended school in Lowe Farm and Morris and enrolled in a one-year course at Providence College and Seminary in Otterbourne, Manitoba. David and his brother Peter enjoy working with the youth in church. Frank started to earn his living by working at the Mohawk Gas Station in Morris, but soon left for a job at Country Graphics, a print shop in Rosenort. Frank presently resides with Dad and Mom on SE 24-5-2w, north of Lowe Farm, where he helps on the farm.

JACOB B. & SUSAN (KLASSEN) HARDER

Jacob B. Harder, only son of Jacob and Maria (Brown) Harder, was born on April 27, 1907, in the Village of Old Altona. Jacob B. Harder married Susan Klassen, daughter of Peter P. and Katherine Klassen on June 30, 1929. Jacob and Susan were the first couple to get married in the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Church. They had five children: Archie Harold, Donald Irvine, Lorna Laverne, Russell Roger and Wilfred Allan (Butch).

Jacob Harders started farming in 1930, the start of

the depression. They sold their first wheat for 49 cents per bushel. Times were so hard that at one point they sat on the road with what little belongings they had. They were finally taken in by Susan's brother, John K. Klassen, for a week, after which time, Jake and Susan found 160 acres they could rent.

The buildings consisted of a 12 by 18 foot shanty (the house) and a barn 14 by 24 feet, located on NE 1/4 18-5-1w. They farmed this land for three years until 1933, when they lost their crop through a combination of drought, grasshoppers and flood. They finally rented S 1/2 of 8-4-1w. They were finally able to purchase this land and the NE 1/2 8-4-1w in 1951. This land is presently rented to their son Butch. In 1968, Jacob and Susan moved to Morris.

Jacob relates the following story, which is probably typical of the many that took place throughout the west during the 'Dirty Thirties'.

"Having lost our crop in 1933, a delegation of 15 farmers went to the Rural Municipality of Morris council to ask for seed grain and I was appointed spokesman for the group. We had read in the Free Press newspaper that the government had a program of supplying seed grain to the farmers. In the event that we could not pay, the government would pay two thirds and the municipality one third. In spite of this, the councilors refused to help us, because they claimed they had done this kind of business before and lost. I told them I had been the first one to take 'Relief' (as it was called) but I got a job filling pot holes for the Rural Municipality to pay for every cent of my account in full. I told the secretary of the council to look up my account, but they refused. I also told the council that if we were just looking for Relief, as they claimed, we would not be asking for seed to put in a crop. We still did not get any seed."

Because of the various hardships, Jacob became very interested and active in the Co-op movement. In his opinion, this was a way in which people could join together to help themselves. Jacob was elected a director of the Lowe Farm Consumers in 1936.

He also helped organize the Lowe Farm Pool Elevators in 1937, and became active in helping the starting of the Co-op Store, which became a reality in 1940.

Jacob became a member of the Manitoba Farmer's Union, when it started in the early 1950's and was a provincial director in this organization when it joined the other provincial farm unions in 1969, to become the National Farmer's Union. He holds an honorary life membership in the National Farmer's Union.

To supplement his farm income, Jacob started auctioneering in 1945. His first sale was conducted for his brother-in-law, William Brown, on Section 19-4-1w, presently the home of Ken and Sharon Reimer. In later years, Jacob Harder's sons, Wilfred (Butch) and Russell, carried on the auction business.

Because the Harders could see no future in farming, they decided that their main goal in life would be to give

their children a high school education, which was all they felt they would ever be able to offer them. This was not the most popular idea at the time, because the general practice in those days was to take the children out of school as soon as possible and put them to work on the farm.

With the sudden upswing of grain prices in the early 1970's, the Harder's sold their share of the farm machinery to their son Wilfred (Butch), in 1973 they rented him the land so they could fully enjoy their retirement in Morris.

In 1968, Jacob and Susan moved to Morris, where they met many new friends. Susanne enjoyed playing cards and visiting with her neighbors. Jacob got involved with the Morris Senior Citizens Board and always felt that one should participate and contribute something to the community in which one lives. Susan Harder passed away on March 9, 1978, at the Morris General Hospital.

In 1983, Jacob married Hazel Jaster of Regina, and continued to live in Morris. They spent many winters in Florida and some in British Columbia. They also made a trip to Russia and several trips to England to visit Hazel's daughter.

Jacob had a seizure on August 2, 1993, at the home of his sister Helen in Calgary. Due to his deteriorating health he is living in the Fort Garry Personal Care Home in Winnipeg. On his better days he still enjoys a game of cards or checkers and a good story.

The children of Jacob B. Harder are as follows:

Archie and wife Eva are retired and living in Toronto, Ontario; Donald passed away on April 30, 1991, in Vancouver, British Columbia; Lorna and husband Alex Kuhlmann are retired and live in Port Coquitlam, B.C.; Russell and wife Lorraine are farming and live in the Birds Hill area; Butch and wife Joyce are farming on a farm adjacent to the west end of the town of Lowe Farm.

Jacob also has two stepchildren:

Flora, and husband Alexander Skeaping of London, England; Bob, and wife Rita Jaster of Calgary, Alberta.

In addition Jacob B. Harder has been blessed with twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

W. A. (BUTCH) & JOYCE (RECKSIDLER) HARDER

Wilfred A. Harder, known as "Butch" Harder, son of Jacob B. and Susanne (Klassen) Harder, was born at SW 1/4 8-4-1w on December 9, 1941. He took grade school at Steinfeld School, which is presently the home of his cousin, Jake H. and Dorothy Klassen.

Upon completion of high school at Lowe Farm in 1961, Butch rented the land formerly farmed by his uncle, John K. Klassen who had passed away that summer. This land was part of the Diedrich Heppner Estate. This land was the E 1/2 of 1-5-2 just west of Lowe Farm and also the W 1/2 of 6-5-1, on which is situated the major portion of the town of Lowe Farm. The E 1/2 1-5-2



The yard of Butch and Joyce Harder.



A harvest meal on the field. (l - r) Butch Harder, Joyce Harder, Howard Brown, Ron Unrau and Eric Gluck.



Dean Harder's graduation, June, 1998, with his parents, Joyce and Butch.

was purchased by Butch in 1966 (presently his yard site) and the rest of the section was purchased from his cousins, Martin and Jake Klassen in later years. The W 1/2 6-5-1 (260 acres) on which the major portion of the town of Lowe Farm is located was purchased in 1996 from Mary Loewen, sister-in-law of Diedrich Heppner.

Butch recalls putting in the first crop in 1962. This was one of the latest springs on record, due to excessive rainfall. He seeded his first field on June 19 (mustard was in full bloom) and finished on June 25. In 1966, he planted trees on the southeast corner of Section 1-5-2, planning for a yard site in the future. Butch gradually expanded his farm through purchasing and renting additional land.

To ease the workload of operating the farm, Butch hired Ron Unrau in 1975. Ron is a major part of the farm operation and takes full responsibility of the farm (especially when Butch is away at meetings). The farm employs additional people during the summer months. In 1998, Cliff Matthies was hired as Ron's full time assistant and is expected to come back on a regular basis for the summer. Butch and Joyce feel very fortunate in having had very dedicated and hard working local employees over the years, in addition to Ron working for them. People who have worked for them over the years included Ken Reimer, Howard Brown, Ray Switzer, Larry Gluck, Todd Paetkau, Eric Gluck and presently, Cliff Matthies. In 1997, Jake Falk rented his land to the Harders and works for them part time as an equipment operator in the busy season.

In 1969, Butch followed in his father's footsteps by joining him in the auction business. Since then, his brother Russell and Howard Brown have also joined the business.

Butch married Joyce Recksiedler, daughter of William

and Erica Recksiedler of Sewell on October 14, 1977. Before moving to Lowe Farm, Joyce was nursing at the Grace General Hospital in Winnipeg. Joyce has since retired from nursing.

On February 5, 1980, their son, Dean Allen Harder, was born in the Winnipeg General Hospital.

In 1981, Butch and Joyce moved into their new home built on the yard just west of the town of Lowe Farm. Over the next few years they landscaped and planted additional trees and shrubs. Grain storage and other buildings were added over time. Butch says the only things remaining from the original yard are the hydro pole and a tree in the southeast corner of the yard.

Butch has been active in community affairs. He started attending local Farmers Union and Co-op meetings when he was still in high school. He credits his interest in community affairs to his parents and other members in the community who encouraged youth involvement.

"No matter where I travel, I'm proud to say I'm from Lowe Farm," he says.

In terms of pioneer history, Lowe Farm has a proud record, especially as it relates to the early beginning of the Co-operative movement.

Butch has served as local, regional and national Director of the Farmers Union. His political career with Manitoba Pool Elevators (now Agricore) started in 1968 when he was first elected as a delegate. He served in this capacity until 1986, when he was elected as a director for MPE District 2, and served as director until 1998. While a director for MPE he was also serving as a director of XCAN Grain (the marketing arm of the MPE), a director of Western Co-operative Fertilizer (of which MPE is part owner), a director of the Manitoba Co-op Council and director of the Canadian Co-operative Association.

In 1986, Butch was also elected as an Advisory Committee member to the Canadian Wheat Board.

In 1998, the structure of the Canadian Wheat Board was changed dramatically and the first election for Wheat Board directors was held. Butch ran for the newly created district which represents over half the province of Manitoba and won by a good majority. Because of this new position, it was mandatory that he resign as a Pool-Agricore director. This he did with some sadness on December 30, 1998.

His first official meeting of the newly created Canadian Wheat Board took place January 7 and 8, 1999, in Winnipeg.

Joyce also felt it was important to get involved in community affairs. She served as director of Lowe Farm Co-op, was a member and president of the Lowe Farm Parents Home and School, Sunday School teacher and Church councilor of St. Johns Lutheran Church in Rosenfeld, member of the Morris Lioness Club, director of the Morris Agricultural Society, a director for Morris Area Senior Support Services and a volunteer for other

organizations.

In June 1998, Dean graduated from Grade XII at Morris School. In September he started classes at the University of Winnipeg. As with most teenagers, Dean always kept himself busy. He played hockey for several years, enjoyed skiing, snowboarding and attended Manitoba Theatre for Young People for three years. He was the social convenor for the Student Council, and attended the Co-op Leadership Camp in Clear Lake. For two years he served as one of the junior leaders. He also was fortunate to attend two International CCA Youth Conferences, one held in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1996, the other held in Winnipeg in 1999. Dean has volunteered at the Fringe Festival and plans to volunteer at the Pan-Am Games, being held in Winnipeg during the summer of 1999. During the summer months Dean works for his dad on the family farm.

Ron Unrau family

Ron Unrau has lived in Lowe Farm for 31 years. His residence is on the former John F. and Tina Braun yard, just southwest of Lowe Farm. He is a very hard-working, community-minded person. Whenever there is anything needed in the community Ron is always there to give a helping hand. Ron has been a member of the Lowe Farm Volunteer Fire Department for many years, on the board of the Lowe Farm Community Recreation Board, serves on the local MPE - Agricore committee, sings in the Prairie Chaff Choir and is on the board of the United Church in Morris.

Ron has five children: Kevin, and wife Chantel of Winnipeg; Tanya of Winnipeg; Damian in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; Rohan residing in Winnipeg; Fiona living at home and attending Morris High School.

Ron has two grandchildren, Teagen and Lauren, living in Winnipeg

ED & TINA (KLASSEN) HEINRICHS

Ed Heinrichs is the son of Ben and Lena Heinrichs of Lowe Farm. He was born on May 22, 1925, at home, three miles south of Lowe Farm. Ed is the second child of eight boys and three girls.

He took his education at many different schools as his parents moved often within the surrounding area. He took Grade I at New Kennedy School, south of Lowe Farm; Grade II at Rosenfeld; Grade III at Pleasant Valley, west of Rosenort; Grades IV and V at Neufeld School, north of Lowe Farm; Grade VI at Steinfeld School; then finished Grade VII, Junior High, at St. Peters School. When attending school in Pleasant Valley and Neufeld schools, Ed only attended in the summer months, as he had to walk to school and it was too cold in winter to walk three miles. There was no bus service in those days!

Ed has had many jobs over the years, but always worked to provide for his family. From 1941 - 1945 he



Ronald, Judith, Beverley and Dolores.



Ed and Tina Heinrichs.

worked for Dan Recksiedler. Working on the farm, he did all sorts of jobs. In 1945, Ed left Dan's place to pursue life in Ontario as a Leitch Gold Miner. In 1947, Ed moved to Prince George, British Columbia to work as a logger for one year. In 1948, he moved back to Lowe Farm to be close to family and friends and started a gravel truck business with his brother John. In 1950 - 1955 Ed worked for P. L. Braun Service Station as a mechanic. From 1955 - 1957 he worked on the dragline for Klassen

Bros. and later Paul Braun. In 1957, Ed then moved on to the Rural Municipality of Morris as a dragline grader operator for 17 years. Finally from 1974 until retirement in 1991, Ed worked full time for Hugh Munro Construction. After retirement he has continued to work part-time for Hugh Munro Construction.

Tina (Klassen) Heinrichs is the third child of John and Nettie Klassen. She was born on November 24, 1932, at home, northeast of Lowe Farm. Tina has two brothers and three sisters, all living except for her older brother, Willie, who passed away in 1985. Tina completed her elementary and junior high (Grades I - VII) at the Lowe Farm schools, both in the little "red brick" school and the "white" school. Tina, along with brothers and sisters, helped out a lot at home, including milking the cows and doing all housework. At the age of 14, Tina started to work outside of the home at Pete Penner's Cafe and later at Ike Klassen's Cafe.

On August 26, 1950, Ed and Tina married in a small family ceremony. Over the years, they shared four children. On March 13, 1951, their first and only boy was born, Ronald Edward. On February 14, 1952, Judith Elaine was born. Beverley Ann was born on January 8, 1956, and finally Dolores Lucille came along on December 7, 1959.

Ron now resides in Campbell River, British Columbia and has two daughters and one son. Judy now resides in Jasper, Alberta and has three sons. Bev resides in Winnipeg, and has two sons. Dolores also resides in Winnipeg, and has two daughters and one son. Ed and Tina now have seven wonderful great-grandchildren.

Tina kept very busy with her children, along with many odd jobs through the years. Tina and her sister Nettie worked at many homes, painting and cleaning. In summer time during the Stampede in Morris, Tina cooked at the food

stands. She now volunteers part time at the Morris Mennonite Central Committee store.

Ed and Tina attend church at the Emmanuel Gospel Church, where Tina also serves on the ladies food committee.

Ed and Tina bought their first home, just north of P. L. Braun's Service Station, for \$400 in 1951 and resided there until 1955 when they purchased their second home for \$1,200 on Reimer Street in Lowe Farm. In the fall of 1971, this house was torn down and they bought a newer home and had it moved onto this property above a new basement, costing a total of \$9,000. They still reside in this home today.

HENRY P. & MARIA (REIMER) HEINRICHS

Submitted by Susie Bergen

Henry Heinrichs was born in 1896 near Plum Coulee. The Heinrichs family had been successful in farming, so it was only natural that Henry would try his hand at it too. He started to farm north of Lowe Farm in 1919. After "baching" for a few years, he married Maria Reimer in 1923. Their beginnings were very sparse and simple. He worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris, dragging roads and scraping dirt over bridges and culverts, using horses and scrapers.

The family moved a few times, always north of Lowe Farm. Henry's first tractor was a Fordson. Later he acquired an Allis Chalmers and then a Cockshutt. An important purchase was a swather and combine in 1935. They were thrifty, hard working people.

Henry taught Sunday School, first in the Neufeld School and then in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church for many years.

In 1940 Mom and Dad moved one mile east of Lowe Farm. The children all went to school there. Dad and Mom retired in 1959 and moved to Steinbach. Six years later

they returned to Lowe Farm. Mom passed away in 1966. She was buried on the day of her 43rd wedding anniversary.

Dad remarried in June of 1966, to Susie Wiebe, and moved back to Steinbach. Dad died on his 75th birthday, in 1971, at the Steinbach Hospital.

The Heinrichs children: Susie, married Jake Bergen and is living in Lowe Farm.

Tina married Abe Penner. They farmed at Rose Farm and later moved to Winkler.

Dick married Phyllis Karlenzig. They farmed at Rosenort and later moved to Morden.

Ed married Evelyn Wiebe. They farmed at Lowe Farm, Fisher Branch, Morris, and finally, Steinbach. They had five children. Ed died in 1989.

Bill married Joyce Borkowski. They live in Winnipeg, where Bill has driven truck for 30 years. They have four children.

Henry was killed in an accident on June 29, 1964. He was 29 years, 11 months.

Dave died as the result of a stabbing at the age of 27, on November 16, 1964.

WILLIAM P. & KATHERINA HEINRICHS

Submitted by Peter R. Heinrichs

William was born in 1898, in a small village near Plum Coulee. In about 1919 he bought a farm north of Lowe Farm. Prices were high at that time. Shortly after that prices fell and due to poor drainage, which was the cause of crop failures, he lost that farm.

Katherina Rempel was born to Cornelius and Katherina Rempel in 1896 in a village near Gretna. From there her parents moved to Bergfeld, a village near to Grunthal, Manitoba. In 1913 the Rempel family moved to Lowe Farm.

Courtship seems to have been somewhat different in those days. In his autobiography, William

writes that he had seen Katherina a few times in church but did not have the nerve to go and talk to her. Having just been born again a few months earlier, he decided he would pray, and pray he did! He told the Lord that he would hitch his horse to the buggy and start it toward Lowe Farm. If the horse would go to Rempel's place without him pulling the line, he would take that as an answer that this girl was to be his wife. Believe it or not the horse went to Rempel's! On that first visit he told Tina that he felt the call of God on his life to go into the ministry. That fall, September 1922, they got married.

William had rented a farm four miles north of Lowe Farm and that is where I, Peter, was born in July of 1923.

When that farm was sold, he rented a farm which I learned to know as the Gregory farm. This farm was located half a mile west and two miles north of the Lowe Farm Post Office. While on this farm my siblings Martha and Bill were born.

This farm was sold as well. In early spring of 1929, we moved to the Dyck farm. We called it that because the buildings had been built by a John Dyck and his father. This farm was located four miles south and one and three-quarter miles east of the Lowe Farm cemetery. While on this farm my siblings Dave, Mary, Harry and Johanna were born.

William was elected to be a Sunday School teacher in the Bergthaler church, when the church was still meeting in the big brick school house. On November 22, 1928, William was elected to the ministry and on May 21, 1929, he was ordained. With this he became the first resident minister of the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church.

William writes in his autobiography that on very muddy days he would walk to church carrying his shoes. He would go as far as the

Reimers' place, there he would wash his feet and put his shoes on and go to church as there was a side-walk from there to the church. Otherwise he would travel with horse and buggy or horse and sleigh. In those days the Bergthaler ministers also had to preach in other areas. He writes that he traveled with horse and buggy or sleigh to such places as Rosenfeld, Altona, Gretna, Plum Coulee, Winkler, Morden and many other places. He writes that he does not remember ever missing a preaching appointment due to weather or road conditions.

In 1935, the Dyck farm was sold. William bought a farm some eight miles southeast of Grunthal and, after the harvest was in, we moved away from Lowe Farm. Here in the Spencer District is where my youngest two siblings Edna and Randall were born.

ART AND LEONA HIEBERT

Submitted by Art Hiebert

Leona and I live on section NE 9-4-2w where we have a mixed farming operation. We moved to this farm in 1980, after my parents, Martin and Elizabeth Hiebert moved to Winkler in the fall of 1979.

Leona and I got married on May 29, 1971, in the Morden Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Leona trained as a Registered Nurse at the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg and graduated in April 1971. I received my Motor Vehicle Mechanics license in 1974. We lived in Winnipeg from 1971 until the spring of 1980. During this time Leona practiced her nursing at the Concordia Hospital and Fred Douglas Lodge. I worked at the automotive center at Simpsons Sears, Garden City. It was also during this time that our three children were born. Lyndon was born June 22, 1975, Joleen, November 26, 1977 and Carilee on September 27, 1979.



*Back row: (l - r) Art Hiebert, Joleen, Sonia, Lyndon;
Front row: Leona Hiebert and Corilee;*

At the present, Lyndon is in fourth year Agri-Business at the University of Manitoba. He got married to Sonia Dueck from Winnipeg on January 4, 1997. Joleen graduated from Providence College in April of 1998, with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. She is presently working in Morden. Carilee is in her second year at Providence College. Leona has been working at the Salem Personal Care Home in Winkler since 1980.

We, as a family, have been worshipping at the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church where I have had the privilege of serving as a Lay Minister for the past fifteen years. I have also served on the board of directors for the Lowe Farm Credit Union since 1981.

We have appreciated being a part of a caring, progressive community.

JOHAN & ANNA (HARDER) HIEBERT

Submitted by Abram Dyck

Johan and Anna were both born in the Bergthal Colony in Russia about 200 miles east of the Chortitz Colony. Johann was born March 14, 1852 and was the son of Peter and Sarah (Kauenhowen) Hiebert and Anna was born on February 3, 1855, to Abraham and Anna (Falk) Harder. They were married in the Bergthal Colony on November 21, 1873. They came to Canada with the first group of Mennonites from the Bergthal Colony along with Johann's father Peter, and Anna's parents (Abraham Harders). They came on the S.S. Nova Scotian, landing in Quebec in July, 1874. Then they proceeded by boat through the Great Lakes to Duluth, Minnesota and then by train to Fargo, North Dakota. From Fargo they went by riverboat along the Red River to the junction of the Rat River and down the Rat River to the Immigration sheds by Niverville.

They all settled in the village of Bergthal in the East Reserve, which was located on the SE 24-7-5e. A year

later the Harders moved to Schoenfeld, which was located on SE 23-6-5e, three miles east and one and a half miles south of Kleefeld. Johann and Anna moved to Tannenau about three miles west of present day Mitchell. Peter Hiebert homesteaded on NW19-5-5e, which was about two miles west of Grunthal. Peter Hiebert died on his homestead in 1877, and Johann and Anna, along with the Abraham Harders remained in the East Reserve until 1879. At that time the others moved to the West Reserve. The Abraham Harders homesteaded on SW 9-2-2w, their son Abraham on SE 9-2-2w, and their son Heinrich on SW 21-2-2w. Johann and Anna homesteaded on NW 17-2-2w, which was directly across the road from the present day Bergfeld church and about four and a half miles southeast of Plum Coulee.

Johann and Anna lived at Bergfeld until 1892 when they sold the farm to Marten Hiebert and moved to the NE 9-5-1w which is three and a half miles northeast of Lowe Farm. They had nine children when they came and four more were born on this farm.

Their oldest daughter, Anna, was married June 27, 1893, to Peter Penner. She died and was buried at the farm on March 4, 1894. Then on October 12, 1895, Peter was born and died the next day on the farm and is also buried there. On November 3, 1899, Grandmother Anna (Harder) Hiebert died while giving birth to daughter Agatha. She is also buried on the farm. On January 11, 1905, Johann and Anna's daughter-in-law Aganetha (Wiebe) Hiebert died and was buried on the farm. From what we have heard, a neighbor's child that passed away is also interred at the farm.

Grandfather re-married after Anna died, to Anna Heinrichs (Loewen). Then on May 10, 1908, Johann died and shortly thereafter daughter Margareta also died. They are both buried in Lowe Farm Cemetery.

Now, just a brief run-down of Johann and Anna's other children and their spouses:

Anna (1875-1894) married Peter Penner in 1893.

Katherine (1877-1963) married Abram Dyck (1874-1928). They lived in Reinthal, south of Plum Coulee, and raised 11 children,

John (1878-1966) married Aganetha Wiebe (1884-1905).

John's second marriage was to Helena Bergen (1880-1959). They had a total of 14 children. They moved around extensively, to Mexico, Lowe Farm, Swift Current, Carrot River and some places more than once.

Maria (1881-1959) married John Reiner (1879-1947) in 1900. They raised 11 children and moved to the Peace River in Alberta, except for their daughter Annie, who married Emil Fuchs, and daughter Maria, who married Henry Heinrichs. Both families lived in the Lowe Farm area.

Abram (1883-1971) married Sarah Funk (1886-1946) in 1903. They raised 15 children and I believe they lived around Lowe Farm originally, because Sarah's parents were from Lowe Farm, but later they moved to the Swift Current area.

Sarah (1885-1965) married Jacob Loewen (1882-1952) in 1903. They raised 10 children and originally lived at



*Abram and Anna (Falk) Harder,
parents of Anna (Harder) Hiebert.*



*Joban Hiebert, 1852 – 1908.
Anna refused to allow photos to be
taken of her.*

Niverville and later moved around. Jacob was in business in Lowe Farm for a number of years but later they moved to the Swift Current area.

Helena (1887-1981) married Nels Funk (1884-1976) in 1905. They raised nine children. They moved to the Beaver Flat region north of Swift Current in the early 1900s and Nels went into ranching along the South Saskatchewan River.



(l – r) Sarah (Hiebert) and Jacob Loewen with granddaughter, Jean (Wiens) Kebler. Agatha (Hiebert) and Heinrich I. Dyck with daughter Margarethe (Dyck) Rempel. Katharina (Hiebert) Dyck (Abram). Nels and Helena (Hiebert) Frunk and adopted daughter Greta Funk. Henry and Agatha (Hiebert) Friesen and son Johnny.



The Hiebert farm house, NE 9-5-1w.

They came to Manitoba regularly to visit Helena's sisters and their spouses at Lowe Farm, Winkler and Niverville.

Aganetha (1889-1947) (my mother) married Heinrich I. Dyck (1877-1948) in 1907. They raised 15 children in and around Lowe Farm. Henry was a grain buyer for a number of years as well as a farmer in the Lowe Farm area and a few years in the Rosthern, Sas-

katchewan area.

Elizabeth (1893-1977) married Henry Loewen in 1917. They raised seven children and lived in the Winkler area. Henry was a tinsmith and so were his sons and they had their own shop.

The second Anna (1896-1989) married John Groening (1896-1967). They raised two children and lived in Lowe Farm and John was the Section Foreman on the

Railway.

Agatha (1899-1984) married Henry Friesen (1893-1986) in 1918. They raised six children in Lowe Farm. Henry was caretaker of the school in Lowe Farm for many years.

Margareta (1891-1908) was nearly 17 when she died. Peter (1895-1895) died in infancy.

Johann and Anna Hiebert donated the land for the Heabert School in the early 1900s. It was replaced in 1950 and later it was used for a Spikja (granery). Now Peter Friesen, the present owner of the farm, told me that the town of Morris requested if they could use the building for fire-fighting practice. He gave his consent so now the Heabert School building is past history.

Anna (Harder) Hiebert's mother was Anna (Falk) Harder whose parents were Heinrich and Maria (Janzen) Falk. Heinrich Falk was born in 1799, and his first wife, Maria, died November 22, 1854. Heinrich then married the widow of Wilhelm Esau (Anna Peters) who was also born in 1799, and they came to Canada when they were 75 years old. They were called "de Hundat joashi Faulkji" (the hundred year Falks), according to Anna Fuchs, who is in the Menno home in Grunthal, Manitoba. Heinrich died March 10, 1895, at 96 years of age and Anna (Peters) Falk died February 13, 1897 at 98 years of age. The family of Henry I. Dyck:

Henry I. Dyck (1877-1948) first married Katherine Banman (1879-1907) in 1899. Their children were: Henry Dyck (1901-1901); second Henry (1903-1907); daughter Katherine Dyck, (1905-1995) who married Henry Funk (1904-1941) in 1926. Katherine's second marriage was to Jacob Funk (1896-1953) in 1947. They raised nine children and lived at Kronsweide, Lowe Farm and later in Steinbach, Manitoba.

Henry I. Dyck's second marriage was to Aganetha Hiebert (1889-1947) in 1907. Their children were:

Maria, (1908-1997) who married Frank Enns (1908-1980) in 1926. They raised seven children and lived and worked at Billy Dutchman and later bought a farm at Arden.

Son Heinrich (Henry) (1909-1989) served with Canadian Army for three years. Heinrich married Laurie Nault (1943-) in 1978.

Daughter Anna (1910-1996) married Tuenis (Tim) Vandenberg (1906-) in 1941. They raised six children and lived at Riding Mountain, Newdale, and Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Son John (1912-1995) married Ethel Thompson (1919-1987) in 1939. John served five years with the Canadian Army at Camp Borden, Ontario. He lived in Winnipeg the remainder of his life.

Daughter Helen (Lena) (1914-) first married Martin Kehler ((1908-1966) in 1957. Her second marriage was to Jacob Wiebe (1900-1983) in 1967. Helen's third marriage was to Dietrich Janzen (1903-1997) in 1985. Lena raised one daughter. She lived at Lowe Farm and worked for Bert Oltman until his demise, then nine years at Myrtle, 16 years at Plum Coulee and 13 years in Winkler.

Daughter Agatha (1914-) married Harry Loedeman (1904-1976) in 1948. They raised one daughter and lived in Winnipeg.

Daughter Aganetha (1916-1917) died in infancy.

Daughter Sarah (1920-) married Frances McGreevery (1908-1972) in 1948. Sarah's second marriage was to Jake Banman in 1993. They lived at Fannystell, Stony Mountain, Chicago and Neepawa.

Daughter Aganetha (Nettie) (1922-) first married Bill Braun (1921-1958) in 1940. Aganetha's second marriage was to Henry Braun(1921-) in 1962. They lived in Lowe Farm, Winnipeg, and Steinbach. They raised six children; son Isaac Dyck (1924-1988) married Gudrun Webber in 1966. Isaac spent three years in the Canadian Army and lived in Fannystelle, Stony Mountain, Chicago and Winnipeg; son Abram (1925-) married Helen Rempel (1926-) from Osterwick, Ukraine in 1952. They raised five children. Abram served 24 years in the Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force. They lived in Marville, France, Saskatoon, Falconbridge, Ontario, Cold Lake, Alberta, and Winnipeg, Manitoba; son Cornelius (1927-) married Ruth Drobot (1928-) in 1955. Cornelius worked as a carpenter in northwest Ontario and lived in Keewatin and Kenora. They raised four children; son Bernhardt (Benny) (1929-) married Agnes Wishnowski (1924-) in 1950. They raised five children and resided at Foley, Manitoba and Sarnia, Ontario; daughter Margarthe (Marge) (1932-) married Clarence Rempel (1928-) in 1951. They raised six children and lived in Winnipeg. Clarence was a long distance truck driver. Note: Except for the first two Henrys listed above as children of Henry I. Dyck the remainder were all born and grew up in Lowe Farm.

JOHN M. & HELENA HIEBERT

Submitted by Allan R. Hiebert



John and Helena Hiebert

When my parents were married, my dad was farming at Grossweide, in the Plum Coulee area. They soon moved to Rosenort where they rented farmland with brothers Jake and Henry. Some years later they purchased land at Melba. In 1941, they moved to Morris, and in 1942, they bought the farm that A. R. Giesbrecht had previously owned, one and a half miles east and one mile north of Lowe Farm.

They raised four children: Elma (A. C.) Klassen of Winnipeg; Olga, who passed away at the age of 33 years; Allan and wife Kathy at Fannystelle, Manitoba; Art and wife Elva in Atikokan, Ontario.

During the years at Lowe Farm they butchered a lot of hogs and sold them, as well as delivering milk and cream door to door in Lowe Farm. Dad was secretary of the Heabert School District for a few years. My mom has mentioned the years they lived at Lowe Farm were their best years.

In 1964, they sold their farm to Mom's brother, Diedrich Schroeder. They bought a comfortable home in Winkler, enjoying the yard and garden. Mom and Dad were both active as volunteers at the Bible Camp near Winkler. Dad passed away in 1972. Mom moved to the high rise in Winkler in 1973, where she resides to this day. Until the end of June, 1977, she helped on the 6th floor, preparing tables for their Thursday noon meal at the high rise, as well as canning food for those meals.

Helena Hiebert turned 99 years young on December 9, 1998.

ALLAN R. & KATHERINE HIEBERT

Submitted by Katherine Hiebert

We've been "On the Road Again" a lot! Allan was on road construction in the early years of our married life, while our children were young. He worked for Albert Schroeder, Paul Braun Construction, Clanton Wiebe and Harvey Wiebe and Harry Heinrichs. He hasn't forgotten unloading coal cars in Lowe Farm and hauling gravel to Rosenort, without hydraulics to dump the gravel.

We have lived from Ear Falls, Ontario to the Malahat on Vancouver Island. We also spent time at the Hecla Island Causeway, at the Diefenbacher Dam in Saskatchewan, as well as in Wekusko, Manitoba and the Red River Floodway.

On Vancouver Island we built a home on the beautiful Malahat, but we missed the Manitoba winters, so we came back.

Our son, Keith was born in Outlook, Saskatchewan when Allan worked at the Diefenbaker Dam. Keith was born April 9, 1961. Keith and Carmina his wife have their own touring band, and have a home in Winnipeg.

Debbie was born in Morris, on January 31, 1963. She is married to Ashley Sinclair and they have two daughters; Savanna, age six and Taylor, age four. Debbie works as a legal assistant for a patent agency in Kelowna,



Allan and Katherine Hiebert and family.

British Columbia. Her husband Ashley is a computer draftsman at Western Star Trucks also in Kelowna.

Patty was born in Winnipeg at the old Grace Hospital on July 21, 1964. She works at Investors Group in Winnipeg. Her husband Lemuel Jackson, manages Accurate Rubber Stamps. Their son Alexander is four years old.

When Allan decided to leave the construction life, he went into farming. He worked for Bill Craddock at Fannystelle and in 1980 managed 1,800 acres for a German landowner. Later he worked for an Austrian and is in semi-retirement now. He helps out a farmer in the busy spring and fall seasons, at Fannystelle.

Katherine has worked at Woolco in Unicity and is presently employed by United Grain Growers, learning the computer language at a ripe old age in 1990. She has hobbies she wants to pursue when she retires which include oil painting, wheat weaving, quilting, and researching family history.

Allan and Katherine have taken up golfing. Every weekend that is suitable you might find us somewhere on the links.

BEN B. HILDEBRAND*From Furrows in the Valley**Originally submitted by B. W. Hildebrand*

Ben Hildebrand was born in the village of Greenfarm, north of Winkler, Manitoba in 1890, and had his schooling in a district where English and German were taught.

Helena Wall was born at Plum Coulee at the home of J. F. Wall, two miles west of town. She was born in 1896, and attended a private school till the age of 12.

They were married in 1915, in the Sommerfeld Church of Grossweide. They farmed for 11 years one and a half miles west of Plum Coulee, then sold the farm to Jacob Siemens, and moved to Lowe Farm.

Ben and his brother Abe bought half a section of land from the widow, Mrs. Jacob Dyck (N half of 15-4-2w). The farm was pioneered by our old neighbor's father (B. Funk) on the north side of the road from where we lived. We were 10 people (two families) when we started, and somewhere around 18 or 20 when Uncle Abe moved to Rose Farm District in 1939.

The going was quite tough during the Depression years. It was dry and there were many grasshoppers. Those years everything was eaten. What grasshoppers didn't take, we ate. We had one good thing, though. Dad and Uncle Abe decided to go tractor farming. So in 1929 the old Titan was sold and several horses and a new tractor bought. It was a John Deere Model D, costing \$1,245. It took them nine years to pay for it.

One thing always remained with my Dad, and that was credit. Thank God he never abused it as far as I know. Charly Rosner, the storekeeper, was always willing to stand by. I even remember when dad came home one day in January with a two gallon pail of strawberry jam. What a treat! He insisted that Dad take the jam. He said it did nobody any good standing in his store and if Dad ever had any money, he knew that he would pay with it.

Dietrich Hoepfner was another man in Dad's life. He had a fuel business, so we could always drive our tractor. He also sold binder twine. This was another very necessary item when the crop was ready. We had our own threshing outfit, so there was always a threshing company going in fall, together with some neighbors. Later Dad bought a combine and the neighborly business closed.

During the Depression we also made our own fuel for the winter. This was pressed manure! That was also a neighborly job. Great company and fun, except for the smell!

My dad passed away in 1953, in the month of September, at the age of 63. My mother passed away six years later. They were carried to rest in the Kronsweide Cemetery.

The farm was sold to Jacob Wall and is now farmed by the Giesbrechts.

GEORGE & JEAN (KIRK) HILDEBRAND

George was born April 14, 1923, to David and Maria Hildebrand of Plum Coulee. He was the youngest of a family of 14. Jean was born June 19, 1930, to John and Jean Kirk of Reston, Manitoba.

They were married April 9, 1949, in the Morden United Church by Pastor Cook.

George and Jean had two children. Caroline Shirley was born October 16, 1954, and Donald George was born September 18, 1957. Both attended school in Lowe Farm.

In 1959, they moved to Lowe Farm where George did carpentry work for Jake Friesen. He also built sidewalks and maintained the skating rink in the winter. For many years George mowed grass for the municipality. In 1972, Carol married Gary Manchulenko of Winnipeg, formerly of Morris. They have three daughters; Jennifer, Melanie and Kerri.

In 1976, Don married Anna Banman of Winnipeg. They had two children; Jason and Melissa.

The first great grandson of George and Jean was born on November 2, 1998, to Melissa and Ken Irving. His name is Nickalos Kenneth George.

In 1978, George was diagnosed with Alzheimers disease. As the disease progressed, it became apparent Jean could no longer cope on her own. George was admitted to Eden in Winkler in 1982, where he passed away on August 1, 1984. Jean currently lives at 32 First Street East and keeps busy volunteering for the Alzheimer's Association, the Legion Auxiliary in Morris, and tending to her home and garden.

HENRY & SUSAN (THIESSEN) HILDEBRAND

Henry and Susan Hildebrand riding the train in British Columbia with conductor Hildebrand, 1998.

Henry was born at Halbstadt on February 12, 1919, to the late Peter and Kathrina Hildebrand. Henry came to Lowe Farm in December 1940, to work for his grandfather, Isaac Hildebrand. Here he met his future wife,

Susan Thiessen, who happened to be the granddaughter of Isaac Hildebrand's second wife (Aganetha Thiessen) who married Isaac Hildebrand in 1929. It was through this marriage that Henry and Susan shared the same grandparents when they got married in 1943.

Susan was born at Lowe Farm, May 25, 1925, to the late Bernard W. and Lena Thiessen. Henry and Susan got married on October 28, 1943. They were blessed with three children, Eugene, Marcel, and Eunice, as well as six grandchildren.

Eugene married Elaine Doell of Lowe Farm on August 9, 1969. They have two children and live in Winnipeg.

Eugene retired in June of 1998, after working for 32 years as the Superintendent of Taxation for the City of Winnipeg. His wife Elaine teaches Grade VI at Springs Christian Academy. Their son Curtis graduated this year as a mechanical engineer. Their daughter Lindi is employed at Kitchen Craft as a quality coordinator.

Henry and Susan's second son, Marcel, lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, and is a railroad conductor with British Columbia Rail.

Their daughter Eunice married a farmer, Walter Sawatzky, of Lowe Farm on November 26, 1977, and they have four children. James is a Grade XII graduate, while Matthew, Jesse, and Amy-Beth are all currently in school.

Henry was employed with the Rural Municipality of Morris for 37 years, and retired in March, 1984. Since his retirement, Henry and Susan have enjoyed traveling coast to coast across Canada and the United States. They traveled north to Alaska and south to Florida and Paraguay, South America, and lots in between, not forgetting Mazatlan. Paging through the travel album brings back many fond memories.

Susan's hobbies include crafts, sewing, and collecting souvenir pins through the years of traveling. Henry enjoys gardening and is often seen working out in the yard.

Wednesday is a special day at the Lowe Farm Friendship Center for Susan and Henry. They also do volunteer work at the Mennonite Central Committee furniture store in Morris. They attend the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm and celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary October 28, 1998, with all of their children.

The Hildebrands still reside at 58 First St. in Lowe Farm.

JAKE & HELEN (GIESBRECHT) HILDEBRAND

Jake was born in Winkler on June 11, 1924. Helen was born in Neuborst on November 15, 1926. Jake and Helen were married on August 22, 1948. They moved to Lowe Farm in 1960. Jake worked for the Canadian National Railways and they lived in the section house from 1962 until 1967. They had three sons: Dave, Irvin and John, all of Winnipeg. Jake and Helen moved to Morris in 1967. Helen deceased on December 31, 1994.

PETER P. & HELENA HILDEBRAND

Submitted by Peter Hildebrand



The Peter P. Hildebrand family in 1955.

Our parents moved into the Lowe Farm area in 1931 and practiced mixed farming there until the fall of 1968, when they moved to Winnipeg. They rented land from Walter Baker until 1956, at which time they purchased it. In 1973, the land was sold to David Froese.

Eight children were born to Peter and Helena Hildebrand.

Jessie, born in 1931, married Jake Falk from Steinbach in 1957. They have six children. Jake passed away in 1984. Jessie remarried and divorced.

Peter, born in 1933, married Marjorie Regier of Winnipeg in 1957. They have four children. Marjorie died in a car accident in 1984. Peter later married Anne Kehler Dueck. David born in 1934, died in 1935.

Helena, born in 1936, married John Peters of British Columbia in 1961. They have six married children.

David, born in 1936, married Gertie Voth of Winnipeg in 1963, and has four children, one married. He divorced Gertie and married Brenda McCaugherty in 1987.

William, born in 1941, married Hilda Poettcker from Alberta in 1964. They have four children, one adopted. Two of these children are married.

Linda, born in 1944, married William Dueck from Oak Bluff in 1968 and they have four daughters. One is married.

Ruth, born in 1946, married Tony Novak from Minitonas in 1968. They have two children.

All the children attended Grades I - VIII at Heabert School, and high school in Lowe Farm and later in Morris.

Our parents enjoyed farming and always had a beautiful garden. They were never wealthy, but never lacked the necessities of life. Our family attended the Sperling Mennonite Brethren Church, where Dad was the leader for years and also the youth leader. Our parents taught us right from wrong. Dad and Mom's spiritual lives were so interwoven with their daily lives,



The Peter P. Hildebrand farm two miles east and three miles north of Lowe Farm.

that it is difficult to isolate it, even for discussion purposes. Dad was a man of prayer, and sought daily guidance and direction from God. He walked with God.

I, Peter, the second child in the Hildebrand family, lived in Winnipeg after graduating from Lowe Farm High School, and was employed with Russel Motors Paint Shop, T. Eaton's co, Security Storage, office manager for Easton Plumbing and Heating and trained for manager at Kresge Stores.

In 1957, after my marriage to Marge, my brother-in-law and I had our own roofing company, Falk and Hildebrand, for 12 years. Then I became salesman for Strand Steel and Behlen Wickes, managed Headingly Sno-Jet and sold life insurance and real estate.

Marge and I had four children: Gerald married Brenda Peters; Shirley married Robert Penner; Harvey married Dolores Sawatsky; Dennis married Cheryl Hildebrand.

I have 10 grandchildren, the oldest now 16, and the youngest five.

We moved to Boissevain in 1969 and bought a farm from Lieutenant Governor Eric F. Willis. I still farm there with my three sons. My daughter Shirley is employed at Gerrard Strapping and her husband Robert at Reimer Express as a Dispatcher. Anne and I now live in Winnipeg and are enjoying semi-retirement here.

RON & MARIE HILDEBRAND

Ron was born February 23, 1954 in Morden, Manitoba. Marie was born September 16, 1954 in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. They were married in the Morden United Church on March 5, 1977. After moving to Lowe Farm, Ron found employment at the Lowe Farm Co-op where he has been employed since 1981.

Both Ron and Marie have been active in the community. Ron has served on the Chamber of Commerce, was a volunteer with the Lowe Farm Fire Department for 14 years. He also volunteered at the skating rink, home and school, the curling club and as a board member of the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation. Ron enjoys hunting, fishing and golf in his spare time.

Marie has been involved in Home and School, Daily Vacation Bible School and has taught Sunday School. Marie enjoys making crafts, gardening, cook-



Ron and Marie Hildebrand with Michael and Jennifer.

ing, baking and spending time with family and friends. Marie is currently working at Home Hardware in Morris.

Ron and Marie have two children:

Michael Henry was born in Altona in 1982 and is currently attending Morris School; Jennifer Helen was born in Altona in 1984 and is also attending Morris School. Jennifer is one of the few fortunate people who get to celebrate a birthday once every four years.

ANNE (LOEPPKY) HUDSON

Submitted by Anne Hudson



Katherina Loepky, 92, and daughter Anne Hudson.

When I was eight years old my parents, Peter and Katherina Loepky, moved from the Langvin School District six miles east of Altona to the John Peters farm two and a half miles northeast of Lowe Farm.



*Katherina Loeppky, 87, and nine of her siblings.
Standing: (l-r) Pete, Henry, Jake, Philip, Edward, Daniel.
Sitting: Kate, Katherina, Anne.*



*Standing: (l-r) David, Brenda, Sharon, Jim.
Sitting: Kathy, Anne Tim.*



David, Tom, Jim, Brenda, Ann, Kathy, and Sharon.



Ed, Dave and Henry Loeppky, 1945.

We were nine children still at home: Henry, Jake, Philip, Katherine, Edward, David, Anne, Abe and Diedrich. Two boys, Peter and John, were already married.

It was a good time for my parents to move as they had a large growing family to help on the 640 acre farm. At that time most of the farm work was still done with horses.

There was a large barn filled with horses and milking cows plus a pig barn with generally 18 pigs. The chicken barn had approximately 150 chickens plus geese, turkeys and a sheep or two. This made for a lot of chores each day. There were chores for all of us from the oldest to the youngest. The younger ones were often given the chore of filling the wood box morning and evening.

I started my schooling in Lowe Farm, with the exception of two months, the fall we moved. I had all my nine years of schooling in Lowe Farm. I wanted to continue my schooling but as some of my older brothers got married and some were called into Active Service, we younger ones had to drop out of school to help with the farm work. So no more school.

In the fall of 1943, the farm was sold and, as it had only been rented, we were forced to move. It was then that Dad bought a farm (one section) at Austin, Manitoba. We moved there in the spring of 1944.

It was the end of our first year at Austin that the war again changed our life on the farm even more. One more of my brothers was called to Active Service leaving only myself and Edward to help Mom and Dad and so Dad was forced to hire help to operate the farm.

I got married to a service man three months before the war ended. I stayed to help on the farm till my husband's discharge at which time we then moved to Brandon.

It was eight years later, with four children, we moved back to Lowe Farm to the town and community I had grown up in. Mom and Dad had retired back to Lowe Farm due to Dad's ill health. Dad passed away in September, 1953.

Two more children were born to our family in the first three-and-a-half years back in Lowe Farm. Two years after the last child was born the children's father took off

for greener pastures, never to return

Life from then on was a long hard struggle. It was at this time I put my faith in God and, with His help, was able to raise my six children. The Church and community life have sustained me.

My years in the community started in the fall of 1933, and have continued until the present in 1999, with the exception of 10 years (1944-1954). My children now have all left Lowe Farm. Sharon is in Calgary; Brenda in Morris; Jim in Guatemala, Central America; David in Winnipeg; Tom in Victoria, British Columbia and Kathy in Gretna, Manitoba.

ALFRED & OLGA JOYAL



Alfred and Olga Joyal.

Alfred Lucien, youngest son of Jean Baptiste and Celina Joya, was born June 17, 1920, in Winnipeg. In 1940, Al began working at Canadian National Railways, first as a traveling car inspector and later on as a painter in Fort Rouge Shops, and finally in the Transcona Shops. Al retired from the railway in 1981, after 41 years service.

Al married Clemence Roy on September 15, 1945. Clemence, youngest daughter of Joseph and Evalina Roy was born on February 21, 1919, at Fisher Branch, Manitoba. Within this union came three children.

Judy married George Mattern of Winnipeg Beach in 1966. They have three sons, Michael, Mark and Chris. They also have one grandson, Chad.

Paul married Doreen Harder of Lowe Farm in 1986. Paul has two daughters: Audrey, married to David Smith of Winnipeg, has one son, Joshua. Karen is married to Colin McCheyne of Winnipeg. Doreen has one daughter, Paula, married to Terry Melanson of Morris. They have one son, Kyle.

Jo-Anne married Brian Kaasa of Calgary, Alberta in 1973. They have three children: Christine, Daniel and David all currently living at home.

Olga, youngest daughter of David and Mary Braun, was born May 16, 1915, in Altona. On September 16, 1938, Olga married Ike Klassen, 14th child of Peter and

Kathrine Klassen of Lowe Farm. Ike passed away on May 8, 1982.

To this marriage were born four children: Wesley is married Dolores Reage. They have four children, including Karen, (married to Bob with two children) Jill, (married to Bruce, has four children) Laura, and Richard; Pat married Herb Martel. They have two sons. Darryl, (married Angelica and has one daughter) and Kelly, (married to Carol); Pat passed away on September 25, 1990; Bob married Pat Borsa. They have three children, including Curt, (married Tammy and has two children) Glen, and Leanne. Bob passed away on December 31, 1989; Reg married Verna Hiebert. They have two children, Naomi (married and divorced with two children) Jolene (married Kyle and has one child.)

Al and Olga have a total of 16 great grandchildren.

Al and Olga were introduced to each other through the matchmaking efforts of Doreen and her sister Betty Ann. It was obviously love at first sight. They were married in their backyard in Lowe Farm on June 13, 1987, by Pastor Lehman of Morris. Since their marriage Al and Olga have traveled extensively to such places as Nashville, Tennessee, Florida, San Diego, California, the Bahamas, the Maritimes, Alberta and the West Coast.

They have both been involved in the Lowe Farm Friendship Center for many years. In addition they also enjoy spending time with their family and friends, playing cards and just plain enjoying retirement.

PAUL & DOREEN (HARDER) JOYAL

Submitted by Paul Joyal



Paul and Doreen Joyal.

Paul and Doreen met in Winnipeg and were married two years later on December 23, 1985. On March 26, 1986, Paul and Doreen moved to Lowe Farm, with Doreen's daughter Paula, having purchased their first home together from Jake and Susan Bergen.

Paul, the only son of Alfred and Clemence Joyal, was born on November 28, 1950. In 1952, Paul was affected by the polio epidemic. He grew up and attended school in Winnipeg. On September 1, 1971 he entered service with Canadian National Railways, first as a trainman, and

then, in 1974, Paul was promoted to conductor, the position he currently holds. Paul enjoys electrical wiring and music as hobbies. He was on the Lowe Farm Fire Department and was president of the Chamber of Commerce for a short time. He was also actively involved in the Centennial Celebration Committee and the History Book Committee.

Doreen, second daughter of Abe and Nettie Harder, was born on October 20, 1951. Doreen grew up and received her education in Lowe Farm. She loved sports as a teen. Doreen was a feisty youth, and got into lots of mischief with her older sister Betty. Doreen spent lots of time at her grandparents' home growing up, as her sister got polio in 1952, and her parents had to go to the hospital in Winnipeg to spend time with Betty-Anne. Doreen is very active in all aspects of her family. She also enjoys making crafts and interior decorating.

Along with this marriage came three daughters. Audrey Lynne Marie (Joyal) Smith resides in Winnipeg, where she is employed at Credit Union Central. Audrey married David Smith in Glenboro, Manitoba on June 24, 1995. Paula Lynne (Friesen) Melanson resides in Morris where she currently works out of her home. Paula married Terry Melanson in Morris, on September 7, 1996. Karen Bonnie Marie (Joyal) McCheyne resides in Winnipeg, where she is employed at Regal Greetings & Gifts. Karen married Colin McCheyne in Winnipeg, on August 5, 1995.

In July of 1998, Paul and Doreen were twice blessed with grandchildren. Kyle Jeffrey was born on July 6, 1998 and is the son of Paula and Terry. On July 18, 1998, Joshua David was born to Audrey and David.

ABRAM AND AGATHA KEHLER

Submitted by Anne Dueck Hildebrand



Abram and Agatha Kehler.



Abram Kehler's, December, 1956.



*Back row: (l - r) Agatha Kehler, Mary Gerbrandt, Helen Falk, Anne Dueck Hildebrand, Hilda Penner, Martha Warkentin.
Front row: Ed Kehler, Rose Friesen, Irvin Kehler, Grace Stafford, 1986.*

The big Kehler family was privileged to dwell on the Main Street of Lowe Farm, right behind, but adjoining the "Shoe Shop". We were an even 12 children, the oldest 22, and already away from home when the youngest was born.

Abe was born in 1926. He passed away of a liver disease in 1985; Mary, born in 1938 married Ed Gerbrandt; Helen, born in 1930, married Abe Falk of Lowe Farm; Bill, born in 1932, married Dorothy Dyck, daughter of the A. S. Dycks; Anne, born in 1934, married Melvin Dueck of Rosenort (he died in 1985). She then married Peter Hildebrand, son of the P. P. Hildebrands of the Heabert School District; Hilda, born in 1936, married Harry Penner son of the B. E. Penners; Henry, born 1938 married Naomi Wall of British Columbia; Martha, born in 1939, married Joe Warkentin of Grunthal; Ed, born in 1941, married Lynne Derksen of Winnipeg; Rose, born in 1943, married Ernest Friesen; Irwin, born in 1944, married Lily Deutchman of Morris; Grace, born in 1948, married Nick Zilkowski. They were

divorced and she then married Lawrence Stafford of Moose Jaw; Judy Kehler, (Abe's daughter) grew up with her parents and is living in Alberta.

Our parents were never wealthy, but Mother wrote in her "Life Story", "We were poor, but we had the Lord. He never let us down." On the same note, they left us a heritage that is immeasurable. They were conscientious, and brought us up to "owe no one anything but love to one another".

Mother was fully occupied at home with her large family, but did get involved in the community. The 1950 flood was a time where she made coffee and chocolate milk in big boilers, for the victims from Rosenort and Morris, as well as volunteers. Meals were served in the Community Hall by the Women's Institute. (Mrs. John Brown was in charge).

Our family made many new friends during this time, as we hosted young people in the evenings, often getting together to sing and play our instruments. We had the pump organ and several guitars and violins, thanks to family allowance.

I, Anne, the fifth of the Kehler family, taught school and for years was substitute teacher in several schools, as well as part time secretary and pay roll clerk in the Rosenort Eventide Home. My first husband, Melvin Dueck, and I pastored several churches in the Rosenort and Morris area. We had five children, who have given us 10 grandchildren: Cindy and Dell Fast live in Winnipeg; Redge and Linda live in Alberta; Rhonda and Howard Bergstresser live in Morris; Kent and Sandy live in Winnipeg; Joe and Karen live in Saskatchewan.

HENRY J. & ANNA (THIESSEN) KEHLER



Henry and Anna Kehler's family in 1947.

Henry J. Kehler was born in Rhineland on December 27, 1905. Anna Thiessen was born March 2, 1915. They moved to the farm two miles south and four-and-a-half miles west of Lowe Farm in 1936. They lived there until 1961, one and a half years after Henry died. Anna and the family moved to Winkler after that.

They had five children: Nettie (deceased in 1971); Martha of Sanford; Jake of Winnipeg; Elma of Winkler; and Dorothy of Winnipeg.

JAKE & MARY (FRIESEN) KEHLER



Jake and Mary's 45th wedding anniversary. Back row: (l - r) Jason and Susie Kehler, Jeremy Bergen, Greg Kehler, Christopher Bergman, Karl Bergman, Mark Bergen, Carrie Kehler; Middle row: Greg and Janice Doerksen, Larry and Esther Dueck, John and Barb Kehler, Tracy Kehler, Brandt Kehler, Janet Bergen, Jake and Mary Kehler, holding Owen Doerksen, Pete and Melinda Kehler, Adam Kehler, Bernie and Sara Bergen, Rodney and Darlene Bergman; Front row: Bethany Dueck, Laurissa Dueck, Joshua Kehler, Mathew Dueck, Alison Bergen, Kimberly Bergman.

Jake Kehler was born in 1933, south of Plum Coulee and later moved six miles north of Horndean with his parents Peter and Helena (Dueck) Kehler. He took his schooling in the Melba school.

In 1953 he married Mary Friesen, daughter of Bishop John A. and Sara (Gerbrandt) Friesen of the Steinfeld School District south of Lowe Farm.

In the first year of their married life they lived and worked for a farmer south of Plum Coulee. In 1955, they moved back to the Lowe Farm area on the farmyard which was known as the Abram Wiebe farm, south of Lowe Farm, where they still reside.

Jake worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris for 38 years as a backhoe operator, retiring in 1993, as well as farming the 80 acres for a number of years which they later rented to their son John.

Mary stayed at home as a housewife and mother to their six children until 1983, when she started to work in the dietary department at the Morris Hospital for 10 years. In 1993 she started to work as a meal coordinator for seniors in the Prairie View Apartments in Lowe Farm where she continues to work.

They are the parents of two sons and four daughters, who are all married and living in Manitoba

JOHN & BARBARA (KLASSEN) KEHLER



Front row (sitting): (l - r) Carrie, Barb, John; Back row: Greg Tracy, Susie and Jason.

John, the son of Jacob and Mary Kehler, and Barbara, the daughter of Cornelius and Sara Klassen, were married on May 4, 1974, in the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church south of Lowe Farm. They rented a house in the area for the first four years and moved to 26-4-1w in November 1978, where they reside today.

John and Barb were blessed with four children: Gregory, born April 13, 1976; Jason, born June 1, 1978;

Carrie, born September 3, 1982; and Tracy, born June 3, 1984.

Currently, John and Barb are operating a mixed farm and have done so since 1980.

ISAAC P. & AGANETHA (NEUFELD) KLASSEN

Submitted by Anna Klassen

Our parents, Isaac and Aganetha (Neufeld) Klassen moved to Lowe Farm area in the late fall of 1929. Prior to this they lived in the Kronsthal area west of Gretna. They also lived in Mexico for two years. Their first home was a half mile south and a half mile west of Lowe Farm on the south side of the Shannon. After a few years they moved to the north side of the Shannon where Dad worked for John J. Schroeder for a number of years.

Later they moved to Lowe Farm and Dad worked for different farmers in the area. He also had a feed cutter, which kept him busy in fall. Later he had a wood cutting machine, cutting fire wood. There was no electrical heat in those days. He drove the transfer truck numerous years for his brother, Uncle George. In the later years he worked for the R.M. of Morris. Dad was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1954. He had to have cobalt treatments, but they were not successful and Dad passed away November 1, 1955.

Mom was very strong for herself and the family, which she kept together. She was a hard worker and always had a big garden to help feed the family. I'm sure it wasn't always easy for her but she never complained. Mom survived Dad by 29 years, passing away February 29, 1984.

We all got our education in the Lowe Farm School. After finishing school we had to go to work. We had all kinds of jobs, including housework and more. The girls all served the public, working in the stores in Lowe Farm. The boys had different jobs including mechanics. In the later years they were all in construction.

Mom and Dad had a family of 12 children, two of which died in infancy. They are as follows:

Isaac married Tina (Penner) after World War II where he served with the Royal Canadian Air Force as a mechanic. They resided in Lowe Farm, Sperling and later moved to Winnipeg. They have one son, Murray, who lives in Winnipeg. Isaac passed away in July, 1989.

Tina married Abe Blatz. They resided in Lowe Farm, Kane and later moved to Winnipeg. They had two children, Wilma and Melvin. Wilma and David Kropla have three daughters: Trisha, Kimberly and Amanda. They are all living in Toronto, except Kimberly, who lives in Winnipeg. Melvin and Peggy (Berger) and son Brendan reside in Calgary. Abe passed away in September, 1995.

Anne is retired and resides in the Prairie View Apartments in Lowe Farm. She worked for Lowe Farm Co-op Services for 24 1/2 years, and before that, the Rosner Store for 10 years, and Sperling Garage for six years.



Isaac Klassen



Aganetha Klassen



Anne Klassen

Nettie married Harry Wiebe. They resided in Lowe Farm and later moved to Fort Whyte. They had four children. Gary was fatally hurt on a construction site and passed away in July, 1970. Dale and Maureen (Poersch) reside in Fort Whyte. They have two children, Anthony and Shawna-Lee. Anthony lives in Marathon, Ontario. Shawna-Lee married Cory Redwood and is living in Winnipeg. Karen and Rod MacKenzie reside in Winnipeg. They have a family of four, Candace, Jennifer, Allison and Graham, as well as a Granddaughter, Madison. Reg resides in Fort Whyte and works for the Canadian National Railways.

Nettie passed away in April, 1983. Harry married Mary Wiebe in 1997. They reside in Winnipeg during the summer and Texas in the winter months.

Mary married Martin Friesen and they resided in Letellier and Lowe Farm. They had one daughter, Janet and Ken Howard, as well as one grandson, Matthew. They reside in Winnipeg. Martin passed away in July, 1992 and Mary in March, 1994.

Lily married Willie Klassen they resided in Lowe Farm. They had four children. Marlene and Bruce Friesen reside in Dugald with their three sons, Jason, Daniel and Jeffrey. Gerald and Marie (Friesen) resided in Lowe Farm with their two sons Kevin and Rob. Gerald passed away in January, 1991. Bob and Joyce (Erickson) resided in Winnipeg and Morris, later moving to Lundar with their three children, Derek, Heidi and Jillian. Barb and Pierre Ducharme reside in Transcona. They have one daughter, Amanda. Willie passed away in October, 1985. Lily passed away in June, 1989.

Phil married Linda (Bergen). They resided in Sperling as well as in different parts of Alberta and now reside in Edmonton. They have three children. Ken and Diana (Plews) reside in Grande Prairie

with their children Karman and Kirk. Barry and Miana (Brink) reside in Calgary with two daughters, Alissa and Kimberly. Roxanne resides in Owen Sound, Ontario.

Abe married Eleanor (Klapstein). They resided in different parts of British Columbia and are now living in Sicamous, British Columbia. They have five children. Gordon and Vicki (Trudel) and their three sons, Blake, Jason and Curtis, live in Sicamous. Eleanor and Izaak Warmenhoven with their children Jesse, Natasha and Shawn, also reside in Sicamous. Dwayne also lives in Sicamous. Sharon and Carey Metcalf and children Melissa, Kelsey and Mark live in Calgary. Patricia also resides in Calgary.

Susie married Peter Klassen they resided in Lowe Farm, later moving to Morris. They have five children. Laura and Brenda reside in Altona, Sheila and Bill Thiessen, together with their children Rebecca and Zachary, reside in Crystal City. Evelyn and Michael live in Winnipeg.

Ed married Margaret (Giesbrecht) and they reside in Armstrong, British Columbia. Their children are Leanne and Geoffrey. Leanne resides in Invermere, B. C.

JOHN K. & NETTIE (PETERS) KLASSEN

Submitted by the family

Our father, John K. Klassen, 11th child and seventh son of Peter and Katherina Klassen (nee Klippenstein), was born on February 21, 1905, at the Kronsweide District of Lowe Farm. The Peter Klassens farmed just across the road from the Kronsweide School, close to the Sommerfelder Church, which still stands today.

Dad was a blond, very curly-haired youngster, who didn't enjoy school all too much, but he excelled in mathematics. Just give him the dimensions of a granary and he could orally determine the amount of grain in it almost to the

precise bushel. This trait he inherited from his mother.

At the early age of 13, Dad was working like a grown up with his dad's threshing outfit. He stayed at home and worked on the farm until he married Nettie Peters, also of Lowe Farm, on February 8, 1928. To this union six children were born; Willie, Nettie, Tina, Suzy, Marianne, and Peter.

The spring after they got married, Dad rented the land just west of the former Ed E. Klassen's (his brother's) place, and together with brother Ed, he seeded it with three teams of horses (12). Later on that fall, his father purchased his first John Deere tractor. But, alas, excessive rains and floods in summer caused everything to drown.

Community pastures, which were a little north of here, were so wet that the cattle broke out of the pastures because of the mosquito infestation. Mom and Dad lived at home with Dad's parents until fall when they moved one-and-a-half miles west of Lowe Farm. Because of the crop failure, they had no feed for their cow, chickens and four horses, which Dad had raised at home from colts. So Dad hitched up the old grain wagon, went to his other married brothers and sisters and came home with the wagon filled with feed. That's real sharing!

Next year, they moved to a farm just west and south of town, close to what is now known as the Shannon. This was in 1929, and times were poor, so Dad started work on the bridges. It was while he was working on the bridges that he was asked to dig many graves, as this was the beginning of the typhoid epidemic here. While digging with pick axes, a fellow worker's axe slipped and hauled into Dad's scalp. Dad survived, just as he also survived the next year's (1930) typhoid which both he and Mother contracted. Uncle Ed Klassen came to tend the chores and Anne Rempel (now Mrs. Ed Giesbrecht) looked after Willie and the housework, as Mother was flat in bed. Little Nettie (baby) was taken to Anne's parents, the Peter P. Remples (Dad's sister, Nettie) for a number of months.

One day, after "faspa", Dad hitched up the hay rack. They loaded everything on it and moved to the former Ed E. Klassen place, east and north of town. Here they farmed a quarter section. They often took in Dad's bachelor brother Abram, who was Lowe Farm's drayman later on. The year of 1932 was a drought year with crop failure when no kernel formed and all was chaff. That fall, Dad had \$4 after debts were paid. I guess you might say it was the beginning of the "Depression", but they had one cow, which produced half a pail of milk per day, and Saturday mornings, Mother would churn butter. Dad would take it to town and trade it for groceries and tobacco. When their 40 chickens started laying, things began to look up. This was the same year baby Tina came along.

In the fall of 1933, Dad supplemented his livelihood by working Bert Altmann's land. In 1935, my parents moved to the farm just west of town. The Dewey

Simpsons had farmed here prior to Dad and the land took a lot of pampering before it began producing again. Dad rented part of the section, with Uncle John F. Braun (sister Trinkie's husband) renting the other 240 acres of this same section. When our larder became scarce, Aunt Trinkie would come across the tracks carrying a pot of jellies, which, when cooked, we all enjoyed.

In 1936, William Brauns, (Dad's sister Anne) moved back from British Columbia and fixed up a summer cottage on the folks' yard, where they lived for about a year.

Lowe Farm also had what was known as a "Sports Day and Circus", which took place in our pasture. This continued for a number of years. One year an act included a parachutist dropping out of an airplane.

The first tractor Dad purchased was a Model C Case, which he and Uncle Henry bought together. You must remember Uncle Henry farmed about four miles north of Lowe Farm at the Neufeld School District. Later, Dad bought a Model L Case. In 1939, Uncle Henry and Dad purchased a new combine and swather. Thus, for years, until about 1949 or 1950, they harvested together. I can remember all the dinners and faspas Mom took (she walked) to the fields and the men would take turns on the machinery during the meal times. Dad or Uncle Henry sometimes caught a 10 minute snooze on the stubble over the noon hour.

In 1942, the folks went into the "milk business", supplying a lot of Lowe Farm people with milk twice a day. At first, milk was seven cents per quart. Sometimes they delivered (often with horse and buggy if it was muddy) 30 or more quarts. In 1950, when they stopped delivery because only pasteurized milk was to be sold, they received 15 cents per quart. Quite a change from today's price of milk! This gave Willie, Nettie, and Tina pocket money, well deserved after early mornings and late evenings of milking, separating, and deliveries before and after school.

Nineteen hundred and fifty appears to have been a very busy year for our family. The three oldest children, Willie, Nettie, and Tina were all married that year. April brought showers of blessings as Mom and Dad became first time grandparents one day and the very next day parents of their last son, Peter, who was born in Winnipeg due to the 1950 flood. That spring, Dad purchased a new TD6 International Crawler, but before he could use it for seeding, he was called upon to use it in the big flood in Rosenort. Willie and Abe (Nettie's husband) worked day and night, using this crawler to rescue people and livestock.

The previous year, Willie commenced farming a small portion of land, and like Dad, was completely hauled out that year. In 1950, both Willie and Abe started farming and together with Dad they rented and farmed 1,015 acres. Of course, as they farmed more land, bigger and better machinery was purchased. Most of the cattle were sold in 1951.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-two was the year of the polio epidemic and it hit our family twofold. The oldest granddaughter Betty-Anne, 2, contracted polio, and two weeks later, daughter Marianne, 6, was stricken. The illness was followed by years of therapy at home.

The boys farmed together with Dad until 1959. At that time Dad continued with the help of a hired hand, Jake Klassen, his nephew's son. However, throughout the years, he had employed various hired help, including Willie Klassen, (Uncle Henry's son) and Frank Giesbrecht.

Dad served various terms as a Co-op Store board member. His motto, regardless where applicable, used to be "Don't wait till tomorrow, what you can do today!"

When we were smaller, we really appreciated Dad's sweet tooth, and would be eagerly awaiting his arrival back home from town to see what goodies he had bought for us now. Even our pup waited for Dad to thrust his paw into his pocket and withdraw the little brown paper bag of goodies. Lots of kids, now long grown, will remember John Klassen having bought them an ice-cream cone in town when they waited in the cars for their dads.

Mom and Dad were baptized and joined the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church in 1928. Dad parted from us to be with his Lord and Savior on June 8, 1961. Shortly after his death, Mother was once again hailed out. In the fall, after harvest and a farm auction, Mother, together with Marianne and Peter, still in school, moved into town.

Wilfred A. Harder (Butch), our nephew, now farms the same land that Dad farmed for almost 26 years.

Dad is survived by our mom, Nettie Klassen, living in the Lowe Farm Prairie View Apartments, five living children and their spouses; 17 living grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren. Mom's oldest son Willie and his wife Lily passed away 1985 and 1989 respectively and their oldest son Gerald Klassen in 1991. Mom's oldest granddaughter Betty Anne Harder passed away in September 1996.

PETER A. & KATHERINE (KLIPPENSTEIN) KLASSEN



Peter and Katherine Klassen and family in 1915. Back row: (l - r) Anna, Marie, Jake, Abram, John and Henry. Susan standing between her parents. Ike on the right side of his father and Ed on his mother's knee.

Peter A. Klassen was born in Russia in 1869. When he was five years old his family immigrated to Fargo, North Dakota, U.S.A. Peter visited Manitoba frequently and this is where he met his bride, Katherine Klippenstein. They were married on July 22, 1890.

Peter and Katherine lived a short time in the States, but Katherine preferred Canada, settling in Southern Manitoba. Peter had been known as homesteading much of the land in the Kronsweide District, where they lived most of their life.

