



## **SCHOOL CAIRN**

The cover of this book includes a photo of the iron marker situated on the site where the Middleton School once stood. The marker reads “Middleton School S.D. No. 404 1886-1962”. Built by Robert Pauls at a cost of \$150.00, the marker was erected in 1979 by a group of people in the district.

Alex Young donated a small corner of his property for the marker.

Doug, Stuart, Mary and Joyce Young maintain the site.

## **FOREWORD**

In compiling an update to our book “Memoirs of Middleton” published in 1972, we have endeavored to include all residents, past and present. We apologize for omissions.

## **DEDICATION**

In memory of the early settlers who pioneered to make our district a place they were proud of and who passed the challenge on to their children and the succeeding generations

Initiated by  
Middleton Ladies Club

Sincere appreciation is given to the original history book committee and to all others who gave many hours of time and effort in gathering material for the contents of this book.

A big thank you to Judy and Ryan Young for all their work and time spent on making this book a success.

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## **TEACHERS**

### **Bethel Graham 1911-1913**

Bethel was born at March Corners, On August 27, 1891. The family moved west settling in Baldur and later moving to Manitou where she received her teaching certificate at the age of 18. Bethel taught in many one-room schools at Manitou and in the surrounding districts of Kaleida, Willow Bluff and Middleton and later at Gretna and Neepawa. Bethel helped to support her widowed Mother, three brothers and a sister. In 1934 she moved to Winnipeg and joined the staff of the T. Eaton Co. where she was the needlework instructor in Eaton's old knitting school until her retirement in 1960.

Bethel led an active life, intensely interested in politics, world affairs and enjoyed travelling to exotic places.

Bethel passed away August 19, 1995 a week before her 104<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Florence Moores 1914**

The family lived around Kaleida then moved to the Balmoral area to farm and then to BC. Florence passed away in 1981.

### **Ida Atkinson (McRae) 1915**

Ida boarded at the Rutherford's for a short time and then at Owen's. Last known address was Medicine Hat, AB.

### **Nellie Armitage 1924-1925**

Nellie moved to Manitou with her Mother and Dad. When they passed away, she continued to live in the house until she had to go to the hospital. Nellie was one of the first three to move into the Personal Care Home in Manitou. Nellie passed away in January 1991 at the age of 87 years.

### **Eva Wallcraft (Webber) 1925**

Eva married Bert Webber in 1929 and they made their home four miles southeast of Manitou on the SE 8-3-8W. They raised their family of three girls: twins Ada and Elva, and Doreen. In 1965 the farm was sold. They moved to Manitou to their home on Souris Ave. After Bert's passing, Eva moved to the LaRiviere Lodge in 1980. Eva passed away in 1990.

**R. Myrtle Scharf**  
**1927-1929**

Myrtle taught in a number of places until retiring from Morden in 1972. She lived with her father Percy Scharf in LaRiviere until his passing. Myrtle continued to live there until May 1996 when she went to live with her nephew Alex Scharf and his family. The only time she didn't teach was when she went east and worked in the Malton Aircraft factory during the war.

**Kae McLeod (Tait)**  
**1930-1933**

Kae and Sam Tait were married in 1934 and farmed in the Middleton area until 1954 when they moved to Manitou. Kae taught Grade II in Manitou for 12 years. They moved to Winnipeg where Kae did substitute teaching in the Seven Oaks District for a number of years. Sam passed away in 1978. In 1980 Kae moved back to Manitou and now lives in the Kinsmen Haven. Kae enjoys visiting her three children and their families. Kae is a member of the Middleton Ladies Club.

**Marguerite McDowell (Moloney)**  
**1933-1937**

Reta married A.E. (Bill) Moloney in 1938. They farmed south of Kaleida. Reta resumed teaching in 1960 when their three children were grown up. She retired in 1977. After her husband's passing, she lived in the farmhouse in the summer months and visited family and travelled with her sisters during the winter months. Reta sold the farmyard and went to live in Winnipeg. She passed away in 1999.

