



Memoirs
of
Middleton

In memory of the early settlers who
pioneered to make our district a place
they were proud of and passed the chal-
lenge on to their children and the suc-
ceeding generations.

This book was started for Manitoba's
centennial in 1970 and brought up to date
for printing in 1972.

The history of the early settlement
of the district is given in the
first volume of the series. The
second volume is devoted to the
history of the district and the
third volume is devoted to the
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THE SCHOOL

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING

July 14th 1886

Meeting was called to order by calling Mr. Rutherford to the chair.

Moved by Ben Swanson seconded by George Nairne that John Tait act as secretary. Carried.

Moved by William Tait seconded by Ben Swanson that Samuel Rutherford act as trustee. Carried.

Moved by William Dickson seconded by Moses Kealey that Ben Swanson act as trustee. Carried.

Moved by Ben Swanson seconded by William Tait that Samuel Forrest act as trustee. Carried.

Moved by William Tait seconded by Ben Swanson that William Dickson and Moses Kealey act as auditors. Carried.

Mr. Toohey was then called to the chair and the trustees were duly sworn in. —Samuel Rutherford

July 19th 1886

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Rutherford taking the chair.

Moved, seconded and carried that Ben Swanson act as Secretary-Treas. and that he be paid twenty-five dollars for his services.

Moved, seconded and carried that the secretary post notices calling a meeting of the ratepayers on the 18th day of September at eight p.m. for the purpose of considering the advisability of raising by way of loan for the purpose of building and furnishing a school house.

Meeting then adjourned.

Samuel Rutherford

September 7th 1886

Meeting was called by Mr. Rutherford taking the chair.

The Secretary-Treasurer then read tenders for building the School house.

Tenders from F. Pound \$650.00

Wm. Taylor \$575.25

J. Kerr \$511.00

Resolved that Mr. Joseph Kerr get the contract, accordingly an agreement was drawn up and was signed by trustees and Mr. Kerr.

MIDDLETON SCHOOL

Middleton School, built by some of the pioneers, started to operate November 29, 1886. It was named Middleton after General Middleton of the Riel Rebellion of 1885.

Education being essential, the pioneers built the school as soon as their homes were completed.

Some of the pioneers were:

Messrs.

John Johns	James Conway
James Berry	Tom Toohey
William Storey	Tom Boyle
Ben Swanson	John Falls
Edward (Teddy) Carriss	A. Rutherford
George Nairne	Tom Nairne
Jack Tait	Albert Owens
Matt Riddell	Dave Lowry
Billy Dickson	Sam Forrest
Moses Kealey	Gideon Owens
	Jim Anderson
	Eatons and Kerr

When Middleton was formed there were two educational boards, a Protestant board and a Catholic board. The formation was approved on the thirteenth day of May 1885 and the Minute Book of the Protestant board reads as follows:

Middleton (named Carleton in by-law) school district, containing ten Protestant children of school age to consist of the following lands:

Sections	19, 30, 31	3	7	W
	22, 23, 24			
	25, 26, 27	3	8	W
	34, 35, 36			

The land where the school was built was originally bought from Mr. Toohey. The school was moved in 1900 to the corner of 26-3-8.

Deed Reads:

May 22, 1900 from Andrew Rutherford to Middleton school (No. 404) board one acre of land N.E. corner of N.E. quarter 26-3-8 for the sum of \$20.

Middleton School officially started in November 29, 1886.

Teacher: Miss Elizabeth Abbott

Pupils:

S. Forrest, 13; Mary Forrest, 12; Archie Forrest, 10; Isabella Forrest, 10; Esther Falls, 13; Rebecca Falls, 11; Sarah Falls, 9.

38
Middleton
S.D. # 404
(1886)
19, 30, 31
Township 3
Range 9 W
22, 23, 24,
25, 26, 27,
4, 35, 36,
Township 3
Range 8 W

34	J. Young	35 S+D Young	James Hamilton	36	Johns	Bill Wm Baumgart Hamilton
27	A. checkley	Alex 26 Young	25	Ken Sanderson	John Hamilton	30 Waddingham
22	Tait	L. 23 Seymour	Leatherdale	24 Pedersen	R. Hamilton	19 L. Lowry

■ first school site
■ second school site

MIDDLETON DISTRICT HOLDS 75th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

The commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the opening of Middleton School was celebrated on Saturday the 24th of June at the annual Middleton School Picnic on the farm of Mr. Ken Young.

There were a number of pupils and one teacher who had attended the school prior to 1920. They were Miss Bethel Graham, former teacher and pupils Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Swanson, Ed Owens and Mrs. Isabel Collins all of Winnipeg, W. Govier and Lloyd Mitchell of Crystal City, Mrs. Bessie Andrew, Thornhill, and L. Jones of La



75TH REUNION JUNE 24th, 1961

Back Row — Bill Govier, Bill Johns, Tom Nairne, Ed Owens, Bob Nairne, Dr. Swanson.
Front Row — Bethel Graham, Mrs. (E. Checkley) Beckett, Mrs. Dr. Swanson, Mrs. Tom Nairne.



FORMER TEACHERS OF MIDDLETON SCHOOL ATTENDING THE REUNION

Back Row — Miss Jessie Mackintosh, Miss Myrtle Scharf, Mrs. Jack Brown (Mildred Neelin), Mrs. Gordon Ramsay (Jean Ferguson), Mrs. John Hamilton (Laura Vincent).
Front Row — Miss Bethel Graham, Mrs. Bill Maloney (Reta McDowell), Mrs. Sam Tait (Kae McLeod), Mrs. Jack McIntosh (Jean McDonald), Mrs. George Thexton (Kae Slater)

Riviere, Mrs. C. Biggar, Kaleida, Mel Stone, Darlingford, Mr. and Mrs. T. Nairne, R. Nairne, Mrs. E. S. Checkley, E. Tait, H. Dickson, Mrs. Marj Young, E. Carswell, J. Hancock, Clarence Hancock and Mrs. J. Hardy all of Manitou, Mrs. H. Leatherdale and W. Johns of the Middleton District.

Also attending were former teachers since that time - Miss Myrtle Scharf, La Riviere, Mrs. Kay Tait, Manitou, Mrs. Reta Moloney, Kaleida, Mrs. Jean McIntosh, Manitou, Mrs. Catherine Thexton, Balmoral, Man., Mrs. Laura Hamilton and Mrs. Mildred Brown of Middleton District, Mrs. Jean Ramsay,

Winnipeg, Mrs. Vivian Ferguson, Manitou, and our present teacher Miss Jessie Mackintosh.

Mr. Alf Fry of the Opawaka District, class of '88 is enjoying good health, but was unable to attend.

The afternoon was spent with the pupils' ball game and variety of races. Also the school was open for anyone interested in viewing the display of pictures of former pupils and the history of the school.

Following the blessing asked by Mr. Bob Nairne, some 200 people sat down to a picnic supper, which ended an enjoyable re-union afternoon.



SALE AT THE SCHOOL



MOVING THE SCHOOL

Middleton School District No. 404 was legally dissolved in 1962 as the result of a resident electors vote to go into Consolidation. The school was closed in June 1962.

Board: Fred Sprung - Chairman; Laura Hamilton - Secretary-Treasurer; Alex Young, William Berry.

Teacher: Miss Jessie Mackintosh, of Manitou.

Pupils:

I: Elva Berry, Dianne Checkley.

II: Lloyd Baumgart, Davidson Berry, Deborah Brown, Brent Checkley, Mary Hamilton.

III: Ian Hamilton, Linda Pedersen.

IV: Marie Berry, Thomas Sprung.

V: Elaine Baumgart, Richard Brown,

Mary Pedersen, Doreen Young, James Young.

VI: Esther Baumgart, Elizabeth Hamilton, Diane Young.

VII: Judith Young.

VIII: Thomas Hamilton, May Pedersen, Linda Young.

John Hamilton, William Hamilton, Richard Hamilton, Ronald Waddingham, William Baumgart chose to go to Darlingford while the remaining residents went to Manitou.

The school and contents were sold at public auction in the fall. The school Building was purchased by the congregation of the Full Gospel Mission who moved it to the town of Darlingford where they use it as their meeting place.



CLASS OF 1902 - 1903 — TEACHER - MISS MARTIN

Back Row — Jack Nairne, Irvin Storey, Tom Carriss, Bob Carriss, Bob Jones, Kate Jones, Alda Storey, Lillie Lowry, May Nairne, Mabel Jones, Laura Boyle, Irene Jones, Lillie Anderson.

Second Row — Ruby Swanson, Nellie Lowry, Eva Johns, Laura Swanson, Annie Swanson.

Third Row — Teanie Nairne, Ethel Tait, Bessie Anderson, Elsie Johns, May Anderson.

Fourth Row — Fred Carriss, Hugh Nairne (Toot), Jackie Johns, Willie Anderson, Norman Anderson, Jimmie Jones, Ed Tait, Bobbie Nairne, George Anderson, John Carriss.

PUPILS

1886 November 29th

Samuel Forrest 13
Archie Forrest 10
Esther Falls 13
Sarah Falls 9

Mary Forrest 12
Isabella Forrest 10
Rebecca Falls 11

November 30th
S. Ericks 14 (cousin of Tait's)

1887

Samuel Falls 14 (Feb. 21)
Minnie Storey
Thomas Mootray

Evelyn Falls
Harry Mootray
George Compton

1888

Alfred Fry 14 (Feb. 1)
Annie Carriss

William Mootray
Dolly Carriss

1889

Annie Dickson

George Lowry

1890

Walter Johns
Lucy Swanson
Pearl Owens
Annie Swanson
Richard Falls

Pearl Falls
Alexander Swanson
Sam Dickson
Jennie Lowry

1891

Edgar Owens
Florence Carriss
Mary Kealey
Thomas Nairne
Mervin Owens
Fred Tait

Lila Storey
Harvey Dickson
Mary Nairne
John Conway
George Tait
Willie Berry

1892	Mabel Johns Edna Swain Lila Swain Willie Billsland Mabel Conway	Annie Lowry Frank Swain Edward Carriss Thomas Berry Herbert Davidson
1893	James Allen Albert Storey May Berry	Gladys Allen John Dickson Arthur Berry
1895	Maud Carriss Lorne Swanson Thomas Carriss Eva Johns Alda Storey Edgar Owens	Walter Johns Lily Lowry May Conway Jackie Nairne Lily Anderson
1896	Richard Lowry Lilla May Lowry May Nairne Irvin Storey William Anderson Eleanor Storey	Margaret Lowry Samuel Collins Edgar Boyle Lawrence Swanson Laura Swanson
1897	Bob Nairne Bob Carriss Beatrice Grant	Fred Johns Laura Boyle Eddie Lowry
1898	Myrtle Conway George Anderson Bert Storey	Herbert Storey Laura Swanson
1899	Jackie Johns John Carriss	John Sprung Hugh Nairne
1900	Ruby Swanson May Anderson Ena Kirker Percy Law	Maude Law Elsie Johns Fred Carriss Lizzie Lowry
1901	Irene Jones Robbie Jones	Katie Jones James Jones
1902	Tom Clark Ed Tait Norman Anderson	John Drummond Esther Drummond
1903	Veda Moore Leila Durnin Maud Mc Murtry	Charlie White Wilbert Durnin Bertha Mc Murtry
1904	Teenie Nairne James Bruce Clarence Mc Murtry Neil Smith Archie Smith	Bessie Anderson Mabel Bruce James Smith Tommy Smith Ethel Tait

1906 - 1910

Nellie Lowry
Willie Johns
Jessie Hutter
Bella Tait
Florence Bell
Elsworth Beatty
Willie McNab
George Stevens
Alex McNab
Cyril Smith
Arlene Hutter
Eileen Hutter
Dick Holmes
Ethel Findlay

Fred Johns
Glen Hutter
Harry Hutter
Gertrude Bell
Earl Beatty
Margaretta Hutter
Willie Govier
Mabel Govier
Donald McNab
Hilda Wass
Sam Tait
Annie Govier
Tom Findlay

1910 - 1920

Cliff Hancock
Roy Mitchell
Evelyn Findlay
Harold Jones
Bella McNab
Leslie Jones
Allen Jones
Mina Hancock
Otto Kinsman
Bessie Voros
George Voros
Mike Voros
Allen Lowry
Eddie Jones
Alice Jones
Jessie Lowry
Vera Hancock
John Tode
Eva McNeill

John Hancock
Lloyd Mitchell
Ida Findlay
Ella Mitchell
Willie Falls
Mabel Findlay
Marjorie Mitchell
Alice Hancock
Szilard Voros
George Jones
Isabel Jones
Clifford Jones
Kenneth Lowry
Eva Jones
Ida Hancock
Frank Jones
Edward Evans
Vera Peel
Mary McNeill

1920 - 1930

Tommy Mitchell
Lizzy Cadger
Alex Young
Margaret Evans
Melville Stone
Alice Coates
John Coates
Clarence Blackshaw
Sam McNicholl
Willie McNicholl
Erma Falls
Margaret McAuley
Fred Checkley
Hazel Jones
Dick Maxwell
Alberta Sprung
Molly Cadger

Robert Cadger
Mac McNeill
Annie Young
John Young
Alice Cadger
Elmore Carswell
Gertrude Cadger
Stuart Young
Marion McNicholl
Doris Jones
Vera Peel
Phyllis Evans
Fred Sprung
Allan Crozier
Daniel Stewart
Jackie Jones
Stuart Jones

Alvin Checkley
Susie Schroeder
Richard Hamilton
Marguerite Jones

Dora Schroeder
Willie Hamilton
James Hamilton
Lily Schroeder

1930 - 1940

John Klassen
Jacob Klassen
Laura Massey
Martha Massey
George Tiessen
Jack Berry
William Berry
Bella Jones
Donald Berry
Marjorie Checkley
Dulcie Berry
Elmer Mutcher
Jean Zilkey
Gwen Leatherdale
Barbara Berry
Thomas Checkley

Peter Klassen
Fred Massey
Eddie Massey
George Remple
Diedrick Tiessen
James Berry
Harry Klippenstein
Marion Mutcher
Elsie Sprung
Mary Cunningham
Grace Brown
Grace Zilkey
Donald Brown
Pearl Zilkey
Floyd Checkley
Inez Zilkey

1940 - 1950

Murray Leatherdale
Thelma Sepke
Irene Sepke
Marie Sepke
Freda Zilkey
Eddie Baloun
Murray Young
David Penner
John Penner
Maurice Sprung
Malcolm Young
Ruth Sprung
Glen Young

Harold Sprung
Garfield Young
Elizabeth Sepke
Melvin Sepke
Boyd Young
Gordon Pattison
Allan Sprung
Katie Penner
Elizabeth Penner
Pat Young
Leonard Penner
Ross Sprung

1950 - 1960

David Young
Janet Young
Linda Young
Judy Young
Betty Hamilton
Elaine Baumgart
Mary Pedersen
Jim Young
Tom Sprung
Linda Pedersen

Douglas Young
May Pedersen
Tom Hamilton
Esther Baumgart
Diane Young
Richard Brown
Doreen Young
Marie Berry
Ian Hamilton

1960 - 1962

Lloyd Baumgart
Deborah Brown
Mary Hamilton
Dianne Checkley

Davidson Berry
Brent Checkley
Elva Berry



Doug Young, David Young, Ruth Sprung, Gen Young, Pat Young, Ross Sprung, Malcolm Young, Murray Young, David Penner, Boyd Young. In front: Maurice Sprung and Leonard Penner.