They had 15 children: William (1892); Nettie (1893); Tina (1894); Peter (1896); Abram (1897); Jacob (1899); Henry and Cornie (1900); Marie (1902); Annie (1903); John (1905); Susanna (1907); Sarah (1909); Isaac (1911); and Erdman (1913).

Peter died in January, 1932 and Katherine died in October, 1943.

HENRY P. & KATHERINE (FROESE) KLASSEN

From Furrows in the Valley



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Klassen who lived south of Lowe Farm.

Henry P. Klassen was a twin son of Peter and Katherine (Klippenstein) Klassen. His twin brother, Cornie, passed away shortly after birth. In 1919, Henry was united in marriage to Katherine Froese, daughter of Peter and Maria Froese.

When they got married, Katherine got one cow and some chickens from her parents and



Mrs. J. B. Harder (Susanna Klassen)

Henry got a horse, six chickens and one half a pig, when it was time to kill pigs. Their first house was 16 feet by 24 feet, which they lived in for two years. During their first two years of farming, they were hauled out once and moved to John Nymon's place, where Henry worked for Mr. Finkelstein. They lived there for one month then moved five and a half miles south of Lowe Farm.

The family remembers their father as a very hard worker. Although he had hardly any money when they started out, he had learned to save and do with as little as possible.

In 1930, Henry and Katherine moved four miles north of Lowe Farm, to section 25-5-2w. They had 12 children:

Dorothy married Jake Sawatzky and is living in Chilliwack, British Columbia. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

Tina married Bill Bergmann. They live in Winnipeg. They have four children and one grandchild.

Henry died at the age of five.

Mary married John Esau and is living in Steinbach. They have eight children (one died at infancy) and six grandchildren.

Pete married Agatha Dyck and lives in Oak Bluff. They have three children.

Johnnie married Ruth Siemens and is living in Delta British Co-

lumbia. They have three children and one grandchild.

William married Ruth Gerbrandt. They live in Oak Bluff and have three children.

Henry married Olwine Reimer. They are living in Starbuck and have five children (one set of twins) and one foster child, as well as one grandchild.

Anne married David Affleck and lives in France. They have three children (one set of twin girls).

Helena married Ben Redekopp and lives in Aldergrove, British Columbia. They have two children.

Isaac married Alvina Reimer. They are living in Abbotsford, British Columbia. They have three children.

Susie died in infancy.

Annie and Helena are twin daughters.

In 1949, Henry and Katherine retired and moved to Steinbach. In 1961, Henry died and Katherine was living in the Cedarwood Apartments in Steinbach.

JACOB & MARY (HARDER) KLASSEN

From Furrows in the Valley

Jacob Klassen was born on January 5, 1899, to Peter A. and Katherine (Klippenstein) Klassen. In 1922, Jacob married Mary Harder, daughter of Jacob and Mary Brown Harder. They lived most of their life in the Lowe Farm district. They farmed section 20-4-1w from 1925 -1948. They raised seven children: Mary, Agnes, Jacob, Susan, Eddy, Erny and Herman. In 1948, Jacob Klassen passed away.

Mary remarried in 1949, to John Giesbrecht, who had three children: Henry, Kay and Peter. John worked for the rural municipality of Morris for many years. They were married 18 years, when John passed away in 1967. Mary died in 1999.

Her children are as follows: Mary (John) Wiebe of Lowe Farm, Manitoba. John and Mary are farming section 20-4-1, which was at one time farmed by her parents; Agnes (Dave) Schroeder, of Morris, Manitoba; Jake of Parksville, Vancouver Island, British Columbia; Susan (Harry) Heinrichs, of Morris, Manitoba; Erny of Parksville, Vancouver Island, British Columbia; Herman of Delta, British Columbia.

TINA KLASSEN

Tina, the third oldest child of Peter A. and Katherine Klassen, was married to John F. Braun.

They lived at the corner of S 36-4-2w, now the home of Ron Unrau. They farmed, and to the Lowe Farm residents, the Braun farm was the source of fresh farm eggs and plump juicy chickens. Youngsters never objected being sent to the Brauns' for eggs because their reward was ultimately a smile, a few kind words and candy from the tin on the fridge. Although the Brauns' had no children of their own, they offered their home and hospitality freely to nieces, nephews and friends where traditional Mennonite meals and faspas were at their best.

Both John and Tina, who forfeited their own education for hard farm work, encouraged and inspired younger generations to study, learn and better themselves. Many will remember "Uncle John" in his reading corner and the present image of 'Tante Trinka' in bare feet and an apron full of eggs. John and Tina Braun spent their last years in the town of Lowe Farm. Tina passed away in September of 1970 and was followed by John, in July of 1971.

PETER P. & SARAH (KROEKER) KLASSEN

From Furrows in the Valley



The four generations of Mrs. Peter P. Klassen, including Mrs. P. P. Rempel, P.S. Schroeder, and infant daughter.

Peter P. Klassen was born April 1, 1896, and died July 3, 1954. He married Marie Heinrichs in 1916. They lived four-and-one-half miles southwest of Lowe Farm, later moving to a farm three and three quarter miles southeast of Lowe Farm. Maria died in 1930, after 13-and-a-half years of marriage.

The same year, he remarried to Sarah Kroeker. They lived on the same farm until 1946, when they moved to another farm three and a half miles southeast of Lowe Farm. Here they lived until 1954, when Peter died. Sarah and her children lived there until 1959; when she and her youngest son, the only one left at home, moved to town. After her youngest child was married, she remained living in Lowe Farm. She lived there until 1972 when she moved to Steinbach, into the Bethesda personal Care Home. She died in 1987.

Peter P. Klassen had six children with his first wife. Their names were: Erdman, Tina, Mary, Annie, Cornie, and Peter.

He had four children with his second wife: Willie, Ben, and twins Jake and Susan. Erdman married Mary Derksen and died in 1975. Mary lived in Lowe Farm. They had three children and six grandchildren.

Tina married Dave Rempel and they now live in Altona. They have four children and eleven grandchildren.

Mary married Cornie Rempel and lived in Lowe Farm. They had five children and there are now 11 grandchildren. Mary died in 1993. Cornie married Eva Stoess in 1995. He died in 1996.

Annie married Ben Wall. They had nine children. There are now 27 grandchildren (one deceased) and four great grandchildren (one deceased). Annie Died in 1991. Ben married Mary Kauenhowen in 1992. Mary died in May, 1998. Ben lives in Winkler.

Cornie married Sara Froese. They live in Altona. They have five children and 10 grandchildren.

Peter married Susie Klassen. They live in Morris and have five children and two grandchildren.

Willie married Nettie Schroeder. They have four children and eight grandchildren. They live in Morris.

Ben married Justina Froese. They live in Morris and have four children and four grandchildren.

Jake married Dorothy Gerbrandt. They live five and a half miles south of Lowe Farm, and have three children and six grandchildren.

Susan married Peter Froese and they live in Altona. They have three children and four grandchildren.

CORNELIUS & SUSANNA (FRIESEN) KROEKER

This is the family history of Cornelius (1819 - 1904) and Susanna (Friesen) Kroeker (1823 - 1898), their son Cornelius (1842 - 1918) and Agatha (Peters) Kroeker (1846 - 1933), (she was nearly blind), their son Cornelius (1869 - 1941), (lost in a snowstorm) and Maria (Dueck) Kroeker (1869 - 1936).

The above came to Canada by ship, train, and, finally, the S. S. International, north on the Red

River to Winnipeg in July, 1875. The family migration was from Holland, to Germany, Prussia, Ukraine and finally, Canada.



*Cornelius and
Aganatha (Peters) Kroeker.*



John and Agatha (Kroeker) Enns.



Mildred (Kroeker) and Milton Coben.

After shopping for their necessities in Winnipeg they headed back south on the Red to the junction of the Rat. Here they disembarked and stayed in temporary housing built by Mr. Shantz from Kitchener, Ontario.

About 500 families left the Ukraine between 1874 - 1876 to find a new home in Canada. Louis Riel was creating some excitement in dealing with the Hudson's Bay Company. He was truly the founder of Manitoba.

After a few years in the East Reserve, many moved to the West. Around 1900, Cornelius and Maria (Dueck) Kroeker, with their two daughters, Aganetha (Peter) Banman and Sarah (Peter) Klassen, moved to Lowe Farm.

They farmed south of Lowe Farm. Aganetha and Sarah had to board with their grandparents and the D. W. Friesens (grandfather's sister) in Altona, because there was no school in the region. Later they attended school in Lowe Farm.

Cornelius and Maria had the following children: Aganetha (1896 - 1981) married Peter Banman (1888). Their family consisted of: Marie (1918); Jacob (1919); Henry (1921); Anna (1923); Julius (1925); Sarah (1927); Peter (1929); Katherine (1931); John (1938).

Sarah (1897) married widower Peter Klassen. He had six children from a first marriage: Erdman (1917); Tina (1920); Mary (1921); Annie (1925); Cornelius (1927); Peter (1926). Sarah and Peter had four children: Willie (1931); Bernhard (1934); Jake and twin Susie (1938).

Cornelius (1900) and Eva (Giesbrecht) Kroeker (1902) had eight children: Abe (1925); Dora (1927); Erdman (1925); Marie (1930-died 1930); Emmie (1931); Marie (1933); John (1936); Alvin (1943). Dora married David Wiebe, a teacher; Erdman and Alice have been into teaching, sales and nursing; Emmie married Abe Hildebrand; Ed and Alice have

been in teaching, sales and nutritionist; Dora and David Wiebe taught school; Marie and John Schmidt are farming and involved in farm sales; John and Grace are working in social work, ministry and music therapy; Alvin married Anne and does carpentry work.

Maria (1902) and Isbrandt Unrau (1898) had 11 children: Cornelius (1921); Diedrich (1923); Aganetha (1924); Justina (1926); Heinrich (1927); Sarah (1929); William (1931); Elizabeth (1932); Maria (1935); Annie (1937); John (1940).

Jacob (1904) and Susanna (Enns) Kroeker: John (1925); Mary (1927); Willie (1928); Lena (1930); Henry (1933); twins Edward and Cornelius (1936); Peter (1937); Tena (1939). After Susanna's passing in 1951 Jacob remarried to Mary Wiebe.

Peter (1906) and Katherine (Unrau) Kroeker. They had: Erdman (1930); Alvina (1932); Benjamin (1937).

Agatha (1911) and John Enns (1904). They had George (1933); Marie (1934); Helen (1936); John (1939).

Katherine (1913) and John Guenther (1915). They had: Helen (1929); Anna (1936); Edward (1937); Harold (1938); Jennie (1941); Shirley (1942); Myrtle (1949); Florence (19__). In 1966 Katherine remarried to Monty Glenesk.

Abram (1915) and Mildred Cohen (1922). They had: David, Patricia, Miles, and Donny.

Bernhard (1919) and Josephine Huculak (1926). They had: Kenneth (1947); Elizabeth (1951); Sylvia (1958).

The children and grandchildren of Cornelius and Maria Dueck Kroeker turned out to be farmers, carpenters, teachers, nurses, sales people, dieticians, laborers, chaplains, security personnel, trucking dispatchers, military service personnel, municipal workers, miners, ministers, electricians, mechanics and inventors.



Katherine (Kroeker) and John Guenther.



Josephine (Kroeker) and Bernabard Huculak.



Aganatha (Kroeker) and Peter Banman.



Maria and Isbrandt Unrau.



Peter and Sarah (Kroeker) Klassen.



*Jacob and Mary Wiebe
(his second wife).*



*Cornelius and
Eva (Giesbrecht) Kroeker.*



Peter and Katherine (Unrau) Kroeker.

CORNELIUS & MARIE (DUECK) KROEKER

Submitted by Abe Kroeker

Maria Dueck was the daughter of Peter Dueck (1840 - 1910). She married Cornelius on July 7, 1875.

Around 1897, Cornelius and Marie moved to the Altona area

from the East Reserve. Apparently they moved onto a farm near Gnadenfeld. Their families, along with many others, took up farming. Others found other means for their livelihood. Records suggest they paid about \$6,600 for the farm. Shortly after 1900, Cornelius and Marie moved to a farm in the Lowe Farm area. Their farm was about one and a half miles southeast of Lowe Farm.

Our family started attending the Bergthaler Church in the late 1940's. Sunday School classes were part of the Inter-denominational and Bergthaler groups. The Sommerfelds only included this as part of their service some time later. In the 1930's, with the beginning of the influence of the American Evangelical movement, members of the Bergthaler group left to start the Rudnerwieder Church. In the 1940's, another group left the Bergthalers to begin the Emmanuel Gospel Church.

In the early 1930's, our grandparents, Cornelius and Maria Kroeker, ran into financial problems after co-signing loans for other families. I remember going to their farm with a tractor and binder to help them with harvesting their crop.

Shortly after giving up the farm, Cornelius and Maria moved in with their children, Cornelius and Eva and their children. After



Cornelius and Maria (Dueck) Kroeker.

some time, they were offered a custodial position in the Kronsweide Church. A year after making this move, Grandmother died of cancer. Grandfather then moved back with my parents.

In March, 1941, my parents and Grandfather went with an open sleigh to attend a funeral about seven miles away. On their way back, a severe snowstorm developed, making it very difficult for them to find their way. About a quarter mile from home, Dad and Grandfather got off the sleigh in an attempt to find the driveway. Grandfather got lost and was found the next morning, two-and-a-half miles from where he had gotten off. He was badly frozen, and died a week later, at the age of 71.

We really missed him, as he was a big help around the farm. He was also missed for his friendship and caring for us as grandchildren. I remember that on occasion, we would not go to church on very cold Sunday mornings. On these days, Grandfather would call us into his room upstairs, read a few portions from his big Bible, and sing a few songs. After he was finished we would run downstairs to enjoy the noon meal Mother had prepared. I also remember Grandfather would give thanks before and after the meal.

CORNELIUS & EVA KROEKER

Submitted by Armin Wiebe



Cornelius and Eva Kroeker.



The home of Cornelius and Eva Kroeker.



*The children of Cornelius and Eva Kroeker;
Abe, Dora, Erdman, Emmie, Marie, Alvin, and John.*

Brick siding - that was one feature the grandparents a mile or so down the road. Of course, the two half-mile dirt driveways sometimes made just getting there an adventure, especially if Dad decided to take the driveway from the south at the wrong time of year.

The warmth of that brick siding house disguised the hard times that had been experienced there. I'm told that my grandparents didn't own the farm until some years after I was born.

Grandpa Kroeker was a man with a droll sense of humor, full of stories which tended to emphasize the funny side of life, whether he was relating the more pungent smoking habits of some of his neighbors or coming up with imaginative solutions to farm problems. For example, he told of his experience with growing sugar beets. When the fellow with the row crop cultivator finished cultivating the rows the long way, Grandpa asked him to cultivate the rows "dedwaa" (crossways) as well to reduce the amount of thinning that would have to be done with a hoe.

Grandpa Kroeker was also an inventor. He made the first mechanical bale loader I ever saw out of an old "begga" grain loader. People from around the neighborhood came to see Kroeker's bales hoisted up to the hayloft under the power of a stationary engine. Finding ways of making work easier was one of Grandpa's trademarks. Mom has told me that he rigged up a motor to Grandma's hand-powered washing machine to relieve her of this drudgery. Years

later, this attitude had Grandpa install running water in that bricksiding farmhouse to ease Grandma's arthritis. Another man might have invested in a bigger tractor instead.

The green '51 Ford and the red Massey-Harris 44 tractor were perhaps the only new vehicles Grandpa bought in his life. He owned the '51 Ford for 13 years and missed it when it was gone. At his farm auction he refused to sell the 44 for less than he thought it was worth.

I remember Grandma in the garden wearing her 'jungle' hat and men's shoes. Her garden was a magical place, especially the rows of raspberries and 'hymnberries'. I have a memory of waking up from an extended afternoon nap, (severe punishment on the farm where there was so much to miss), and running outside to find Grandma smiling as she filled a bowl with berries from the bushes that seemed to stretch all the way from the brick siding house to the white garage. The last time I saw her she smiled from her wheelchair, hiding her arthritic pain.

ABE & IRENE KROEKER

Submitted by Abe Kroeker

Abe, son of Cornelius and Eva (Giesbrecht) Kroeker, and Irene (Fast) Kroeker were married in 1953. This was the year of the crowning of Queen Elizabeth, so our children have royal descent! They include: Kenneth Charles, Geraldine Anne and Ella May, who came along to complete the family.

We moved to Winnipeg in 1953, and we both got employment. In December, 1954, Kenneth came into our lives and changed our lifestyle. During the following years, two girls, Geraldine Anne and Ella May were born, completing our family.

In the early 1950's Dad and I invested in some land near Langruth, Manitoba. This venture did not turn out. At first the rainy weather made it almost impossible to develop; then we realized there was a bombing range a few miles away. This proved to be entertaining at first, but became rather disturbing.

In 1956, the property my parents had been renting since 1927 was offered for sale. Dad bought 280 acres and we bought 200 acres. This move directed our lives back to farming again. This new start was a very modest farming start.

Our community involvement took much of our time. Sunday School, youth work and choir, coop boards, the community centre and then a stint of driving a school van were some extra involvements.

My 12-year involvement as a school trustee took too much of my time and also left an unfair responsibility at home. However, in the end, I was pleased that with the help of others I got the Division's music program on the road. However, I almost lost my shirt in getting the stage addition to the Lowe Farm School. In retirement, the board gave me a school bell and a plaque with the

inscription, "Your striving for the inclusion in the curriculum of the things that raise the thoughts of the students from the mundane to the artistic and intellectual qualities in life."

Our retirement years have also been very busy and meaningful. I have worked for three terms as custodial helper at the Canadian Mennonite Bible College and now work as security staff at Bethel Place, a senior home. For the last few years I have been compiling a Kroeker genealogy.

DORA KROEKER WIEBE

Dora Kroeker Wiebe was born on Grandma Giesbrecht's home place, about two miles northeast of Lowe Farm. My parents moved to a farm just one and a half miles east of Grandma's. I spent many hours at Grandma and Uncle Henry's home. I still have the salt shaker Grandmother gave me on my fifth birthday. This was the year my great-grandmother Kroeker passed away. She was almost blind, but could peel an apple without breaking the peel.

In 1935, grandparents Cornelius and Maria Dueck Kroeker moved in with us. Then, a year later, grandmother Kroeker died of cancer. Grandfather was living with us until 1941 when he got lost in a snowstorm and died a week later. He was of great help around the house and garden.

One day as Emmie and I started out toward school, Grandfather called me back. He kissed me for my fourteenth birthday. I told Emmie that when she turned 14 she would get a kiss from him too. Sadly, I was wrong, for that was the last time I saw my grandfather alive.

DONALD & SALLY (FRIESEN) LEWIS



Donald and Sally Lewis

Don and Sally Lewis were married on April 6, 1957, in the Morris United Church.

Sally was born and raised half a mile east and half south of Lowe Farm, the youngest daughter of Jacob and Nettie Friesen. She received her education in Lowe Farm, and it was during her high school years that she met Don, who had transferred from the Morris High School to Lowe Farm during the flood of 1950.

Don, who is the son of Ralph and Olive Lewis, received his primary education at the Pleasant Valley School situated just one mile north of his home. The Lewis home farm is two-and-a-half miles east and five miles north of Lowe Farm. After high school Don attended the University of Manitoba and received his diploma in Agriculture. Sally started working in the Bank of Montreal in Winnipeg after high school. After their marriage she worked at the Bank of Montreal in Morris for three-and-a-half years. Don started farming during these years on the home farm on Sec 27-5-1w.

Don has taken an active part in community affairs, acting as board member and chairman of the Lowe Farm Pool Elevators for many years, board member of the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op, representative on the Morris General Hospital board as well as various other community involvements. Sally has served on the board of the Lowe Farm Co-op Services, and has been active in community, social, and church activities.

They have three children: Howard, Linda, and Robert.

Howard and Heather (Kingdon) live in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Their children are Megan, and Riley, and Declan (deceased in infancy).

Linda and Rick Dwyer live with their little son Jesse at Melfort, Saskatchewan.

Rob lives in Winnipeg and attends the University of Manitoba.

GLEN & DIANE (YOUNG) LILKE

Glen and Diane (Young) Lilke were married April 15, 1968. They have three children: Rodney Glen, born October 1, 1968; Richard Edward, born September 2, 1972; and Sherolyn Diane, born December 21, 1977. They also have five grandchildren: William, Steffanie, Channing, Cody and Megan.

Glen was born in Altona Hospital on February 21, 1949. He was raised until age five in Rosenfeld and then they resided in Manitou. His parents were August and Ella Lilke.

Diane was born in Morden Hospital to Stuart and Mary Young on March 5, 1950. She grew up in Manitou where her parents are still living and farming.

Glen works in Winnipeg for General Truck Sales as a warranty administrator. Diane is a teacher's assistant with Lowe Farm School and is also a first responder/ fire fighter with the Lowe Farm Fire Department.

Rodney and Liz live in Ingersoll, Ontario. Rod is an

executive with Siemens Distributing in London, Ontario. A big wig! Liz works for Siemens as well. The five grandchildren are Rod's kids.

Richard and Tina live in Winnipeg. Rick graduated from John Taylor Collegiate in Winnipeg and Tina graduated from St. Jean. Rick works at West End Plumbing and Heating as a sales representative. Tina is attending the University of Manitoba.

Sherolyn is doing respite work with Michael and Timothy Dyck as well as other babysitting jobs. She also subs in as a teacher's assistant when the others are unable to be there. She graduated from Morris High School with Honors.

Glen and Diane Lilke along with their son Richard and daughter Sherolyn moved to Lowe Farm from the city in June of 1991. Glen and Diane decided they wanted to leave the hustle and bustle of the city life and move closer to their roots.

ABE & MARGE MATTHIES

Submitted by Marge Matthies

Abe was born in Portage La Prairie, in the summer of 1926. He grew up in the Culross area. In 1949, together with his dad and sister, he moved to Sperling, where he farmed with his dad for many years.

Marge was born in Russia, also in 1926. She moved to Canada with her parents in 1929 and grew up in northern Saskatchewan, near the small village of Glenbush.

Abe was a farmer by trade and my profession was teaching. After we moved to Manitoba I was hired to teach in a country school in the Sperling area, where I met my husband. We were married in the fall of 1951. We had three children:

Clifford was born in 1953. He married Gloria Schroeder in 1974. He served on the Credit Union staff in Lowe Farm and Lethbridge, Alberta. He could not get the farm out of his system and so, in 1976 they moved back to Manitoba and took up farming. He has been farming in summertime in the Lowe Farm area and long distance trucking in the wintertime for 21 years. They have three children: Cameron, Jeryn and Jocelyn.

Jacqueline was born in 1957. She married Les Dyck in 1977. She worked in the Bank of Montreal at Carman and later in Morris. Les is a carpenter (cabinet maker) by trade. They have three children: Kere, Riley and Kelsey. About a year-and-a-half after Kelsey was born, Jackie came down with a very rare blood disease called "aplastic anemia". She underwent a bone marrow transplant, which seemed to prove successful, but a virus hit her liver and she died on April 4, 1997. Only God has the answer to the question, why?

Dennis was born in 1959. He still lives at our home place at Lowe Farm. After finishing high school, he too joined the staff of the Lowe Farm Credit Union. He soon was promoted to the position of manager and is still

there.

Besides farming, my husband worked for the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation for 13 years. In the year 1986 we retired from the farm and moved to Winkler. We are enjoying our retirement. We have gone on several trips with Fehr-Way Tours and other ways. We enjoy our many friends, neighbors and our church. We spend our time doing volunteer work for the Mennonite Central Committee, Senior Centre and serving in our church.

JOHN & SUSAN (KLASSEN) MARTENS

John, son of the late John D. Martens, and Susan, daughter of the late John K. Klassen, were married on August 3, 1957. Both of John's parents are deceased. Susan's mother, Nettie Klassen, resides at the Prairie View Apartments in Lowe Farm.

We have three children: Maureen Christine, Richard John Darryl, and Tamara Suzanne.

Christine is married to Ed Froese. They live on a hobby farm close to Plum Coulee. They have three girls, Amanda Koren, Tiffany Paige, and Marley Christine. Ed is the loan officer at the Lowe Farm Credit Union. Chris is employed at Grace's Place in Altona. Amanda has graduated from high school and is presently attending South Winnipeg Technical College. Tiffany is in Grade X and Marley is in Grade VII.

Richard is married to Candace Renae Dyck. They reside in Winkler where Candace was employed at the hospital for over seven years. They had a baby daughter in October, Brielle Rikkia, so Candace is presently at home looking after their new baby. Rick is employed at D. W. Friesen's in Altona.

Tammy is married to Byron Klassen and they reside in Morris. Byron is employed at the Pembina Valley Water Treatment plant in Morris. Tammy was director of nursing at the Rosenort Eventide Home until the "Flood of the Century" destroyed the home and the elementary school in Rosenort in the spring of 1997. Tammy is presently up-grading to her Bachelor of Nursing, and taking care of their one year old daughter, Jessica Suzanne.

John was employed with Paul Braun Construction, then with Norman Spalding Construction, but purchased his own truck in 1962. John was self-employed for 24 years, until he started working for Manitoba Highways in the fall of 1985. He had already been working for them off and on with his truck for 18 years. John worked for the Highways Department until his retirement in 1997.

Susan started working with the Home Care Program in 1987 until July of 1996. She also worked at Ike and Olga's store for one and a half years, from 1965 - 1966.

Susan and the family used to go along with the camper when John would work away from home during the summer months. This has cultivated many friendships. Now that we are retired we are spending more

and more time, sometimes half the summer, in our "RV". Our favorite haunts still seem to be Falcon Lake and Bird's Hill Provincial Park.

ADOLF & MARY (REMPEL) MURNER

Submitted by Evelyn Rose



Fiftieth anniversary of Adolf and Mary. (l-r) Charlotte, Evelyn, Alvin, Wally, Edith, Dianne; front, Adolf and Mary.



*Adolf and Mary Murner
on their 55th wedding anniversary, 1989.*

Adolf was born May 6, 1901, in Reudlen near Reichenbach in Switzerland, the oldest of six children. He immigrated to Canada in 1923 with a friend. After working at various jobs in Ontario he traveled west to Saskatchewan where he worked as a carpenter, construction worker and a farm hand. While in Saskatchewan Adolf served as secretary for a Swiss Club.

In 1929, it became virtually impossible to find a job. With his savings all gone, Adolf finally found work on a dairy farm in exchange for his room and board. He

received no pay for three years but he never complained, as he was thankful to have a roof over his head and food to eat.

Maria (Mary) was born on a farm in Bergfeld, Manitoba, near Grunthal, on October 9, 1907, to Cornelius and Katharina (Friesen) Rempel. Born prematurely at a time when premature babies were not expected to live, Mary was placed in a shoe box which was kept by the wood cookstove to keep her warm.

In 1913, the family moved to a farm near Lowe Farm. Mary enjoyed helping her father in the field. She said her dad was proud of the straight furrows she made in the field with a five horse team. She even broke in some horses and loved the excitement of it. All this when she was around 12 years old. She enjoyed playing cowboy with her brother Abe as they herded the cattle. Threshing and hauling grain to the elevator with the horses was also exciting.

Mary attended the one room Heabert School in the country east of Lowe Farm with her brothers and sisters until she was taken out of school due to health problems.

Mary's health problems started when she was about 12 years old. During that time there was an epidemic of measles, scarlet fever, mumps and the flu. It was during the bout with measles that Mary's eyes became very sore. Different medications were tried but nothing helped. In the end her eyes were damaged to the point where she lost all sight and became blind. The years following were filled with many agonizing treatments and experiments to her eyes. She lived with a doctor and his family for about four years while he treated her eyes. After 10 years of treatments, 25 percent of her eye sight was restored.

During the years of sickness, blindness, pain and loneliness, Mary turned to God. She cried out to Him for help and He relieved her pain and agony. God gave her peace in her heart and soul and she continually praised and thanked Him for that.

It was in 1932, that Adolf began to correspond with Mary as the result of an ad for pen pals placed in the Weekly Prairie Farmer. (Stamps were only three cents.) With the encouragement of Mary, Adolf decided to seek work in Manitoba. He came to Manitoba in 1933, and they were married September 30, 1934, in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church.

They made their home in Lowe Farm for the first 10 years of their marriage. Five of their six children were born during this time.

When both jobs and gasoline were scarce, Dad trudged many miles searching for work in order to feed his family. He would make a circle walking from Lowe Farm to Morris, Aubigny, Rosenort, Sperling, Homewood, Roland and back to Lowe Farm. The family moved to Sperling in 1944 because work seemed to be more plentiful there. Their fifth child was born just before the move and their sixth and last child was born the following year.

Through the years Dad worked mainly in carpentry and construction. He built many barns in the Lowe Farm - Sperling area and did a lot of home renovations. By the late 1960s he was working as a maintenance man in charge of several buildings in Winnipeg. He retired in 1968 due to health problems. After living in Sanford alternately with a son's and a daughter's family for a time, Adolf and Mary moved back to Lowe Farm in 1970. In 1986 they moved out of their house and into the Prairieview Apartments in Lowe Farm.

During their retirement years Mom and Dad enjoyed relatively good health. They were able to travel frequently visiting their children who by this time had scattered into British Columbia and the United States.

One of the most exciting days of Mom's life occurred in 1974 when she won the Dream Kitchen Contest. She won many appliances and also some money. With a bit of help from their children, Mom and Dad were able to take a trip to Switzerland. It was to be the only time Dad would return to his homeland. He was reunited with his only remaining brother and sister-in-law as well as an aunt and some cousins. It gave him great pleasure to be able to show his wife where he was raised and to introduce her to his relatives. (Some of Ad and Mary's children were also able to go to Switzerland to meet relatives before Dad's death.)

From the time Dad and Mom returned to Lowe Farm in 1970, they were faithful attendees at the Emmanuel Gospel Church. Ironically they both died on a Sunday morning. Mom died at home from a heart attack in 1990 while preparing to go to church. Dad died in the Morris Hospital from pneumonia in 1994. Both are buried in the Lowe Farm Cemetery.

Adolf and Mary's children, in order of age are:

Alvin married Lillian Nurnberg. They live in Sanford and have one married son, Rickie, and two grandchildren. Alvin retired as District Chief with the Winnipeg Fire Department in 1994 after 37 years of service. He was also Fire Chief for the Macdonald Fire Department for 25 years and served as Boyne River District Mutual Aid Coordinator for 18 years.

Evelyn married Henry Rose. They live in Lowe Farm and have three married children, Deborah, Barrie and Tony, and eight grandchildren. Evelyn retired from the Manitoba Telephone System in 1996.

Waldo (Wally) married Sandra Merriman. They live in Woodstock, Georgia, and have two sons, William and Kenneth. Wally is the Regional Sales Manager for Baumer Foods.

Edith married Wright Parker. They live in Sanford and have two married children, Edward and Wendy, and five grandchildren. Edith was a teacher's aid at the J. A. Cuddy School in Sanford for 14 years. She retired in the fall of 1996.

Dianne married Stan Ferris. They live in Cloverdale, British Columbia and have four children, Christine, Wesley, Michael and Verena, and one grandchild. Dianne

operates her own day care centre.

Charlotte married Gordon Dyck. They live in Black Creek (Campbell River), British Columbia and have four married children, Bernadine, Randal, Robert and Lorrina, and 13 grandchildren. Charlotte and Gordon own and operate Campbell River Auction in Campbell River.

ABRAM & NETTIE NEUFELD



Farmyard of Abram and Nettie Neufeld

Abram and Nettie Neufeld, who were married in the fall of 1935, moved to the St. Peter's district near Sewell, Manitoba.

Dad had a threshing machine, which he had purchased in 1925. Together with his gang of 15 to 20 men, he was busy threshing for others in the community, as well as doing their own farming. They raised mostly cereal grains, but always kept some livestock.

They were blessed with eight healthy children: Edna, Edwin, Elmer, Edward, Esther, Eleanora, Evelyn and Ernie. We spent our elementary school days in St. Peters and Lowe Farm High School. We usually traveled to school with horse and buggy, or sleigh in the winter time. If the horses were being used on the farm, we would have to walk two-and-a-half miles to school.

The family is all married and live in the following areas: Edna and John Kehler live at Kane. They had three children (one deceased); Edwin and verna live in Morris and have three children; Elmer and Hilda live in Winnipeg and have two children; Edward and Beverly live in Campbell River, British Columbia. They had two children (one deceased); Esther and Perry Kuhl reside in Winnipeg and have two children; Eleanora and Ed Peters reside in Winkler and have one child; Evelyn and Bernie Penner reside in Altona and have two children; Ernie and Robyn live in Winnipeg and have one child.

The family farm was sold in 1966 and the Neufelds retired to Winkler. They kept busy caring for their large garden and by other activities. Abram died January 14, 1994. Nettie died February 16, 1994.

PETER P. & NETTIE PAETKAU

Peter P. and Nettie Paetkau settled on NW 24-5-2w from the Sperling area in 1949. Here they farmed until 1975 and semi-retired to the previous school yard of Neufeld School District SE 25-5-2w. The Neufeld S.D. is located four miles north of Lowe Farm. Semi-retired, Peter worked at the sugar factory in



Peter and Nettie Paetkau

Winnipeg and Loewen Bearing in Altona. Never being totally retired from farming, he worked as a 'gopher' for his sons. Later in 1988 they moved to Winkler for a more permanent retirement. Peter and Nettie also raised three sons; Cornie, Abe and John. Cornie and Abe reside at Lowe Farm and John and his wife Sharon reside in Pipestone, Minnesota.

Both Peter P. and Nettie are deceased. Peter was born September 11, 1910, and died October 23, 1990. Nettie was born October 14, 1916, and died October 2, 1994.

CORNIE P. & ELLEN PAETKAU

Cornie P. and Ellen Paetkau first settled on SE 25-5-2w for one year and in 1967 moved to NW 17-5-2w where they are still farming. We have two sons, Russell and Trevor. Russell is married to Pearl (Wiebe) and they have two children- Corey and Madyson. Russell has a full time job at Integra in Winkler and farms part time with his father.

Trevor works at the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg. Russell is the third generation living on SE 25-5-2w.



Back row: Corey, Madyson, Russell, Pearl, Trevor; Front row: Ellen and Cornie.



Picture of land at NW 17-5-2w where Cornie and Ellen reside.



Former Neufeld school yard, SE 25-5-2w, home of Russell and Pearl Paetkau.

VICTOR ABE & ESTHER (DYCK) PAETKAU

Submitted by Abe Paetkau

I am the second of three sons born to Peter P. and Nettie Paetkau (1910 - 1990), of Lowe Farm. We moved to the Lowe Farm area in 1949 from Sperling. I was three years old at the time and remember moving to Lowe Farm, Section 24-5-2w.

The farm was bought from Rev. Abram F. Wiebe, who built the farm homestead. The two-story house was built in 1938. We lived in the Neufeld School District all of our life, farming with Mom and Dad and two other brothers.

In 1967, we bought the NE quarter of 24-5-2w and I was married to Esther Dyck from Elm Creek in 1968. We farmed together for several years with the help of some rented land. In 1974, we sold the cultivated acres and made a living off of livestock and local jobs such as trucking and construction work.

In 1975, we started on a new venture of erecting steel grain bins for farmers and agriculture dealers in the area as seasonal work. This venture took us from the Steinbach area west to Yorkton, Saskatchewan and north from Dauphin and the St. Rose area to south of the United States border in the Cavalier and Langdon, North Dakota area.

In the fall and winter months I hired on as a bus driver in the city of Winnipeg and on highway buses, a second income together with my wife Esther, who is the tour guide. We have done many tours to the United States in the fall and winter. We tour such places as Florida, Arizona, Nevada, Nashville, and Branson, the Black Hills as well as the east coast.

Born to us are three sons. All are married and living in the area: Todd married Joanne Friesen of Lowe Farm; Terry married Susan Dyck of Carman; Joel married Anglia Reimer of Altona.

We have also been blessed with four grandchildren: Bradley, Michael, Nicholas and Amanda.



The Paetkau farm, NE 1/4, 24-5-2w.



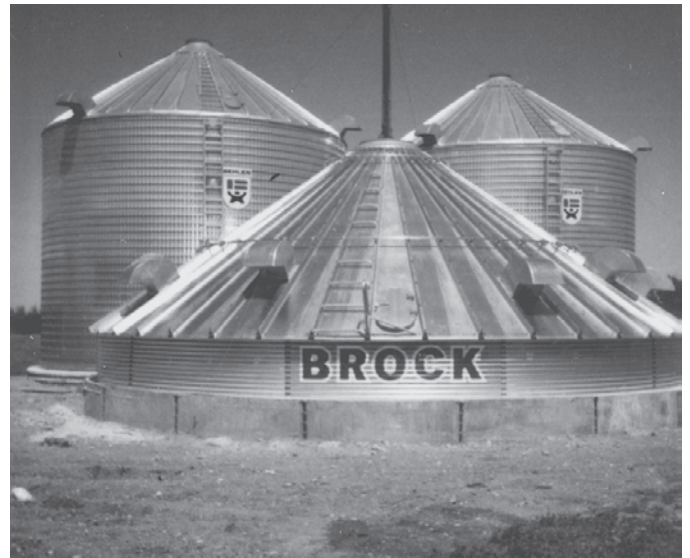
Abe and Esther Paetkau, 25th anniversary, 1994.



The children of Abe and Esther. Front row: Terry and Susan, Todd and Joanne, Joel and Ang. Back row: Esther and Abe.



Grain bins, set up at various places with a busbel capacity of approximately 35,000 per bin.



Moving grain bins out of Dominion City to the yard of Ray St. Goddard yard. The bin has a 4,000 busbel capacity.



The old homestead.

LORNE & IRENE (WIEBE) PENNER

Lorne is the youngest of the nine children of Ben and Tina Penner. He was born in Morris General Hospital on January 14, 1952, and spent his growing up years in Lowe Farm. After being released early from high school (for good behavior) he entered the work force. On July 1, 1972, he married his high school sweetheart, Irene Wiebe, daughter of the late Jake and Tiena Wiebe, now of Altona.

Lorne and Irene live on an acreage just west of Brandon, Manitoba, and have three children. They own and operate a business consisting of overhead door sales and service, as well as truck cap and accessories sales. They attend the McDiarmid Drive Alliance Church.

Kathy was born on March 22, 1977. She married Mike Hildebrand on August 3, 1996. They live on a farm south of Brandon and have one son, Dominik, born May 18, 1998.

Brian was born March 27, 1979. He lives and works in Brandon. Jon was born June 17, 1980, and lives at home, working in Brandon.

COREY & KATHRYN (FULFORD) PENNER



Corey and Kathryn Penner

Corey, the son of George and Mary Penner, was born in Morden on July 3, 1969. He grew up on the family farm one mile south of Kane where he lived for 20 years prior to purchasing a house in Lowe Farm (#16, 1st Ave.).

Corey started farming with the family farm in 1991 and continues to farm today. He was married on July 4, 1992, to Kathryn Fulford. Kathryn, the daughter of Bill and Rosalie Fulford, was born in Winnipeg, January 23, 1968. She grew up in Morris and, following high school, entered University where she obtained a Bachelor of

Human Ecology, Foods and Nutrition degree. This was followed by the completion of a Dietetic Internship in July 1995. Kathryn is currently employed as a clinical dietitian at both Misericordia and Victoria Hospitals in Winnipeg.

PETER & SARAH (HIEBERT) PENNER

Submitted by Charlotte Dyck



Sarah and Peter Penner on their 50th anniversary.



Elizabeth, Raymond, Marjorie, Sadie, Sarah and Peter Penner.

Peter was born September 7, 1902, one of 12 children born to Peter F. and Margaretha (Harder) Penner. Peter F. and Margaretha were born 1873 and 1875 in Schoenfeld, Russland.

Sarah was born November 23, 1905, the first of 15 children born to Abram (1883) and Sarah (1886) (Funk) Hiebert. Her grandparents, John and Sarah Funk and Johan and Anna (Harder) Hiebert, lived in the Lowe Farm area.

Peter married Sarah Hiebert of Lowe Farm in 1923. They farmed in the Kane district and raised their family there.

They had four children: Sadie married Bill Dyck. They had three children; Gordon, Jean and Marion.

Marjorie married Anton Friesen. They had three children; Gary, Walter and Joan.

Elizabeth married George Penner. They had four children; Dianne, Linda, Jacqueline and Lottie.

Raymond married Jean Cross. They had one child; Wendy. Raymond died when he was 24.

Peter and Sarah retired to Lowe Farm in September, 1966, where they lived until December, 1974 when Peter's health failed and they moved to the Winkler Salem home.

On October 7, 1973, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Lowe Farm Junior High School.

Peter died in 1975 and Sarah in 1982.

PETER P. & ANNA (EWERT) PENNER

Submitted by Mary Penner



Peter Penner celebrating his 100th birthday in Lowe Farm, September 30, 1979. (l - r) He is flanked by his 10 children, Diedrich, Jacob, Dave, Ben, Peter, Helen Falk, Margaret Peters, Mary Froese, Tina Klassen, Annie Wiebe.

Peter P. Penner was born in the Plum Coulee area to Peter and Margaretha Penner (nee Wiebe) on September 29, 1879. His parents had immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1874. He grew up on his parents farm and on July 9, 1901, he was united in marriage to Anna Ewert.

Anna was one of identical twins born to Johann and Helen Ewert (nee Sawatsky) on May 17, 1884. The Ewerts had immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1875.

The twins, Anna and Margaretha, were so much alike that their school teachers, friends, and even their stepfather, could not tell them apart. They remained so much alike in later years, and always made identical dresses. It was amazing to see them show up at weddings or other public functions, wearing the same dresses, without having discussed it beforehand. Even their grandchildren couldn't tell them apart.

The Penners farmed in the Plum Coulee area, and nine children were born to the family; Helen, Peter, Margaret, Henry, Ben, David, Mary, John and Jacob.

In 1918, Peter purchased north half of Section 27-4-2w near Lowe Farm and moved there to farm. After a few bad crops, and a depression in the making, Peter lost everything he owned. There were born into the family at Lowe Farm three more children: Tina, Diedrich, and Annie.

In the years following the loss of his land, Peter worked at various jobs, whatever was available. He worked some years for the Rural Municipality of Morris, and for drainage maintenance hauling lumber. he also did some bricklaying. At the age of 70 or 72 he was seen on the roof of the Berghthaler Church, making a chimney. In later years he also worked for Manitoba Sugar in Winnipeg.

After living in various empty farm yards, they purchased the old Moses Altman house in Lowe Farm in 1936 and moved it to the west end of Main Street. They lived there until 1966.

When their son Henry died in 1951, Peter inherited his 1949 Austin and in the following years he was nicknamed "the taxi driver." If someone needed to go to the doctor or dentist and had no means of going, Peter was the man to see. Some days he made two or three trips to Morris. Sometimes he drove to Altona or Winkler, or even Morden.

After Anna suffered several

strokes and poor health, they moved to the Ebenezer Units in Altona in January of 1966. Anna passed away on March 24, 1966.

Peter celebrated his 99th birthday on September 29, 1978, and lived in the Ebenezer Home for the Aged in Altona. Peter P. Penner passed away in 1980 at the age of 100 and eight months.

Concerning the Penner children:

Peter and Helen (Penner) Falk lived for many years in Lowe Farm. They moved to Winnipeg. Peter passed away in 1983 and Helen passed away in 1989.

Peter Penner passed away in 1991. Margaret (John) Peters passed away in 1996. Mary (Frank) Froese passed away in 1989. Tina (Isaac) Klassen lost her husband in 1989. She still resides in Winnipeg. Annie (Clanton) Wiebe and her husband live in Winnipeg. Diedrich Penner passed away in 1998. His widow resides in Penticton, British Columbia.

DAVE & MARY PENNER



Dave and Mary Penner

Dave and Mary Penner can probably be considered “pure bred” Lowe Farmers! Mary’s maternal grandparents, the Frank Giesbrechts, settled on section 15-4-2w in 1879 where her mother Margaret grew up.

In 1920, Margaret Giesbrecht married the recent widower, Henry B. Wiebe (the watchmaker) who was originally from Altona, but who had purchased the north half of 34-4-2w in the Kane district in 1919. He farmed this land as well as the north half of 35-4-2w in the Lowe Farm district, which was owned by his father. When his own land returned to its original owner in 1927, Henry bought his father’s land and the family moved there. It is on this farm that Mary grew up, attending school from Grades I - VIII in Lowe Farm.



Heppner's Pond. Allan, Leonard and Janice Penner, Paul, Herman and Alice Friesen, Lornie Penner and Keith Braun, 1961.



Waiting for the game at Heppner's Pond, 1960. Allan and Leonard Penner.



(l - r) Jake Loeppky, Dave Penner and Alf Goldman.



The Dave Penner Family in 1993.

Dave Penner, whom Mary married in 1940, worked for her father. Dave's parents, Peter and Anna (Ewert) Penner, originally farmed near Plum Coulee, but moved to the Lowe Farm area when Dave was about six. He got his early education in the Kronsweide, Kane and Heabert schools.

The town of Lowe Farm has been home to Dave and Mary since they left the Wiebe farm in 1942. Their first home was a two-room house on the south side of the tracks in Lowe Farm. The only other buildings on this side of the tracks were the elevators, CN station, and CN section house and the old cattle loading pens and shoots (a great playground for Rose Marie, Margie and Bobby). Mary recalls having a nightmare that a train on the tracks blocked her ability to rescue her sleeping

children from their burning house. She had left them momentarily as she ran across the track to the Rosner's store for some groceries. Those children were never left unattended! In 1948 the house was moved to the "right side of the tracks" and was added onto over the years as the family grew in size. In 1978, this house was torn down and Dave and Mary moved into a new house on the same property.

Although Dave and Mary moved to Morris in 1996 because there was no suitable housing in Lowe Farm for an active elderly couple after they sold the house, their hearts remain in Lowe Farm.

The annual dividend from the Co-op merchants comes in handy and the coffee and camaraderie are still the best in the Lowe Farm coffee shop. They meet their friends in the Friendship Centre and the Emmanuel Gospel Church



Tom and Cindy Ashton.

continues to be their place of worship as it has been for 44 years.

Dave's adult life began at 14, when he began to work as a farm

hand on farms around Lowe Farm. In 1943 he began working for the CNR and was employed by them until his retirement in 1978 with a brief interruption during WWII. Dave accepted the draft in January, 1944, trained in British Columbia, and was stationed on Partridge Island in the Bay of Fundy, then in Shilo and Winnipeg until his discharge in August, 1946. For Mary these two and a half years with three babies were difficult ones.

Dave worked as a Section man and foreman for the CNR in Myrtle, Dakotah, Silver Plains, Roland, Miami, Morris and Lowe Farm. The home base, however, was Lowe Farm. When it was impossible to travel back and forth, Dave stayed in cold, lonely bunk cars and Mary tended a house full of kids by herself. Dave's stories of walking to work to Myrtle or Morris in a blizzard, with temperatures of minus 35 degrees Celsius, with his back pack full of food for the week and newspapers stuffed in his boots to keep his feet from freezing, are bone chilling!

In addition to helping keep the school buildings full of children and the grocery store in business, Dave and Mary's presence was felt in the community. Dave served on the board of directors of the Lowe Farm Co-op for many years and was on the original board that worked for the construction of the Senior's apartments. He served on this board for 10 years. Mary's major contributions were through her activities in the Emmanuel Gospel Church where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and in the ladies' trio. She was the secretary or president of the Ladies Missionary Fellowship for many years. She helped to organize the meal program at the senior's apartments.

Currently, Dave and Mary are still active in the Church, Friendship Centre, and the meal program and devote much time and energy to the MCC Self Help store in Morris. Those crisply starched and ironed doilies, some of those neatly dressed dolls, some of those blankets patched from those seventies polyester pants and skirts, and the finishing touches on Dave's creations, are Mary's handiwork. Doll cribs, little end tables, plant stands, bric-a-brac shelves, and repair jobs on furniture, are Dave's contribution. They enjoy travelling with seniors tour groups and visiting their children. Dave has developed a new interest in the past few years - computer games! His checker and chess skills are well known in southern Manitoba. (He won the second prize in a checker tournament in 1998.) Now he enjoys matching his skills against those on screen characters.

Dave and Mary's children: Rose Marie (1941), Marjorie (1942), Bob (1944), Allan (1948), Leonard (1952), Janice (1953), Roxanna (1958), Loretta (1961-1962) and Douglas (1964), grew up in Lowe Farm over a 41 year time span. (1941 - 1962) Their parents encouraged them to put their faith in God and to get an education.

The oldest four graduated from the Lowe Farm Collegiate and the youngest four from the Morris Colle-

giate after consolidation. They are all proud to be Lowe Farmers and cherish the friendships that were started sometimes before they started school and continued through 12 years of schooling. Many of these friendships still endure today.

Their lives were positively influenced and enriched by school teachers like: Anna and Justina Wiens, J. P. Goossen, John Enns, A. P. Hildebrand, J. L. Doerkson, Hardy Kehler, Cornie Fehr, Katherine Klassen, Bill Kehler, Vernon Penner, Larry Eidse, and church leaders like: their Uncle Jake and Aunt Sadie Wiebe, Ron and Norma Hoeppner, Bill and Dorothy Kehler, Marvin and May Ann Wall, and numerous Sunday School and music teachers.

Although the school and the church, with their planned agendas, were strong influences in the Penner children's lives, Lowe Farm provided other significant people and places. The parents of their friends at whose homes they often spent almost as much time as at their own served as their "other parents" and reinforced the life style and values taught in their own home. The expression, "It takes a village to raise a child," applied to Lowe Farm.

Uncle Jake Peters' barbershop was a haven for checker players, horseshoe players, aspiring young guitarists, political and intellectual debates and freshly roasted sunflower seeds. Mrs. Herman Brown's house was always opened to young people interested in her large library of books. Fond memories remain of meeting friends at the swings on the school yard after dark or at Heppner's pond or going for a walk along the railway tracks or to Falk's bridge.

The Heppner woods with its tree house, built and rebuilt over the years, could be a battle field, the Black Forest, or whatever imagination dictated. It could also be just a pleasant spot for a private moment with one's thoughts.

The skating rink, even the little hut with the pot bellied stove in the 1950's, provided opportunities to be with peers away from the watchful eyes of parents. The curling rink provided the unique opportunity for youth and adults to get together, either on the same team or in friendly rivalry. The "generation gap" was nonexistent at the curling rink.

Fun, in the 1940's and 1950's and early 1960's, was largely self-made. There are pleasant memories of daylong summer hikes or bike rides with a Klik or bologna sandwich in a lunch pail, to explore dykes, bridges and water ponds, and collect frogs and beer bottles. Even those hours shelling peas around the laundry tub was fun if they did it with Ruth, Paul and Herman Friesen at the Penner house one day and the Friesens' the next. Hours were spent organizing sports activities. Whatever sport was in season, be it baseball, football, or hockey, was played without adult involvement. The game would accommodate all who showed up to play.

Massive snow forts dug into huge snow drifts; waiting to hear the good news that school had been cancelled due to an overnight snow storm, and freezing ears on the walk to school when it hadn't; shoveling snow off Heppner's pond so the game could go on; cutting and carrying blocks of snow to fill the cistern for a water supply; these are part of our childhood winters in Lowe Farm.

The Penner children were town kids, but all remember fondly the day long reciprocating visits with their friends on the farm. They learned much about farm life during those visits.

We are proud to have grown up in Lowe Farm and are happy to have this opportunity to say thank you to the community that helped to raise us, on the occasion of its 100th birthday.

This is where the Penner children are now:

Rose Marie became a teacher and while teaching near Russell, Manitoba she married Jim Kieper, the most eligible young farmer in the area, in 1964. They are grain farmers and raise pure bred Hereford cattle on their Half Diamond K Ranch. Their son Tom with wife Cindy and children Ashton, 5, and Wyatt, 3, are part of the Kieper farm operation and live on the farm. Daughter Teresa and her husband Curtis Boucher and sons Lane, 4, and Luke, 2, live in Russell where Teresa is a high school teacher and Curtis works for Paterson Grain. Son Richard and his wife Debbie live in Winnipeg where Richard is an agricultural engineer presently employed in the head office of Monsanto. Debbie works in the Paterson head office.

Marjorie was a nursing instructor in Winnipeg before marrying an up and coming young lawyer, Jim Fraser, in 1971. Jim still practices law in Winnipeg and Marjorie does occasional contract work as a research assistant. Their son David is a chiropractor in Winnipeg and son Jim has been employed in sales after graduation from the University of Manitoba. First he worked in sporting goods and now is in auto sales, also in Winnipeg.

Bob, a chartered accountant, is a senior partner at KPMG, specializing in taxation. He had three children with his ex wife, Nancy Melville. Robert and his fiancée Monica Peters will both graduate from medicine from the University of Alberta in Edmonton in the spring of 1999. Michelle is attending Mount Royal College in Calgary. Maria Barnes is completing her Ph.D. in Law and Psychology. Her love, Werner Muller Clemm, a Ph.D. graduate from the University of Victoria, works in the office of the Auditor General. They live in Ottawa.

Allan, also a chartered accountant, is the EVP and CFO for International Properties Group Ltd., in Calgary. He married Lynn Garnett, a registered nurse, in 1971. She does casual work in nursing and is studying gerontology in Canmore, Alberta, where the family lives. Their daughter Marnie is taking a break from her university studies, travelling in Europe, and will be working as a nanny in Germany in 1999. Son Curtis is a third year

Management student at the University of Calgary. Son Eric graduated from high school and is currently a Rotary Club exchange student in Cologne, Germany. Daughter Dana is a Grade XI student in Canmore.

Leonard is an Environmental Land Use Planner with the Alberta government. He lives in Edmonton with his wife of 22 years, Elfrieda, a school librarian, and their daughters Laurie, 14, and Angela, 12.

Janice, a graduate of Winnipeg Bible College and the St. Boniface School of Nursing, married Jack Penner, an electronics technician with MTS, in 1978. They live in Winnipeg with their four children, Jeremy, 17, Roslyn, 15, Cheryl, 13, and Melanie, 11.

Roxanna, a graduate of the Grace Hospital School of Nursing, married Mark Meaney, a fireman, builder, and hobby farmer, whom she met while travelling in Australia. They live near Kapunda, South Australia with their three children, Joshua, 9, Kaitlin, 6, and Richard, 3.

Douglas obtained a Bachelor of Computer Science degree from the University of Manitoba and works for Transport Canada at the Winnipeg International Airport. He married Judy Ivy in 1996. She is a Certified General Accountant.

BERNHARD (BEN) & TINA (THIESSEN) PENNER

Dad, Bernhard (Ben) Penner, was born September 23, 1911, in the Plum Coulee area to Peter and Anna Penner. He was the seventh of 14 children. Mom was born in the Kronsweide area in 1913, to Jacob and Katharina Thiessen. She was the sixth of 13 children.

Mom and Dad first set eyes on one another in Lowe Farm and were married in the Sommerfeld Church on June 5, 1932.

Their first years of married life consisted of working for a number of different farmers, and beginning a family of their own. They moved into Lowe Farm in 1938, and lived there for the next 50 years.

By this time Dad was beginning to recognize that farming was not his calling in life. While Mom was involved full time with raising Doreen (1932), John (1934) and Harry (1936), Dad took a job with Ed Anderson of Morris. After some "on the job training," Dad moved into his new occupation as a dragline operator, and over the years honed his skills until he became one of the best.

Over the course of the next decade, Dad worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris, Government Drainage Maintenance Board, Kane Equipment, Manitoba Sugar Beet Co., Majestic Pipelines and Nelson River Construction. During his years at Kane Equipment and Nelson River, he also worked as a heavy duty mechanic.

In the early 1950's, he also operated his own garage in Lowe farm. Not satisfied to be just a crane operator or mechanic, Dad took and passed a course as a high pressure welder. Mom continued to raise the regular



The Ben and Tina Penner family at the Penner reunion, July 29, 1995.



Ben and Tina Penner, 1997, on their 65th wedding anniversary.

additions to the family, namely, Walter (1938), Eddy (1940), Ben (1942), Margaret (1943), Anna (1946) and Lorne (1952).

In 1951 they moved the Heide house from the Horndean area into Lowe Farm. This house almost had enough room for nine children and was unique in the fact that it had no electrical wiring and still had ceiling hooks in each room to hang the coal oil lamps.

After years of commuting back and forth to Winnipeg, Dad took jobs, first at Bobrowski Welding and then at Western Flyer in Morris.

Failing health forced Dad into semi-retirement in 1975. He continued to putter at home in his shop in Lowe Farm, and as his health began to improve, what was to be his retirement turned into some of the busiest years of his life. His skills as a welder, mechanic, machinist, and inventor were used to repair anything from the farmer's largest equipment, to a lawnmower, to a footstool. Dad truly was a jack-of-all-trades, and he mastered quite a few of them.

Throughout the years that Mom and Dad lived in Lowe Farm, they were involved in Emmanuel Gospel Church where Dad served as a board member and a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Mom was, and is, a faithful, devoted companion and mother, who was always around when we needed her.

Dad suffered a stroke in 1986 and this ended his enjoyment of repairing and inventing. In 1988, their property in Lowe Farm was sold, and an auction sale was held. They moved into an apartment in Winkler, where they continue to live after 66 years together.

BENY (BERNARD) & DEANNA (DYCK) PENNER

Benny was born at Lowe Farm on March 24, 1942, the sixth of the nine children of Ben and Tina Penner.

After leaving school in 1961, he trained as a telegraph operator/station agent, working at various locations in the prairies and Ontario. In 1972, he changed vocations to that of selling trailers/mobile homes/manufactured housing.

Benny and Deanna were married October 17, 1964, at the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm. They have lived in Stettler, Alberta since 1979, where they own and operate Bernie's Homes, a retail mobile home sales lot.

Benny and Deanna have three children. Pam, born in March, 1966, is a librarian in Edmonton; Paul, born in May, 1968, is a sales representative with the family business. Penny was born in March, 1972. She is a homemaker, married to Brad Dahl. Brad is a carpenter and a farmer. Penny and Brad live in Botha, Alberta and have two daughters, Brittany and Roxy.

ED PENNER

Submitted by Ed Penner

I, Ed Penner, was born in Morris, Manitoba, July 14, 1940, to Ben and Tina (Thiessen) Penner and was raised in Lowe Farm. I served a five year hitch with the Canadian Navy from 1959 to 1964, then worked for the Canadian National Railways as assistant agent on northern Ontario and Manitoba main lines.

I got into watch repair, taking my training at the Manitoba Institute of Technology and was employed by Silverman Jewelers until the lure of quick and easy cash took me to the Alberta Oil Patch, where I have been employed ever since.

Now, semi-retired, I have moved back to Morden, Manitoba, where I'm kept busy restoring a stone Victorian house and repairing a large collection of clocks and watches which I have accumulated over the years.

Occasionally, I'll step out of retirement and lend a hand when things get busy in Alberta.

JOHAN (JOHN) & KATHARINA (FALK) PETERS

Submitted by Agatha Plohman and Kathrine (Giesbrecht) Hiebert



John and Katharina Peters



Johan Peters

The traumatic story of this child, "Das Verstoszene Kind," was written by William Enns (Big Bill), a reporter for the Steinbach Post and appeared as a serial in that paper either in 1943 or 1944.

Johan was born at Odessa, Marianpole, Russia on April 12, 1863. His mother abandoned him at birth. A Mrs. Derksen found the newborn babe in a pig pen, rescued him and took him to a Harder family. Mrs. Harder was able to nurse him, and that is where he spent the first year of his life.

When the Mennonites prepared to emigrate to Canada, the Derksens could not afford to pay for his passage. Once again he was abandoned. The Peters family was also immigrating to Canada. Mr. Peters found the abandoned boy, paid his passage and brought him along to Canada. This was in 1876.

Johan lived with the Peters family, earning his keep, and also adopting their name when he joined the church. In 1889, he married Katherina Falk. They homesteaded north of Plum Coulee until they bought a section of land north of Lowe Farm. He bought a "big" International Tractor, but also used lots of horses for farm work. Purchasing a combine was for his own use as well as for the neighbors. They built an extremely large home here, with six bedrooms upstairs and three downstairs, as well as building a huge barn to house all the horses and cattle.

Katherina passed away in 1915. There were nine children born of this marriage: Katherina (John) Reimer; Maria (David) Penner; Margaretha (Jacob) Friesen; Helena (Ben) Rempel; Johan (Annabel Crewson); Peter (Agatha Braun); Jacob (Lizzie Klassen); Anna (Ben) Giesbrecht; Sara (Jacob) Rempel; one child died in infancy.

In March 1916, Johan married Nettie Wall and they continued farming and raised nine children:

Mary (Rudolph) Reimer; Nettie (John) Klassen; Henry (Vera Schmidt); Susan (Herb) Markwort; Abram (Ina Rongue); Lillian (Clarence) Martin; Fred and David died in infancy; Agatha (Hans) Plohman.

In 1934 the farm was sold and they moved into Lowe Farm where John passed away in September of 1946. Nettie moved to Winnipeg in 1952, where she passed away on May 17, 1971.

Johan's descendants number more than 600. Of his children, only Nettie Klassen, Susan Markwart, Abram Peters, Lillian Martin, and Agatha Plohman are still living. Two of his sons, Abram and Fred, served in the Second World War. Fred served with the Glengary Highlanders in Europe and Abram with the Winnipeg Grenadiers as a Hong Kong prisoner of war from 1941 to 1945. During these years my father's only wish was to live until Abram would be released and returned to his family. His wish was granted.

PETER & TINA (WARKENTIN) PETERS

Submitted by Tina Peters

Peter and Tina Peters were married in 1940 at the Lichtenauer Church near Ste. Elizabeth. We moved to the Broadview District near Morris. In 1945, we moved three and a quarter miles east of Lowe Farm, where we farmed for 20 years. In 1965, we had a new house moved to Lowe Farm (presently the Dave Schmidt house). We sold it to Mrs. Martin Friesen in 1966, and bought the former C. P. Kroeker farm where we farmed for 10 years. (Eldon and Mildred Schroeder are the present owners.)

In 1969, Pete began working part-time as a meat cutter for the Co-op store in Lowe Farm, and in 1976, we had a new house built for us by the Lowe Farm Co-op on the west end of town. Pete was then working full-time at the Co-op



Peter and Tina Peter farm from 1965.



Peter and Tina Peters 25th anniversary, 1965.



Peter Peters last round on the farm.



Peter and Tina Peter's first rented farm, 1945 - 1965.



Peter Peters combining by the Shannon.



A coffee break while combining (Peter Peters).

store. In 1980, he was forced to retire for health reasons.

We had five children, two died in infancy. The others, Eugene, Linda, and Emmy, all received their education in Lowe Farm. After Grade XII, they attended Bible school and/or university. They are all married with families.

Pete was always involved in community affairs with Smith Spur Pool Elevator, the Farmers Union, and as Lowe Farm School trustee for many years. For 15 years, he was on the Credit Union committee. We were both involved in church, in various committees. Pete also served as deacon, and I have served on the Ladies Group executive. We have also both worked at the Mennonite Central Committee Store in Morris.

For 47 years, from 1945 to 1992, Lowe Farm was our home. Since then, we have retired to Winkler where we are enjoying life as parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. We also enjoy our condo beside the railway tracks. The rumble of a train is a reminder of our former home along PTH 23 near Lowe Farm.

HENRY REIMER

*From Furrows in the Valley
Originally submitted by Mary
Stoesz*

Henry Reimer was born in Russia in 1873. He came to Canada with his parents as a baby and grew up south of Plum Coulee in the Grimsby District.

As a young man, he bought a homestead in Alberta and began to farm and raise cattle and sheep. He married in 1911, and to this union was born two sons and a daughter.

In 1924, they decided to move back to Manitoba, buying a farm in the Rose Farm District. Five years later, his wife died and Henry moved back to the same farm he grew up on (1932). He passed away on July 17, 1952.

The oldest son, Diedrich, took over his father's farm, raising four

sons and one daughter there. After he died June 17, 1966, his wife moved to Winkler.

Henry, his second son, farms in Alberta; he has two daughters and one son.

Daughter Mary married Jake Stoesz, an upholsterer from Plum Coulee. They resided there with their two daughters and three sons.

JOHN & EDITH (NELSON) REIMER

Submitted by John Reimer

John's parents, Nettie and William Reimer.

I was raised at Kane and Edith (Nelson) was raised at Robin Hood, Saskatchewan, a small village like Kane. I am the oldest son of William and Nettie Reimer of Kane.

I went to Kane School for 11 years. After that I worked at a garage in Lowe Farm owned by Pete Martens and his brothers. For nine months after that I worked on the farm for Bill Deutchmen, and then, summers only, for three years. I then got a job at Dinsmore, Saskatchewan, as an apprentice mechanic. I took my apprenticeship in Saskatoon. In my last year of apprenticeship I worked for a General Motors dealer in Saskatoon. I got my Journeyman's Papers in 1958.

While I was working in Saskatoon I met Edith. We were married December 12, 1958. Ten months later we moved to Dinsmore. Bill was born in Saskatoon in 1959. Diane was born in 1960. I worked in Dinsmore until 1962.

In 1962, we moved to an acreage formerly owned by my uncle Abe Dyck. We lived there for one year and then moved to the J. L. Derksen place on Highway 23 west of Lowe Farm where I am still residing.

I worked at Stern Trucks in Winnipeg for three months and then I started working at the Lowe



Edith and John Reimer



Edith and John Reimer and family.



Edith Nelson and John Reimer.



The family of Edith and John Reimer.



Edith and John Reimer's 25th anniversary with

Farm Co-op. Then I operated a service station in Morris for awhile and in 1968 I came back to the Co-op. I worked there for a total of about five years.

After the fire at the Co-op, I worked for J. R. Friesen in Morris until we bought P. L. Braun's Service Station in Lowe Farm. We operated that until Edith passed away on June 21, 1997.

During our time in Lowe Farm, we had four more children, Ken, Paul, Kathy and Shirley. All our children went to the Lowe Farm School and graduated in Morris.

Bill is an engineer for the North West Territory government at Fort Smith. Diane is a registered nurse in Edmonton, Alberta. Ken, his wife Eileen and their four children live in Calgary where Ken works as a carpenter. Paul lives in Lowe Farm and works for Brunet Construction of Morris. Shirley is in Taiwan teaching English. Kathy lives in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and works for Bombardier. She is married to Neil Servold and has two children.

KEN & SHARON (WIEBE) REIMER

Submitted by Ken Reimer



Ken and Sharon Reimer, Andrea and Candice.

Ken and Sharon Reimer, together with daughters Andrea and Candice, live on the farm two miles south and three quarter mile east of Lowe Farm on NE 19-4-1w.

Ken, the oldest of five children, grew up on his parents, Cornie and Annie Reimer's, farm southwest of Lowe Farm in the Kronsweide district. The Kronsweide School is where I (Ken) started my elementary school years. After the completion of Grade I, however, the school was closed due to the consolidation process and all the students were moved to the Lowe Farm School. Here I finished my elementary and junior high education, followed by high school in Morris where I took vocational Agriculture. After graduation in 1979, I found short-term employment at several local businesses, but in 1981 I started farming with Dad.

In 1983, I married Sharon Wiebe, daughter of John and Helen Wiebe of Plum Coulee (Grossweide District). Together we settled in the Lowe Farm area starting with a short-term rental residence, followed by the purchase of our current homestead in 1984. Andrea, our older daughter, was born on March 28, 1985. Candice, the younger, was born December 14, 1988. Both Andrea (Grade VIII) and Candice (Grade IV) are being educated in Lowe Farm School.

Community involvement has always been important to us. My involvement started at a young age when I was elected to serve on the local board of Manitoba Pool in Lowe Farm as well as a sub-district councilor. Shortly after this I was elected to the board of the Lowe Farm Co-op where I served for eight years. I have also served as a volunteer on the Lowe Farm Fire Department for 15 years.

Church involvement is also very important to our family. We attend the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church where I serve as a youth leader and Sharon serves as a Sunday School teacher.

BEN (EWART) REMPEL



Eva Rempel's family on her 90th birthday.

Bernhard Ewart Rempel was born to Peter K. and Margaretha (Ewart, Heppner) Rempel in the Kronsweide area. His youth was spent helping his father on the farm with his brothers and sisters.

At a young age, he met and courted Eva Dyck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dyck of the Horndean area. They were both baptized as members of the Sommerfeld Church. They were wed on January 3, 1926. Ben worked hard at supplying the necessities of life for his growing family. They moved to a home across from his parents' home. The house stood on the yard where Dennis and Teresa Rempel's house now stands. He bought some machinery and did some custom swathing and threshing.

Ben was also a mechanic and moved to Roland into a rented home when he was employed as a mechanic in a garage there. The family went to his parents' home to visit Grandpa, who was suffering injuries he received when a trolley (or pulley, used to lift hay into the loft), came undone at the peak of the barn, and landed on his head. Upon their return home to Roland they discovered that their home and all their possessions were destroyed by fire.

At this time the family consisted of two girls and two boys: Helen, Jake, John and Justina. They moved into a house in Morris for a short time. This is where Benny was born. The house across from Grandma and Grandpa was available again, so this is where the family moved for the second time. Ben began to deal with used parts and scrap iron.

In the spring of 1933, another baby boy was born but died a few weeks after birth. In 1935, a baby girl joined the family. By now the older three were of school age. The Depression affected everyone and jobs were hard to find. Ben sometimes walked four miles to Lowe Farm to work for one dollar a day. He was a man who did not want charity, but at the height of the Depression, he asked the councilors of the Municipality for 'relief', which we would call 'welfare' today. This organization supplied the bare necessities.

In the spring of 1937, another daughter joined the family and in fall of that same year, the family bought a building and moved it into Lowe Farm. It was a

mighty cold winter. The previous owners had used ashes as insulation. In early spring a lot of renovations were made to the dwelling. The roof was raised to supply an upstairs which was used as bedrooms for the children. Wood shavings were used for insulation and the main level was partitioned into three rooms. Later a large addition on the north side became a kitchen which gave ample room to feed the family as well as workers.