**Jean McDonald (McIntosh)**  
**1937-1939**

Jean taught at Archibald for the 1939-40 term. In September of 1940 she and Jack McIntosh were married and lived for a number of years on 5-4-8W (the Martha Metcalfe place), then moved to 8-4-8W (the F.W. McIntosh place). They had three children, Fraser, David and Sheila. Jean taught at the Nellie McClung Collegiate from 1966 to 1974. Jean and Jack moved to Brandon for two years, then came back to Manitou in 1976. Jack passed away in 1997 and Jean continues to live in their home on Souris Ave. She is active in various organizations such as the music and speech festivals, library etc.

**Kae Slater (Catherine Thexton)**  
**August 1936 - December 1940**

Kae had sixteen students in Grades 1 to 8. Her salary was \$550.00 a year paid in ten payments. She boarded with the Norman Checkley's for \$15.00 a month. In later years she taught at St. Johns High in Winnipeg, retiring in 1978 to pursue her interest in recording nature sounds.

At the time of her teaching in the district, the families were the Stuart Young, the John Young, the Berry, Checkley, Mutcher, Zilkey, Dobson, and John Hamilton families. Kae has kept in touch with Laura Hamilton.

**Evelyn Rosen (Alwin)**  
**January 1941 – June 1941**

After five years in Manitoba, Evelyn went to Wisconsin where she attended Lake Land College receiving a B.A. in 1950. She married Edgar Alwin in 1952. They live in Elkhorn, Wisconsin and have a daughter Carol Ann. She taught in primary grade level.

**Laura Vincent (Hamilton)**  
**1941-1945**

Laura and John moved to Darlingford in 1981. Laura retired from resource teaching in 1984 and enjoys taking trips, mainly in Canada. Laura keeps busy with the Church and Evergreen Seniors Club. John and Laura celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 1995.

**Mildred Neelin (Brown)**  
**1947-1948**

Romance blossomed, and following some time employed in a general store in Neelin, I returned to the district as the wife of Jack Brown in October of 1950. Fifty years to the day as I write this. Middleton has been good to me and I still live here with my two sons close by. See "Jack Brown" for more information.

**Jean Ferguson (Ramsay)**  
**1948-1950**

Jean and Gordon retired from Winnipeg, to Alberta and to Abbotsford, BC. They have a son Guy and three grandchildren.

**Alice Morrison (Nichol)**  
**1951-1953**

Time marches on! 43 years to be exact Murray Nichol and I were married July 11, 1953. We resided and farmed the Nichol family farm south-east of Darlingford for 27 years. In 1979 we moved into the Village of Darlingford. Like everyone else, we had good and bad times, the hardest being the death of our daughter Janett in 1960. Besides Janett, we had three sons and one daughter. They are all married and quite settled into their lives. *Ken* married Betty Young and they have two sons. David lives and is employed in Castegar, BC; Philip lives with his parents in Carman. Ken and Betty have their own semi-truck and travel from coast to coast as well as into the States. *Scott* married Donna May Berry. They live on and operate the family farm raising their two children Jessica and Steven. They are the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generation to reside on the farm. In 1981, the family received a Century Farm Award. Scott also drives a truck for a franchise. *Myron* married Heather Hyde from Aurora, ON. They reside in Castelgar, BC. Myron is the Mechanical Engineer in Celgar Pulp Mill. Heather is a Social Worker. *Joanne* married Ross Potts from Barrie, ON. They have resided in Comox BC and Bedford, Nova Scotia while Ross served in the Military. Recently Ross returned to civilian life and is employed as an Insurance Adjuster in Toronto. Joanne has been employed as an Activity Director making use of her degree in Recreation but for the last two years she attended Dalhousie University and graduated in May as a Health Administrator.

Murray thoroughly enjoys playing banjo with the Polka Dots and six guys get a few rounds of golf during the summer. He is still very much a farmer and doesn't hesitate to accept when called upon to help.

For the past 15 years I have been employed on the dietary staff at Tabor Home, Morden. This will be my retirement year before it is time to move in as a resident. We are both looking forward to doing more travelling.

I have many fond memories from teaching and living in Middleton. Even though most of you have involvement outside your district, your Ladies Meetings, and annual picnics have kept you in touch. We wish all of you good health and happiness.