YEAR	ENROL MENT	AV. ATT.	TEACHERS	CERT.	SALARY
1887	6	5.3	Miss Elizabeth Abbott	3 Prof.	
1887	14	6.85	Miss Elizabeth Abbott	3 Prof.	
1888	19	9.9	J. E. Kimberly	3 B	\$35/mo.
1889	16	10.03	D. W. Kerchar		
1890	21	8.40	Theo. G. Finn	3 Prof.	\$40/mo.
1891	30	15.45	Theo. G. Finn	3 Prof.	
1892	32	12.90	Theo. G. Finn	3 Prof.	
1893	33	12.22	Fred Morris	Second	\$40/mo.
1894	36	15.65	C. E. Armstrong	First	
1895	33	19.40	Helen Hobkirk	Third	\$480
1896	32	13.71	T. Webster	Third	\$40/mo.
1897	38	17.51	Lena J. Gayton	Second	\$360
1898	41	16.18	Lena J. Gayton	Second	\$420
1899	39	23.78	Lena J. Gayton	Second	\$420
1900	40	24.92	Albert J. Law	Second	\$420
1901	45	22.74	Christina M. Ross	Second	\$420
1902	47	23.8	Harry H. McIntosh	Prof. 1 A	\$450
1902	36	16.28	Edith A. Martin	Third	\$540
1903	34	13.93	Edith A. Martin	Third	\$540
1904	34	17.48	Kate Armitage	Second	\$540
1905	36	19.26	Kate Armitage	Second	\$540
1905	26	19.36	Lizzie A. Cousins	Third	\$540
1906	24	15.08	Mary Nicholson	Second	
1907	24	10.10	Mary Nicholson	Second	
1908	26	16.46	Josephine Mac Lean	Second	
1909	28	15.12	Josephine Mac Lean	Second	\$600
1910	30	14.95	Amy Graham	Third	\$560
1911	27	17.91	Bethel Graham	Third	\$600
1912	28	15.82	Bethel Graham	Third	\$600
1913	16	7.87	Bethel Graham	Third	\$600
1914	20	13.06	Florence Moores	Third	\$600
1915	22	13.67	Ida Atkinson	Third	\$600
1916	19	11.03	Ellen M. Richmond	Third	
1917	22	13.61	Ellen M. Richmond	Third	\$600
1918	23	17.18	Margaret Balfour	Third	\$600
1919	22	17.20	Margaret Balfour	Third	\$650
1920	12	9.20	Margaret Balfour	Third	\$720
1921	22	11.62	Alice L. Davis	Second	\$1000
1922	17	11.38	Alice L. Davis	Third	\$1000
1923	20	11.41	Lila Campbell	Third	\$900
1924	16	12.55	Nellie Armitage	Third	\$900
1925	17	8.46	Nellie Armitage	Third	\$900
1926	11	7.03	Eva J. Wallcroft	Second	\$750
1927	15	8.21	M. Ruth Blackwell	Second	\$800
1928	11	7.61	Myrtle Scharf	Second	\$750
1929	9	6.94	Myrtle Scharf	Second	\$800
1930	15	11.52	Kathleen McLeod	Second	\$800
1931	20	17.34	Kathleen McLeod	Second	\$800
1932	14	13.38	Kathleen McLeod	Second	\$750
1933	16	12.70	Kathleen McLeod	Second	\$500
1934	13	11.00	Marguerite McDowell	Second	\$400
1935	16	13.3	Marguerite McDowell	Second	\$400



Gordon Sprung's family ready for school.

1936	14	12.49	Marguerite McDowell	Second	\$450
1937	14	11.47	Marguerite McDowell	Second	\$480
1938	17	14.42	J. E. McDonald	1st B	\$480
1939	22	17.78	J. E. McDonald	1st B	\$550
1940	16	14.95	Catherine M. Slater (1½)	1st B	\$550
1941	16	13.8	Evelyn J. Rosen (½)	Per.	\$600
1942	20	18.29	Laura I. Vincent	1st B	\$700
1943	20	16.28	Laura I. Vincent	1st B	\$700
1944	18	13.29	Laura I. Vincent	1st B	\$875
1945	17	11.26	Laura I. Vincent	1st B	\$1000
1946	16	15.29	Ruth Spearman	1st B	\$1200
1947	15	12.69	Florence Trembath	Per.	\$950
1948	17	13.56	Mildred Neelin	Per.	\$950
1949	15	13.9	Jean Ferguson	1st B	\$1500
1950	16	13.6	Jean Ferguson	1st B	\$1500
1951	14	12.55	Barbara Jamieson	1st B	\$1600
1952	14	12.6	Alice I. Morrison	B	\$1800
1953	13	11.3	Alice I. Morrison	B	\$1900
1954	14	11.5	Vivian G. Kennedy	Per.	\$1600
1955	13	12.62	Blanche Aldcroft	Second	\$2400
1955	13	12.7	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st B	\$2400
1956	14	13.9	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st B	\$2800
1957	17	16.46	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st B	\$3000
1958	20	19.4	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st B	\$3100
1959	19	18.2	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st B	\$3200 ^{Jan.}
1960	19	18.67	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st B	\$3800
1961	21	20.18	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st A	\$3800
1962	23	22.4	Jessie A. Mackintosh	1st Per. A	\$4500



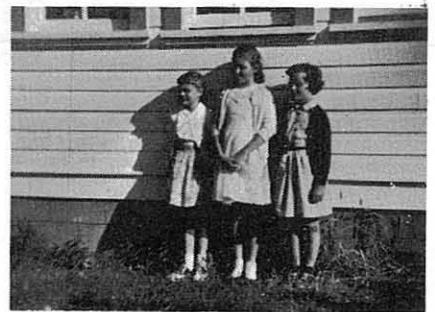
Top Row: Betty Hamilton, Diane Young, Tom Hamilton, Linda Young, Judy Young, May Pedersen, Esther Baumgart, Miss Mackintosh (teacher).

Middle Row: Tom Sprung, Jim Young, Richard Brown, Mary Pedersen, Elaine Baumgart, Doreen Young (glasses), Marie Berry (in front).

Bottom Row: Dave Berry, Brent Checkley, Ian Hamilton, Lloyd Baumgart, Linda Pedersen, Debbie Brown, Mary Hamilton.



Linda Young, May Pedersen, Tom Hamilton - Grade V



Diane Young, Esther Baumgart, Betty Hamilton - Grade III

			48			47
6	5	4 G. Owens Williams	3 McGregor	W. Falls 2 Berry	E. Givier F. Sprung Johnson 1 Conway Evans F. Sprung Sprung	6 Brown
31	32	W. Dickson J. Forrest 33	McCharles McNab 34 Fleck Matt Riddell Ron Dobson Al Kerton	A. Hewitt E. Cheekley 35 K. Young J. Young Tom Tolley Abe Mitchell Klassen Smith S. Young Doug Young	Carriss Nairne Coates Shroeder Klippenstein Jim Hamilton 36 Johns Swanson	Nairne 31 Swanson Mossy Preston Baumgart Voros W. Hamilton
30	S. Forrest 29 Dick Falls H. Dickson	28 McKenny	Tom Turnball 27 Peter Hutter Dobson	H. Bay Co. A. Owens Checkley 26 Jas Andersen Rutherford A. Young	Johns Johns 25 Dick Falls Ernie Jones Bert Jones Bob Baloun Andersen	W. Storey John Lowry John Hamilton 30 Boyle Waddingham
19	20	21	Dave Lowry 22	Alex Tait 23 W. Jones Penner Jeymour	George Storey George Jones H. Leatherdale 24 McAuley Pedersen	19
			38			37

Teachers

Elizabeth A. Cousins 1905

The only thing I do remember is that I boarded with Swansons. I think what impressed that on my mind was the deeply religious nature of the household - grace before meals, return thanks after meals and daily religious worship even during threshing operations.

When you consider that it is 65 years this fall since I was there you can perhaps understand why I do not remember any details. I think there was a Christmas concert.

The names of the students bring other memories for I met many of them in other districts in later years.

Sincerely,
(Mrs. G. C.) Elizabeth Caskey
1234 Pine Avenue
Trail, B.C.

Mary Nicholson 1906 and 1907



Bethel Graham 1911-1913

I am more than pleased to write you of my experiences in Middleton School District during 1911, 1912 and 1913 as

I look back to my years spent there as some of the happiest of my life.

I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. A. Rutherford, no family, who lived one half mile west of the school house and a little in from the road. Their house consisted of one large room downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs and a little summer house outside where she cooked when it was hot. Bush surrounded the farm which was to the east of the house. I received \$50.00 a month as salary and paid \$10.00 a month for my board. Their neighbors to the west about one half mile were Mr. Albert Owens and family, one daughter Pearl and one son Ed. They had a beautiful farm that stretched one mile to the south. Across the road from Rutherfords lived the Mitchells on the farm known as the old Smith farm.

The school was not a centre of activity, no clubs, no church services, no Sunday School. The school itself did not have a library or games of any kind. The children made their own amusement at recess and noon hour. The teacher's business was to teach and no frivolities of any kind. The blackboards were at the west end of the building. The new furnace was a course of great controversy. The idea was new and it cost around \$140.00. Due to Jim Anderson the furnace was installed, much to my delight as the old one in the center of the room was vastly inferior. It was fired by great chunks of wood which had to be replenished quite often but the main thing was that a fire could be left all night. I think Norman Anderson did the firing. I do not remember if there was a caretaker or if the school was cleaned at any time but it had a good cleaning in summer holidays. The winter was spent playing cards, pedro and whist, and dancing. Every home in the neighborhood would have parties no matter how small the house. For the dances music was furnished by local violinist and organ or piano players.

There was no generation gap then and both old and young attended, lots of laughter and real fun. I do not think skating was a popular pastime and I am sure there were no hockey teams. There were no cars in the district but many means of transportation for a young school teacher. Lots of balls at Altamont, Manitou and Darlingford. Most families had a telephone. I went home every weekend.

I had two Christmas concerts but no Christmas tree. Putting on a concert then was some work. A plank platform had to be erected, curtains made from sheets and the shed which was attached to the east end of the school used as a dressing room. I had to always find an organist to play on the organ which had about five keys that did not play. I was fortunate to have Elsie McNab (Mrs. Coughtry) who would come a matter of two miles after four, three or four times a week. She played by ear and could certainly make that old organ sound like an orchestra. The school was always crowded with well-wishers.

Consolidation was also a scene of great controversy at the beginning of 1912 which split the district into two parts. All children north of the road (old road) to Darlingford stayed in Middleton school but that left me with one half the number of children so a school concert was out of the question in 1913. There was a shed in the yard for children who drove but most of them walked and all homes were anywhere from a mile to two miles from the school.

Two girls wrote and passed their Entrance Examinations while I was there. Ethel Tait in 1911 and Bessie Anderson in 1912.

In summer I think all the boys and girls had to work too hard to think of such sports as baseball and football etc. but I do not remember of Middleton ever having one.

I wish to tell you of an itinerant

peddler that used to pass the school in spring and early fall. He walked from Thornhill to LaRiviere pushing a wicker baby carriage filled with pots and pans and sewing needs. He always stopped at Mrs. Rutherford's for a meal and the Albert Owens' bedded him down. I can remember him so well, a tall thin man. He lived in Thornhill. I do not think there would be many people around that district who would remember him. The summer of 1912 was a very hot season. I do not remember if we had a holiday on Coronation Day in 1911 but probably did.

I could tell you many funny incidents that happened about various people but must not for fear. There was one thing about the Middleton old timers, they were very witty and when Albert Owens, J. Johns, Gid Owens and Andy Rutherford collected together for the evening you were sure of many laughs.

I forgot to tell you the children in Middleton School were very well behaved and there was never any trouble with disciplinary measures.

Sincerely, Bethel Graham
799 Spruce St., Winnipeg, Man.

Florence Moores 1914

I enjoyed teaching in Middleton School. One reason is that I went there after Bethel Graham and the scholars were well trained, respectful and good workers.

I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford; they were very nice to me and it was also close to the school.

We played games, baseball and one called steal the sticks and skated on the ponds in the winter.

The Department of Education asked the schools to practice for a prize on drills. We had an organ at the school which Bessie Anderson played for us.

Mr. Gordon was the Inspector at the time and when the classes were over

we had the drill and it went off wonderfully as Bessie played. There was only one mistake by a little one. We won the prize but I forget how much it was as it was to be given the next year. I don't take the praise for this as I know we couldn't have done it without Bessie.

We had several social evenings which we all enjoyed. It's a nice way to get acquainted. I remember once one of the girls (I believe Willie Johns' sister) who hurt her cheek while eating and it swelled. We were all concerned, but after about ten minutes it began to ease. We had a school picnic at the end of the term and everyone enjoyed it.

Sincerely, Mrs. Florence Ferguson



Ida Atkinson 1915

I enjoyed my time with the children in Middleton but due to the conditions I had two hectic experiences. The first one happened while I was boarding at Rutherford's. One evening, while alone a man broke into the house but no harm was done as my Dad came to my rescue. Then again one Friday evening while waiting for my Dad to come and get me a couple of tramps were on their way into the school. I jumped out a window on the opposite side and ran to a neighbor. Tramps spent the night in school houses as they could keep warm and cook their food.

I moved from Rutherford's to Owens as I wasn't left alone.

The children and I spent many happy hours together and we played baseball

all summer. In the winter we had inside games as we all remained at school for lunch.

I remember the children as bright and capable children and we had no trouble. I do remember Szilard Voros, as he came to school with a huge dog which we all loved as he kept tramps away. Szilard couldn't speak any English and this was an experience for me, having him able to read in a couple of months. I often wonder where he is.

I clearly remember Szilard wanting a drink of water. He was trying to make me understand his need and I had almost given up when I picked up a cup off my desk and he clapped and smiled. I nodded okay and he had two cups of water. I will never forget the expression on the child's face.

Sincerely, Ida L. McRae
2 - 503-A - 3rd Ave. S.E.
Medicine Hat

Ellen Richmond 1916 and 1917



Nellie Armitage 1924-25

I taught in Middleton for a two year term following Mrs. Lila Campbell of Stonewall. She left in the school a very fine class of pupils, also quite a large class. These pupils were obedient, polite and kind, as they are yet to this day. The one outstanding fine quality was being so willing to take any part in a Christmas program and I am certain a great deal of this was due to their former teacher's training, their parents and Mrs. K. Young who spent so many hours of the most kind capable help in arrangement of real fine Christmas concerts.

Another outstanding memory is how the trustees met everyone at the door with a big happy welcome. During the evening everyone talked and laughed until time for the program to start.

One year the children and I went over to Mr. Rutherford's pasture and cut down a poplar tree and dragged it to the school. My uncle Jack Armitage, cut lower branches from his spruce trees in his yard and my father put the top down on the old Grey Dort car and brought them to our school. The Middleton men bored holes in the poplar tree, inserted the spruce boughs and we had our Christmas tree.

Everyone was kind and friendly. A card party took place among the neighbors quite often. There often was a dance afterwards and of course, a delicious, bountious lunch was served. Roads were very poor in those days so means of even going to a neighbors was sometimes a difficult task in the winter. We went to the card parties in sleigh loads, drifts often so large and high that the ladies made it known that they were frightened.

Dances sometimes took place in the school house. To have this the desks were set outside, the same delicious lunch was served there too. The neighbors depended upon one another for help in trouble as well as in amusement. Neighbors visited one another for

a game of cards or a friendly chat.

The Evans family had the same Shetland pony and cart that I had once owned. That pony still had his most nasty trick of either seeing something that he was frightened of or pretending he did. He used to race along the road far beyond the children's control.

In those days the farm family was a closely knit family and the children remained home until they were much older than today and helped their parents buy more land for their sons. The daughters often waiting for their sweet hearts to have a farm of their own to take them to. Many of the young folks boarded in town and obtained a high school education. There was a fine Normal School in Manitou of which many took advantage. Others found other kinds of work and professions.

Middleton families loved their family farms and worked hard to increase and improve them.



EVA WALLCRAFT — 1925

I started teaching at Middleton in August 1925 with only five pupils.

They were:

Margaret McAuley - Grade II
Doris Jones - Grade III
Stuart Young - Grade III
John Young - Grade VI
Margaret Young - Grade VIII

At that time every child that was able to help stayed home when needed until the harvesting was done, so when Mr. Finn came up from Morden to in-

spect the school on the 5th day of September, I only had two children at school. He told me if the attendance ever got that low again to close the school and go home. However, I never had to do that.

Fred Sprung, a Grade VIII student, started in September. Fred Checkley, who was in Grade I, came in October. In November Allen Crozier, Grade IV, and Melville Stone, Grade VIII, came to make up my whole class until Hazel Jones and Daniel Stewart started as beginners in April.

The school children did not take part in Field Day or 4-H while I was there. It is good to see the children of the district taking part in those worthwhile projects of today.

The boys and girls all got along well together on the playground. They all seemed to have a great deal of respect for each other. I must say that I really enjoyed having such a fine group to work with.

The members of the School Board at that time were Mr. Tom Berry, Mr. E. Checkley and Mrs. N. Checkley.

Mrs. Checkley was a great help to me whenever any problems arose. I shall always remember her as a great lover of horses. Many times she came to the school riding a very lively horse.

I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford. They were a very fine couple. He was in poor health but they did everything they could to make my stay with them a happy one.

Mrs. Rutherford was a wonderful cook and I must say that she made some of the finest cakes that I have ever eaten.

My home was in Manitou, so when the weather permitted I spent my week end at home. More than once when Friday night came I walked all the way to Manitou (I think it was about five miles). Most of the time I had a ride home and back again. When the weather was cold and the snow was too deep on the road for cars, I stayed pretty close to the district.

The people in the district were all very friendly. I was often invited into their homes and spent many a lovely evening there.

In the winter time they had to make or find their own form of entertainment. I shall always remember the card parties that they had in the different homes. All the women brought lunch. The children came too as there were no babysitters then. Everyone had a wonderful time and we all looked forward to the next one.

It was at some of those parties that I met some of the people whose children were not old enough to go to school. I also met other fine people from the districts nearby.

Some of the pupils I taught are still living in the Middleton district, others are in and around Manitou, so during all those years I have been able to keep in touch with most of them.

The children of Middleton today go by van to a larger school to get their education.

The little schoolhouse is no longer there. It's now a church in Darlingford. It is good to know it is still being used as a place of learning.

I shall always remember my stay in the Middleton district among so many kind and wonderful people.