Ben went into partnership with Peter Martens to operate a garage. During World War II, Peter Martens went into the Army and Ben worked at McDonald's Airport in Winnipeg.

After World War II, trucks could be bought at very reasonable prices so Ben purchased several and began his own trucking business under the name of Rempel and Sons Trucking. They were kept busy. In summer they hauled grain and gravel, and in winter they hauled a lot of ice blocks. They also moved buildings. His business was big enough that, besides his sons, he needed to hire workers. In 1938, another baby girl was born.

On one occasion he was dismantling iron, perhaps a truck chassis or combine frame, with a large chisel and sledge hammer when a piece of steel got lodged in his eye. The doctors tried to save it but the other eye became infected so they had to remove the injured eye.

During his confinement, another baby boy joined the family. This was in November and Christmas was fast approaching. It is a mystery how the parents were able to supply each of their children with a gift, but the best gift of all was that dad was home for Christmas.

Sometime after this Ben was stricken with severe headaches. He became unconscious and was taken to hospital. They diagnosed it as sleeping sickness. He had a high fever and after much prayer,

the fever broke and soon he was home again.

Jeanette Ann was born on December 6, 1944, and Menno James was born November 8, 1947. At about this time, roads were being built and Ben and his sons formed Rempel's Construction. The business went very well.

In March 1951, they had another house fire where their home was totally destroyed. The family still at home rented a place and the parents built a new home. This house still stands at the west end of Lowe Farm. It had five bedrooms and also a large dining room. This was great for family gatherings.

Ben was a hard working man and so was his wife, Eva. Ben was told by his doctor to slow down, but this wasn't his nature. On November 7, a day after his 55th birthday, he died of a heart attack. His widow Eva had a smaller house built and she and her youngest son Jim moved into it. She sold the former place to Edward and Justina (her daughter). When the senior apartments were built, she sold her home and took up residence in the apartments. She lived there until heart congestion and other ailments forced her to move to the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris where she was well looked after until her death on October 17, 1997.

The following is a list of family members of Ben and Eva Rempel:

Helen married David Brown. David died in June, 1968. Their children are: Terry, Kenneth, Janet, Lori, Randy and Curtis.

Jake married Elizabeth Brown. He died in January, 1996. Their children are: Myrna, Ross, Clifford and Jackie

John married Irene Brown. He died July 9, 1974. Their children are: Mark, Michael Ben and Neal.

Justina married Edward Funk. Their children include: Debra, Beverly and Leslie, Terese, Coleen and Jeffrey.

Henry David died in infancy in 1933.

Mary Evelyn married John VanEek. John died January 28, 1959. Kimberly Jane was born to this union. Evelyn's second marriage was to Dick Hunter. Their children are: Kathy, Keith and Kelly.

Agnes (Nettie) married Adrian Brunet. Their children are: Leo Gerald (died in infancy in 1960), Gregory, Corina, Regina and David.

Catherine married Richard McKelvey. Richard died on September 20, 1992. Their children are: Joan, Kevin and Sandra.

George married Lesley Barber. Their children include: Roger, Gordon and Kristin.

Jeanette Ann married Ken McIntosh. Ken died October 17, 1990. Their children are: Sean and Susan. Jeanette remarried George Asmore, November 22, 1997.

Menno James married Evelyn Spalding. Their children are: Lisa, Benjamin and Jonathon.

CORNELIUS & KATHARINA (FRIESEN) REMPEL



Cornelius and Katharina Rempel with Jake and Tina.



*Back row: Cornelius Rempel children:
(l-r) Abe, Cornie, Ben, Pete; Front: Susan, Tina, Helen and
Mary. Jake and John missing.*

Cornelius was born in Russia January 29, 1866, to Johann and Margaretha (Sawatsky) Rempel. The sixth of 12 children, Cornelius came to Canada with his family in 1874 on the S. S. Sarmatian when he was nine years old.

An incident occurred toward the end of that voyage. During a thunder storm, the ship struck an iceberg that had broken loose, causing them to be literally ship-

wrecked for awhile, but they were close enough to the Canadian coast that help wasn't too long in coming. By then they were running low on food, but all survived.

Katharina was born on April 9, 1874, and came to Canada with her parents Bernhard and Katharina (Baerg) Friesen, in 1888 at the age of 14. She was one of six children.

Katharina married Cornelius in 1893, following the death of his first wife at the birth of their third child.

They moved to Lowe Farm in March of 1913 from the Grunthal area. Cornelius was a farmer, first dairy, and then grain. In 1930 they left the farm and moved into Lowe Farm.

Cornelius died in July, 1939, and Katharina in October, 1939.

Their children: Peter married Susan Wiebe. They had two sons, Ben and Rick.

Ben married Helen Peters. They had five children, Bill, Eddie, Helen, Sarah, and John.

Tina married Bill Heinrichs. They had nine children, Peter, Martha, William, David, Mary, Harry, Joanne, Edna and Randall.

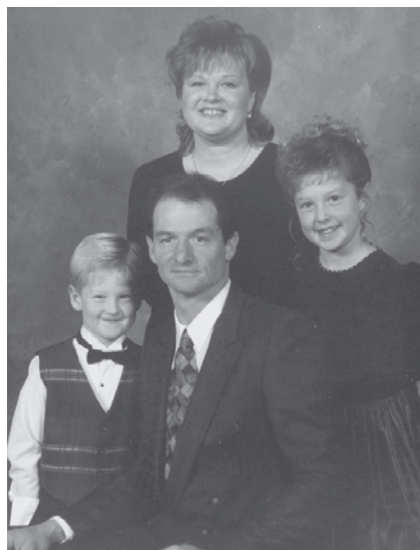
John (Jack) married Vera Churchill. They had three sons, Gilbert, Elmer and Bruce.

Cornie married Anne Born. They had five children, Raymond, Joyce, Walford, Leona and Donald. Jake married Fay Hanna. They had twin sons, James (Jim) and Allan. Susan married Luther Lewis. Mary married Adolf Murner. They had six children, Alvin, Evelyn, Waldo, Edith, Dianne, and Charlotte.

Abe married Lillian Dee. They had two children, Dale and Warren. Helen married George Wiebe. They had five children, Melvin, Victoria, Leona, Ruth, Ronald, and Timothy.

DENNIS & TERESA (WIEBE) REMPEL

Dennis is the youngest of five children, born on May 6, 1959 to Cornie and Mary Rempel of Lowe Farm.



*Dennis, Teresa, Breanne
and Matthew Rempel.*

Dennis attended school at the Kronsweide School and then in Lowe Farm and Morris. He worked for the Paterson Elevator in Kane and Triangle Lumber in Roland before taking over the family farm south of Lowe Farm in 1983.

In 1985, he married Teresa Wiebe. Teresa is the oldest of four daughters, born on March 22, 1964 to Bernhard and Lucille Wiebe of Lowe Farm. She continued to work in Winnipeg until they began their family.

Dennis and Teresa have two children, Breanne, born on March 8, 1988, and Matthew, born on April 6, 1991, who now attended the Lowe Farm School. Together they are the third generation to operate the family farm, in which one parcel of land has been in the family for 100 years. Dennis continues to do carpentry in the off season and also drives a school bus.

PETER K. & ANNA (ENNS) REMPEL

From Furrows in the Valley

Peter K. Rempel was born July 15, 1867 in the village of Heuboden Bergthall Colony, South Russia, close to the Black Sea. His parents were Jacob and Agenetha



*House built by Peter K. Rempel in
1903-1904.*



*The Peter K. Rempel family. Back row:
Son, Peter. Middle row: (l - r) Mrs.
Rempel (Anna Enns), Mr. Rempel,
Agenetha. Foreground: Anna.*



*Peter K. Rempel family, 1910. Back
row: Anna, Susanna. Peter K. holding
Jacob. Second wife, Margarettha
(Heppner, nee Ewart) holding John,
Margarettha's children, Helen and
Abraham Heppner, Bernard Rempel.*

(nee Klippenstein) Rempel. His mother died when he was just two years old. His father remarried, and together with his parents and two sisters Peter migrated to Canada with the first contingent of Mennonites in 1874. They settled on the east side of the Red River on a tract of land designated for the Mennonites by the government. Their first place of residence was the village of Blumengart, near Steinbach.

In 1886, he married Anna Enns. They lived on the SW 1/4 section 36-7-5 near Choritz. A few years later they moved to the west of the Red River near Plum Coulee in the district of Grossweide on the SW section 33-3-2. One old receipt it is called Manchester County.

In 1898, he purchased the SW 1/4 24-4-2w in the district of Kronsweide near Lowe Farm in the Municipality of Morris. It was a virgin prairie except for a few furrows that had been ploughed by the former owner. (I believe it was a Mr. Stephenson).

There was a shallow well, and a slight depression in the soil which held some water in the spring and after rainfalls. This was later excavated with scoops pulled by horses and served as the first pond. (In 1935, Peter E. Penner deepened it with a dragline). Most of the water had to be hauled from Hespler Creek near Roseheim, about five or six miles.

He built a barn, 28 by 56 feet, which was partitioned and served as living quarters as well. In the next year he purchased the SE 1/4 adjoining the homestead. Other settlers along the trail between 24 and 23 were the Johann Schroeders, Johann Neufelds, Peter Klassens, and on SW 1/4 25 were the Jacob Schroeders, later minister of the church.

The first school was built at the dividing line or the NE and NW 1/4 section of 23, which also served as the church for the community. A cemetery was started just west of the school yard on the NE 1/4. One of the first to be laid to rest there was Peter and Anna's son Jacob in 1899. The cemetery is still in use but more land has been added.

In 1903 and 1904, Peter built a one-and-a-half story, "L" shaped house with full basement and hot air furnace. The carpenter was Charles Nester. The lumber was purchased in Plum Coulee for \$800. The dealer gave him a picture window with stained glass as a premium, providing it was installed in the side facing the road for advertising purposes, this being the first of its kind in the community. When the house was dismantled in 1976, the original stained glass was intact, except for eight pieces, which were broken during a hailstorm in 1947.

Peter served as song leader for many years.

In November, 1905, Anna died after giving birth to their tenth child, of which five had died in infancy.

In February, 1906, Peter married Margaretha Heppner (nee Ewert), widow of the late Mr. Heppner who had homesteaded on NW 1/4 18-4-1w. There were 11 children born into this marriage. All but one of these reached adulthood. They were all born in the farm

home, and nearly all without a doctor in attendance.

Margaretha was well known in the community for serving as a midwife, preparing the dead for burial and taking care of the sick. She had many home remedies which were very good. Peter served as councillor in the Rural Municipality of Morris from 1902-1916, inclusive.

At the time of his second marriage Peter still had a team of oxen. This was because a few years previous his horses got sick and 10 out of 11 had to be destroyed. He always liked to have a good driving horse. He increased his supply of horses by either purchase or breeding, so at one time he had 23 horses to work the land (before the tractor era). At one time he owned a Regal car, and in 1918 he purchased a new Dodge. Many years later, he accepted a Gray Dart as payment from a man he had cosigned for.

Following are land holdings which he had at one time or another either by purchase or rental: SW 1/4 of section 24-4-2w. The 1899 taxes were \$15.20. This land is now farmed by Peter's son David; SE 1/4 of section 24-4-2w. The 1899 taxes for half section were \$33.62; SE 1/4 of section 13-4-2w in 1905; NW 1/4 of section 18-4-1w, in 1906. This land is now farmed by grandson Peter E. Rempel; N half of section 34-4-1w in 1908 according to the first time drainage tax listed; SE 1/4 of section 23-4-2w purchased in 1919 from Johann Schroeder. It is now farmed by son Cornelius; SE 1/4 114-4-2w; SE and NE 1/4 of 3-5-2w, by rental, known as the McDermot farm; NW 1/4 11-5-2w.

Old Mr. Shewman, who built drainage ditches in the community, had a camp south of our yard and got such provisions as milk, butter, eggs, water, garden vegetables, and even bread sometimes.

In 1918, Peter had the barn renovated and put on a foundation. A concrete floor was poured and a track and trolley installed to lift the hay into the loft. Due to a malfunction of the trolley there was an accident. The trolley came off the track and dropped down, striking Peter, who was on the load down below, on the head. He was knocked unconscious. Mother took care of the wound and after regaining consciousness he remarked, "I thought we were going to unload hay." Mother assured him his services would not be needed that day.

About this time there was a controversy in regards to education in the district. Parents wanted to keep the school private and taught in the German language, but since the country had been at war with Germany, the request was denied. The government hired a teacher, Tom Black, and all classes were to be held in English. Several parents objected to this and refused to send their children. Instead, private classes were started in the Rempels' summer kitchen. It was a two-roomed building and one room served as a classroom, the other as kitchen. Miss Anna Friesen was the teacher. This was only done for one season. The parents gave in and sent their children to school, but were allowed to hire the teachers and have half an hour of German, providing this

was done before regular classes.

During the busy harvest season, bread had to be baked daily. Mother said she had used as much as 100 pounds of flour a week. She did the baking in an outside brick oven which she built herself.

Father had a great interest in the development of farm machinery and in 1927, the brothers Harry and George Anderson demonstrated straight-combining of wheat for him. At another time he had the one way disk demonstrated on his land. He also introduced the seeding of rye in the area, for which he was nicknamed "Rye Rempel." He also raised sheep at one time and several acres were fenced in for this purpose.

In the early 1930's, there were many grasshoppers in the area and it was very dry. Mother and we younger children saved some of the garden by chasing the grasshoppers out by walking back and forth along the rows waving rags, thereby not allowing them to sit long enough to chew the vegetation. One day we watched a colony or swarm of grasshoppers migrating across the parched soil in the yard. They just simply marched like a regiment of soldiers. The men attached a trough to the binder and filled it with old oil and as they cut the grain the grasshoppers would fly up and land in the oil, when it was filled they would empty it and repeat the process thus preventing them lay eggs. Sometimes grasshoppers would migrate in huge swarms like a cloud creating a shadow when passing the sun.

In 1931, Father had the misfortune of falling into the basement, striking his head against the base of the chimney that was made of fieldstone. His skull was fractured. Dr. McGavin of Plum Coulee was summoned. He did not give much hope for his recovery, but gave Mother instructions on how to take care of him. Father was unconscious for several days and semi-conscious for several weeks, but with good care and the answer to prayers, he got well, but was unable to be in charge of the farm operations. So, until John and Henry went out on their own, they took charge. In the late 1930's, Cornelius and David rented the land until 1962 when they purchased it.

In 1956, the Rempels celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Peter passed away in 1957 at the age of 89 years, seven months, in his own house.

In 1961, Margaretha and Tina moved to Lowe Farm. She passed away in 1975 at the age of 91 years.

Mr. Rempel had 21 children, 10 by his first wife, 11 by his second, as well as two stepchildren. Sixteen reached adulthood.

From his first marriage: Peter (1888-1968), farmer in the R. M. of Morris. He died of a heart attack; Agenetha (1889-1892) and Anna (1891-1892) both died of diphtheria July 8 and 10; Agenetha (1893-1973) married William Klassen, a farmer in the R. M. of Morris; Jacob (1896-1899); Anna (1898-1953) married Henry Huff. She died of cancer; Susanna (1901-1969) died of hypertension; Elizabeth (1901-1901) died at birth. She was the twin of



Peter K. Rempel, at the age of 75 on horse drawn plow.



*Mr. and Mrs. P. K. Rempel
on their Golden Anniversary in 1956.*



Five generations of Peter K. Rempel's family, 1953. Peter K. Rempel, aged 85, Peter P. Rempel holding P. K. 's great-granddaughter, Dianna Klassen. Back row: Dianna's grandmother, Tina Wiens (formerly Mrs. Peter Schroeder) and Dianna's mother, Nettie Klassen (nee Schroeder)

Susanna; Frank (1905-1905) died soon after birth.

Stepchildren: Abraham Heppner (1902-1962), died of a heart attack in INCO nickel mine at Sudbury, Ontario. Abraham had a threshing machine in his younger years and did custom threshing. He also did some auctioneering and was employed by Diedrich Heppner before moving to Ontario in 1943; Helen Heppner (1904), married Arron Thiessen, and is now residing in Winnipeg.

Children of second marriage: Bernhard (1906-1961), was a farmer, laborer, trucker, and a construction contractor. He died of a heart attack. Jacob (1908 - 1983), was a farmer in the R. M. of Morris. He then moved to Plumas, where he farmed until the time of retirement. He also served as a councillor of Plumas.

John (1909-1977) was a farmer and laborer. He died of a heart attack. Henry (1911-1952) was a laborer. He died of complications following surgery.

Cornelius (1913 - 1996) was a farmer. He married Mary Klassen (1921 - 1993) He married Eva Stoess (1924) in 1995. Eva lives in Winnipeg.

Marie (1915 - 1998), married Jacob Derksen (1911 - 1993), a mechanic.

David (1917) was a farmer. He married Tina Klassen (1920).

Katherine (1919) was a homemaker for her parents for as long as they lived. Then she was employed at Morris General Hospital. She retired in 1979, and now lives in the Lowe Farm Prairie View Apartments; William (1921) is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota, in the United States. He married Leola Seip of Swan River.

Margaret (1923 - 1986), married David Friesen, a grain buyer for Smith Spur.

Frank (1925-1925), died eight hours after birth.

PETER P. & NETTIE (KLASSEN) REMPLE

From Furrows in the Valley



*The children of Peter P. Remple.
(l - r) Tina, Anna, Nettie, Peter.*

Nettie Klassen was born June, 1893, near Plum Coulee, daughter of Peter A. and Katherine (Klippenstein) Klassen. When she was a little girl, her family moved to the Kronsweide District on S 24-4-2w.

On July 16, 1911, Nettie married Peter P. Remple, son of Peter K. and Nettie Remple, of the Kronsweide District. They farmed the land on S18-4-1w. Nettie and Peter were very hard workers. Due to Peter's illness, Nettie spent many hours out on the field, as well as having a big garden and raising chickens. Nettie was known to have had a great sense of humor. Her family always remembers her to have been young at heart and felt like she was one of them. Peter was very interested in singing and for many years, was the song leader of the Sommerfeld Church.

They raised four children: Tina (J. B.) Wiens (formerly Mrs. Peter Schroeder) lives in the Prairie View Apartments in Lowe Farm; Anna (Ed) Giesbrecht lives in Vernon, British Columbia; Nettie (Abe) Schroeder also lives in the Prairie View Apartments; Peter married Helen Klassen and lives in Winkler.

Nettie had been sick for several years and died on January 20, 1935. In 1936, Peter Remple married Mrs. Agnes Dueck, who had four children. Peter Remple died January 31, 1968.

HENRY & EVELYN (MURNER) ROSE

Submitted by Evelyn Rose

We moved to Lowe Farm in July 1973 from Roland Heights, California after living in California for 11 years. Moving from a busy city to a small village was quite a change for our three children but they adapted quite easily.

Rural life was not new to Henry and me. Henry was born in Sperling to Esther and Maurice Rose. He is the fourth youngest of 14 children. I am the second oldest of six children born to Mary (Rempel) and Adolf Murner. The first six years of my life were spent in Lowe Farm after which our family moved to Sperling.

After our marriage we lived in Sperling for a time. Henry farmed for his father and later was the fuel truck driver for the Sperling Co-op. I worked for Manitoba Telephone System before our marriage and for a short time after. In those days special permission had to be obtained from MTS to hire a woman who was married.

In 1958, we, with our two children, Debbie and Barry, moved to Lac Du Bonnet where Henry was a grain buyer for Canadian Consolidated Grain. After the birth of our third child, Tony, in 1960 we moved to Winnipeg.

While in Winnipeg I returned to work for MTS. Henry worked for Dorwin Industries installing doors and windows.

In 1962, Henry decided to seek greener pastures south of the border. Under the sponsorship of his brother Rene, our family moved to Southern California.

Henry planned to work in heavy construction but it took time as every job was filled through the Teamster's Union which was very strong. In the mean time Henry found a job driving a cement truck for Transit Mixed Concrete.



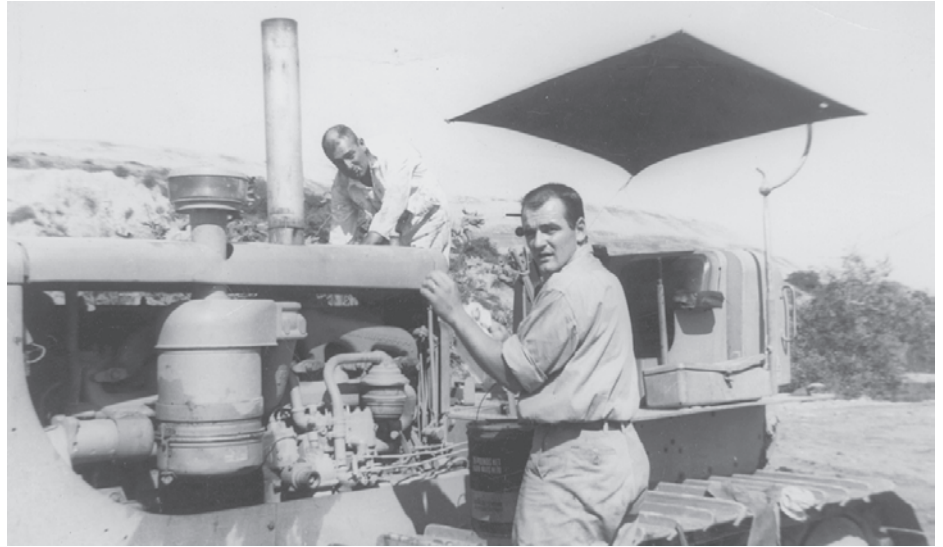
Henry and Evelyn Rose.

He has two specific memories that stand out in his mind. He was hauling concrete to the site where the popular TV series "Bonanza" was taped. While unloading the concrete the chute came loose and swung around and knocked a corner off the Cartwrights' house. No one became excited, maybe because it was not really a house anyway, just the outside wall to represent a house.

Another incident occurred in downtown Los Angeles. While unloading concrete, he saw a man fall off a beam several stories high and be impaled by a steel pole at the bottom.

After being laid off by Transit Mixed during the slow, rainy season he went to work for Knudsen's Creamery in Los Angeles. He was working there in 1965 when the Watts' Riot was raging. It was a very fearful time. I remember sitting up all night listening to the TV and following the riot's progression up the streets of Los Angeles on my map. Even the black men working at Knudsen didn't dare to go home. Fortunately the riot stopped two blocks away from the Creamery.

Henry did eventually obtain his teamster card and went to work for his brother Rene driving a cat and scraper as well as a water pull.



Henry Rose in the foreground and his brother Rene in the background, 1962.

After Rene's untimely death at the age of 39, Henry went to work for Consolidated Rock where he drove a cement truck for awhile and then moved on to become a grader operator.

I, meanwhile, returned to my former occupation and joined the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company as an operator. I moved to various positions within the company and at the time we left I was Chief Training Analyst.

While in California we experienced two severe earthquakes and a couple of smaller ones. I especially remember the one causing a lot of damage in downtown Los Angeles. My office was in Los Angeles and I was at home getting ready for work when the earthquake hit. When I arrived at work there were pieces of brick and stone from the buildings scattered all over the streets and sidewalks. Not thinking, I took the elevator up to the seventh floor where I worked. The elevator swayed and bumped the sides of the elevator shaft all the way up. Every available person was sent to man the switchboards. Two buildings which had been joined by an enclosed walkway were now joined by a couple of planks and a view of the ground below. To get to the switchboards from our floor we had to walk the

planks. Next to the Watts' Riot, that was the most frightening experience of my life.

We worshipped at the Wesleyan Church in La Puente and took part in the various church activities. It was in California, after the death of his brother, that Henry accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. And it was in California that I rededicated my life to the Lord.

Life in California was busy and that included our children. Debbie was on the school drill team, sang in the school choir and was very active in the church youth group.

Barrie tried out for a baseball team and was accepted but before the season began he fell at school and broke his arm. Barrie liked to go cycling on the hills a short distance behind our house with his cousin Gregg. Finding a dead man in the hills one day left both of them pretty shaken.

With Tony, it was either playing with snakes or playing baseball. Fortunately, playing baseball took up most of his time. He pitched, played third base and catcher. We were all very proud when he was chosen for the All Star team. We will always remember his first home run. The ball sailed high over the fence and right into the windshield of his father's pick-up.



Henry Rose standing next to his CN service truck.



Henry and Evelyn Rose with Barrie, Debbie and Tony.

After his brother's death and his father's a year later, Henry's dream was to return to Manitoba. Debbie graduated from Rowland Heights High School in June of 1973 and a few days later we were packed and on our way to Lowe Farm where my parents lived.

We rented the Emmanuel Gospel Church manse until they acquired a new pastor. We then rented the Art Groening house until we purchased a farm yard near Kane from Alvin Penner. In 1983 we purchased the house at 14 2nd Street West where we still reside.

Henry's first job was working for the Lowe Farm Co-op. From there he went to Viscount Trailers in Morris. He started with Canadian National Railways in 1974 working on the track and later as a heavy-duty mechanic in the Transcona Shops. In 1982, he purchased Ed

Neufeld's Water Hauling business which he sold in 1984. He served as custodian at the Lowe Farm School, Elm Creek School and head custodian at Carman Collegiate.

Henry is semi-retired now and seems to have come full circle. He drove a school van while living at the farm in Sperling both before and after he was married. Now he is once again driving a school bus. In the fall of the year he can also be found driving a potato truck for Kroeker Farms Limited of Winkler.

Since our return to Lowe Farm I have worked at the Lowe Farm Co-op doing books. I cleaned and also cooked at the Colonial Inn in Morris. In 1983, I once again went to work for MTS. I started in Winnipeg as an operator then later worked in the business office. In 1990, I transferred to Winkler to work in the newly opened Phone Centre in the Southland Mall. When that closed I went to Morden to work in the Phone Centre there and later in the business office. I took early retirement in 1996 due to cutbacks at MTS. Since my retirement I have done some writing for the Crow Wing Warrior/Scratching River Post in Morris. I have been writing for this paper on and off since 1982.

Our children are all married. Deborah (Debbie) married Robert Anderson of Carman (formerly of Sperling). They live in Carman and have two daughters; Nicole and Jenalee.

Barrie married Connie Penner of Lowe Farm. They also live in Carman and have two daughters and one son; Erin, Michael and Stacey.

Tony married Eleanor Gerbrandt of Lowe Farm. They have three children; Candice, Dustin and Ashley and live in Morris.

TONY & ELEANOR ROSE

Submitted by Evelyn Rose



Tony, Candice, Eleanor, Ashley and Dustin Rose.

Tony, along with his parents and two siblings, moved to Lowe Farm from Southern California in 1973. He is the youngest son born to Henry and Evelyn Rose, formerly of Sperling. The family moved to the United States when Tony was only two years old. After 11 years they returned to Manitoba to make their home in Lowe Farm where Tony's grandparents, Adolf and Mary Murner lived.

Tony's love of baseball saw him play for the Kane Pirates and later the Lowe Farm Blues. He, along with his brother Barrie both played for the Dakota Imperials in Winnipeg when they won the Division 111 Championship.

In the last few years Tony has turned his attention to coaching his children's baseball teams.

Eleanor is the youngest daughter of John and Agatha Gerbrandt of Winkler, formerly of Rose Farm.

Tony and Eleanor were married in the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church in 1980. The first home they purchased was in Lowe Farm. In 1983, they sold the house to purchase a farm yard near Kane.

When Eleanor's parents moved to Winkler in 1989, Tony and Eleanor bought the Gerbrandt farm yard. Then in 1998, they sold their home in the country and moved to Morris.

Tony worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris for 18 years. He left the R.M. in 1997 to take a job with Westfield Industries in Rosenort where he is still employed.

Eleanor is a spare bus driver for the Morris Macdonald School Division and also does the mail run from Lowe Farm to Kane. She also served as a Director for the Lowe Farm Co-op.

Tony and Eleanor have three children: Candice, Dustin and Ashley.

Tony, Eleanor and the three children are actively involved in the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm.

MOSES & JULIA ROSNER

Submitted by Bernard Rosner



Abe Rosner and four of his children.



Bernard and Abie Rosner, 1995.

Moses Rosner was born in the 1860's in the Province of Bassarabia, Romania. He migrated directly to Plum Coulee in 1897, where his younger brother Sam had migrated some 12 years earlier. This brother, who was known as "Uncle Sam", was the mayor of the town of Plum Coulee.

Moses married in 1900 to Julia Morganstern, who arrived with her parents, brothers and sisters from a neighboring village in Romania.

In 1907, the Rosners moved to

Lowe Farm where they established the business known as M. Rosner and later M. Rosner and Sons, dealing in general merchandising.

Although the Rosners were not of the Mennonite faith, Mr. Rosner Sr. was very interested and instrumental up to a point in the building of the first church, namely the Bergthaler Church in Lowe Farm. A religious and God-fearing man, he enjoyed discussing religious topics and Biblical characters with the church elders. He respected all religions as much as his own, which was Judaism, and brought his sons up in the same religion and also with a respect for other faiths. His business ethics contained high moral standards and he tried hard to impart these standards to his family.

Moses Rosner's wife, Julia, was known and respected as a good mother. She raised her family with a smile, through good times and bad, always with an optimistic outlook.

They were blessed with eight sons: Charles, Israel, Sam, Saul, Irvin, Ephraim, Abe and Bernard.

In May of 1921, a great tragedy befell the Rosners. Their home and store were burnt to the ground and in this fire the second son, Israel, 17, lost his life. Half of the business section of the town was razed. The senior Rosners with all their courage took upon themselves to rebuild and stay in the town.

Charles started farming in 1935, two miles west and one mile north of the town of Lowe Farm. He retired from farming in 1966. He was married to Cecilia Black and they had one son, David who was a social worker with the Department of Northern Affairs and is presently back at the University of Waterloo pursuing his Ph.D. in Social Work. Charles passed away in 1970.

Three generations of Rosners

have lived in Lowe Farm. With the birth of David Rosner, the third generation was started. Similarly, Abe and Edith's two sons lived in Lowe Farm for the first years.

As the sons grew older, Moses Rosner Sr. took less interest in the business and the store was closed when Abe left for Winnipeg. Moses Rosner passed away in 1955 and Julia Rosner died in 1965.

Sam started up in business in the town of Morris in 1927 and remained there until 1933. Apart from his business ventures he was quite active with community affairs, such as the Tennis Club, the Morris Park on the riverbank and "ye old swimming hole" which was the Red River.

Saul, after graduating from the University of Manitoba, pursued a business career in Winnipeg.

Irvin, after graduating as an Optometrist in Toronto, practiced in Timmins, Ontario and later Los Angeles, California.

Epraim ran the Lowe Farm business after the senior Rosners retired and remained until 1949. Abe took over the operation of the store from 1949 until 1954. Abe had served with the Canadian Army overseas during World War II. Abe has two sons, one of which attended his primary grades in Lowe Farm. Gerald, Abe's eldest son is a science teacher in Winnipeg and Marshall, his second son, is an audiologist with the school board.

Bernard graduated from Lowe Farm High School and then continued university to graduate as an optometrist and is presently practicing in Winnipeg. During World War II he served overseas with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

I would like to add this humorous incident that happened during the Dirty Thirties: Early one morning in summer, about 2:00 a.m., the lights of a Model T Ford were flashing into our upstairs windows. Someone was pounding at the door and the Model T horn was tooting. I stuck my head out of the window to inquire what was wanted. The answer was, "Phone the doctor."

I assumed the population of our great municipality was about to be increased. I hastily pulled on my trousers and came out and asked "George the noisemaker" which doctor to call.

"Phone Doctor Skinner."

Dr. Skinner was the veterinarian at that time.

I inquired of George what the problem was and to which he answered, "My best mare just gave birth to a colt and now the mare is losing her innards."

I reported this to Dr. Skinner by telephone, to which he answered, "Tell George there is nothing I can do as every time the mare coughs she'll lose them again, as the ligaments are all torn and I'm afraid he's going to lose his mare."

I reported same to George, to which he reacted in a manner that I thought the mare was his wife. I felt so sorry for him that I didn't even ask him for the nickel for the phone call.

At about ten o'clock that evening George appeared at the store.

"George, how's the mare doing?"

The answer: "Oh she's fine, she had twins."

ABE & LENA SAWATZKY

Submitted by Lena Sawatzky



Abe, Lena, Victor and Lorna, 1990.

Abe spent most of his growing up and school years in Lowe Farm. At the age of 16, he started working for the Canadian National Railroad. Then he did long distance trucking for many winters, hauling pulp in Northern Ontario. In the summer he hauled gravel locally and worked on construction. His jobs took him to many places across Canada and the United States. He had many interesting experiences and enjoyed telling them in story form. Abe was a people person and enjoyed life to its fullest.

In summer of 1969, Abe married Lena Epp from Homewood, and that fall we moved to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory for one and a half years. We moved back to Lowe Farm in 1974, to the corner of 1st Street East and 2nd Avenue. Here Abe worked as a grader operator for the Department of Highways for almost 15 years.

Our daughter Lorna was born in the Yukon, and Victor was born shortly after we moved to Lowe Farm. They received their elementary and high school education in Lowe Farm and Morris.

Lorna married Allan Agerbak from Winnipeg in the summer of 1993. They are living in Transcona and have one son, Tyler. Lorna graduated from Grace Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse in 1994 and is working in nursing homes. Allan is employed at Palliser Furniture Manufacturer in Transcona.

Victor is a long distance trucker and seems to enjoy it. He also calls my home his home.

I worked for Home Care for 15 years. A year ago I moved to Morden and am enjoying my free time.

On January 4, 1991, Abe had a heart attack on the job and on January 19, 1991, he peacefully passed on to his eternal home.

**ABE & ERNA (HILDEBRAND)
SAWATSKY**

Submitted by Abe Sawatsky



Erna and Abe Sawatsky



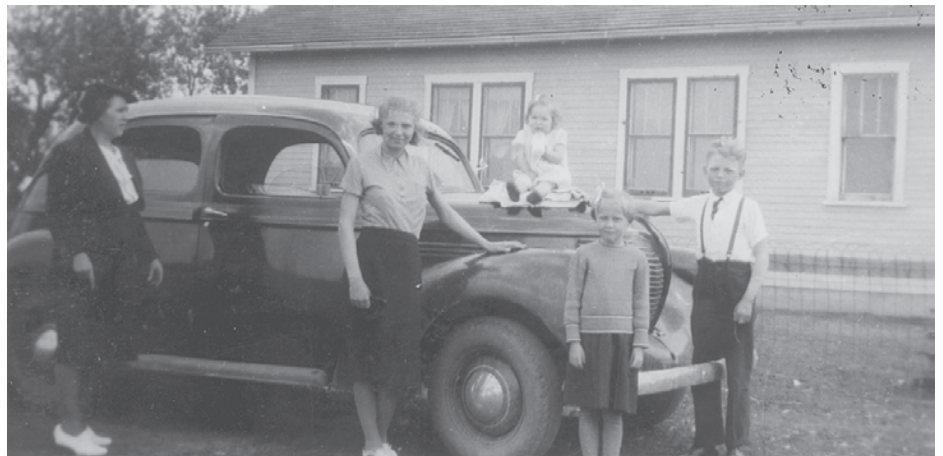
Agatba Sawatsky, spring of 1943.



Esther (left) and Ruth.



Sara, Abe and Martha Sawatsky, 1939.



The Sawatzky family in 1941. Margrete, Agatba, Abe, Sara and Martha.



Walter, Eunice, Esther, Abe, Matthew, Erna, James and Steve.

My great-grandfather from Dad's side, Peter Sawatzky (born 1811) left Russia in 1874 to come to Canada with his family and his new wife.

My great-grandparents, also on Dad's side, Cornelius Wiebe (born 1853) and Susana Dyck Wiebe (born 1856), also left Russia in 1874 to come to Canada.

Although they were on different ships, apparently the journey across the Atlantic was a bit difficult for both families. The ships landed in Quebec. The Sawatzky family came by boat and train via Duluth to Fargo Moorhead, where they had to stay over winter. Here a very sad thing happened to the family. Great-grandpa died after a short illness and was buried beneath a big tree. His widow could not take care of the family and my grandpa, age 14, and his three brothers and three sisters were sort of adopted by the other immigrants.

In the spring of 1875, the journey continued north on the Red River to the landing site near Niverville.

Grandpa Abram Sawatzky was born in Bergthal, Prussia on June 1, 1860. In 1881, at age 21, he homesteaded five miles northeast of Altona, Manitoba. He married and had three children (girls). Later, he was widowed. In 1886 he married Agatha Wiebe, daughter of the above mentioned Cornelius Wiebe.

In 1900, great-grandparents Cornelius Weibe and family homesteaded on Section 23-4-1w in the Rural Municipality of Morris. Great-grandpa's brother Henry Wiebe homesteaded on Section 22-4-1w. It took a number of years before their farm became successful.

Cornelius Wiebe died in 1929 at the age of 76. Susana Dyck Wiebe died in 1935 at the age of 79. Both passed away on the homestead farm and are buried there.

My dad, Cornelius Sawatzky, was born July 3, 1899 to Abram and Agatha (Wiebe) Sawatzky in Sommerfeld.

My mother, Margrete Derksen was born November 15, 1905 to Isaac and Margrete (Driedger) Derksen in Neuendorf, Russia. Grandpa Derksen was born on Aug. 20, 1879 and passed away on January 23, 1920 in Neuendorf, Russia. His occupation was farming. Grandma Derksen, born February 17, 1877 in Neuendorf, Russia, came to Canada in 1923 with her children; Margrete (my mother), Tina, Marie, Peter and Isaac.

My parents married on November 15, 1925, in Eigengruend, Manitoba which is five miles east of Altona. Sara was born in 1926, Abram in 1927, and Martha in 1933. Martha married Bill Peters in 1954 and passed away in 1993. Agatha Mae was born in 1939 and married Abe Krahn in 1958. (Note: My dad has a nice write up in the book *Furrows in the Valley*, pages 602 - 604.)

My parents bought a farm on Section 22-4-1w from Great-Grandpa Cornelius Wiebe in 1929. They paid \$3,100 for the northeast 1/4 section.

They farmed there until 1955 when they moved to Abbotsford, British Columbia. Here they operated a grocery store and built and sold new houses. My dad

loved the store and the carpentry work.

Dad passed away on April 30, 1988. He was 88 years old. Mother passed away on November 25, 1989, at 84 years.

I, Abe Sawatsky, (Abram Sawatsky), the second child, was born November 24, 1927, six miles east of Altona, where my parents lived at the time. I even remember the cold November night and the warm blankets!

I enjoyed my young years in the St. Peters School District where my parents farmed since 1929. We had many neighbors within biking distance and it was always a big treat to get permission to go and see them.

Farming in those days was quite time consuming for my parents, so I, the only son, got a good chance to help and learn farming at a young age. It was a good experience and also very educational. However, it did not fulfill my desire to study and to become a medical doctor (surgeon).

But life was always full of fun, be it helping at home, playing, or going to school with a horse and sleigh. One fall, when I was only eight years old, I managed to plow with three horses and one bottom plow for over 30 days, (one and a half acres a day) before the school inspector came to my parents' place in his shiny car to check why the little boy did not show up in school. Needless to say, this little guy was sent to school the very next day. The teacher, Miss Wiens, was good at her job and in a short while I was caught up in my school work.

At age 14, after eight enjoyable years in school, it was time for full time farm education on my parents' farm. The early thirties were called the dry, Dirty Thirties because of the depression and little rain. Sometimes the sky was full of dust and grasshoppers, supposedly coming from Saskatchewan.

Farm product prices fell through the floor. Wheat went down to 40 cents a bushel, and eggs were eight cents a dozen. Farm wages were 25 cents a day. After a few years, grain and livestock prices increased a lot, and farming was better. In 1936, my parents could pay for the 1/4 section that they bought for \$3,100 in 1929. The farm grew and my parents had enough work to keep their only son happy and busy. Besides field work, there were a lot of farm chores. I took care of horses, milk cows, sheep, pigs, laying hens, geese and ducks.

In 1937, my parents built a new house at a cost of \$2,000. In 1938, a new car was purchased for \$900. In 1939 a new tractor, \$400 and a new combine, \$400 were bought.

Of course there was no hydro or telephone until 1947 and (fortunately) no TV or radio to waste precious time with. But there was time to go horse back riding. The horse called Polly was the best horse for riding. The new bike was kept spotlessly clean, although it made many short trips.

There was also time to attend functions like music and choir practice in school two evenings a week which the teacher, Mr. Pauls, organized and kept going for

many years. Sunday morning was Sunday school and Church service in the St. Peters school. Sunday evenings was Jugendverein (Young People's Meeting), a Christian program which most of the people in the school district would attend and contribute to. This lasted until the late forties, when cars made traveling longer distances easy and attendance dropped. In 1959, the school was completely closed and the St. Peters School District became part of the Lowe Farm School District.

In 1948, Erna Hildebrand, born in 1931 (my wife to be), one brother, one sister and her son, as well as their mother, came to Abbotsford, Canada, after hard war years in Russia and Germany.

Erna's good stepmother had a cousin in Altona which happened to be my grandma, Margrete Driedger Derksen Thiessen. It was during a week-long visit in Altona between these cousins that I met my future wife. Luckily, God has given guys the ability to know when and where to look and act when opportunity knocks. After a week, the family moved on to British Columbia, but Erna and I kept in touch with letters. The happy event of our marriage took place on September 24, 1950. We were married on my parents' farm, as was the custom at the time. The wedding day took place on a beautiful, warm fall day, and our life together has stayed beautiful and warm every day.

We were blessed with four beautiful children: Ruth, 1953, Esther, 1955, Walter, 1958 and Steve, 1973. Ruth and Joe and son Charles live in Colorado. Esther lives in Penticton, British Columbia. Walter and Eunice and their four children live close to home. Steve attends the University of Manitoba (second year) and farms with Mom and me.

When Erna and I got married in 1950, we felt rich in spirit but were financially poor. However, in the fall of 1952, we managed to buy 80 acres from Ed Heppner, which was on Section 21-4-1w, where we homesteaded. The land price was \$6,825, which included the \$25 down payment. After a lengthy discussion with the Farm Credit Corporation and an inspection of the farm, they lent us the money. We bought a house from Manitoba Pool Elevators at Smith Spur for \$480. The movers charged \$50 to move it to the farm.

The live chicken (capon) business flourished because the Jewish people in Winnipeg loved these big chickens and gladly paid a good premium. Farm prices were good and in a number of years the farm grew and proved to be a good enterprise. Soon our motto became "Farming for Fun." In 1965 we built a brand new house, just in time for the family to enjoy it. In 1988 we built our second new house.

In the 1970s the two wheel drive tractors became almost obsolete when the big four wheel drive tractors made their appearance. The farm grew from 80 acres to 3,000 acres to accommodate Walter and Steve.

In 1975, Erna and I celebrated our 25th (silver) anniversary in the Lowe Farm Berghaler church where



The Sawatsky house, built in 1988.



Abe and Erna's first house, 1953 - 1965. Abe, Erna, Ruth, Esther and Walter.

we along with our children attend church. Our celebrations also included a trip to Hawaii and a new car.

In 1971, Ruth married and had two beautiful children. In 1977, Walter and Eunice Hildebrand married and had four beautiful children; James, 1980, Matthew, 1984, Jesse, 1987, and Amy Beth, 1989.

In 1994, our granddaughter Colleen (1975) and Pete Kehler were married and they now live in Plum Coulee with their two beautiful children. Erna and I can now boast to be the proud great grandparents of Brook and Kyle. We must be (and we are) very thankful to have such a healthy family.

In the year 2000, the good Lord willing, these proud great-grandparents will celebrate their Golden anniversary - fifty years - a happy and event-filled marriage.

We are very thankful that we could live in this great country and in this community. We also appreciate the opportunities to serve in church and other community affairs.

WALTER & EUNICE SAWATZKY*Submitted by Eunice Sawatzky**Walter and Eunice Sawatzky with their children, James, Matthew, Jesse and Amy-Beth, 1998.*

Walter Bernhard Sawatzky was the third child born to Abe D. and Erna Sawatzky on February 7, 1958. He grew up on the farm located on SW 21-4-1w.

Eunice Gail Sawatzky, youngest child of Henry & Susan Hildebrand, was born on October 4, 1959. She grew up in the town of Lowe Farm.

Walter and Eunice received their education at Lowe Farm School and then at Morris School. Walter and Eunice got married November 26, 1977 when they were 19 and 18 respectively. They moved into their first home, which they were still in the process of construction, on the same yard as Walter's parents. Eighteen months later they sold their house and began construction on another house on the same yard in which they are still living.

James Ian, the first of four children, was born December 22, 1980. Matthew John was born March 3, 1984. Jesse Aaron was born October 2, 1987 and Amy Elizabeth was born on November 10, 1989.

Together with their children, the Sawatzky family has enjoyed travelling to many parts of North America. Whether close to home or far away, they enjoy camping, tenting, hiking, biking and swimming. James has also enjoyed travelling abroad, once to Europe with the Morris School, and once to Paraguay with a friend.

Walter and Eunice have been involved over the years in various ways in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Presently, Walter is the Education Chairman and Eunice is the executive secretary. They also both teach

Sunday School. Walter has also been a member of the Credit Union Board of Directors for 15 years, the past nine as president. Eunice enjoys working with the Daily Vacation Bible School each summer as well as volunteering at the Lowe Farm School.

The Sawatzkys run a mixed grain and hog farm. Both Walter and Eunice enjoy working together with their children on the farm. When they are not working, both are involved in hobbies. Walter is an avid wood worker and Eunice enjoys many different crafts, the current one being porcelain doll crafting.

ABE & MARGARET SCHMIDT*Abe and Margaret Schmidt and family*

Lowe Farm, they say, is a good place to come from. I agree. Since we moved to Winnipeg, we live in Linden Woods, which isn't bad either. We will never forget the good years when I grew up and farmed at Lowe Farm. We have one daughter and three sons who are all not at Lowe Farm.

Some years were a bit too wet and some too dry; when the crop was good there was a surplus and grain was hard to sell. However, after we built the hog barn and sold 1,500 hogs a year, things worked out all right.

Our farm was located three miles north of town on PR 332. You'll notice the three miles of shelter belt we planted.

With being involved in community affairs, church work, school board, Credit Union, kids in school and sports activities, it got to be quite busy. We decided to rent out our land, which was a good move at the time. Less work and more profit. It all added up to a hard working family.

This was also the time of the motorcycle era, so I joined the trend. I remember going to Credit Union chapter meetings with all of us on bikes, and found out the best therapy is riding in the fresh air. Even now I drive out and smell the country air and the roses.

I fondly remember the homecomings, the annual Shannon Festival, the parades and the Credit Union

breakfasts.

This continued; Lowe Farm's reputation can only be insured by the traditional community spirit of participation and cooperation.

Lowe Farm is our home town and these friendly people will never be forgotten by Abe and Margaret Schmidt.

ELDON & MILDRED (WALL) SCHROEDER

Submitted by Mildred Schroeder



Eldon and Mildred Schroeder and family, 1998.

Eldon, son of Beno and Alby Schroeder, and Mildred, daughter of Ben and Annie Wall, grew up in the Lowe Farm area. We were married in the spring of 1966 and lived in Winnipeg for seven years and near Springstein for three years.

We then moved to Lowe Farm in the fall of 1976, having purchased the former Peter Peters and Cornie P. Kroeker farm. The location is three miles east and one-and-a-quarter miles north of Lowe Farm. We are farming full time. I do hair dressing part time in the home.

We have raised our three children here. They are: Byron, Curt and Lindsay.

Byron is married to Carol Toews of New Hope. They live in Altona where Byron is employed at D.W. Friesens and Carol at the Altona Credit Union.

Curt is married to Briggy Fisher of Cache Creek, British Columbia. They have one daughter, Leeza Anne. Curt is employed as a mechanic at Brandt Tractor in Calgary, Alberta. Briggy is a homemaker.

Lindsay lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is employed at Golden Links Lodge.

RON & LYNDA SCHROEDER

Ron Schroeder, son of Beno H. and Alby Schroeder, and Lynda Dyck, daughter of Diedrich and Helen Dyck, were married on May 9, 1970.

We lived in Winnipeg from May to the end of December 1970. We then moved to Ron's grandparents' farm where we lived till 1984 when we moved to Ron's Dad and Mom's farm after they retired to Winkler.

We have three children and one grandchild. Kelly married Kim Galbraith and has a son, Brenden. Theresa lives in British Columbia, and Keith, lives in Winnipeg.

We have been busy over the years with Ron working at the Glendale Trailer Factory in Morris, Motor Coach Industries in Winnipeg and working as a mechanic for a number of years, also driving school bus, raising hogs and grain farming. Lynda has also been busy with milking cows for many years, working at the Co-op Store and working as a teacher's aid in the Lowe Farm School.

DIEDRICH & HELEN SCHROEDER

In the fall of 1964, Diedrich and Helen Schroeder moved into the area, just east of Lowe Farm, from a farm north of Horndean in the Grossweide district. They arrived with their two sons, Dennis and Randy (older daughter Marlene had already left home some years earlier) and farmed the previous site of John and Helen Hiebert, sister and brother-in-law to Diedrich.

At Lowe Farm they engaged in a similar style and practice of farming as at Horndean, though they had to adopt the practice of disker seeding versus that of a seed drill. A few years after their arrival the cow barn was converted to a two-story poultry house. Later a one-story structure was added in order to house one of the largest hatching egg flocks in the area for that time.

Diedrich and Helen continued until they sold the farm to son Randy and wife Irene in winter of 1977. Over the course of their stay they made many close friends and came to greatly appreciate the community for its hospitality and acceptance.

They attended and served in the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Mennonite Church from about 1965 until their departure. Diedrich and Helen moved to Altona in February of 1977 where they soon established themselves within a new and wider circle of friends. Diedrich worked for the Town of Altona Works and Operation for eight years until his final retirement and Helen turned to volunteer work and high school, through correspondence. Both felt that the Lowe Farm area had offered them warm social, spiritual and economic rewards and always remember it fondly.

RANDY & IRENE SCHROEDER

Randy and Irene Schroeder moved from Winnipeg to Lowe Farm in February of 1977 along with their one year old son, Kevin. Randy grew up in the areas of Horndean (Grossweide School District) and later, Lowe Farm. Irene spent her childhood in the town of Altona where they met as adults, both attending Elim Bible School.

They married and took over the farm from Randy's

parents and operated it as it was for a couple of years. In 1978 they expanded the hatching egg flock with the addition of a new automated layer barn.

Around that time, during the flood of 1979, daughter Melanie was born on April 23, with the rising Red River hampering the access to their Winnipeg hospital.

In 1992 they expanded their land base but until time of writing, poultry has always been their main occupation. In conjunction with the poultry business, Randy was elected to the Board of Directors of Granny's Poultry Co-op (where their eggs are shipped) in 1985 and serves to this day.

Irene's interests centered around gardening, music, singing and farm work. Both serve in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church. The children attended grade school in Lowe Farm and finished their high school at the Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna. Both Randy and Irene enjoy the comparative freedom of having grown children and enjoy traveling when time and the poultry business allows.

JACOB SPENST & HELENA (HEINRICHS) SCHROEDER



The Rev. Jacob Schroeder family. Back row: (l - r) Annie, George, John; Front row: Mary, Helena, Abe, Jacob, Jacob.

Jacob Schroeder was one of Manitoba's solid farmers, living near Lowe Farm all his life and enjoying the good times and the bad. He never made the headlines in public life but he was liked for what he was, a plain, hard working farmer - the kind that make the backbone of the Canadian West.

Jacob Spenst Schroeder was born to Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Schroeder at Schoenhorst, near Gretna, on November 3, 1891. His family consisted of four brothers; John, George, Abram and Peter, and two sisters; Mary and Annie. On April 1, 1903, at the age of 12, Jacob

moved to Lowe Farm with the family. Land was a little cheaper here and more readily available.

Here he continued to go to school for a few more years, but the real schooling for him was learning to farm from his dad. He was baptized by Bishop Abram Doerksen in 1911 and accepted into the Sommerfeld Church in Kronsriede. When he married he transferred his membership to the Bergthaler Church.

His father was a minister and as a result, much of the farming responsibility fell on the family. There was no water available for the household or the cattle, so water was carted from the river in Morris. As soon as possible, dugouts were made to solve the water problem.

At the age of 21, Jacob started farming on his own, paying \$4,000 for a quarter section with a set of run-down buildings. He lived alone on his farm for a few years but found it quite lonely.

At a funeral for an uncle, Diedrich Schroeder, at Halbstadt, Jacob got to see a black-haired, brown-eyed, slim young lady by the name of Helena Heinrichs. He immediately knew that she was "Miss Right" for him. It took until June for him to make a special trip to Halbstadt to the Jacob Heinrichs residence to pursue his heart's desire. He arrived, driving a trim top buggy, drawn by a sleek brown horse and his knees covered by a light blanket. He quickly won the heart of Helena and on October 22, 1914, they were married by Rev. Henry Ewert at the home of Helena's parents. With a sparkle in his eye Jacob used to say, "She was quite a girl, my Helena." In addition to being good looking, she could also cook.

They immediately moved to Lowe Farm, half a mile west of Jacob's parents, and started farming. In 1918 they moved to a farm one-and-a-half miles south of Lowe Farm.

Farming took up the major part of their time but wheat prices were good and for a young farmer, Jake became moderately prosperous for those times.

While Jacob was busy in the fields Helena was busy with the children as they came along. She would plant a large vegetable and fruit garden. There were usually enough vegetables for the family as well as enough to sell or trade for other products. The poultry department also belonged to Helena. There were always chickens for eggs, roasts and soup. When a traveler would come along and want to sell material, fish or kinds of fruit which she didn't grow, she would politely but firmly tell him, "If you don't buy my wares, I can't buy yours. We have no money, just things that grow on the farm." Eventually a deal would be made.

In 1922, Jake purchased a Titan tractor but it was unsatisfactory, so he switched to a Rumley Oil Pull which was quite a machine in those days. He was one of the first to own a car in the district and occasionally chauffeured ministers around to various churches, particularly during World War I.



Jacob and Helen Schroeder in 1920.



Jacob and Helen Schroeder in 1965 at their 50th wedding anniversary.



Jacob Schroeder displaying a registered purebred short horn bull on his farm.



Jacob and Helen's Lowe Farm home since 1918. Picture taken in 1969.



Threshing machine and crew. Jacob Schroeder with bowler hat with his daughters Anna and Dora in front of him. Jacob Harder is on his left, three unidentified.



Combining outfit in 1945.

Around that time Jake and a friend went to Winnipeg to buy an Overland car. They had both set their hearts on a particular model. The dealer was anxious to sell and for a good price they ended up with three cars instead of two.

A few weeks later he attempted to buy more land from one of his older neighbors in the Rosenfeld District. He was not successful but the older gentleman showed interest in Jacob's new Overland car. So he sold him the third car at a neat profit of \$600.

The Depression came but it didn't hurt him too much as the land was paid for and he had a few dollars. He was sensitive though to the need around him and helped where he could. He worked closely together with his older brother John, who went into the implement business in the late 20's. Jacob, however, stuck to farming.

Besides growing grain he had a real interest in raising purebred shorthorn cattle. Cattle, horses and other farm animals had to be looked after and treated well. He also enjoyed the wildlife around the farm such as rabbits, the occasional deer and especially the prairie chickens.

Jacob Schroeder used to enjoy talking about days gone by. He used to tell about the time as a boy, he took a few armfuls of hay into the Morris hotel, so he could sleep there. (The adults got the beds.) He also used to relate the story of how a horse kicked him on the head. He was rushed to Morris where Dr. McTavish stitched his scalp. For this little operation he had his hands and legs tied to a table, a newspaper in his mouth to bite on. The job was done in about fifteen minutes with hardly a scar to show for it.

By the time of World War II, he was farming not only his own land but also a farm belonging to an American family. They became anxious to sell but Jacob advised them to hold on for a while and he would farm it for them. They



Jacob Schroeder unloading grain in the late 1960's.



Jacob Schroeder with team and sleigh - "old time snowmobile."



The Schroeder family on Jacob and Helen's 50th anniversary in 1964. Back row: (l - r) Susan Giesbrecht, Anna Neufeld, Jacob, Beno; Front row: Helen Martens, Dora Hunkin, Maria, Olga Braun; Sitting: Jacob and Helena Schroeder.

decided to heed his advice, and after the war this land sold for twice the pre-war price. When asked why he didn't buy it himself at the low pre-war price he said, "That's not how you treat your lifelong neighbors."

He never sought community leadership but was always willing to help. He served on the local school board for a number of years, was a charter member of the Lowe Farm Credit Union, and was on the board of directors of the Red River Valley Mutual Insurance Company for a number of years.

Jacob and Helena enjoyed sharing their home with family and friends. There was a meal or a cup of coffee available at all times. They enjoyed talking to people and hearing of other places.

Jacob was an early riser and worked long hours during the busy season. Farming to him was recreation, like golf to a golfer. He didn't believe in wasting time, especially on the road getting from place to place.

They were a thrifty couple by nature but they believed in buying quality.

Jacob was even-tempered and patient with his family of eight children; six girls and two boys. There were enough children for a baseball or football team and he would often join in. After a game Helena usually had a treat of cookies and milk for everyone.

Jacob and Helena had a real interest in the church. He was instrumental in starting the first services in the school in Lowe Farm. Various denominations took part in these. Whenever possible the whole family was at the service. If the weather was uncooperative and travel was impossible, the family would gather around the organ to sing hymns. Sunday school verses were recited and the lesson read. The entire family was encouraged to take part in Sunday School, choir practice and later 'Jugendverein'. They were concerned about the spiritual and material welfare of their family. They worked hard to provide for them and also to establish a future for them.

In July 1929, he took his family for a trip to Lockport, Manitoba and caused quite a sensation on Portage Avenue when the Overland car stalled and passerby realized his family consisted of eight children, a wife and a maid to help with the children. He also helped out with school trips. As early as 1934, he helped chaperone a trip to West Hawk Lake, together with the school principal, I. J. Warkentin. Later in 1936 and again in 1947 he took students to Pine Falls, Seven Sisters, Falcon Lake and West Hawk Lake on the back of his 1936 International truck.

In the fall of 1970, the Schroeders retired to Lowe Farm. Jacob was not well. He found leaving the farm very difficult. After a lengthy illness and a stay of one week in the Morris Hospital he passed away quietly on May 24, 1971.

With the passing of her husband, Helena was a very lonely woman. But she soon realized there were other needy people around her and she put her cooking skills to good use in the neighborhood and her families'

homes. She made several trips to British Columbia to visit her friends and relatives. She also spent quite a bit of time in the homes of her children helping with whatever she could do. She was always counting her blessings.

In 1978, she sold her house in Lowe Farm and moved in with her daughter, Susan and her husband Lawrence Giesbrecht, in Altona. She lived with them until August 28, 1991, when due to failing health and memory she moved into the Ebenezer Home in Altona. Here she spent the next five years. Having 'faspa' with those who came to see her was still a special treat.

On November 8, 1996, at the age of 103 years, 11 months, and 15 days she also quietly passed away. Both Jacob and Helena are buried on the Kronswiede Cemetery south of Lowe Farm as are their children: Anna (died 1994) and her husband Cornelius J. Neufeld (died 1998), Maria (died 1970) and Jacob (died 1996). Olga (died 1990) and her husband Jacob L. Braun (died 1993) and daughter-in-law Albertine Schroeder (died 1998).

The Schroeders raised eight children: Anna (C. J.) Neufeld of Lowe Farm; Dora (Ken) Hunkin of Morris; Helen (Frank) Martens of Morris; Jake (Ruth) Schroeder of Lowe Farm; Mary, at home; Beno (Albertine) of Lowe Farm; Olga (Jacob L.) Braun of Kane; and Susan (Lawrence) Giesbrecht of Altona.

JAKE & RUTH (ENNS) SCHROEDER

Jacob Schroeder was born on the farm of Jacob and Helena Schroeder, one and a half mile south of Lowe Farm. Ruth was born and grew up on the farm five miles north of Winkler. She was the daughter of Frank and Maria Enns.

Jake attended the Lowe Farm School and Ruth attended the Burwalde School north of Winkler. Jake and Ruth were married on September 30, 1945. Together with his father, Jake took up farming, which was always the joy of his life. At first they lived in a small house built on his father's land but later they bought land closer to town and started a larger yard and built a bigger house.

To supplement the farm income Jake worked at several other jobs. When hydro came to Lowe Farm he obtained a Journeyman's License and helped several farmers prepare their yards and buildings for hydro. Later he also worked for the local garage and also at the trailer factory in Morris.

Together they raised four children; two daughters and two sons. They all attended school at Lowe Farm.

Sandra, the oldest, married Harvey Stoesz. Presently they live in the country close to Strathmore, Alberta. Harv works for a fertilizer company in the area and Sandra has a cottage industry of teddy bears at home. They have one son, Christopher, who is a graduate of the College of Lethbridge and lives in Calgary.



Jake and Ruth Schroeder and family. Back row: (l - r) Michael Schroeder, Andrew Dueck, Pam Dueck, Meghan Schroeder, Tyrel Schroeder; Second row: Ed Schroeder, Peter Dueck, Chris Stoesz, Harv Stoesz, Rick Schroeder; Third row: Ursula Schroeder, Diana Dueck, Jake and Ruth Schroeder, Sandra Stoesz, Terese Schroeder; Front: Christine Schroeder, KaeLeigh Schroeder.



The farm yard of Jake and Ruth Schroeder, 1994.

Diana, the second daughter, married Peter Dueck. They live in St. Germain, close to Winnipeg, but both work in the city. Peter as a chartered accountant and Diana at a bank. They have two children. Andrew is a student of the University of Manitoba and Pamela is a grade XI student.

Edward, the oldest son, married Ursula Hille. They live in Winfield, British Columbia. Both have jobs in Kelowna. They also have two children. Michael is a Grade XII graduate and Christine is in Grade VI.

Richard, the second son, married Terese Funk. They live in Morden. Currently Rick is working for a farm machinery company in Winkler, and Terese is a teacher's aide in the Morden school system. Their son Tyrel is present attending computer college in Calgary. Daughters Meghan and KaeLeigh both attend the Morden Collegiate, Grades XI and VII.

Jake and Ruth enjoyed taking an annual trip to visit the kids. In 1990 they went as far west and north as Prince Rupert, British Columbia to watch the huge grain ships being loaded as well as travelling and up to Kitimat to visit a friend.

Jake and Ruth celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary in 1995.

In March of 1996, Jake passed away suddenly in the Morris Hospital. Later that same year Ruth moved into the Lowe Farm Apartments.

JOHANN & MARIA (HEPPNER) SCHROEDER

The Johann Schroeders came to Canada from Russia in 1876. Johann's wife died en route in the Niverville area. He then married Maria Heppner.

The Schroeders lived by the creek just north of Plum Coulee until 1895 - 1896, when they moved north to Kronsweide, south of Lowe Farm. Here they home-

stead on SE 23-4-2w. Community church services were held in their home until the private school was completed in 1898. This was the beginning of the Kronsweide Church. The Schroeders continued to farm this land until 1919 when it was sold to Peter K. Rempel. They then moved to a new home that had been built for them in their daughter Anna's tree garden (Mrs. Martin Friesen).

In the early winter of 1919, Johann Schroeder died. Maria Schroeder passed on in August, 1923, on the day of her grandson, Cornie Friesen's birth. The Schroeders are buried at the Kronsweide Cemetery.

The children of Johann and Maria Schroeder: Marie, married to Daniel Penner, died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Agatha, married to Jacob I. Friesen. Anna, married to Martin M. Friesen. Susan, married to Peter M. Friesen. Margaret, married to Franz Harder, moved to the Paraguayan Chaco in 1926. Anton, moved to the Paraguayan Chaco in 1927. He contracted typhoid and died on a return trip in 1928. He is buried in Kronsweide Cemetery. Abram, married for two weeks, died of a heart attack. Jacob remained single. Peter was injured in an accident with horses at the Lowe Farm elevator. He was in a wheelchair until he died.

None of the boys in this family reached the age of thirty.

NETTIE (REMPLE) & ABE SCHROEDER

From Furrows in the Valley

Nettie was the third daughter of Peter P. and Nettie Remple. On June 25, 1936, Nettie married Abe Schroeder, son of George and Susan Schroeder. They farmed in the Kronsweide District.

They had four children: Verna is living in Winnipeg; Betty married Bill McBride and lives in Killarney, they have three daughters. Judy married Lawrie Hawn. They have two children and live in Ottawa, Ontario; Melvin is living in Steinbach.

They retired in 1974 and moved to Plum Coulee in 1976. On November 30, 1977, Abe passed away. Nettie resides in Plum Coulee.

CHARLES A. SPALDING

Submitted by Norman Spalding

Charles Anson Spalding, my father, was born in the Toronto area, March 27, 1880, of Scottish parents. He was the second oldest in a family of seven and grew up in Preston, Ontario.

He worked as an apprentice in tinsmithing and plumbing. He came west as far as Saskatchewan by train, planning to try homesteading, but found that too lonely. He left for Brandon, Manitoba, where he worked on a farm for a few years. From there he went to Plum Coulee, where he got on as a tinsmith and plumber with the Stewart Brothers.



C.A. Spalding, John L. Hiebert, and Pete Giesbrecht of Lowe Farm. Spalding house at right, livery stable in background.



Charles and Marion Spalding with Evelyn, Norman and Grandma Voyt.

It was at a dance in Plum Coulee that he met my mother, Mary Dyck. It was love at first sight for my dad, but mother's mother was slow in wanting her daughter to marry out of the Mennonite Church. However, my dad charmed her into accepting him, thus winning her approval and they were married after a short courtship. They were married by author Ralph Connor on April 19, 1909. All courting was done by horse and buggy during the spring wet season. Needless to say, there were not too many visits, since my mother lived in Lowe Farm at the time.

Shortly after they were married, Dad and Mr. Reichert started a business in Lowe Farm, Reichert was a harness maker, and my dad was tinsmith and plumber. He installed quite a few hot water systems in homes in and around Lowe Farm.

After a few years in business, Reichert moved to Roland, and my dad went into farming for four years, for Henry Harkins, one half-section south and east of Lowe Farm.

In 1918, he bought the old Grand Pacific Hotel in Lowe Farm. He started a store on the main floor, and had rooms for rent on the second floor, as well as his tinsmithing and plumbing shop.

During the flu epidemic, the people would come to his store for medicine left there by Dr. McGavin from Plum Coulee, and Dr. Rose from Morris. The medicine consisted largely of colored pills and doses of hard liquor.

My mother boarded traveling salesmen and transients who came to town by train. She was always busy with the family as well. They had two children, Evelyn and Norman.

After Rosner's General Store was destroyed by fire in 1921, my father sold the former Grand Pacific Hotel to Moses Rosner. The Rosners had lost their second eldest son in that fire.

My father had a severe heart problem and was forced to sell the business because of this. His physician had given him six months to live, but suggested that he try chiropractic treatments. This proved to be most helpful and his condition improved greatly. As a result, he took a great interest in the chiropractic method and subsequently trained for six months at Davenport, Iowa. He was able to help some people after this short course of training.

In 1926, he was instrumental in getting the high school started in Lowe Farm. That same year, he bought a quarter section of land at \$10.00 per acre, north of Lowe Farm. They went through very hard times during the 1930's. To make ends meet, he went to work in Winnipeg as a plumber for two winters. My mother continued to help by taking in boarders and serving meals to travelers going through town. I can remember times when she learned that her customer had given her his last 50 cents (the price of the meal), and she would give it back to him.

When my mother had these boarders, she was also the chambermaid, you might say, as there was no plumbing. She equipped each room with a pitcher, basin and chamber pot, which had to be tended each day. The laundry was done by one of the hand-operated washers with water heated on the stove.



Caroline Groening (later to be Mrs. Norman Spalding), on running board of A.A. Groening's first car. Ed and Walter Groening in back.

My mother died very suddenly in 1937. It was a great shock to all of us! My dad was nominated and elected councilor for Ward 5 in the Rural Municipality of Morris, which helped to fill his lonely days. He held that post for six years.

He married Tina Friesen in 1944 and went to live in Renata, British Columbia. They moved back to Manitoba and bought a store in Dunrae. After a few years, they retired to Mission, B. C., where he passed away in 1954.

My sister, Evelyn, married Shirley Johnson in November 1928. He was the Imperial Oil agent in Lowe Farm. Evelyn and Shirley Johnson had five children: Charlie, Jean, Dorothy, Bernice and Ernest. From Manitoba, Evelyn and Shirley and their children moved to Alberta. Evelyn and Shirley are buried in Stettler, Alberta. Charlie, Bernice, and Ernest live in Alberta, and Dorothy lives in Vancouver. Jean passed away in the spring of 1998.

I, Norman, married in 1935 to Caroline Groening. My dad and I farmed together all his farming years. Four children were born to us: Norma, June, Howard and Diana Evelyn.

Norma married Ronald Hoepfner of Altona. Ron and Norma have lived in Whitehorse, Yukon since 1970. Ron was a teacher there for 20 years before he started his own consulting business. They have four grown children. Norma worked in the school system as secretary for many years, and more recently at a medical clinic. They are the happy grandparents of 10 grandchildren. Their daughter Patti and husband Emery and their three children also live in Whitehorse. Chuck and his wife Debbie and two sons live in Victoria. Geoff and his wife Tricia and three children live Edmonton. Colleen and her husband Terry and two children live in Alberta as well.

June married Eldon Wiebe of Lowe Farm in 1957. Eldon retired from his job as an appraiser with the Federal Government a few years ago and are now living in Lacombe, Alberta. They have two grown sons. Malcolm and his wife Faye and two children live in Edmonton where Malcolm works for the WCB. Ian and his wife Shelley and two children live in Quesnel, B.C. where Ian is a Crown Prosecutor. For the last couple of winters, Eldon and June have been enjoying the winters in Parksville, B.C., instead of shoveling snow in Alberta.