**Vivian Kennedy (Ferguson)**  
**1953-1954**

Vivian married Jim Ferguson to live in Manitou. After teaching at Middleton and McFadden schools, taught at Valley View and three years in Manitou Elementary. Jim worked for 35 years at the Manitou Broiler Farms with Bert Hall and later Hans Mehrle. Jim and Vivian have two children; Cheryl (1962) married Roger Forkheim in 1986 and has two children Sarah and Justin. Kevin (1964) married Michelle Hoffman in 1990. They have a son Trevor. Both Cheryl and Kevin reside in Winnipeg.

**Jessie Mackintosh**  
**1955-1962**

When the Middleton School District went into consolidation in 1962, Jessie joined the Manitou Elementary staff and continued teaching there until 1978. Jessie is thoroughly enjoying her home on Rogers Ave. as well as her retirement.

## RESIDENTS

### Residents in 2000

<p>3</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bill &amp; Doreen Berry</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Tom &amp; Lisa Sprung</p> <p>Maurice &amp; Elaine Sprung</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Mildred Richard &amp; Dianne Brown</p>
<p>34</p> <p>Ron &amp; Florence Dobson</p>	<p>35</p> <p>Malcolm &amp; Judy Young</p> <p>Stuart &amp; Mary</p> <p>Doug &amp; Joyce Young</p>	<p>36</p> <p>Ron &amp; Cheryl Thiessen</p> <p>Dick &amp; Sandra Hamilton</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Marge Dobson</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Hellen Checkley</p> <p>Jim &amp; Susan Young</p>	<p>25</p> <p>David &amp; Susie Wiebe</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Ian &amp; Bonnie Hamilton</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Larry &amp; Marie Seymour</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Alice Leatherdale</p> <p>Darren &amp; Liz Seymour</p>	<p>19</p>

### **Alkerton, John and Christina**

John (d. 1959) and Christina (Hawley) (d. 1933), Milton and Gladys came to E1/2 34-3-8W in the Middleton District in 1932 to the farm vacated by J. Fleck and farmed by Abe Epp. Mr. Alkerton had been a cheese maker in ON. He was a sports fan and was fond of racehorses.

**Gladys** took an active interest in local social activities; she passed away in 1959 in a fatal car accident. **Milton** (1900-1985) lived on Ormie Anderson farm (9-3-8W) before moving to Middleton. He farmed the SE 20-4-8 from 1925-1929. He took part in the local skating, hockey and softball teams and 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.

### **Anderson, Jim**

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Anderson lived on the SE 1/4 26-3-8W in the Middleton for a number of years. The house was a full two storey home. The top storey was moved to the Alex Young yard NE 1/4 26-3-8W. Their family consisted of six children: Lily, William, George, May, Norman, and Bessie.

**Lily** married W. Peel who was killed in WW1; they had two daughters: Vera and Rita. Lily then lived in Manitou with her mother and brother George. Lily worked in Barrett's Store. **William** is deceased. **George** worked for Cham Moores for years; he is now deceased. **May** who never married was a schoolteacher all her life; she lived in a nursing home in Winnipeg and passed away at the age of 71. **Norman** is deceased. **Bessie** married Melvin Andrew in 1924. They had a family of four: Morris (d. 1949) and Alvin (d. 1956) both with polio, Merle (Blackman) lives in BC and Fay.

### **Baloun, Jaroslav and Anna**

Jaroslav (Jerry) (1898-1982) and Anna (nee Statni) Baloun (1909 -1982) had two daughters Maria and Antonia and one son Edward. The family farm was on the SW 25-3-8W in Middleton. Jerry was an avid hunter and fisherman; in 1961, he caught the largest Northern Pike ever recorded in Cross Lake, west of Grand Rapids Power Dam, MB. It weighed 32 lbs. was 50" long and had a 23" girth.

**Maria (Mary)** (1925-1986) see Ken and Mary Sanderson.

**Antonia (Teenie)** (1926) married Gordon Webster in 1947. From Calgary they moved to Salmon Arm, BC then to Sorrento, BC. Gordon passed away in 1993. They have two sons: *Robert* and *Miles*.