Eva J. Webber

R. Myrtle Scharf 1927-29

A little more than four decades have slipped away and many, many pupils and several schools I've claimed as "mine" since my teaching career began, but I still have a special warm spot in my heart for each one of my pupils of my first school.

By 1927 teachers were becoming a little more numerous than teaching positions. Most "Teachers wanted" advertisements appeared during July and August and I was still one of the inexperienced teachers without a school in the late August. Then one day a phone call came!

Miss Ruth Blackwell, who had begun her second year at Middleton, was having to leave as her mother had suffered a heart-attack. Mr. Blackwell was a principal and high-school teacher. They had just moved from Darlingford to Elkhorn. It was through Mrs. Hammie Lowry that Mr. Gabe Sprung Secretary-Treasurer Middleton School had heard that a daughter of Percy Scharf's was through Normal and looking for a school. Mr. Tom Berry, Mr. George Jones and Mr. Sprung comprised the School Board. Well, I was hired at \$750.00 per annum and went to board with Mrs. Andy Rutherford, "who always boarded the teacher."

Miss Blackwell and I talked for hours that night when I went over there and she finished her last day. I remember the coal-oil lamp, the clean, white, frilly curtains on the windows and the newly painted floor of the school. And I remember too, how hard it was for Ruth to hand over "her" pupils, but what a wonderful start she gave me in knowing "my" fourteen pupils!

Among my happy memories, I recall that "the teacher" was so often invited home for supper, and sometimes to stay all night. As I look back now, I can't help but marvel at the competent manner in which Eva Jones - just 16 years old - managed the home and sent three little ones to school. Their mother, Mrs. George Jones had died the previous May.

It must have been in the spring of 1927 that the Bannisters moved from Archibald district to the farm now occupied by Jim Hamilton. I believe it was Mr. Sprung who first conceived the idea of a Sunday School and with the support of Mr. Bannister and others a Sunday School was started in the fall of 1927. Not only local people but many from Barclay and to the north and west of Middleton came. Mr. Bannister, Superintendent, gave a splendid message each Sunday afternoon. It seems a little hazy in my memory but

I think his daughter Kathy, Mrs. Ken Young and Mrs. Gabe Sprung were teachers, and Messers Sprung and Bannister were in charge of the Bible Class.

I remember two outstanding occasions when Mr. Bannister especially endeared himself to many in the district.

It was in February 1928 that 8 year old Berta Sprung died. The next day was a hard one for all of us at school. Then about two o'clock a knock came to the door, and there was dear Mr. Bannister! He had walked the mile and a half that cold day knowing the sorrow the children and I were experiencing, to offer a word of comfort. And he certainly did! He spoke such comforting words and read some verses from God's Word. When he knelt beside my desk and prayed, just sort of talked to the Lord and told Him all about it. I could never forget it.

About a year later when Mr. Albert Owens died, it was Mr. Bannister who took the funeral service which was held in the home. (That's the farm home where Alvin Checkley now lives).

The Christmas Concert always saw a packed school, with standing room only, but the mothers served lunch and hot coffee, using a kerosene stove in the porch. And there was no admission and free lunch!

In these present days at school "Field Trips and Tours" are the thing and we sometimes take bus loads of children great distances.

Towards the end of June 1928, we had a "tour", I took my whole school in our 1922 Dodge touring, first to my home and a visit to the fox-ranch, then to the dam at La Riviere for a picnic lunch and a drive around the valley roads. Then back to my home for some "home-made" ice cream mother had ready for us. I suppose few of the children had ever been that far from home before!

(And I never even checked to see

if there was "passenger coverage"! No car insurance problems in 1928)

The previous year there had been a celebration in Manitou, "60 years of Confederation" and Miss Blackwell had entered a float.

I don't remember what the 1928 "doings" were all about but there was another big parade. Middleton's entry was the Indian travois. We fixed up some poles for the travois, made Indian costumes for the children and put cold cream and cocoa on their faces.

My sister Cassie and cousin Hazel rode our ponies to Manitou early in the morning and someone took Frank, our saddle-horse, to be used with the travois. Stuart Young rode Frank and the others took turns on the poles, riding the ponies, or walking. Every one was very tired, very hot and very messy with cocoa-streaked faces when it was all over.

July 1st, 1929. Big Bang-Up Old-Timer's Re-Union as Manitou celebrated its 50th birthday. (At that time 1879 was within the living memory of quite a few!) Our entry? A float on Mr. Tom Berry's hayrack. We had a "forest" of trees, two boys (Stuart Young for the front-end, and Stuart Jones the hind-quarters) were made into a cow, and Margaret McAuley in bonnet and apron and milk pail in her hand pictured Laura Secord. The others were Indians lurking in the forest or U.S. soldiers laughing at Laura as we told her story in our float. No one played out walking this time but the kicking part of the cow must have been tired of kicking, and the milk-maid exasperated picking up her pail.

I must not finish this without mentioning Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford. Such a hard-working old couple they were and so good to "the teacher", and their home was always spotlessly clean with the best of good food.

And now I am about the age "old" Mr. Rutherford was then!! — How our perspective changes!

Kae McLeod 1930-1933

My first glimpse of Manitou was in September 1929 when I came from Belmont to teach in the Middleton School. I arrived at the Andy Rutherford home where I was to board and they were away but I was made very welcome at Mr. and Mrs. Ken Young's home across the road until Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford came home.

I boarded with the Rutherfords for two years and with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Checkley for two years. I rode to school on horseback from Checkleys. The trustees at that time were Mr. E. Checkley, Mr. H. Stone and Mr. G. Jones.

I was very busy teaching up to eight grades, but the children were very co-operative and discipline was no problem. Then there was the Christmas concert to prepare for and that involved plenty of work, but we all enjoyed it.

So, I enjoyed my four years of teaching in the Middleton School. In later years when teaching in Manitou Public School, I taught some of the children of my pupils in Middleton. They were also good students. All the best to the Middleton people.

Sincerely, Mrs. Sam Tait

Marguerite McDowell 1933-1937

I began teaching in Middleton school in the fall of 1933, after having attended the last Normal Class in Manitou.

The pupils were very co-operative and the whole community most friendly. The annual Christmas concert was one of the highlights of the school year. Usually the Young People helped out by putting on a one act play.

During the winter I enjoyed the weekly Wednesday night skating at Bill Johns. On Friday evenings I "jogged" home to Manitou.

I spent four very happy years in your community, thanks to your friendliness and hospitality.

Reta Moloney (nee McDowell)



Jean McDonald 1937-1939

I began teaching at Middleton on August 24, 1937 and was there until June 27, 1939. I was the first teacher to board with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Checkley. I was also the only teacher who taught the six Berry children. I have re-read my diary of those two years and most of my information is taken from it.

The first day I recorded five boys and seven girls being present. These were I believe Donald, Jack, Jim and Bill Berry, Elmer Mutcher, Grace Brown, Dulcie Berry, Elsie Sprung, Marion Mutcher, Margery Checkley, Marguerite and Bella Jones. In the spring of 1938 Donald Brown and Gwen Leatherdale started school. In the spring of 1939, Tom, Floyd and Shirley Checkley and Barbara Berry were beginners. During this time the Zilkey children also attended school. School events recorded were the usual school parties, education week programs, field days and Christmas concerts. Months which showed perfect attendance were not unusual. The Royal Visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth was an outstanding event of May 1939. I also noted that Elmer Mutcher fell asleep one day right under my nose and that Grace Zilkey swallowed a tooth.

During the two years I travelled back and forth from Manitou on weekends with Geo. McGilivray in his school van I met him at Dobsons. In winter this entailed leaving town at 5:30 a.m. on Monday mornings sometimes arriving before Bill Berry had fire going. One morning Bill and I had to shovel the snow out of the school before starting the fire.

The winter of 1937-38 must have been a severe winter because I recorded freezing my cheeks twice and my toes. A very severe storm on Nov. 12 blocked all roads and on Feb. 14 I recorded wading through snow up to my knees walking from Dobsons to school. January 1939 compensated for this by being the mildest January in thirty-nine years.

Christmas concerts provided adults with the social activity of play practice. Other social activities took place when the ladies' groups met in different homes, when the young people skated at the rink in the bush and when the community gathered at Young's for the spring picnic.

I also noted the death of Mr. Ruth-erford, births of Allan Sprung and Boyd Young and a Middleton Fowl Supper held on location of Doug and Joyce Young's farm with a concert in the school.

Jean McIntosh

Catherine M. Slater 1939-1941



Catherine Slater (Mrs. George Thexton) and her brother, Mr. Charlie Slater.

Evelyn Rosen Jan. 1941 - June 1941

I believe I ushered in the era of permit teachers. Most people will want to forget the teacher shortage that plagued Manitoba for the next 20 years. Probably the best that could be said of my teaching was that I taught the way I had been taught. You might be surprised how thankful I have been that my first teaching experience was so pleasant.

I boarded with Norman Checkleys. It's hard to believe that I lived with them only six short months. There never was a dull moment at that house.

The topic of conversation in the community that winter and spring was the war in Europe. People were concerned about the boys leaving one by one for the armed services, except for one day when we had that ghastly blizzard in March. Who could forget that?

Mrs. Edgar O. Alwin
107 N. Washington
Elkhorn, Wisconsin
53121

SCHOOL PICTURES IN EARLY '40's



Floyd, Shirley and Tom Checkley



Tom Checkley, Shirley Checkley, Barbara Berry, Floyd Checkley



Dulcie Berry, Jean Zilkey, Marjorie Checkley, Grace Zilkey, Shirley Checkley, Gwen Leath-
erdale, Pearl Zilkey, Inez Zilkey, Barbara Berry.

Laura Vincent 1941-1945



I came from stonewall to the Middleton District in the fall of 1941. I boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman C. Checkley who lived on the SW quarter of 1-4-8, one mile north and one-quarter mile east of the school.

Marjory and Shirley Checkley and I usually walked or rode our bicycles to school in the summer and walked or were driven with a team and sleigh in the winter.

In March 1942, there was a terrible storm and the school was closed for three days. When we went back there were banks of snow across the room 2 feet deep under the north windows. This we shovelled out while someone lit the fire.

In April 1942, I asked my Inspector Mr. J. W. Clarke for permission to organize a Rural Field-Day because I felt we had little chance of competing in town. This he granted so we went ahead. 11 rural schools participated and we held our first Field-Day in the pasture of Mr. Ken Young. To me this was a highlight. For many years the Rural Field-Day was held. However, fewer schools participated in the latter years.

I enjoyed my four years at Middleton school. Many incidents happened which

I'll never forget such as when Harold Sprung fell into the pond with his bicycle. Fortunately, Elmer Mutcher had on a pair of bib overalls as well as a pair of pants so he lent the overalls to Harold while we dried the wet ones on the big canopy which was around the heater.

The pupils were thrilled when they won a Comstock Bird Book in a Provincial Nature Study Competition. They also won athletic equipment in a provincial contest pertaining to the history of the school.

Each year the pupils planned activities their parents could attend. On Red Cross days we made cushions, quilts, etc. which were raffled. We also did woodwork and gave it away as prizes at a Bingo which was held. One year we also held a dance in the New Haven Hall. For one year we edited a school newspaper and sold copies each month. All the money that we raised from the various activities usually went to the Junior Red Cross.

Of course there was a Christmas Concert each year. However, the one in 1941 was held in the afternoon. It was always amazing that the children could do so much memorizing that time of the year. I'm sure Shirley Checkley and Barbara Berry had the whole concert memorized.

One Arbor Day we nearly burned the school down. The pupils brought rakes to clean the yard. We usually burned the dead grass in the ditch north of the school. The fire spread and ignited some building paper which was hanging down under the siding. Then it went up between the walls under the north east window. I sent one of the children to Alex Young's for help. I don't think I ever prayed and worked as fast in my life. Fortunately we were able to get the fire out. Today the school stands in Darlingford and is used as the Full Gospel Mission. It was sold to them in 1962 when the school district was dissolved.

Time change and school systems do too. It was inevitable that the pupils would have to go to larger schools. Today many still think the rural schools were the best. True, they had many good points. Still, today, the pupils in the larger schools are having opportunities they never dreamt of a few years ago. I just hope they all appreciate it.

For several years Rev. Cruikshanks of the United Church came out to Middleton every other Friday afternoon about 3:15. We usually sang one hymn and had a prayer. Then Rev Cruikshanks would tell a Biblical story. It was very informal and I felt the children looked forward to his visits as much as I did.

I know there are other highlights the pupils will remember but instead of mentioning them I would like to quote a poem I wish every parent and teacher would take to heart!

If a child lives with criticism,
he learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility,
he learns to fight.
If a child lives with fear,
he learns to be apprehensive.
If a child lives with pity,
he learns to feel sorry for himself.
If a child lives with jealousy,
he learns to hate.
If a child lives with encouragement,
he learns to be confident.
If a child lives with praise,
he learns to be appreciative.
If a child lives with acceptance,
he learns to love.
If a child lives with approval,
he learns to like himself.
If a child lives with recognition,
he learns to have a goal.
If a child lives with fairness,
he learns justice.
If a child lives with friendliness,
he learns that the world is a nice
place in which to live.

To the children of today I wish them success as adults of tomorrow. I hope



that they have found this a wonderful world in which to live.

Laura I. Hamilton (Vincent)
Mildred Neelin 1947-1948

I came to Middleton as a permit teacher after a six week course at summer school.

The enrolment was almost entirely boys except for three girls - Barbara Berry, Elizabeth and Katie Penner. During this time Tom Checkley, Floyd Checkley and Barbara Berry took their Grade IX by correspondence.

The children walked, biked or came by horse - usually three horses were stabled.

I boarded with the Alex Young family just across the field, so it meant a short walk to the school. The boys cut across the field but I usually used the road.

Alex came and helped more than once when the oil stove started to act up and the room was full of smoke.

The hydro came into this district in the fall of 47 and we were able to have footlights made by John Young for our Christmas concert and lights on the tree. Mrs. Ken Young helped me with the concert by playing the piano. We also had an adult play as I remember with a good number of young people of the district taking part.

We had a Halloween party and a Valentine party for the students, pre-schoolers and their mothers. Every 2 weeks during the winter the district

held social evenings in the school and these were always well attend.

The class belonged to the Junior Red Cross and occasionally we had a visit from Mr. King - the United Church minister from Manitou. He and his wife were very friendly and had many friends.

At Easter we had three more young people enter school - Pat Young, Malcolm Young and Leonard Penner.

The winter had been a hard one for the wild animals and one morning at recess three deer wandered into the yard. They were very tame and very thin. They stayed around long enough to have someone run and get my camera.

We took part in the rural field day and that year it was held in Manitou. Our year ended with a district picnic at the Ken Young farm.

Mildred (Mrs. Jack) Brown Manitou



THE DEER AT THE SCHOOL YARD

SPRING 1948



Katie Penner, now Mrs. Ed Lambrecht, Elizabeth Penner, now Mrs. Mel Lambrecht, Pat Young, now Mrs. Bill Hamilton, Barbara Berry, now Mrs. George Moody.



Leonard Penner, Pat Young, Malcolm Young.

Jean Ferguson 1949-1950



Jean Ferguson, now Mrs. Gordon Ramsay

Alice Morrison 1951-1953

In the fall of 1951 I arrived just out of Normal, full of "know it All". Soon I found out that the thirteen pupils that greeted me knew far more about life in the rural school than I. I had received all my education in the Public and High school at Stonewall, Manitoba where there were one or two grades to a room. However, guided by the handy time-table plus "that's not the way our last teacher did it", we settled into our school year.

The routine was interrupted on October 31 when teacher was rushed to the Manitou hospital for an appendicitis operation. Mrs. Doreen Berry capably carried on with the Hallowe'en Party plans and school work until my return. In no time at all Christmas examinations and the concert were upon us. We survived and returned in January rested and ready to work.

During the winter card and croquinoie parties in aid of the Red Cross were held quite frequently Friday evenings. It was also during this year that Allen Sprung left to enter a school at Langdon, North Dakota. In the spring we had a couple of ball games with the Barclay pupils. Their teacher was Miss Irene McFee, also from Stonewall. In June we participated in the Clearwater Field Day.



Alice Morrison, now Mrs. Murray Nickol Jr., of Darlingford, Man.



Murray and Boyd Young and David Penner placed in some events. The year ended with the annual picnic at Youngs.

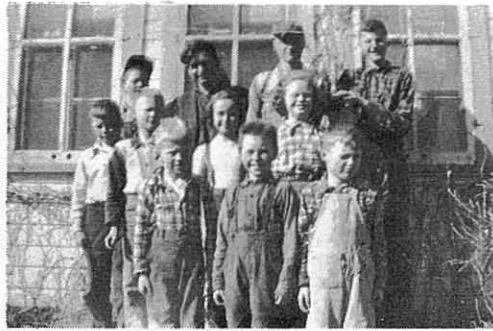
The next September school commenced with twelve pupils. David Penner went into Manitou and Janet Young was our beginner. Pat Young and Ruth Sprung were pleased to have another girl join their forces. How the boys loved to tease those girls!