Howard lives in Saint John, New Brunswick. He married Donna Gillis of Sydney, Nova Scotia. Howard and Donna have lived in New Brunswick for the last 20 years. Howard is a lawyer at a law firm in St. John. Donna is doing consulting work in various areas of social issues. They have seven children, two of them working in Alberta, and five of them in New Brunswick.

Diana Evelyn lives in Lacombe, Alberta. She is married to Jim Rempel of Lowe Farm. After their marriage in 1968 and living in Winnipeg for two years, they moved to Whitehorse in 1970. Three children, Lisa, Ben and Jonathan, were all born there. Evelyn and Jim started a diesel repair business there, and in 1981 moved

to Alberta and continued in that line of work with their own shop in Red Deer. For the last six years they have owned a pizza business in Lacombe. It is a 'take out and delivery' business and they watched it grow to the point where they opened another location about 20 minutes to the north. Ben manages that store. The younger son Jonathan is in third year of business at the University of Calgary. Lisa and her husband Tim Baron live in Houston, Texas where Tim is working as a physiotherapist.

I have 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. We moved to Redwater, Alberta on my retirement. Caroline died in 1981 and I married Nora Hiebert of Lowe Farm in 1982. We are still residing in Redwater.

ARON A. & AGANETHA (WIEBE) THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley



Aron and Aganetha Thiessen on their wedding day, July 27, 1897.



Stone house of A. A. Thiessen built in 1918.



Aganetha and Isaac Hildebrand

Born in Russia in January, 1875, Aron A. Thiessen was six months old when he came to Manitoba with his parents, the Aron Thiessens'. They settled near Horndean, Manitoba, but one year after Aron married Aganetha Wiebe, daughter of the Bernard A. Wiebes near Weidenfeld, they moved to section 22-4-2w, in the Rural Municipality of Morris. Here he bought a quarter of land for about \$6.50 an acre. They built a sizable 20 by 30 foot house. The ground had to be broken up and it was not an easy task with horses as the only means to do it.

In 1917, Aron purchased his first tractor. Families were usually large in those in those days, and as soon as the boys were old enough to help their father, they stayed home from school for weeks at a time to help. The girls also had to stay home during the busy seasons to help mother, as store bought food and clothes were not readily available at the time. If they needed a loaf of bread, it had to be baked and if clothes were needed, they were handmade.

School was not considered to be essential, and so, if the children had attended a few years, they had enough of an education to get along. The schools were run by private individuals, and not regulated by government.

In 1918, the Thiessens built a new home. It was an extravagant structure, using four carloads of brick shipped from Steinbach, and then hauled from Lowe Farm with a horse drawn wagon. The cost of

the home was \$6,000, and as of 1979, the house is still standing and has almost never been vacant.

Their old house was then moved to section 14-5-2w to land Aron purchased, and it was later used by some of their married children to live in for a few years until they bought land of their own.

However, two years after the completion of the new stone home, Aron was taken ill with a stroke and he died five years later, in 1925.

He left to mourn, his wife, Aganetha, and their 11 children: Aron, Bernard, Aganetha, John, Abraham, Jacob, Agatha, Anna, Sara, Henry and Katherine. One baby died in infancy.

Aganetha remarried in 1929 to Isaac Hildebrand from the Rural Municipality of Rhineland. They lived in the Halbstadt area for one year then moved back to her homestead, living there until retiring in 1943, when they moved back to Altona. He died in 1952 and his wife in 1965.

ARON W. & HELENA (HEPPNER) THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley

Aron, born in 1898, was the oldest of the family. He married Helena Heppner in July, 1922. She was the daughter of Abram Heppners' and was born on September 1, 1904.

They lived with her parents for the first nine months of their marriage, after which they bought their own place, which was 23-4-2w. They farmed for 25 years, after which they moved to Winnipeg, buying a home in St. Vital. On July 10, 1972, the Thiessens celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

They had six children: Dorothy, Margaret, John, Harry, Mabel and Gladys.

ABRAM H. & TENA THIESSEN*From Furrows in the Valley*

Abram H. Thiessen (1907), son of Aron A. Thiessens, was married to Tena (1909), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abram B. Wiebe, on October 21, 1926.

The Thiessens moved first to section 14-5-2w, where they farmed for 11 years before moving to town for four years. They lived in the Steinfeld school district for eight years, after which they moved to section 22-4-2w, moving to the stone house which his parents had built.

In 1953, they moved to their own place (SW 1/4 35-4-2w) where they farmed until their retirement in 1966, when they moved into Lowe Farm. Three children were born to them: Herman, Eddie and Edna.

ANNA THIESSEN*From Furrows in the Valley*

Anna Thiessen (1915) was married to Henry J. Kehler in November, 1935. They farmed, but Henry became ill with diabetes and died at the age of 52 years in 1959. This left a widow with one son, Jake, and four daughters, Nettie, Martha, Elma and Dorothy.

After her husband's death, Anna moved to Winkler for several years, working in the sewing factory.

She remarried in January, 1966, to Jacob A. Wiebe from Vanderhoof, British Columbia. He predeceased her in June, 1968, and so, after only two and a half years of marriage, she was once more a widow.

Anna remarried in May, 1971, to Jacob E. Hebert from Blumenort. Jacob had 11 children from his previous marriage, three of which were still at home.

It was also that same year that her oldest child, Nettie, died. Nettie left behind her husband, Jake Klassen and their four children.

BERNARD W. & LENA (FRIESEN) THIESSEN*From Furrows in the Valley*

B. W. and Lena Thiessen.

Bernard W. Thiessen was born in the Lowe Farm district on January 30, 1900, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Aron A. Thiessen. He had five brothers and five sisters. At the age of 19, he married Lena Friesen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Friesen of Plum Coulee. They became the parents of seven children, including one son and six daughters.

These children are: Ed Thiessen of Vancouver; Helen (Jim) Robertson; Sadie (Abe) Wiebe; Erna (Jake) Hildebrand; all from Winnipeg. Susan (Henry) Hildebrand of Lowe Farm; and Evelyn (Henry) Siemens of Horndean; The youngest daughter, Margaret Rose, died in infancy.

Ben and Lena were members of the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church. Their residence was two miles west and two-and-one-half miles south of Lowe Farm, where they farmed all their lives. He attended school at Kronsweide until the eighth grade.

Ben was very active in public life and community affairs. In 1930, a group of local residents organized a society known as the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-operative. They elected him as their first president, with Abram A. Hoepfner as sale manager. In 1931, he was elected councillor of Ward 5 in the Rural Municipality of Morris, and served in that office for almost 20 years. He was Reeve for two of those years. Much of this time in office was during the Great Depression, when money was

scarce and everyone had to endure the hardships of the dirty 30's. Another time of crisis for him was the 1950 flood, when people had to evacuate their homes and animals had to be rescued and brought to higher ground.

He was a faithful member and president of the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce for many years. He served as a director of the Altona Hospital for 17 years, and as director of the Morris Hospital for two years. He was an agent for Wawanesa Insurance Co. for 17 years and a school trustee for 10 years. From 1943 until 1946, he was director of the Lowe Farm Credit Union Society Ltd., when it was in its early stages.

Ben was head of the Morris flood relief and took part in civil defense organizations. He also served as a district representative for the Empire Automobile Association for many years. His interest in provincial and federal politics was especially great during the Diefenbaker era.

In spite of his many community and business activities, Ben also managed to operate a small farm and to raise a family. His wife was a warm and generous woman, a great hostess and wonderful cook. She loved to entertain guests with a home cooked meal, and made sure that no one would ever leave her house hungry.

In 1941, with the help of his family, Ben began to build a new house and assorted farm buildings. These were pre-Manitoba Hydro times, so he wired all the buildings and erected a forty foot tower with the 32 volt wind charger on the top to produce electricity for lights, washer, pumps, and iron. That was all it could handle. On windy days, there were bright lights as the sixteen glass batteries charged, and on calm days, electricity had to be rationed.

Ben was always proud to show of his own inventions, but they did not always work to his advantage. In 1945, he built what must be one

of the first self-propelled swathers in the district.

He used it for several years before trading it off. In 1938, when the old threshing machines became obsolete, he purchased a new combine and did some custom harvesting for a few years.

He was always very particular in the way he kept his possessions. Everything had an order and everything had its own proper place. If there were any fingerprints on his shiny black Oldsmobile, he would know that one of his grandchildren must be the culprit.

His life of 62 years ended suddenly with cardiac arrest on August 24, 1962. In 1971, mother passed away. They are resting in the Kronsweide Cemetery, just across the field from the farm yard where they had lived all their lives.

HENRY W. & KATHARINA THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley

On December 16, 1901, Henry was born to Aron and Aganetha Thiessen. He married Katharina Friesen in September, 1921.

The Henry Thiessens farmed in the Burwalde district, near Winkler, until 1929 when they sold their land and moved to Lowe Farm. He then worked for some time in the store, for the transfer, and then owned and operated the White Rose Gas Station for several years.

In the late 1940's they moved to Winnipeg, residing there till in the late 1960's, at which time they moved to Surrey, British Columbia. In 1971, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The Thiessen children are: Herman, Susie, Harry, Raymond, Leona, Elvira and Lawrence. Two children died in infancy.

JACOB H. THIESSEN



Jacob H. and Tina Thiessen

Jacob was born on September 9, 1910 to Aaron and Aganetha Thiessen. He was married to Helen Toews on October 17, 1937. They farmed in the Lowe Farm area for many years. Jacob used horses in the spring of 1935 and in the summer of 1936 bought his first tractor. Jacob and Helen lived on the farm until 1965 at which time they moved to a new home they built in Lowe Farm. After moving to town they didn't farm as much land anymore, so they had more leisure time.

Jacob and Helen had two sons, Daniel, born December 10, 1939 and Grant Wayne, born December 20, 1946. Dan farmed with his dad for a few years and then later went farming on his own. He married Helen Martens of the Melba School District. Grant moved to Winnipeg and found employment. He married Jan Nutall in 1968 and they are currently living in the St. Vital area.

Helen passed away on July 30, 1980. On October 25, 1981 Jacob married Mrs. Tina (Julius) Wiens. They lived in Lowe Farm till July of 1997 at which time they moved to Lions Manor in Winkler.

DAN AND HELEN (MARTINS) THIESSEN

Daniel, son of Jacob H. and Helen Thiessen was born on December 10, 1939, and has lived in the Lowe Farm area most of his life. He married Helen Martens of the Melba School District and for the first few years of their married life they lived in that area.

They then bought a house in Lowe Farm in 1971 and lived there until 1979, at which time they moved to what used to be his parents' farm yard on 34-4-2w just a few miles out of town and built a new house in 1980/81.

On November 12, 1967, Monica, the first of three children was born. Rhonda arrived on July 30, 1971 and Stefan on March 29, 1973. After moving to the farm in 1979 they could let the children have some of the things that town life didn't allow. They were lucky enough to get a pony to use if they provided a home for it, and that proved to be the start of things as far as horses were concerned, especially for the girls. A go-cart and motorbike came later, which were more in Stefan's interests.

Dan had started farming at a young age and supplemented his income by doing various jobs the first few years. He helped with bridge building on Shannon drain, operated construction equipment, working for Remple Construction, and also was doing carpentry for a number of years.

Dan was a member of the Lowe Farm Fire Department during the eight years they lived in town. He was also a member and president of the Chamber of Commerce. It was at this time that Dan ran for council in a municipal by-election and won a seat. He was a councillor from 1977 - 1983 and Reeve from 1983 - 1995.

Helen was involved with the Kronsweide Church Ladies group, volunteer canvassing for various organizations and a director with

Valley Ag Society for 12 years. She served on the Lowe Farm Recreation Commission, the Red River Valley Health District Hospital Board (for six years), and the Red River Valley Health District Foundation Board.

As councillor and reeve for the Rural Municipality of Morris, Dan has been involved with planning and implementation of many projects. One of his priorities on council was to upgrade fire departments by ensuring there was money in the budget for improvements to firehalls and equipment. This was accomplished in all the communities in the Rural Municipality. As councillor for Ward 5, he was quite involved with the sewer and water project for Lowe



*Reeve Dan Thiessen (front, middle)
with the Rural Municipality of Morris Council, 1995.*



158b. Dan and Helen Thiessen with children; Monica Thiessen, Rhonda and Craig Shewchuk and Stefan Thiessen.

Farm. While a director with Pembina Valley Development Corporation and also Pembina Valley Development Corporation Water Co-op the initial workings began for the water supply that was completed in 1998.

Dan served on many boards and committees while on council, including the Red River Valley Hospital Board and Rail Retention Committee for the CNR Morris-Hartney line and the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO).

During the 1979 flood, when then Premier Sterling Lyon issued an evacuation notice for Morris, the Lowe Farm curling rink became a temporary headquarters for EMO, and so councillor, Dan was kept busy.

Monica went to elementary school in Lowe Farm and graduated from Morris School in 1985. While in school she participated in the usual activities and took piano and figure skating. She has had various jobs and now has her own windshield repair business and lives in Winnipeg.

Rhonda graduated in 1989, worked for a few years at different jobs and after completion of a computer programming course at Red River Community College, has found employment in that field. She always had a love and gift for horsemanship and had trained her own horses as well as for others. She has successfully competed at many Arabian horse shows. Rhonda married Craig Shewchuk in May of 1998 and they are living just outside Winnipeg.

Stefan went to school in Lowe Farm and Morris, taking vocational at St. Jean. He enjoyed playing hockey for the Morris team a few years and liked riding his dirt bikes in summer and competed in motocross racing. Stefan graduated in 1991 and worked as a welder for a few years locally and for a year in Surrey, British Columbia. He also resides in Winnipeg and is currently attending Red River Community College.

JOHN W. & MARIE (GERBRANDT) THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley

John W. Thiessen was born in 1905. In 1928, he married Marie Gerbrandt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Gerbrandt of Lowe Farm.

They farmed all their lives, renting land for the first years. They farmed in Lowe Farm, Horndean, and Myrtle.

Then in 1935, they bought section 11-4-2w. There was much work to be done here as buildings were old and all in need of great repair.

Marie always kept herself busy as housewife as well as helping outside when needed. She also enjoyed gardening and sewing.

They had five children: Tena, Mary, Pete, Hilda and Nettie.

In the fall of 1976, after living for 41 years at their farm, they retired to town.

In October, 1978, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, in the Lowe Farm School auditorium.

KATHERINA THIESSEN (HARDER)

From Furrows in the Valley

Youngest in the Aron A. Thiessen family, Katherina was born in 1919. She is better known as Tena, and married on October 11, 1938, to John D. Harder.

The Harders' lived in Lowe Farm for five years before moving to Steinbach, where they spent 10 years. They then moved to Brandon, where they have resided for almost 25 years, and where Mr. Harder has been working as a painter.

The Harders' had nine children: Natalie Ann, Mary Jane, Henry Edward, Nora Helen, Margaret Rose, Aron John, Katharina May, Edna Alice and David Daniel.

CORNELIUS P. & ANNA (GINTER) UNRAU

Submitted by Peter G. Unrau



The C. P. Unrau farmstead as it appeared in winter in the late 1920's.



C.P. Unrau's threshing outfit, 1947.



Feed cutting at the Unrau farm in the 1940's.

My parents were Cornelius and Anna (Ginter) Unrau. I came with them when they moved from the Plum Coulee area where I was born, to Lowe Farm in October, 1926, when I was nine months old.

They settled on the NE quarter of Section 17-5-1w. With crop failures the first two years due to an over abundance of rain, my father found that he could not keep up with the land payments and the taxes and lost the land during the early part of the Dirty Thirties. Hard working man that my father was, he stuck it out, bought the land again and was able to add 40 acres to that, and in 1946 bought another quarter section.

During those years the Lord blessed them with 10 more children, five sets of twins. Five of these babies died in infancy, my sister Annie died of diphtheria at age seven. Those were sad, hard times for the Unrau family. Only one set of twins survived to grow to adulthood, Diedrich (Dick) and Mary.

Dick and his wife Tina live in Steinbach. Mary and her husband Wilfred Demke live on a farm near Thornhill, west of Morden. John lives in Winnipeg, while Eva and her husband John Harder farm north of Lowe Farm.

Our father passed away in January 1976, and Mother died in April 1989.

In the summer of 1951, I went to Ontario to work in a fruit cannery for a season. While there I met a young lady that went by the name of Mary Derksen, who grew up and lived near Ste. Elizabeth, all of 20 miles from Lowe Farm. We were married in October, 1952. A year after we were married, my father bought another quarter section of land to give us a chance to start farming. This quarter had only 120 acres of cultivated land.

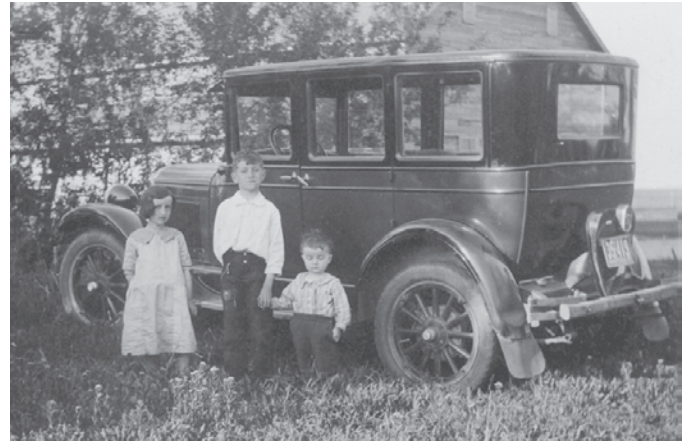
We rented and lived on this farm for 10 years, until my parents retired and moved to Lowe Farm, in October, 1963. We then took over their farm. During those 10 years on the first farm we were blessed with three children; Cornelius (Neil) born December, 1953, Annie Louise born in November, 1956, and Kathleen Marie in October, 1959. Dorothy Patricia took longer, she arrived in July of 1967, almost four years after we moved onto the old home place.

Our children are all married now. Neil married Genny Funk of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They have two girls. They live in Edmonton and are working with dysfunctional families.

Annie is married to Richard Troy of Courtenay, British Columbia, where they have four girls. Annie is a lab technologist, and Rick works for the Highways department.

Kathy married David Bear Chernaurski, in Vanderhoof, British Columbia, where they live. Kathy has her Bachelor of Nursing. Her job is home nursing. Bear is a school teacher.

Dorothy is married to Abe Suderman from Chortitz, south of Winkler. They have a girl and a baby boy. Dorothy is a Registered Nurse and works at the Health Sciences Center in Winnipeg. Abe works as a mechanic in Morris. Dorothy and Abe now live on the original



Pete, Annie and John Unrau, 1935 with 1927 Chev.

home place. That farm has been in the Unrau family for 72 years now.

Mary and I are retired from active farming, and moved to Morris in September of 1991. We now are at home at 107 Willow Drive. We are kept busy doing volunteer work at Morris Mennonite Central Committee thrift stores, babysitting and singing in two choirs, as well as gardening in summer. For the last 35 years I continually served the Kronswiede Sommerfeld Mennonite Church in one capacity or another. During the same time I have also served on the boards of the Co-op Services, and the Lowe Farm Credit Union, and 15 years on the board of the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation.

The Lord has blessed us greatly, give Him the glory.

JOHN & BETTY UNRAU

We moved to the Kronswiede School District on our wedding day, April 26, 1953. We bought 160 acres with the home place owned by the Henry Nickel family, four and a half miles southwest of Lowe Farm, later adding another 80 acres. Then in 1966 we bought another quarter just a mile south of us.

We had dirt road past our place until 1966, when it was graveled. Our older three children started school in Kronswiede, and later were bused to Lowe Farm. We had seven children who all attended school in Lowe Farm and Morris. Elaine (1954 - 1978) married Tom Chipman; Kenneth (1957) married Dale Mikoluf; Marlene (1958) married Rick Goodman; Melvin (1962) married Louise Milette; Valerie (1966) married Jim Johnson; Viola (1966) married Mike Poitras; Audrey (1969) married Ross Leckie.

We are the proud grandparents of nine wonderful grandchildren.

In 1990 we moved off the farm to Winkler when son Mel and family took over the farm. They are still residing there.

ROD & GLADYS WALL



*Rod and Gladys Wall
with Ryan, Evan, Anna, Terril and Benji.*

We began our farming career in the fall of 1978 when we moved to Lowe Farm from Winkler, where Rod was employed at Shamrock Seeds. We made our home at the former Ed B. Harder residence. With this we rented approximately 400 acres and started up a sow-weanling operation. After residing here three years we moved to the family farm of Rod's dad, Ben Wall. We continued our hog operation and increased our land base to approximately 600 acres. After residing here three years we purchased the yard and 160 acres.

By the 1990's, we changed to farming strictly feeder hogs. We doubled our operation with the aid of a hog shelter. From 1992 - 1996, Gladys operated a hairdressing business out of our home.

Ryan, our oldest son, who is now 20 years of age, is currently working at D.W. Friesen Corporation in Altona, after returning from a one year Intermenno Exchange Program in Germany. Evan, also 20 years of age, is newly married and living in Winkler. He is employed at Triple E and his wife Anna is employed at the Winkler Co-op Store. Our daughter Terril is in Grade XI at Morris Collegiate and our youngest son Benji is attending school at Lowe Farm Elementary and is in Grade VIII.

ABRAM & ANNA (FRIESEN) WIEBE

Abram Henry Wiebe was born in 1899, the seventh child of Henry and Katherine Wiebe of Sewell in Manitoba. His parents, who had been part of the Mennonite immigration from Russia in 1874, operated a general store, along with their farm, two and one half miles south of Smith Spur Siding on PTH 23. There had been 18 siblings in the family, of which 14 lived to adulthood and four died when young.

Among other things that kept this family busy, the St.

Peter's School District teacher boarded with them. It was during her first year of teaching in that district that Anna Friesen of Schoenthal (near Altona) and Abram Wiebe were engaged. They married a year later in 1923. Anna had taught school at Kronswiede School District for one or two years before that.

Abram and Anna were as optimistic about the future as any young couple might be. They bought a small farm just a mile south of Smith Spur Siding and began what was to become a long career in farming. But poor soil due to poor drainage kept the farm from providing more than a meager living for them as they tried to raise their growing family. The Depression years that intervened hit them hard, but with faith and perseverance, they endured.

In 1937, after 13 years in the tiny house with their nine children, the Wiebes moved to the Sass farm in the Heabert School District where their tenth child was born. The prospects for good farming were much better on this land and they eagerly applied their energies to house renovation and gradual improvement in other areas of their farm life.

Always an early riser, Dad loved the early hours of the morning and expected us all to join him in the sheer joy of being alive at the crack of dawn. Although he was not always successful, his industriousness brought him considerable rewards. Gradually the financial strain of raising a large family was reduced.

Dad had a good sense of the relationship between the Creator and the created. He had a healthy respect for the work of his own hands but he recognized his dependence upon God's grace for what his hands could accomplish. So, many a springtime, on a Sunday just after church, he would walk alongside his freshly seeded fields with one or several of his family and show them the germinating seeds, then call on God for a special blessing on that field. The simplicity of his faith helped him throughout good times and bad.

Having received only limited formal education, he looked to Mother with her somewhat better education, and private-school teaching experience, for help in interpreting the paper work related to the farm and also in matters pertaining to his spiritual ministry. She was a great support to him.

Living in the Heabert School District, they were three miles removed from Lowe Farm, so much involvement with the church there was difficult. But, Abram, wanting his family to be in Sunday School, started one with rural children at the Heabert School. Later, the family became more involved with the life of the church at Lowe Farm where he taught Sunday School for some years. In 1942 he was ordained to be a deacon in the Berghthaler fellowship and he held this position until his retirement in 1960.

During this time Abram was deeply involved in community service through the church, spending much time visiting the sick and those in need. He gave gener-

ously of himself as time, energy, and resources allowed. He thrived on fellowship with, and stimulation from, other people. Abram brought much of their influence into our home. A significant factor in our growing up was the fact that itinerant ministers and missionaries often over-nighted at our house and we benefited from their broader experiences as they expanded on them in the casual contact within our home. He was also quick to offer a place to sleep and eat to the penniless wanderer, or short-term work to the casual job hunter, all of which made our lives briefly interesting.

Dad did not become deeply involved with our schooling; he left that to Mother. But he made sure that we went, and expected us to abide by the rules and he was proud of us when we did well. He looked for help from us to do his income tax returns or to work out the cost of a new farm building. He was also conscientious in all matters with a sufficient sense of leadership to serve as the first chairman of the school board formed at Heabert School District in the 1940's, and he helped to plan the construction of a new school in that district in 1951.

As farm machinery became more sophisticated, he resorted to grain farming entirely, making the work load much more seasonal and allowing us to attend various schools and colleges away from home base. In 1952 Dad's health deteriorated with the onset of diabetes and he limited his activities somewhat in all areas. Finally, when the farm responsibilities became too heavy, they retired to live in the town of Morris for the last seven years of their lives, having sold the home place to John and Marie Schmidt of Lowe Farm.

When speaking of human development, modern psychologists attach much significance to the sequence of birth or positioning of children within the family constellation. In our family we were quite conscious of the patterning and how it affected much of our lives. There was Agnes, the first born, who at a very young age learned to assume much responsibility for the ones to follow. Then there were three boys, David, Ernest, and Bernhard, who became identified as the big boys. They were followed by three girls; Katherine, Rose and Clara, whose education in most domestic matters happened in that group. Finally there were three boys, Benjamin, Eldon, and John, who were mostly known as the three little boys. The three little boys experienced much endearment because of the grouping, while the three big boys had expectations of responsible behavior laid on them. These groupings were convenient designations for the household chores and even for social activities.

Although we accepted the size of our family as a simple matter of fact, our friends and neighbors deserve our appreciation for sorting us out and accepting us as we were. Those who risked a closer association knew that there was a lot more to it than what met the average eye. Because of the size, there was always plenty of activity - a winter sleighride, a spring softball game, a

feeding of the late summer threshing gang, etc. One neighbor may have expressed it best when he said that their Christmas was never complete until they had a good carol sing at our house - it was simply a family affair.

BERNHARD & LUCILLE (GERBRANDT) WIEBE



Bernhard and Lucille Wiebe.

Bernhard was born at Lowe Farm on October 21, 1939, the son of Peter and Susan Wiebe. They started their farm four-and-a-half miles north of Lowe Farm on Sec. 25-5-2w.

Bernhard married Lucille Gerbrandt in June 1963. They lived in Lowe Farm for two years then moved to the farm in 1966. At this time Bernhard's parents moved into their home in Lowe Farm, but Peter Wiebe continued to help out on the farm through the years.

Lucille's parents, Peter and Helen Gerbrandt, lived in Lowe Farm where Peter Gerbrandt was employed by the Lowe Farm Consumers, and later was the grain buyer for the United Grain Growers Elevator until they moved to Winnipeg in 1960.

In the past Bernhard has worked at many jobs off the farm. They include working for Ben Braun Construction, Ed Groening Seed Plant, Hoffman Construction, Lowe Farm Consumers, and carpentry.

Bernhard and Lucille have four daughters: Teresa and Dennis Rempel (Breanne, Matthew) live and farm near Lowe Farm; Kimberly and Nelson Olfert (Caleb, Josh) live in Winnipeg; Karen and Ward Friesen (Connor and LaDawn) live in Winnipeg; Sherry and Kevin Harder live in Morden.

DAVE & NETTY WIEBE*Submitted by Dave Wiebe**The Dave Wiebe family.*

We moved to the Lowe Farm area in the summer of 1984 onto a small farm. In 1989 the restaurant in town came up for sale and we thought about buying it. We talked to a few people about it and got a lot of encouragement. We are still here, 10 years later. In fact, we just celebrated our tenth Anniversary in April, 1998.

Besides Netty's Cafe, I have a small construction business called Durable Builders Ltd. I just celebrated my 20th Anniversary last fall with Durable Builders Ltd.

As for our personal life, we attend the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church and feel quite at home there, as in the community.

We have eight children and love to travel across Canada to visit them whenever we can.

GEORGE & HELENA WIEBE*Submitted by Helena Wiebe**George and Eddy Guenther.*

Nick Brandt, Annie Born, Abe Rempel, Mary Murner, Margaret Born, John Brandt, Susan Lewis, Helena Rempel and two unidentified children, 1923 or 1924. The plank bridge had to be crossed on the two mile walk to school. Cornelius Rempel nearly drowned at this spot, but was rescued by his sons.

*George Wiebe and Eddy Guenther taking a lunch break.**The new seeder drill in operation, 1963.*



Helena Wiebe plowing with horses on the Cornelius Rempel farm in the late 1920's.



George Wiebe and his crew take a lunch break in the 1920's.

My parents were both born in Russia and came to Canada in the late 1800's. I was the youngest of 12 children born to Cornelius Rempel. He had three children with his first wife and nine with his second, my mother, Katherina Friesen, who outlived him by a few months. All of my brothers and sisters were born on the East Reserve but I was born east of Lowe Farm. I grew up here and got my education in a rural public school called the Heabert School.

By the time I was born, several of my older brothers and sisters had married and left home. Some of my siblings had children not much younger than I was and I babysat for some of them. As children, we always had lots of chores to do outside of school work. The girls cooked, sewed and did house-keeping and gardening. We also milked the cows and churned butter. We fed the animals and took the cattle to graze on the unbroken prairie grasslands. We even stooked grain, the stubble cutting into our legs. The girls always wore skirts so our legs were not as protected as the men's.

We walked to school in all kinds of weather, taking our lunches in honey pails. Sometimes in really cold weather my Dad would let us use a horse. One day he helped me cross a makeshift footbridge over a ditch full of quickly

flowing spring run-off water on my way to school. As he started back it broke, dumping him shoulder-deep into the cold water. He couldn't climb out on his own so I hung onto his sleeves while he hung onto the wild rose bushes on the side of the ditch. My older brothers saw the danger from the house and quickly floated a raft to him and rescued him. We were shocked at how close he came to drowning but we were very relieved that we were all safe.

In a way, the Lowe Farm School introduced me to the man who would become my husband, George Wiebe. A teacher in the school, Henry Shellenberg, was also a choir conductor and had gathered together a choir which George and I joined. George used to take me home after choir practice so we got to know each other.

George's parents also came to Canada from Russia in the late 1800's and settled north of Horndean where he was born. He was the third child of Gerhard and Aganetha Wiebe. He did not attend any public school but at the age of 19 he went to the Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna where he took classes for two winters. That's all the formal education he got.

Sometime after he left school he and a close friend, Henry Buhr, bought a big threshing machine together. It had a removable seed-cleaning attachment with which they cleaned grain for people. They did the cleaning in late winter to have the grain ready for spring seeding and he always got a lot of requests from farmers. Thus, he got to know a lot of people.

When I got to know him, George had rented a house two and a half miles north of Lowe Farm from Sam Rosner, the brother of Moses Rosner who owned Rosner's Grocery Store in Lowe Farm. George and his younger brother, Ed, "batched" there until Ed got married. This

was the first land he bought after we were married.

George and I married on June 14, 1934. His friends gave us two kitchen chairs and a high chair - a joke - as wedding presents to supplement our meager furnishings. The chairs were much appreciated. George and Ed had dined bachelor style at a kitchen table they had made themselves. The top was heavy planks covered with leftover linoleum and the legs were two-by-fours. The table was high enough that they could eat standing up and didn't need chairs. Nail kegs served for those rare occasions when they wanted to sit down or had guests.

The first thing that was done after I arrived was to shorten the table legs so we could use our wedding presents to sit at the table. The high chair joke was put away for five years until we finally had our first baby.

On the evening of February 18, 1939, we listened to Foster Hewitt give a hockey play-by-play on the radio with his characteristic, "He shoots! He scores!" But we also scored that evening. A few hours after the hockey game Melvin, was born.

Three years later on July 21, 1942, Victoria, or Vicki, joined us. Leona followed on April 1, 1944. She was a "blue baby" and her condition prompted us to buy John Schroeder's house on Main Street in Lowe Farm. It had a water heating system and a small generator owned by the blacksmith, John Martens and Sons. Leona never benefited from the house. She died on July 20, 1946. We moved into the Lowe Farm house that fall after harvest.

Ruth came along the next summer on July 14, and on August 6, two years later, Ron was born. Five years after that on September 28, Charles, or Tim, as he is known to family and close friends, appeared, completing our family.

The year Ruth was born, 1947, Manitoba Hydro came to Lowe Farm. The reeve, Dietrich Hoepfner, asked us whether we would be willing to accommodate and feed some of the Hydro workers, which we did. We hired Helen Kehler, daughter of Lowe Farm's shoe-maker, to help me with the cooking, baking, housekeeping and caring for the baby and the other children.

The arrival of hydro was a very great happening in the Lowe Farm, Kane and Rosenort districts and surrounding areas. It had seemed like something unobtainable before, but now it was actually becoming a reality. Before, with the small generator, we had had very limited electricity, but now it seemed unlimited. On the farm we had had a windmill generator to run essential things like the washing machine for washing mountains of diapers. In town the small basement generator let us use the electric lights only sparingly but after the hydro came we could use the lights as much as we wanted.

In 1952, a polio epidemic struck Southern Manitoba and several families in Lowe Farm were touched by that dreaded disease. All four of our children got flu symptoms but only Ruth was sent to Winnipeg with polio. God answered our prayers. She survived and did not



George Wiebe combining in the late 1930's.



The home of George and Helena Wiebe, two and a half miles north of Lowe Farm.



George Wiebe's threshing machine, 1920's.



Helena Wiebe and her immediate children on her 80th birthday.



Helena Wiebe and her family, 1985.



Helena and George Wiebe at their 35th wedding anniversary, 1969.

have to go into an iron lung. She did lose the use of her right arm and most of her left but she went to school with the other children.

Mel and Vicki got all their grade school education in Lowe Farm, much of it in the three buildings that were torn down when the "new school" - now the community centre - was built. Ruth and Ron also started out in the red two-room school. Ruth was bussed to the Kane School for a few months when the Lowe Farm High School was under construction. Ron spent a year in Morris after the Lowe Farm School was restricted

to lower grades. Tim got his entire high school education in Morris.

All of our children have kept on learning after they left public school.

Mel is a professor of English and the chief editor of the Disraeli Project at Queen's University in Kingston. He and his wife, Dr. Lola Cuddy, have one son, Alex.

Vicki was inspired by several Lowe Farm graduates who became nurses. She started out as a Registered Nurse, but went on to get her Ph D in nursing and teaches nursing at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She has two daughters, Liz and Kathryn. Her husband, Allen Strang, died suddenly in 1992.

Ruth went on to teach school but later left that field for freelance writing. She and her husband, Dave Enns of Sperling, live at Sanford.

Ron at first took over the family farm but eventually his passion for computers got the better of him so he joined a friend in a software development business venture, International Operating Systems. Eventually he took over the firm. He and his wife, Clara (Braun) also of Lowe Farm, live in Morris. They have two

daughters, Laurie and Jennifer.

In his university studies Charles/Tim at first followed his interest in history but later shifted to law. He and his wife, Dr. Ellen Anderson, live in Scarborough. He practices law in Toronto.

George died in 1979 after a long battle with cancer. Next to God and his family he loved the Lowe Farm land he called home and I feel privileged to have shared in building that home with him. Lowe Farm has been good to us. God has been good to us.

RON & CLARA (BRAUN) WIEBE

Clara Helen Marie Braun was born in November of 1952 in the Altona Hospital to Justina and Peter Braun. She grew up in Lowe Farm, the youngest of four children.

Ronald Robert David Wiebe was born in August of 1949, in the Morris Hospital to Helena and George Wiebe. He grew up in Lowe Farm, the second youngest of five surviving children.

Ron and Clara were married in July of 1972, in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church. They lived in Winnipeg while Clara was finishing her second and final year of nurses' training. Following Clara's graduation, they returned to Lowe Farm where they lived for the next two years. At this time, Ron was farming in the summer with his father on their family farm and working in winter as a general laborer in various businesses. In March of 1974, Clara began working at the Red River Valley Lodge as a Registered Nurse, where she continues to work today. In March of 1975, Ron and Clara moved to a house in Morris and the summer of that same year, Ron began to run the farm independently, which he continued to do until 1993.

In December of 1976, Ron and Clara had their first child; a daughter they named Laurie Claire. Two years following, in October of

1978, they had their second child; another daughter they named Jennifer Marie.

In 1979, on the instigation of Clara's father, Ron and Clara accommodated a young Vietnamese couple, Hoa and Lan Chau for six months as they were getting established in Canada. By the end of their stay the family had grown to three, as their daughter Lana was born in early 1980.

In February of 1983, Ron and Clara decided to accept an offer to move with their daughters to Nakuru, Kenya for two years where Ron would work in an agricultural program under CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) through the University of Manitoba. The term ended up lasting for a year and a half, at which time they returned to Morris and continue to live today. A highlight of this trip was when Clara's parents visited for six weeks over the Christmas holiday.

Ron and Clara have been dedicated to their church involvement during their years in Lowe Farm as well as their many years in Morris, as they continued attending Lowe Farm Berghaler Mennonite Church even after they moved. Ron has served as vice chairman and chairman as well as teaching Sunday School for many years and singing in the men's quartet. Clara has also been involved in various activities in the church. They both continue to be active in the church today, as well as serving the larger community.

HENRY B. WIEBE

Henry B. Wiebe, fondly nicknamed "The Watchmaker," was born to Bernhard and Agatha Wiebe on July 15, 1875, near Steinbach, Manitoba. The Wiebes had immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1874. Henry moved with his parents to the Weidenfeld district, near Altona, as a young child.

Photos: Four generations at Lowe Farm – 101 years.



Henry B. Wiebe as a young man.



Margaretha Giesbrecht



Frank Giesbrechts, parents of Margaretha (Giesbrecht) Wiebe, came to Rosefarm, near Lowe Farm, in 1889.



David and Mary (Wiebe) Penner, married in 1940 and raised eight children in Lowe Farm (see their history in this book).



David and Mary Penner with their children. Back row: (l – r) Leonard, Roxana, Bob, Dave, Allan, Douglas. Front row: (l – r) Janice, Rosemarie, Mary, Marjorie.



178c. Henry and Margaretha Wiebe lived in Lowe Farm until 1944.

In 1904, Henry was united in marriage to Anna Klassen (nee Bergen) and they made their home in Altona, where Henry practiced his profession of repairing clocks and watches.

Anna had a daughter, Elizabeth, by a previous marriage. To this new marriage were born six children, while they lived in Altona. They were: Henry, Ben, Tina, Dora, Susie (Sally), and Edd.

In the spring of 1919, Henry purchased the north half of 24-4-2w in the Kane School District, near Lowe Farm, and moved to the farm. His father purchased the north half of 35-4-2w in the Lowe Farm school district, and rented it to his son.

On March 31, 1920, a son, Peter, was born, and on April 10, Anna passed away, leaving Henry with one step-daughter, aged 20, and seven children, ranging from 10 days to 15 years.

On August 17, 1920, Henry was united in marriage to Margaretha Giesbrecht, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Giesbrecht (nee Gerbrandt). The Giesbrechts had arrived from Russia in 1874 and had settled in the Rose Farm district near Lowe Farm in 1898.

After her father's death in 1912, Margaretha had cared for her aging mother and made her living by sewing for her friends and neighbors until the death of her mother in January, 1920.

To this marriage were born three children: Mary, Jacob and Johnny, who died in infancy.

The Wiebe family lived on this farm until 1927, during which time

Henry served on the board of the Kane Consolidated School from 1924 - 1926. He also drove the school van for a few years.

In the fall of 1927, the farm went back to its former owner, a Mr. Arnold, an American, and Henry purchased the N 1/2 35-4-2w from his father and moved to the Lowe Farm School District.

The Wiebe family lived on this farm until September, 1944, at which time his son, Jacob, rented the farm and the Wiebes retired to his native Altona.

During these 17 years, Henry continued his profession of repairing clocks and watches in his spare time. He served on the Lowe Farm School District board from 1930 - 1934, and was actively involved in the founding of the Lowe Farm Burial Aid Society. He was also active in the Lowe Farm Credit Union, serving on the Supervisory Committee for a number of years. The Wiebes were also among the initial group of people who started the Rudnerweider Church at Rose Farm.

Margaretha passed away on November 12, 1960, at the age of 76, and Henry passed away on October 26, 1961. The farm was then sold to his nephew, Jacob Thiessen.

At the time of his passing, Henry was 86 years old.

His step-daughter, Elizabeth, married Jacob Peters of Lowe Farm in 1922. They homesteaded a farm north of Lowe Farm for eight years, and then moved to town, where Jake served as the local barber for a period of 30 years. They retired to Morris in 1972. Elizabeth passed away on December 31, 1978. Jacob passed away in 1989.

Henry Wiebe operated a dragline around Lowe Farm for some years and retired to Florida, U.S.A. He passed away in 1981. His wife passed away in 1998.

Ben Wiebe, also a dragline operator for many years, moved to British Columbia. He died in 1998. One of his sons passed away in 1980 and another son died in 1998. Ben's widow lives in Cochrane, Alberta.

Tina (Ernest) Fraser married a railroad foreman and moved to Florida. She passed away in 1990 and Ernest died in 1991.

Dora (Fred) Ellis married a serviceman and was widowed. She moved to Florida. Dora's only son also predeceased her.

Susie (Sally) remained single and, when she retired from her job in Chicago, Illinois, moved to Florida, where she lives at present.

Ed Wiebe drove a transfer in the Lowe Farm area for a number of years and then joined the Army, in which he served for 25 years before moving to British Columbia. He passed away in 1994. His widow lives in Chilliwack.

Peter Wiebe joined the army at the age of 19. He was seriously wounded in the Second World War, and moved to Florida. He lives in Tarpan Springs, Florida.

Mary (Dave) Penner, stayed in Lowe Farm until 1997, when they moved to Morris.

Jacob Wiebe lives in Blumenort.

JAKE & TIENA (FRIESEN) WIEBE

From Furrows in the Valley

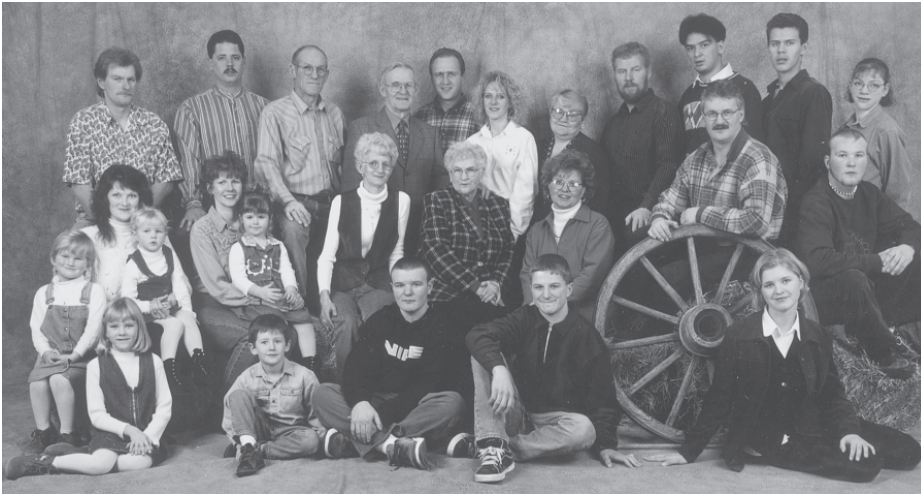
Originally submitted by Agatha (Schroeder) Friesen

Tiena Friesen was born to Rev. Jacob and Agatha (Stoesz) Friesen in 1921, August 2, at St. Peters, Manitoba. She attended school there and was baptized and received as a member in the Sommerfeld Church at Kronweide.

On June 18, 1944, (a very rainy day) she was united in marriage to Jacob B. Wiebe. After spending some time in "Alternative Service" in a coal mine in Bienfait, Saskatchewan, they returned to Manitoba. With the sudden passing of Tiena's father in the fall of 1945, they remained with her mother for a year, later moving to a farm north of Lowe Farm. In 1978 they sold the farm and retired to Altona.

Tiena and Jake are the parents of four children: Edward, Menno, Irene, and Kathy.

JACOB & SADIE (HILDEBRANDT) WIEBE



Jacob and Sadie Wiebe and family, 1997.

Jacob Wiebe and Sadie Hildebrandt were married in 1943 and lived in the Lowe Farm area until 1965. Jacob became the first pastor of the Emmanuel Gospel Church at Lowe Farm in 1954. In 1965, the Wiebes' retired from farming and pastoring and moved to Steinbach where Jacob continued his education. In 1966, the Wiebes' moved to Nipawin, Saskatchewan, where Jacob joined the faculty of the Nipawin Bible Institute and Sadie took up part time employment in the Town of Nipawin.

After 10 years the Wiebes' moved back to Manitoba. Jacob graduated from Winnipeg Bible College with a BRE degree in 1977. Sadie acquired PHT (Putting Hubby Through) degree working in the kitchen.

In 1979, the Wiebe's moved to Blumenort near Steinbach. Jacob became involved in a traveling ministry with the United Gospel Crusaders, and Sadie was employed by the Mennonite Village Museum in the kitchen department.

From 1981 to 1986 Jacob took a leave of absence from his traveling ministry and pastored the Elim Baptist Church of Beausejour. After this he took up his traveling ministry again in which he is still involved.

Jacob and Sadie Wiebe have four children:

Ken married Judy Friesen of Morris. He is employed with Schneiders of Winnipeg. Judy works with handicapped people of Morris and District.

Alvina married Melvin Price of Carrot River, Saskatchewan. Melvin works in the saw mill and Alvina teaches music and operates a tea house and a party center in Nipawin.

Joe married Kathy Funk of Love, Saskatchewan. Joe owns a cleaning company called Kem Dry Southeast, and Kathy sells real estate with Homelife Riverbend.

Max married Andrea Klassen of Steinbach. Max is employed selling agriculture products, Andrea is employed in the farrowing department of a 6,000 sow operation.

KEN & MARGARET (PENNER) WIEBE

Submitted by Margaret Wiebe

Margaret (Penner) Wiebe is the seventh child born to Ben and Tina (Thiessen) Penner on September 29, 1943. She grew up and enjoyed her childhood years in Lowe Farm. She married Kenneth James Wiebe on August 27, 1967 in Lowe Farm at the Emmanuel Gospel Church. Margaret has fond memories of this young church and the wonderful missionary conferences.

Margaret and Ken have run a dairy, beef and grain farm in the Winkler area for many years. They are members of the Grace Mennonite Church in Winkler.

Ken has always been very community oriented, serving on various committees and boards such as minor hockey, church boards and the Association for Community Living. Ken is also an avid supporter of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Margaret is a Registered Nurse and has been employed with the Salem Personal Care Home in Winkler for many years.

As a child, Margaret enjoyed life in Lowe Farm, spending the winter months at the local outdoor skating rink and the summer months at Heoppner's pond, located directly across the road from the Ben Penner residence. Many dreams for the future and aspirations were shared with close friend Ruth (Friesen) Johnson and cousins Marjorie (Penner) Fraser and Rose Marie (Penner) Kieper at this idyllic spot where frogs croaked and crayfish were plentiful.

Ken and Margaret have two sons and one daughter: Murray Wayne is residing in Winnipeg and is employed at Ryan's Forestry Products; Clifford James is married to Laura Groening. They have three sons, Jason, 22, Luke, 3 1/2, and Eric, 1; Julie Ann-Marie is presently enrolled at the Marvel School Hairdressing and Cosmetology in Winnipeg.

JAKE B. & TIENA (FRIESEN) WIEBE

Jake Wiebe, the son Abram and Maria Wiebe, was born in 1916 at Hope Farm. In 1918, his parents moved Lowe Farm, Section 6-1-4w. He attended Steinfeld School. In the winter of 1940, he took a course in agriculture in Altona.

In June 1944, Jake married Tiena Friesen, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Jacob W. Friesen. That was during the war years, which meant that he had to help with the farm work for his dad. Then in the fall of 1944, we (Jake and Tiena) were sent to the coal mines, called Mt. S Mines in Bienfait, Saskatchewan, for the winter months.

When we came back in the spring of 1945, our son Edward was born. We had rented a quarter of land northwest of Lowe Farm, Section 9-5-2w. It was very wet that spring, so we only got our crop in late spring, but still managed to get a fair crop out of it. Jake was still helping his dad and also we had to pay Red Cross money every month. But by June, 1945, the war ended. We bought the farm and also another quarter of land.

Our son Edward and his wife Mary Ann live in Tsawwassen, British Columbia. Edward went to school at Kane, Lowe Farm and then finished at the University of Manitoba. He married Mary Ann Doerksen in 1967. He began teaching in Winnipeg and was a Physical Education instructor for 19 years in Tsawwassen. He is now involved in selling real estate there. Mary Ann had her own film company, but is now busy taking their boys to hockey, music and baseball and being a mom. They have two sons: Aaron, born in 1982, and Eli, 1990.

Our second son, Menno, was born on April 18, 1948, in the midst of a flood. Jake had to play doctor and deliver Menno himself. He is married to Debbie Messenger and they live in Calgary. He has two children; Melanie, born in 1969, and Ian, born in 1970. They are both married and live in Calgary. Melanie married Ryan Miller in 1996 and Ian married Stephanie in 1997. Menno works for Hall-Houston-Malaysia L.T.D. He went to school first in Kane, later Lowe Farm and then went on to finish four years the University of Manitoba. His work takes him to Malaysia frequently. Debbie works in Calgary.

Irene, our first daughter, was born on April 19, 1952. She married Lorne Penner, son of Ben E. and Tina Penner. She went to school at Kane, Lowe Farm and Morris. They were married in July, 1972. Lorne and Irene own an overhead garage door business called Universal Doors, in Brandon. They both work there, as well as their two sons and son-in-law. They have three children: Kathy, born in 1977; Brian, born 1979; and Jon, born 1980. Kathy married Mike Hildebrand in 1996 and they have a son, Dominik, born in 1998. All live in Brandon.

Kathy, our second daughter, was born on Christmas Day, 1956. She also got her education at Kane, Lowe Farm, Morris and then at the University of Manitoba. She married Mahmood Randaree in 1996 and they now live in Potchefstroom, South Africa. Mahmood is the manager of the agriculture office and Kathy is busy studying a course in Business Management.

We sold our farm in 1977, and bought a house in Altona. Jake kept busy with the Thresherman's Museum between Winkler and Morden for many years. In 1991, he had an aneurysm and spent one month in the St. Boniface Hospital. He did not completely recover, as he could not get his strength back. Then in 1993, Parkinson's disease set in and he had a knee replacement operation in 1994. He passed away on July 28, 1997. I sold the House and moved into an apartment in Altona where I am now living and have good health. Thanks to the Good Lord and my children, I am quite happy. I am planning on doing some traveling with my children being so far away.

TINA (REMPLE) (PETER SCHROEDER) & JACOB B. WIENS

From Furrows in the Valley

Tina was the oldest daughter of Peter P. and Nettie Remple. On July 9, 1931, she married Peter S. Schroeder, son of Rev. Jacob and Anna Schroeder of the Kronsweide District. Peter and Tina farmed S 24-4-2w.

They had four children:

Erdman married Lorraine Summers and is living in Toronto, Ontario. They have one son.

Nettie married Willie H. Klassen. They are farmed the land which was homestead by her grandparents, Rev. Jacob J. and Anna Schroeder. This land was also farmed by her parents, Peter and Tina Schroeder. Nettie and Willie sold the land in 1995 and moved to Morris. They have four children and one grandchild.

Herman married Rosella Braun and lives in Ottawa, Ontario. They have one daughter.

Beno married Karen Manly. They live in Cobourg, Ontario and have two sons.

In 1948, Peter S. Schroeder passed away. In 1951, Tina married Jacob B. Wiens. Tina and Jacob have one son, Lionel, who is married to Lorraine Wiebe. They live two miles south and one mile west of Lowe Farm on 25-4-2w.

Jacob died in 1989. Tina lives in the Prairie View Apartments in Lowe Farm.

LIONEL & LORRAINE WIENS



Lorraine, Lionel, Cindy, Trevor and Carissa Wiens.

We were both raised in the Lowe Farm area and lived there until September, 1972, when we got married.

We lived in a variety of communities including Portage La Prairie, Winnipeg, and Winkler before moving back to Lowe Farm in 1978 to start farming. We lived in town until the spring of 1981, at which time we moved to our farm two miles south and one mile west of town.

We have been actively involved in our community, serving in many different organizations including the Chamber of Commerce, Curling Clubs, Fire Department, and the various Co-op boards. Presently, Lionel serves on the Lowe Farm Credit Union Board and just completed twelve years on the Morris Macdonald School Division Board and Lorraine is employed part-time at the Lowe Farm Co-op.

We attend and are members of the Lowe Farm Berghaler Mennonite Church where we have both taught Sunday School and are involved in other committee work as well.

Lowe Farm has been a good place to raise our three children. Carissa was born in December, 1977 and graduated from Red River Community College. Trevor was born in December, 1980 and attends Morris School. Cindy was born in March 1983 and is also attending Morris School. We are pleased to have been part of this community for the past 20 years.

EDUCATION

A CENTURY OF LEARNING



EDUCATION

Submitted by Paul Joyal

LOWE FARM SCHOOL HISTORY



William Friesen, school principal

"School is a place for learning and doing. It is also a place to grow in character. Finally, it is a place to learn some of the lessons of successful living."

Those phrases, penned by Lowe Farm School Principal William Friesen in 1948, might best describe Lowe Farm School. The place referred to by Mr. Friesen has, during the course of the last century, taken a variety of shapes and sizes.

The first school built in Lowe Farm in 1899 was a simple one room school. In 1913 a handsome two story concrete block school was built. In 1926, with the introduction of the high school program, a small building was rented for this purpose. This building would become the only school that was not actually built by the school board. In a short period of time two other school buildings would be built. In 1936 a single room building was built east of the concrete block school. This was followed by the construction of a two roomed "red brick" building in 1939. The building program continued in 1955 with the construction of a four classroom brick

vener school. The construction of this building saw Lowe Farm School acquire its first auditorium. This particular school, with its closing in 1982, would eventually become the Lowe Farm Community Centre. The present school facility, built in 1961, would finalize the building program in Lowe Farm this century.

During the course of the past 100 years, seven separate school buildings, as outlined above, have occupied real estate in Lowe Farm. Perhaps the most colorful period in the history of Lowe Farm School might have occurred between the years 1927 and 1946. During this period four separate school buildings were in operation, and were located within close proximity to each other. The arrangement of these buildings could easily have given Lowe Farm the appearance of a small university campus.

The influx of rural students in the early years, combined with consolidation that began in 1959, were factors that contributed greatly to the building programs. These factors, however, merely reinforced the commitment to the education process.

To mark the 100th anniversary of Lowe Farm School, this section has been dedicated to the trustees, ratepayers, educators and students, past and present, whose dedication, energy, and vision have served to make Lowe Farm School the place to learn.

CONSOLIDATION

An important factor resulting in a further increase in high school enrolment was the amalgamation of five rural school districts with Lowe Farm to form The Lowe Farm Consolidated School District. The idea of consolidation, or the formation of some kind of larger area, had been in the minds of several Lowe Farm residents for some time. The idea was given more specific form and direction when, in 1952, Inspector

Ewanchuk spoke to a gathering of trustees from the surrounding districts outlining the advantages of such a move. Reaction at first was not favorable. In January, 1953, the Lowe Farm trustees reported to the ratepayers that "the districts contacted were not in favor because they did not wish their children to be exposed to the town school, firmly believing that it would have a harmful influence on them". However, a year later a group of parents in the Neufeld School District, four miles north of the village, broached the question again and asked for a study and report. Strong leadership also came for consolidation from the St. Peter's District near Sewell. The view that the rural districts ought to contribute to the cost of providing new high school facilities led to a series of discussions on organizing a larger high school unit. An alternative was that proposed earlier, namely, consolidation.

By the spring of 1957 a meeting of the joint boards expressed preference for consolidation. The arguments presented for consolidation included: free access to high school education; cheaper transportation of students; and better opportunities for the children at the elementary level. The Lowe Farm ratepayers, in turn, because they would not be alone in bearing the cost of high school education, would benefit from a reduced mill-rate. Finally, at a special meeting on April 3, 1959, a motion was passed requesting the Municipal Council to combine the school districts of Heabert, St. Peter's and Lowe Farm into the Lowe Farm Consolidated School District. Neufeld School District was added in September of the same year. The district was further expanded when Steinfeld and Kronsweide also joined the consolidation in 1968 as a result of a dwindling population.

Kronsweide S.D. 1030 formed: Aug. 8, 1899 dissolved: Jan. 1, 1968 joined Consolidation January 1, 1968	Rose Farm S.D. 1577 formed: Aug. 25, 1896 dissolved: Jan. 4, 1965 joined Consolidation July 10, 1965	Steinfeld S.D. 1128 formed: May 27, 1901 dissolved: Jan. 1, 1968 joined Consolidation January 1, 1968
St. Peter's S.D. 1031 formed: July 29, 1899 dissolved: Jan. 7, 1959 joined Consolidation January 1, 1959	Lowe Farm S.D. 1033 formed: June 3, 1899 dissolved: July 1, 1959	Neufeld S.D. 1580 formed: July 28, 1911 dissolved: Jan. 1, 1960 joined Consolidation January 1, 1960
Heabert S.D. 1282 formed: Nov. 27, 1903 dissolved: Jan. 7, 1959 joined Consolidation January 7, 1959	Cannon S.D. 2297 formed: Sept., 15, 1939 dissolved: Jan. 1, 1967 joined Consolidation January 1, 1967	Melba S.D. 2039 formed: April 19, 1920 dissolved: January 1, 1967

Lowe Farm
Consolidated School District 2377
formed: July 1, 1959
dissolved: May 1, 1969
to form the
Morris Macdonald
School Division #19

THE CURRICULUM

In the early years, following the short span of the English period, academic progress was slow and subjects such as English probably received little attention. It is not known how much German was taught, but that it was taught as part of the regular program from the time of A. K. Friesen until the middle years of the First World War is almost certain. After that, at least in all grades below Grades VII and VIII, German was taught from 8:30 a.m. until 9 a.m., before regular classes began.

In the bilingual years, approximately one fourth of the school day may have been devoted to German. Catechism and Bible stories, as well as the singing of German hymns, were taught in the last half hour of the school day prescribed by the Department of Education for religious instruction. It does not appear that all teachers made equal use of the privileges available to them in these respects. There were occasionally non-Mennonite and non-German speaking teachers who could be expected to do this kind of work.

A rather remarkable curriculum feature appeared in 1908-1909. School gardening, under the name of "Elementary Agriculture," was introduced as an integral part of a child's school experience. The authorities reasoned that in an agricultural community it was imperative to teach children the art of growing flowers, shrubs, and vegetables. The Department set up a Director of Elementary Agriculture who acted as consultant and coordinator. His office distributed certain types of seeds and shrubs to the schools, some free of charge, others at cost price. The program operated under teacher direction and was aimed at school ground beautification. The gardens were judged in the summer and awarded prizes by the Municipal Council. The inspectors entered into the program enthusiastically, and until the mid 1920's, a report on school gardening was included in the inspectors report to the Department. As the

academic courses became more amplified with more and more material to be learned and, as the economic stringency of the Depression advanced, Elementary Agriculture just faded away. Instead, more emphasis was given to cultural subjects such as music and art.

From the middle 1920's on, (possibly sooner), the prescribed program of the Department was followed pretty closely in Lowe Farm. In the lower Grades, namely I, II, and III, the three R's of education were taught. Spelling Bees also formed part of the curriculum and were enjoyed by the students. Starting in Grade V, the curriculum was expanded to include subjects such as geography and history. Geography Bees were sometimes held as well.

This trend of education continued into the 1930's and 1940's. Beginning in Grade VI, students would have been introduced to German. They would first have studied a book called the "The Fiebel," which was the book of German pronunciation, spelling, and the German alphabet. Starting in Grade VII, German would be taught as a required second language. Teaching the Fiebel would continue right through until Grade IX.

In 1913, the school district of Lowe Farm first began the policy of purchasing text books for the students. The introduction of high school in Lowe Farm in 1926 did not, however, follow the policy of purchasing books for these students. The cost of this subject matter was left to the students, or parents, to obtain.

The following compares grades at different time periods to give some insight into the curriculum. Although the subjects taught were similar in nature, there are differences. Grades and years were selected at random:

Grade III subjects in 1933 - 1934 were obtained from an old report card. Grade III students of that time were merely taught

reading, spelling and arithmetic. In 1959 - 1960, Grade III students were being taught arithmetic, english, oral reading, literature, language, spelling, writing, natural science, social studies, health and art.

In 1949 - 1950, Grade V students were being taught spelling, oral reading, arithmetic, art, health, composition, writing, nature studies and social studies. In 1994 - 1995, Grade V included language arts (reading, spelling, writing, etc.), mathematics, science, social studies, german, music, physical education and art.

The curriculum for Grade VIII students of 1965 - 1966 included social studies, spelling, literature, language, health, mathematics, music, natural science and german. By comparison Grade VIII students in 1995 - 1996 were taught language arts, spelling, reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies, german, health, industrial arts and art.

The 1949 Grade XII subject matter included english (which included poetry, drama, novel, and composition), science, (including physics and chemistry), and mathematics, (including algebra, analytical geometry, and trigonometry). For Grade XII students of 1967, the last year this Grade was taught in Lowe Farm School, the subject matter included english, mathematics, physics, chemistry, german and history.

In 1949, John Bell, who was the high school principal for only one year, introduced typing as an optional course in the school. Typing became a credited course and remained as part of the curriculum until the end of the high school program in Lowe Farm.

Isaac Warkentin first began the teaching of Industrial Arts, and was continued by B. D. Hildebrand, under whose direction it became a credited course.

FORM 2

**D. W. FRIESEN'S SCHOOL
REPORT CARD**

Melba
(Name of School here)

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2039

MONTHLY REPORT

of *Abram Harder*
Class Grade *III*

Register Number
Year 193*3* to 193*4*

For Sale By D. W. FRIESEN, School Supplies Of Every Description.
ALTONA, MANITOBA.

193	TO	193	Days Absent	Times Late	Conduct	Attendance	Age	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Arithmetic	Nature Study	Art	Health	Music	Grammar	Geography	Composition	Eng. History	Can. History	Literature	Science
September	7							25	100	50												
October	25							40	92	58												
November	25							62	94	50												
December																						
January																						
February	11							50	80	100												
March	5							65		75												
April	3							75	86	92												
May	7							70	92	90												
June																						

TO PARENTS OR GUARDIANS
Please examine this Report carefully and return it, properly signed, to the Teacher.
Figures used for subjects tested on. Key for other marks: E-Excellent, C-Very good, G-Good, F-Fair, U-Unsatisfactory, P-Poor.

Average	Standing	No. in class	Attitude towards work	REMARKS BY TEACHER	SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN
57.5	7	11	8		<i>Abram Harder</i>
62.5	7	6	8		
68.7	7	12	8		
76.8	7	8	8		
70.7	7	9	8		
84.8	6	8	8		
84.8	9	8	8		

This certifies that the pupil herein named has been promoted from *Gr. III* to *Gr. IV*

Principal *A. K. Duerksen* Teacher

<p>THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____ has been promoted from Grade _____ to Grade _____</p> <p>19. 58</p> <p><i>James</i> Principal</p>		<p>Certificate of Promotion</p>
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<p>Lowe Farm School Report</p>	
<p>RECORD OF</p> <p><i>Doreen Harder</i> Pupil</p> <p>Sept. 19. 57 to June 19. 58</p> <p><i>Grade 1</i> Grade</p> <p><i>A. Wiener</i> Teacher</p>	

CITIZENSHIP REPORT				
HEALTH Posture	A	A	A	A
Personal Cleanliness	A	A	A	A
Safety Rules Obeyed				
NEATNESS and CARE of Appearance	A	A	A	A
of Books	A	A	A	A
of School Property	A	A	A	A
ATTITUDES Co-operation	A	A	A	A
Courtesy	A	A	A	A
Use of Time	B	B	B	A
Interest in Work	A	A	B	A
Supplementary Reading			A	A
Conduct	A	A	A	A
<p>A—Very Good B—Good C—Fair D—Not Satisfactory</p>				
SIGNATURE OF PARENT				
<p>1. <i>Mrs. Abe Harder,</i> 2. <i>Mrs. Abe Harder,</i> 3. <i>Mrs. Abe Harder.</i> 4.</p>				

PUBLIC SCHOOL REPORT				
	1	2	3	4
SOCIAL STUDIES	—			
ENGLISH: Reading	A	A	B.	A
Spelling	100	100	64	76
Writing	B	B	B.	A
Literature			55	84
LANGUAGE				97
HEALTH				
MATHEMATICS	88	60	74	100
ART	C	B	B.	B.
MUSIC				
NATURAL SCIENCE				
CRAFTS or MANUAL TRAINING				
TOTAL	188	160	198	307
Percentage	94	80	66	81.2.
Days Absent	4 1/2	2		
Times Late				
<p>A—Very Good (75% or over) B—Good (65% to 74%) C—Average (50% to 64%) D—Poor (below 50%)</p>				

HIGH SCHOOL REPORT				
	1	2	3	4
SPELLING				
LITERATURE				
COMPOSITION				
SOCIAL STUDIES				
MATHEMATICS				
ALGEBRA				
GEOMETRY				
GENERAL SCIENCE				
CHEMISTRY				
PHYSICS				
HEALTH and PHYSICAL ED.				
MUSIC				
FRENCH				
GERMAN				
TYPING				
TOTAL				
Percentage				
Days Absent				
Times Late				
<p>A—Very Good (75% or over) B—Good (65% to 74%) C—Average (50% to 64%) D—Poor (below 50%)</p>				

TEACHER'S REMARKS	
1. Report:—	<i>Doreen does very good work.</i> <i>A. Wiener</i>
2. Report:—	<i>Doreen could improve in printing.</i> <i>A. Wiener</i>
3. Report:—	<i>Doreen is capable of better work.</i> <i>A. Wiener</i>
4. Report:—	<i>Doreen has greatly improved in her work.</i> <i>A. Wiener</i>

PUBLIC SCHOOL REPORT						
	1	2	3	4	Av.	
ARITHMETIC	90	87	83	86		
ENGLISH:						
Oral Reading	B	A	B	A		
Silent Reading						
Literature	94	62	73	71		
Language	73	84	89	85		
Spelling	87	92	86	88		
Writing	B	B	B	A		
NATURAL SCIENCE	98	76	96	82		
SOCIAL STUDIES	79	84	75	76		
HEALTH		79	68	80		
ART	B	B	B	A		
MUSIC						
GERMAN						
PUPIL'S AVERAGE	87	81	80	80		
CLASS AVERAGE	87	81				

PARENTS' COMMENTS	
1. Report:—	<i>Doreen does good work.</i>
<i>Mrs. Abe Harder.</i> Signature	
2. Report:—	<i>Keep up the good work Doreen! Watch your writing please!</i>
<i>Mrs. Abe Harder.</i> Signature	
3. Report:—	<i>Keep up the neat work Doreen!</i>
<i>Mrs. Abe Harder.</i> Signature	
A—Very Good (75% or over) B—Good (65% to 74%) C—Average (50% to 64%) D—Poor (below 50%)	

Record of Attendance												
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	
No. of Days Open	1	21	19	21	17	20	21	23	15	20	22	
Days Attended	1	21	19	21	17	20	20	23	14	20	22	
Lates												

TEACHER'S REMARKS	
1. Report:—	<i>Doreen does good work.</i>
2. Report:—	<i>Keep up the good work Doreen! Watch your writing please!</i>
3. Report:—	<i>Keep up the neat work Doreen!</i>
4. Report:—	<i>Very pleased with Doreen's work! Keep it up!</i>

From the early 1980's onward, a typical day at Lowe Farm School started with the faculty and students meeting together in the school auditorium for Assembly. Assembly is held either on Monday or Friday of the school week. Here, "O Canada" is sung, followed by a Bible story and the Lord's Prayer. The principal makes required announcements, which sometimes include the handing out of awards to individual students. On occasion visitors are welcomed to the assembly to speak to the students.

The curriculum today, besides providing the basics of the three "R"s, includes the teaching of phonics in Kindergarten. The Kindergarten program was first introduced into Lowe Farm School in 1974. Previous to that, Kindergarten was conducted in Morris, then for a while in Kane. The teaching of the German language continues to be taught as well. Students from Grade I to VIII are taught German. They learn orally at first, and then begin learning to write in German. Natural Sciences, with an emphasis on health, social studies, music, and physical education, are the subjects being taught.

Departmental exams are conducted for students in Grade III to VI, IX and XII. The purpose of enhancing educational standards and evaluation is to ensure that all students in Manitoba can read, write, think, collaborate, and compute at a high level. It will also ensure that information about student achievement is available so that opportunities for improvement can be coordinated through the cooperation of students, parents, and educators.

Since 1983, when authorized for use by the school division, computers have impacted themselves on the curriculum. From Kindergarten through to Grade VIII, computers are an important part of a students learning experience. They are used as an educational tool and in no way are they meant to replace the traditional methods of teaching. Every classroom in Lowe Farm school is equipped with at least one computer, along with a group of computers located in the computer room. The school library also has computers that are hooked into the Internet.

Over the past 100 years of education in Lowe Farm, the curriculum has provided a kaleidoscope of learning. Learning is not merely reading words in a book, nor is it learning to write words on paper, or learning to spell words on a blackboard. It is much more. Learning also teaches us to be self disciplined, confident, and self reliant.

Our education prepares us for the many challenges we all face in life; by first offering us the challenge to learn. Wise are those of us who accept the challenge.