**Edward (Eddie)** (1931-1993) married Merle Entner in 1956, in Powell River, BC. They have one son, *Les* and two daughters, *Cheryl* and *Marci*. Eddie worked for the Powell River District Hospital until his retirement in 1991. Eddie and Merle spent some of the winter months in Yuma, Arizona.

### **Bannister, John George and Sarah**

John George Bannister (1864 - 1940). In the 1920's John George Bannister and his second wife Sarah Frances came to Middleton NE 36-3-8W from Yorkshire, England. He was a merchant tailor by trade; his family were tailors for lords and gentry. He was a very learned man who gave Anglican services and along with Mr. Sprung started Sunday School. After the loss of eight-year-old Berta Sprung, he went to

school to offer comfort and prayers to pupils; he also took the funeral service for Albert Owens at the Owens residence. From his first marriage he and his wife Sarah Jane had three children: Arthur (Mary Henderson of Manitou) came to LaRiviere and worked for Mr. Wightman, Lizzie of England, and Thomas killed in WWI.

**George** married Sarah Frances in 1900 and they had three children. Sarah Frances passed away in 1952 at Austin. He moved to Manitou on Fuller St. west and had a tailor shop in his home. His son *Jack* and family resided there. Jack's children are Kathleen (Mrs. Harris Atkins of Austin), Frank (Nellie), and John (Jack) married Mary McGregor and had five children.

### **Baumgart, William and Emma**

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 SW 31-3-7W. They retired in the fall of 1992 to the Town of Winkler. They have two sons, Lloyd and Charles, and four daughters, Esther, Elaine, Sharna and Charlotte.

**Esther** married Gordon Sawka in 1973 and lives in Duncan, BC with their son, Kelly. Esther is employed with the Duncan School Division.

**Elaine** married Arnold Hundt in 1974 and lives in Steinbach. Elaine is employed with Dersken Printers as an office administrator.

**Lloyd** married Shyrrol Zacharias in 1981. They have three children: Jonathan, Kaleigh and Courtney. They reside in the Town of Morden. Lloyd is employed with the Winkler Credit Union as the agricultural officer.

**Charles** lives in Calgary, AB. He obtained his degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Manitoba and is employed with Renaissance Oil Co. as a sales representative.

**Sharna** received her Special Education Teacher Certificate on November 1, 1999 from the Professional Certification Unit in Russell, MB. She also received her Master of Education degree in Speech Language Pathology at the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in Huntsville, AL, USA on July 25, 1998. Sharna previously received her Bachelor of Education degree at Brandon University.

**Charlotte** married Glen Didyk in September 1999. She received her Pharmaceutical degree from the University of Manitoba. She is employed as a sales representative for Merck frosst Pharmaceuticals, which encompasses the central region of Manitoba.

### **Beatty, Roland and Isabella**

The Roland and Isabella Beatty family came from Kincardine, On in spring of 1907 to make their home on the Dave Lowry place NE 1/4 22-3-8W in Middleton. It was the winter of the deep snow and the family had to stay over at Harvey Dicksons before they could reach their new home. When the snow melted buildings showed up that they didn't even know they had.

Their family consisted of: **Eva** (married Arthur Dobson), **Marshall**, **Wesley**, **Robert**, **Ellsworth** and **Earl**. Earl and Ellsworth attended Middleton School for a few years before the family moved west.

### **Bell, John and Susan**

The John and Susan Bell family lived in Manitou where he worked for Matt Riddell and Dr. McGillivray (veterinarian) in the livery barn and farmed Mr. Riddell's farm (NE 3 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 1907. After holidays they went back until November when the family moved back to Manitou.

Gertie talked of going across the corner to see Mr. McKenny and his many dogs; he always had treats to give them.

### **Berry, James**

James Berry (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 miners boots especially made with iron soles for tramping around rocks was around for years. James homesteaded the NE 3 2-4-8 and bought the SE 3 2-4-8 in Middleton. A log house was built on the SE 3 and his mother Ann Berry (d.1920) and sister Elizabeth (d. 1920) 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 and moved 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.