Mrs. Tait substituted during October while I was absent due to flu, so Christmas was again a rush. That winter the pupils assisted with entertainment at a shower for Jim and Margaret Hamilton. We again organized Friday evening social gatherings.

In June, four Rural Schools (new Haven, McFadden, Midland, and Middleton) held a very successful field-day on the Charlie Smith farm. The closing picnic was held on John Young's farm.

While teaching at Middleton I met my husband, Murray Nichol, of Darlingford. A very lovely surprise shower was held for us at the home of Stuart Young where I boarded the two years. Although I have made my home in the Darlingford community, the kindness and co-operation of the people of Middleton made my years of teaching there very unforgettable.

Alice (Morrison) Nichol



Back Row — Maurice Sprung, David Penner, Boyd Young and Murray Young.
Second Row — Malcolm Young, Glen Young, Ruth Sprung, Pat Young.
Front Row — Doug Young, Ross Sprung, David Young.

Vivian Kennedy 1953-54



I taught as a permit teacher at Middleton School in 1953-54. There were twelve students composed mostly of Youngs and Sprungs. Then at Easter there were three beginners. I enjoyed the whole year and found the students a great experience. I boarded at Stuart Youngs and can remember skating on their homemade rink in the winter and picking crocuses in the spring with their children.

The community was most warm and friendly. They worked well together and supported all school functions and social evenings. The most painful period was when the mumps went through the school and I spent Christmas vacation in bed. Also there was a terrible ice storm in the spring and telephone and hydro were disrupted for a few days. Then everyone dug out

the candles and kerosene lamps and stoves - something strange to most of the school children. It was a most enjoyable year.

Vivian Ferguson Manitou

Jessie MacKintosh of Manitou 1955-62

My teaching years at Middleton began at Christmas 1955. I drove the five miles by car each morning and night for the next seven years - summer and winter - rain or shine. But then there were the days when the roads were blocked and John Young and other members of the Board came to my rescue with a tractor.

During my teaching term the school was renovated: a basement constructed and indoor plumbing installed. In 1961 the School District celebrated its 75th anniversary. This was a memorable occasion and many former teachers and pupils attended.

I appreciated the co-operation I had from both parents and students and probably our various Christmas programs were the highlights of our many years together.

The school district was divided in 1962 - some to Darlingford and some to Manitou. Since then it has been interesting to watch the progress of the various students through McClung Collegiate.

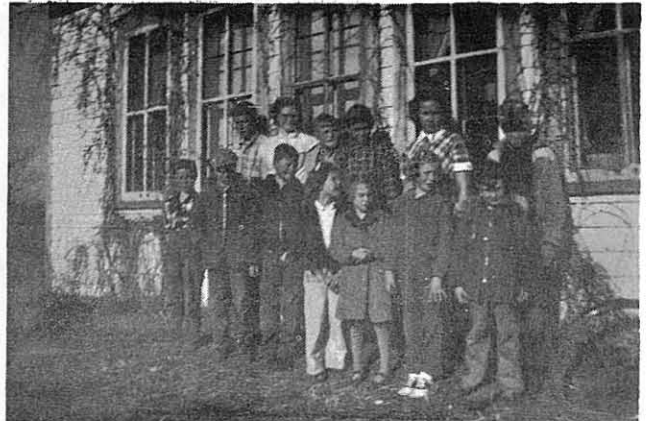




Back row: Maurice Sprung, Glen Young, Leonard Penner.
Third row: Pat Young, Janet Young, Ross Sprung.

Second row: Doug Young, Tom Hamilton, David Young, Malcolm Young.

Front row: Ruth Sprung, Linda Young, Judy Young, May Pedersen.



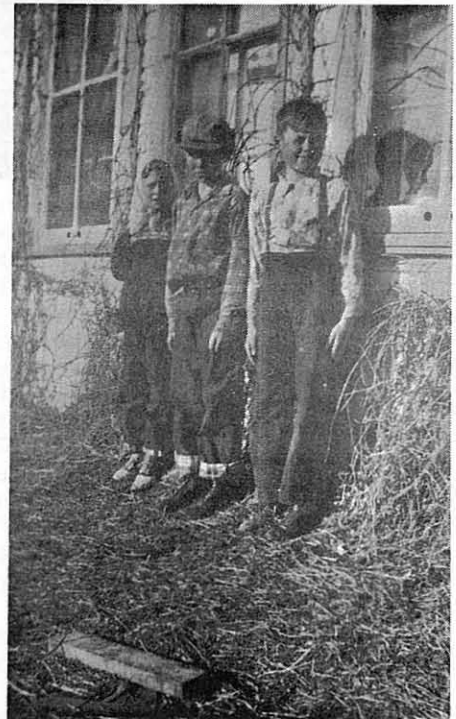
Back row: Maurice Sprung, Pat Young, Glen Young, Leonard Penner, Ruth Sprung, Malcolm Young.
Front row: Ross Sprung, Doug Young, David Young, Linda Young, May Pedersen, Janet Young, Tom Hamilton.



Front row: Brent Checkley, Linda Pedersen, Lloyd Baumgart, Dave Berry, Debbie Brown, Dianne Checkley, Elva Berry, Mary Hamilton.

Second row: Ian Hamilton, Mary Pedersen, Doreen Young, Elaine Baumgart, Marie Berry, Tom Sprung.

Back row: Esther Baumgart, Diane Young, Betty Hamilton, Linda Young, Judy Young, Miss Mackintosh, May Pedersen, Tom Hamilton, Jim Young.



Janet Young, Doug Young, David Young

THE RESIDENTS

The Johns

Mr. John Johns was born in England and came to this district in 1878 from Bowmanville, Ontario. He filed for a homestead on SW quarter 36-3-8 in April of 1879. The NW ¼ 25-3-8 was purchased under Pre-Emption sale. He later bought NE ¼ 25-3-8 which had been bought by Margaret Ann Boyle in 1882. The lands were applied for at the Dominion Lands Agency Office at Nelsonville. The first summer he slept under a wagon box. He worked in the winters on the railroad through the mountains with his friend, Charlie Mac Namara. He had married Mary Johns in 1876 at New York Suspension Bridge and on January 24, 1883 she came by train one-half mile on this side of Darlingford to live in a shanty. They built a house shortly after and the present house in about 1913.

Mr. Johns spoke of seeing many Indians and pow-wows close by. He walked from Emerson when he first came and carried bags of flour from old Nelson. He raised pigs and by 1895 records sold as many as 41 at 4c dressed and 3½c live. Eggs were from 7c to 20c a dozen and butter 8c to 16c, lard 12c and chickens 8c. The hired man worked for \$18.00 a month in the summer and \$5.00 a month in the winter. The grain was all bagged for sale.

Mr. and Mrs. Johns raised a family of seven; Walter, Mabel, Fred, Eva, Jack, Elsie and Bill.

Walter was killed July 24, 1914 at the age of 30 by lightning. He and his brothers were returning from Lizzard Lake with a load of hay when overtaken by a severe electrical storm. They pulled in to the Findlay farm for shelter and he was struck while looking out the barn door.

Mabel married Sam Pearce of Dar-

lingford and went to Englefeld, Sask. to homestead. They had four girls, Alice, Edith, Clara and Edna and twins Harold and Beulow. Sam had his leg amputated at Morden in 1919. Mabel passed away in May 1953 and Sam shortly after. Clara is also deceased.

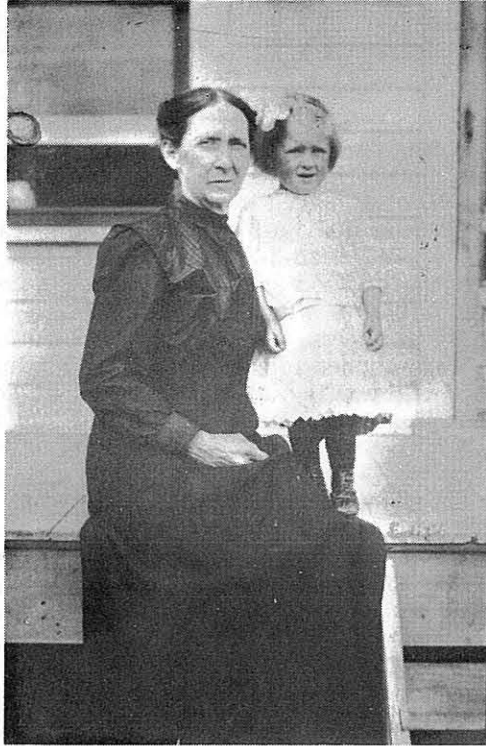
Fred passed away after a lengthy illness on December 28 1915. He was interested in engineering and is spoken of as having a fun loving nature. He spent some time out west helping Mabel and Sam and his brother Jack in time of need.

Eva married Roy Checkley (1st cousin of Eph) of Forest River and raised two girls, Marie and Verna. Eva had gone to town to school and worked as a seamstress. After Roy's death in 1937 she worked serving hot school lunches. She passed away in November 1957. Marie was postmistress for a number of years. She married Alvin Graving in 1963 and passed away suddenly in 1967. Verna married Lewis Regelstad and has two children, Carol and Gary, both trained as pharmacists. Marie and Verna spent many vacations at the Johns' farm.

Jack homesteaded at St. Brieux, Saskatchewan in 1912. He married Lily Williams of Saskatchewan. They have a daughter Martha living at Outlook, Saskatchewan, and a son, Ernest, at home, living on the farm at Engelfeld Saskatchewan.

Elsie married Ephriam Checkley in 1917 and they stayed in the Middleton area raising four sons. More detail in the Checkley section.

Bill stayed on the home farm. He was very interested in sports and nature and was one of the main members of the skating rink which was north of his buildings. After a short illness in the spring of 1963 he passed away. He still drove his 1926 Hudson Sedan to town.



Mrs. John Johns and granddaughter



Mr. John Johns



Some of Mr. and Mrs. John Johns family:
Bill Johns, Mabel Johns, Elsie Johns, Eva
Johns, and Jack Johns.



Bill Johns and Nellie Armitage



Mrs. Johns, Eph Checkley, Fred and Alvin, Bill Johns, Miss Campbell and Margaret and Norman Checkley.



Mr. Eph Checkley



Sam Tait and Bill Johns

Jones:

William Jones was born November 3, 1848 at Barton, Ontario and died at Manitou, September 25, 1921.

His wife Isabella (Brice) was born August 22, 1851 and died March 21, 1936.

They lived in a little shack on their farm east of Manitou in the 1890's and later built a house and farm buildings.

Information is rather scarce as most of the family are now deceased, all but three. There were six boys and four girls; Albert, Edward, George, Ernest (killed in 1st World War), Robert, James, Laura, Martha, Irene and Kate. All are deceased except Irene, Robert and James.

Irene, Kate, Bob and James attended school at Middleton, beginning in the spring of 1901. Apparently at that time, one day was allowed as a holiday in June to have their annual picnic.

Grandpa Jones bought his farm from Grandma's brother, a man by the name of Brice, before 1900 or possibly in the early 1890's. Later on when the family grew up and scattered, Grandpa and Grandma lived in Manitou and he drove his horse and buggy to the farm every morning to work.

James, the youngest son, married and lived on the farm then. He had a son, Jack, and a daughter, Bella.

Laura married Jack Tait. They had two sons and three daughters.

Irene married Ernest Jackson and did not have a family.

Robert married May Burnett and farmed one mile south of Middleton school until going to Vancouver where their daughter, Marguerite, lives.

Edward had two daughters and four sons, who all served in the 1939-45 war.

Ernest was killed in France.

Martha married Norman Fanson and after his death married Chas. Miller. She had several of a family.

Kate married Chas. Armstrong and had one daughter Topsy.

George married Elizabeth Agnes Keown in Manitou, November 4, 1904. Martha and Norman Fenson were married the same time in Grandpa Jones' house. George had five sons and three daughters who all attended school at Middleton School District. Harold retired from the Air Force and lived in Trenton, Ontario until his death in 1971.

Leslie runs a T.V. repair shop in La Riviere, Manitoba and has two daughters. Allen is living in B.C. and has 2 girls and 3 boys. Clifford is living in Scarborough, Ontario and has three girls and one boy. Stuart is caretaker at La Riviere school and is not married. Eva married Jack Hardy and is now living in Winnipeg. They have one son and one daughter. Doris who married Cecil Bender near Tuelon, and they have two children. Hazel married Ron Mitchell and they have two sons and one daughter. They live on their farm south of Manitou.

Kealey

Moses and Mary Ann Kealey lived in a small shack where Alex Young's garage is now. Mr. Finn lived in the same house when he taught Middleton School.

Tait — Forrest — Dickson

Among the early settlers in the Middleton School district were the Tait's, whose parents were early settlers in the Ottawa Valley in Ontario. Their father, Samuel, came over from Glasgow, Scotland in 1843. He and a friend came in a sailing vessel, the trip taking six weeks. Both took up land near Renfrew, Ontario. In 1847, Samuel Tait married Isabella Mc Phail, who was born in 1827 near Lanark, Ontario. There were ten children born of this union. They all came west except two of the girls, one who died at an early age, other who married and settled in the East.

Their migration to the west seems to have been started by one of the

early settlers, Samuel Forrest. He came west with the Wolsely Expedition in 1869. When he returned east he married Catherine Tait. In 1879, he and his young family came west and homesteaded S.E. 1/4 33-3-8. About the same time William Tait and William Dickson homesteaded the North half of 33-3-8. Isabella Tait married William Dickson. In the early records of Middleton this land was part of Middleton School District. For a time the Forrest and Dickson children were pupils in the first school. The records also show that their fathers, as well as the Tait's, served as trustees at various times until Consolidation in 1913.

In 1880 Alex Tait came west; in 1881 he purchased the West 1/2 23-3-8. Sam and Margaret Tait came west about the same time; they remained in Winnipeg, Sam with J. H. Ashdown Ltd. Margaret married W. McKay who was a carpenter and contractor. In 1881, Mrs. Tait decided to sell the farm at Renfrew and join the others in the West. With Christine and Jack they set out by the "Albert Lea" route through the USA. The mixed train took five days to make the trip via St. Paul. On arrival at Winnipeg they crossed the Red River on a ferry at the foot of what is now Water Street, stopping at Merrill's Boarding House. Soon after Mrs. Tait and Jack came to Manitou to live on the farm that had been bought by Alex Tait.

Christine worked in Winnipeg for a year, then she and her cousin, James Metcalfe drove the one hundred miles from Winnipeg to join her mother and brother. In 1895 Jack married Laura Jones. His mother then lived with Alex in Manitou until 1897 when Christine married Thomas Turnbull. From then on she made her home with the Turnbulls until her death in 1912.

The family of Jack Tait were all raised in the Middleton district. Four of them, Ed, Ethel, Bella and Sam at-

tended school there before 1913. Ethel taught school in Saskatchewan where she met and married Lester Blachford and now lives in Colonsay, Saskatchewan.

Bella married Jack Leech. She passed away in 1959.

Sam married one of the Middleton teachers, Katherine McLeod; they are now living in Winnipeg.

Dorothy married Jack Ward and lives in Winnipeg. Her husband passed away.

Ida married G. S. Forrest and Ed. married Marion Bradley. They are both still using Manitou as their home address.

There was one incident in the life of the Jack Tait family that was out of the ordinary. On July 9th, 1900, their house on 23-3-8 was lifted by a cyclone and scattered as far as two miles. There were only two children, Ed and Ethel, at that time. Mr. Tait was at work on the south end of the farm, out of the path of the storm. By the time he arrived home on horseback, most of the neighbors were looking for Ed who had been carried some distance. He had a broken arm and badly cut face. Mrs. Tait and Ethel escaped with a few cuts and bruises.

Among those from the Middleton area who served in His Majesty's Force and are or were related to this the family are the following:

Thomas Dickson, son of William Dickson.

Ernest Jones, brother of Mrs. J. Tait. Both lost their lives in 1917.

Stuart Forrest - invalid in 1918.

Edward Tait - returned home in 1919 during the strike that tied up transportation all over the city.

There were several descendants who served in the second war. Neil Dickson was the only one of the first generation he was the youngest son of William Dickson.

McKenny

Mr. E. McKenny was of English descent. He came to Manitou in the early days. At one time he was a jeweler and after settling on a couple of acres on the NE of 3-8 he still repaired clocks and watches for many of his neighbors. While in Manitou he trained bird dogs for some of the early residents who had dog kennels at that time. It was as a dog trainer, that he later moved onto the acreage on NE 28-3-8. He did not homestead the land. He was there by consent of the owner.

He was very fond of hunting and a lover of good hunting dogs, and at times had as many as forty dogs in his kennels. There was always one or two well trained and ready for sale. These dogs were sold in Canada and the USA. One report gave the selling price as \$8,000.00 which seems a high price for those days. In the early 1900's he often went hunting with Ed Tait and his uncle Sam Tait. It was Ed's duty to drive the buggy from place to place and they would take the pointer and sneak up on the chickens. When they were flushed Sam always had first shot. If he missed, Mr. McKenny often bagged the same bird. I never saw either of them shoot at a sitting bird.