Morris-Macdonald School Division	
No. 19	
MORRIS-MACDONALD COLLEGIATE	
MORRIS MACDONALD COLLEGIATE, LOWE FARM	
REPORT CARD	
Student	Harder, Doreen
Grade	Nine
Year	1967-1968

Studies	No. 1		No. 2		No. 3		No. 4	
	Student Mark	Class Median	Student Mark	Class Median	Student Mark	Class Median	Student Mark	Class Median
Spelling	78	62	12	73				
Literature	40	58	28	50				
English	57	64	42	67				
History	37	60	41	54				
Social Studies								
Geography	34	57	40	59				
Mathematics	43	57	29	58				
Science	45	58	27	52				
Chemistry								
Physics								
French								
German	64	68	66	68				
Art—Music	59	60	54	65				
Health	49	57	44	60				
Business Practice								
Typing—Office Prac.								
Typing W.P.M.								
Shorthand—Bookkeep.								
Shorthand W.P.M.								
Bookkeep.—Bus. Arith.								
Rapid Calculation								
Bus. Mach.—Off. Prac.								
Ret. Merchandising								
Average	50.7	60.1	45.9	44				
Days Absent	9.5							
Days Possible	78							

STUDENT ACTIVITY CARD	
	SCHOOL
	Name <u>Doreen Harder</u>
	Address <u>Box 35 Lowe Farm</u>
	Phone <u>746-2048</u> Grade <u>IX</u>
<u>H. White</u> Principal	
1967 - 1968 Printed by NATIONAL SCHOOL STUDIOS	

STUDENTS AND ENROLLMENTS

Most important of all the groups involved in the functioning of the school are, of course, the students. It is for them that the school exists, and it is the basis of which their life there, and later development and contribution to society, that the work of the school must be evaluated.

When school first opened in Lowe Farm in 1899, many of the students attended only part of the term. In succeeding years most of the farm children began late in the fall, October or November, and stopped again in April. For many years the upper grades were poorly represented. This may have been for a couple of reasons. Firstly, farm children were required at home during the spring, summer, and fall to help out at home. Secondly, a time honored German tradition required that boys not attend school past the age of 14, and that girls not attend school past the age of 12. This trend may have continued until the introduction of the Compulsory Attendance Act that was brought into effect around 1916. Esther Goldstein was the only student to reach Grade VII for years after the school was started. A few reached Grade VII, but, for the majority, Grades IV, V, or VI were the highest rung of the educational ladder attained. There need be small wonder at this if one considers the fact that many of the teachers employed had little more than Grade VIII education themselves.

Although space will not allow for listing the entire student enrollment over the past 100 years, the following may prove interesting. In 1899, the founding year of Lowe Farm School enrollment reached 28 students. In 1999, the Centennial of Lowe Farm School, the student enrollment stood at 117. The tiny one room school that began the education program in Lowe Farm, began with the teaching of the elementary grades. Ironically Lowe Farm School, 100 years later, is once again teaching the lower grades. However, not to be forgotten is the 47 year history of the high school program, and the many students who received their high school education in Lowe Farm. Whether at the elementary or high school level, Lowe Farm School has not only provided the basis for education, it has also kindled friendships, and harbored memories that only a school can bring about.

THE FIRST SCHOOL

The first school in Lowe Farm was built in the fall of 1899. The first organizational meeting was held on June 30, 1899. As far as can be definitely ascertained from the records, the following residents of the district were recorded as being present: John A. Stewart, Robert Reid, Alec McLaren, Wm. McIntyre, Henry D. Dyck, Peter P. Falk, Julius Banman, and F. Huckenby. John Stewart was chairman of this meeting and F. Huckenby was secretary. Robert Reid, Alec McLaren and Julius Banman were elected trustees. At the first meeting of the school

board, Robert Reid was elected chairman and Alec McLaren was elected secretary.

At a meeting held on July 26, 1899, it was moved to "build and seat" a school and that \$650 should be borrowed for this purpose. Those voting for the motion were: John Peters, Robert Reid, Wm. McIntyre and Alec McLaren. The vote carried unanimously. A Mr. McInnis was also present at the meeting, but did not vote.

Land for the school was purchased from Jacob Heppner. C. J. Nester, who, after having drawn up plans and specifications, was given the building contract by the board and a school 28 by 24 by 12 feet was built. School started very late in fall of 1899. In 1900 additional ground for the school yard was purchased from Jacob Heppner for the sum of \$100. The school yard would now consist of one acre.

The school was visited regularly by an inspector of the Department of Education. Mr. Ewert, an inspector with the Department at the time, would state in his Annual Report to the Department of Education for the year 1901 that, "The school boards without exception take great pride in the appearance and condition of their school houses. They are usually painted inside and out, and but a few have the floor painted or oiled to add to the neatness of the appearance, and facilitate the cleaning of the room".



The first school in Lowe Farm in 1894 was very similar to this one.

Mr. Riske was employed as the first teacher to teach school in Lowe Farm. His term lasted from late fall of 1899 until the spring of 1900.

The first school in Lowe Farm operated from late fall of 1899 until June of 1913. On July 13, 1913, the school building and approximately one acre of land were sold to Charles E. Anderson for the sum of \$450. The school building was remodeled and has served as a local residence to this day. (See The Grand Old Lady of Lowe Farm.)

THE STONE BLOCK SCHOOL



The stone block school.



Lowe Farm Grades I - III class of 1946. Front row: (l - r) Susan Klassen, Elvira Thiessen, Dorothy Wiebe, Martha Kebler, Jacque Braun, Shirley Braun, Verna Dyck, Susie Klassen, Tina Rempel, Peter Braun. Second row: Jake Neufeld, Henry Kebler, George Rempel, Jake Klassen, Edward Guenther, Walter Penner, Harold Guenther, Wesley Klassen, Peter Martens, Eddie Penner. Third row: David Heinrichs, Johnny Rempel, Johnny Banman, David Rosner, Lavonne Braun, Dora Klassen, Evelyn Funk, Evelyn Wiebe, Hilda Kebler, Teacher, Mrs. Hildebrand. Fourth (back) row: Frank Martens, Johnny Martens, Eddie Kroeker, Abe Dyck, Melvin Wiebe, Benjamin Giesbrecht, Jim Braun, Harry Penner, Eddie Rempel.

As the interest in education rose, so did the need for more classroom space. In 1913, Lowe Farm would acquire its second school. J. P. Loewen, H. I. Dyck, and P. A. Giesbrecht, trustees at the time, received a grant from the Department of Education totaling \$3,176. An additional \$3,500 was raised by the board through the sale of debentures bearing six percent interest. With these moneys a new two story school, made of concrete blocks, was built. This handsome new building would grace the landscape of Lowe Farm for many years. It was considered one of the finest new buildings of its kind at the time and a picture of it was published in the Report of the Department of Education for the year 1913 - 1914. Inspector Weidenhammer would comment that the

new school contained every modern convenience available in a rural school: indoor toilets, slate blackboards, hot water heating, proper lighting and ventilation, and a well lit basement space for playroom use in cold weather. One interesting aspect of the new school was a motion passed by the trustees, "That the trustees buy a bell for the school". Unfortunately, the belfry topping the concrete block building remained without a bell to the end.

Peter and Mary Bueckert were the first teachers to teach in the new stone block school. Mr. Bueckert taught in the upper room, while Mrs. Bueckert taught in the lower room.

Until 1940 the concrete block school served the elementary needs of the community. However by 1935 this elementary school was practically busting at the seams. Enrollment had escalated to the point where the school could not handle all of the students. To alleviate some of the pressure, the following was put into effect: From Monday through Thursday, two classes a day would forfeit a day of school and stay at home. Monday it would be Grades I and V, Tuesday Grades II and VI, Wednesday Grades III and VII, and Thursday Grades IV and VIII. Friday would see the whole process repeat itself. This alternating of classrooms forfeiture continued until 1936 when a new one room school was built to the east of the concrete school.

The beginning of the school term in the fall of 1940 would see the high school students move into the belfry topped building. It was in this year that Grade XII would be re-introduced into the high school program. Grades IX and X would occupy the lower room, with Grades XI and XII occupying the upper room. From 1940 until 1955 the high school program would remain unchanged. However, over the years, as more and more students from neighboring

rural schools came to Lowe Farm for their high school education, the provision of more and better facilities eventually became a necessity. With the construction of a new high school building in 1955 and the re-location of the high school program, the geography of Lowe Farm changed forever. The handsome two story concrete block building that had so graced the landscape of Lowe Farm for so many years, was sold off by public auction in the summer of 1956. Shortly thereafter the school was dismantled.

THE EAST SCHOOL



111. *The East School.*



112. *Lowe Farm Grades VI - VIII, 1946. Back row: (l - r) Herman Giesbrecht, George Klassen, Nick Hyde, John Friesen, Abe Sawatzky, Willie Klassen, Henry Dyck, Willie Heinrichs. Second row: Gladys Dyck, Tina Heinrichs, Dorothy Dyck, Lara Funk, Marjorie Dyck, Marion Paetkau, Doreen Penner. Third row: George Enns, Willie Kroeker, Benny Remple, Ben Klassen, Art Braun, Philip Klassen, Abe Neufeld, Harold Peters. Front row: Bill Kebler, Joyce Dyck, Jeannie Dyck, Anne Kebler, Priscilla Bolton, Tina Banman, Tina Remple, Art Hiebert. Teacher: Frank Giesbrecht.*

A single room building was built east of the concrete building to meet the needs of an increasing school population. This school building was built in 1936, and was used as such until 1955. Anna Wiens was hired as the additional teacher, with Grades VI, VII, and VIII being taught. In 1956, the school building was sold off at public auction to John Dueck, and moved to his farm yard. It was moved once again in later years to the farm yard of Cliff Matthies where it is still used today as a granary.

THE "RED BRICK" SCHOOL

As student enrollments continued to increase, so did the need for more classroom space. In 1939, a two room school was built to the west of the concrete block school. Debentures totaling \$4,000 were raised for the purpose of its construction. This particular school was one of the most recognized and talked about of all of the schools. Perhaps this was because of the fact the exterior of the school was covered in an asphalt building material that resembled red bricks, making it easily identifiable.

This school was in operation from 1939 until 1962. With the opening of the new collegiate in 1962, a major shift in the student population was created. The high school students were transferred into the new collegiate building. This subsequently led to the transfer of the lower grades into the former high school building built in 1955. With the transfer of students complete, the "red brick" school building would become the workshop until the mid 1960s.

After falling into a state of disrepair, the school building was put up for tender to be demolished. Peter Paetkau, who submitted a bid of \$150, was awarded the contract for demolition on October 15, 1968.



The "Red Brick" School.



The Red Brick School, the high school and the East School.

1955 SCHOOL



At the annual ratepayers meeting held in Lowe Farm, the school trustees initiated plans for a new school building. The plan was approved by the ratepayers, and construction began.

Upon completion, a four classroom brick veneer building complete with spacious washrooms, staff room and kitchen, commercial room, shop, office, science laboratory (equipped with gas and running water) and a 40 by 70 foot auditorium replaced the two oldest buildings, namely the concrete block school and the one room school to the east. The two room imitation red brick frame building was kept in operation because there were not enough classrooms to accommodate all grades in the new school.

In 1957, an enlarging school enrollment necessitated the opening of a third high school room. This was accomplished by converting the industrial workshop into a classroom. By September, 1959, the high school population would again increase, a direct result of the shift to a larger high school administrative unit and the provision of transportation for high school students.

The merging of Rose Farm, Kane and Lowe Farm high schools left the School Division without a place large enough to accommodate all students. The problem was resolved by transporting all of the students in Grades IX and X to Kane, and all Grades XI and XII to Lowe Farm. This arrangement would continue for the next two and a half years, until the fall of 1962 when a new collegiate opened in Lowe Farm. From 1974 until 1982, Grades V through IX would be taught in the former high school.

With a leaking roof and inadequate plumbing and washroom facilities, the school was condemned and closed by Christmas of 1982. From that date, students in all grades would be housed under one roof, that of the present school facility.



Grades II and III in 1960. Back row: (l - r) Kenneth Brown, Teddy Hildebrand, Barry Wiens, Barbara Anderson, Judy Heinrichs, Verna Klassen, Larry Ginter, Lorne Penner, Billy Enns, Doreen Harder. Second row: Myrna Rempel, Ron Heinrichs, Marilyn Giesbrecht, Kathy Gerbrandt, Ken Knutt, Joan Bergen, Marlene Klassen, Keith Brown, Betty Ann Harder. Front row: Sharon Enns, Dianna Schroeder, Dianna Klassen, Connie Martens, Debra Funk, Mary Ann Falk, Betty Friesen, Mabel Febr, Merelyn Braun, Brenda Wiebe.



Grades I and II, 1960, with teacher Anna Wiens.



The present school, built in 1962.

PRESENT SCHOOL



Grade IV, 1979 - 80. Front row: (l - r) Margaret Klassen, Paulene Dueck, Lori Penner, Francene Hiebert, Tammy Martens, Audrey Unrau, Arlene Hiebert, Rosalie Falk. Middle row: Alvin Heinrichs, Trevor Paetkau, Darryl Toews, Robert Klassen, Ronald Ginter, Todd Paetkau, Corey Penner, Bryan Neufeld, Brian Dueck. Back row: Dean Switzer, Marilyn Groening, Connie Rempel, Sherry Wiebe, Janice Kebler, Betty Penner, Sandy Derksen.



Lowe Farm School, 1998 - 1999.

In 1961, construction began on the first and only collegiate that would be built in Lowe Farm. With its completion by Christmas of 1962, the new building would become known as the "Morris Macdonald Collegiate - Lowe Farm".

The Grade IX and X students who were attending high school in Kane and the Grades XI and XII students from Lowe Farm, were all transferred into the new collegiate. The new collegiate which had been built to accommodate the high school students from Lowe Farm, Kane and Rose Farm, was creating as many problems as it was meant to solve. The new collegiate was too small to offer a number of options without putting unreasonable loads on the teaching staff. By 1966 the university entrance course and commercial students were starting to attend the Morris Collegiate where a more diversified curriculum was available. Gradually the university entrance course was phased out at Lowe Farm. This marked the beginning of the decline that resulted in the decision of 1973 to transport all high school students to the Morris Collegiate. That decision ended the 47 year history of high school education in Lowe Farm.

In 1974, the Grade IX students would be relocated into the former high school, (now the Community Centre). Grades I through IV would now occupy the former collegiate.

The gymnasium that was built as part of the collegiate was too small to be of real value. With its small size and low ceiling it was quite often referred to as a "cubby hole" rather than a gymnasium. In retrospect, this tiny gymnasium afforded practice area for the boys' basketball team, who became Provincial Basketball Champions in 1963 - 1964 and again in 1964 - 1965. In June of 1982 drawings were approved by the Public Schools Finance Board for the construction of a new gymnasium, classrooms, washrooms, change/shower rooms and storage areas at the former collegiate building. In total, \$549,382 was committed by the PSFB for these additions. In addition, the School Division committed the majority of the \$28,160 which was required for the construction of the multi-purpose room, stage and storage area which were not included as part of the additions. The completion of the addition to the former collegiate resulted in the closing of the former Junior High School by Christmas of 1982. The only school facility left in Lowe Farm would now house Kindergarten through Grade IX. Starting with the fall term of 1991, the Grade IX students would also be transferred to the Morris Collegiate.

LOWE FARM SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

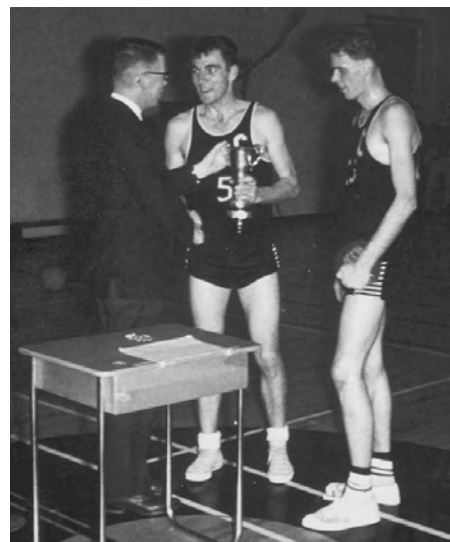
In 1940, the high school program relocated into the concrete block school. This meant space had become available for the teaching of Industrial Arts. In the years to come, the Industrial Arts program would see several buildings as home. The former high school building was used as the first school workshop until 1946. From there

it would be moved to the upper level of the school barn, where it remained until 1955. The new school built in 1955 became the next home of the shop course where it stayed until 1962. The Red Brick School would next see the Industrial Arts program until the latter part of the 1960's, when the dilapidated condition of this building forced its demolition in 1968. The former Kronsweide School relocated to the Lowe Farm schoolyard, served as the next school workshop. In 1981, the land it occupied was sold to the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation to make room for the new apartments. The Kronsweide School was then sold off at public auction and moved to the Altona area where it is still in use. With no practicable space available for Industrial Arts instruction in Lowe Farm, the high school students were transported to Morris School for this course. In 1995, budgetary restraints necessitated the cancellation of transporting Lowe Farm students to Morris for Industrial Arts. Sadly this decision ended the Industrial Arts program in Lowe Farm School.



Kronsweide School, used as a workshop.

SPORTS



Ed Wiebe and Ralph Groening accepting trophy for Provincial boys basketball.



Champions! Back row: (l - r) Larry Gluck, Ed Wiebe, Ralph Groening, Alvin Enns, Eugene Hildebrand, Garry Enns. Front row: Paul Friesen, Peter Gerbrandt, Larry Brown.



Manitoba High School Athletic Association Basketball Provincial Champions. Back row: (l - r) Hardy Kebler, Art Wiebe, Harold Dyck, Earl Dyck, Eugene Hildebrand, Bert Friesen, Paul Friesen. Front row: Larry Gluck, Ralph Groening, Ed Wiebe, Menno Wiebe.



Red River Basketball League Division Champions, 1965. Back row (l - r) Myrna Rempel, Maryann Giesbrecht, Judy Heinrichs, Hardy Kebler, Doreen Harder, Debra Funk, Brenda Wiebe. Front row: Irene Wiebe, Merelyn Braun, Gina Neufeld, Sandra Schroeder, Gladys Febr.



An early Lancer team. Back row: (l - r) Bruce Brown, Alvin Wiebe, Brian Brown, Terry Brown, Tony Dyck, Eldon Thiesen, Ken Brown. Front row: Stan Friesen, Randy Schroeder, Menno Bergen, Rick Giesbrecht. Coaches: Mr. Zenith and Bob Wiebe.

In its formative years Lowe Farm school probably had no regular form of regular physical activity in place. The emphasis would have been focused more on the literary aspects of education. Although no records could be found to substantiate any type of physical program, one would have to assume such activities did, in fact, take place. With the large number of English and American residents present at the time, soccer and baseball would almost certainly have been played. Other games such as tag, pom-pom pull away, along with running and jumping would have been played as well.

During the early 1920s, Grades I, II and III did not partake in any form of regular physical exercise in

school. Starting in Grade IV, a more defined approach to these activities began to develop. Under the guidance of the teacher, rhythmic exercises, volleyball, baseball, and football occupied the morning and afternoon recess periods. Baseball was a particular favorite of the students, due to the fact they would travel to schools from other districts to play games.

During the 1930s and 1940s, games such as the flying Dutchman, drop the hankie, three deep, and dodge ball were played. PT classes consisted of Borden ball (a form of English rugby), dodgeball, baseball, volleyball, and football (soccer) were played by the students in addition to the rhythmic exercises.

All of these activities would have occurred outdoors. Lowe Farm School did not acquire its' first indoor gymnasium until 1955. During the winter months, borden ball, football, and rhythmic exercises formed the main part of the exercise program. During the spring and fall softball, volleyball, baseball, and dodgeball were the games of choice.

In the latter years of the 1940s school track meets began to appear. In 1947 Lowe Farm students entered the Divisional track meet, held annually in Carman, for the first time. Frank Giesbrecht, as physical education instructor, had the chief responsibility of training the boys and girls for this event. Although inexperience was a handicap, a number of Lowe Farm students acquitted themselves quite well. One of the Grade XII students, Art Toews won the track meet shield for the highest marks in the Senior's Division. In another year the Senior boys' relay team placed first. At the Track Meet of the Inspectors Division # 13 held in Carman on May 28, 1949, Bill Kehler won a silver medal in the junior class, along with a number of others who did well. Of the girls' who were entered in events only one did fairly well. Agatha Peters was awarded a half point for having tied for third place in the class D high jump.

Curling was first introduced to the students of Lowe Farm High School by William Friesen around Christmas of 1948. Curling was held Saturday afternoons and the students were charged a nominal fee of 10 cents per student per rink. If there were not enough high school students, the younger grade students were approached about playing. The first game was played on January 10, 1949 and continued throughout the winter.

Until the middle years of the 1950s, sports would change very little. During the spring and fall, baseball and volleyball continued to be played outdoors. When inclement weather would not allow outdoor activity, rhythmic exercises were held indoors, usually right in the classroom.



A Lowe Farm girls' basketball team. Back row: (l - r) Janice Penner, Diana Schroeder, Evelyn Braun, Jackie Born, Joan Friesen. Front row: Betty Friesen, Irene Wiebe, Debra Funk, Mable Febr, Mirna Rempel. Coach: Dave Enns.



1965 high school curling rink: Harold Dyck, Mr. Kehler, Linda Dyck and Margaret Born.



1974 Girls Volleyball Team

*First row: Janice Groening, Karen Kebler, Carol Froese, Janet Dyck, Colleen Funk, Sharon Klassen, Michele Trudeau
Second row: Terese Funk, Corinne Dyck, Roxy Penner, Sheila Klassen, Barbara Klassen, Cory Ginter, Mrs. Hiebert.*



Sports committee in 1969: Rick Giesbrecht, Vivian Harder, Mr. Enns, Carol Hildebrand, Bob Froese.

The opening of the new school in 1955 created major changes in the area of sports in school. For the first time, the students of Lowe Farm School could participate in sporting activities indoors, thanks to the construction of a 40 by 70 foot gymnasium. From this point forward sports really took off. Regular gymnastic classes were begun, which included running, jumping, and rope climbing, along with volleyball, and basketball. Basketball, and volleyball were quickly becoming school favorites. In short order Lowe Farm School began competing against other schools in the district, such as Morris. With the opening of the Collegiate by Christmas of 1962, Lowe Farm School had acquired its' second gymnasium. This gymnasium with its small size and low ceiling proved to be a challenge to the boys' basketball teams of the middle 1960s. Practices were held at the collegiate, but home games were played in the seemingly larger Junior High School auditorium. In retrospect, the tiny gymnasium at the collegiate created two Provincial Boys Basketball Champions. The Lowe Farm Lancers first won the Provincial crown in 1963 - 1964, and were repeat champions in 1964 - 1965. Inter-mural basketball was first introduced into Lowe Farm School in 1965 - 1966, and continues to be played today.

Besides basketball, baseball, volleyball, curling, and track and field, additional sports were added. During the 1976 -1977 school year, ping-pong, and field hockey were played by the students.

In 1982, the tiny gymnasium that had been attached to the former collegiate was replaced by a newer, larger facility. Sports, as well, became larger in content with new sports such as badminton and floor hockey becoming part of the sports' program.

Lowe Farm School is of a relatively small size, yet it has produced some championship teams. Although it has only one Provincial Championship team to its' credit, Lowe Farm has done very well at the Divisional level. Volleyball, basketball, and floor hockey teams have become Divisional champions. The many trophies that adorn the school trophy case lay claim to these accomplishments.

Much has been written about sports and the students who partake in them, however, it should be emphasized that the teaching staff play an important role in the development of sports in school. Not only do the teachers act as coaches for the most part, they also help to develop the potential of young budding athletes, encourage sportsmanship, and look out for the students physical well being. They unselfishly donate the extra time and effort to provide the opportunity for the students to participate in the many sports the school has to offer.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

With the opening of the first school in Lowe Farm in late fall of 1899, very little attention would have been giving to the area of extra curricular activities. Indeed, when the school day ended students would have been required to help with chores at home. However, even in those very early years school was not all work and no play. Although school gardening was part of the curriculum, it could have also provided a form of extra curricular activity. Christmas concerts and school picnics held at the end of school year perhaps made up the majority of these activities. Christmas concerts were first held in the school itself, then were later moved to the church to accommodate more people. School picnics were sometimes held together with neighboring schools. For instance, the picnic would be held one year in Lowe Farm, the next year at Kronsweide school.

The extra curricular activity would change very little until the high school program began in Lowe Farm in 1926. In 1927, Isaac J. Warkentin initiated annual year-end excursions of three day camping trips for students, which became somewhat of a tradition in the school. Points on the Winnipeg River, the Whiteshell Forest, or in western Ontario were visited. Largely vocational, these trips afforded students from the bald open prairie opportunities to study plant, animal and mineral resources on the western rim of the Canadian Shield. Regrettably these undertakings became impractical as the enrollment increased and were consequently discontinued in 1961.

The Depression years of the 1930s did not allow for expansion of extra curricular activity. During these years the high school joined with the elementary school in putting on the Christmas concerts. School picnics, or field days continued to be held at the end of the school term.

With the arrival of the 1940s, the economy began to improve. For the school it meant money could be made available to expand the area of extra curricular activity. In 1945, the high school would start publishing a school paper known as the "The Bugle". It first appeared in handwritten form, then in 1946, came out as a printed paper, and was made available for sale to the general public at five cents per copy.

In 1948, the students of Lowe Farm High School formed an elected constitution committee. This consisted entirely of students who drew up a constitution that was ratified by the student body as a whole, and which became the basis of a student government that was forthwith elected. The organization would become known as "The Lowe Farm High School Students' Association," and would be used by succeeding classes for many years.

The first High School commencement exercises was held in 1948, complete with valedictorian, outside speakers, presentation of diplomas, and a dinner for the

The Board of Trustees
 The Teaching Staff
 and the
 Students
 of the
 Howe Farm High School
 invite you to attend
**Commencement
 Exercises**
 to be held
 in the
 Bergthaler Church, Howe Farm, Man.

Friday Evening, May the fourteenth
 nineteen hundred and forty eight
 at seven thirty o'clock.

THE PROGRAMME

Song High School Choir
 "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

Introducing the Graduates W. Friesen

Piano Duet: Mrs. J. D. Reimer and Thelma Friesen

Valedictory Abram Paetkau

Song High School Choir
 "Send Out Thy Light"

Address Rev. J. N. Hoepfner

Guest Speaker Dr. R. O. McFarlane
 Deputy Minister of Education

Presentation of Diplomas

Song High School Choir
 "Farewell"

God Save The King

In Honor of the Graduating Class Grade XII, 1948

Lenora Doreen Brown

Hilda Dyck

Archie Harder

Erdman I. Kroeker

Abram Paetkau

Helen Paetkau

Lena Sawatzky

Graduation program from 1948



Drama in High School. Back row: (l - r) Lorraine Wiebe, Gerald Klassen, Karl Fast (teacher and director). Front row: Barb Klassen, Marilyn Klassen, Lionel Wiens.

graduates and their guests. In 1949, the high school students decided to publish a school yearbook rather than hold Commencement Exercises. The "Fiftieth Anniversary Yearbook" was published to commemorate the anniversary of the Lowe Farm school. It contained a fairly full description of current activities in the school and a history of Lowe Farm.

Aside from these activities, others took place as well. Literary and music presentations were held periodically by the upper elementary and high school students. A school choir under the direction of F. P. Giesbrecht, the assistant high school teacher, reached a fairly high level of competence and performed at Jugend Vereins (Youth Gatherings) and other public occasions. In addition, socials, public speaking, debating teams, annuals or yearbooks, along with Halloween and skating parties made up the majority of extra curricular activity.

Toward the end of the 1940s, the practice of presenting a full three act play was begun. One of the plays that was presented by the school was "David Copperfield". The students of the school were forced to sell tickets to this play, due to the fact it required a royalty payment. The school had never



Drama in Lowe Farm. (l - r) Marilyn Klassen, Lionel Wiens, Gerald Klassen.



Early Drama in the Lowe Farm School.

before presented a three act play. Interest and enthusiasm by the public enabled the play to be sold out. In order that everyone who desired might have training in dramatics, all those that were unable to take parts in David Copperfield, put on a one act play at one of the High School Variety Programs. "Tommy Answers an Ad" featured Benny Remple as a typical high school boy, Tommy. Thelma Friesen and Eddie Schroeder played his parents, along with Joyce Dyck who played his sister Myrna. Tommy was in the habit of answering all sorts of ads to show off to his girlfriend, Eloise, played by Annie Kehler. Tommy's parents became tired of this, so his mother worked out a cure for Buddy. The climax was reached when Buddy was caught by his chum, sister, and girlfriend in the hands of a make-up demonstrator, Eleanor Hyde. Luckily, all ended well for Buddy just before the curtain fell.

During the 1950s and 1960s these extra curricular activities were continued, and expanded. Initiation days were held at the beginning of the school year. Students entering high school for the first time were "bought" by the older students and made to do whatever the student who had purchased them wanted. Sports was becoming ever more popular as well, and will be described in a subsequent chapter. Halloween, Valentine's Day, and skating parties were held at their appropriate times throughout the year. Yearbooks continued to be published, as well, the student council remained an important and viable element within the school. School dramas as they had in the past, continued to inspire the talents of the students.

From the 1970's on, extra curricular activities would become many and varied. Spring Teas hosted by the school were initiated in 1977 - 1978 by Anne Schleier and Carol Abrahams. At Easter, there was, of course, the annual

Easter egg hunt. In the early 1980s, Christmas concerts featured the school band and choir. As well, Kindergarten through Grade V would present Christmas concerts that included a Christmas pageant, along with the singing of traditional German Christmas songs. Because Halloween and Thanksgiving Day were closely related by the calendar, they were replaced by an event called Fall Frolics. This day was devoted to fun and games. Students were afforded the opportunity to participate in a variety of different activities, which included pillow fights, goalie shootout, rope climbing, throwing darts at balloons and air band concerts.

To many students, the annual school Science Fair is the highlight of the school year. Students from Grade V to VIII participate in this event. Any subject dealing with some aspect of science can be chosen. The students usually work in teams of two and must provide detailed accounts of their projects, both graphically and with a written explanation of what their project entails, as well, they must be able to answer questions related to the project. Judging is conducted by local townspeople as well as the teachers. The three top entries are awarded Gold, Silver, or Bronze medals, the three winners from the school then move on to the Divisional Science Fair. From the Divisionals the winners then enter the Provincial Science Fair, where the competition becomes very stiff. Here the Lowe Farm School has done very well, capturing Gold and Silver medals on numerous occasions.

Commencing in 1970, the Grade VIII and IX students went on weekend camping trips to such places as Riding Mountain National Park and Falcon Lake. These outings were similar in nature to those started by Mr. Warkentin in the 1920's.

In 1979, Jake Goertzen started the school band program in Lowe Farm school. The school band played at festivals, such as Winkler, and also at the annual Christmas concert

During the school term of 1980-1981, Gordon Sawatsky initiated a "Skip-a-Thon" which was held every two years to raise money for Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation.

One day field trips held at the end of the school year have taken students to a variety of locations that have included, the Assiniboine Park Zoo, the Legislative Buildings, Museum of Man and Nature, and visits to the Winnipeg Fire Department. School picnics are held at the end of the school year, generally on the school grounds or at the park.

Extra curricular activities form an important part of the school's curriculum. Whether fun in nature such as field trips, or more serious, such as music or drama, the emphasis is learning while having fun. To this end Lowe Farm school can be proud of its endeavors toward extra curricular programs.

THE BUGLE



John Friesen and June Toews printing the Bugle in 1948.

In 1945 Lowe Farm High School students began publishing a school paper known as "The Bugle." The first Bugle was not a printed paper, but a written one that was read at literary programs rendered by the students.

The Bugle staff consisted of the editor-in-chief, associate editor, class reporters, local news reporters, sports editors, humor editor, staff artists, current events editor and circulation manager. Each of these functions played an important role in producing the paper. In November of 1946, The Bugle first appeared in printed form, thanks to the use of Principal Friesen's duplicating machine. The use of Abe Rosner's duplicating machine was also made available to the students. Bernice Bolton was the first editor-in-chief of The Bugle.

The 1946-47 school term produced two issues of the paper, as did the school term of 1948-49. During the school term 1947-48 three issues of the paper were published.

The Bugle's contents were many and varied, from current events to sports on the school grounds, humor editorials, write ups of school programs and socials, along with socials given by people in town and other interesting paragraphs, essays, and poems written by the high school students. The principal even had one page for his own message.

The Bugle was inspired by A. J. Sawatsky in 1945. The purpose of publishing a school paper was to produce something that the students could be proud of because it was their very own. It also brought out hidden talents within the students that in turn instilled confidence, and encouraged them to put forth their best efforts. The Bugle was published by Lowe Farm High School until at least 1969. It continued to be an informative and educational tool within the school until its demise.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION



Early rural school transportation.



Family automobiles were used as transportation after consolidation in 1959.



*Modern school transportation in 1999.
Note safety feature on the front of the bus.*

When school first opened in Lowe Farm late in the fall of 1899, many of the students who attended were from farming families located around the village. Attending school in those early years must have been challenging to say the least.

To attend school, students either walked, or for those who were lucky enough, rode a horse, or perhaps employed some other form of locomotion. During the harsh winter months, a small hut built on skids was used for transportation. A barn located on the school grounds provided shelter for the animals during school hours. This mode of transportation, for many, continued well into the 1940s.

After Consolidation, which began in 1959, the automobile became the choice for the transportation of students. Parents of rural students pooled together and provided the necessary transportation. This was accomplished by using private family owned vehicles. Participating parents were assigned students and were responsible for their transportation to and from school. Extra curricular activities such as sporting events at neighboring schools or field trips were made possible by the generosity of parents with vehicles.

The creation of the Morris Macdonald School Division in 1969 brought about the transportation of students via school buses, a facet of the education system that continues to this day.

THE TEACHERS

When teachers come to a community it is generally agreed that it is their function to teach, to help children to learn and develop, to facilitate educational growth, and as a result of this to help to shape the development of a community. In order to succeed in this it is necessary that this shaping be a two-way process. Not only the community, but also the teacher, has to be shaped and be allowed to grow in his turn. Lowe Farm, its citizens, trustees, and students, over the years have played an important part in shaping the lives, the life styles, and the philosophies of the teachers that have had the privilege of teaching in its schools.

With the opening of the first school in the Fall of 1899 to the ending of the school term on June 30, 1999, a total of 155 teachers have taught classes in Lowe Farm. To these Educators the community of Lowe Farm offers a Centennial Salute.

1899-1900	Mr. Riske
1900-1904	Wm. Nau
	TN Blakely
	A. Buhr
1904-1907	A. K. Friesen
1907-1910	Jacob Hooge
1910-1911	Jacob Braun
1911-1912	J.S. Walkof
1912-1913	Peter Bueckert

1913-1914 Peter Bueckert
Mary Bueckert
1914-1915 P.H. Siemens
Susan Neufeld
1915-1916 P.H. Siemens
Susan Neufeld
1916-1917 P.H. Siemens
Susan Neufeld
1917-1918 P.H. Siemens
Wm. Kornelson
Frank Epp
S. E. Heppner
M. O. Brinston
1918-1919 P.H. Siemens
Mabel Kelington
1919-1920 P.H. Siemens
Helena Siemens
1920-1921 Maurice Sanger
Whitefield Ganong
Tiene Uhrich
1921-1922 G. E. Penner
Tiene Uhrich
1922-1923 G. E. Penner
Tiene Uhrich
1923-1924 G. E. Penner
Anna W. Peters
1924-1925 J. J. Siemens
Anna W. Peters
1925-1926 J. J. Siemens
Anna W. Peters
1926-1927 I. J. Warkentin
J. J. Siemens
Anna W. Peters
1917-1928 I. J. Warkentin
J. J. Siemens
Lena Warkentin

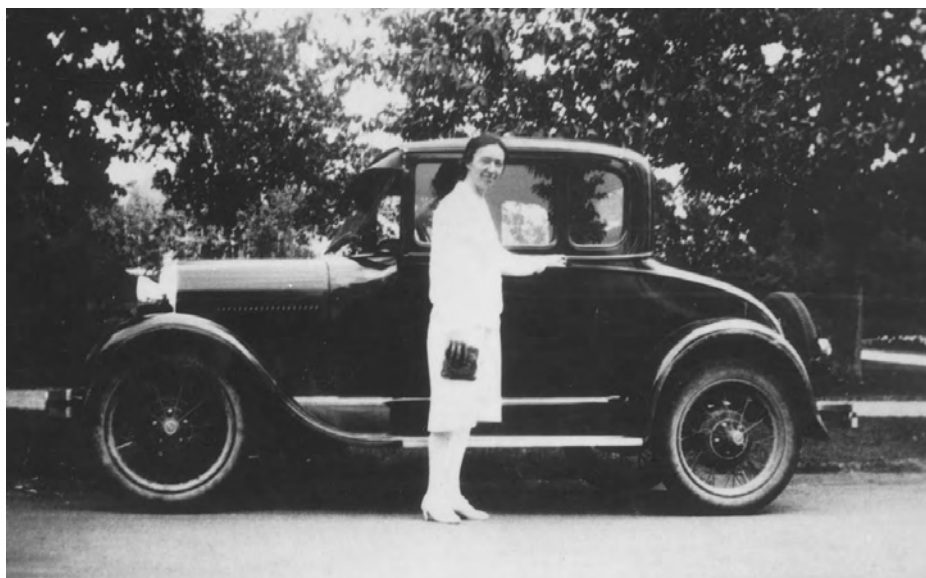
1928-1929 I. J. Warkentin
J. J. Siemens
Olive E. Smith
1929-1930 I.J. Warkentin
J. V. Neufeld
Ida J. Hoffman
1930-1931 I.J. Warkentin
W.M. Friesen
Ida J. Hoffman
1932-1933 I.J. Warkentin
H.S. Schellenberg
Ida J. Hoffman
1933-1934 I.J. Warkentin
H.S. Schellenberg
Ida J. Hoffman
1934-1935 I.J. Warkentin
H.S. Schellenberg
Helen D. Loewen
1935-1936 I.J. Warkentin
H.S. Schellenberg
Helen D. Loewen
1936-1937 I.J. Warkentin
H.S. Schellenberg
Helen D. Loewen
Anna Wiens
1937-1938 I.J. Warkentin
Mary J. Loewen
Anna Wiens
Johannah Reimer
1939-1940 I.J. Warkentin
1939-1941 Mary J. Loewen
B. D. Hildebrand
Anna Wiens
Johannah Reimer
1940-1941 I.J. Warkentin
Mary J. Loewen

B.D. Hildebrandt
Anna Wiens
H.J. Penner



B. Hildebrand, Helen Penner, Anna Wiens, and Mary Loewen, 1941.

1941-1942 I.J. Warkentin
B. D. Hildebrand
M. E. Hildebrand
Anna Wiens
H. P. Penner
1942-1943 I. J. Warkentin
B. D. Hildebrand
M. E. Hildebrand
G. E. Penner
Anna Wiens
1943-1944 I.J. Warkentin
B. D. Hildebrand
M. E. Hildebrand
J. A. Penner
Lena Martens
1944-1945 A. J. Sawatzky
B. D. Hildebrand
M. E. Hildebrand
J. G. Siemens
J. Pauls
H. J. Schroeder
R. M. Reimer
Irma Schaefer
1945-1946 A. J. Sawatzky
B. D. Hildebrand
F. P. Giesbrecht
M.E. Hildebrand
Justina Wiens
1946-1947 Wm. Friesen
F. P. Giesbrecht
Justina Wiens
Jesse Giesbrecht
Mrs. Dan Penner



Anna W. Peters

1947-1948

Wm. Friesen
F. P. Giesbrecht
Justina Wiens
Jesse Giesbrecht
A. B. Loewen

*F.P. Giesbrecht**Abe B. Loewen**Justina Wiens**Jessie Giesbrecht*

1948-1949

Wm. Friesen
F. P. Giesbrecht
Justina Wiens
Jesse Giesbrecht
A. B. Loewen

1949-1950

John Bell
F. P. Giesbrecht
Justina Wiens
George Olfert
Anna Wiens

1950-1951

John Enns
F.P. Giesbrecht
Justina Wiens
George Olfert
Anna Wiens

1951-1952

John Enns
F. P. Giesbrecht
Anna Wiens
Pat Enns
Jacob Bergman

1952-1953

John Enns
F. P. Giesbrecht
Anna Wiens
A. J. Friesen
Agnes Wiebe

1953-1954

John Enns
F. P. Giesbrecht
Anna Wiens
A. J. Friesen
Agnes Wiebe

1954-1955

John Enns
D. M. Friesen
Anna Wiens
Agnes Wiebe
G. B. Goosen

1955-1956

John Enns
A. P. Hildebrand
G. B. Gossen
F. A. Metasinka
Anna Wiens
Agnes Wiebe

1956-1957

John Enns
A. P. Hildebrand
G. B. Gossen
Anna Wiens
Ervin Strempler
V. Lichema
Agnes Wiebe

1957-1958

John Enns
A. P. Hildebrand
G. B. Gossen
J. L. Doerksen
Rudy Martens
Anna Wiens
Alvina Kroeker

1958-1959

John Enns
A. P. Hildebrand
G. B. Gossen
J. L. Doerksen
Rudy Martens
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen

1959-1960

John Enns
A. P. Hildebrand
G. B. Gossen
J. L. Doerksen
Rudy Martens

1960-1961 K. Klassen
Ruth Janken
John Enns
A. P. Hildebrand
J.L. Doerksen
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen
Evelyn Wiens
Abram Peters
Evelyn Friesen

1961-1962 John Enns
J.L. Doerksen
John B. Wiebe
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen
Evelyn Wiens
John Enns
J.L. Doerksen
John B. Wiebe
Hardy Kehler
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen
Evelyn Wiens
John Enns
Hardy Kehler
Esther Webb
H. Schroeder
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen
Rosella Braun

1963-1964 John Enns
Hardy Kehler
Esther Webb
H. Schroeder
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen
Rosella Braun

1964-1965 John Enns
Hardy Kehler
Esther Webb
C. Krahn
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Victor Enns
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen
H. Kehler
Esther Webb
Dave Enns
Albert Klassen
Georgia Clow
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Victor Enns
Anna Wiens
K. Klassen
Eliz. Schroeder

1966-1967

*Esther Webb**H. Kehler, principal*

1967-1968

1968-1969

H. Kehler
Esther Webb
Dave Enns
Georgia Clow
A. J. Novotny
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Victor Enns
Anna Wiens
Justina Wiens
H. Kehler
Esther Webb
Dave Enns
A.J. Novotny
Leonard Zenith
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
Helen Letkeman
Norman Wiebe
H. Kehler
Esther Webb
Dave Enns

A.J. Novotny
V. Groening
H. Hildebrand
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
Helen Letkeman
Norman Wiebe
Marion Webb

1969-1970 Ron. Dalby
Esther Webb
Donald Johnson
John D. Wiebe
Siegfried Grafe
Wm. Kehler
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
Helen Letkeman
Norman Wiebe
Darlene Schade
R. Dalby
Esther Webb
Donald Johnson
C. Thompson
Wm. Kehler
Cornelius Fehr
Anna Wiens
Helen Letkeman
Vernon Penner
Darlene Schade
Marge Matthies
Carl Fast

1970-1971 Don Warkentin
Esther Webb
Claude Goulet
Mrs. D. Daku
Wm. Kehler
Elsie Klassen
Darlene Schade
Cornelius Fehr
Vernon Penner
Anne Goertzen
Jac. Bergstresser

1971-1972 Don Warkentin
Esther Webb
Wm. Ginter
John Voth
Helen Peters
Esther Webb
Wm. Kehler
Cornelius Fehr
Helen Letkeman
Ann Goertzen
Jac. Bergstresser

1972-1973 Wm. Kehler
Cornelius Fehr
Vernon Penner
Larry Eidse
Helen Letkeman

1973-1974



Bill Kebler

1974-1975

Gloria Penner
Jaq. Bergstresser
Lillian Hiebert
Larry Eidse
Cornelius Fehr
Lillian Hebert
Wm. Kehler
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Vernon Penner
Anne Schleier
B. Straszynski



Cornelius Fehr

1975-1976

Larry Eidse
Cornelius Fehr
Wm. Kehler
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Vernon Penner
Anne Schleier
Barb Straszynski
1976-1977
Larry Eidse
Marilyn Epler
Cornelius Fehr
Wm. Kehler
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Vernon Penner



Gloria Penner



Vernon Penner

1977-1978

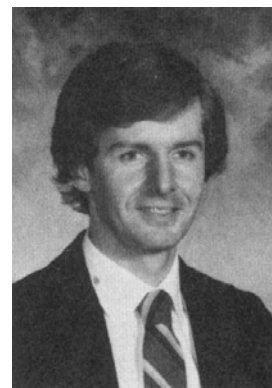
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Barb Straszynski
Larry Eidse
Carol Abrahams
Peter Kroeker
Earla Lawson
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Ann Penner
Barb. Straszynski
Cornelius Fehr
Wilbert Loewen

1978-1979

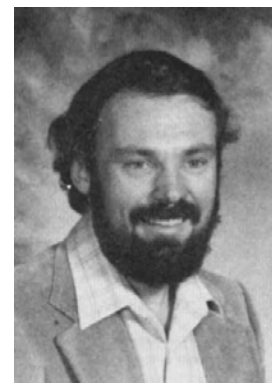
Larry Eidse
Cornelius Fehr
Margaret Harms
Earla Lawson
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Gordon Sawatzky
Barb. Straszynski
Joyce Williams
1979-1980
Larry Eidse
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Gordon Sawatzky
Barb. Straszynski
Christina Waite
Joyce Williams

1980-1981

Gordon Sawatzky
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Barb. Straszynski
Christina Waite
Joyce Williams
1981-1982
Gordon Sawatzky
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Louise Redekop
Barb. Straszynski
Joyce Williams



Gordon Sawatzky



Jake Goertzen

1982-1983

Gordon Sawatzky
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Louise Redekop
Barb. Straszynski
Joyce Williams
1983-1984
Gordon Sawatzky
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Helen Letkeman
Gloria Penner
Louise Redekop
Barb. Straszynski
Joyce Williams

1984-1985

Gordon Sawatzky
Curtis Friesen
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Barry Lewis
Gloria Penner
Louise Redekop
Barb. Straszynski
Joyce Williams
1985-1986
Gordon Sawatzky
Curtis Friesen

1986-1987 Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Barry Lewis
Gloria Penner
Louise Redekop
Barb Straszynski
Joyce Williams
Gordon Sawatzky
Curtis Friesen
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Barry Lewis
Gloria Penner
Barb. Straszynski
Clara Weiss
Joyce Williams
Gordon Sawatzky
Curtis Friesen
Jake Goertzen
Margaret Harms
Barry Lewis
Gloria Penner
Barb. Straszynski
Clara Weiss
Joyce Williams

1987-1988 Ken Yerama
Harold Epp
Curtis Friesen
Margaret Harms
Barry Lewis
Gloria Penner
Monica Peters
Barb. Straszynski
Joyce Williams

1988-1989 Larry Eidse
Edna Dreger
Curtis Friesen
Joyce Groening
Anne Hamilton
Margaret Harms
Barry Lewis
Gloria Penner
Monica Weiss
Joyce Williams

1989-1990 David Schmidt
Brad Curtis
Joyce Groening
Margaret Harms
Barry Lewis
Gloria Penner
Monica Weiss
Barb Straszynski
Monica Thiessen

1990-1991 David Schmidt
Herb Bjarnason
Verna Funk
Joyce Groening

1991-1992

1992-1993

1993-1994

*Alice Brown**Gloria Penner*

1994-1995

Margaret Harms
Steve Lawrie
Gloria Penner
Monica Thiessen
Barb Straszynski
Anne Hamilton
David Schmidt
Herb Bjarnason
Verna Funk
Joyce Groening
Anne Hamilton
Margaret Harms
Steve Lawrie
Gloria Penner
Monica Thiessen
David Schmidt
Herb Bjarnason
Alice Brown
Verna Funk
Anne Hamilton
Margaret Harms
Gloria Penner
Joyce Siemens
Monica Kornelson

*Herb Bjarnason*

1995-1996

1996-1997

1997-1998

1998-1999

Joyce Siemens
David Schmidt
Herb Bjarnason
Alice Brown
Anne Hamilton
Margaret Harms
Gloria Penner
Linda Schell
Joanne Schmidt
Joyce Siemens
David Schmidt
John Bergman
Alice Brown
Anne Hamilton
Margaret Harms
Gloria Penner
Linda Schell
Joanne Schmidt
Joyce Siemens
David Schmidt
John Bergman
Alice Brown
Anne Hamilton
Margaret Harms
Anne Penner
Gloria Penner
Linda Schell
Joanne Schmidt
Joyce Siemens
David Schmidt
John Bergman
Alice Brown
Anne Hamilton
Margaret Harms
Gloria Penner
Linda Schell
Joanne Schmidt
Joyce Siemens



Lowe Farm Centennial Staff

*B. Joyce Siemens, John Bergmann, Peter Harder (custodian),
Linda Schell, Margaret Wiebe (T.A.)*

*M: Gloria Penner, Sharman Wiebe (T.A.), Rose Marie Ewbank
(T.A.), Joann Schmidt, Diane Lilke (T.A.), Anne Hamilton
(Resource Teacher)*

*F: Margaret Harms, L. Zacharias (Secretary/ Librarian), Dave
Schmidt (Principal), Alice Brown, Anne Hiebert (T.A.)*

RESOURCE TEACHERS

Resource teachers, with their specialized teaching skills are employed at many schools throughout Manitoba, including Lowe Farm. Their purpose is to provide support programs and materials for students who experience learning difficulties. They also provide enrichment materials for use within the classroom.

Over the course of the last several years the following teachers have provided this valuable service:

1975-76

Mary Kehler

1976-77

Margaret Harms

1977-78 to 1978-79

Henry Warkentin

1979-80 to 1980-81

Janice Rayner

1981-82 to 1988-89

Barb Straszynski

1989-90 to 1998-99

Anne Hamilton

Shirley Yerama

Anne Penner

PARA - PROFESSIONALS, TEACHERS AIDS & LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS

Whether the term used is Para-Professional, Teachers Aid, or Language Assistant, the role of these individuals is to provide support for students under the direction of the classroom and/or resource teacher.

1974-75

Marion Harder

Marge Matthies

1975-76 to 1981-82

Marion Harder

Alice Brown

Lydia Groening

1982-83

Marion Harder

Alice Brown

Marge Matthies

1983-84 to 1986-87

Marion Harder

Alice Brown

1987-88

Marion Harder

Alice Brown

1990-91

Alice Brown

Margaret Gluck

Marion Harder

1991-92

Alice Brown

Margaret Gluck

Marion Harder

Diane Rintoul

1992-93

Donna Ehnes

Anne Hiebert

Diane Lilke

Diane Rintoul

Linda Schroeder

Margaret Wiebe

1993-94

Anne Hiebert

Diane Lilke

Diane Rintoul

Linda Schroeder

Margaret Wiebe

1994-95

Rose Marie Ewbank

Anne Hiebert

Diane Lilke

Linda Schroeder

1995-96

Rose Marie Ewbank

Anne Hiebert

Diane Lilke

1996-97

Rose Marie Ewbank

Anne Hiebert

Diane Lilke

Margaret Wiebe

1997-98

Rose Marie Ewbank

Anne Hiebert

Diane Lilke

Margaret Wiebe

Sharmen Wiebe

1988-89 to 1989-90

Alice Brown

ROLE OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

In the Morris Macdonald School Division, the board meets twice a month, the first and third Tuesdays. Each board member sits on a minimum of three committees as well. These include: Personnel and Finance; Buildings and Transportation; Education; Red River Technical and Vocational Board; and Professional Development. There is also a trustee representative on ad hoc committees in areas like technology, fine arts, and site based management.

The Manitoba Association of School Trustees offers trustee development twice a year, usually in March and December that are really valuable. Trustees also serve on local school advisory councils to report on board activities and dialogue about local issues in education to take back to the board. Although trusteeship is demanding and challenging, it is also quite rewarding. School Trustees fulfill a number of roles:

- They are an advocate for children, doing what is best for the development of the whole child.
- They are a politician, responsible to an electorate through the democratic process.
- They are a goal setter, identifying the results the system is to achieve.
- They are a planner, by setting priorities.
- They serve as an evaluator, ensuring policies are consistent, compatible, fair and effective.
- They are a financial planner, developing and adopting the budget.
- They are a communicator, interacting with the many stakeholders in education.
- They are an advocate for education, presenting a positive image of schools to the community and to keep the community aware of public education's accomplishments.
- They receive and disseminate

information.

-They are an adjudicator, hearing appeals from people who feel policies and decisions of the board are incorrect.

-They are a lobbyist, communicating with all levels of government.

ISAAC J. WARKENTIN



Isaak J. Warkentin

Isaak J. Warkentin was born in the Mennonite farm village of Hoffnugsfeld, Manitoba, on November 27, 1885. His parents had come to South-Central Manitoba from South Russia in the great Mennonite migrations of the 1870s.

He attended school in Winkler and Gretna, Manitoba, and took Normal School training in Altona, Manitoba, in 1904 - 1905. After teaching in rural schools in Manitoba for three years, he attended Wesley College in Winnipeg, graduating with a B. A. in 1912. In the summer months he taught school at Haskett (1909), and in Saskatchewan (1910-1911). In 1912-13 Mr. Warkentin taught in Winkler, holding the position of Principal in the Intermediate School, and then going to Germany in 1913 to study at Leipzig University. He was interned as a Prisoner of War in Ruhleben Prisoner of War Camp shortly after the outbreak of World War I. All told, he was in Germany from September, 1913, to November, 1918.

From January, 1919, to June, 1919, he attended Normal School in Winnipeg, and then took up his teaching career once more, serving various Mennonite communities in rural Manitoba. These include Winkler (1919 - 1921), a private Mennonite high school in Altona (1921 - 1924), principal in Lowe Farm High School (1926 - 1944), and Steinbach (1944 - 1951). He retired from the Steinbach school system in 1951, but taught a few more years at Grunthal (1951 - 1952) and Elma (1952 - 1953), though retaining his home in Steinbach. He also continued to do some occasional teaching in the Steinbach area after this. He died on October 6, 1971 in Steinbach.

Mr. Warkentin was married on August 3, 1924, to Maria Warkentin, who predeceased him on November 3, 1970 at the age of 71. They had the following children: Helen - born 1925, in Altona; John - born 1928, in Lowe Farm; Bernhard Alfred - born 1935, in Winnipeg; Frances Winnifred - born 1936, in Lowe Farm.

WILLIAM FRIESEN



*Bill and Tina (Reimer) Friesen,
June 28, 1931.*



Bill and Tina Friesen, at Bill's 80th birthday.

My grandparents came to Manitoba from Russia in 1875. My paternal grandfather, a wheelwright and a farmer, believed in education, and four of his sons became teachers. After four years of farming experience I decided to become a teacher. I completed Grade XI through private study and took a five months Normal Course at Manitou. That December, in 1925, I began teaching in a rural school near Altona. After two years of teaching I took another five months Normal training in Winnipeg and earned a Second Class teaching certificate. Steinfeld School District, in the Morris Municipality, needed a teacher in the middle of the school year and I got the job.

I taught there for two and a half years. Enrollments in Steinfeld were quite heavy, usually reaching at least 50 during the winter months. This school had twice as many boys as girls and 10 of the boys were named Peter; a little unusual, I thought. The Grades ranged from I to VII. In addition to the usual school sports and annual picnics, we had weekly softball practice by the young men and senior boys of Steinfeld and neighboring districts in the fall. We even had a soccer team one fall and winter, but could not handle the more experienced Lowe Farm soccer team.

In September, 1930, I was engaged by the Lowe Farm School Board to take charge of the upper elementary room, Grades V to VIII, at a salary of \$1,250.00 and the rental of a small suite of rooms in J.J. Schroeder's garage. My school classroom was not large and after the enrollment reached over 50 that winter, there was hardly

any space left for the teacher to move around in. Although a number of students came only for the winter months, the level of achievement on the whole was quite high.

Here I met Tina Reimer. We were married at the end of the first school year, on June 28. Instead of going on a honeymoon, we moved to Winnipeg for the summer and I took grade XII physics and chemistry at the University. Tina kept house and helped to pass the time by typing my chemistry notes. We stayed another year in Lowe Farm and then moved to Kane to take charge of a small branch general store that Tina's brother, Henry W. Reimer, had opened in Kane that spring.

The trading area served by Kane was small and lightly populated; consequently, the duties evolving from the conduct of the business were not unduly pressing. As a result, we had time to take a fairly active part in community activities. Tina was soon involved in the social activities of the ladies, such as teas and card parties. In a short space of time, I was asked to be secretary of the Sunday School, Bible Class teacher, secretary and physical education instructor of the Young Men's Athletic Club, member of the softball team, and, finally, President of the Community Club. All this sounds like a lot of work, but actually, since the community was small none of the duties was very onerous or time-consuming.

We were in the "Dirty Thirties"; times were very hard for the local residents and therefore also for us. For many people in the district, incomes were extremely low or almost non-existent. Eggs were seven or eight cents a dozen and brought only a cent or two more delivered in Winnipeg. Ground Santos coffee cost us 20 cents a pound and sold for 25 cents; ground Rio coffee (poor stuff) cost us 15 cents and sold for 20 cents. Bread delivered by the Morris Bakery, at its lowest, cost four cents a loaf and sold for five cents. Sugar cost about \$8.00 a 100 pound bag and sold for \$8.35. By the pound, it retailed for 10 cents.

Early in the new year, our first child, Thelma, was born and this made the cramped living space in the north end of the store feel even more cramped. Our memory of the two short years spent in the Kane community will always stay with us as a pleasant interlude in our lives.

When we received the offer to take charge of the Alt Bergthal School near Altona, we accepted it. We sold our stock in the store and went back to teaching. That summer, while we were staying with Tina's parents in Lowe Farm, Irene was born. Richard was born two years later during our stay in Alt Bergthal. The next 12 years, all out of the Morris Municipality, were spent teaching in elementary and secondary schools, in gaining experience, and in advancing academic standing. When we moved back to Lowe Farm in 1946, I had a BA, a Collegiate Principal's certificate, and was well on the way to a B. Ed. degree. All of this was interesting and challenging for me, but it proved to be quite a hard grind for Tina,

especially during the first years. Because of the low salaries paid teachers at the time, she stayed at home with the children, did the canning, and looked after the cow and chickens during my annual six weeks' absence in Summer School. Fortunately, the neighbors were kind and kept a watchful eye on the situation at the school house.

For the next three years, after coming back to Lowe Farm, I served as high school teacher and Principal. They were very busy years and, on the whole, happy and productive. The school set-up, with its three separate buildings and a total of five classrooms, two of them high school, functioned quite well. The students were co-operative and hard-working in academic studies, and also in the various extra-curricular activities. Most of the latter was not allowed to usurp school time. An outstanding example of academic achievement and the students' willingness to apply themselves were the record of the 1947 Grade XI class in the June Departmental Examinations. The 10 students in the class had a total of only two sups. When these were written off in the fall we had a clear 100 per cent pass.

On August 15, 1949, I was appointed Inspector of Schools and posted to Eriksdale. After four years at Eriksdale and four more at Stonewall, we were moved to Winnipeg where I served the remaining 12 and a half years until my retirement.

Tina was quite active in a variety of community activities, most of them in connection with our local church. After my retirement I managed to keep with church work, historical research and various hobbies such as gardening, travel, photography, and the study of radio and television electronics.

As parents and grandparents, Tina and I have had much to be thankful for. Life has often been hard, and therefore challenging; but it has also been greatly rewarding. To our children and grandchild-

dren, to our country, Canada, and to God, the Creator of all, for His many blessings and eternal love we give grateful thanks.

Postscript: William Friesen died in 1984. Tina, born in 1904, lives in Stonewall.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNA AND JUSTINA WIENS



Justina Wiens

Hard work and determination can make impossible dreams become reality. Learning about the history of the parents and grandparents of Lowe Farm educators, Anna and Justina Wiens, we see that they had insight, determination and a willingness to work. Their efforts were not in vain. Their parents, realizing the value of education, encouraged and helped their children to receive as much schooling as possible. Anna and Justina, in turn, helped many children begin and continue their education. They taught and served in various schools and communities for 40 and 30 years, respectively.

The grandparents, Peter and Justina Wiens, had immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1874. Anna, daughter of J. W. and Maria Wiens, was born in Lowe Farm in January,

1907, and grew up on a farm near the village of Lowe Farm. It was also here where she received most of her education. One of her teachers, Miss Peters, had left such a favorable impression on her that she decided she would like to become a teacher.

To earn money to go to Normal School she worked as a nurses' assistant in the Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Ninette. However, the money saved the first year was needed for seed grain for her father's farm. This meant working another year for the necessary tuition money. Even after graduation from Normal School, there were no teaching positions for all who wanted to enter this field of work; so it meant going back to Ninette a third year. The following year, 1930, she was chosen for her first teaching position over 300 other applicants.

In those years, classroom enrollments were high, with eight or more grades to instruct and not too much equipment to work with. Teacher and students were also in charge of janitorial work and keeping the fire in the stove going in the winter. Many interesting and humorous incidents have been related to family and friends as we would reminisce about those early years of teaching. Even to the end of her teaching days, Anna would be cautious not to waste any materials, using paper carefully, remembering how one had to make do with so much less than is now available.

During Anna's teaching career she taught at St. Peter's School, Wood Bay, Stephenfield, and Lowe Farm, where she welcomed many youngsters to the first Grade. With 40 years in the profession and spending about 30 of these in her home community, she taught second and third generation children.

In 1967, Canada's centennial year, Anna was chosen Centennial Citizen of the week and received a

Canadian Centennial Medal for her outstanding work in the community. Miss Anna Wiens retired from teaching in 1971, when she could not continue because of ill health. A farewell evening was held in her honor at the Lowe Farm Elementary School in June, 1971. A class of students acted out a play, choosing a school setting and singing some of the favorite songs learned in her classes. A plaque, in appreciation of her services, was presented to her at this time.



Anna Wiens

Justina Wiens, born in Lowe Farm in August 1913, grew up on her parents' farm. She received her elementary and high school education in Lowe Farm and her teacher training in Winnipeg. In 1937 she began her teaching career. Faithfully and conscientiously, she worked in the Neufeld, Gnadenfeld, Lowe Farm and Morris School Districts until June of 1967. Ill health made it necessary for her to retire from teaching early. This was, however, not to be complete retirement, for in 1969 she started another Kindergarten class in her home, which she continued for another two years.

Her love for children and teaching was again demonstrated. With eager anticipation the children looked forward to the afternoon they could go to Miss Wiens' home for Kindergarten.

Both Anna and Justina were prominent workers in the Women's Institute for many years. They were actively and whole heartedly involved from the time of its inception in 1947 to its termination in 1973. They were leaders, directors and convenors in the W. I., in 4-H, Garden and Cooking Clubs. They also contributed through catering services and took an active part in the interests and welfare of the community wherever possible.

Both also enjoyed travelling and traveled extensively in Europe, the Holy Land, Bermuda, the Bahamas, Hawaii, the United States and Canada. They brought back many beautiful slides and first-hand information from the various places to share with students and friends. Anna would frequently say, "Travel while you can still walk and see." Many friendships were made on these trips which were kept up throughout the years. Through their experience in the Holy Land, they became popular with their slides. Reports, slides, souvenirs, and first hand information from the various countries were valuable teaching aids and served to entertain and enlighten friends in their home, in school and at community functions.

Anna and Justina will be remembered by family and friends through their unique characteristics and outstanding contributions. Anna was more outgoing than her sister, and had a lively sense of humor. Where things needed to be improved, she would see to it that action was taken. Justina enjoyed homemaking, sewing, crafts and had a quiet friendly personality. Music, singing, and taking part in school festivals were other areas of interest of both Anna and Justina. They possessed great determina-

tion and optimism which made it possible to achieve great goals in life and passed their ideals on to others.

SCHOOL RECOLLECTIONS

Submitted by John Enns

Who would have thought that the young couple, John and Neta Enns - penniless and newly returned from a year of voluntary service in Mexico, would become long term residents of Lowe Farm?

I came for a job interview in June, 1950. It was scarcely the time to experience Lowe Farm at its best. The wear and tear of fighting the flood, sheltering refugees, worrying about crops and coping with the prospect of a rail strike, were not without effect. Weeds grew knee-high, roads were in deplorable condition from incessant rains, and people's spirits were frayed. When we moved here in August we lived for a week with no furniture in the house, since, because of a rail strike, it was sealed in a boxcar somewhere on the CN tracks.

That first winter, 1950 - 1951, was an adventure one would not care to repeat. The teacherage, being old and uninsulated, provided only indifferent shelter from the elements. Our first baby arrived in October. Keeping ourselves and the baby warm taxed our utmost resources. There was no furnace in the residence. Someone sold us a huge "circulator" space heater that created a hefty draft at your feet while virtually roasting the head region. Anything more than three feet away from the heater remained frigid. Water left in the basin overnight was solid ice in the morning. In subsequent years renovations were made to the house that improved the level of comfort significantly. Then, in 1960, a new teacherage was built with an oil furnace, bathroom and water taps which made a huge difference to our living standard.

In our two room high school, the work-load initially was enormous. Four grades, eight subjects per grade, meant each teacher had 16 daily lesson preparations, as well as student work to check, tests to set and mark, extra curricular activities to initiate and supervise, plus the essential administration work. All of this was done with few resources, no secretarial help or the aid of a duplicating machine. Staff had to be super-capable and, luckily, the students were by and large self-starters and conscientious workers. In retrospect it is hard to fathom how time was found to present literary concerts, music and drama nights, to produce winning sports teams, publish a school paper and go on year-end camping trips with the students.

New school buildings, appearing in 1955 and again in 1966, ushered in an exciting era. The work was distributed among more staff. There were comfortable classrooms as well as an equipped science lab, a woodworking shop with new machines, a commercial room and a much used gymnasium-auditorium. There was even a duplicating machine! Enrolment increase as a result of consolidation brought with it new challenges and greater opportunities.

Both Neta and I made it a point to be involved in community activities. For many years Neta served enthusiastically in the Women's Institute. I soon found myself on the boards of the Credit Union and the local Chamber of Commerce - both important organizations of the community. The Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in getting Highway 23 rebuilt and paved. It figured in acquiring a pumper truck and establishing a community volunteer fire brigade of which I was a member. Three big fires to which we were called linger in my memory: a Lowe Farm grain elevator (which burned to the ground); another elevator fire in

Homewood (which was put out); and Martens Garage. The garage burned, but surrounding buildings were saved. Other community activities in which I was engaged included curling and taking my turn at supervising the out-door ice rink change house.

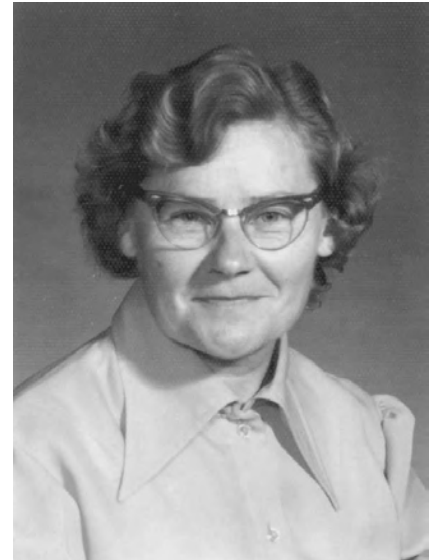
Neta and I were used to participating in church activities in whatever community we lived. It was therefore natural for us to try to fit in locally. Neta taught Sunday School intermittently and for a time conducted the children's choir. I was recruited to lead the adult choir, having shown my interest in choir work at school. For a time I sang in a male quartet that occasionally assisted in programs given at the penitentiary as well as the Gospel Mission in Winnipeg. I gratefully recall the patient assistance given by pianists Marie (Kroeker) Schmidt and Margaret (Dueck) Thiessen as well as her sister Esther since our music-making required some rote-learning. The church filled an important need in our lives.

In essence, our 15 years at Lowe Farm were good years in a number of ways. We felt accepted by the community. Our five children were born during that time. The village was a safe and friendly place for children to grow. It was a time of positive growth in Manitoba education. The school work was stimulating and fully supported by school board and community and shared with caring colleagues. Students, with few exceptions, were responsive and highly motivated, attributes that carried a good number of the graduates to subsequent important rolls in the wider aspects of life. Thanks, Lowe Farm, for having allowed us to grow in experience, to make mistakes, to work cooperatively and to nurture our family.

Congratulations on the occasion of your centenary, and to the far-sighted people who undertook to organize this project.

MY YEARS IN LOWE FARM

Submitted by Helen Letkeman



Helen Letkeman

When I came for an interview with the School Board in spring of 1967, Lowe Farm was a strange town to me. I knew of two families who farmed around this area. I had also heard of a well-liked teacher, Miss Anna Wiens, who lived in Lowe Farm, whom I had hoped to meet some day.

Members of the Lowe Farm School Board at that time decided to hire me as the Grade III and IV teacher for the coming year. I was thankful for this and came to live with Eva Rempel in August, 1967. I was thankful for room and board so close to school. It was also good to be closer to home, where my parents lived at that time, which was Winkler, and could go home for weekends.

After four good years of working with many wonderful students, I decided to take a leave of absence to attend University for one year. By this time I had spent many summers taking summer school courses, and to come closer to my goal of finishing three years of university studies, it seemed right to set aside some time for this purpose.

In early spring of 1972, when it was time again for applications for another school term, decisions had to be made. I was hoping Morris Macdonald School Division would have an opening for me, but where? Then I was told Lowe Farm School needed a Grade III and IV teacher, would I come? It sounded too good to be true, but a number of questions arose. Was this the right place for me now? Was this where the Lord wanted me? I looked for affirmation. The Lord answered through people and through His Word. A verse I saw on the wall at a friend's house helped me at that time. It read: "He who has helped you hither to, will help you all your journey through."

I moved back to Lowe Farm in August, 1972, into the teacherage on the school yard, where I had lived for a year before my leave of absence. It was good to be back and I experienced many blessings. I continued to teach for another 12 years, mainly Grades III - V, but also some subjects in Grades I, II and VI. Some changes during these years brought the elementary classes to the school east of town, which had been the high school for many years. Eventually, new classrooms were added to this building and there was enough room for Grades K - IX under one roof. It was good to be together in this way.

To all the students I was able to work with, I want to say a very big "Thank you!" I also want to ask for forgiveness where I have not been patient and understanding. Many thoughts come to mind where I should have been more considerate, more understanding and loving. At times I might have seemed like a hard task master, but I did want each of you to do your best. I felt responsible to you, your parents and the school board.