It took a lot of meat to feed his dogs so the local farmers always knew where to get rid of the old horse that they hated to dispose of themselves.

He left the district about 1909 when a number of young men of the area went west to homestead north of Battleford, at Paynton, Saskatchewan.

Rutherford

Andrew had four sisters, Mrs. Gid Owens, Mrs. Albert Owens, Mrs. Jim Anderson, all of Manitou, and Mrs. McClaren of Swan Lake. Andrew married Nellie Moore of Mather and they made their home in the Middleton District on NE 26-3-8 (Alex Young's). Over the years they made a home for a good

many of the local teachers.

Andrew died in 1936. Mrs. Rutherford, with the aid of her brother Willie Moore, remained on the farm until her sale in 1939. Mrs. Rutherford spent the next year visiting in the Mather and Manitou districts. She then went to Winnipeg where she resided until her death.

Swanson

John Swanson was a Drover, that is a buyer, from Caithness, Scotland. He and his family came from Pakenham, Ontario. Their six children, Ben, Alex, John, Anne, Julia and Kate were born here. Kate and Anne married in Ontario. Anne going to New Zealand and Kate remaining in Ontario. Ben worked in the Okanagan Valley, B.C. during the time the family lived in Ontario. Later, he, Alex, Juli and his mother and father came out to Carman, Manitoba where Ben worked in the Grist Mill at Old Nelson and then in the mill at Carman owned by Will Clendening. During the time he worked at Carman he took up a homestead in the Manitou district, before the railroad came through and Emerson was their town. He homesteaded SW 431-3-7 and SE 436-3-8. Alex took up NW 418-3-7.

Ben built a log house on the land and made the improvements that were required of a homestead, spending many months at it. He often told of how he had copies of Bryon and Burns and how he had memorized them to put in time.

In 1882, on September 21st, he married Lucy Furnier of Carman. Their families had lived side by side at Carman. Lucy's mother and father came from Walkerton, Ontario, he being of French descent and she Scotch. Lucy and Ben were married under an elm tree by the old Grist Mill on the Boyne River. He brought his bride home to the log house where their six children, Lucy, Alex, Annie, Laura, Lawrence and Ruby were born.

Ben took an active part in the district affairs and helped in organizing the Middleton School, where later his family was educated. He was Superintendent of the Church and Sunday School for a number of years. The Rev. Beveridge was one of the ministers who came out there during this time.

Ben's father and mother lived with him; his father passed away in 1885 and his mother in 1890.

He owned one of the first steam threshing machines and he did the threshing in the district. It was the type that was hand fed and the grain was all bagged. They pulled the engine around with horses. They often told of how they got it bogged down in the wet years and how it took hours to get it out.

In 1893, Ben built a new frame house which was in use until six years ago. In this home his family grew up. After finishing school as far as they could in Middleton, Alex (better known as Doc) and Annie went to school in Manitou. Alex then went to Veterinary College to become a veterinarian; he came back to Manitou to practice when he finished his course. Here he married Annie Dickson and raised his family of three sons and one daughter.

Annie became a teacher and after teaching for a number of years she married Herb Tufts of Boissevain. They later went to farm in Saskatchewan.

In January of 1910, Ben sold out and moved the remainder of the family to Manitou. Then he, his brother Alex, Lucy and Lawrence went to Bowel, Alberta and bought a horse ranch.

Laura was married during this time to John Dickson and Ruby was married to Thomas Nairne.

When Ben came back to Manitou in winter of 1913, Lucy came with him. In spring she married John McAuley. When Ben went back to the ranch he took his wife, Lucy, with him and they remained there until 1925. They then came back to live with Laura in

Winnipeg where Lucy suffered a stroke. Upon her recovery they moved out to Manitou to live with Ruby, but spent time amongst the family. In March of 1933 Lucy passed away and the following year in August, Ben also passed away.

They have left a living mark in their family with their strong Christian faith.

Owens

Albert Owens of Arnprior, Ontario first lived north of Darlingford on the farm now owned by Gordon Cram. He obtained this land from the crown on December 29 1883. Albert and his wife Annie Rutherford, had two children, Pearl and Ed. On May 29, 1893 this farm was sold to Alex Cram.

Mr. Owens had obtained NW26-3-8 from the Hudson Bay Co. in the Middleton District. This farm is now owned by Mr. Alvin Checkley. Albert and Annie moved with their children making this their home and taking an active part in their community and Church life.

Mrs. Owens died about 1897. In 1919 Pearl married Joe Compton of Darlingford. They had two children, Bill of Winnipeg, Lorna (Mrs. Mel Cassels) Manitou. Albert died in 1929. Ed farmed until 1934 when he sold the farm to Mr. E. Checkley. Ed worked for several years for late W. J. Speirs Thoroughbred Horse Farm at Whittier Park. Following his retirement he had lived several years in Winnipeg before his death in 1962.

McAuley

John McAuley, one of a family of ten of Scottish descent, was born in the Ottawa Valley near Vanleek Hill. He came west in 1888 and took a job with Ben Swanson. During the time he worked, he purchased the S $\frac{1}{2}$ 24-3-8 from Margaret Johnson. However, he continued to work for Ben and pay for the farm. He was Ben's first water boy on his steam engine when they did

the threshing in the district. His sister Katie, Mrs. Charlie Cousins of McKenzie, and brother Phil of Manitou came out before him. Sandy and Dan went to B.C. in 1896. Dan took part in the Alaska Gold Rush, later taking up a farm in B.C. Angus took his family to farm in Saskatchewan. Dunk farmed near Winnipeg. Margaret, Mrs. William Dutton, settled in Winnipeg and three sisters remained in Ontario.

John helped to build Ben's frame house; afterwards, he batched on his farm and helped them until they sold out in 1910 to take up a horse ranch at Bowel, Alberta.

On March 28th, 1913, he married Lucy Swanson, upon her return from the west, and they continued to live on his farm.

Their only child, Margaret, was born in February 1917. She received her education in Middleton School where her mother had received hers, and went on to high school in Manitou.

Mr. McAuley passed away in October, 1938. Mrs. McAuley continued farming with the help of her nephew, Alan Cousins and Margaret, until 1944 when she had a sale of effects and bought a home, the Deamel house, in Manitou. There she was joined by her brother, Lawrence Swanson who was in ill health and passed on shortly.

In June 1947 Margaret married Jeffrey Pederson, La Riviere who was on the railroad but in 1945 they returned to the home farm.

Their children; May, Mary and Linda attended Middleton School. Frances and John began their schooling in Manitou being transported by van.

Mrs. McAuley lived with her daughter's family until her death in October 1959. May graduated from high school in 1967 and went into MIT where she trained as a Practical Nurse. She married Charlie Vidnes of Carberry in April 1969 and went to live in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. They have a daughter, Mary, who has completed her

P.N. training in Morden and is now working in Winnipeg. Linda worked for the M.T.S. at Morden and now is in Winnipeg too. Frances and John are in school.

Berry

James Berry born June 6, 1844, came to Manitou in the 1860's walking in from Emerson, remaining the summers and returning to the east for the winters. One winter, at the time of the Gold Rush, he spent in the Yukon. A pair of minor's boots especially made with iron soles for tramping around



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Berry



Their family: Bill, Jim, Jack, Don, Dulcie and Barbara.

rocks were around for years.

James homesteaded the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-4-8 and bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-4-8. A log house was built on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and his mother Ann Berry and sister Elizabeth joined him in the late 1870's.

Elizabeth married William Compton of Opawaka. They had four sons - Frank drove taxi and then Grey Goose buses, James - farmed the home place later moving to Winnipeg where he now lives. Howard and Lester will be remembered as bush pilots. At the outbreak of the last war they were too old to join up so they were trainers at No. Five Bombing School. Lester was killed on duty.

Elizabeth Berry Compton died on November 11, 1920 and her mother, Ann Berry, who had been living with her died, November 21, 1920 in her 96th year.

John Berry (Jim's brother) who was born October 15, 1849 at Ottawa, came to Manitou in 1880 with his wife and two children, Arthur and May. They remained briefly then moved on to homestead at Cavalier, North Dakota where they remained until 1895. Two sons, William in 1884 and Thomas in 1887, were born while they were living at Cavalier. Fanny Moore, wife of John Berry, died January 30, 1889 in Elkwood, North Dakota in her 29th year. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Manitou staying with the Grandmother and Uncle Jim from 1891 to 1895 when they moved to Grandview. Tom's Grandmother felt it was too far to take a boy so young so he remained with his Uncle Jim and Grandmother.

Tom attended Middleton School, as had Arthur, May and William while they lived here, and worked with his Uncle Jim. Tom married Margaret (Peggy) Cadger and remained living on the homestead. Uncle Jim returned to the East for a visit, took ill, and passed away December 2, 1923.

Tom continued operating the farm until 1951 with the exception of a brief

time early in the 1930s when the family went west to Calgary then returned to Manitou where they lived a couple of years returning to the farm in November 1932. The family moved to Winnipeg May 1951 where they lived until the time of his death January 23, 1960 with the exception of four years 1955-59 spent farming with son Donald at Clarkleigh.

Peggy made a home with her daughter Dulcie in Winnipeg until her sudden passing June 8, 1967 when visiting her daughter Barbara (Mrs. George Moody) in Montreal.

Tom and Peggys Family

William - on completing his High School in Manitou joined the RCAF in 1941 and served overseas until 1945. On his discharge he took over the family farm. On July 28th, 1951, he married Doreen Davidson of the New Haven district and they with their 7 children, Marie, Davidson, Elva, Nora Ann, Arthur, Donna May and Alice are living on the Berry farm.

James - who also served overseas in the RCAF married a girl from Hull, Quebec and they have a son, Wayne, and a daughter, Brenda. Jim is with the Department of Vital Statistics in Ottawa.

John - served in the RCAF and on his discharge went to university obtaining a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jack with his wife and five children, Patrick, Thomas, Jo-Anne, James and Barbara live in Winnipeg.

Donald - worked out locally, ran the maintainer for several years, bought grain at Boissevain, Erickson and Dauphin for the Pool. He then took up farming at Clarkleigh, moved briefly to Balmoral then to Killarney and on to Souris where he now lives with his wife, Ida, and two sons, Brian and Kevin. They operate a dairy farm.

Dulcie - on leaving school went into the Royal Bank in Manitou where she worked a number of years before moving to Winnipeg. Dulcie is still with the

Royal Bank working in the head office.

Barbara - on completing her schooling took a course to become a seed analyst working in Winnipeg until her marriage to George Moody of Manitou. They were at Goose Bay, Labrador and are now living in Montreal with their son Gregory and daughter Evelyn.

Nairne

Thomas Dever Nairne and his wife came from Perth, Scotland, near Dun Dee, to settle in Pakenham, Ontario. Here their family of three boys and two girls, George, John, William, Alice and Mary, were born. Later they came to Fort Garry where they lived in a tent. During this time their two sons, John and William, died and in 1879 they came to the Manitou district.

They took up a homestead on the farm now owned by Jim Hamilton, NE 36-3-8. Their son, George, took up a homestead on the farm now owned by John Hamilton, N 30-3-7, and married Christine Tough. In 1883 their eldest daughter was born of a family of four girls and four boys, May, Tom, John Mary, Bob, Hugh (Toot), Christine and Jessie. They received their education in the Middleton School and attended church and Sunday School in the school house. Tom said he had Sam Forrest for his Sunday School teacher and in 1892 he had started to school.

Alice and Mary remained in the district, Alice marrying Edward (Teddie) Carris and Mary marrying Harry Finley.

Thomas and his wife passed away on the farm.

In 1905 George and his family sold out and moved to Manitou where he drove the Rural Mail in the district north of Manitou for a number of years. His family was widely spread with Tom and Bob making their home in Manitou. He passed away in March of 1924. Christine remained in Mani-

tou where she took a great pleasure in gardening. She passed on in October of 1934.

On May 4th, 1915 Tom married Ruby Swanson and they have remained in Manitou ever since. Tom was our Imperial Oil man for a number of years and later ran the cream truck until his retirement. They have a family of two sons, Ronald (Din) and Robert. Ronald is the Immigration Officer at Snowflake and Robert is with a construction company in Hollywood, California.

Boyle

Thomas Boyle moved with his family from Kinburn, Ontario in 1877. They settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 14-3-7, and shortly after Tom took up a homestead on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-3-7, later adding the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ by pre-emption. After getting settled on the homestead, Tom returned and married his boyhood sweetheart, Sarah Jane Owens. In those early years the growing season was very short and the crops froze year after year. They got enough frozen wheat to make bread of a sort - but they carried on. With no saleable grain, machine payments couldn't be made and one fall the machine company came and took Tom's best team of horses. After many heart-breaking years, times improved and the farm was finally a paying proposition.

Their family comprised Edgar and Laura who got their education at Middleton School. Edgar married Blanche Rombough and Laura married Herbert Storey, all now deceased. Tom passed away in 1921 and his wife many years later after living on the farm with her son and daughter-in-law.

Edgar and Blanche had one daughter Alice. She married Dick Shaver and lives in Winnipeg. They have five children, three girls and two boys. Edgar sold the farm in 1945 to Ronald Waddingham and they moved to Morden.

Carriss

Edward (Teddy) Carriss and his wife (Alice Nairne) were among the very early settlers of the Middleton district. They came here about 1878 or 1879. Their first abode was on the north east corner of the farm now owned by Jim Hamilton. They had a store and the mail was also brought there. Later they bought NW36-3-8 and NE31-3-7 was their Pre-emption.

There were three girls, Annie (Mrs. S. Hancock), Alice (Mrs. Jack Tuff) and Florence (Mrs. Neil Gavigan) and five boys, Ed, Tom, Bob, John and Fred. Fred was killed overseas in the First World War.

The mother died while the family were quite young. They lived here until about 1908 when the family moved to Turtleford, Saskatchewan where the father and sons took up homesteads.

Hancock

Silas Hancock was born at Oshawa, Ontario. He came to the Manitou district about 1892. He worked with a stone mason and farmed in the McKenzie district and in the Somerset and Altamont area.

He married Annie Carriss and they came to live on 36-3-8 in the Middleton district about 1908 or 1909 when the Carriss family moved to Turtleford, Saskatchewan. There were three boys and four girls in their family. John, Clifford and Clarence all live in Manitou. Clarence married Ida Ticknor. They have two girls and a boy, Florence (Mrs. Ron Dobson), Marilyn (Mrs. Bill Jordan) and Dale.

Mina (Mrs. William Bamford) lives in the McKenzie district. They have two boys and five girls.

Alice (Mrs. Harry Leatherdale) lives in the Middleton district.

Vera and Ida are in Winnipeg.

Leatherdale

Harry Leatherdale came to the Middleton district from Rosebank in the fall of 1925. He rented the farm where John Hamilton now lives. He married Alice Hancock in 1930. He bought the N ½ 24-3-8 from George Jones. They have one daughter Gwen and one son Murray.

Gwen is married to Arthur Kemp of Woodbay. They have three children, Linda, Ross and Dale.

Murray and his father operate the home farm.

Sprung

In the spring of 1900, Mr. and Mrs. Fitz Allen Sprung moved to E 1-4-8. Their son Gabriel Sprung bought the E½12-4-8 at the same time.

Fitz Allen's family consisted of Gabriel, Emma, Dora, John and Morris.

Emma married Tom Gorrell.

Dora married Will Archer.

In 1904, Mr. and Mrs. Sprung Sr. built a house in Darlingford and retired from farming. Mrs. Sprung died in 1906 and Fitz Allen in 1920.

Gabriel married Alberta Shobbrook in 1905. Gordon, was born on the family farm in 1909 and Fred in Darlingford in 1913. Berta was born in 1920 at which time the mother, Alberta, passed away.

Norman Checkley worked the land in 13, 14 and 15. Eph Checkley worked it from 16 to 18. Melville Evans occupied the farm from 1919-1925. Gabriel had married Minnie Storey of Darlingford, and as she was very interested in farming the family returned to the E½1-4-8 and the E½12-4-8 in the spring of 1925.

Berta died in 1928 after a session of Scarlet Fever which turned to Pneumonia. The same year Gabriel and Minnie adopted a three month old girl, Elsie Mae.

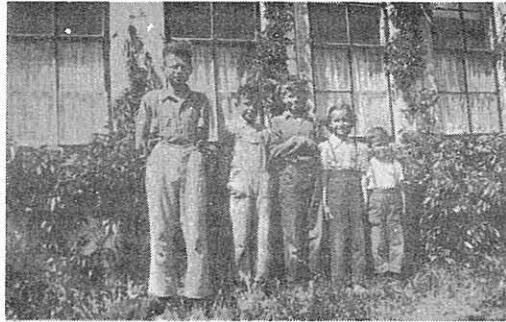
In 1933 Gordon married Ellen Scharf of La Riviere. Their five children are Harold, Allen, Maurice, Ruth and Ross.