We also had many fun times together. I enjoyed playing with you at recess, going on nature walks, having an annual Easter-basket hunt, and doing various other things.

In 1984 I seriously began to think of retiring from teaching. I loved my class and my work, and on days when I felt well, I thought "no." After struggling to keep going when colds and flu symptoms continued over a period of many weeks, the final decision was "yes." It was time to let younger teachers, who were waiting for jobs, step in.

As a farewell gift, my 1983-84 class presented me with a much-treasured Bible, the "New King James Version" in larger print. It still is a daily treasure, and now especially helpful that the smaller print is becoming more difficult to read.

There were other treasured gifts from the staff, the whole student body, and from the Division. All are much appreciated. Many good wishes came with the closing of this chapter in my life.

A very difficult time came when it was time for a new school term in fall of 1984, and I was not part of it. How

I missed the staff and students! My name was on the substitute teachers' list for the next few years, and it was with anticipation and joy I went to help out when I was called. It was like going home.

I continued to live in Lowe Farm until fall of 1985; not in the teacherage, but in the house I had been able to buy from Agatha Kehler in 1977. The Lord provides and blesses, to Him be the praise!

The many friends I gained while living in Lowe Farm I cherish and respect. Participating in the church services and church activities brought many blessings. I want to thank for all the deeds of kindness. On various occasions I would come home from school and find "someone" had left some baking or other treats at my door. When no name was with it, I couldn't even respond with a "thank you." It was greatly appreciated.

When my father became very ill on November 1, 1985, and needed emergency surgery, our family spent many hours at St. Boniface Hospital and later Winkler Hospital, until the Lord took him Home January 27, 1986. I knew at this time my responsibility was with my mother, so I moved to Winkler to be of more help to her.

Now, October, 1997, four years have passed since my mother also was called to her eternal rest.

Again I want to thank all my former students for the blessing they have been to me. I am pleased to meet some of you at different times, and if I do not speak a word of greeting first, please pardon, for I may not recognize you now. I do appreciate seeing you. May God bless and guide each one.

Post Script: Education is important and necessary for all of us. However, not all learning comes through books and attending classes in school. Traveling and seeing new places can be very educational and enjoyable.

Since 1984 I have had the opportunity to travel to the eastern provinces in Canada and to some of the states south of us. A very valuable experience was traveling to the Holy Land, seeing and learning more about the country where our Savior lived while here on earth.

Then a recent trip to Ukraine allowed me to see and experience some of the places where my parents and many of our ancestors once lived. A cruise along the great Dnieper River, visiting the different villages and touring some of the cities was very meaningful and wonderful. I am truly thankful for these experiences, never having thought it possible to visit the land of Israel, or the land of our ancestors.

However, having been to these countries, we again realize how fortunate we are to live in Canada. May we ever be grateful for this and do our part to keep Canada strong and true, that it could be a Christian country with high moral values.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Dave Schmidt, Principal, Lowe Farm School



As administrator of the K-VIII school in Lowe Farm, I am keenly aware of the many changes that have taken place and continue to take place in our community. Since 1990, when my family and I moved to the community of Lowe Farm, until now, we have noticed a tremendous change in education as well as our community.

The change in agriculture has meant fewer young people are farming as a career and therefore most youth leave to find opportunities in other centers. The village of Lowe Farm is becoming a community where families live but work in the surrounding towns and cities.

The many small country schools are all gone and the schools have consolidated to form Lowe Farm School. The high school students have been going to Morris School for several decades now and home-schooling is becoming more of a popular option for parents. The many changes continue to come at us very fast and I wonder what challenges the community will face over the next few decades.

The many challenges of the last decade include the flood of 1997. Although the school at Lowe Farm continued to operate during the flood, the high school students could not venture to Morris. Therefore our school library became a study hall for high school students. On several occasions, teachers from Morris came to help high school students in the library over this five week period.

Another significant change is the piloting of an alternate school year in our community. This occurred in the 1998-99 school year. With the high school students going to Morris, the Early and Middle Year students had a longer day (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.), rather than the regular (9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) hours set by the school divisions.

The school continues to be a center where people come together. The Christmas concert continues to be a social highlight for many in the community. Our community has and continues to produce people of immense skill and ability. A dedicated school staff works hard to provide quality education for all students.



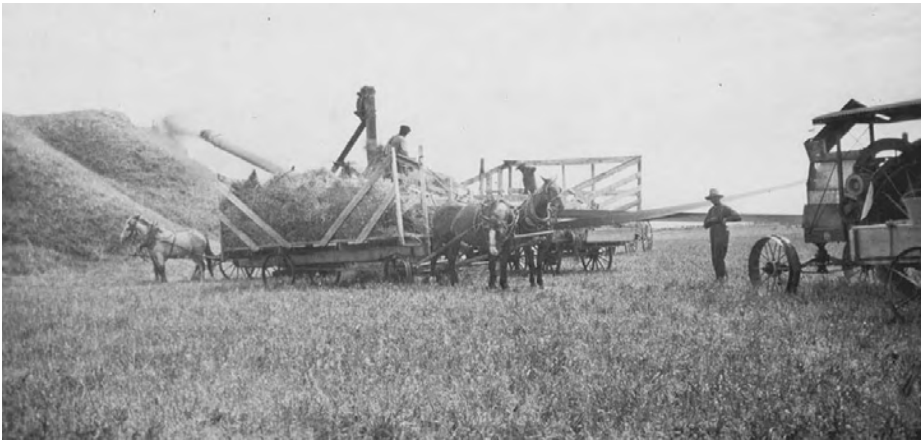
Lowe Farm 1950's

AGRICULTURE



AGRICULTURE, THEN AND NOW

Submitted by Peter G. Unrau



H.A. Groening threshing outfit in the 1920's



Horse power harvesting



J. Martens threshing outfit, threshing oats six miles north of Lowe Farm, 1924.

Lowe Farm - the very name implies agriculture. It all began in the 1880's when three men bought large tracts of land west of Morris. These men were: Mr. Hope, Mr. Rose and John Lowe.

By 1887, John Lowe is reported to have owned 13 sections, or 8,320 acres. His farm manager, William Stephenson, was apparently a very inventive man, and built his own steam engine as well as a big plough used to break the virgin sod. He also mounted a threshing machine on a platform attached to the side of this steam engine. In this way, while the tractor moved along the field, men pitched the sheaves into the machine as it moved along instead of hauling them to the machine. But his machines were too unwieldy to operate on sometimes wet soil conditions, and were soon left to rust.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rose was experimenting with a unique way of plowing the virgin prairie by anchoring a steam engine with a winch at each end of the field and pulling a huge plough back and forth along the field by winch and cable. After each pass of the plow, the engines had to be moved into position with horses for the next pass. But all the grandiose ideas of large scale farming seem not to have been too successful.

The Mennonite Reserve to the south was rapidly being filled up, and Mennonites were looking north for more land. By 1885 they were moving into the Lowe Farm area, and seem to have had a large influence in the agricultural development of the area. We hear that Americans also bought large tracts of virgin prairie. They broke the land and planted flax on the freshly turned sod. Apparently they made a killing by growing flax this way, but they left the land when the growing got tough.

We have to admire the settlers that came, brought their families, and stayed. They did not have grand machines but depended on

oxen and horse power. They found a land that was hard to work when too dry, and hard to work when too wet and sticky. A two bottom plow that could be pulled by a four horse team further south, needed five or even six horses here. If the season happened to be wet, mosquitoes tried to eat both man and beast alive. And, as one farmer put it, "The hardest thing to get used to when I moved to Lowe Farm, was when wet, every time I had to leave the farm to go anywhere, the farm wanted to come with me."

There were always moisture problems in this land they had come to. It was either too dry or too wet. It was a land, especially a few miles north of Lowe Farm, which flooded every spring after a winter of heavy snow fall. It was a land that did not yield water, even if you dug or drilled a well. If you found a well that did yield water, the water was so brackish that no human or animal would drink it. And every settler had livestock; horses for power, cattle for milk and cream and beef, pigs for pork, and chickens to supply the family with eggs. These things were his livelihood, and all needed water.

Water holes were dug. These would supposedly fill up in spring when the snow melted. Some winters there was little snow, and, as a result, little water, followed by a dry summer. What would the farmer do for water during the winter? Even in the 1930's and early 1940's, water sometimes had to be hauled from as far as four miles away - and remember, this was done by horse and sleigh. However, they also found out livestock would eat snow, thereby cutting down on the consumption of water.

A water supply for the family was also a problem. Rain water was caught in large galvanized cisterns, or rain barrels, in the summer. If there was a prolonged period with no rain, some families had to resort to their dug out water for household use. There were no purifiers or filters in those days. In winter, most kitchen stoves had a barrel next to it that was filled with melting snow. If there was no clean snow, ice was hauled from as far away as the Red River. Compare that to our modern day cisterns, into which water is hauled by truck, or with the new water pipeline that now hooks Lowe Farm with both Morris and Winkler water supplies. Farmers can also connect up to this supply, both for domestic, and agriculture, purposes.

This was a land with no trees in sight for firewood. Any tree you saw had been planted. Some had money to buy coal or firewood in town. For others, having a fuel supply meant hauling firewood from 20 miles east of the Red River by horse drawn wagons or sleighs. The last resort for fuel was to use manure. This was pressed, cut and dried in the summer and stored for winter fuel. Compare that to our oil or gas or electric furnace. Compare also our lighting, baking, washing, drying, and cooking - all done by the flick of a switch.

The farmer lived off the land. After his crops were off, he had to make sure he put enough feed away to



No bales, just pitch forks and hay.



*C. P. Unrau's new John Deere plowing in the fall of 1936.
David Braun farm yard center,
background and C. P. Unrau yard left.*



Abe, Walter, Esther and Ruth Sawatsky, 1960.

feed his horses, (his power supply) and keep enough aside to feed his chickens and pigs. Then, he could sell what was left over to meet his running expenses. Cream was made into butter, taken to the local store, and exchanged for groceries. Any surplus eggs produced were used for the same purpose.

If there was enough, the farmer took his cans of cream, or cases of eggs, to the Lowe Farm station twice a week and shipped them to Winnipeg. Next, the transfer business in town sent their trucks out twice a week to pick up these products at the farm. In time, the creameries in Winnipeg had their own trucks running to make these farm pick ups.

It must have been with great faith, or desperation, that these people stuck it out. Many did not, they went broke, and lost their farms. They quit to try their hand at something else. Some were fortunate enough to be able to buy their land a second time, but some never did, and were renters for the rest of their farming life.

Even though some of the more well-to-do farmers had tractors previous to the Depression years, mechanization of the farms came only afterwards, during the last half of the 1930's with the advent of the John Deere Models A, R and B, and the McCormick W30 and W20 tractors, for example. The war years of the 1940's were boom years for farmers. The years since World War II have seen bigger changes in the agricultural scene (as well as in everything else) than any century past. Some have been good, and some bad. For example, chemicals developed during the war, became beneficial for farmers. Chemicals for weed control, pesticides for insect control, fertilizers to raise crop yields. With this, new machinery never dreamed of before came on the scene, including sprayers and fertilizer spreaders.

The practice of summerfallowing has disappeared. Everything became specialized, including crops, livestock and poultry. Good or bad? We have surplus crops and clogged up elevators. We have no horses, no cows, and thus, no need for all the feed to raise and keep them. All this grain now goes to the market. With the changes came special crops. The first were sugar beets and sunflowers. Sugar beets have now fallen by the wayside. Sunflowers are not as popular as they once were. Then came mustard, canola, canary seed and, the latest, hemp.

Marketing has also changed drastically. Every farmer used to be within hauling distance of a country elevator, via horse and wagon, or sleigh. With rail lines being abandoned, these elevators are fast disappearing off the face of the prairie. With new mega inland terminals being built, the crops have to be hauled further, creating a great strain for any small operator left.

All marketing is controlled by marketing boards. At the instigation of the Provincial Government, raising hogs has become a big corporation business. And we are now witnessing the results of gross over production, leaving no room for a small producer. Chicken and egg production is gone for the small producer as well. It

would seem the family farm is on the way out. With large, modern equipment, two people now do the work of six small farms of the past.

One can not but wonder what the future holds. How much longer will agriculture mean farmers? In the Lowe Farm History book of 2024, will Lowe Farm still be described as a farming community? I hope so.

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE

Submitted by Abe Sawatsky

A very detailed and accurate description of agriculture from 1880 - 1980 is found in the book "Furrows in the Valley" by the Rural Municipality of Morris and in the "Lowe Farm History Book." Therefore, this will only be a very brief summary of those years, focusing more on the last 19 years.

Let's sit back, relax, and review the change that took place.

Nobody could have dreamt of the changes that were to happen to this wonderful, wild, prairie land in the coming century.

John Lowe, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion of Canada from 1871 - 1895 purchased 16 sections of land in this area. He intended to make this large farm into a model farm. After his death in 1913 his holdings were sold to individual farmers.

The early settlers very soon discovered that once the heavy prairie land was broken the soil was extremely fertile and with very few stones. They could even get a crop in medium dry years.

Settlers or pioneers came from Ontario, the British Isles and Russia. Two thirds of the population were of Mennonite descent. They were farmers and usually homesteaded on a quarter section of land or bought a quarter section for six to eight dollars an acre. The yield was between 10 to 20 bushels per acres.

The railway line was built in 1889. The same year a store was built, and many settlers came. This growing bud, in a few years, turned into a beautiful flower and Lowe Farm was born in 1899, named in remembrance of John Lowe, former Minister of Agriculture.

Improvements in roads and drainage were made and soon the land was saturated with pioneer farmers. Only about 26 per cent of the people lived in small towns like Lowe Farm.

Crops grew well in the virgin soil even though they never knew of fertilizer, or chemicals. In wet years, excess moisture needed to be drained into the Red River. Drainage and roads were made with slush scrapers pulled by a team of horses manned by a strong man that could operate the scraper.

Ponds were made in the same manner to hold runoff water for livestock and sometimes for human use if the barrels of rainwater went dry. Rainwater was gathered from the roof when it rained. With six to eight farmers to a pond building bee, they could build or dig a pond in six to eight days.



Abe Sawatsky harvesting in 1990.



Abe Sawatsky seeding operation in 1998.



*Butch Harder seeding west of Lowe Farm
with his new Case (quadtrac) four wheel drive tractor, 1998.*

Fortunately, better machines were invented which meant more powerful tractors Caterpillars and heavier equipment. The dragline made digging a pond or ditch and road building much easier.

Seventy per cent of the crops grown at the time were wheat. Twenty per cent were barley, oats and flax.

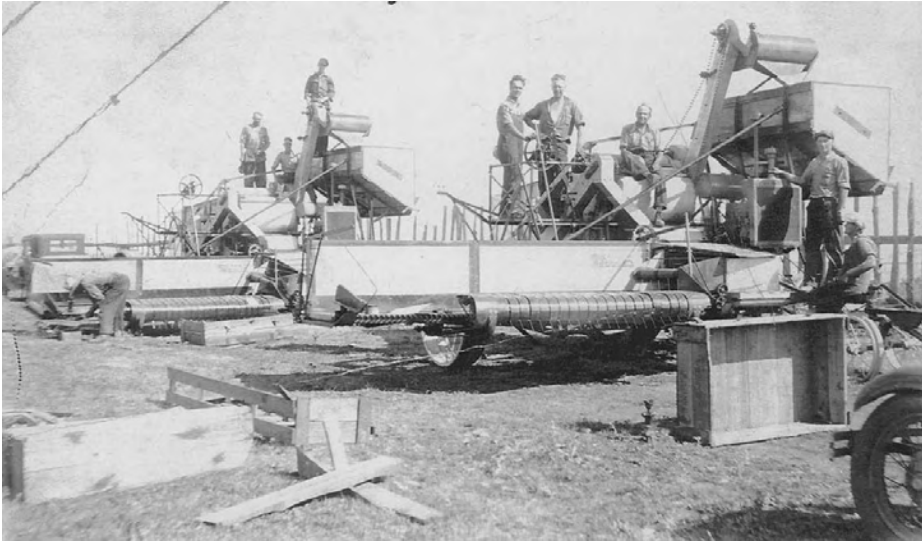
The Depression in the early thirties hit all farmers hard. Wheat prices went down to 20 cents a bushel. Eggs sold for eight cents a dozen. Some farmers had to declare bankruptcy. Some of them were fortunate enough to be able to buy this land back when farming became more successful again.

During and after World War II, farming was booming. Factories once again manufactured non-military machinery and vehicles. Streamlined cars and grain trucks with a hoist were produced. Farm machinery became bigger. Farm tractors came with rubber tires and a power range from 15 to 45 horsepower. Combines replaced the threshing machines. Also, the much needed auger was invented. Farmers gladly put the pitchfork and grain scoop to rest. A chemical called 2,4D became available to spray and kill mustard in grain fields. This was now called "Modern Farming." The title was well deserved.

Farming became more specialized from 1950 to 1960. Livestock and poultry barns grew in size. The era of bigger farms had started.

In the 1960's, sunflowers, and a new crop called rapeseed (later canola) showed up on some farms. These very yellow fields, when in bloom, were well noticed. Wheat prices went up to \$3.50 per bushel and then down to under a dollar a bushel.

The 1970's and 1980's saw another rapid change when wheat prices went up from one dollar to \$4.50 per bushel in two years. Land prices climbed from \$100 an acre to over \$700 an acre. Every farmer had to pay income tax,



Assembling a new combine south of the train tracks.



H.A. Groening's farm, chopping oats.



Using horsepower to get feed into the barn on Bert Oltman's farm.

having made enough money to qualify. Things were too good to believe. Could they last for long?

Farmers took advantage of the good, prosperous times in the 1980's and 1990's. Many small farms were sold, mainly to larger farms. It seemed that the good times were here to stay. Big, four wheel drive tractors, big self-propelled combines, all with plush air conditioned cabs, big 5,000 bushel grain bins, and huge machine sheds were seen on many farm yards.

Farming now had to be run in business fashion; Wheat was \$4 to \$5 a bushel, flax sold for \$5 to \$9 a bushel, canola (rapeseed) was selling for \$5.50 to \$9.50 a bushel. Big sprayers with 800 gallon tanks and well over 100 feet wide, better chemicals, including wild oat chemicals, made farming easier. We began "farming for fun." Airplanes equipped to spray farm fields became quite popular. They would not run any grain down as was the case with wheeled machines.

Chemicals and application costs were \$15 to \$40 an acres. Continuous cropping, instead of summerfallow every third year, gave quackgrass and thistles an opportunity to flourish. Spraying a chemical like Round Up, cost an extra \$15 per acre. When applied to a crop when almost ripe, the chemical worked best. It also matured the crop earlier. The following year, the field would be almost without quack grass and thistles.

Farmers in this area are a fine group of individuals who are proud to have clean, nice looking fields and, of course, good yields. Today some weeds are becoming chemical resistant, creating another challenge for the farmer and chemical companies.

Some farms have carried big debt loads. Interest rates jumped from six per cent to 20 per cent in the mid 1980's and those farmers were hurt financially again. Al-

though it was no fault of their own, some were forced to close to avoid bankruptcy. The land was usually sold to neighboring farmers for about \$500 an acre.

By now the average size of a farm might be anywhere from 600 acres to over 2,000 acres. Most years, crops yielded a good average yield of about 20 to 45 bushels an acre for wheat, 20 to 45 bushels an acre for canola, and 20 to 40 bushels an acre for flax. The price of wheat declined from \$5 a bushel to \$2.50 a bushel in a few years. Canola prices ranged from \$6 a bushel to \$10 a bushel. Flax prices were in the same range.

The acres seeded to wheat, although the most favorite crop, went down to only 30 per cent of the seeded crop. Canola went to 40 per cent and flax to 15 per cent of the seeded crop.

Chemicals are largely responsible for continuous cropping. Chemicals, fertilizers and new crop varieties helped to increase yields.

Soil testing is important and popular among farmers. It dictates which blend and how much fertilizer to use for each crop.

Many farmers apply anhydrous ammonia, a compressed gas that turns to liquid under pressure. It is the least costly type of nitrogen to use. It needs a cultivator with special equipment to apply it four inches into the ground. It is extremely dangerous, as it can, on contact, make a person blind instantly, or freeze whatever it touches.

A little extra nitrogen does increase the protein in wheat. Today, wheat is sold, not only by grade, but also by the amount of protein in the wheat. Extra protein brings a good premium.

Canola is the most sensitive to nitrogen for yield. Crops also need phosphate, potash, sulfur, zinc, copper, and many more micro-nutrients to grow a healthy plant and to maximize yields. Fertilizer expenses normally range from \$15 to \$40 an acre.

It is interesting to notice that until 1950, every acre had to be plowed. Then the heavy duty deep tiller cultivator came into use. Some straw and stubble remained on the fields, which prevented soil drifting and losing precious topsoil.

In the 1990's, minimum tillage became famous. Now, zero tillage is becoming debatable. The heavy soils at Lowe Farm become more mellow with less fieldwork and also earthworms, which are good for the soil, are much higher in numbers.

Farming, then and now, has seen tremendous changes, almost similar to the first airplane and the space age. A farm today can have a base of 600 to 2,000 acres, and a value from \$420,000. A new combine, with a new global positioning system (GPS) equipment, is listed at over \$285,000. Thus, a farmer

can have machinery and other inventory ranging from \$250,000, to well over one million dollars.

The farmers have reason to be thankful, and are thankful, for the freedom, the privileges to farm in this great land.

Many thanksgivings have been celebrated by Mennonites who came from Russia, and others, thanking God for this great country, Canada.

THE RAILWAY

Submitted by Paul Joyal

On July 2, 1887, Premier John Norquay, assisted by the Mayor of Winnipeg, turned over the first sod of the Red River Valley Railway. Construction began in earnest on July 13, the intention being to have the line traveling southward from Winnipeg to the International Boundary completed by September 1 of that year.

On September 4, 1888, the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Company became incorporated by the Province of Manitoba, to take over, complete and operate the Red River Valley Railway. The Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway would complete and operate a line from Winnipeg to the International Boundary and to Portage La Prairie, as well as a line from Morris to Brandon.

The Morris - Brandon branch of the NP&M was built and opened for traffic on September 1, 1889. In 1901, the NP&M, besieged by financial difficulties, was taken over by the Canadian Northern Railway. The Canadian Northern operated until 1918, when it too fell victim to financial difficulties and was taken over by the Dominion Government. On June 6, 1919, by an Act of Parliament, the Dominion Government amalgamated the many thousands of miles of the many different railways acquired over the years and incorporated them into one, the Canadian National Railways.

In 1904, Canadian Northern



Coffee break on the Bert Oltman farm. William Stephenson's steam tractor on the right. Bert Oltman, top, middle.

Railway built the railway station in Lowe Farm, with a Mr. Sharpe employed as the first agent. Other agents who occupied the station were: Jim Beggs, Phil Bourgeois, Mr. Fanning, Mr. Wade, Allen Wade, Emile Brunet and Bill Basset.

The rail line and station were a boom to the community. Not only did railway provide a means for farmers to send their produce to market, they also provided a somewhat more reliable avenue of transportation to the public. When roads became plugged by winter storms or impassable due to wet springs or heavy rains, the train could usually make it.

With the opening of the Morris-Brandon branch of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway passenger service in 1894 was provided on a three day per week schedule in each direction. In addition to passenger service the NP&M was also operating a scheduled daily freight service.

It is unknown for certain what kind of passenger service the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway may have provided during its short existence. In 1914, the



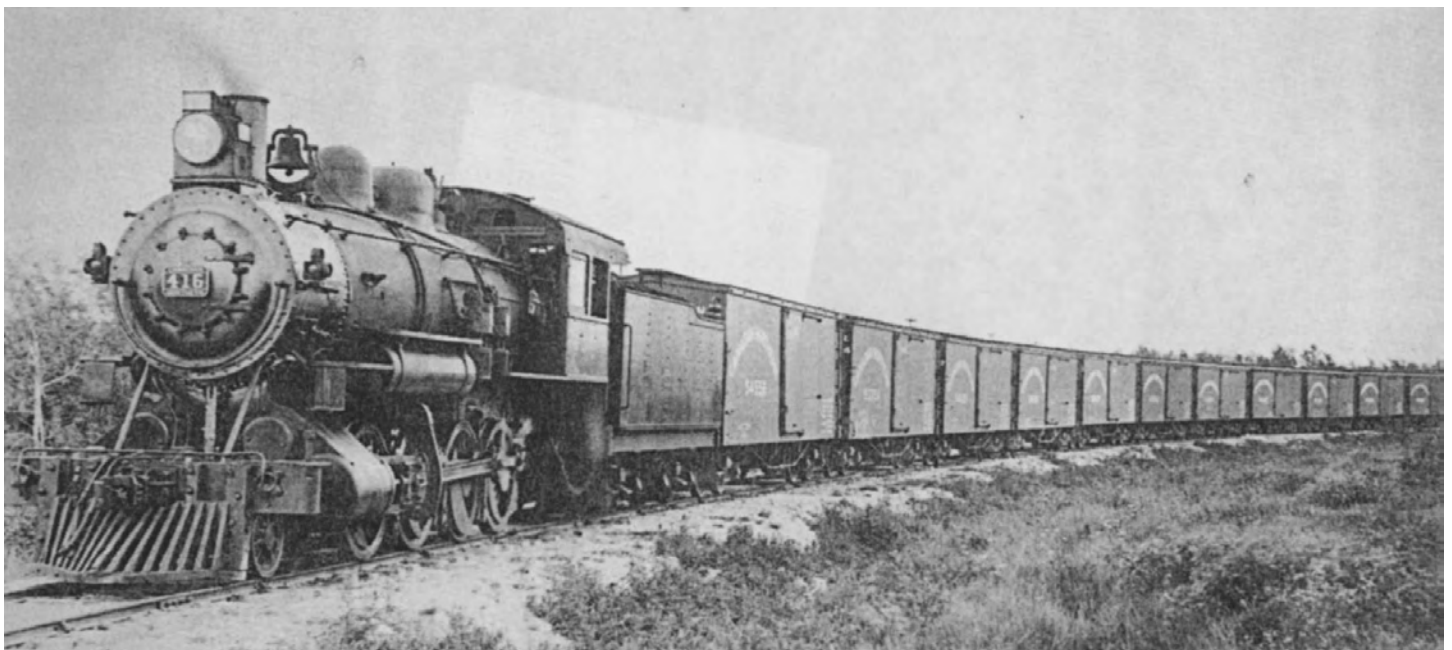
Lowe Farm Station.



Canadian Northern train derailment.



Emile Brunet, Station Master in Lowe Farm.



A trainload of grain starts on its way to market behind Canadian Northern.

WESTWARD TRAINS Inferior Direction				MIAMI SUBDIVISION				EASTWARD TRAINS Superior Direction			
FIRST CLASS	Miles from Morris	Bulleins, Coal, Tram Registers, Water, Wyes	STATIONS	Train Order or Phone Offices	Telegraph Calls	Car Capacity 40 ft. Ave	FIRST CLASS				
							31 Psg. Daily Ex. Sat. Sun.	55 Psg. Mon. Sat.			
L 19.15	0.0	B,C,W,Y	MORRIS Jct. with Letellier Sub. 9.9	T	SU	61	222	A 9.02	A 15.32		
s 19.39	9.9		LOWE FARM 6.3	T	M F	42	44	s 8.41	s 15.11		
f 19.52	16.2		KANE 4.9				40	f 8.27	f 14.57		
s 20.03	19.3 21.1	W	MYRTLE 4.7	T	M Y	67	39	s 8.16	s 14.46		
s 20.15	25.8		ROLAND 3.0	T	RD	65	58	s 8.05	s 14.35		
f 20.24	28.8		JORDAN 4.9				17	f 7.55	f 14.25		
s 20.35	33.7		ROSEBANK 5.9	T	RK	30	45	s 7.44	s 14.14		
s 20.50	39.6	W	MIAMI 9.5	T	M A	67	51	s 7.30	s 14.00		
s 21.18	49.1		DEERWOOD 5.3				32	s 7.02	s 13.32		
s 21.33	54.4 55.4	W	ALTAMONT 4.5	T	A	57	45	s 6.48	s 13.18		
	21.43 58.9		HUBBELL 3.2				12	6.38	13.08		
A 21.55	62.1	B,C,W,Y	SOMERSET Jct. with Carman Sub.	T	M R	39	46	L 6.30	L 13.00		
Daily Ex. Sat. Sun.	CENTRAL TIME				Daily Ex. Sat. Sun.		Sat.				
32					31		55				

Special Instructions

See Letellier Sub. trains at Morris and Carman Sub. trains at Somerset.
The junction switches at Morris and Somerset are in normal position
when set against Miami Sub. trains.

Speed Restrictions

Trains must approach and pass through Morris and Somerset yards prepared to stop unless the main track is seen or known to be clear. Passenger trains must not exceed one (1) mile in two (2) minutes at any point. Mixed and freight trains must not exceed (1) one mile in three (3) minutes at any point. Eastbound passenger trains must not exceed one (1) mile in two (2) minutes and thirty (30) seconds, and eastbound freight trains must not exceed one (1) mile in five (5) minutes between Mileage Forty-nine (49) and Forty-three (43).

Spurs	Mileage	Capacity	Connected
Moyer.....	3.7	13 cars	East end
Smiths.....	6.0	14 cars	East end

Railway Crossings at Grade

With Canadian Pacific at Mileage 0.2 (Interlocked).
With Canadian Pacific at Mileage 26.3 (Interlocked).

Yard Limit Boards

Morrie—3000 feet west of the wye west switch.
Somerset—3000 feet east of the wye east switch.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

TIME TABLE—Taking effect on Sunday,
Dec. 15, 1894.

MAIN LINE.

N. Bound. Read Up			STATIONS.	S. Bound. Read Down		
Freight No. 153. Daily.	St. Paul Ex. No. 107. Daily.	Miles from Winnipeg.		St. Paul Ex. No. 108. Daily.	Freight No. 154. Daily.	
1.20p	3.15p	0	* Winnipeg	12.15p	6.50p	
1.05p	3.03p	9.0	* Portage La P.	12.47p	5.47p	
13.47p	2.50p	9.3	* St. George	12.20p	6.07p	
12.22p	2.38p	13.3	* Cartier	12.52p	6.25p	
11.54p	2.22p	15.6	* St. Agathe	1.10p	6.51p	
11.31a	2.13p	27.4	* Union Point	1.17p	7.02p	
11.07a	2.02p	32.5	* Silver Plains	1.28p	7.12p	
10.31a	1.46p	40.6	Morris	1.49p	7.46p	
10.05a	1.22p	46.8	St. Jean	1.58p	8.25p	
9.23a	12.59p	53.0	Lotellier	2.17p	8.13p	
8.40a	12.30p	65.0	Emerson	2.35p	10.15a	
7.00a	12.20p	68.1	Pembina	2.50p	11.12a	
11.05p	8.56a	168	Grand Forks	6.30p	8.22p	
1.30p	4.55a	223	Winnipeg Junc.	10.10p	1.52p	
	3.45p	453	Duluth	7.25a		
	3.40p	470	Minneapolis	6.45a		
	8.00p	481	St. Paul	7.25a		
	10.30p	483	Chicago	9.35p		

MORRIS-BRANDON BRANCH.

E. Bound. Read Up			STATIONS.		W. Bound. Read Down	
Ex. No. 130.	Ex. No. 128.	Thurs., Sat.			Ex. No. 127	Ex. No. 126
	Thurs.				Mon., Wed., Fri.	Tues., Sat.
1.20p	3.15p		Win. peg		12.15a	6.30p
7.50p	1.30p		Morris		1.50p	8.00a
8.53p	1.07p	10	*Lowie Farm		2.15p	8.44a
6.49p	12.42p	21.9	*Myrtle		2.41p	9.31a
5.23p	12.32p	25.6	Roland		2.53p	9.58a
4.39p	12.14p	33.6	*Rosebank		3.10p	10.22a
3.53p	11.58a	38.6	Miami		3.25p	10.54a
3.14p	11.38a	49.0	*Deerwood		3.43p	11.44a
2.51p	11.27a	54.1	*Altamont		4.01p	12.10p
2.15p	11.09a	62.1	Somerset		4.20p	12.51p
1.47p	10.55a	68.4	*Swan Lake		4.86p	1.22p
1.19p	10.40a	74.6	Indian Springs		4.61p	1.54p
12.57p	10.30a	79.4	*Mariapolis		5.02p	2.18p
12.27p	10.15a	86.1	*Greenway		5.18p	2.52p
11.57a	10.00a	92.3	Baldur		5.34p	3.26p
11.12a	9.58a	102	Belmont		5.57p	4.15p
10.37a	9.21a	109.7	*Hilton		6.17p	4.53p
10.13a	9.05a	117.3	*Ashdown		6.34p	5.23p
9.40a	8.58a	120	Wawanesa		6.42d	5.47a
9.23a	8.49a	123.0	*Elliotte		6.53p	6.04p
9.05a	8.35a	129.5	Rounthwaite		7.05p	6.87a
8.23a	8.18a	137.2	*Martinsville		7.25p	7.13p
7.50a	8.00a	146.1	Brandon		7.45p	8.00p

Number 127 stops at Baldur for meals.

Train schedule.

Canadian Northern Railway was providing passenger service through Lowe Farm with two trains daily in each direction. With the incorporation of 1919, Canadian National Railways continued with passenger service, but on a lesser schedule. Passenger service in 1929 consisted of an eastbound service that operated daily, except for Saturday and Sunday. Westbound service operated on a daily basis as well, except Saturday, Sunday and Monday. In addition, one west-bound passenger train operated on a Saturday only schedule. By 1957, only one mixed passenger train remained operating. It was shortly after this time that passenger service was discontinued entirely.

The railway station in Lowe Farm was in operation from 1904 until around 1970. Gustav and Olly Knutt were the last tenants to occupy the building. Gustav at the time was engaged as a sectionman with the railway. The Knutts lived in the station until bought from the railway by John Martens in 1970. In April, 1972, Diedrich Dyck began the task of dismantling the old station.



Dave Penner on a railway car similar to what was used in Lowe Farm

Although the rail line continues to operate through Lowe Farm, its future is very much in doubt. As with many other prairie branch lines it has become scheduled for abandonment by the Canadian National Railway, much to the dismay of the communities the rail line serves. Although its future may appear bleak, there is a glimmer of hope. The Miami Subdivision through Lowe Farm could become a private sector short line railway, thus continuing to provide the valuable rail service so essential to the viability of an agricultural community.

LOWE FARM ELEVATORS

Submitted by Butch and Joyce Harder

In 1898, Lowe Farm had one elevator. In the early years of the twentieth century there were several privately owned elevators along the railroad track, smaller than the modern country elevators. One was run by the Mark Johnson family, another, run by C. E. Anderson, burnt in 1914.

In 1905, the Farmer's Elevator Company built an elevator in Lowe Farm and sold it around 1911 to Western Canada Flour Mills, who completely rebuilt it. In 1940, this elevator was purchased by Manitoba Pool Elevators and called MPE- No.2.

The Consolidated Grain Company built its first elevator in 1904. In 1959, they sold the elevator to United Grain Growers. In 1976, MPE and UGG did some trading and the Lowe Farm United Grain Growers Elevator came under the ownership of Manitoba Pool Elevators, and was demolished on May 7, 1984.

There were numerous elevator fires over the years in Lowe Farm. A. A. Giesbrecht, who celebrated his 90th birthday in 1979, recalled that an elevator burned to the ground in 1904. Mr. Giesbrecht, 15, and a friend were hired to watch the site and see that no sparks ignited a nearby elevator.

A Manitoba Pool Elevator office burnt on February 28, 1941, and Manitoba Pool Elevator No. 2 in August 1953.

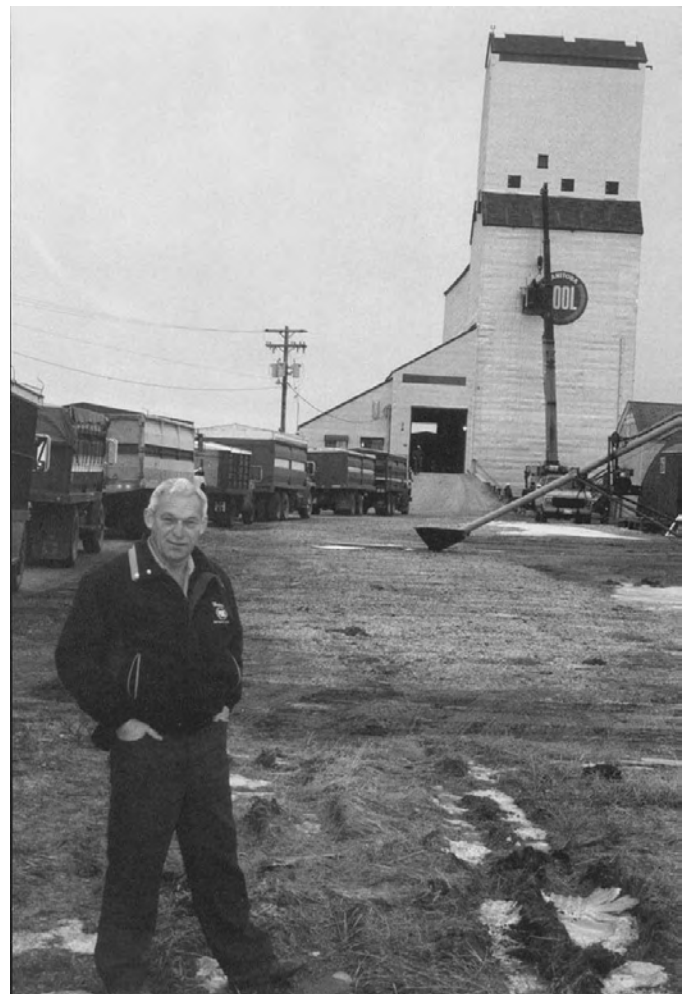
In 1924, Manitoba Pool Elevators formed their company in Manitoba. In 1936, some farmers in the Lowe Farm area had many meetings and discussions in forming a Co-operative Elevator Association in Lowe Farm. Ed Groening has letters, which were written from Manitoba Pool Elevators, and he was asked to attend the Annual Meeting of MPE in October of 1936, so he could learn more about the structure of the company.

In 1936, there were two elevators, Canadian Consolidated Grain Company and Western Canada Flour Mills in Lowe Farm and MPE was going to purchase one of the elevators, but both companies declined to sell.

In 1937, after a year and a half of strenuous ground-work, Lowe Farm Co-op Elevator Association was formed. The fact that a lot of old-time farmers took a pessimistic view of the proposed venture made the organization difficult. It also seemed the local set-up and



Three Lowe Farm elevators.



Butch Harder, Director for Manitoba Pool Elevators in foreground while crew removes the MPE sign. The name changed to Agricare in 1998.

conditions did not make the prospect for the success of a venture of this nature too bright. Also, with two elevators in Lowe Farm already, with an average handle of 210,000 bushels per year, it seemed that another elevator would hardly be warranted since advice had been received from MPE that it required approximately 100,000 bushels per year to operate an elevator satisfactorily. The provisional board then made another thorough canvass for members and was able to persuade 73 farmers to become members. A number of meetings were held with Don Richmond, field man for Manitoba Pool Elevators and a delegation of farmers went to head office. The officials at head office were very doubtful the organization would be a success with such a small membership. However, the delegation was not easily discouraged and



Lowe Farm Manitoba Pool Elevator damaged by wind on July 20, 1998.



Unidentified men in front of an early elevator.

insisted that they receive good consideration. They told them they would visit the head office daily until they would consent to build an elevator in Lowe Farm.

In spite of all obstacles, a new elevator was built in 1937, at a cost of \$21,250. In 1937 - 1938, board and management consisted of the following: agent J. Morrison, secretary J. E. Brown, president Ed Groening, and vice president, Harry Anderson. The directors were: J. B. Harder, J. F. Braun, P. G. Funk, J. W. Wiens and A. A. Groening. When looking into the records it was noted that Ed Groening was president for two years, vice president for three years and secretary for 15 years.

The following is a quotation taken from a letter written in 1979 to Butch Harder from Arthur Enns, formerly of the Pleasant Valley district - northeast of Lowe Farm. The letter offers one person's opinion of events, which led to the formation of the farmer owned "Pools."

"The young farmers do not remember how the elevator agents treated their fathers before the days of the Pool. If the farmer did not like the grade or dockage determined by the buyer he might be told to drive to another elevator. If he did, the chances were that the original buyer had phoned his competitor! The farmer had to settle for a lower grade. It was rumored that if the elevator agent did not make up his salary by cheating the farmer he would be out of a job. The buyers also worked hand in glove with some of the station agents who doled out the empty grain cars. The farmers who wanted to load their grain into cars often had to wait and wait to see cars at the loading platform. One time my father had to supply his own lumber to make doors and attached a bill for that lumber to the bill of lading. The result? His car of wheat was moved from the platform and remained on the siding until he made out a new bill

of lading without the lumber invoice.”

The Lowe Farm producers, as well as many other producers across Western Canada thought the only way they could have some control over their destiny and maximize their profits out of a bushel of grain was by working together to form a co-operative elevator system.

The history of the Pools in Manitoba was somewhat different than in Saskatchewan and Alberta because Manitoba elevators were called a local association that gave each community a lot of control of their local elevator in terms of management and finances.

Seeing that the elevator was its own profit center, it could create a very good earning in a good year, but the reverse is true in a lean, or bad year. Therefore, if the associations joined into one company it would, in the long term, enhance their ability to survive. It also gave them better access to capital. While this system would strengthen MPE as a company, it would reduce local member control. By 1968, it was thought the Alberta and Saskatchewan model would strengthen MPE as a company, although it would reduce, to some extent, local member involvement.

The Lowe Farm Co-operative Association, as did most co-op elevators across Manitoba, formed together in 1968 to form a line company with MPE. In July of 1998, another dramatic change took place in the history of the Pools. Manitoba Pool and Alberta Pool joined to become one co-operative grain company known as Agricore.

As this is being written, the prairie landscape is undergoing a tremendous change. The wooden elevators that once dotted the landscape every six to 10 miles are gradually being replaced by huge concrete and steel structures with many times the capacity of their wooden cousins. The reasons for this are many. One of these reasons is that farmers with larger trucks and better roads are able to travel much farther in the same time that they would have 60 years ago.

The only similarity these elevators have to their older cousins is that the farmers still drive onto a scale and the grain is weighed and dumped into a pit or loaded directly onto a rail car. Everything else however, has changed or is being changed dramatically. The scales that were once 26 feet long are now up to 100 feet in length. Trucks which once unloaded 60 to 300 bushels at a time are now being replaced by trucks that unload 600 to 2,000 bushels at a time. Scales that once had had a sliding weight on a beam are now replaced with digital computers and automatic print outs. The grain which was once directed into various bins by turning a wheel is now channeled by looking at a computer generated screen and simply pushing a button.

The cash tickets that were once hand written by the elevator managers are now spit out by a computer printer. Protein and moisture testing have also advanced to being done electronically.

Grain cars which once took an hour to load can now be loaded in eight minutes in these modern elevators.

While many welcome this new technology, this will, in the end, have a devastating effect on small communities such as Lowe Farm. A lot of small prairie towns owe their existence to the elevators whose presence was the focal point for the growth of the community. As the smaller elevators gradually disappear from the smaller prairie towns, so will the commerce that surrounds them.

While farmers and grain companies drive some of these changes, many are driven by the railways and the federal government who are presently engaged in a binge of deregulation. The railways, which were once used as a vehicle for development and indirectly as an instrument to unite the country from sea to sea, are now viewed as just another profit center and have absolved all of their responsibility to the government and the small prairie towns who created them.

The Morris/Hartney rail line that runs through Lowe Farm was upgraded with government money some 18 years ago to make it a viable line well into the 21st Century.

The federal, provincial and municipal governments have yet to come to grips with the increased road costs that will result from this wholesale abandonment of rail lines across western Canada, as well as the economic costs to communities such as Lowe Farm.

In this environment, the cooperative Prairie Pools are faced with tremendous challenges. Generally, they have been the last to abandon the rural communities. This is mainly due to the fact that they are owned by the farmers and “head office” faces a lot of criticism from its farmer members when elevators are closed.

The Pools are now faced with a challenge of large U.S. based (well financed) grain companies coming into Canada. These companies are locating only on main lines and care little about the future of the community that they serve. Their main preoccupation is their net profit at the end of the year. In many cases, with the more advantageous freight rates on main lines, they are able to lure farmers away from their local elevator by offering small premiums for top quality grain and leaving the rest for the local elevator. This, for the farmer, means short term gain with long term pain. It is almost certain that once the local elevators disappear the attractive freight rates and incentives offered by larger stations will gradually disappear as well. (We see this happening in the U.S.).



Early elevator in Lowe Farm.



A UGG elevator is demolished in Lowe Farm, 1984.

Manitoba Pool (now Agricore) is meeting this new environment by building modern elevators on main lines but also striving to keep stations such as Lowe Farm open as long as possible by using them as feeders (or satellites) for the larger stations. This situation will ensure the presence of a local elevator as long as local farmers continue to support it. This support surfaced dramatically in Lowe Farm when a huge wind (some say a mini tornado) seriously damaged the top of the elevator on July 20, 1998. The local Pool members immediately moved into action, by writing letters and making phone calls to the MPE head office in order to encourage them to repair their station. The MPE director for the district, Butch Harder, also put strong pressure on the company to do the repairs. In the end the repairs were done in record time. There were two main reasons which resulted in this decision; it was good business to do this, and, it

had not gone unnoticed that Lowe Farm producers had always shown a strong co-op spirit and support for their elevator.

Some would argue that not much has changed in 30 years. The station is still struggling to maintain a viable handle. Unfortunately, in recent years the station has not reached full potential due to poor rail service and low car allocation.

Lowe Farm farmers (mostly second and third generation) should be very proud of the elevator their forefathers created. They should not allow themselves to be lured away by a few shekels of silver. Lowe Farm Manitoba Pool Elevator, since its inception, has handled over 569,000 tonnes (22 million bushels) and allocated back to the community over \$1.4 million. While this is an impressive record by itself, it does not take into account the additional savings to the local farmers for not having to travel 10 to 20 miles extra to deliver their grain.

Butch Harder, who served as a director for Manitoba Pool Elevators from 1986 to 1998, says, "There is another benefit the pool and other local co-ops have had in our community which local residents probably don't appreciate enough. This is the opportunity to serve on local committees and boards. These are an excellent training ground for freedom of democratic expression which are useful not just for those who stayed in the community but for those who have moved elsewhere. One only has to visit the local coffee shop or attend a local meeting at Lowe Farm to realize that freedom of expression, open debates, straight-forwardness and good humor are still very much a trademark of our community."

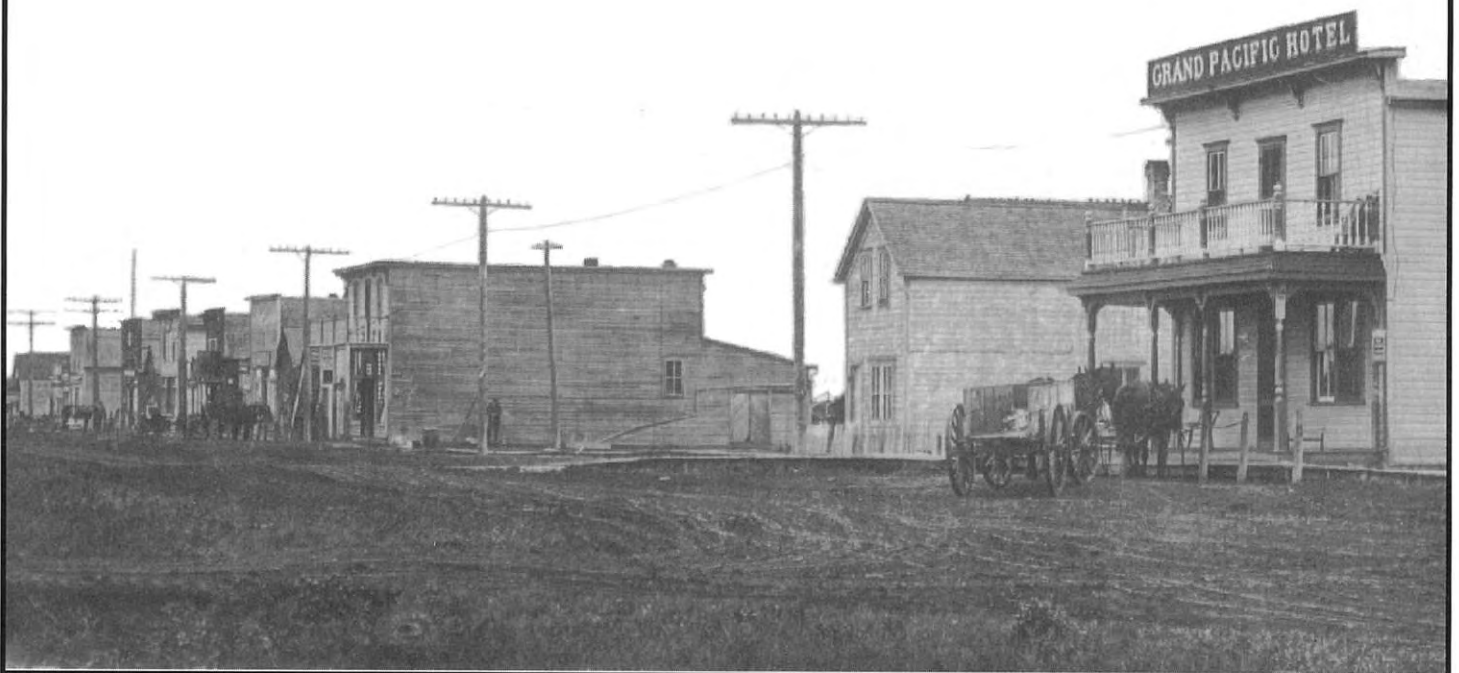


Ed Groening house, Co-op, Klassen's Machine Shop.



Three grain elevators.

BUSINESS and COMMUNITY LIFE



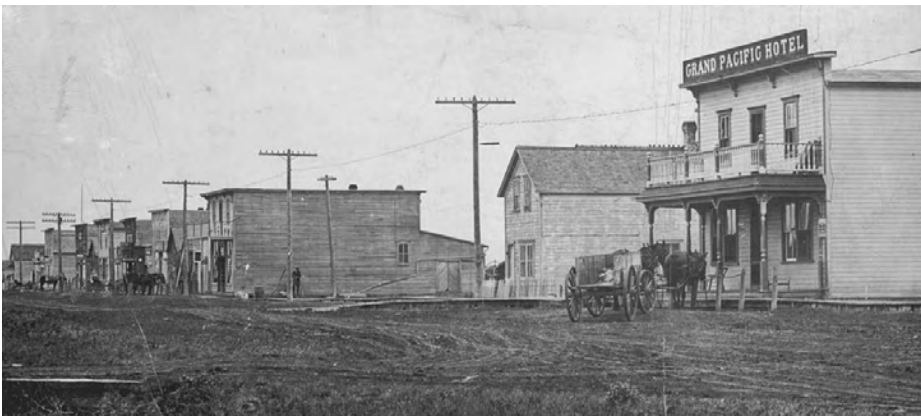
BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LIFE

THE GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL

Submitted by Paul Joyal



The Lowe Farm Hotel. (l - r) C. A. Spalding, (hotel owner), Corn Kroeker, (farmer) John Funk (later the grain buyer), Bert Obtman, (farmer) and Jim Beggs (CN station agent).



The Grand Pacific Hotel on Lowe Farm's Main Street.

In 1898, Henry E. Peters built the one and only hotel in Lowe Farm. This establishment prospered under the ownership or management of Mr. Peters, Warken, Couttes and McKormick in turn, up until the Temperance Act of 1916 forced it to go out of business. The hotel, at the time of construction, had the distinction of being the only place of business north of the rail line in Lowe Farm.

After its closing, the hotel came into the possession of Charles A. Spalding in 1918. He set up a hardware and tinsmithing business on the main floor, with rooms for rent on the upper level. In 1921, Mr. Spalding sold the building to Moses Rosner who used it as a store until 1954.

Besides having served as a hotel and a store; the building also served as the post office, telephone office, bank and a residence. In 1963, Ike Klassen purchased the landmark Grand Pacific Hotel, dismantling it shortly thereafter.

THE STEPHENSON HOUSE

Submitted by Paul Joyal

The oldest buildings north of the rail line were built before the village of Lowe Farm came into existence. William Stephenson, farm manager for John Lowe at the time, had purchased the half section of land that would eventually become the village. Sometime prior to 1895, Stephenson built his house and barn east of the yet to be surveyed town site.

In 1898, Charles Clifton Chataway, Provincial Land Surveyor, was engaged by Stephenson to draw up plans and survey the town site. On January 20, 1900, a business transaction carried out in Minneapolis, Minnesota, saw Stephenson sell off part of his land holdings to Jacob Wiens of Lowe Farm. This transaction included the SE 1/4 of Section 6. Also included was the east half of Block One in the SW 1/4 of Section 5. The purchase price was \$6500.

Over time, failing health made it impossible for Jacob Wiens to look after the farm himself. His daughter Kathrina and son-in-law Jacob Reimer moved to Lowe Farm and lived with her parents. After the death of Jacob Wiens in 1949, the Reimers bought the house and land and continued to farm it.

Around 1950, the house was sold to George G. Wiebe, in whose possession it remained until it was once again sold, this time to Peter K. Doerksen. The land on which the Stephenson house was located was divided into two lots. One lot was purchased by J. S. Hiebert, the other by Cornelius Friesen. Sadly, in July of 1987, this historic Lowe Farm house, built almost a century earlier, was demolished.



The Stephenson house.

THE GRAND OLD LADY OF LOWE FARM

Submitted by Paul Joyal



The oldest standing house in Lowe Farm, owned and renovated by Paul and Doreen Joyal.

Throughout its history the community of Lowe Farm has seen many changes. From its earliest beginnings a century ago people have been born and raised in the community. While some have moved away, others have stayed to raise families of their own. Buildings too, have come and gone. While some have succumbed to the ravages of fire, others have simply outgrown their usefulness and were torn down or moved away.

One building has withstood the test of time. Originally built as a school, the building located on First Avenue served in this capacity from the fall of 1899 until July of 1913. On July 9, 1913 the school building and approximately one acre of land were sold to Charles E. Anderson for the sum of \$450 by the School District of Lowe Farm. In the summer of 1914, a basement was dug and poured and the building was placed onto its new foundation. Next, the roof was removed and the second story, complete with dormers, was added. A porch on the west side, and a unique two tiered veranda on the east complete with a tin floor on the upper tier were then built, giving the house an appearance of grandeur.

Other interesting features of the house include



"The Grand Old Lady" in the 1930's.

stained glass windows incorporated in the upper portions of the dining room and living room windows. A fireplace built diagonally along one wall in the living room adds a touch of warmth, while pocket doors that separate the living room and dining room, and the living room and hallway, along with 10 foot ceilings give the entire main floor an open spaciousness. Another stained glass window at the bottom of the staircase highlights the hallway. The second floor consists mainly of three bedrooms and the bathroom.

After the departure of the Andersons to Sperling around 1919, the house has been residence to several other families. The George Schroeders were the first to occupy the house after the Andersons. In succession the other families have been: the John B. Wiens', the Henry Voths, the Bernard Funks, the Jake Wiebes and the Jake Bergens.

On March 26, 1986, my wife Doreen and I took possession of the house. From day one the house has become a labor of love. Wanting to renovate the house while at the same time maintaining its integrity has been both challenging and rewarding. The use of energy efficient doors and windows was essential, as was the use of maintenance free materials such as vinyl siding and a new metal roof. The windows chosen had to, as closely as possible, reflect those of the original. The artistry of Les Dyck helped us maintain the original stained glass windows while at the same time incorporating them into our new windows. Window casings and sills had to be re-incorporated as well. We were very pleased with the end result. From plumbing to lighting fixtures, flooring to wall coverings, my wife Doreen has used her talents and expertise throughout. The house is slowly recapturing its turn of the century charm.

Although the renovation is not complete we are pleased with the results so far, and are looking forward to bringing them to a successful conclusion.

This article has been written not so much for the building itself, or the renovations that have taken place, but more for the role she has played in our community. For ten decades the Grand Old Lady of Lowe Farm has embraced the students that were taught their education, and the families that have had the privilege of calling her home. She has certainly earned her place in history.

LOWE FARM CO-OP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Submitted by Margaret Gluck

Welcome to the 67th annual meeting of the Lowe Farm Co-op Services (1959) Ltd.!

Your board has met 18 times during the past year with 15 regular meetings and 3 special meetings. We meet usually on the third Wednesday of each month. We have accepted 27 new memberships during the past year.

Some improvements have been made in the Farm Supply and the Food Store. A new furnace has been installed in the Garage; the meat department at the store has been slightly remodeled to include a new meat display case. New cash registers were purchased for the Food Store and the Farm Supply.

1999 brings the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Lowe Farm and the publishing of a Centennial History Book. The Board of Directors is pleased to have assisted in the financial groundwork of these projects and is looking forward to the Celebrations and to the published book! We appreciate the efforts of the community-minded folks who are actively involved in these worthwhile projects!

We have seen some staff changes this year; we said farewell to Betty Switzer in June 1998 and Eugene Peters in January 1999 and are now in the process of hiring a General Manager.

At this time, we express our appreciation for the hard work and efficiency of all the Staff. It has been a pleasure to work with you. We also thank you, the membership, for the support you have given. We hope you have found the service satisfactory, and we hope to count on your continued support. Thank you.

Board of Directors

Ralph Groening, Chairman
Howard Brown, Vice-Chairman
Peter Falk, Secretary
Dennis Friesen
Margaret Gluck
Dennis Rempel
Alvin Wiebe



Early Lowe Farm Co-op. Inset, Manager J. B. Wiens.



Lowe Farm Co-op Farm Supply, 1937. (l - r) John F. Groening, Ed Groening, Walter Groening, P.B. Klassen, Cornie Gerbrandt (on tractor).



Co-op gas storage.

YEAR	CONSUMERS	FOOD STORE
1931	\$4,850.00	
1936	\$47,443.00	
1941	\$29,774.00	\$19,892.00
1946	\$65,738.00	\$51,025.00
1951	\$95,191.00	\$81,596.00
1956	\$121,435.00	\$84,895.00
1961	N/A	\$125,964.00
1966	\$194,603.00	\$166,426.00
1971	\$214,319.00	\$164,008.00
1976	\$727,798.00	\$270,625.00
1981	\$1,132,211.00	\$416,193.00
1986	\$1,906,661.00	\$592,645.00
1991	\$1,550,703.00	\$666,753.00
1996	\$1,731,126.00	\$600,910.00
1998	\$2,839,913.00	\$609,038.00

Lowe Farm Consumers Co-operative

Co-operative history began in 1884 when 28 weavers of Rochdale, England founded the co-operative system that is now known around the world. These weavers agreed on a plan to establish a retail store to be owned and operated by the members and to be run without profit. This plan for co-operation for mutual benefit has become the basis of the co-operative movement as we know it today.

In accordance with Rochdale Principles, the co-operative movement has placed its emphasis on people rather than on institutions of property, money or government. Well-organized co-operatives make it possible to raise the standard of living through increased purchasing power and to enable all members to meet freely and have equal voting rights.

In thousands of communities around the world people have adopted the cooperative way of democratic control of the means of distribution. The first attempt to do this in Manitoba was in 1930 in Lowe Farm, a small town with a population of 350 people. In that year, when a co-operative oil station was first proposed, the notion was ridiculed and the organizers were branded as a "follower of Moscow" and not

considered a wise venture at all.

A number of meetings were held in Lowe Farm in 1930 to plan ways in which farmers in the area could minimize the impact of the depression conditions. One of the topics of discussion was reviving the "group buying" methods that had been organized about 30 years before by the Farmers' Buying Club. This club, an outgrowth of the United Grain Growers, had purchased carload lots of fuel, twine and other bulk supplies needed by their members.



Expanded Lowe Farm Co-op store.



Lowe Farm Co-op, 1943.



Lowe Farm Co-op Services Ltd. , 1980.



Lowe Farm Co-op store today.



Lowe Farm Co-op chemical distribution center.



Co-op staff, 1999. (l - r) Gloria Matlbies, Jackie Friesen, Jesse Siemens, Ruth Febr, Lorraine Wiens.



Lowe Farm Consumer Co-op staff, 1999. (l - r) Ray Champagne, Ron Hildebrand, Marie Klassen, Ron Ginter, Dan Dyck.

The study group reviewed the former buying club and what lessons could be drawn from the experience. What was needed was a soundly based organization with very definite rules and regulations, and an association with members who had democratic control and efficient management. Thus came the idea of establishing a co-operative bulk oil station based on the Rochdale principles.

Upon inception of the Lowe Farm Consumer's Co-operative it was expected that all members would be sufficiently interested to "preach the co-operative way" to others in the community.

This organizing group selected a group of directors and elected their first president, Mr. B.W. Thiessen who served as president for many years. The Lowe Farm Co-op received much valuable advice and encouragement from a Mr. Hindson, who was a fieldman for the Manitoba Co-op Wholesale formed in 1927.

The existence of a well-recognized need is a basic condition for any social or economic change, and there should be individuals capable of capitalizing on the need and promoting a solution. It is known that their job of co-operative education has been the key to the successful formation of the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op.

The first roster of members showed a total of eleven! Sales of shares totaled \$120. Of that amount, \$28 was used for obtaining a chapter, leaving them with \$92. With this very small amount of money the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op acquired a small office and was in business!

1931 was the first year of operation and sales for that year totaled \$4,850 and the membership had increased to 60. By 1952 the membership had risen to 345, or almost 100 per cent of potential members in the district. Sales for 1952 totaled \$93,000. During the period from 1931 - 1952, the Co-op had paid out savings to its members totaling \$19,767.

A fire in 1963 damaged the building and the general sales office was relocated in the garage building which had been purchased from the Martens brothers in May of 1960. After a second fire in June 1971 a new modern

steel building was constructed.

In 1978 the Consumers Co-op was on the verge of bankruptcy for reasons of rapid growth and inadequate management. The membership voted 109 to 41 to accept the board proposal to dissolve the Co-operative and sell the assets to the Lowe Farm Co-op Services at book value figures minus inventory proceeds paid to creditors. Lowe Farm Co-op Services bought the fixed assets of \$75,000 and remaining inventory and paid the members in the Lowe Farm Co-op Services (1959) Ltd. equity.

By the end of 1979 the newly organized Co-op reported operations grossed over \$1 million. Fiscal year end of 1998 the gross sales were \$2, 839,913.



Top: Pete Peters, Ann Klassen, Mary Friesen, Marie Klassen Bottom: Ed Froese, Henry Janz, George Klassen Co-op Staff Late 1970's

LOWE FARM CO-OP FOOD STORE

One of the most important services in a small community is the General Store. It was not until the late thirties that a meeting was held to consider starting a general co-operative store. Phil Isaacs, manager of the Rosenort Coop, store explained to members attending the meeting how the Rosenort Co-op got organized in that community. The decision was made at that meeting to organize a co-op store in Lowe Farm. A meeting was called to elect a permanent board

of directors and 72 people chose to take shares. By this time \$200.50 had been collected as share capital, and the board of directors, with J.B. Harder as president, made the final arrangements. On March 19, 1940, the Lowe Farm Cooperative Store opened for business with John B. Wiens as manager, in a building purchased from H.W. Reimer. In May of 1940, a fire broke out, destroying the store and its contents. A statement after this fire showed the remaining assets were now a bank balance of \$62.00. In August of that year arrangements were made with B.W. Dyck to rent his building. Upon retaining credit from the Geo MacLean Company for credit to obtain stock to start again, the store opened for business again on August 19, 1940.

After less than a year and a half of operation, an operating surplus of \$800.00 had been realized. In 1942 the Board of Directors purchased a building in owned by Pete Martens. In 1960 a new building was constructed and in 1963 the locker plant operations were discontinued and facilities remodeled to provide more service in the meat department. By the fiscal year end of 1973, the sales of the Cooperative amounted to \$2,396,356.00 with total assets of \$97,174.00. In 1978, the Coop store voted to purchase the assets of the bankrupt Lowe Farm Consumer's Co-op for equity. Through this difficult time, the co-operative spirit remained with the members. When the Co-ops united, all members were reminded of the need for education, interest and active participation in the operations of the Co-op.

As of this writing, the Coop Food store still remains an active and vital part of the community of Lowe Farm. The community of Lowe Farm is proud to boast one of the area's best food stores, with competitive prices, good selection and variety of groceries, and great service to customers. At fiscal year end for 1998, the net sales were \$609,000.00.

Presidents of the Lowe Farm Coop Store from inception in 1938 until amalgamation in 1978:

J.B. Harder
B.W. Thiessen
Ed Groening
P.A. Friesen
C.E. Rempel
Nick Gerbrandt
A.F. Derksen
J.B. Wiens
B.J. Heinrichs

Managers of the Lowe Farm Coop Store from 1938 until amalgamation in 1978:

J.B. Wiens
Ed Braun
John Rempel
J.C. Green
Al Owen
Jake Friesen
John Reimer
George Sawatzky
Bill Unrau

Presidents of the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op until amalgamation in 1978:

Ben W. Thiessen
J.B. Harder
Ed Groening
P.A. Friesen
Nick Gerbrandt
A.F. Derksen
J.B. Wiens
W.H. Funk
A.D. Sawatzky
P.G. Unrau

General Managers of the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op until amalgamation in 1978:

Abe Heppner
Ed Groening
Jacob E. Braun
Benjamin Giesbrecht
Ed Braun
Bill Braun
Dick Froese
Dennis Epler
Bob Hiebert

Presidents of the Amalgamated Coops from 1978 until the present:

Abe Sawatzky*
P.G. Unrau*
Rick Giesbrecht*
Lionel Wiens*
Ken Reimer*
Ralph Groening*
Howard Brown

Managers of the Amalgamated Coops from 1978 until the present:

George Klassen
Lorne Zacharias
Eugene Peters
Brian Penner

Some excerpts from the minutes

of the Lowe Farm Coop Board of Directors Meetings:

From January 1953 minutes: "A discussion was held: One of the directors claimed that he had Co-op flashlight batteries in his flashlight and they leaked, and before he knew it, his flashlight was ruined; he said that he knew of other people having the same trouble".

And from the same meeting...

"The directors had an argument regarding the coffee that is being served at the lunch counter. One director had the nerve to state that the coffee of our opposition tasted better, and the president claims that the coffee his wife makes tastes better. The assistant manager hinted to the manager that he should bring his wife along, and let her try her skill and knowledge with the equipment we have in the store!"

March 1956 Board of Directors meeting:

"A lengthy discussion was held on sports and recreation activities by employees of the Co-op Store"..... "It was generally felt by the Board that our employees should and could, when desired, take part in local activities, but it was suggested to limit these activities in out of town places, and especially in business hours or on Co-op time".

From the 1956 annual meeting:

"On the question of handling Simplicity or Butterick patterns, a vote was called The Ladies were in favor of the Simplicity, but the men seemed to outvote them in the Butterick patterns; however, the chairman ruled the men out of order, and the Simplicity patterns will be stocked in the store in the near future."

LOWE FARM LOCKER PLANT

In 1953, the Lowe Farm Locker Plant was organized, and the north end of the Co-op Store was enlarged to accommodate it. In 1958 the Locker Plant amalgamated with the Lowe Farm Co-op Store under the new name of the Lowe Farm Co-operative Services Ltd. In 1963 the Locker Plant services were discontinued, and the facilities were utilized to provide expanded service in the meat department and the Food Store. Managers for the Locker plant were Ed Braun, A.H. Kehler and John Rempel. Presidents of the Locker Plant board were J.D. Derksen and C.E. Rempel.

TOTAL SALES STATISTICS FROM 1931 - 1957**LOWE FARM COOP, LOWE FARM CONSUMERS, AND LOWE FARM LOCKER PLANT**

YEAR	COOP OIL STATION	COOP STORE LOCKER PLANT
1931	4,850	
1932	5140	
1933	7828	
1934	14,811	
1935	31,515	
1936	47,443	
1937	98,272	
1938	72,985	
1939	29,840	
1940	28,594	9,889
1941	29,774	19,892
1942	44,809	33,350

1943	45,146	37,107	
1944	44,225	41,602	
1945	46,141	44,858	
1946	65,738	51,025	
1947	74,887	65,967	
1948	77,141	62,772	
1949	86,469	61,763	
1950	84,650	75,596	
1951	95,191	81,596	
1952	93,036	80,593	
1953	97,774	80,994	
1954	90,242	73,751	10,060
1955	102,820	77,125	9,226
1956	121,435	84,895	10,435
1957	124,333	95,291	11,870
1958			

TOTAL SALES STATISTICS FROM 1959 - 1998
LOWE FARM COOP, LOWE FARM CONSUMERS,
AND LOWE FARM LOCKER PLANT

YEAR	CONSUMERS COOP	COOP STORE
1959	53,918	
1960	125,986	
1961	125,964	
1962	125,056	
1963	125,801	
1964	193,468	140,784
1965	187,029	147,981
1966	194,603	166,426
1967	230,621	163,096
1968	219,029	172,842
1969	235,658	187,928
1970	218,732	170,387
1971	214,319	164,008
1972	255,429	191,187
1973	471,320	231,271
1974	688,219	264,458
1975	662,489	271,368
1976	727,798	270,625
1977	703,853	293,073
1978	697,445	336,338
1979	685,042	338,328
1980	864,479	395,962
1981	1,142,211	416,193
1982	1,325,664	504,798
1983	1,425,008	572,100
1984	1,633,608	591,875
1985	1,911,009	583,721
1986	1,906,661	592,645
1987	1,975,284	623,437
1988	1,993,246	651,767
1989	2,159,876	639,592
1990	1,956,513	672,921
1991	1,550,703	666,753
1992	1,550,703	666,921
1993	1,718,186	577,040
1994	1,848,652	593,862
1995	2,433,176	586,397
1996	2,731,126	600,910
1997	3,011,256	641,866
1998	2,839,913	609,038

HISTORY OF LOWE FARM CONSUMERS COOP REMINISCING BY ED GROENING FEBRUARY 12, 1971

Submitted with permission by Ed Groening

Prior to 1930, perhaps around 1919, a distribution local was organized in our area. Carload lots of coal, lumber, kerosene, gasoline, and binder twine were purchased. P.A. Giesbrecht acted as Secretary for many years, but with many frustrations, he quit. Sponsors were under the auspices of U.G.G. and U.F.M.

Then in 1930, a younger group of farmers were encouraged by a farmer from Western Manitoba, possibly Boissevain, Mr. Hindson, who was also encouraging locals to form a Co-op whole to do the purchasing for the various locals. The Chairman was B.W. Thiessen and Bill Friesen, teacher at Steinfeld School District. acted as Secretary. Meetings were held and 11 members purchased shares to the amount of \$120.00. The first board could have been J.N. Dyck, J.W. Wiens, B.W. Thiessen, P.S. Braun and J.E. Braun and A.E. Heppner was the manager. B.W. Thiessen, elected Chairman, headed the organization for many years. The 1930-31 sales were \$4850.00.

In 1932, at the annual meeting at which I was not present, I was elected to the Board. One more year and I will have served 40 years. The reason they elected me was they were in need of a Secretary who could write English. I was a slow learner and still attended High School at 26 years of age. I remember the meeting the Board had held in the School. No board room was available, and after we were ridiculed (in "western" style) with such questions as "What have the farmers decided today?" Sales in 1932 were \$6,140.

In 1933 our sales were mainly Co-op wood, flour, fence posts, Red Head Oils and a little kerosene gasoline. We had the B.A. sub-agency from Morris. Competition in oils was very keen as Imperial Oil, North Star and Canadian Oils had tanks and warehouses in Lowe Farm. Our fuel was trucked in from Morris in 45 gallon drums. By then we had crude warehouses at the north end of Third Street. The ground floor held about 20 barrels. The padlock became faulty and the manager was threatened (again, in "western" style) if he did not repair it in a given time. The 1933 net sales were \$7,828.

In 1934, the Manager position was in tender and I was encouraged to apply. My application was accepted. I had to supply my own truck. Wages were on commission, but if sales expanded, I had to share commissions. The Winkler Lumber Company had their property for sale, including a lumber and coal shed with scales. We were now in a position to sell coal and binder twine. Trump Oil agency acquired John Deer Machinery. Our sales were up a little to \$14,811. Again, in western style, the President and Vice President came from Morris in a tip-top mood, irked the Manager and Assistant, and had to be discharged from the office, which caused the entrance door to collapse.

In 1935 we were starting with new facilities and more agencies, including Binder Twine Trump and BA Gas and Oils. A few new Directors were elected. Things

looked promising, with a very promising crop. However, a rust plague almost wiped out the wheat which was called Cares wheat. And again, western style, the manager by now was old enough to have a girlfriend. We were asked to an ice-cream party at her cousin's. The pretty lady was Susie Giesbrecht, whom I could flatter enough to become my wife. But at this great occasion, two business colleagues decided to hide my vehicle in the darkness of the night, and I had to humbly walk my date home! This episode caused a serious rift, but was never tried again. Our sales, however, had not suffered and were \$31,515.

In 1936 we started surveys and explored the possibilities of adding a new department store, Co-op Elevator, Credit Union and Burial Aid.

The following was presented at the 1971 Lowe Farm Co-op Annual meeting by Ed Groening:

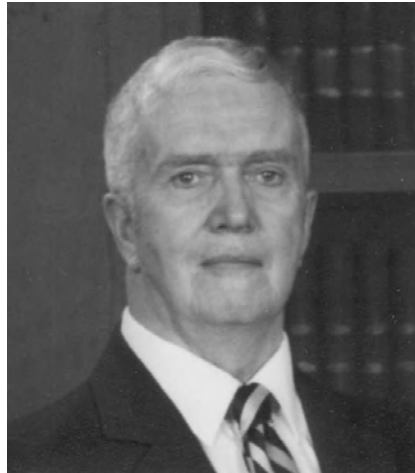
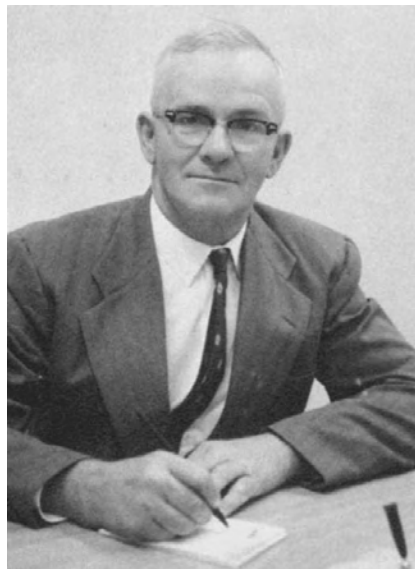
"It is with a certain amount of pride that I have written this "history" of the Lowe Farm Co-ops. Actually I do not want to take responsibility for "writing"; all I have done is some digging, researching and compilation of a colorful and interesting story about some resourceful and hard working pioneers who got a good thing going! It was with perseverance, determination and fortitude shown by these people and the generations to follow that the Co-ops remain an integral part of this community. I am proud to be a member of the Lowe Farm Co-operatives, and proud to belong to a strong organization with such a sense of community.

I have done my best to provide an accurate history; when a person does this kind of research there is an element of risk in having misinformation or missing information. I apologize for any errors or omissions that have occurred. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time spent on this project, and I acknowledge and thank all the sources of information. Special thanks to Ed Groening who has, over the years, carefully kept an album of great Co-op memorabilia that has been a priceless resource."

SALES STATISTICS IN DOLLARS LOWE FARM CO-OPERATIVES

(Increments of five years from inception until present)

YEAR	CONSUMERS	FOOD STORE
1931	4850	
1936	47,443	
1941	29,774	19,892
1946	65,738	51,025
1951	95,191	81,596
1956	121,435	84,895
1961	Not available	125,964
1966	194,603	166,426
1971	214,319	164,008
1976	727,798	270,625
1981	1,142,211	416,193
1986	1,906,661	592,645
1991	1,550,703	666,921
1996	2,731,126	600,910
1998	2,839,913	609,038

LOWE FARM CREDIT UNION*Submitted by Evelyn Rose**Past Presidents**Henry W. Reimer, 1939 - 1945.**William Braun, 1946 - 1947.**Henry W. Thiessen, 1948.**Edward Groening, 1949 - 1951.**Jacob B. Wiens, 1952 - 1962.**Walter Groening, 1963 - 1967.**Bill W. Giesbrecht, 1968 - 1969
and 1974 - 1976.**Anton W. Dyck, 1970 - 1973.**John E. Kebler, 1977 - 1984.*



Cornie Paetkau, 1985 - 1989.



*Walter Sawatsky, 1990 - present.
Credit Union Managers*



Ed Groening



John L. Braun



Annie (Falk) Braun



Dennis Matthies

The credit union movement in Lowe Farm began in 1938 when three men, Edward (Ed) Groening, Henry W. Reimer and John F. Braun, decided to initiate a meeting to determine public interest in the credit union concept.

The failure of financial institutions such as the Mennonite Insurance Company and the Waisenamts (trust fund societies) during the Great Depression of the 1930s left a dire need for some type of financial assistance for the rural area. It was this need the men sought to address.

The men were encouraged to consider the credit union movement by Father Benoit, a parish priest in St. Malo (1936-1941) who organized the first credit union in Manitoba, a *caisse populaire* in St. Malo. J.J. Siemens of Altona, another well known co-operative movement leader, encouraged the men to organize a group to study the feasibility of credit unions.

Two credit union characteristics which appealed to the men immediately were that they had local boards, and membership was open to everyone regardless of nationality or creed.

This was in sharp contrast to many earlier financial institutions which had only regional offices and were deemed to lack a clear understanding of the rural areas and their people. Often these institutions were also closely associated with the church and quite denominational.

After a thorough study and much discussion, a credit union charter was applied for. Eleven men signed the Application for Letters Patent of Incorporation of a Credit Union Society under the Companies' Act. The men signing the application were: Jacob W. Wiens, John N. Dyck, Peter G. Funk, Bernard G. Funk, Jacob S.

Schroeder, Henry B. Giesbrecht, Henry W. Reimer, Julius Wiens, John B. Wiens, Edward (Ed) Groening, and Jacob B. Wiens. Nicholis (Nick) Gerbrandt's signature did not appear on the cover page but he was listed among the applicants as a shareholder. Julius Wiens and Jacob S. Schroeder's names were not listed as Charter members but Nick Gerbrandt's name was included as one of the 10 charter members. Ten was the minimum requirement to issue the Charter.

The charter was granted June 28, 1938 by Provincial Secretary John Bracken. By December of that year the newly formed society boasted 25 members.

The directors opened an account with the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op. Credit Union funds were credited to its Co-op account and in turn deposited into

the Co-op's account at the Bank of Montreal in Morris. Later the Credit Union would have its' own account at the bank.

By the beginning of 1939 the Credit Union had received enough money as share capital to grant small loans to members. A loan was limited to \$10 and had to be repaid in one month. In early 1940 the maximum amount of a loan was increased to \$15. The demand for loans was greater than the supply. Members were repaying their loans and immediately applying for new loans. In an attempt to slow the demand the directors added a stipulation requiring a two week waiting period between the repayment of a loan and the application for a new one.

Ed Groening, who was temporary manager of the



*Anton W. Dyck at the
Grand Opening of the Credit Union Building*



*Six of 12 Charter members of the Lowe Farm Credit Union.
(l - r) Nick Gerbrandt, Jacob B. Wiens, Ed Groening, J. Dyck,
Julius Wiens, and J. S. Schroeder.*



*Sod turning for new Credit Union building. (l - r) Pete Friesen,
Abe Schmidt, Bill Giesbrecht, Anton Dyck, Johnny Kebler and
John Braun, April, 1973.*



*John and Anne Braun with
Linda, Evelyn, Eileen, Marilyn and Ray, 1970.
John was the second Lowe Farm Credit Union Manager.*



Crowd at the 60th anniversary of the Lowe Farm Credit Union, July 24, 1998.



Application for Letters Patent of Incorporation of A Credit Union Society Under "The Companies Act"

To the Honourable the Provincial Secretary
of the Province of Manitoba.

The Application of

*Jacob W. Wiens
John N. Dyck
Peter L. Gunk
Bernhard H. Gunk
Jacob S. Schroeder
Henry B. Giesbrecht
Henry W. Reimer
Julius Wiens
John B. Wiens
Edward Groening
Jacob B. Wiens*

respectfully sheweth as follows:

The undersigned applicants are desirous of obtaining letters patent under the provisions of "The Companies Act" constituting your applicants and such others as may become members in The Society thereby created a body corporate and politic to be operated as a credit union society under the provisions of Part VIA of "The Companies Act" under the name of

Lowe Farm

Credit Union Society Limited, or such other name as appears to you to be proper.

Application for letters patent.

Co-op Oil Station in 1938, agreed to act as secretary-treasurer for the Credit Union until a replacement could be found. In the spring of 1939 Mr. Groening had to return to his farming duties. As no replacement had been found, he carried on as best he could. It became more difficult for people to transact Credit Union business as Mr. Groening was not readily available.

With the increase in Credit Union activity it became apparent an individual had to be found who would be readily available to members. In 1941 the board asked John L. Braun, a Co-op employee, to take over the Credit Union duties in addition to his regular duties. Mr. Braun agreed to do this without remuneration. Members could now carry out transactions at their convenience. About this time the Credit Union also added a chequing service which further encouraged membership activity. John L. Braun became a full time employee of the Credit Union in 1942.

Increasing the share capital was extremely important to insure the stability of the Credit Union. In the early years, members over 16 were required to deposit 25 cents a month into their share capital. The amount was later increased to one dollar. In an annual meeting report it was noted that some did this willingly, others had to be reminded while still others did not do it at all.

In 1947, the Credit Union purchased Life Savings and Loan Protection Insurance from the Credit Union Association. This was done to encourage members to deposit their savings in the local Credit Union where they would now receive life insurance protection to an amount equal to the member's total savings in the

Credit Union.

The Lowe Farm Credit Union began with meager facilities in 1938, using a portion of the Consumers Co-op office to transact their business. In 1942, the Consumers Co-op and the Co-op Store began to alternately provide the Credit Union with its own office, rent-free. This continued until 1960 when Co-op Services built a new store. The new building included office space for the Credit Union on the east side of the building complete with a street entrance and a long-term rental agreement.

Over the years the Credit Union experienced slow but steady growth. Even before 1972, when the lease would expire, it was obvious the rented facilities were no longer adequate. The Board decided it was time the Credit Union had its own building. A new 38 foot by 50 foot facility was constructed just west of the Co-op Store at a cost of \$40,000 excluding furnishings. The new Credit Union Building was officially opened in October of 1973.

Credit Union assets at year-end in 1939 were \$383. By 1998, year-end assets had reached an all time high of \$11,481,095. Membership stood at 1,056. Loans totaled \$9,009,322. The highest interest ever paid on loans occurred in 1981 when borrowers paid a whopping 21 per cent. Interest rate on savings went as high as 18 per cent. Loan rates averaged out over the year were 18.3 per cent and savings were at 12.5 per cent and 14.5 per cent.

Even though Lowe Farm is a small community, the Credit Union continues to grow. Manager Dennis Matthies says member loyalty is a big factor. Members move away but continue to deal with the Lowe Farm Credit Union.



Lowe Farm Credit Union today.



Grand opening of the Credit Union.

Many people feel more comfortable dealing where they are already known. He also points out that changes in technology allow people to conduct business from wherever they live.

The Lowe Farm Credit Union received the T. H. Funk Memorial Trophy for achieving the highest growth in member deposits (38 per cent) in the Southern Manitoba Credit Union Chapter during the year 1996.

The Lowe Farm Credit Union celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 1998. It is the oldest continuously operated open bond (public) credit union in Manitoba.

Although the Credit Union has now been in existence for 61 years, there have only been four managers. Ed Groening (1938-1941), John L. Braun

(1941-1942) and (1945-1984), Annie (Falk) Braun (1943-1944) and Dennis Matthies (1984- present).

In 1943, John Braun entered Alternative Service. The position was then filled by Annie Falk, another Co-op employee, who relinquished the position upon Mr. Braun's return. (Annie Falk was the first female employee at both the Co-op and the Credit Union.) Dennis Matthies was promoted to General Manager upon Mr. Braun's retirement.

Credit Union Employees

People employed by the Credit Union in the last 61 years

Edwin Thiessen	Mary Ann Klassen
Irene Penner	Dennis Matthies
Barb (Klassen) Kehler	*Ray Braun
Elaine (Braun) Janz	Sandra Pokrant
Chris (Martens) Froese	Ed Froese
Hilda Martens	Paula (Friesen) Melanson
Bev Brown	Janice (Kehler) Doerksen
Irma Friesen	Chris (Dyck) Janke
*Gary Friesen	Regina Brunet
*Cliff Matthies	Tammy (Harder) Reckseidler
Marcel Hildebrand	Jodi Griffith

*Several of these employees went on to obtain higher positions at other Credit Unions. Gary Friesen is the General Manager of the Rosenort Credit Union. Cliff Matthies was a Lethbridge Credit Union Branch Manager and Ray Braun is the Commercial Loans Manager at the Winkler Credit Union.

John L. Braun

Submitted by Evelyn Rose

John L. Braun was the first official manager of the Lowe Farm Credit Union. He was born in 1917 at Chaplin, Saskatchewan. His parents were originally from southern Manitoba and moved back when he was about three years old, settling in the Lowe Farm area.

John received his elementary education at the Steinfeld School, a one room school house near Lowe Farm. Grades IX - XI were taken at the Lowe Farm High School. Since Grade XII was not taught in Lowe Farm at the time, he acquired his Grade XII through home study.

John was working for the local Consumers Co-op store when he was approached by the president of the credit union board asking him to serve as secretary-treasurer for the credit union in addition to his regular duties at the store. He accepted the responsibility.

In his memoirs, John said the credit union transactions were relatively few in number in the beginning, so he was able to handle the bookkeeping fairly easily in his spare time.

In 1942, the Co-op store provided the credit union with an office rent free. Up to this time, a portion of the Co-op store office was for credit union business.

With the establishment of a separate office, John became a full time credit union manager and was paid a salary.

Then in 1943 - 1944, he went into Alternative Services. During this time Annie Falk, also a Co-op employee, took over his duties.

Prior to leaving for the Service a friendship was developing between John and Annie. This friendship continued to grow and ultimately led to marriage in 1945.

Annie (Falk) Braun said they had to wait to get married until the war was over so John could get regular pay again. Working in Alternative Service paid only \$25 a month. Mrs. Braun chuckled as she said, "I quit my job (at the Credit Union) to let my husband (to be) have it back."

Annie was born in Mexico in 1923 to Peter A. and Helena (Penner) Falk. In 1925 the family returned to Canada and settled in the Morris-Lowe Farm area, moving into Lowe Farm when Annie was about 10 years old.

During his years in Lowe Farm, John was very active in the community. He was one of the founding members of the Lowe Farm Board of Trade, later changed to the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce. He served as secretary-treasurer for seven years. He was also a school trustee for nine years, seven of which he was chairman of the board. John was very involved in the local Berghthaler Church as a Sunday School teacher, member of the choir, treasurer and various other committees.

Annie was also very involved in the church. She sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and was a member of the church's ladies group.

The Brauns raised four daughters and one son. Linda married Larry Reimer and works as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Tabor Senior Citizen's Home in Morden. Evelyn married Robert Weaver. She is a lawyer and works for Great West Life in Winnipeg. Eileen married Dave Pederson and is a social worker in Winnipeg. Marilyn married Albert Bergen. She is a homemaker and lives on a farm at Crystal City where they raise hogs. Raymond married Trudy Friesen. He is the commercial loans manager for the Winkler Credit Union in Winkler.

John retired from the credit union in 1984 after 41 1/2 years of service. The Brauns now reside in the Oakview Terrace in Winkler.

Manager's credit union interest steeped in family's association

*By Evelyn Rose,
courtesy Crow Wing Warrior/
Scratching River Post*

The Lowe Farm Credit Union didn't have to look very far when they were looking for someone to succeed retiring general manager John L. Braun. They chose Dennis Matthies, a local young man already in their employ.

Dennis began working for the credit union when he was 20 years old. Only four years later he became the new credit union general manager.

The youngest of Abe and Marge Matthies' three children, he was raised at Lowe Farm. He received his elementary education in Lowe Farm then attended Morris Collegiate from which he graduated in 1977.

Dennis is the third member of his family to be involved in the Lowe Farm Credit Union. Dennis' father, Abe, was on the Board of Directors for many years. His brother Cliff also worked for the Lowe Farm Credit Union for a time (before Dennis) and later served on the Board of Directors.

Since working for the credit union, Dennis has completed many courses offered by Credit Union Central and attended many conferences. "Training is on-going," he said. In May 1998, he attended the Canadian Conference for Credit Union Executives in Whistler, British Columbia.

The enjoyment of working with people was what attracted him to seek employment at the credit union.

His interest in working with people also extends to younger people. For the last three years Dennis has spent time at the local school talking to students about business, his experiences and the benefits of staying in school and furthering one's education. In the fall of 1997 he was presented with the Rural Consultant of the Year

award by Junior Achievement Canada.

Dennis is also actively involved in community affairs. He serves on various boards and committees. Included are the Ag Expo Committee and the Valley Agriculture Society. He was Finance Chairman for the Red River Valley Health District Foundation and spent five years as Chairman of the Community Consultative Group. He sits on the Southern Manitoba Credit Union Chapter Board and is a delegate representing District II on the Manitoba Credit Union System.

Dennis resides in the community he serves.

BUSINESSES

THE BLACKSMITHS

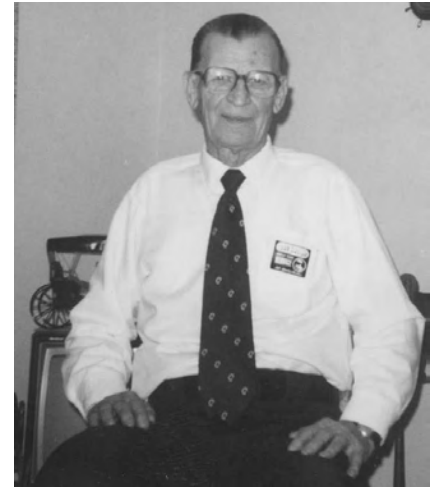
The first blacksmith in Lowe Farm was a Mr. Horne. He was succeeded by A. P. Dyck, who had the shop on the east side of Block Five. Mr. Dyck sold his shop to Mr. J. H. Martens, who shortly after moved into a larger building standing adjacent to his own. Mr. Martens purchased the building from Diedrich Heppner in 1914.

In this shop, Mr. Martens served as blacksmith and machinist, assisted at times by his sons, until 1947 when a new building was erected, utilizing most of the lumber salvaged from the previous building. The new building was located on Lot 10, Block 4, the site of the Martens Garage.

After the senior Martens passed away in 1953, his son Frank carried on as owner and operator of the welding and machine shop until December of 1969. At this time the business was sold to Ben Dueck and Roy Klippenstein.

The business now solely owned by Roy Klippenstein, who operates under the name Lowe Farm Welding and Iron Works, specializes in the manufacture of horse and stock trailers, from two horse tandem to a six horse goose neck trailer.

JACOB J. PETERS - BARBER



The Barber- Jacob J. Peters

Jacob Peters, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Peters, was born November 8, 1899. His parents had moved from Plum Coulee to Lowe Farm earlier that year, having purchased a section of land for \$5,000, some two and a half miles northeast of the town site of Lowe Farm.

Mr. Peters stayed at home on his parents' farm until 1922, when he started farming on his own after his marriage to Elizabeth Klassen on July 27 of that year.

In 1927, Jacob Peters was laid up with a heart ailment, and in 1930, in response to doctor's orders, gave up farming and moved into Lowe Farm. After moving into town, he developed his talents as a barber and in 1938 rented a corner in a local tinsmith shop owned by Peter P. Funk. He served the general public by providing a shave and a haircut for two bits.

In 1943, he built his own barber shop on a lot just east of the Coop Store. Later this shop was moved one block west where it remained until Mr. Peters retired in 1968.

While Mr. Peters was not kept busy all of the time in his barber shop, he managed to keep himself occupied during the slack periods. Being interested in music, he

entertained himself and others by singing while he accompanied himself on the guitar. A checker board on a table in the corner of his shop was always available for the checker enthusiasts, and Mr. Peters was always ready to accept a challenge for a game between haircuts. Numerous checker tournaments were organized by Mr. Peters together with other local checker players and quite frequently Mr. Peters, a better than average checker player achieved top honors in the tournaments. Another recreational facility provided by Mr. Peters was a horse-shoe court situated on the back part of the barber shop lot.

Besides possessing a natural talent for fixing guitars, clocks, sharpening scissors, etc., Mr. Peters also had the initiative and ability to successfully complete several and original projects, one of which was a windmill built in 1967 as a Centennial project.

In 1968, after serving the community for 30 years as a barber, Mr. Peters retired. After his retirement Mr. Peters moved to Morris for a while, however he returned to Lowe Farm in 1982 and moved into the newly constructed Prairie View Apartments. Mr. Peters was honored by cutting the ribbon to officially open the new facility. Jacob J. Peters passed away on September 2, 1989.

LOWE FARM LIVERY BARN



Lowe Farm livery barn.

A livery barn was built by J. Warnken who operated it for a while and then sold it to J. Loewen. This business flourished until the "horseless buggies" became too numerous. The barn held 24 horses, and at its peak as many as three or four buggies were employed in the livery business. The building was purchased by Diedrich Heppner in 1921 and finally dismantled in the early 1930's.



Lowe Farm Livery barns with teams ready to take surveying gangs out to survey the Shannon ditch.

THE COFFEE SHOPS

Submitted by Paul Joyal



Klassens Store and Coffee Bar, now Nettie's Cafe.

To the many small towns and villages scattered across the vast prairies, the local coffee shop has become the meeting place for local residents. Aside from providing employment within the community, they also provide a welcome refuge for the weary traveler looking to relax and enjoy the local hospitality.

The coffee shop provides an outlet for conversation amongst area locals. Grain prices, condition of crops, the weather, harvest forecasts and other agricultural discussions are held at length. Arm chair coaches discuss a variety of sports, while others may discuss events unfold-



Nettie's Café.

ing in the political arena. Whatever the topic, there is never a shortage of people eager to express an opinion. Usually, all of this is taking place sipping a cup of coffee or while enjoying the cuisine.

The first coffee shop in Lowe Farm quite likely would have been located in the Grand Pacific Hotel built in 1898. In 1918, the hotel came under the ownership of Charles A. Spalding who made available meals and lodging for the traveling public. This service was provided by the Spaldings until the 1930's.

From 1939 until 1941, Jacob J. Harder operated a coffee shop, then known as "Harders Cafe." After the Harders moved to Winnipeg, Eric and Mabel Trinder opened a coffee shop on Main Street. Voths Red and White store operated some form of restaurant, also in the 1940's, until at least 1955. Located somewhere along Main Street at the west end of town was another restaurant simply known as Star Lunch. Lowe Farm Co-op Store had established a small coffee bar located within its premises from 1956 until 1963.

In early 1963, Ike and Olga Klassen purchased the former Rosners Store and residence. The old store building was demolished but the residence was completely renovated, and in 1965 an addition was added to the west side. Once the renovations were complete, a small store and coffee shop emerged which would become known as Klassens Coffee Shop and Bar. The Klassens operated this facility for a 10 year period from 1963 until 1973. Abe and Mary Doerksen purchased the store and coffee bar from the Klassens in 1973 and continued to operate it as a restaurant.

In 1983, the now familiar coffee shop would once again change hands, this time into the possession of Jake and Dorothy Klassen, who would provide the restaurant service for the next several years. On December 31, 1988, Jake and Dorothy sold the restaurant to a Henry Abrams who operated it for a very short period of only three months. The present owners, Dave and Netty Wiebe, have maintained the restaurant since they acquired it in 1988.



The Red and White Store.

LOWE FARM EGG GRADING STATION



Egg grading station in Lowe Farm.

In the years prior to the early 1940's few, if any, farmers specialized in large poultry operations. The local egg production did not warrant special egg handling facilities although some of the local general stores accept eggs in trade for groceries and other merchandise.

As local egg production increased, a need arose for special egg handling facilities. In 1942, Ike Klassen ventured into the egg station business. In 1947, D. H. Groening purchased the business and expanded the operations by enlarging the building and installing refrigeration equipment. The volume of business by this time also warranted the purchase of a truck to haul eggs to Winnipeg.

The egg grading station would later be owned and operated by Ed. L. Braun, who acquired the business from D. H. Groening in 1968. They operated it with their family until the near disappearance of small, independent egg producers. Large contract operations brought about the end of nearly all local egg-grading stations. The Brauns closed the business in September of 1977 and sold their equipment and the building.

FABRIC STORES

From time to time, various residents have operated fabric stores in Lowe Farm. Being in the midst of a community full of ladies who sew, this would seem to be a viable operation, but no Lowe Farm fabric store has lasted.

Mr. and Mrs. John Reimer opened a store in their garage at the time when Mr. Reimer was the manager of the Lowe Farm Coop Store. They later moved to Altona and closed the store.

Helen Braun ran a fabric store in the front lobby of her home on Main Street, formerly the Post Office.

Mart-Enns Dress-Up was opened by the Herb Martens and Gary Enns families in the former Lowe Farm Egg Grading Station building. Hilda Martens and Ruth Enns operated the shop from 1977 until 1979, when a move to Morden by the Ennses caused them to close the Lowe Farm store.

GARAGES



P.L. Brauns, owners of a Lowe Farm garage in 1949.

In the early days, J. J. Schroeder had the nearest approach to a service station and repair shop in the corner formerly occupied by Ed McTavish. In 1920 he built a fair sized garage on the southwest corner of Block 3 and maintained it until he sold the building to H.W. Reimer, who used it for a store and IHC shop.



P.L. Braun garage.



Lowe Farm Coop Services, 1999.

Shirley Johnson built a garage just east of Schroeder's former garage and carried on until it burned down in May of 1940.

Pete Martens and Ben Rempel started a garage on the site of the present Co-op Store. Ben Rempel soon left the firm and Pete Martens enlisted.

Diedrich Heppner built a garage on the southwest corner of Block 4. He sold to Paul Braun, who in turn sold to Pete Martens and his brothers when they came back from overseas.

In 1949, Peter L. Braun in partnership with his brother Henry, purchased a building located on the lot just north of what is now Netty's Cafe, (formerly Derksen's Store) from Diedrich Heppner. They moved the building to the extreme southwest corner of the quarter on which the town site is located and started to provide garage services. Being affiliated with the British American Oil Company, Peter Braun was able to erect a modern frame construction service station building in 1955.

Mr. Braun retained the station as it switched from B. A., to Royalties, to Gulf. He operated it, with the help of his wife Justina and various mechanics, for 30 years. In 1979, the Brauns sold the business to John Reimer. At that time, the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce honored Mr. Braun with a plaque in recognition of his business and social contribution to the community.

John Reimer operated the service station from 1979 until August 31, 1997. Since that time Mr. Reimer has semi-retired, working part time at the Lowe Farm nuisance grounds.

Lowe Farm Co-op Services has for several years operated a garage at various times, under several different owners. Since April 1, 1997, Lowe Farm garage has operated under the management of Ben Klassen.

HARDER'S AUCTIONS

Jacob B. Harder started the auctioning business in 1948. His first sale was conducted for his brother-in-law, William Brown, on Section 19-4-1w, presently owned by Ken Reimer.

His son Wilfred (Butch) joined him in the business in 1969 after graduating from the Reisch American School of Auctioneering. As Jacob Harder gradually phased into retirement in the 1970's, Jake's son Russ joined the business after receiving his auction diploma from the Reisch Auction School. The company is now known as Harder Brothers Auction Ltd. The Harder spouses have always been actively involved in the business by doing the clerking, cashier, and other paper work. When Jacob Harder fully retired, Howard Brown joined the business after receiving his auctioneer diploma.

The auction business, as with anything else, has seen many changes over the years. At one time an auction sale was done by taking the list of items for the sale and advertising the list on a simple hand bill. On the day of the sale, Mr. Harder would simply do the auctioning, while the clerking and cashing were supplied by the property owner.

Today many auctions require full colored posters, as well as newspaper and radio advertising. The auction business now also supplies a portable office, wash-rooms, and complete accounting staff. The auctioneer also uses a portable sound system (on the back of pickup truck) as well as ring man to solicit bids from the crowd.

The one thing which has not changed is the fact that it is still somewhat of a community event which people attend not only because they want to buy something, but to meet their friends and neighbors to say a pleasant farewell to the people who are having the sale.

The intensity and rapid exchange of bids still excites the auctioneer and the crowd. The fact that, in a matter of hours, one can dispense the majority of ones assets in a very open and fair manner, to the satisfaction of the buyer and seller, makes this a very satisfactory occupation.

KEHLER'S SHOE REPAIR SHOP

Submitted by Bill Kebler



Kebler's shoe repair shop, second from left, in 1938.

In 1926, when my parents were a young couple with one baby, my dad got word that a Mr. Doerksen was trying to sell his shoe repair business in Lowe Farm. They were living in Horndean at the time and work was scarce, so Dad inquired about the possibility of purchasing the business. After looking it over, he decided it was something he would like to try. He purchased the business, bought a lot, and with the help of Mom's brothers built a house and began his work.

The shop was located on Main Street, situated between two other businesses, one being the local Post Office on the west, and the other Funk's Machine and Hardware on the east. Business was slow and Dad went to work on the railroad and worked nights in the shop. When the job on the railroad ended they decided to rent the house and move back to Horndean to work with the municipality, building and repairing bridges. Then in 1937, once again, the family, now with six children, moved back to Lowe Farm to re-open the shop.

"Kehler's Shoe Repair Shop" did not fully describe this entrepreneurial enterprise. Dad did a lot more than just repair shoes. He sewed a variety of things, such as slippers, mitts, gloves, and harnesses. He sold new shoes and boots as well.

Since Lowe Farm was a rural community, many farmers took advantage of this little shop. In the fall they brought in rolls of swather and combine canvass to be repaired. Usually these were emergencies and that meant the job needed to be done immediately. This was time consuming and kept Dad busy for hours, many times long into the night.

In winter when the town rink was flooded, he kept skaters happy by sharpening their skates. He also cut and sold felt insoles to be used in boots and shoes during the harsh winter months. In the spring the roads and streets were always muddy and messy and few could manage without rubber boots of one kind or another. To some he sold new ones, but for many he spent hours patching boots to get them through another season. Once school activities were in full swing and the weather warmed up, balls became an important

item. Since the school grounds were just about 100 yards from the shop, it was simple to bring in the soccer and soft balls in to be repaired. Many a softball was salvaged for a fee of only 25 cents.

Dad handmade most of the tools and equipment used in repairing anything that was brought to him. In fact, during those early years, most of the sewing was done by hand. In order to keep the cost down for the customer, he braided strong threads then waxed them together to make a heavier strand. This was a time consuming process and required considerable skill to make the thread strong enough to withstand the strain when used in sewing big heavy things. Since these were the "horse and buggy" days, harnesses were made from "scratch" and many were made and mended in our shop using this kind of thread. Before any harness could be sewn, the holes had to be pre-punched with an awl, then using two needles, he finished the job. I am not sure which of the children helped with this project, but I know one spring when I asked for a new pair of red rubber boots (everybody had them), Dad gave me the job of sewing harnesses. After a full day's work and 15 sewn, I had my rubber boots. I was a happy camper indeed! What a day when Dad finally purchased a sewing machine capable of doing these and many other heavy tasks. By the way, the traces made excellent "straps," depending on your vantage point. Fortunately straps were rarely used in the Kehler household. (Whether we needed it was another matter.)

The repair shop turned out to be quite the place for socializing. Dad always made sure to remove any usable leather from the counter, since without thinking, customers would doodle away with their pocket knives unaware that they were cutting up expensive leather in the process. Many a "world" problem was discussed

and solved, or so they thought, without ever stepping outside the door.

When the economy of the country improved, people had more money to spend. Tractors and cars replaced the horse and buggy. There was less need for repair of any kind, and so this coupled with Dad's soft payment policy (pay if you can, when you can), and his offer of a job with the Co-op led to the shop being closed. Thus ended a service to the community that had lasted some 20 years.

LUMBER YARDS

Lowe Farm has not always been well serviced with respect to its lumber needs, but the community has had a number of lumber yards. Jack Stewart's open lumber yard in 1898 was the first one. This was followed by Ed McTavish's, just west of his house at the west end of town. In 1908, the Monarch Lumber Company built a fair sized lumber yard south of the track a short distance west and south railroad station. This was operated until it was taken down in 1924.

The Winkler Lumber Company built its yard on the center lot of the burned-out area of Block 5 in the 1920's. The manager was A. A. Giesbrecht. During the Depression years it went out of business, but started up again during the war years under the ownership of Mr. Kehler, of Rosenfeld, and management of Ike Klassen. Later the building and site were purchased by the Beaver Lumber Company who closed it down permanently a few years later.

For several years during the hungry 1930's, H. W. Reimer operated a small lumber yard in a building located behind his store.

SIEMENS AUDIO AND VIDEO

Submitted by Frank Siemens



Frank Siemens, owner of Siemens Audio and Video, installing a sign on his new business, 1994.



Siemens Audio and Video on Main Street.

The owner, Frank Siemens, started this business in the garage of his home in 1991. When he saw the potential this business carried, he had a shop built at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets. The grand opening of this new business was held in January of 1994.

Siemens Audio and Video is a repairing business. He repairs a wide range of equipment that falls under audio and video, and also a variety of appliances to accommodate the needs of the people in the community.

TRUCKING OPERATIONS

The first Public Service Vehicle (PSV) license in Lowe Farm was taken out by J. J. Schroeder some time before 1920 and the transfer was operated under his ownership for many years. The Lowe Farm Co-op also operated a transfer for a while.

In the 1930's Diedrich Heppner began a transfer service, which was taken over after a number of years by Alfred Hiebert. Since then the transfer business has passed through many hands, several of them not resident to Lowe Farm. For several years the town and community were serviced by Ben's Transfer owned by Ben Reimer of Rosenort. Besides the commercial transfer services provided by Ben's Transfer, Edwin Neufeld operated Ed's Transfer with the purpose of hauling livestock.

Today the community of Lowe Farm is serviced by several different transfer services which include: Rosenort Transfer, Gardewine North, Federated Co-op and Puralator Courier.



209. Lowe Farm transfer with unidentified drivers.

CHURCHES

LOWE FARM BERGTHALER MENNONITE CHURCH



1940 Choir

Back row, Left to Right: George J. Wiebe, Ben Hildebrand, Corny Gerbrandt, Peter Harder, Henry Bergen, Jake Hildebrand, Benno Schroeder, Isaac Harms, Jake Wiebe.

Second Row: Tina Bergen, Margaret Klassen, Margaret Friesen, Esther Wiebe, Jake Giesbrecht, Peter Braun, John Braun.

Third Row: Agnes Wiebe, Susie Heinrichs, Helena Martens, Caroline Reimer, Eva Blatz, Susan Rempel, Annie Banman, Olga Schroeder.

Front Row: Annie Wiens, Marie Reimer, Martha Reimer, Mrs. Corny Gerbrandt, Mary Loewen (choir director), Mary Braun, Lydia Groening, Sadie Hildebrand, Mary Wiebe.

The Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church had its beginnings when members of the Altona and Gretna area moved to Lowe Farm in 1900 and the "Mother" church began to send ministers to nurture its members there. Services were held in the school, led, not only by Mennonite ministers but also by Baptist and Presbyterian ministers as well. Sunday School was taught in English and in German.

In time the Bergthaler Church began to send its ministers to Lowe Farm on a more regular basis. Among them, Rev. H.H. Ewert, teacher of the Mennonite Collegiate in Gretna, seems to have visited Lowe Farm quite often. According to the Bergthaler Church Ministerial minutes, Lowe Farm was considered to be a regular preaching center by 1905. This is the date we have taken as our beginning. Other ministers who served during this early era were Henry Hildebrand, John J. Hooge, and Henry Born.

On Sunday, October 11, 1911, the first recorded Thanksgiving service was held. In 1912 Lowe Farm was included in one of the areas represented at the Conference of Mennonites in Canada. The first baptism service held in Lowe Farm took place in 1923. Until that time baptism candidates had to go to either Winkler or Altona to become baptized.

Worship services during the early years were held in the school. The need for a church building continued to grow and in 1926 this need was presented to the Ministerial and Brotherhood meetings of the Bergthaler Church. Lowe Farm appealed for financial help to enable the local people to embark on a church building project. The response of the Central Brotherhood was favorable. It was agreed that the Lowe Farm people take the initiative to get the project underway by collecting \$1,000 during the 1927 crop year. Unfortu-

nately, however, because of the lack of organized effort at the local level to canvass for funds, no money was collected and the central Brotherhood decided to postpone further consideration of the matter; the Lowe Farm church building plans were postponed indefinitely.

In October of 1928, the Central Brotherhood, in view of the apparent decline in enthusiasm on the part of the Lowe Farm local with respect to church services, (there were neither baptism nor communion services conducted in 1927 or 1928) decided to give further consideration to plans whereby the Lowe Farm people would be able to acquire a church building. The building project took the form of a joint community effort with substantial contributions coming from non-Mennonites, including Jewish merchants.

The construction of the church building began in October of 1928 and the building was dedicated only 10 weeks later on December 22, 1928. Although the church building had been constructed with economy in mind, the total cost of \$4,029.28 was considered to be a substantial amount. Because of the tough economic times of the "Dirty Thirties" the building was only painted in 1936. In October of 1947, after an upturn of the economy, the local Brotherhood decided to build a basement, and in 1949 the church was moved onto the basement. The total cost for basement and renovations was \$7,300.

By the early 1960's the need for expanded church facilities had become apparent and in 1964 a 40 by 60 foot church building with full basement was constructed at a cost of \$48,000. The new building, with its large sanctuary to accommodate larger gatherings, and its provisions for more comfortable Sunday School classrooms, was dedicated in October of 1964. By this time, financial control of the Bergthaler Church had slowly begun to migrate to the local



Ladies Christian Endeavor, 1978

Back Row, Left to Right: Irene Kroeker, Nettie Wiebe, Elsie Setter, Tina Falk.

Second Row: Betty Wiebe, Tina Toews, Susie Reimer, Helena Wiebe, Helen Dueck.

Third Row: Kate Gerbrandt, Tina Peters, Justina Braun, Mary Penner, Margaret Wiebe.

*Fourth Row: Aganetba Paetkau, Anne Hudson, Mary Murner,
Mary Friesen, Erna Sawatzky.*

Front Row: Annie Braun, Margaret Braun, Margaret Groening, Susie Bergen.



Sod turning ceremony for new addition, September, 1994

L-R: Tony Dyck, Art Hiebert (lay minister), Cornie Paetkau, Ron Penner (Parkside Lumber), Ron Schroeder, Jake Penner, Gary Wieler.

leadership. Finally, in 1967, all authority vested in the Central Brotherhood was transferred to the local congregation, including the right to baptize, serve communion, and ordain ministers.

In the late 1980's the local membership again began discussing the need for more space and in March of 1995 the new church addition was dedicated. This 40 foot by 40 foot addition provided a much larger foyer for more comfortable socializing before and after church services, an accessible pastors

study, a washroom, and a quieter nursery on the main floor. The removal of the previous nursery and the addition of a ramp made it more accessible for funerals as well as wheel chairs. On the basement level it provided a larger gathering area, much larger kitchen facilities, and brighter, roomier Sunday School classrooms. The total cost of the addition came in at \$164,000.

In the early 1980's, it was decided by the membership to build a parsonage. By 1984, it was built across the street to the north of the church building. In 1988 the interior of the basement was completed.

The church began with an active Sunday School in its early stages and the Sunday School is still an integral part in its program today, with classes for everyone from pre-school to adult. Personal Bible study is also emphasized with group studies taking place in the church as well as home Bible study groups. The Ladies group has also been active in Bible study as well as outreach programs. There are also regular youth group meetings and socials to involve the young people in the work of the church as well as to teach and guide them in spiritual matters.

The church's mission outreach has included involvement in the building program of the Mennonite Pioneer Mission in Northern Manitoba that now goes under the title of Native Ministries. Programs are also brought to the Union Gospel Mission in Winnipeg and the Red River Valley Lodge personal care home in Morris on a regular basis.

Local mission emphasis has included involvement in a joint clubs program, and in recent years in a joint Daily Vacation Bible School program together with the two other area churches.

People from our church have gone out as missionaries to places such as Mexico, Jordan, Korea, and Venezuela. The church also continues to be active in Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite

Disaster Service, and the Canadian Food Grains Bank. Through its affiliation with three conferences, including the Conference of Mennonites in Manitoba, the Conference of Mennonites in Canada, and the Mennonite/General Conference, the local congregation is providing support to Canadian Mennonite Bible College, home mission ministries and foreign missionaries.

The church has also been involved in refugee projects. Two families were sponsored, one from Vietnam and the other from Romania. One of the refugee couples from Vietnam, Hoa & Lan Chau went on to become involved in Mennonite Ministries and were a part of a group of other refugees who started the first Vietnamese Mennonite Church in Winnipeg which in turn has planted another seven churches back in Vietnam. These have been enriching experiences for the church.

Music has always played an integral part in the church not only in congregational singing but also in the form of adult choirs, children's choirs, quartets, trios, and the inclusion of many different types of musical instruments.

In the spring of 1997, the church ministerial began working on a vision statement for the church. It reads as follows: "God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as a caring, welcoming and discerning community of faith, so that God's healing and hope may flow through us to the world."

The church is composed of many different people with many different gifts, all of which are needed for the church to function. Each person in the congregation plays an important role in shaping the Christian values of its members, through their contributions of time and talent in all the different aspects of the church's life. It is this kind of dedication that brought the church into being in Lowe Farm and continues to keep it vital today.



Church Addition in progress, 1994



Completed church addition.



Parsonage built in 1984.

The following is a list of ministers who served the Lowe Farm Berghaler Mennonite Church on a regular basis: William P. Heinrichs 1929-1936 (leading minister); David D. Klassen 1936-1937 (interim); Peter P. Heinrichs 1937-1957 (leading minister, brother to William P. Heinrichs); John Epp 1937-1967 (assistant minister); George Groening 1948-1954 (assistant minister); Ernest Wiebe 1948-1957 (assistant minister); Peter Dyck 1957-1975 (leading minister) 1975-1980 (assistant); Edward Funk 1971-1975 (assistant minister); Peter Nickel 1975-1984 (first full time salaried minister); Peter L. Braun 1980-1984 (assistant minister); Art Hiebert 1985- present (lay minister) 1994-1995 (interim); Glenn Nickerson 1985-1991 (leading minister); Henry Paetkau 1991-1994 (leading minister); Glen Klassen 1995-present (leading minister).



First church building, 1928.



Renovated Church building, 1949.



Church dedication, 1964.

KRONSWEIDE SOMMERFELD CHURCH

Submitted by J. F. Friesen.

As the West Reserve began to fill up in the 1890's Mennonite families looked further afield for settlement. Between 1895 and 1900 a number of families moved north to the Kronsweide district just south of Lowe Farm.

Here they began meeting for church services at the Johann Schroeder residence. When the private school was completed in 1895, services were held here. This was the beginning of the Kronsweide Church, the first Sommerfeld Church outside the Reserve area. Families came to worship from the Rose Farm, Kronsweide and Lowe Farm areas, making it a community church, rather than just a Lowe Farm church. Services were well attended, often to the point where people just couldn't get in. One of the first ministers to serve this congregation was Rev. Isaac Friesen from the Rosenheim district. The first song leaders were Peter K. Rempel, Jacob Gerbrandt, Henry Falk, Henry Friesen and Johann Giesbrecht.

The first baptism service was held in 1901 with nine candidates. By 1922, just 21 years later, a total of 270 candidates had come forward for baptism at Kronsweide.

Early in the 1900's, as the congregation rapidly grew, Herman Dyck of Altona was employed to build a new church building. Bishop Abraham Doerksen dedicated this church in August of 1905. Thanksgiving and Communion services were held here in the following weeks and in succeeding years were held on a regular basis. The first caretaker was Jacob Schroeder until he was elected into the ministry in 1908. He passed away in 1941.

In January, 1937, Jacob W. Friesen was elected into the ministry. He became well known for his work in the Conscientious Objectors camps during the war years. He died suddenly in 1945.

In June, 1937, Abram F. Wiebe was elected into the ministry. He moved away to Chortitz, south of Winkler in 1949.

In July, 1949, John A. Friesen was elected into the ministry. At Rev. Friesen's encouragement a Sunday School was formed in 1951 with Edward Martens and Abram Neufeld as the first teachers. Classes started in April, 1952, with 84 students. Because of the overwhelming support and rapid growth more space was needed. In 1953 the church was extended, completely renovated and placed on a full basement.

In April, 1955, Rev. John A. Friesen was elected as bishop. He retired in 1993 after 43 years of service.

In February of 1958, Rev. Peter A. Friesen and Deacon Henry B. Dueck were ordained. Rev. Friesen passed away in 1972. Deacon Dueck passed away in 1978.

Young Peoples, with leaders C. H. Klassen and Peter G. Unrau, started in July 1967.



Sommerfeld Church, 1905-1953.



Sommerfeld Church, 1953-1984.



The Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church today.

Partial English classes were started in the spring of 1980. Services changed entirely into English in the spring of 1987. At this time an organ was installed. The first organists were Wendy Friesen and Ann Unrau.

In 1983 the congregation decided to build a new church. This building was completed with much enthusiasm and dedication. In March of 1984 Bishop John Friesen dedicated the church. The scripture plaque on the wall behind the pulpit reads, "For mine house shall be called a house of Prayer for all people" Isaiah 56:7.

In April, 1995, Ken Rempel was ordained as minister at Kronsweide. He resigned and left the church in 1996.

On July 26, 1998, the Kronsweide congregation celebrated 100 years of service. A large tent was erected for the occasion. The program consisted of a morning worship service, an afternoon history presentation followed by Sunday School and Young Peoples items. Then there was an evening program of praise in song. It was a beautiful day for celebration and over 500 people were in attendance.

Presently Rev. Peter Wiebe of Lowe Farm is the local resident minister, serving a congregation of about 180.

Singing has always been a very important part of the worship service at Kronsweide Church. Current song leaders are Henry Harder, Jake L. Friesen, Peter H. Klassen, Peter G. Unrau, Dave Friesen and Randall Reimer. Organists are Wendy Friesen, Barb Wiebe and Bertha Wall. Young Peoples leaders are Ken Reimer and Dave Friesen. Sunday School Superintendent is Dan Dyck. Church caretakers are Dan and Esther Dyck.

LOWE FARM EMMANUEL GOSPEL CHURCH

Submitted by Dora Hildebrand with information taken from "Lowe Farm 75th Anniversary" and "A Time To Remember" (EGC 40th anniversary book).



The first church in Lowe Farm, the Emmanuel Gospel Church, 1967. Photo courtesy Provincial Archives.

July 18, 1954, marked the official opening of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm. The morning service featured the dedication of the church building which had been moved in from Kane. The officiating clergyman was Rev. John J. Neufeld of Grossweide. Rev. Ben D. Reimer, principal of the Steinbach Bible Institute, was the guest speaker at the missionary rally held in the afternoon. A highlight was the ordination of Jacob G. Wiebe as pastor by Rev. Henry G. Rempel of the



The 50th anniversary of Sadie and Jacob Wiebe, the first and founding pastor of the Emmanuel Gospel Church, 1992.

Steinbach Emmanuel Mission Church at the evening service. This independent church was founded on three basic principals. First, it must have strong foreign missionary emphasis. Second, it must have local autonomy (the right to govern all its own affairs. Third, it must be a church that will use the language best suited to reach its constituency with the gospel.

The seed that grew into the Emmanuel Gospel Church was likely planted during World War II when Susie Groening and Carrie Spalding pioneered an English Sunday School in the local Elementary School. Other events which led up to the founding of the new church were: the Olaf Erickson meetings at the Kane Interdenominational Church in November of 1948; an evangelistic crusade in the Lowe Farm Co-op Hall with evangelist Erickson as the speaker in January of 1949; cottage Bible Study, prayer and fellowship on Friday nights starting February of 1949; street meetings in Manitoba towns started in the spring of 1949 by the group now called the Lowe Farm Gospel Group; the first tent crusade with J. J. Regehr of Omaha, Nebraska as speaker, held in 1952. It was after a three day crusade in the Kane Church that



Sunday School Christmas Concert, 1994.



The Emmanuel Gospel Church and parsonage, 1994.

the group (of approximately 25 adults, plus youth and children) felt the Lord was leading them to organize a church.

A simple one page constitution was drawn up and Jake Wiebe looked after the formalities that were involved in becoming registered with the Manitoba government. In the middle of May, 1954 ten people were accepted into membership of the Emmanuel Gospel Church at the home of Ben and Tina Penner. The charter members were: Jacob and Sadie Wiebe, Ben and Tina Penner, Abram and Agatha Kehler, Ed and Susie Groening, Agnes Hiebert and Abe Falk.

There were many "firsts" during the eleven years (1954-1965) that Rev. Jacob and Sadie Wiebe were in the pastorate. The first Sunday School had an attendance of sixty under the leadership of Peter H. Braun, the first superintendent. The first church council consisted of Abe J. Kehler, Ben E. Penner and Abe Falk as board of elders; Edward Groening as treasurer and Eleanor Hyde as secretary. The first missionary conference was held that November with Henry G. Rempel (regional counselor of West Indies Mission) as main speaker. First church newsletter (later The Challenger) was printed December of 1954. First baptism was held in July of 1956. The Ladies Missionary Fellowship was organized in the fall of 1956. First missionaries sent out from the home church were Bill and Dorothea Kehler in August of 1958. The 10th Anniversary of the EGC was marked with a tent crusade in Lowe Farm with Dr. John Wesley White as the evangelist.

Rev. Ronald Hoepfner, a school teacher by profession, together with his wife Norma, served as assistant pastor from 1962-1966. They were especially active with the Youth.

Rev. Marvin Wall with his wife Mary Ann of Hesston, Kansas (1966-1970) was the first full time salaried pastor of the church. During his ministry a temporary school classroom was moved in from Plum Coulee in 1966 and turned into a friendly home for the Wall family and a meeting place for the Youth in the basement. The Homemakers Fellowship (young ladies group) was organized in February of 1967. A new church was also erected and then dedicated on July 13, 1969.



*Sod turning ceremony for new church:
(l - r) Abe Matthies, Ben D. Penner, Ed Penner, Norman Blatz
and Les Dyck, building committee.*



*Pastor Jim and Valerie French,
Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church.*

Rev. Henry Friesen and wife Tina of Pambrun, Saskatchewan was the next pastor from July 1970 to January 1972. The church was very involved with the Morris Centennial Barry Moore Crusade in August of 1970 where the average attendance was about 2,000 every night and many found Christ as Savior.

Rev. Ed Hildebrand and wife Eileen served as Interim pastor from his home in Steinbach from November, 1972 to the summer of 1973. He came (and his wife whenever possible) twice a week - Sunday mornings with dinner and visitation at various homes and Wednesday night Bible Study and Prayer Meetings.

Rev. Herman Neufeld and his wife Helen came to Lowe Farm in the summer of 1973 after serving in Stuartburn, Manitoba and stayed until the summer of 1977. It was during this time that the churches in Kane, Krongard and Rose Farm closed and EGC greatly benefited from it. A new constitution was also voted in. Renovations to the church included new floor coverings for the sanctuary, new pews, new song books and modern washrooms.

Rev. Allen Meikle and wife Gail came to us from Alberta and served here from 1978-1980. Eventful happenings during this time included the church celebrating their 25th anniversary in the summer of 1979, the week-long Mission Conference was shortened to the present 4 - 5 days (also in 1979), and our "Boat People," the Ma family, were with us from January to late summer of 1980.

Rev. Jacob Reimer and his wife Lena from Saskatchewan pastored here from 1981-1985. The most vivid memory of this time was the loss of our church building due to a fire in March, 1982 and the building of the new church that summer. All church services were held in the Kane Community Centre during this time and the dedication of the new church was on December 19, 1982. The Building Committee consisted of Norman Blatz, Abe Matthies, Les Dyck, Ed Penner and Ben D. Penner. A garage and entrance were added to the parsonage in 1983.

Gary and Eleanor MacKay from Pambrun, Saskatchewan served in the church from September, 1986 to May of 1991. The Mortgage Burning Ceremony took place on October 16, 1988. The church was again very much involved in the Wes Aarum Crusade that was held in the Lowe Farm Community Centre, Rosenort School and the Big "M" Centre at Morris in the spring of 1990. Many were counseled regarding assurance, rededication and salvation.

Al and Sheila Harder came to Lowe Farm from Steinbach in May of 1992 and served the Lord in the Emmanuel Church until August of 1997. On July 17, 1994 the church celebrated its 40th Anniversary and new song books were introduced in 1995. We all remember the Flood of the Century and our church family was engulfed in the work that came with it. The army made our church basement their "home" and the pastor was

available for counseling to all. A vote was taken on May 13, 1998 to join the "Free Church of Canada" conference and it was defeated.

John and Joyce Dyck of Blumenort consented to fill in as Interim pastor from September, 1997 to the end of May in 1998. Since the Dycks were still considered full time with Janz Team Ministries, they came out on Sundays and Wednesday nights when possible.

Jim and Valerie French from Caronport, Saskatchewan (originally from Newfoundland and New Brunswick) were called, and started their work at Emmanuel in June of 1998. Interior painting, new carpeting and proper drainage had been done at the parsonage prior to their coming.

Through the years, the founding pastor, Rev. Jacob G. Wiebe has always been available for service when needed and this has been especially welcome when the church was without a pastor and the church had a baptism, or when installation or ordination services were held.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

THE LOWE FARM BURIAL AID SOCIETY

During the late 1930s the people in and around Lowe Farm, as in many other communities in southern Manitoba, had learned that by banding together and forming Co-ops, Credit Unions and similar organizations they could cope with problems created by the depression. In this same spirit, we find that a group made a contract with the Concordia Hospital for hospital services paid for by annual fees. This service was later replaced by a locally formed Hospitalization Group. This Group provided hospital service at cost to its members who paid equal annual dues based on actual amounts paid out to hospitals on behalf of members of the group and their dependants.

Hard times seems to have been the reason for the origin of ideas of self help organizations. Another result of those difficult years was that people were more apt to help each other in times of distress or need. "Good will" was always abundant but it seems that in the end, "good will" did not pay the bills.

Where the need for money was felt most urgently was when a death occurred in the family. Very often sympathizing neighbors would pass the hat at a funeral to help defray funeral expenses. This ultimately gave sound thinking people the idea to concentrate on evolving a standard procedure whereby, through group participation, a predetermined amount would be paid out as a burial aid in the event of a death to help pay for funeral expenses.

Reference to this problem is found in the minutes of the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op meetings of that period, indicating that discussions were held on the feasibility of forming an organization whereby a mutual

fund would be established for the purpose of providing financial aid for funeral expenses. This idea was later passed on to be dealt with by the Credit Union Board, which became sort of a supervisory board for the proposed organization. Acting in that capacity, they called a meeting in January, 1940, where the ground work was laid for the formation of a Burial Aid Society. Involved in the planning were people who had quite a bit of experience in organization work. Henry W. Reimer, local I.H.C. dealer at the time, H. W. Thiessen, manager of the Consumers Co-op, John B. Wiens, manager of the Co-op Store, Ed Groening, H. B. Wiebe, J. N. Dyck, I. J. Warkentin, Jacob J. Peters, and a number of others, contributed a lot of time and energy in this effort.

In January of 1941 a general organization meeting was called and an official name, "The Lowe Farm Burial Aid Society," was chosen for the new organization. Provisional by-laws were drawn up and adopted and an executive of three was elected. Henry B. Wiebe was elected as president, Isaac P. Klassen as vice-president and Isaac J. Warkentin as secretary.

It had been agreed that the benefit be set at \$25 to begin with. The collection procedure was to levy 25 cents from every registered member after each death among the group. The area covered by this Society was 12 square miles, with the center point being the town of Lowe Farm. The executive appointed one person in each of the rural school districts as well as for the town of Lowe Farm, whose duty it was to collect the 25 cents from each member each time a death benefit was paid out. Collection agents appointed were Henry B. Wiebe for Lowe Farm School District, Isaac P. Klassen for the town of Lowe Farm, Peter P. Bergman for the Rose Farm School District, Frank G. Groening for the Kane School District, Peter P. Klassen for the St. Peters School District, Abram B. Wiebe for the Steinfeld School District and Jacob W. Reimer for the Kronsweide School District.

As the membership increased, it became possible to increase the death benefit from \$25 to \$50. After a few years an annual levy of \$2.50 per member was instituted and the death benefit was increased progressively to \$70 and later to \$100. With the annual levy arrangement it became feasible to have the secretary-treasurer in charge of the collection of dues.

In 1943, Jacob J. Peters, the local barber, was appointed as secretary-treasurer. Since Mr. Peter's barber shop was centrally located in the business section of Lowe Farm, most members found it quite convenient to pay their annual dues in person. After Mr. Peters retired in 1968, Gary Friesen, who at the time was the assistant manager at the local Credit Union, served as secretary-treasurer for a few years. Jacob J. Friesen next served as secretary-treasurer, while Jacob J. Peters served as president. Jacob J. Friesen served as secretary until 1975, when he resigned his position and was replaced by Bill Martens, who acted as secretary-treasurer from 1975 until 1986. Alvin Wiebe next served as secretary-treasurer from 1986

until 1993. Helen Rempel replaced Alvin Wiebe in that capacity from 1993 until 1996. In 1993, John C. Harder was elected as secretary of the Society, a position he is still holding. With the death of Jacob J. Peters in 1989, Jake Falk was elected as president of the Burial Aid Society. He continues to serve in this capacity. Lorraine Wiens is currently the treasurer. The board of directors of the Lowe Farm Burial Aid Society consist of: Jake Falk, John C. Harder, Dave E. Rempel, Henry Hildebrand and Alvin Wiebe.

At the annual meeting of the Society in October of 1998, the board of directors decided that because of a declining membership, the 58 year old Lowe Farm Burial Aid Society would be disbanded by October of 1999. With a membership of approximately 55, it was felt membership fees would have to increase substantially to continue to make the Society a viable operation. Rather than place such a demand on the membership it would be simpler to merely disband the Society.

LOWE FARM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Submitted by Lionel Wiens and Paul Joyal



The Lowe Farm curling and skating rinks.



The Lowe Farm Community park.

The Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce, originally known as the "The Lowe Farm Board of Trade," was established in 1948 in response to the problem of unpaid charge accounts. A number of local businessmen were convinced that by working together, a solution to this problem could be found. In addition, the objective of the Board of Trade was to promote the economic, civic and social welfare of the people of the community and district and the furtherance of the development of their resources.

The first meeting of the Board of Trade was held on January 22, 1948. In attendance at this meeting were: Diedrich Heppner, Henry C. Voth, Andy Dyck, Jake D. Reimer, H. C. Charlie Johnson, Abe Rosner, Henry W. Thiessen, Pete Martens, Peter L. Braun, John L. Braun, Diedrich H. Groening, John B.

Wiens, Henry L. Braun and John P. Friesen.

At this first meeting, John B. Wiens was elected chairman, with Henry L. Braun elected as secretary.

The second meeting of the Board of Trade was held on February 20, 1948. Discussions were held on the advisability of organizing the Board. A vote was taken at this meeting for those in favor of establishing "The Lowe Farm Board of Trade." Unanimous approval was given by those in attendance. John B. Wiens was elected as the first President of the newly formed Board. Peter L. Braun was elected as Vice-President and Abe Rosner as Secretary.

Several other interesting items formed the agenda of this meeting. These included a motion to formally adopt the name "The Lowe Farm Board of Trade." Motions were also made that membership fees be set at \$5 for the year 1948, and that the newly formed Board join the Manitoba Associated Boards.

A model constitution was also discussed and the secretary was asked to draft a constitution in time for the next meeting. In addition, it was decided that for the present the membership be limited to business men only or business organizations.

Two important motions were passed at the meeting on March 22, 1948. A motion was moved by Pete Martens and seconded by Diedrich Heppner that the constitution drawn up by the Secretary be adopted. The motion was carried. Another motion put forth by Henry C. Voth and seconded by Pete Martens that the name "The Lowe Farm Board of Trade" be changed to "The Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce," was also carried.

On September 13, 1948, a motion was presented to the Chamber of Commerce by Ed Braun on establishing a pool hall in Lowe Farm. After a lengthy

discussion as to location and licensing by the Rural Municipality of Morris, the Chamber gave unanimous approval to the project, provided the pool hall be located on Main Street.

As early as 1948, the Chamber of Commerce had addressed plans for a new school for Lowe Farm. At the meeting held on December 13, 1948, Diedrich Heppner headed the plans for such a new facility. It was only in 1955, however, that Lowe Farm finally acquired its new school. Ed Groening and Jacob Reimer acted as the committee members for this project.

Although the organization was originally established to deal with the problem of unpaid charge accounts, the Chamber of Commerce became an integral part of the community.

Over the years, the Chamber of Commerce became involved in discussions with Manitoba Telephone System regarding which telephone exchange should include Lowe Farm. Guest speakers were brought in to address the community on the topic of developing local industry. Discussions were also held on the benefits of a Grey Goose bus route through Lowe Farm. The Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in the building of the local skating rink, and later the curling rink. For many years the skating rink had been located at various locations throughout Lowe Farm.

This problem was resolved, however, when land was purchased from Abe Harder for \$345. The permanent site of the skating and curling rinks would be located on First Avenue immediately west of the Harder residence. Since the early 1990's the former curling rink has been turned into an indoor skating rink. The former outdoor skating rink, which had fallen into a state of disrepair, was torn down.

In April, 1952, the Chamber made a motion to establish a fire brigade for Lowe Farm. A maximum of \$6000, acquired from the Municipality, was used to construct a 24 by 28 foot fire hall, as well as to purchase a truck and the related fire fighting equipment.

The Chamber of Commerce became actively involved in the establishment of a campaign committee for the Red Cross. Letters of opposition were written to the Canadian National Railroad in 1964 with respect to rail line abandonment through Lowe Farm. The Chamber was also successful in lobbying for the reconstruction and subsequent paving of Highway 23.

Other notable achievements of the Chamber of Commerce were the installation of street lighting for Lowe Farm and the implementation of a protective shelter belt along the northern perimeter of town. Ornamental street lighting was made available along Main Street for the town, for use during the Christmas season. The widening of Main Street enabled the establishment of parking zones at business locations. Stop signs and yield signs, located on various streets within town would control these intersections.

There were two projects that seemed to be but a

dream for many years, but became realities in the late 1970's and early 1980's. The idea of a community park east of Lowe Farm along Highway 23 was first discussed in 1967. After many years of fundraising, land was purchased in 1978 and the work of erecting buildings, planting trees, and establishing a baseball diamond began. Discussions on a water and sewer system for the town had also been ongoing for many years. After numerous meetings with the municipal council, the Chamber of Commerce was informed that the proposed project for Lowe Farm had an excellent chance of becoming reality. Members of the Chamber surveyed residents door to door and found them excited about the potential of water and sewer for their community. The much anticipated system became operational in August of 1982.

In the late 1980's, the Chamber of Commerce undertook the responsibility of numbering houses in Lowe Farm. Once the numbering system was complete, the Manitoba Telephone System was approached and subsequently the numbering system was included in the telephone directory.

The Shannon Festival, initiated by the Chamber of Commerce, became an annual event. Its function was twofold: firstly to raise funds for community projects, and secondly it provided the opportunity for the community to get together and enjoy a day of sports and relaxation.

The need for funds was always increasing. In 1983, the Chamber of Commerce decided to raffle a farm tractor with respect to raising some much needed funds, however, during the course of the raffle there were anxious moments when ticket sales were really slow.

The Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce has a proud history in the community. Lowe Farm has been fortunate to have had so many members willing to give of their time, and share their ideas to make a difference to the people of our community.

In the early 1990's, the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce was replaced by what would be known as the Lowe Farm Recreation Commission. The responsibilities of the Chamber would be handed over to this new entity. Since this time, the Chamber of Commerce has become somewhat dormant. Perhaps in the future, the Chamber will once again be organized and help serve the community as it has in the past.

LOWE FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Submitted by Paul Joyal

In December of 1982, Lowe Farm Junior High School fell silent to the sounds of education. Gone forever were the classroom chatter, the screeching of chalk on a blackboard and the cheers of fans at a basketball game. The building, condemned earlier by the school division, had a bleak looking future. The beleaguered 30-year-old structure was, however, about to get a new lease on life

as a community center.

Plans initiated by the Chamber of Commerce had called for the construction of a community centre on Main Street. Its location would have been located to the west of what is now Netty's Cafe. Pledges totaling \$22,000.00 had been raised for the acquisition of the required property and construction of the building. The necessary government funding needed to complete the project, however, was not approved and the project was discontinued.

In 1984, the vacant school and property came under the ownership of Lowe Farm resident Pete Falk, who acquired the building and property from the Morris Macdonald School Division.

On December 9, 1985, a joint meeting held between the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Centre Board and Pete Falk, addressed the future of the retired school. At this meeting, Mr. Falk offered to sell the building, plus 45 feet of adjoining property, for \$50 - if a decision could be reached that evening. Approval was given by those in attendance to accept the very generous offer. Lowe Farm it appeared had acquired a community centre.



The Lowe Farm Community and Friendships Centre.

In December of 1985, the Lowe Farm and District Community Centre Committee, turned their attention to remodeling the newly acquired premises. Pledges previously raised within the community were offered back, or, if residents chose could redirect them to this new venture. The first phase of remodeling included replacing the flat roof on the gymnasium with a sloped roof, along with new soffits and fascias at a cost of \$15,000. An additional \$5,000 was spent on insulating the attic, installing new floor and ceiling tiles and upgrading the washroom and kitchen facilities to provincial standards. At the same time the community centre was connected to the town sewer and water system at an additional cost of \$ 6,500. Painting the interior of the gymnasium completed the remodeling project. Much of the work carried out during this time was done by the committee members involved and by volunteer labor. In February of 1986, with renovations complete, the Lowe Farm Community Centre became available for public use, thus ending three years of indecision and frustration.

With the first phase complete, the committee pondered what to do with the rest of the building. The north wing, that housed classrooms, the office, and washrooms, was also badly in need of repair. Expensive to heat in winter, combined with a leaking roof, left the committee in a quandary about what to do. The newly formed Lowe Farm Friendship and Willie's Woodworking were already occupying space and paying rent. Should money be spent on remodeling or should they demolish and reconstruct? This question remained unanswered for several years, until June 30, 1992, when a motion carried to demolish the existing north wing and reconstruct. The decision to construct new was made after much consultation between the executives of the Commu-

nity and Friendship Centres. Funding became a shared venture between both parties with the focus being on best value for dollars spent.

Once an agreement had been reached, the project moved rather quickly. On September 2, 1992, tenders appeared in the local newspapers for construction of the new centre. After reviewing tenders submitted, Rosenort Building Centre was awarded the building contract on September 26. The building, remodeling and demolition permits required were received by October 7. With permits in hand, demolition was carried out and completed by the third week in October. RJW Enterprises of Lowe Farm carried out the bulk of the demolition work. Construction on the new facility began almost immediately and continued throughout most of that winter. Once again, committee members and volunteers were present to assist in any way possible during the construction period.

Finally, on February 21, 1993, after many long months of planning and revisions, the Lowe Farm Community Centre along with the Lowe Farm Friendship Centre held grand opening ceremonies. The Honorable Bonnie Mitchelson, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, attended the ceremony to officially dedicate the new facility. Also in attendance at the dedication were: Rural Municipality of Morris Reeve Dan Thiessen; Councilor Harold Dyck; the Community Centre Board of Directors; the Friendship Centre Executive; and several interested residents of Lowe Farm and surrounding area.