Gabriel, died in 1939 and Minnie in 1954. Minnie and Elsie Mae moved to Manitou in 1939 after Gabriel died.

Elsie married Richard Scanlan on May 26. They have two girls, Shauna and Deidre.

In 1964 Gordon and his wife moved to Manitou. Harold married Carol Neighbour in 1960. Their family consists of Richard and Veronica. Maurice married Elaine Tickner of Darlingford in 1964 and are at present living on the family farm. They have two daughters, Laurie and Leanne, and a son, Philip, who are the fifth generation to live on that land.

Allan works in Winnipeg. Ruth married Dwight Cook in 1969 and they live at Steeprock, Manitoba. Ross is married to Linda Meggison and works for Canada Packers in Manitou.



Harold, Allan, Maurice, Ruth and Ross Sprung

Fred E. Sprung

Fred Sprung moved to the Middleton district from Darlingford in 1925 to the farm now occupied by Maurice and Elaine Sprung. On returning from the RCAF he took up residence on the Norman Checkley farm in 1947 SW1-4-8. In 1951 he married the former Bea Alexander of Roblin. They have two children, Tom, who is employed by Manitoba Hydro. He is married to Lisa Amy of Darlingford and they have a son Chris, and Jean is in High School.



The Fred Sprung house in the 20's when the Norman Checkleys lived there.

Bell

The Bell family lived in Manitou where Mr. Bell worked for Matt Ridell and Dr. McGillivray (veterinary) in the livery barn and farmed Mr. Ridell's farm (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-3-8, Ron Dobson's). In 1906 the family moved out to the farm. Gertrude (Mrs. George Sims of Manitou) and Florence (Mrs. Allan Marshall of Kaleida) started to Middleton School in June 1907. After holidays they went back until November 8th when the family moved back to Manitou.

Gertie remembers their often being across the corner to see Mr. McKenny and his many dogs. They also remember the treats he always had to give them.

Beatty

The Beatty family came from the east in spring of 1907 to make their home on the Dave Lowry place NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 22-3-8. It was the winter of the deep snow and the family had to stay over at Harvey Dicksons before they could get to their place. When the snow went buildings showed up that they didn't even know they had. Earl, who now lives at Tisdale, Saskatchewan, and his brother, Elsworth, attended Middleton School for a couple of terms before the family moved west. They are younger brothers, of the late Mrs. Arthur Dobson.

Hutter

The Peter Hutters lived where Jim Dobson now lives E½27-3-8. Mr. Hutter was a carpenter by trade and built the barn still standing there. This barn is one of the last around to be built using wooden pegs. The timbers were all notched and pegged. Harry, Glenn, Jesse, Margaretta, Arlene and Annie all attended Middleton School beginning in June 1907 until December 1912. Mr. Hutter was an active member of the school board.

Checkley

Ephriam Checkley came to Middleton in 1907 and worked for Albert Owens. He left and came back in 1910 with Norman, Mary and Mrs. Checkley to the Swanson farm. Mrs. Checkley remained until March 16, 1916 when she left to live with her daughter Annie at the west coast. She passed away in 1930.

Mary stayed here for a while before marrying Mr. McDonald. They had a son and a daughter and they all live at the west coast.

Eph married Elsie Johns in 1917 and lived on the SE1-4-8 (Sprung farm) for one and one-half years. They spent the winter on NE27-3-8 and bought SW 35-3-8 - Hewitts. They resided here until 1934 when they moved across the road to the Owens farm NW26-3-8. Eph was very fond of horses and has many ribbons. He served on the local school board as a trustee. They raised a family of four sons, Fred, Alvin, Tom and Floyd. They retired to town in 1956. Eph passed away January 1st, 1960 at the age of 81 years. Elsie married again in 1967 to George Beckett. They lived at Beausejour for a while before returning to Manitou.

Fred and Alvin both served in the Airforce and were avid hockey and skating fans. They also liked to hunt. Fred married Helen Osterlund of Saskatoon while in the Airforce. They

farmed a short while on the McAuley farm before moving southeast of Manitou. They raised a family of four, Jim, Sharon, Bob, and Don. Fred farmed and later worked for the Good Roads. They moved to St. James in 1966.

Alvin, as a lad, spent many hours skating and playing hockey. Alvin and Fred both took all their schooling at Middleton. Alvin married Helen Johnston in 1953 and they have five children, Brent, Dianne, twins Dale and Daryl and Cheryl. Brent and Dianne started school at Middleton before Consolidation.

Tom and Floyd took their High School training in Manitou. Tom worked as an electrician's helper before moving to Winnipeg to work. He married Edith Pinder from Kaleida and they have three children, Brenda, Beverly and Grant. Floyd married Pat Hodgson of Manitou, they have four children, Myles, Brad, Dawn and Trici. Floyd farms from town with Alvin.

Norman farmed the Sprung farm SE1-4-8 in 1912 and Eph took over while Norman was away. Norman married Margaret Balfour, settled on the Johnson farm. They had two daughters, Marjorie and Shirley. Margaret passed away while the family were young and Norman married Bette bringing her daughter Mary to join the family. Mrs. Checkley helped start the first Ladies Group in 1936. A group of ladies that are still active. They retired to Manitou in 1950. Norman was school caretaker and Mrs. Checkley hospital matron before they retired to the west coast where daughter Mary lived. Marjorie married Herb Pelzer: they have two children, Craig and Peggy. Shirley married Deane Hillsman and they have two children. Shirley passed away in 1967. Mary married George Piercy.

McNab

McNabs moved around 1910 from the Midland district to the Matt Riddell

place SW434-3-8, where Ron Dobson now lives, remaining until early in 1920 when they moved to Manitou.

Elsie (Mrs. Coughtry) did not attend school at Middleton but played the organ for the Christmas concerts.

Alex was killed overseas in the First World War; D. D. (Donald) also served overseas. William and Bella (Mrs. Deamel) all attend school at Middleton.

There are two younger sister, Jean (Mrs. Barclay) of Manitou and Jessie in Vancouver.

Mitchells

The Mitchells moved from Manitou to the Tom Toohey place (E½35-3-8, Doug Young's) in the spring of 1911. Roy, who now lives at Waterman, Illinois and Lloyd, now of Victoria, B.C. were at school. Ella (Mrs. Cecil Biggar) of Manitou started after Easter the next year. Marjorie (Mrs. Young of Crystal City) started after Easter in 1914 and Tommy, now of Winnipeg started in the fall of 1920. Early in the spring of 1921 the family moved to Darlingford. Of the young members, Joe is now in the Tabor Home at Morden, Bessie (Mrs. Jack Wilson) is living at Red Deer, Alberta. Ivan lives at Calgary and Morris was killed in a car accident.

Voros

They were a Hungarian family who came to this district to work, about 1915. They lived in the buildings for several years where Bill Hamilton now lives. Mr. Voros worked for W. F. Ellis blasting stumps and clearing land, he also dug some ditches to drain Lizard Lake. Mr. Ellis owned most of Lizard Lake. The water would go down in it in the summer and there would be lots of hay around the edges. Farmers came for miles to put up hay for the winter for their stock.

There were two boys and a girl in the Voros family, Szilard, Bessie and Mike. The two older children had been

to school before they came here but Mike, the youngest, started here and he couldn't speak English. They really had to learn our language as well as starting school.

The oldest boy, Szilard, had found some dynamite caps. He and Bessie were on the way to school in the morning and he undertook to light a cap and he had his hand blown off. Bessie ran back home and got Minnie Storey from across the road. It was in the late spring and all the men were away to work.

They moved to Marchland, Saskatchewan from here and are presently still living there. Mike is in Alaska.

Stone

Hershel Stone was born at Scugog Island, Ontario July 16, 1877. Mrs. Stone (Ada Snelgrove) was born at Little Britain, Ontario, September 28, 1878. They were married at Hannah, North Dakota on October 2, 1908. One son Melville was born March 13, 1911.

They came to live in this district about 1920. They lived on the farm where John Hamilton now lives. They also lived across the road where Bill Hamilton lives and they bought the land where Richard Hamilton lives. They built up the buildings there and sold that farm to Richard Hamilton in 1942. They came to church at Middleton and Mel received his education here. Mr. and Mrs. Stone went back to Ontario after they sold the farm.

Dobson

Amos Breckon Dobson was born in Yorkshire, England July 30th, 1878 and along with a brother Alf came to the United States when a young man. On July 4th, 1905 he married Hannah Jane Barker who was born in Yorkshire, England, November 30th, 1878. They spent their early married life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where Mr. Dobson was policeman for the railroad. While in the States five children were born,



MR. AND MRS. HERSHEL STONE



Taken the day of Alex and Eileen's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

Bill, Mother, Eileen, Jane, Mary and Jim.

William, Eileen, George, Tom and Jane. Tom was born in Yorkshire, England, when the family were back to the old country on a holiday.

Alf Dobson came to Canada in the summer months of 1914 and worked for Jack Stepler (father of Ernie Stepler, Manitou) and then began farming on 35-3-9, now the Ed Cassels farm. In 1917 Mrs. Amos Dobson and their five children came to the Alf Dobson farm and in November moved to 11-4-9 in the Hazel district. In the spring of 1918 Mr. Amos Dobson joined his wife and family and began farming. Three more children were born while in this district, Mary, Amos and James. In the spring of 1927 they came to the Middleton district settling on 27-3-8. In October 1954 they retired to Manitou after their youngest son Jim married. Mr. Dobson had the misfortune to fall, in February of 1956 and break his hip. This caused more trouble and he had to have his leg amputated below the knee that summer. He never seemed to regain his health and passed away August 1st, 1957. Mrs. Dobson lived alone in her house in town and enjoyed visits from her family and grandchildren and friends. She enjoyed going to church and was always interested in community affairs. She passed away on June 28th, 1962 in her 84th year.

William

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1907. In 1929 he rented NW $\frac{1}{2}$ 2-4-8 from Mr. Bill Falls, New Haven, and in 1932 married Laura Hay, a nurse from Clearwater. Three children were born, Ronald 1933, Ken 1936, Jean 1938 before Laura passed away in 1940. In 1941 Bill married Margaret Young and their family was Mac, Barrie, Joe, Neil, Dale, Marie and Shane. In 1944 they bought section 31-3-8, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Manitou, and farmed it until 1956 when they moved to Manitou.

Ron married Florence Hancock and they farm SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-3-8 and E $\frac{1}{2}$ 34-3-8. They have 3 children. Ken manages

the Crystal City Creamery. He married Dorothy Sparrow of MacGregor in 1963 and they have two children, Jean married Lorne McLean and they have 3 children. They farm south of Manitou. Mac is employed with Harrison and Norvell Communications in Winnipeg and Barry is employed as an auto-body man in Boissevain. Joe is on the staff of the B C Cable Co. in Winnipeg. Neil is a foreman with Bird Construction in Winnipeg. Dale is in the drug department of Woodward's in Westminster, and Marie and Shane are in school. Eileen (Mrs. Alex McDonald) lives in Manitou where her husband is employed. They have three children, Allan, Stuart and Shirley. George passed away in 1925 aged 13 years. Tom was with the RCAF overseas and on his return bought SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-3-8. He passed away in 1956. Jane and her husband Melville Stone live in Darlingford. They have two sons, Jim married Grace Lowry, living at Kelowna. B.C. they have three children Debbie, Kenny and David. Donald married Joyce Lone and they have one son Robbie. They make their home at The Pas.

Mary married Stuart Young. See Young history. Amos enlisted in RCAF in 1941. While posted at Dorval he was killed on active duty in an accident near Ellenberg, N. Y. James and his wife Marge (nee Sokoloski) live on the the home farm 27-3-8. Mrs. Dobson is matron of Manitou Hospital. There are 3 children: Richard, Robert, Lora.

Cadger

Cadgers moved to the Middleton district in the fall of 1920 making their home on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 36-3-8 (Jim Hamilton's). Then they moved for one summer to the Norman Checkley place (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 1-4-8) and then to the Bill Govier farm (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 1-4-8) where they lived until March 1924 when they moved to the McFadden District. In the spring of 1927 they moved back to where Jack Brown now lives (SW6-4-7). Mr. Cad-

ger had bought the land before but didn't build on it until then. They lived from April until early November on this farm and then moved to Winnipeg where Mr. Cadger took up landscaping grounds which he continued working at until his passing in 1961. The Cadger family, Barrie (Mrs. Claude Foster) lives in Winnipeg, Peggy (Mrs. Tom Berry) passed away in June 1967, Lizzie (Mrs. W. Darling) lives in Treherne Robert Cadger, Wpg., Alice (Mrs. F. Matheson) is in Winnipeg, as is Gertie (Mrs. A. Sim) and Molley (Mrs. Chris Daman) lives at St. Germaine.

McGregors

George McGregor worked for the CPR in Manitou and enlisted in the 184th Battalion. On his return from overseas he continued working for the CPR and bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 3-4-8 through the Soldier Settlement Board. He continued to live in town working the land from there until the early 1920's when the family moved to the farm.

Annie - Mrs. Clifford Gorrell of Winnipeg.

Mary - Mrs. Jack Bannister of Winnipeg.

Robert - Annie, Mary, and Robert

of Manitou were away from home by the time the family moved to the farm. Bob worked out around Kaleida before joining up and going overseas. On his return he worked in Winnipeg coming back to the farm in the fall of 1947. Bob and his wife, Margaret, have two sons, Bill and Jack. They moved the farm site to the present location on November 11th, 1948.

Walter - also served overseas and is now farming at Birch River.

Jean - Mrs. Jack McTavish of Rosebank.

Helen - Mrs. Bob Bell of Roland.

George is farming south of Manitou, he too, served overseas.

McGregors attended school in Manitou. The young folks enjoyed skating and hockey at the Middleton Rink. Mrs. McGregor and girls attended the Middleton Ladies' Meetings.

Baloun

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Baloun came to Canada from Poland in 1928 with their two daughters, Mary 2½ years and Teenie 1 year. They settled on a farm in the Brown district, better known as 1-6 or Lindal. They spoke no English so shopping was a problem, what they



A group of deer hunters: Alex Young, Jim Dobson, Eddie Baloun, Tom Dobson, John Young, Jerry Baloun, Ron Dobson, Stuart Young.

didn't see they didn't get for a while. Their son Edward was born in 1931 on Victoria Day. They lived in that district for 16 years.

In 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Baloun and family moved to Middleton district. They settled on 25-3-8 where they farmed until their retirement to Darlingford in 1967. Jerry was an active trustee on the Middleton School Board.

Mary is married to Ken Sanderson. They have two children, Barbara and Howard. Mary and Ken live on the home place.

Teenie married Gordon Webster. They have two boys and are presently living in Calgary.

Edward and his wife, Merle, with their children, two girls and one boy, live in Powell River, B.C. Eddie took some schooling in the Middleton School.

Hamilton

In 1910 Mr. Richard O. Hamilton came to the Carman area from the Lothians near Edinburgh, Scotland. He worked for a farmer, Mr. Isaac Campbell. In the fall of 1913 he returned to Scotland.

On March 13, 1914 Mr. Hamilton married Miss Jessie Ford. A few days after their marriage they came to Canada. They settled in the Homewood district working for Mr. Russell Alfred. Here, John, their eldest son, was born on April 25, 1915. In the fall of 1915 they moved to Carman for the winter.

In the spring of 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and John moved to a farm near Elm Creek. Here, James Ford, their second son, was born on November 18, 1916. From there they moved to a farm which they bought near Haywood. Here two more sons were born, Richard on July 29, 1919 and William Thomas on September 22, 1921.

The boys attended the Haywood school which had mostly French students. They usually walked the two and one-half miles to school or were

driven by a horse and buggy or sleigh.

In October 1929 the Hamiltons bought from Mr. Jim Dunlop the NW and SE ¼ of 31-3-7 which was in the Middleton School District and just one and a half miles from the school. In 1933 they bought the NE ¼ 37-3-7. John did not go back to school. However, Jim, Richard and Bill continued their education at Middleton.

Like the other citizens of Middleton District, they had their up and downs. In 1935 they had to burn the wheat which was badly rusted.

In the spring of 1941, Richard, the third son, bought half a section of land from Mr. and Mrs. H. Stone. In the fall of 1941 Jim joined the armed forces



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hamilton and their family: John, Jim, Richard(Jr.), and Bill.



Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hamilton

In the early 40's Mr. Hamilton had poor health and on September 13, 1943 he passed away. Mrs. Hamilton and her sons John and Bill continued farming the home place.

On July 14, 1945 John married Laura Vincent of Stonewall who was teaching at Middleton School at the time. They bought the north $\frac{1}{2}$ 30-3-7 from Mr. Wm. Elliot. In the fall of 1945 Jim returned from the armed forces and bought the N.E. quarter of 36-3-8 from Mr. Barney Chalmers. The following spring he also rented the N.W. quarter of 31-3-7 from his mother.

Three children were born to John and Laura Hamilton. They are:

Thomas James - born October 1, 1948 who is now working in Toronto, Ontario - married Debbie Lindsay of Darlingford and they have a son.

Elizabeth Jean - born November 23, 1950 - now working in Morden.

Richard Ian - born November 2 1953.

On March 13, 1953 Jim Hamilton married Margaret Adams of Manitou district. They have two children - Mary Jessie, born September 13, 1954 and James Richard born August 3, 1957.

The children of both families attended Middleton School until the district dissolved in 1962. Then Tom, Betty and Ian went to Darlingford School and Mary and Dick went to Manitou.

In September 1964 Mrs. Jessie Hamilton became ill and on November 17 she passed away. Both she and Mr. Hamilton had been very active in the life of the community. Mr. Hamilton had served on the School Board and

Mrs. Hamilton had been President of the Ladies' Club for many years.

Today Bill owns the original Hamilton east haf of 31-3-7 and Jim owns the original N.W. quarter.

Schroeder:

The family of Abe Schroeder came to live on 31-3-7 in 1929-30. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder had six girls when they lived in the Middleton District, and two girls after they moved to Morris. Their names are Dorothy, Susan, Lillian, Annie, Tena, Mary, Edna and Betty. Mrs. Schroeder passed away and Mr. Schroeder remarried and is now living in St. Vital. This land is now owned by William Baumgart.

Penner:

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Penner came to live on 23-3-8 in the mid forties. This farm was known as the Jim Jones farm. Mr. and Mrs. Penner had eight of a family, Peter, Jake, George, John, Elizabeth, Katie, David and Leonard. In the early sixties Mr. and Mrs. Penner moved to Morden. The farm is now owned by Larry Seymour.

Evans:

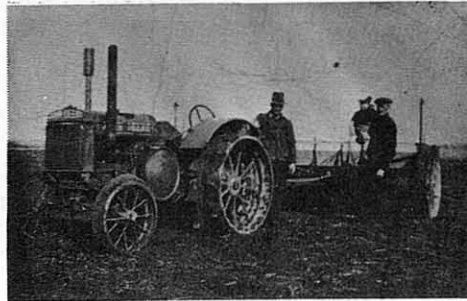
Melvin Evans lived on 1-4-8 during 1919-24 inclusive. The farm is now owned by Maurice Sprung.

Storey:

Mr. and Mrs. George Storey, 1893-94-95, lived on 24-3-8. Their family consisted of Alfred, Alda and Irvin. The land is now owned by Harry Leatherdale.

Storey:

William Storey and his wife homesteaded N. $\frac{1}{2}$ 30-3-7, settling there in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Storey had a family of three girls, Minnie, (Mrs. G. Sprung) Lily, (Mrs P. Henderson) and Lila (Mrs. H. A. Lowry). Minnie was the third white child to be born in the Pembina Municipality. Mr. and Mrs. Storey retired to Darlingford in 1917,



Ken Young and Garry and Stuart Young

selling their farm to Johnie Lowry of Darlingford.

Mr. and Mrs. Storey were real pioneers of the west, coming to this country at the time when it was yet occupied by roaming tribes of Indians. The nearest town was Emerson and the only means of travel was by oxen. It was at this town and by this means that his first crop was marketed. This land is now owned by John Hamilton.

Klassens

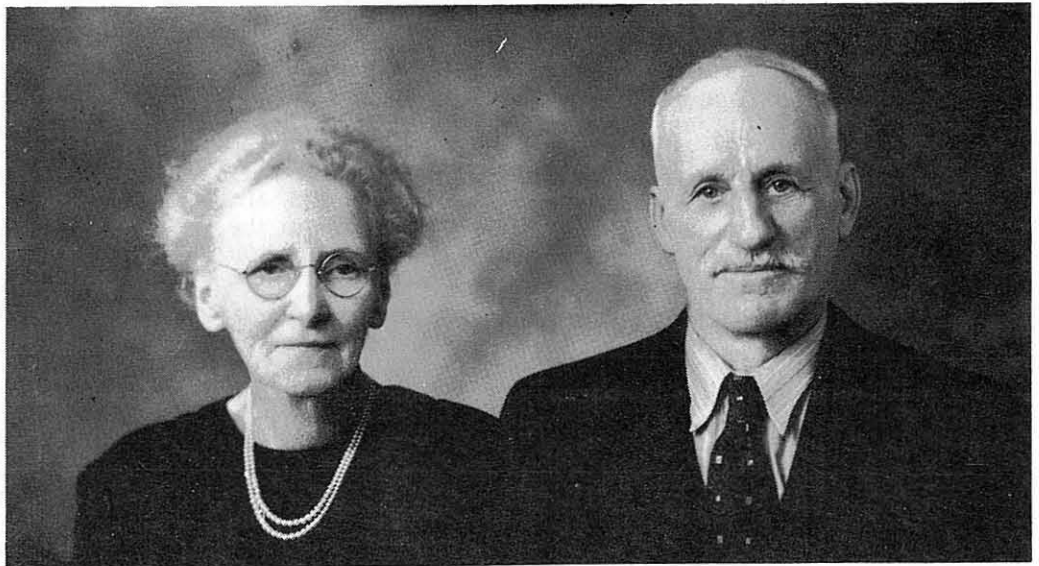
The Klassens lived on the Tom Toohey place (E1/2 35-3-8, Doug Young's) from October 1930 to October 1931. Mr. Klassen worked out while here. He had extensive training in Russia on designing and building oil equipment for extracting oil from sunflowers. The Klassen family moved to Altona where Mr. Kassen used his training to help build the refinery still in use there. John, Peter and Jacob attended school at Middleton.

Youngs

Ken Young, who was born in Ontario came west to Winnipeg with his parents in the early 1880's, later settling south of Manitou. He bought the N.W. 1/4 13-3-9, the Alex Cochrane place and brought to it his bride, Annette (Nettie) Murdoch, a school teacher from Pilot Mound. Their five children were born here, Anne, Alex, Margaret, John and Stuart. In 1919 they moved to Vancouver and in 1921 they returned to Manitou settling in the Middleton district on the E1/2 35-3-8, the former Tom Toohey farm.

Anne married Tom Oakes of Opawaka in 1937. They have three daughters, Ruth, Mabel and Edith.

Alex started on his own farm N.E. 36-3-8 in the summer of 1932. He married Alma Kwast in 1936. In 1940 they bought the Rutherford place moving over there to live. In 1943 they purchased the Anderson place moving the house to their present site. They have



MR. AND MRS. KEN YOUNG

six children.

Kenneth Boyd - a graduate of the University of Manitoba, married to Lois Johnston is now living in Texas. They have one daughter Heather.

Murray - who received his Diploma in Agriculture is farming the Bailey place in the McFadden district. He married Marilyn Klassen of Morden. They have a daughter Jennifer and son Mathew.

Glen - received his degree in Science at United College and at present is working in Winnipeg.

David - married Bonnie Bluhm of Morden and farms on the Roberts place in the McFadden district. They have one son Blair and a daughter Sherrie.

Linda Ann - a graduate of the University of Manitoba married Gordon Pincock and they are living in Edmonton.

James - is studying Engineering at the University of Manitoba.

Margaret - married Bill Dobson and now lives in Manitou (see Dobson account).

John - in 1934 married Agatha Joan Klippenstein living a couple of years in the log house on the S.E. 35-3-8. They then moved down to their present family home on the S.W. 35-3-8, the old Hewitt farm. They have five of a family.

Garry who lived at home until 1968 when he married Merle Coleman and they made their home in Manitou. He has worked as an electrician since 1959.

Malcolm - works the home farm with his father.

Janet - worked for the Manitoba Hydro before her marriage in 1968 to William Lightly. They with their son Robert John make their home at Winnipegosis.

Judy - also worked for the Manitoba Hydro and was married to George Kozak in 1969. They make their home in Winnipeg.

Doreen - is teaching in Winnipeg. She and Jim Matthews were married in 1971.

Stuart - married Mary Dobson April 10, 1940. A severe snowstorm a few days previous to the wedding day made the roads nearly impassable for horses. Rev. George Dyker came out from Manitou to the Dobson home in a snowplane driven by Jack Wilson. The bride and groom accompanied them back to town where they rented a car



Mr. and Mrs. Ken Young and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Dobson.



Stuart Young with team and rake, 1940



Young's first home in Middleton district

from Jim Ridley for a short honeymoon. They began farming on the S.E. 35-3-8 where Stuart's parents had lived until moving to the Checkley farm S.W. 35-3-8. They lived in the old log house until November 1945 when they moved into the house moved from the Bill Falls farm. They have three children.

Patricia - a registered nurse married to Bill Hamilton and living in Winnipeg. They have two children Kenneth and Krista.

Douglas - who farms in partnership with his father. Doug married Joyce Ehnes of Manitou, they have a daughter Melanie and a son Scott.

Diane - who married Glenn Lilke, they have one son Rodney and make their home in Winnipeg.

Mrs. Ken Young passed away in 1964 aged 87 years and Mr. Young in 1968 aged 89 years. They are buried in the Manitou cemetery. At the time of Mr. Young's death there were five children, twenty-seven grandchildren, and eighteen great grandchildren, thirty of whom still call Manitou home.

Alkerton:

John Alkerton, his wife Christina, Hawley, Milton and Gladys came to E. ½ 34-3-8 April 12, 1932 to the farm vacated by J. Fleck and farmed by Abe Epp. (They came from Melville, Sask. to the Roseisle area in 1915 and then to north of Manitou in 1925). Mrs. Alkerton passed away June 4, 1933. Mr. Alkerton was fond of race horses and had been a cheesemaker in Ontario. He was a sports fan and passed away at the age of 89 December 26, 1959 after a lengthy illness.

Gladys took an active interest in local social activities. She passed away November 25, 1959 in a fatal car accident.

Milton took part in the local skating, hockey and softball teams. He took an active part in hunting trips for ducks, chickens and deer. He carried on the

farm until 1966 when he sold to Ron Dobson and retired to Manitou.

Tiessen:

Mr. and Mrs. Diedrick Tiessen lived on 36-3-8 in the years 1930 to 1932. They had a family of three sons, Diedrick, George and Aaron. In the spring of 1933 they moved to B.C. This land is now owned by Jim Hamilton.

Massey:

The Henry Massey family came to live on 31-3-7 from 1931 to 1933. They had a family of four, Fred, Laura, Eddie and Martha. The farm is owned by William Baumgart.

Anderson:

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Anderson lived on the S.E. ¼ 26-3-8 for a number of years. Their family consisted of Bessie, Norman, Bertha and Lily. This farm is now owned by Alex Young.

McMurtrey:

Maud and Clarence, niece and nephew of Robert Henry Lowry of Darlingford. They stayed at Dave Lowry's and went to Middleton School in 1903-1904.

Mutcher:

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mutcher came in the fall of 1933 to live on 31-3-7 recently vacated by the Henry Masseys. The Mutcher family consisted of the parents and two children, Marion age 6 years and Elmer a one-year-old toddler. Marion started school in Middleton transferred from Boundary School where she went for a month or so.

The Mutchers farmed here until the fall of 1943 when they quit farming, sold their farm to Bill Baumgart and auctioned off their machinery, stock and household goods. The Middleton Ladies Aid served lunch at their sale. The Mutchers lived in Manitou and Winnipeg before they decided to migrate to the west coast where they

lived at Haney B.C. Mr. Henry Mutcher died after a short illness in June 1964. Helen, his wife, is still living in an apartment on Dewdney Trunk Road in Haney, B.C.

Marion married Robert Dreger. They are farming in the Brown District 14 miles south of Morden. They have a family of four boys.

Elmer Mutcher is at present part owner of a filling station. He and his wife Lillian have a lovely home in the residential section of New Westminster B.C. They have a family of two boys and one girl.

Klippenstein

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Klippenstein who were married in 1899 at Altona came to the Middleton district in 1933, after farming for 6 years in the Archibald district. They lived on the NE36-3-8, the farm better known as the R. J. Chalmer's place and now owned by Jim Hamilton.

Four of their nine children came with them, the others having previously married and established their own homes.

Harry was the only member of the family to attend Middleton School. Mr. and Mrs. Klippenstein moved to the west coast in 1946 and later returned to reside in Altona where Mrs. Klippenstein passed away in 1955.

Mr. Klippenstein remarried in 1957 and lived in Winkler later moving to Altona. This winter marked the passing of his second wife, and he now resides with his daughter Mary and son-in-law Peter Klassen of Altona.

Three daughters reside in Winnipeg, Sadie (Mrs. C. A. Friesen), Ann (Mrs. G. Brown), and Margaret (Mrs. Ed Friesen) formerly of Thornhill. Neta (Mrs. Arthur Friesen) lives at Chilliwack, B.C. and Agatha (Mrs. John Young) lives in the Middleton district.

Ben and his wife, Helen, and family live in the Darlingford district. John and his wife, Bernice, farmed on the NE36-3-8 for a year and then estab-

lished their present home on NE25-2-9 south of Manitou. Harry and his wife, Adina, and family reside at Abbotsford, B.C.

Many folks may recall Mr. Klippenstein's novel musical talents and his interest in photography in earlier days. Grandma Klippenstein's homemade bun and other delicacies always drew hungry grandchildren to her table.

Zilkey

The Adolph Zilkey family moved into the Middleton District in the spring of 1938. Adolph worked for Norman Checkley and lived in the house just a little northwest of Norman's. Adolph and Jennie had a family of five young daughters, Jean, Grace, Pearl, Inez and Freda.

Jean nine and Grace seven started school in the Middleton District shortly after they arrived while Pearl started after Easter.

The Zilkey family lived in the Middleton District for several years, although later moved a mile south to the Alex Young farm when Adolph worked for Tom Shelton. Later they moved to John Hamilton. They moved into the town of Morden in April 1945 where Adolph lived until his death in the fall of 1965. Jennie is still occupied as a cook in a restaurant in Morden.

Jean, the eldest, (Mrs. Klassen) is at present living in Red Deer and has a family of five children.

Grace trained as a Registered Nurse. She later married Peter Predy. They are at present living in Preeceville, Saskatchewan with their family of four children.

Pearl married Mr. Eddie Atkin; they have a hardware store in Morden and have a family of two children, one daughter and one son.

Inez married a plumber John Loewen in Winkler, where they lived for several years. They are presently living in Anaheim, California with their two daughters.

Freda, the youngest, married a man in the forces. Mr. and Mrs. C. Loewen are at present living in Portage La Prairie with their family a daughter and a son.

Brown:

Today Jack, his wife Mildred, the former Mildred Neelin of Neelin, and their five children, Richard, Debbie, Sharon, Janis and Rodney, reside on S.W. 6-4-7. Jack and his eldest son carry on a feedlot operation.

Jack came to the farm with his father, Howard, and his mother, the former Pearl Whitney, in 1939. His father died in 1948 and his mother remained on and lived with him and his family until her health failed and she became a resident of the Tabor Home at Morden in 1968. At the beginning of 1930. Jack's oldest brother and his bride, the former Marge Bloxom, came to the farm and farmed through the dirty thirties. Here their two children, Donald and Grace, were born and began their schooling at Middleton.

Garnett had real water problems and had to haul his water in a water wagon from a neighbor's well every day. This farm is on the edge of "Lizzard Lake" and during these dry and dirty years many farmers from south of Manitou and Kaleida would spend the week camped down there making hay to haul home later in the year. Garnett's left in 1939 and spent the winter with relatives at Kaleida. Early in 1940 they left for Creemona, Alberta where they make their home today.

The Bob Stewart family spent a year or so here, also the Andy Croziers with their family of three, Edna (Mrs. C. Bowler), Allan and Gladys (Mrs. J. Madill). The two older ones attended school. The family moved to Clearwater at Easter.

The Cadger family lived here in the early twenties and it is thought they were the ones to start the present house. This was a soldier settlement

quarter and the N.W. quarter was registered to an Albert Eaton in 1878.

Sepke:

The Emil Sepke family came here in the year 1941. They took up farming on the Bob Jones farm, S. ½ 25-3-8.

Their four oldest girls came to school in August 1941 in Middleton, Marie, Elizabeth, Irene and Thelma in grades one to six. Their oldest son Melvin started school here also in May of 1943. They only stayed here for a few years leaving in April of 1944 to take up farming on the Sam Brown farm near Snowflake. They later sold it and bought a farm near Glenboro where they are presently living and farming. They raised a large family of eight girls and four boys.

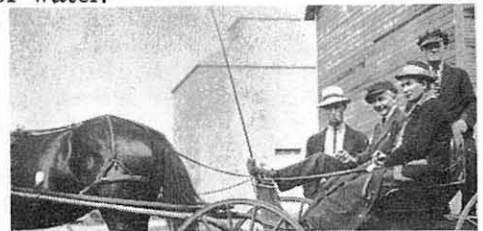
Baumgart:

William Baumgart and his wife, the former Emma Juliana Figur, came to the Middleton district in 1943 from the Calf Mountain District. They settled on S.W. 31-3-7 where they are still living. They have two sons, Lloyd and Charles, and four daughters, Esther, Elaine, Sharna and Charlotte.