Thanks to the foresight and hard work of the many people involved, Lowe Farm Community Centre has become a valuable asset to the entire community. From its opening the community centre has provided a much-needed venue for the many cultural and social activities held in the community of Lowe Farm.

LOWE FARM FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

Submitted by Paul Joyal



A birthday party at the Friendship Centre. (l – r) Pete Brown, Tillie Brown, Anne Klassen, Helen Dyck, Johanna Paetkau and Anna Hudson.



*The men's turn to serve birthday dinner at the Friendship Centre.
Men: Al Joyal, Cornie Rempel, Jake Falk, Ben Braun. Women: Susan Hildebrand, Olga Joyal, Mary Penner.*

The Lowe Farm Friendship Centre was formed under the New Horizons program in 1984. New Horizons is a federal program administered by Health and Welfare Canada for the benefit of older and retired Canadians.

Its design is to give retired people an opportunity to share their interests, skills and talents in developing and carrying out projects of their choosing. The program encourages the development of creative leisure time activity, self-determination and democratic decision making.

The Lowe Farm Friendship Centre was first established in the Prairie View Apartments. Shortly after the school building was acquired by the community, the Friendship Centre re-located to this new location. The two west classrooms were rented from the Community Centre board and would become its home for the next several years. In the wake of the proposed changes being considered for the Community Centre, the Friendship Centre became actively

involved in the project. Working together with the Community Centre board they held meetings, reviewed and discussed plans and completed the funding arrangements, to the best interest of both Centres.

The grand opening of the Lowe Farm Friendship Centre was held in conjunction with those of the Community Centre.

From its inception in 1984, the seniors meet every Wednesday afternoon to relax and enjoy each other's company, play pool, shuffle board or card games. In addition, a lunch is served by the women of the centre. Not to be undone however, the senior gentlemen have also provided the women with their version of 'faspa.' The senior gentlemen have also been known to serve a fairly hearty lunch at some of the birthday parties that have taken place over the years. Celebrating a birthday at the centre is one of the highlights of their activities.

Some of the other activities the seniors have been involved in include outings to Carman for bowling, trips to Frost Fire Mountain, North Dakota, The Forks in Winnipeg and an excursion along the Red River aboard the River Rouge. The seniors have also worked together with Community Centre in sponsoring the annual Fall Supper, and at other times have held plant and bake sales.

The Lowe Farm Friendship Centre has been created by and for the senior citizens of our community. Their energy and enthusiasm have created a role model for succeeding generations to follow. Let us hope the next generation can follow their lead.

THE LOWE FARM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Submitted by Justina Funk



A Women's Institute picnic. (l - r) Mrs. P.A. Falk, Mrs. Jac Braun, Mrs. Wm. Friesen, Mrs. George Schroeder, Mrs. John I. Dyck, Mrs. Jac Peters, Mrs. Henry Friesen, Mrs. Frank Martens and daughter Betty, Mrs. J. A. Braun, Mrs. John N. Dyck, and Mrs. John Schroeder.



Posing for a camera at a centennial antique display in 1967 are (l - r) Mrs. Peter P. Rempel, Mrs. Eva Rempel and Mrs. George Schroeder.

The Lowe Farm Women's Institute was organized on October 30, 1947, with a membership of 47. There was no women's organization at this time and a number of concerned ladies saw the need for such an organization where certain needs of the community could be dealt with.

The needs to be met by the Women's Institute are "For Home and Country," and with this motto in mind, they strived to improve and help organize a variety of programs in the community.

It was beneficial to have a number of teachers as well as Teachers' wives in the organization because, through seeing the children at school, they often realized what was lacking.

The Women's Institute organized a boys baseball club, supplying uniforms. They also saw to it that funds came in for cemetery maintenance.

The Women's Institute in Lowe Farm was only three years old when the Flood of 1950 hit Morris and surrounding area. The need to feed the many workers and evacuees was evident and the ladies worked many hours in filling this need.

The regular meetings were held in the Co-op Hall. It was a special treat to take "armchair" trips to many lands abroad via pictorial presentations by Anne and Justina Wiens and others. The meetings usually had a special feature such as: book reports, cake decorating, liquid embroidery, quilting, and other features.

Every Christmas season, the spouses and children were invited for an evening of singing voluntary items by the children, bags of goodies for the children and a delicious lunch.

Every convention featured a time when members would remember the ones who had died during the past year by placing flowers in the vases placed in front of the hall. (Just imagine how many flowers would be placed at this date!)

The Women's Institute held bake sales, usually at Easter and at Christmas time. The money realized was used to support a foster child in India. UNICEF also profited from the efforts of the ladies through a clothing drive as well as funds. Catering at various functions also was a fund raising effort.

Bursaries were awarded to deserving Grade XI and Grade VIII students. A number of educational courses have been sponsored such as: Defensive Driving, Learning to Sew Knits, Hair Dressing, Typing, and others.

In Commemoration of Canada's 100th Birthday, a Centennial Tea was organized by the Women's Institute in Lowe Farm. Many antique items were on display, and a Fashion Show was also featured.

There was also a "quilting party" skit with Kay Derksen, Anne Wiens, Eva Rempel and Marie (John) Giesbrecht. There have been many ladies who have been in the President's Chair of the Lowe Farm Women's Institute. Just to mention some of them who were presidents for many terms: Tina Friesen, Hannah Reimer, Anne Wiens,

Hattie Green and Anne Dyck. Many have served shorter terms, but listing them, I'd most likely miss one. The community has greatly benefited from the many hours of work each member has donated "For Home and Country."

It was with regrets that the Lowe Farm Women's Institute terminated in 1973 due to the lack of membership.

LOWE FARM SPORTS

Submitted by Harold Dyck



Lowe Farm Curling Rink under construction in 1959. It was entirely a volunteer effort.



A makeshift kitchen at the Lowe Farm Curling Rink, 1960. (l - r) Susan Wiebe, Kay Braun, Anne Klassen.



An early Lowe Farm baseball team. Back row: (l - r) Ory Johnson, Harry Rose, Bert Oltman. Middle: Gib Russel, Elmer Crouch, Murray Anderson, Marshall Eickert. Front: Luther Lewis and Len Brown.



Founding members of the curling club. (l - r) C. G. Giesbrecht, Jake Thiessen, Ed Groening, Ben Braun, P.M. Wiebe.

Sporting activities are an important part of most communities and Lowe Farm is certainly no exception.

Baseball was introduced to the community by American immigrants around 1904. From the earliest times to the present there were years of active and inactive participation in this sport. One of the early teams existed between in the years 1907-1910.

In the early thirties a team managed by John J. Schroeder was quite successful. These teams played baseball against teams from rival communities.

In 1971, Lowe Farm organized a fastball team and joined the Pembina Valley Men's Fastball League. The original teams to play in the P.V.F.M.F.L. consisted of

teams from Lowe Farm, Kan, Myrtle and Roland. Over the years the league expanded to include many of the other surrounding communities. The first coach of this team was P.L. (Peter) Braun and named the Lowe Farm Astros. The caliber of play improved over the years and the league became quite competitive. The Lowe Farm Astros won the league championship in 1971, 1974, 1979, 1980, and 1985.

From 1976 to the mid 1980's the team coached by Harold Dyck then became known as the Lowe Farm Blues. Nineteen eighty-five became the leagues last year of operation. Most teams were unable to field enough players to continue in the league. In 1986, the communities of Kane and Lowe Farm combined their respective players and joined other teams in the area and became a member of the South Eastern Men's Fastball League. Teams in this league consisted of Lowe Farm, Winkler, Morden and New Hope. The Lowe Farm Blues played in this league until 1988, capturing the championship once.

Little league baseball was introduced to the community by the Women's Institute in 1966. Seeing the need for wholesome recreational activity for the young boys of the community they made provisions in their 1996 budget for an expenditure of \$70.00 for the project and appointed Annie Dyck and Mrs. Sid Lewis to get the project underway. These two ladies canvassed the local business community and any interested citizens for financial and leadership support. The response they received was gratifying and soon the boys were enjoying this sport under the coaching and managing done by willing and capable men of Lowe Farm. Over the years there have been teams involved in 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under and sixteen and under.

In 1966, a team coached by Dave Schmidt, Tony Rose and Rod



Lowe Farm Astros, champions. (l – r) Pete Stoesz, Bill Kebler, Gordon Dyck, Gary Friesen, Dennis Braun, Rick Giesbrecht, Eldon Thiessen, Peter L. Braun.



An early Lowe Farm Kings hockey team.



Ladies Baseball team, 1938. Seated: (l – r) Susie Klassen, Nettie Rempel, Nettie Klassen, Susie Rempel, Evelyn Giesbrecht, Luella Brown. Standing: Mary Klassen, Kay Giesbrecht, Anne Klassen, Ann Falk.

Bergman won the Pee Wee C. Provincial Championship. The little league program still continues in Lowe Farm as players are available in the different age groups.

A girl's softball team organized in the early thirties played ball in Lowe Farm until interest in this team diminished for a few years. When reorganized a very competitive team emerged, and enjoyed considerable success at sports days held in the community and the surrounding area for several years. In 1977, women's softball was revived under the coaching of Tony Dyck.

In 1985, the Lowe Farm girls had their first opportunity in many years to play organized community baseball. Lynda Schroeder and Alice Brown began to organize the girls in the spring of 1985, hoping to provide their daughters and other girls in town with the chance to enjoy the sport. That first year the team consisted of girls from Grade 6 to Grade 9. Since the team, not registered with any league, arranged and played games with teams from neighboring communities.

In 1986, the Lowe Farm girl's team registered with the Border Girls Fastball League in the 13 years and under category. Because of the wide range of the Lowe Farm team, 10 years to 14 years, they played under an "affiliated" status. This would prevent the team, however, from participating in the Provincials should they win the league title. Considering that the teams competing in the league were from much larger communities and had players that were generally 12 to 14 years of age, no one thought this would present a problem. However, due to hard work and determination of the girls, the team went on to win the league. They did not compete provincially but this was the start of many years of enjoyable and competitive baseball for the Lowe Farm girls.

The team that played together in 1986, with the addition of some players from Morris went on to compete as a team until 1992. The oldest girls had graduated and many were working, but continued to enjoy the camaraderie and competition.

Over the years Lowe Farm managed to field girls' teams in various age groups as interest was high. Many volunteers have coached, raised funds and supported the sport. At one point there were three age levels competing in various age groups in the same season, with the addition of some players from Morris. The teams also left the Border Girls Fastball League to join the CMR



Lowe Farm Hornets, 1996 Pee Wee Champions.

Back row (l-r) Coach Dave Schmidt, Assistant Coaches Rod Bergman and Tony Rose, Manager Rose Eubank. Middle row: Lionel Eubank, Bobby Siemens, David Schmidt, Joshua Plett, Dustin Rose, Tyler Heinrichs, Borck Groening. Front: Trevor Wiebe, Darren Friesen, Karl Bergman, Mike Bially, Cody Reimer, Matt Dubar and Andy Regier.



Lowe Farm – Kane hockey club, Morden Liniment League Champions. Back row: (l-r) Earl Braun, Rick Rempel, Milton Braun, Larry Gluck, Gary Dyck, Tony Rose, Brian Brown, Dennis Rempel, Les Dyck, Norman Blatz. Front row: Ken Reimer, Rod Bergman, Howard Brown, Cornie Paetkau, Barrie Rose, Barry Friesen, Rick Giesbrecht and Hank Hildebrand.



Southeastern Manitoba Fastball League. Back row: (l – r) Curtis Penner, Rick Rempel, Dennis Rempel, Gary Dyck, Dennis Matthies. Front row: Ron Braun, Brian Brown, Ralph Groening, Tony Rose, Earl Bergman, Jerry Brown, Ron Friesen.

(Carman/Miami/Roland) League. Currently interest and the number of girls available to play has diminished, but Lowe Farm continues to field a team.

In 1986, Lynda Schroeder and Alice Brown also introduced a program for the younger children, boys and girls, which ran once a week immediately after school. The following year these players went to Morris and Miami to play some “coach-pitch” games, but program was generally kept within the community. The after school baseball program has continued to operate, operated by parent volunteers and provides an opportunity for skill development for young players.

Hockey was another sport played within the community. Although there has never been a minor hockey program in Lowe Farm, a senior team did exist in the early 1930's. The Second World War interrupted this team, but was re-organized in 1945.

In 1970, the Lowe Farm Kings became founding members of the Pembina Valley Hockey League. The team played their home games on the outdoor rink, and in later years rented ice in the Roland Arena. The team was never very successful on the score sheet, but provided the players with an invigorating form of recreation.

In 1946, the first curling rink was established in Lowe Farm. A grain annex was bought, torn down and the lumber from it used to construct the rink. The curling rink was located on land donated by Diedrich Heppner. Volunteer labor from within the community carried out the bulk of the construction.

In 1959, a new curling rink was constructed at the same location as the previous one. Many successful curling bonspiels have been hosted in Lowe Farm with the participation of men's, women and mixed teams.

In the mid 1980's, it was becoming increasingly difficult to form enough teams to continue curling. This regrettably led to a decision to suspend curling in Lowe Farm in 1988. In the years since that time the former curling rink has transformed itself into an indoor skating rink, providing a sheltered area for the children of the community to enjoy skating.

Whether skating, baseball, curling or hockey, none of these activities could have taken place in Lowe Farm without the support of many community minded volunteers. The untiring efforts of these individuals has provided an arena for the young and old in our community to participate in recreational exercise.



(l-r) Harold Dyck, Lorne Penner, Ron Heinrichs.

THE SHANNON FESTIVAL

Submitted by Ben Braun

Since 1973, the Lowe Farm Shannon Festival has been a significant annual celebration for the village. The festival has been highlighted with a variety of interesting events, and has been a fund-raiser for the purchase, development and maintenance of the Lowe Farm Community Park, located east of the school grounds.

The events of the festival have varied from year to year. Horse shows, dog shows and various sports events have all been crowd-pleasers at the festival. Archery, horseshoes and other sports events have attracted spectators and participants over the years. The baseball tournament and children's activities and races are current favorites. In the past, a parade and a queen contest were also featured at the Shannon Festival.

Good food and fellowship have been staples of the festival since its inception. A breakfast is offered, and it has often been sponsored by the Lowe Farm Credit Union. A barbecue supper is also served; plumi mousse is everyone's favorite dessert at this meal. These meals provide a

perfect setting for the citizens of Lowe Farm to meet and enjoy each other's company, as they celebrate the Shannon Festival each summer.



Ben Braun's cutter at the 1970 winter carnival.



Carnival queen and runner ups, 1970. (l - r) Joan Friesen, Alice Friesen, Carol Hildebrand and Miss Funk.



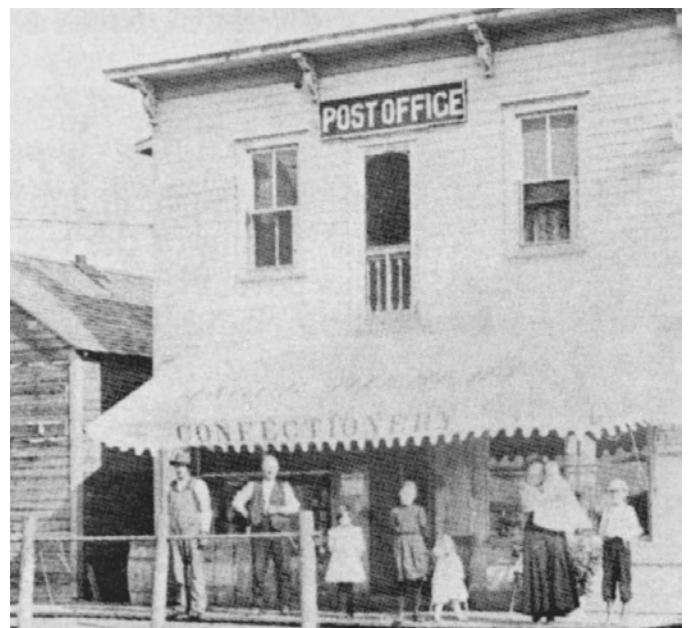
Gordon Dyck, 1974 Shannon Parade clown.



Butch Harder in the 1974 Shannon Parade.

LOWE FARM POST OFFICE

Submitted by Paul Joyal



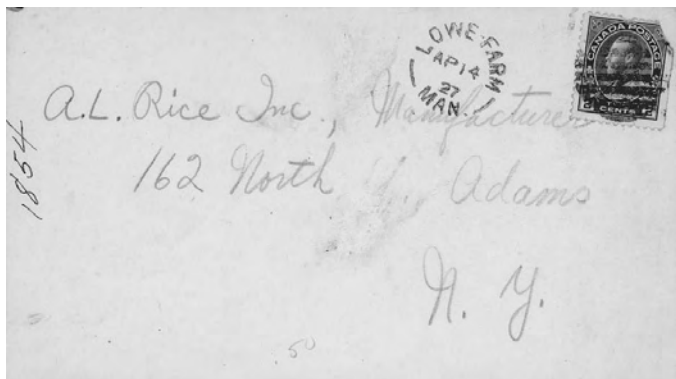
Built by Bill Blakely in 1903-04, this building was owned by J. Hiebert (above), J.B. Hooge, A.A. Giesbrecht, M. Rosner and A.P. Derksen

The official records of the Canada Post Office Department indicate that John I. Wiens served as the first postmaster for Lowe Farm from April 1, 1900, until May 18, 1907.

In the early years the Post Office moved around considerably, probably being first located in C. Nester's store and then in Blakely's store for several years.

In 1907, Blakely sold his store to Jacob Hiebert, who served as postmaster until March 14, 1910. In 1910, J. B.

Hooge was appointed postmaster, after acquiring the store from Jacob Hiebert. He, in turn, sold the store to A. A. Giesbrecht in 1914. Mr. Giesbrecht moved the building at that time to Lot 1, Block 4, where it still stands today. The building, now owned by Dave and Netty Wiebe, continues to operate as a coffee bar as it has in the past.



A stamp from the Lowe Farm Post Office soon after the date of establishment, April 1, 1900.



Ben and Kay Braun, post master and post mistress.



An early Post Office.



Early post office and telephone exchange, courtesy Manitoba Archives.



Current Post Office inside the Co-op store.

After serving as postmaster from August 12, 1914, to March 3, 1924, Mr. Giesbrecht sold the building to the Rosners, and Nicolai J. Heide was appointed as postmaster. The location of the post office was moved to the Heide residence on Block 3, Lot 4.

After serving as postmaster for 34 years, from May 1, 1924 to September 1, 1958, Nicolai J. Heide retired.

David Brown was next appointed postmaster and the post office was relocated to the Brown residence. David Brown served as postmaster from September 1, 1958 until June 11, 1968. When Mr. Brown passed away after serving 10 years as post master, his wife carried on as postmistress from June 11, 1969, until August 27, 1971.

Ben Braun was appointed as postmaster on August 28, 1971, and the post office was relocated to Block 4, Lot 8, where it stood for many years.

After serving as postmaster for 11 years, Mr. Braun retired, and was succeeded by his wife, Kaye, who served as postmistress from 1982 until mid 1987. Upon the retirement of Mrs. Braun, Anne Dueck served as interim postmistress from July 16, 1987, until June 18, 1991.

Unfortunately, Canada Post decided to do away with many small rural post offices in Manitoba, including the one in Lowe Farm. Retail Postal Outlets would replace the familiar Post Offices of the past. Businesses bid on the acquisition of these outlets, which would provide for the postal services of the community. Since the closure of the Post Office, the postal outlet has been located in the Lowe Farm Co-op Store.

TELEPHONE

The Bell Telephone Company took over a small privately owned telephone system in Morris in 1901. The first listing for Lowe Farm appeared in the Telephone directory for April, 1906. The telephone was located in W. E. Blakely's store, but was for everyone's use. It was referred to as a Toll Office, which was similar to a pay phone, but without the slots for coins. W.E. Blakely was the local manager.

In 1908, the Provincial Government purchased the telephone system from Bell and the name was changed to Manitoba Government Telephones. The first subscriber listing was for Warnken, T.J., on Main, which appeared in the April, 1908 directory. The agent at that time was Jacob Hiebert.

Lowe Farm converted from a Toll Office to an exchange in 1910. By March, 1911, there were listings for seven businesses and two residences in Lowe Farm, as well as 20 rural subscribers.

By 1916, telephone subscribers in Lowe Farm were listed under the Morris Exchange, except for a Public Station (pay phone), listed to A. A. Giesbrecht.

In 1921, the name of the telephone company, still owned by the government, was changed to the Manitoba Telephone System (MTS).

Telephone service continued to improve and by January of 1967, dial telephones replaced the old crank type sets in this area. With the new automatic service also came the Direct Distance Dialing Network. This meant subscribers on the Morris Exchange could now

dial their own station-to-station long distance calls. Those on party lines, however, still had to give the number they were calling from to the operator. This became unnecessary in 1990 when the sharing of a line, known as party lines, became a thing of the past. Each telephone subscriber now had a private line. Dial telephones also became obsolete and were replaced with touch-tone service.

MTS had a monopoly on telephone service for many years but in 1993 the Conservative Government, led by Gary Fill-in, opened the door for competition in providing long distance calling service. Subscribers now had a choice in selecting their long distance provider. While many companies vied for the long distance dollar, MTS was still the only company to provide both long distance service and local service.

OFFICIAL Telephone Directory No. 1 APRIL, 1908	
<p>89</p> <p>LETELLIER</p> <p>Livery, Railway Residence, Pembina ave Kramer, S.W. 5-4-9</p>	
<p>1 Taylor, Saul 2 Todd, J. 42 ring 13—Toms, J. C.</p>	<p>46 ring 13—Waldie, Robt. 41 ring 3—Webber, Wesley 44 ring 2—Wightman, Wm. 38 ring 6—Wilson, T. C. 41 ring 12—Windsor, Frank 41 ring 4—Windsor, H.</p>
<p>Farmer, N.E. 6-4-9 Farmer, N.E. 21-2-9 Farmer, N.W. 7-3-9 Farmer, Snowflake Farmer, W. 20-2-9 Farmer, N.E. 30-2-9</p>	
<p>LASALLE—Toll Office—M. Gaudry, Agent</p> <p>LAUDER—for Subscribers see Hartney.</p> <p>LENA—for Subscribers see Killarney.</p>	
<p>LETELLIER—D. J. Parent, Agent</p> <p>Comeault, N. Letellier Mercantile Co., Main Fraser, P. Residence, Main Guilbert, A. Post Office, St. Albert Jutras, Rev. Father Residence, Church Parent, J. Residence, Church Robert, G. Hotel, Main Sisters of the Mission Residence, St. Albert</p>	
<p>LOWE FARM—Jacob Hiebert, Agent</p> <p>Warnken, T. J. Main</p>	
<p>Read the Directions for Using Telephones, and Rules and Regulations, on Page 3.</p>	

An early telephone directory.

The Manitoba Government sold MTS in 1996 through the sale of shares. The name of the now privately owned company became Manitoba Telecom Services Inc. (MTS). In 1999 the telephone company came full circle as MTS and Bell Canada signed an agreement which gave Bell Canada a minority interest in MTS.

THE OLD WATERHOLE

Submitted by Paul Joyal



The first waterhole in Lowe Farm, east of town with Stevenson farm building in background, 1902.

In the late 1800's many parts of the land in the Lowe Farm area was swampy and the roads very poor or non-existent. In the latter part of summer, water often became scarce. Digging wells in the clay soil was useless unless you went down several hundred feet and then the water was invariably salty. The only way to insure a supply of water was to dig waterholes and wait for next spring's thaw to fill them.

The housewife did the best she could to look after the drinking and washing needs of her family by collecting rainwater from the roof in barrels placed under eavestroughs or merely sloping boards that caught the water as it ran from the roof.

For the first year or so after people moved into the area, many of the farmers had to drive their cattle for miles to water them at the small pools of water that were to be found under the Canadian National Railroad bridges. Sometimes local water haulers were forced to haul water all the way from the Red River at Morris. At times they got stuck in the Lewis Coulee on their way home and were forced to let all of the precious water out of the tank so that they could get clear of the mud and go back for more.

Digging a water hole in those days was not as simple or as easy a task as it is now that a dragline can do the

job in half a day. The Enns brothers, who settled on W 1/2 22-4-2 in 1898, dug a water hole with spades, taking out the dirt with wheelbarrows.

In Lowe Farm the first water hole was made by William Stephenson before the founding of the town. It later became known as the "Old Reimer Waterhole." Jacob Heppner made the second in 1899. One would have thought the two water holes would be sufficient for the needs of the small village at the time, but Jacob Heppner and Jacob Wiens, who owned the Reimer water hole at that time, feared the water would not last long through the winter and made their children take turns driving their cattle all the way to Scratching River - some seven or eight miles away. This was a task which the children naturally considered unpleasant and unnecessary.

For several years the summers were very dry, and conserving water was a priority. Many water barrels were required to meet even the thriftiest needs of a family. Eventually most homes built cisterns, large tanks made of concrete or steel, capable of holding several hundred gallons of water. During the summer months, these cisterns could be filled with rain water, channeled of the roof via eavestroughs and downspouts. During the winter, snow or ice could be added to the cisterns to help maintain a constant supply. Usually the cistern was located in the basement of the house, or in close proximity outside. Although this system worked quite well for many years, it became increasingly apparent Lowe Farm needed a reliable source of water. From 1938 until the mid 1950's Abram Klassen served as the drainman in Lowe Farm, delivering ice in the winter and water barrels in the summer with a team of horses and a stone boat.

In the late 1970's the Chamber of Commerce put in to motion the plan to provide Lowe Farm with an adequate supply of water. The plan entailed the digging of a large reservoir and then basically pumping the water to residents. Members of the Chamber of Commerce canvassed residents with the proposed project. They outlined the costs and the benefits to individual homeowners and the community at large. After all the leg work had been done by the Chamber, an overwhelming 80 per cent of residents were signed up for the new water system. After all of the meetings, consultations, and studies had been completed, the Rural Municipality of Morris gave the green light and the project began in earnest. J. R. Cousins was hired as the consulting engineer for the project, while Jack Klassen of Lowe Farm was hired as project supervisor along with Ken Rempel and Jake F. Klassen as assistants.

Tenders were then received from several contractors for digging of the reservoir. Beaudry Construction Ltd. of St. Agathe was awarded the contract. The reservoir was constructed immediately south of the Manitoba Pool Elevator.

Work started late in the fall of 1981 on the 14 foot deep, 22,000,000 gallon reservoir and was completed

before winter freeze up. With the reservoir in place, Q.M. Brothers of Altona were awarded the contact for the pumphouse and filtration station that were needed. The pumphouse drew water from the reservoir and sent the water via a three inch pipe to the filtration station which is located just north of Reimer Service on Main Street. Here the water was filtered, chlorinated and stored within a 35,000 gallon concrete reservoir. The purified water could then be fed into the village water system and subsequently to the homeowners. Adam Jet Ltd. installed the pumps and related equipment, while Prairie Water Services supplied the pipe and fittings. South Central Electrical Ltd. did the necessary wiring. Dig All Construction of Winkler carried out the installation of the main water and sewer lines throughout the town site.



Abram Klassen, Drayman for Lowe Farm.

Once all related equipment was in place the task of filling the reservoir could begin. Two four inch gasoline pumps and one six inch diesel pump were employed to fill the reservoir, with water taken from the Shannon ditch. Pumping was delayed due to cold water experienced the week of April 5 - 9 that year. Jack Klassen vividly recalls spending one long cold night in stormy weather with volunteer Ron Unrau in a makeshift shelter, manning the pumps. At 10 a.m. on April 15, 1982, after three days of almost non-stop pumping, the reservoir held 18,000,000 gallons of water. The reservoir was not filled to capacity in order that the finishing work could be completed around the outside edges. With a noticeable drop in the Shannon ditch, Jack Klassen stated that they filled the reservoir just in time.

Finally on August 20, 1982, after all testing and inspections had been completed, Lowe Farm residents were able to turn on their taps and draw water from "Lake Lowe Farm".

As the main water lines were being installed in the town site, sewer lines were being installed as well. The sewer system would come into operation June 2, 1982. The R.M. of Morris constructed two sewage lagoons east of the town site, north of the nuisance grounds, in preparation for the sewer system. A two-compartment septic tank located on homeowners property separated solid and liquid waste. The liquid waste, known as "grey water", was delivered to the main sewer line via an effluent pump. Gravity then fed this water to the lagoon. Once every two years the solid waste is pumped out of the septic tanks by Brown's Septic Service of Lowe Farm which has provided this service since 1982.

In normal years, the sewer system worked well, however in a spring with

heavy runoff or a heavy rainfall, the sewer system would become overwhelmed by all the extra water. Unable to cope, the system would back up, causing septic tanks to overflow and basements to flood. The problem, however, was alleviated with the installation of a lift station at the eastern edge of the village. The lift station is comprised of a 1,500 gallon tank and a pump. The main purpose of a lift station is to aid the sewer system to work more efficiently by discharging sewage into the lagoon more rapidly.

To many residents, the new sewer system ended the old system of the "cash-and-carry", while to others it meant the end of the little house outdoors and the cold memories they seated in their minds.

With the completion of the Lowe Farm reservoir, one would have thought the water needs of the community had finally been addressed. Unfortunately, this would not be the case. At first, free of natural contaminants, the reservoir was capable of delivering high quality, good tasting water to the community, with very little maintenance. However, as natural vegetation increased in and around the reservoir, problems began to arise. During the hot months of the summer and early fall algae formed in the water giving it an unpleasant odor and taste. Algae formed on the intake pipes in the reservoir restricting the flow of water and ultimately plugging the filtration system. Expensive chemicals were needed to control the algae. The high cost of maintenance, such as filling the reservoir each spring, purchasing chemicals to treat the water, and repairs to the pumps, filters and related equipment, and the fact that Lowe Farm simply was not using enough water, were factors that would make the reservoir a liability rather than an asset, both to the community and the municipality.

THE PEMBINA VALLEY WATER CO-OP INC.



Pump house and water stand in Lowe Farm.



Pipe installation underway in 1998.



The new water station in Morris.



Jack Klassen, project supervisor for the first town water system.

While Lowe Farm was experiencing all kinds of water difficulties, a high tech state of the art water treatment facility was being built in Morris. Being unable to compete with a good quality of water would ultimately bring about the demise of "Lake Lowe Farm".

In the late winter of 1998, the R.M. of Morris and the Pembina Valley Water Co-op invited residents of Lowe Farm and surrounding area to a meeting to discuss a new source of water for Lowe Farm. In attendance at the meeting held at the Lowe Farm Community Centre were Sam Schellenberg, project manager of the Pembina Valley Water Co-op, Reeve Herman Martens, Councillor Ralph Groening, and 52 interested area residents.

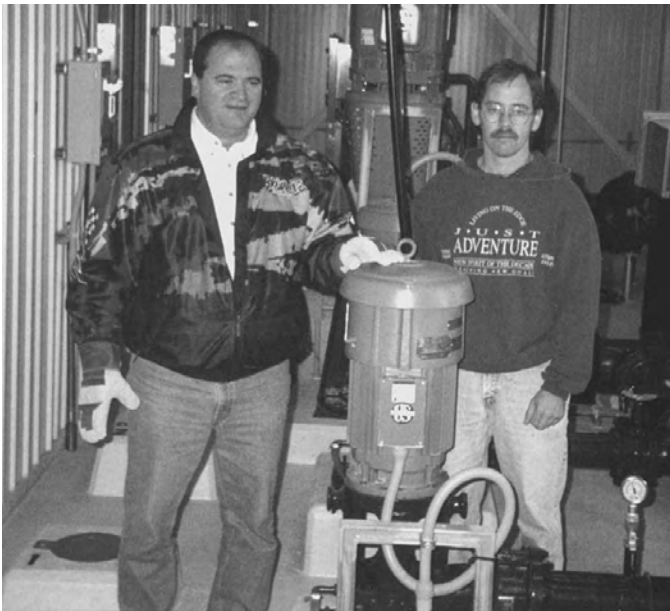
Sam Schellenberg outlined in detail the aims and objectives of the P.V.W.C., along with the benefits it would create, not only to Lowe Farm, but to the entire Pembina Valley. Reeve Martens and Councillor Groening outlined the cost and benefits to consumers. The municipality would purchase treated water from the P.V.W.C., and in turn sell water to area residents, including rural residents if they so chose. The elimination of the reservoir meant a reduction in the cost of filling the reservoir in the spring, purchasing

chemicals and maintaining equipment. The filtration station would still be used, but by accepting treated water, it would merely act as a distribution point for supplying water to the town site.

After a lively question and answer period, a vote was taken and by a margin of 47 to five, Lowe Farm and area residents voted in favor of joining the Pembina Valley Water Co-op.

In early July of 1998, work began on laying the water line. A 12 inch line following Highway 23 was installed between Morris and Lowe Farm. After installation was complete, the newly installed line was cleaned and tested. Once the "bugs" were worked out, the pumps were turned on at the treatment plant in Morris and on September 18, 1998, Lowe Farm began receiving water from the P.V.W.C., thus ending the 16 year existence of "Lake Lowe Farm"

With the closing of the reservoir or "Lake Lowe Farm", another chapter in the history of Lowe Farm closed as well. Perhaps it should be left to lie in state as a reminder of the importance it has played in the viability and growth of our community, as did "the old waterholes" which preceded it.



*Richard Dupuis and Byron Klassen,
water technicians in Morris.*

**LOWE FARM HOUSING
CORPORATION INCORPORATED
PRAIRIE VIEW APARTMENTS**

Submitted by Peter G. Unrau

On March 7th, 1978, a committee of four members representing the local Chamber of Commerce and three local churches held a meeting about providing low rental housing for Lowe Farm. The committee consisted of Anton Dyck, President; Cornie Reimer, Secretary; Ben

Braun and Ed Groening.

On March 10, 1978, a letter was posted at the Lowe Farm Post Office canvassing the area for prospective tenants.

The first board meeting of the newly formed Lowe Farm Housing Corporation was elected at a meeting in August of 1981. The board consisted of two members each representing the three local churches and one member at large. These members included Anton W. Dyck, Cornie W. Reimer, Ben Braun, Ben G. Wiebe, Jake H. Gerbrandt, Dave E. Penner, and Peter G. Unrau. Elected Chairman at this first meeting was Anton Dyck. Cornie Reimer was elected Vice Chairman and Pete Unrau elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The board spent many hours at meetings and on the road that first year travelling to see other projects like the one planned for Lowe Farm. Meetings were also held with Federal and Provincial officials to obtain information on what, if any, grants might be available.

The board received information that they could obtain a grant from the Province of Manitoba through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, as well as the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. These two levels of government would subsidize the project in effect to the amount of interest paid, less two per cent. This grant money was obtainable if the community could raise \$20,000 of their own. The community joined together and held a fund raising supper. Pledges from individuals helped raise the needed money. In June of 1982 the Lions Club of Morris, with President Bill Fulford, presented a cheque in the amount of \$4,000 to Prairie View Apartment representatives Anton Dyck and Ben Braun.

Prior to the opening of the apartments, a contest was held to name the new facility. All entries submitted were placed in a drum and the winning entry was selected. "Prairie View Apartments" was the name submitted by Merelyn Hunkin. The winning prize was \$50, which Merelyn donated back to the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation.

The first mortgage was obtained through the Credit Union. This first mortgage consisted of a three way split between the Lowe Farm Credit Union, the Rosenort Credit Union, and the Credit Union Central of Manitoba.

With the funding in place, the next step was the acquisition of land for the project. This was accomplished by purchasing the north one third area of the Lowe Farm Elementary School grounds.

The ground breaking ceremony for construction of the Prairie View Apartments took place on November 27, 1981. Anton Dyck, Chairman of the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation, lifted the ceremonial sod turning. Also in attendance at the ceremony were Morris MLA Clayton Manness and Dan Thiessen, Councillor for the R. M. of Morris. Ground work started immediately following the ceremony.

Boyle Schaffer was the architect for the project. The



The Lowe Farm Elderly Housing Corporation Board. Sod turning for the Prairie View Apartments: (l - r) Cornie W. Reimer, Dave E. Penner, Bernard Wiebe, Jake Gerbrandt, Ben Braun, Peter G. Unrau, Anton Dyck and MLA Clayton Manes.



The Prairie View Apartments.

general contractor was A. K. Penner and Sons. Construction foreman was Peter Derksen.

The building was completed in July, 1982, with all 18 units ready for occupancy.

The Prairie View Apartments grand opening took place August 5, 1982. In attendance at the opening ceremony were Anton Dyck, Chairman of the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation; Les Fereudenberg, of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; Herb Dubowitz, of the Manitoba Housing and Renewal; Mrs. Annie Ariss represented Lisgar Member of Parliament, Jack Murta. Also in attendance were Morris MLA Clayton Manness, RM of Morris Reeve Alvin Rempel, and area Councillor Dan Thiessen. During the ceremony, which was attended by 150 interested observers, Les Fereudenberg presented Anton Dyck with a plaque on behalf of the Government of Canada. Jake J. Peters had the distinct honor of performing the ribbon cutting to officially open the facility.

The first tenant to occupy an apartment was Mrs. Nettie Klassen. Mrs. Klassen was followed in turn by Jake J. Peters, Mr. and Mrs. Henry



Nettie Klassen, first resident of the new Prairie View Apartments.



Ribbon cutting for the Prairie View Apartments August 5, 1982. (l - r) Norm Blatz, Jake Peters, and Anton Dyck.

Klippenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Martens, Mr. and Mrs. John Martens, and Mrs. Anne Unrau.

Prior to the opening of the Prairie View Apartments, five Lowe Farm women's organizations along with two members from the Berghaler Church and one each from the Emmanuel Gospel and Sommerfeld churches along with the Lowe Farm Ladies Curling Club attended a one day charity craft fair. The craft fair was held at Polo Park Shopping Center on May 21, 1982. Mrs. Kay Derksen was chairwoman for this event.

Through the sale of baked goods, homemade crafts, and gift items, a total of \$1,088 was raised. The money raised was used to help furnish the lounge at the Lowe Farm Prairie View Apartments.

The summer of 1997 saw the construction of a car garage for the apartments. Dan J. Thiessen was hired as the project supervisor and foreman. Volunteer labor helped with the construction of the six bay structure. Total cost amounted to \$18,000.

In March of 1993, the Lowe Farm Friendship Centre began sponsoring a program known as the Congregate Meal Program for Seniors, at the Prairie View Apartments. This program falls under the direction of the Regional Health Authority, as well as the Morris Area Service to Seniors Program.

The purpose of the program provides seniors the opportunity to obtain a hot meal at a reasonable cost of \$3. At the same time it encourages residents to dine in the relaxed, friendly atmosphere of the apartment lounge.

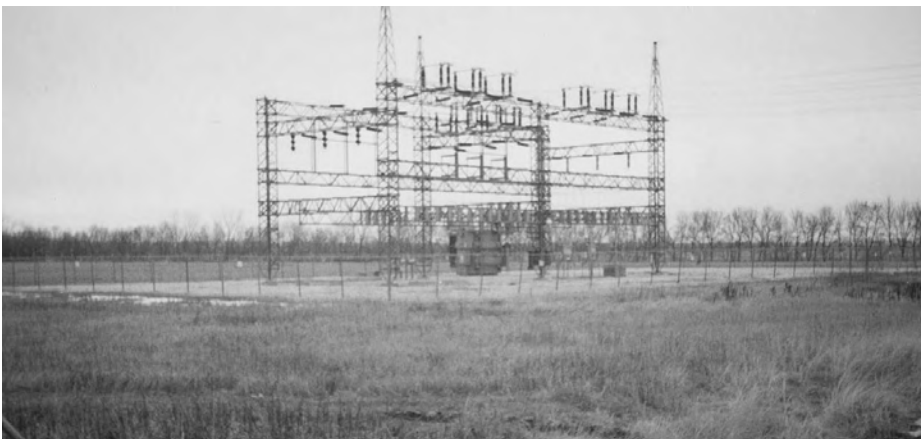
Mary Kehler was employed as the cook until her retirement in March of 1999. Betsy Gerbrandt has since taken over the responsibility of cooking meals at the Prairie View Apartments. Funding for the cooks is provided by the Regional Health Authority. Monday, Wednesday and Friday meal service is provided, with an average of 14 meals being prepared and served. For seniors who find it difficult to dine in the lounge, room service is available. Prairie View Apartments have served seniors well in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

LIGHTING UP LOWE FARM

Updated by Paul Joyal



Lowe Farm, just before electrification



The 115,000 sub station provides power to Lowe Farm and the surrounding area.

A number of Lowe Farm businessmen got together in 1934 - 1935 and persuaded J. H. Martens and Sons to run a plant providing power for Lowe Farm.

Previously, various businesses had their own power plants. Rosners, J. J. Schroeder, and I. J. Warkentin had small plants that were used in their establishments. But now they wanted it on a larger scale.

This was undertaken by buying a 26 horse power Ruston-Hornsby stationary engine, to which they hooked up a direct current (DC) generator. Once power was provided to the main businesses, the demand was so great that this Ruston-Hornsby generator had to be changed in 1936.

At that time, a Crompton-Parkinson alternator was purchased and was used with the stationary engine. Some homes were also hooked at this time; primarily the ones situated along the main line that was built in the very beginning. When another improvement was needed in service, a 15 horse power Lister stationary engine was procured, and used with the other equipment to provide power.

Problems were numerous, and residents at the east end of town complained about the quality of power. When an average size voltage was sent out, the loss of power was too great over the distance, to provide enough power to use an appliance effectively. This occurrence is referred to as a voltage drop. Adequate current at one end of a line decreases significantly at the other end of a very long run of wire. The problem was resolved by obtaining two transformers. A step-up transformer was installed at the plant, and a step-down was put on the furthest end of the main line. This plant provided electrical power for the people of Lowe Farm for 11 years.

When the power line was erected, it went down the alley from the west end of town to the

east. This being the main line, they had to put in a number of secondary lines. A line was put under the railway tracks to provide power for the pumps at the Consumers Co-operative warehouse. Pete Schroeder assisted in the installation of the power lines. Poles were put in the ground the hard way—with a pick and shovel.

A lot of man hours were put into this project, and in the fall of the year when the wires were strung, the older Martens boys and A. G. Schroeder were kept very busy. Most of the wiring in homes was carried out by Pete Martens and A. G. Schroeder.

After everything was installed and hooked up, the Martens family, who owned the plant, took the responsibility of seeing that everything worked. Since the plant operated from 7:00 a.m. until 12 midnight, one member of the family had to be around all day. Believe it or not, Mrs. Martens frequently was the one to start up the engine in the morning. Since the engine started on gasoline, then switched to diesel, Mrs. Martens had to turn the lever that made the switch at just the right moment!

The fuel that was used was partly refined crude oil obtained from Trump Oil at McTavish. This had to be hauled in for use during the winter and stored. There were problems with this as well. The crude oil thickened up in winter to the point where it could not be pumped out of the tanks. A fire had to lit under the tanks, and the oil heated and put into barrels which were then stored in the shop.

The rig that was used to haul this fuel was a semi-trailer with a 500 gallon tank mounted on a half ton Ford Model A truck. Hauling was done in fall or early winter on dirt roads; Frank and Jake recall how rain and ice sometimes made these trips eventful.

The consumers of Lowe Farm were urged to use the power for

lights only, though later some appliances were allowed. Ironing for instance was encouraged during the daytime when the loads were light. Engine overload happened mostly at night, when the first sign of trouble was the regular “putt putt” of the engine. Somebody would race down to the shop and babysit the plant until the load decreased. If the illegal load was not lightened by the homeowners, the plant would be slowed down to a point where light bulbs merely glowed. People would start turning of switches and pulling out plugs, which resulted in the load being lightened. Occasionally they would think, “He’s just pulling a fast one”, and as a result, the plant would stall.

Finally, the agreement to provide Lowe Farm with electricity came to an end in April of 1946, when the Manitoba Power Commission took over.

Construction under the farm program began on an experimental basis in 1945, when transmission lines were constructed to serve 674 farms in seven test areas. Southeastern Manitoba was selected as the location for one of the test areas and electrification began in the Roland district. The success of the test proved conclusively that farm electrification was feasible and led the Commission to plan construction to proceed at the rate of 5,000 farms annually. Unfortunately, the post war shortage of line materials and trained men restricted the construction to 1,500 farms in 1946 and to 3,600 in 1947.

Finally, in 1948, the annual goal of 5,000 farms was achieved. The program proceeded at this rate until its completion in 1956.

The Manitoba Power Commission supplied electricity to Lowe Farm via the sub station located in Morris. In the summer of 1969, Manitoba Hydro erected a sub station just to the east of Lowe Farm. This sub station now receives electricity via the LaVerendrye sub station which is located west of the City of Winnipeg. The 115,000 volt Lowe Farm sub station not only supplies Lowe Farm with hydro electric power, it also provides power to a large area surrounding Lowe Farm.

LOWE FARM FIRES



Peter H. Penner discussing Co-op Consumer fire with Fire Chief Gordon Dyck, June 1971.



Jake Ginter at the scene of the Co-op Consumer Fire.



Lowe Farm Consumer's Co-op destroyed by fire June 3, 1971.

In its early existence, the village of Lowe Farm, like many other small prairie towns, felt the wrath of fires. Without the means to effectively control and extinguish these fires Lowe Farm has suffered considerably from fires over the years.

The first fire in Lowe Farm occurred in 1908 at the residence of C. Nester located on lots Nine and Ten of Block Three. In 1914, the Winnipeg Grain Company elevator was destroyed by fire. Lowe Farm experienced its most disastrous and tragic fire on May 2, 1921, in which three stores, Mr. Rosner's, Mr. M. Altman, and Mr. Frank Groening's, were destroyed. Tragically, on this day, young Israel Rosner lost his life.



Aftermath of fire which swept through Lowe Farm's Main Street in 1921, destroying the Co-op, Reimer's I.H.C. shop and Johnson's' Garage.

During the next two decades three residences burned; Anton Funk, Jacob Funk, and Henry Friesen's. In 1940, three businesses were destroyed in one fell sweep; H. W. Reimer's IHC Shop, the Consumers Co-op, and Johnson's Garage. On August 22, 1953, the Manitoba Pool Elevator No. Two was completely destroyed by fire. October 26, 1956, a garage and service station owned by Pete Martens was consumed. Another fire, which burned out of control, occurred on January 31, 1959. It completely destroyed the Red and White General Store owned by Peter Hildebrand.

On November 28, 1963, another fire extensively damaged the Lowe Farm Consumer's Co-op building and the adjacent Co-op store. Fortunately the local fire brigade, together with the Morris, Rosenort, and Altona brigades were able to bring the fire under control before the buildings were completely destroyed. On June 1, 1971, a fire, believed to have started from a grass fire that spread from a barrel of burning trash, caused considerable damage to the garage and service station operated by the Lowe Farm Consumer's Co-op. This fire, thought to have been completely extinguished, continued to smolder in one of the walls. In the early morning hours of June 3, 1971, it re-ignited, bursting into flames and destroyed the building, inventory, and two vehicles.

In the early evening hours of March 10, 1982, the Emmanuel Gospel Church, located on First



Spectacular early evening blaze at the Emmanuel Gospel Church, March 10, 1982.

Avenue, was completely destroyed. This fire was started by spontaneous combustion of oily rags left unattended. On December 31, 1986, a chimney fire completely gutted the home owned by Anne Hudson.

Untold damage has also plagued the farming community. Fire has ravaged crops, and destroyed farm machinery, buildings and livestock over the years. In the period from 1988 -1998, a total of 62 fires were recorded by the fire department.

THE LOWE FARM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Submitted by Paul Joyal



The first fire engine was a 1946 Ford 3 ton truck. Volunteers here are Ben Thiessen, John Remple and Frank Martens.



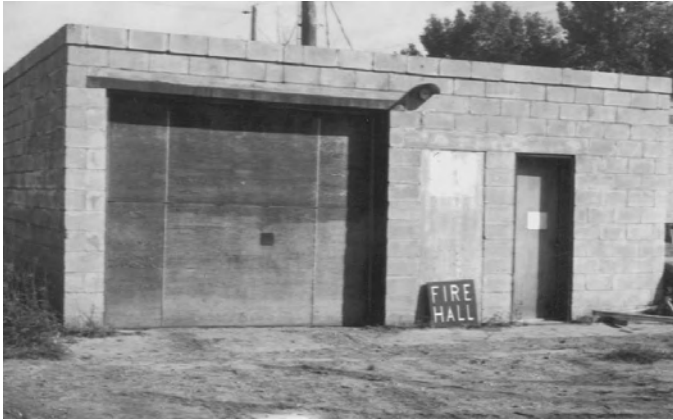
A 1965 Ford was Lowe Farm's second fire truck. It is scheduled for replacement in 1999.



The third fire truck in Lowe Farm was a 1958 International pumper, pictured here with Ron Unrau.



State of the art 1990 GMC topkick Fire Engine, the department's newest acquisition.



First Fire Hall in Lowe Farm. Built in 1952.



The Lowe Farm fire hall today.



This 1983 3 ton truck, to replace the aging 1965 Ford, was under construction by the Lowe Farm Fire Department in the winter of 1999.



The 1988 Ford fire truck built by members of the Lowe Farm fire department.

As noted, subsequent to the 1950's, fire has wreaked havoc on the community of Lowe Farm. With no means of its own for protection, Lowe Farm would certainly continue to fall prey to the destruction caused by fire.

In April of 1952, the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution to build a fire hall complete with fire fighting equipment with the cost not to exceed \$6,000. The money for the fire hall, truck and related equipment was obtained from the Municipality of Morris council repayable at \$1,000 per year, interest free. The cost of repayment was distributed over the entire ward.

At the Chamber of Commerce meeting of April 22, 1952, a committee of four members, John Green, Henry Voth, Diedrich Heppner and Jacob S. Schroeder, were appointed for looking after the building and purchasing materials for the proposed fire hall. Ed. Braun and J. Green from the Chamber of Commerce, along with local residents Pete Martens and Pete Brown acted as the building committee.

In 1952, a lot 50 by 120 feet was purchased for the sum of \$500. A further \$2,174.25 was spent on materials and labor, for construction of the 24 by 28 foot firehall.

In the beginning, the fire truck was filled with water provided from dugouts located within town. It would be several years later before a 7,000 gallon cistern would be installed on the south side of the fire hall with respect to the water needs of the fire brigade.

The first fire engine purchased was a 1946 three ton Ford truck. The water tank was built and installed locally by John H. and Frank Martens with steel sheet metal that was on hand. Total cost of the fire engine was \$2354.21. This amount included the purchase price of the truck, tank and related equipment such as valves and fittings. A further \$121 was spent on purchasing suction hose for drafting water from dugouts and ponds. As time wore on, the fire engine wore out and was subsequently replaced by a 1965 Ford truck which is still in use today.

As the responsibilities of the department grew, so did the need for more and better equipment. In 1983, a new fire hall was built adjacent to the first. The new hall built at a cost of \$60,000 contains two large truck bays, a large meeting room, washroom and shower facilities, and a small storage room. Trucks are now filled with water via the town water system. In addition to the new

hall, a second fire truck, a 1958 International pumper, was purchased from the Kingsville Fire Department of Kingsville, Ontario.

After many years of faithful and reliable service the International pumper was in need of replacement and was subsequently resold to the Kingsville Fire Department, where today it is on display in a museum.

In the winter of 1992, the fire department took delivery of its newest truck, a 1991 GMC Top Kick fire engine. Built by Fort Garry Industries of Winnipeg, this fire truck contains top of the line equipment and will serve the community well for years to come. Along with the truck, newer equipment has also been purchased such as turnout gear (suits), hoses, nozzles, portable pumps and radios, to name a few. On August 27, 1998, a three ton Ford cab and chassis was purchased through fundraising by the fire department. This truck is being built almost entirely by the Lowe Farm Fire Department and is scheduled for completion by the end of February of 1999. Once in operation, the new truck will replace the 1965 Ford that has been in service for many years.

PERSONNEL



The Lowe Farm Fire Department in 1977. Top (l - r): Dan Thiessen, Jake Ginter. Bottom: Cornie Febr, Jake Bergen, Martin Braun, Henry Janz, George Klassen.



*Gordon Dyck,
Fire Chief No. 3.*



*George Klassen,
Fire Chief No. 5.*



*Fire Chief No. 7,
Gerald Klassen.*



*First Responder,
Diane Lilke.*



*Fire Chief No. 4,
Cornelius Febr.*



*Larry Gluck,
Fire Chief No. 6 & 8.*



*Present Fire Chief,
Ray St. Godard.*



*First Responder,
Gregg Derksen.*



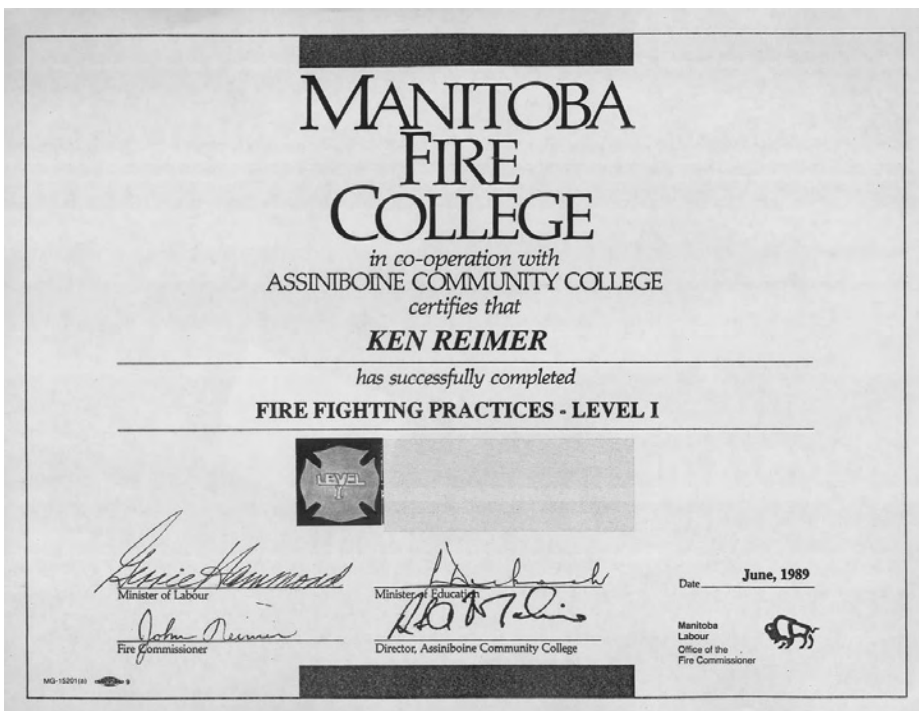
*First Fire Chief, Frank
Martens.*



*Second Fire Chief
Gary Friesen.*



Certificate, First Responder.



Level 1 certificate.

Frank Martens served as the first fire chief of the department from 1952 until 1969. Other fire chiefs have included: Gary Friesen, Gordon Dyck, Cornelius Fehr, George Klassen, Larry Gluck, Gerald Klassen, and Ray St. Godard, the present chief.

The entire department is on a strictly volunteer basis. Volunteers are paid a small amount from the municipality, and are also covered under Workers Compensation. Currently Lowe Farm Fire Department has 12 volunteers, and two first responders.

ACTIVITIES

Fire drills are held the first and third Tuesdays of every month and form the nucleus of fire department activities. They provide the department with the opportunity to plan and exercise strategies while at the same time establishing teamwork, maintain morale, and instill confidence. Through many hours of dedicated practice the fire department has become a safe, reliable and efficient operation. The importance of fire drills no matter how simple or how complicated can never be underestimated.

The goal of any fire department is to protect and serve the communities in which they are located. Lowe Farm is certainly no exception. In the late 1980s, the fire department, under the direction of Fire Chief George Klassen, undertook Level I fire-fighting training. Through the Office of the Fire Commissioner, members of the department were taught basic fire-fighting skills. Level I training serves two purposes: First and foremost, it teaches the fire fighter safety and how to recognize danger. Secondly, it teaches the effective use of the tools and equipment at their disposal. At any fire, knowing what to do, and when to do it, is crucial to winning or losing the battle. In 1989, the fire department was tested by the Fire Commissioner, and fire fighters involved were awarded their Level I Certification. Since



Current Fire Department:

L.R. Peter Klassen, Frank Siemens, Peter Harder, Larry Gluck, Tony Dyck, Diane Lilke, Ray St. Godard (chief).

F.R. Todd Paetkau, Ken Reimer, Greg Derksen, Ron Unrau, Eric Gluck

Added: Ron Ginter, Cassandra Knelsen, Ken Ewbank.



Members of the Fire Department conduct a search and rescue drill.

that time, Level I Certification has become standard practice for all new members joining the department.

Another important element of the department is the training of First Responders. First Responders became a part of the Lowe Farm Fire Department in 1993. Marielle Dyck and Diane Lilke joined the Fire Department in 1992 and took the 90 hour First Responder course in Morris that winter, and took the examination in Winkler in May of 1993. The course offers the basic knowledge and skills to ensure the safety of all involved at the scene of an injury or illness. The ability to assess and evaluate a patient's condition, including deterioration, improvements and the monitoring of their status. Utilization of techniques of care is recognized by the nursing and medical staff. They are taught the ability to lift, move and transport the sick and injured in the safest most expedient way. They are also taught the ability to report pertinent information concerning a patient's condition and care. All First Responders must re-certify every three years taking a written exam of 100 questions, and a practical exam consisting of four different stations; childbirth, oxygen therapy, immobilization and body survey that may involve wounds and splinting. Being a First Responder is a commitment to the community in which they live. The First Responders of the Lowe Farm Fire Department now are Greg Derksen (joined in 1997) and Diane Lilke.

Lowe Farm Fire Department, in conjunction with several other fire departments, is associated with Mutual Aid. At Mutual Aid meetings new fire-fighting techniques, as well as planning and strategies are discussed in the event of a large-scale disaster where several fire departments could become involved. Mutual Aid meetings are held on an ongoing basis once a month at different fire departments throughout the Mutual Aid District. Fire fighters are encouraged to attend these meetings.



A fire drill to keep the fire department in practice.



A fire drill to keep the fire department in practice.



Fire Fighters with hoses and air packs extinguish a blaze in a drill. House donated by J. B. Harder.



Fire Chief Ray St. Godard surveying fire fighting operations.

EDUCATION

The fire department has, on occasion, visited area residents discussing the importance of such things as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and escape routes in the event of fire. They also outline hazards around the house and how to store potentially hazardous materials safely.

In conjunction with the school; they have conducted fire drills, and have given classroom instruction to young students on the dangers of playing with fire. Also, they are shown how to exit a building safely and what to do should their clothes catch on fire. Through education the fire department can help promote a fire safe community.

The year 1997 saw the old system of dialing a seven-digit number for emergency assistance replaced by a new system. Today we need only dial 911 for fire, medical, or police services.

Although voluntary in character, the Lowe Farm Fire Department has, and we trust will continue, to serve the community with pride, professionalism, and prudence.

A CENTURY OF FLOODING

Every spring the flood waters leave the Pembina Hills to cross the plains on their way to the Red River. On the way they are gathered into big spillways some 10 miles west of Lowe Farm and are led due east regardless of their natural courses. As they reach the level ground common to this area, the drop in elevation practically disappears and the water consequently slows down, occasionally overflowing the snowfilled ditches and spreading out into a slowly moving stream at times a mile wide.

One of the first ditches of an extensive drainage system that has been developed over the years was dug by means of a floating dredge in 1904. This ditch, now known as the Shannon Spillway, passes Lowe Farm a half mile to the south. Waters from the Shannon Creek originating in the Pembina Hills are channeled east by the Shannon Spillway which in turn empties into the Morris River by way of the Moyer (Lewis) Coulee. In normal years the ditches and spillways can handle the spring runoff water, but occasionally, in flood years, the water overflows the spillways and dikes and may cover whole farm yards in its path to a depth of three or four feet.

One of worst floods recorded occurred in 1913. The 1920's saw one or two unusually high floods, and in the spring of 1947, a late thaw came suddenly, causing the waters to break their normal bounds and inundate fields and farm yards that had been untouched for years. At these times Lowe Farm appeared to be on an island surrounded by a sea of water covering many square miles. Such was also the case in 1950 when, as the result of a winter with an abnormally heavy snow fall and a late spring, followed by an extended rainy spell, the Red River



Jake Rempel, John Rempel and Pete Wiebe rescue Susie Groening from the flooded Groening farmyard in 1966.



An army cook preparing meals.



An army truck is loaded with sandbags on Lowe Farm's main street.



Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, lining up before bidding Lowe Farm adieu.



Councilor Ralph Groening receives a plaque for the community from Major Stu Sharpe.



Jean Hildebrand, from the "Granny Brigade," receives a plaque from Major Stu Sharpe.

overflowed its banks to the extent that the river's edge crept up to the road west of the Smith Spur Elevator, just two and one half miles east of the town of Lowe Farm. After the town of Morris had been evacuated and the waters continued to rise, it soon became apparent that the residents of the village of Rosenort and the surrounding area would have to leave their homes. On May 6, the Red Cross designated the village of Lowe Farm as a flood victim accommodation centre, and by 10 a.m. on the morning of May 6, tarpaulin covered trucks were dispatched to aid in the evacuation of the flood victims in the Rosenort area. Before midnight that evening, the village of Lowe Farm, with a population of some 365, had accommodated approximately 370 flood victims. It was one month later that the last of the evacuees left Lowe Farm and returned home.

Other floods over the years have caused equally disastrous results. The floods of 1966, and again in 1979 are two examples of these natural catastrophes; however little would compare to the flooding that occurred in the spring of 1997.

WE REALLY DID FEED AN ARMY

submitted by Joyce Harder, Marie Hildebrand and Paul Joyal

The winter and spring of 1997 will never be forgotten by people living in the Red River Valley. Etched into their minds will be the "Flood of the Century".

The winter of 1997 came early, and with it, record amounts of snowfall. Early in January, flood forecasters began to predict concerns about flooding. Compounding these concerns was the fact that North Dakota was experiencing the same record snowfalls. A cool spring that would allow for a gradual snowmelt, would ease the possibility of severe flooding.

However, this was not to be. On April 5 and 6 Mother Nature delivered a crushing blow to southern Manitoba. Instead of the anticipated gradual snow melt, a blizzard hit southern Manitoba, virtually paralyzing the entire region. Many homes in the area were left without hydro, water, or telephone. North Dakotans also felt the wrath that Mother Nature had dumped on southern Manitoba. Flooding was now a certainty, the extent of the flooding would depend largely on the weather. In this year Mother Nature refused to cooperate. The warm spring weather came almost as quickly as the winter snow.

As the Red River began to rise, communities along its banks began to prepare for the possibility of flooding. Shock waves were experienced along the Valley as news came that Grand Forks, North Dakota, with a population of 50,000 people was forced to evacuate because the Red River had exceeded flood predictions and flooded the entire Grand Forks region. With the Red River so high south of the border, what lay in store for Manitoba? Communities along the Valley, stepped up their flood fighting efforts. Dykes were shored up or re-enforced, sand bags laid in place, and emergency plans drawn up.

As the Red River continued to rise it became apparent that evacuation was inevitable. In the days that followed, the communities of Emerson, Letellier, St. Jean Baptiste, Morris and Ste. Agathe would all be evacuated.

The people in the Lowe Farm area knew there was not only the Red River rising, but that water, and lots of it was approaching Lowe Farm from the west. Heavy spring runoff was making its way eastward toward the Red River.

On Saturday, April 19, 1997, volunteers were asked to come out and help fill sandbags at the Lowe Farm Community Centre. Approximately 15 people were sandbag-



A stockpile of sandbags ready for pick-up.



Loading trucks with sandbags for local distribution.



The armed forces at ease.



Armed Forces helicopter at the "Lowe Farm airport" on Tony Dyck's land, across from the community centre.



Every available hand is used to fill sandbags in preparation for the flood.



Seventeen local farm trucks were pressed into service during the flood.

ging when someone suggested during a coffee break that this was not a job for only men who were over the age of 40. (This was the approximate age of those in attendance at this sandbagging party.) It was suggested that perhaps an announcement could be made at church services for the need for volunteers. On Sunday, April 20, at all the church services in Lowe Farm, the announcement was made. That afternoon approximately 200 volunteers converged on the Community Centre to aid in filling sandbags. People of all ages, from seven to 70, gave a helping hand. Many of the volunteers present were from the Kane area, west of Lowe Farm.

This was the beginning of the monumental role Lowe Farm would eventually play in battling the flood of the century. The Lowe Farm Community Centre would be transformed into the flood headquarters for the entire area. Because of the very limited access to Morris and Rosenort, the Rural Municipality of Morris, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Manitoba Emergency Management Organization (MEMO), the Department of Highways, Department of Natural Resources, Ambulance Services and the Lowe Farm Fire Department would all be headquartered at the Community Centre. The Lowe Farm School assisted by providing Internet access, which supplied the flood control centre with flood up-dates and maps. In addition, the local clergy were available at all times to offer support. The Lowe Farm Fire Department was responsible for the entire operation.

Many farmers brought their trucks for use in the flood fighting effort. At first the volunteers would fill, carry and load sandbags onto the trucks by hand. Later, a front end loader and three fork lifts would be used to load sandbags onto the trucks. The total number of bags used each day as well as the amount of sand was tabulated.



Army personnel and local "cooks and bottlewashers" became fast friends during the flood.



Susie Groening and Beth Braun cook during 1979 flood.

The sand was first obtained through the R.M. of Morris, but as the crisis escalated, it was brought in from wherever it could be obtained.

When farmyards and homes were in danger of being flooded, sandbag loaded trucks along with volunteers would be dispatched to the stricken area. In a few hours they had the house protected from the threat of flooding. Also, when grain bins were in danger of water, the farmers would rally together with several trucks and grain carts to remove the grain.

Once the threat of the overflowing waters of the Tobacco Creek, located north of Lowe Farm, and the Shannon Ditch to the south began to subside, the community turned its efforts on protecting yards to the east of Lowe Farm.

On April 23, 1997, Lowe Farm would become invaded - not by the rampaging waters of the Red River,

nor by the flood waters to its west, but by 120 soldiers of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, under the command of Major Stu Sharpe. For the next 20 days the men and women of the PPCLI would call Lowe Farm home. During their stay in Lowe Farm, the armed forces were housed in the basement of the Emmanuel and Bergthaler Churches. Fully equipped for emergencies, the army was quick at setting up weather and communication depots.

During the flood, Lowe Farm even acquired an airport. Set up across the highway from the Community Centre, the airport was used by the Armed Forces, MEMO, Natural Resources, and the RCMP. Helicopters could be heard landing in Lowe Farm at any time of the day or night.

In addition, a group of town ladies set to work on feeding the throngs of people who were assisting in the battle to beat the Red. The Lowe Farm Co-op made many contributions throughout the flood with donations of food and supplies, the use of coolers and freezers, and a staff who were always available when needed. The communities of Kane, Horndean, Carman, Morden, and Winkler, and as far away as Crystal City and Pilot Mound provided meals in one form or another. Penner Foods of Winkler, and Pauline's Kitchen of Morden also delivered several truckloads of food.

At the height of activities the "Granny Brigade," as they would be referred to affectionately by the armed forces, were preparing meals for approximately 300 people a day. The food operation ran 24 hours a day with hot meals available until very late at night. Refreshments, sandwiches, dainties, and a variety of fruit were available at all times.

As the flood crisis began to diminish, the community of Lowe Farm held a barbecue in honor of the men and women of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in appreciation for their much needed services. The barbecue was held on Sunday, May 4, with nearly the entire community of approximately 350 in attendance.

On May 15, 1997, the friendly invasion of the Canadian Armed Forces into Lowe Farm would come to an end. Before leaving, however, the commanding officer of the PPCLI, Major Stu Sharpe, presented a plaque to Ralph Groening, area councillor, recognizing the efforts Lowe Farm had made in helping with the "Flood of the Century". The commanding officer also made another presentation. A plaque was presented to Jean Hildebrand, on behalf of all the ladies of the "Granny Brigade," who had provided the army with the much appreciated home cooking.

A total of 17 farm trucks were used in a variety of ways throughout the flood. Delivering thousands of sand bags, supplying food to volunteers sandbagging at flood threatened homes, the untiring efforts of these gentlemen is truly remarkable. In areas where it was not possible for the farm vehicles to access, the armed forces were on hand to provide assistance.

The community of Lowe Farm, the Armed Forces, along with scores of volunteers, filled approximately 148,000 sandbags. Of this total approximately 138,000 were put into actual use. A total of 59 homes were sandbagged, and of this number, only two were lost to flood waters. The combined efforts of many people made possible a victorious flood fighting effort.

Cell phones have been used for a number of years, however, this was one of the first times they were used and tested in a major emergency. In many areas, the telephone lines were out of order and cell phones were the only means of communication.

Special thanks are extended to the students of Lowe Farm and Morris Schools who did so much of the back breaking work of filling and laying sandbags, and the loading of sandbags onto pallets.

The people of our community volunteered many hours of service in the victory over the "Flood of the Century." One could not begin to mention the names of individuals who so generously donated their time, food, equipment or whatever was required in this very special time of need.

The community of Lowe Farm received recognition in feeding and sheltering victims of the 1950 flood. It's nice to know that this same co-operative spirit was repeated 47 years later by another generation.

BLIZZARDS

Submitted by Paul Joyal

Countless stories may be written about the snow, the cold and of course the inevitable blizzards of any Canadian winter. Even the smallest amount of snowfall combined with a gusting wind can create blizzard-like conditions. In reality, such is life on the flat open prairie of the Great White North. Only the foolhardy or the daring would venture out in such conditions.

Blizzards, at their worst are



Spalding house in Lowe Farm, winter of 1943 - 1944.



Snow covers a chicken house, winter of 1943 - 1944



Stormed in at Lowe Farm.



This Lowe Farm street won't be passable for some time.



Lowe Farm business with vehicles in front



Aerial photo from east looking west.



Lowe Farm 1959.