Esther and Elaine are employed at Steinbach.

Seymour:

In the spring of 1965 Larry Seymour of Thornhill bought the William Jones' farm and in June married Marie Hunt of Darlingford. They have three children Darren, Dale and Dwight. Larry raises weanling pigs, and a real break for him was finding a flowing well where formerly there had been a lack of water.



Norman Anderson, Lloyd Mitchell, Bill Johns, Eph Checkley.

ACTIVITIES

To acquire land by Homesteading the applicant had to pay ten dollars for an inspection of the land selected. He was required to perform residence duties by residing in a habitable house on his homestead at least 6 months in each year during a term of three years. He also had to break a total of 30 acres and crop 20 acres before he could apply for Patent.

When a Homesteader received a Patent for his Homestead, he could then purchase by Pre-Emption Sale an additional quarter section at \$3.00 an acre. One-third of the total purchase price had to be paid at the expiration of three years.

The Hudson's Bay Company had the right to claim one-twentieth of every surveyed township for a period of fifty years prior to the 23rd of June, 1920. The Hudson's Bay Company lands consist of Section 8 and the S $\frac{1}{2}$ and N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26 in each township south of the North Branch of the Saskatchewan River and in every fifth Township the whole of Sections 8 and 26.

The School lands consist of Sections 11 and 29 in every surveyed Township. Sections 8 and 26 (after the 23rd of June 1920) wherever undisposed of were also designated School Lands.

With reference to Canadian Pacific Railways Lands, it appears that the Company acquired every third section in certain surveyed Townships.

EARLY HOMESTEADERS

N.E. 19-3-7 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 9-7-77
William Cockson - Richard Hamilton

S.E. 19-3-7 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 30-7-77
Henry Ferguson - Loyde Lowry

N.E. 30-3-7 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 15-5-78
William Storey Jr. - John Hamilton

S.E. 30-3-7 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 15-5-78
Thomas Boyle - Ron Waddingham

S.E. 31-3-7 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 25-9-78
Thomas Nairne - William Hamilton

S.W. 31-3-7 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 7-5-78
Benjamin Swanson - Wm. Baumgart

S.W. 6-4-7 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 31-8-78
Albert Eaton - Jack Brown

N.E. 22-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 29-12-79
David Lowry - J. Goossen

N.E. 23-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 25-6-78
Abraham D. Brice - Tait - A. Fast

N.E. 24-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 15-5-78
William Storey Sr. - H. Leatherdale

S.W. 24-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 27-5-79
Margaret Johnson, widow of Richard Johnson - J. Pederson

S.W. 25-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 4-6-79
John Falls - Ken Sanderson

N.E. 26-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 7-4-79
Moses Kealy - A. Young

S.W. 28-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 17-6-78
William Ferguson - Gloyne - Doug Dobson

N.E. 33-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 1-6-78
William Dickson - Jack Forrest

N.W. 33-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 29-7-79
William Tait - Jack Forrest

SE 33-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 15-6-79
Samuel Forrest - A. Fast

S.W. 34-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 1-6-78
Mathew R. Riddell - Ron Dobson

S.W. 35-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 24-5-78
Nicholas Kealey - John Young

N.E. 36-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 7-5-78
Thomas Nairne - Jim Hamilton

S.W. 36-3-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 26-4-79
John Johns - A. Checkley

N.E. 2-4-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 28-5-79
James Berry - W. R. Berry

N.W. 3-4-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 22-6-78
Richard Shrawley Smith - Leon
Sanders

S.W. 4-4-8 W.P.M.
Homestead entry dated 22-9-77
Wm. Grovier - Dave Kidd

MIDDLETON RINK

The Middleton Rink, which was open air, was made the winter of 1930-1931 and was located in the bush north west of the W. Johns' buildings. Some of the men who helped start the rink were John Young, Gordon and Fred Sprung, Bill Johns, Les and Cliff Jones and Bill Dobson. They hauled water to the rink with Garnet Brown's wooden water wagon. The first year they made the rink on a pile of scrub. The first house was made of red willows; the horses were put in at Bill's or in the lean-to at Alex's. Some were also put in at Gordon Sprung's. They dug a well for water to flood the ice. The well was cribbed with split balm or poplar. A better house was built on the west side which was later carried to the north end and set on four stones. The building was so small one had to be careful to put his skate on his own foot. Some sat on stumps and logs. They had a tin heater to warm up beside. About the second year, Les Jones strung electric lights run by a gas en-

gine and generator. Later they used gas lanterns. The rink was cleaned off with a fresno and later Mr. Droux made a snow blower on skids run by a car motor.

The rink was the centre of winter activities. How we all enjoyed the hockey games, skating, weiner roasts and the mocassin dances. Music was supplied by a gramophone. Tea for Two and The Little Gypsy Tea Room were a couple of the popular tunes. Many a romance had its beginning at the Middleton Skating Rink.

A hockey club was formed and for a number of years they had both a Senior and Junior team. They travelled many miles by team and sleigh to take part in games and tournaments.

Some hockey teams were Darlingford, Opawaka, Boulton, New Haven, Altamont and Kaleida. In 1935 the Senior team consisted of John Young, Mel Stone, Bill Dobson, Bruce Ticknor, Bill Williams, Walter McGregor, Stuart Young, Bill Johns, Milton Alkerton, Fred Checkley and Tom Dobson. The Junior team consisted of Amos Dobson, Ken Ashley, Bert Hall, Alvin Checkley, Don Ticknor, Fin Ticknor, Jim Berry, George McGregor and Bill Berry.

The first funds donated to the rink were from the disbanded Football Club and amounted to \$5.50. Other means of raising funds were by having dances in the local school, New Haven Hall and a raffle on a Hope Chest. The new house built in later years was sold to Barclay in 1955 or 56. The rink closed shortly after the war broke out. The funds belonging to the hockey club, which had been in trust throughout the years in the Manitou Bank, were disposed of in 1967. Two curling trophies were bought, one put up for competition between mixed curling rinks from the Darlingford and Manitou Clubs and the second one was donated to the Nellie McClung Collegiate for annual competition. The balance of the monies was given to the Middleton Ladies Club for local projects.



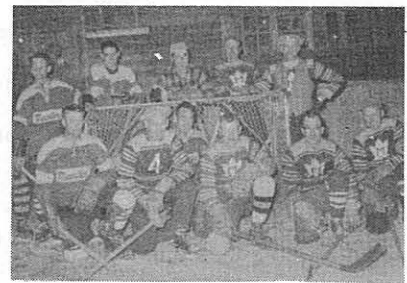
Some hockey players in early thirties (not sure) Fred Checkley, Tom Dobson, Walter McGregor, Bill Dobson, Bill Johns, Alex Fleck.



Senior hockey early 30's.
Back row: John Young, Bruce Tickner, Stuart Young, Bill Dobson.
Front row: Fred Checkley, Alex McDonald, Bill Johns, Mel Stone, Tom Dobson.



The old rink house.



Middleton played Kinsmen in Manitou in '58

Back row: Bill Johns, Bert Hall, Jim Ferguson, Bill Berry, Stuart Young, John Young.



Electric lights installed at the Middleton rink

Front row: Alvin Checkley, Alex McDonald, Jack Brown, George McGregor, Fred Checkley, Jim Dobson.



MIDDLETON JR. HOCKEY TEAM
Front row L. to R.: Amos Dobson, Ken Ashley, Bert Hall,
Back row: Alvin Checkley, Don Ticknor, Fin Ticknor, Jim Berry, George McGregor, Bill Berry.

THE MIDDLETON W.A.

The Middleton W.A. was formed on September 15, 1936 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Checkley. The first President of the organization was Mrs. Richard Hamilton. The Vice President was Mrs. Ken Young and Secretary Mrs. Norman Checkley. Rev. and Mrs. Dyker of Manitou attended the first meeting.

During the war years the organization carried on work for the Red Cross but did not hold regular meetings. In March 1947 the society re-organized under the name of the Middleton Women's Club and have been active since, holding regular monthly meetings.

MIDDLETON CHURCH

In the summer of 1927 the people of the Middleton Community felt the need for a church and Sunday School for the young and old. In June of that year they began to hold Sunday Services in the Middleton School with Mr. J. G. Bannister giving the messages most Sundays. Mrs. Jack Ticknor helped out on occasion. The services were well attended and everyone enjoyed singing from the "Sacred Song and Solos" hymnaries by Sankey and Moody.

Some of the ladies that we can recall who played the organ were Mrs. Ken Young and Mrs. Norman Checkley.

Sunday School classes were held out in the cloakroom and along side of the school and even in the cars on occasions. Mr. John Fleck, who taught the boys, Mrs. Gabe Sprung, Mrs. Ken Young and Anne Young were some of the teachers we remember.

About 1930 the district affiliated with the Manitou United Church and the minister from that charge came out to the school every Sunday afternoon around two o'clock. In the winter they would hire the livery to bring them out. Ministers who preached at the Middleton School were the Rev.

W. S. Acheson from 1930 to 1934, the Rev. George Dyker from 1934 to 1940 and the Rev. Cruikshanks from 1940 to 1947. Rev. Cruikshanks came out to the school every second Friday and spoke to the school children. They looked forward to his visits with keen interest. From 1947 to 1951 the Rev. King was our minister. One of the things we recall about Rev. King was the many times he walked out from Manitou to visit the people of the district. He would also help when needed. By 1951 the means of transportation and roads were greatly improved and the Church Services and Sunday school were discontinued in the district and the people went to either Darlingford or Manitou church.



LADIES AID JUNE 1940

Back row: Mrs. Amos Dobson, Mrs. Adolph Zilkey, Mrs. Alex McDonald holding Allan, Miss Kae Salter (teacher), Mrs. Stuart Young, Mrs. Tom Berry, Mrs. Jessie Hamilton, Mrs. Harry Leatherdale.

Middle row: Freda Zilkey, Mrs. Mel Stone, Mrs. John McAuley, Mrs. Bill Dobson.

Front seated: Gwen and Murray Leatherdale, Mrs. Bob Jones, Neta Klippenstein (Mrs. Art Friesen), Mrs. J. Young and Mrs. A. Young.



Swanson's farm home, now Bill Baumgarts, after 1910 and before 1916. Mrs. McClardy, Mrs. Tom Boyle, Mrs. Savage Loury, Mrs. Rutherford, Mrs. Johns, Mrs. Storey, Mrs. Checkley.



CHURCH AT MIDDLETON SCHOOL, 1940

Mrs. Mel Stone, Mrs. Johns, Mrs. Alex Young, Mrs. John Young and Garry, Mr. Norman Checkley and Shirley, Mrs. Ken Young and Rev. Dyker.

At the back: Tom Dobson, Jean McGregor (now Mrs. Jack McTavish), Mrs. Norman Checkley, Marjorie Checkley, John Young, Mrs. Stuart Young, Fred Sprung, **Stuart Young.**



Rev. and Mrs. Dyker, 1940



Mrs. Norman Checkley, Mrs. Jessie Hamilton, Mrs. John Young, Mrs. Amos Dobson, Mrs. John Hamilton, Marjorie Checkley, Mrs. Ken Young, Mrs. Johns, Shirley Checkley, Mrs. John Hamilton.



MIDDLETON CHURCH

John Hamilton, John Giesbrecht (worked at Amos Dobsons), Mel Slater, Bill Hamilton, Rev. Cruikshanks, Norman Checkley, Mrs. John Mrs. Norman Checkley, Marjorie Checkley, Mrs. Hamilton Sr., Mrs. John Hamilton, Mrs. Ken Young, Mrs. Amos Dobson. Two children in front Shirley Checkley and Garry Young.

CLOCK IN CONSTANT USE 701,280 HOURS

An eight day clock had its 80th year in Manitoba on Thursday, January 24, 1963.

This clock is in the farm home of Mr. Wm. Johns in the Middleton district, and was made in New York in 1881 and brought west by his parents Mr. and Mrs. John Johns on January 24, 1883 from Bowmanville, Ontario. At that time the railway train only came as far as Darlingford.

The 80 year old clock which still maintains accurate time has never been in a repair shop. It has been oiled and adjusted throughout the years of 701,280 hours right in the Johns' home as told to the Western Canadian office by Mr. Wm. Johns.

ODDS AND ENDS

The telephone came in first from Darlingford.

The hydro came in 1947.

In January 1942 the days were so warm Bill Johns went to the bush in his shirt sleeves and straw hat.

In the 1920's beef rings were common. The slaughter house was on the farm recently sold by Stan Foster (by New Haven).

The east side of the district was served by a rural mail route out from Darlingford.

Gophers - late 1920's and into the 1930's.

Grasshoppers - 1932-1934, 1939.

Drought - 1931-1936.

The Fowl Suppers of the early 1930's will be remembered by many. They were held in a log house where Doug Young now lives, in a house on the Anderson corner and at Jim Jones'.

Each year, for a good many years, a picnic has been held for the community. Some of the "well over 70 people" will remember hearing their first gramophone (with circular discs) at the picnic on the Johns quarter across from the school. The Hewitt

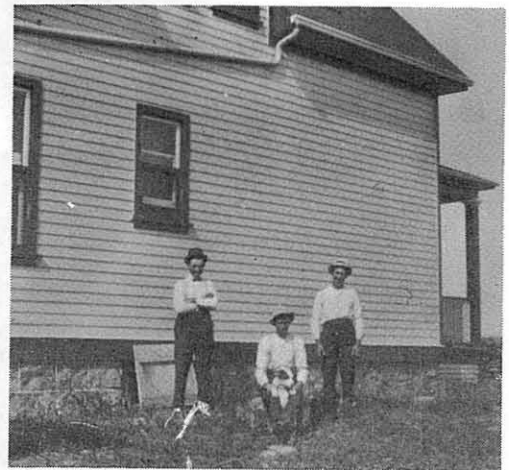
place before 1919, Andrew Rutherfords', Balouns to play ball, Berrys', John Youngs' and the Experimental Farm at Morden have been gathering places.

A Fence Phone line connected Amos Dobsons, Alkertons, McGregors, Bill Dobsons and Checkleys in the 1930's. They used a Ford coil and battery ear phones. Some used radio horns. There are places on the fence that can still be seen where the fence was wound for better connection. Checkleys had a telephone. Do you remember that at one time you could talk locally but a call through central cost five cents?

The first combining was done on Sprungs farm in 1939. Combining had become general by 1942.

Snow plow shareholders: J. Young, S. Young, A. Checkley, W. Berry, G. Sprung, W. Jones, T. Dobson J. Brown.

Lizzard Lake has burned over twice. On one occasion the call went out around 4 a.m. When daylight finally came 110 men were there fighting the fire. Some may remember Joe McElroy having a good deal of hay put up but his health didn't permit fighting fires so he went to Darlingford and practically bought the town out of bread and cheese etc. for the fire fighters.



Tom Berry, Ed Owens, Wendell Davidson

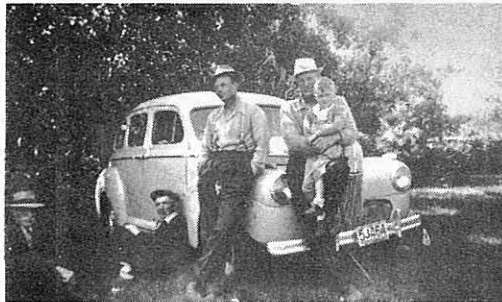


MIDDLETON PICNIC 1943

Mrs. Amos Dobson, Mrs. Sam Tait holding Illa, Betty Furniss (now Mrs. C. Leadbeater) Mrs. Bill Dobson holding Mac, Mrs. Mel Stone, Gladys Alkerton, Mrs. John Follett, Mrs. S. Young



A group ready for home after watching the skiers at La Riviere 1940. Dick Hamilton, Fred Checkley, John Hamilton, Margaret Young, Margaret Pedersen, (McAuley), Allan Cousins, Tom Dobson, Kae Salter, Mary Young Stuart Young, Agatha Young, John Young.



MIDDLETON PICNIC 1950

Seated: Ken Young and Tom Berry. Gordon Sprung, Alex Young holding David.



Gladys Alkerton (walking) Mrs. Fred Checkley (in the booth), Jane Stone and Garry Young with backs to the camera and other children.



MIDDLETON SCHOOL PICNIC 75th ANNIVERSARY REUNION JUNE 24, 1961



DUCK SHOOTING 1939

Bill Johns, John Young, Alvin Checkley, John Hamilton, Stuart Young, Fred Checkley, Tom Dobson.



Mrs. Norman Checkley and Shirley Checkley and Barbara Berry.



Dulcie Berry, Barbara Berry and Helen McGregor.



Middleton School children on a float in Manitou at the 60th celebration of Canada's Birthday. (Mr. Ken Young's team and rack).



Kenneth Boyd Young and Donald Berry on Alex Young's first tractor.