John Berry (Jim's brother) (1849) came to Manitou in 1880 from ON with his wife Fanny Moore and two children, Arthur and May. They remained briefly then moved on to homestead at Cavalier, North Dakota where William (1884) and Thomas (1887) were born. When John and his children moved to Grandview after Fanny's death in 1889, young Tom remained with his grandmother and Uncle Jim in Middleton.

### **Berry, Tom and Margaret**

Tom Berry (1887-1960) son of John and Fanny (Moore) attended Middleton School, as had Arthur, May and William while they lived here, and worked with his Uncle Jim. Tom married Margaret (Peggy) Cadger (b. 1905) and remained living on the homestead SE 2-4-8W in Middleton. Uncle Jim returned to the East for a visit, took ill, and passed away in 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. They returned to the farm in 1932. The family moved to Winnipeg 1951. After Tom died, Peggy made a home with her daughter, Dulcie, in Winnipeg until her sudden passing in 1967 when visiting her daughter, Barbara (Mrs. George Moody) in Montreal. Tom and Peggy's children:

**William** (1923) see William and Doreen Berry.

**James (Jim)** (1924) served overseas in the RCAF. He passed away in 1994 at age 69, leaving wife Ruella. They had two children *Wayne* and *Kathy*.

**John (Jack)** (1926) served in the RCAF and on his discharge went to university obtaining a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jack is a widower and a retired engineer living in Winnipeg. His children are *Pat*, *Tom*, *Jo-Anne*, *James*, and *Barbara*.

**Donald** (1928) worked out locally; he ran the maintainer for several years and 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 Souris where they operated a dairy farm and then to Oak Lake.

Donald and wife Ida now live in Carberry. They are retired from farming. They had two children: *Brian* and *Kevin*.

**Dulcie** (1930) worked at the Royal Bank in Manitou for several years before moving to Winnipeg. Dulcie never married. She retired from the Royal Bank in 1987 after 39 years of service and makes her home in Winnipeg.

**Barbara** (1933) became a seed analyst working in Winnipeg until her marriage to George Moody of Manitou. They lived at Goose Bay, Labrador and Montreal. Barbara and her family moved back to Winnipeg in 1972. Both she and her husband George Moody are retired from the Federal Government. They have two children: *Gregory* (d. 1997) and *Evelyn*.

### **Berry, William and Doreen**



William (1923) son of Tom and Peggy Berry, 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. In 1951 he married Doreen Davidson (1920) of the New Haven district. They raised seven children: Marie, Davidson, Elva, Nora Ann, Arthur, Donna May and Alice. Bill and Doreen presently reside on and continue to operate the family farm SE 2-4-8W in Middleton. Marie, Dave and Elva attended Middleton School until it closed in June 1962. They and the rest of the family went to the Manitou schools. All graduated with a Grade XII standing.

**Marie** (1952) attended the University of Manitoba obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1974. Marie worked in several pharmacies then she and her husband Bill Cechvala, a pharmacist,

purchased Vimy Park Pharmacy 893 Portage Ave. Winnipeg. Marie went back in 1988 to the U of M and obtained a Law degree. Bill manages their pharmacy and Marie has an office in it where she is a practising Health Care Consultant.

**Dave (Davidson)** (1954) joined the R.C.A.F. in 1972 taking training in telecommunications. After postings to Petawawa and Kingston he served with the U.N.E.F. in Egypt; then he came back to Kingston to train personnel in telecommunications. In 1975 he married Amanda Bissell of Ottawa. In 1977 he was posted to Lahr, Germany where he lived for four years; then he was posted to Winnipeg. Dave took his discharge in 1983 and secured employment in Winnipeg. Dave has lived in Richer for a number of years. Dave and Amanda have three children: *Adam* (1977), *Jaime* (1979), and *Rachel* (1980).

**Elva** (1955) on graduation in 1973 got employment at Manitoba Telephone and then for the Canadian Wheat Board. In 1979 Elva moved to Calgary where she obtained a job with Esso Resources Canada Ltd. She worked there until 1990 when she moved back to Winnipeg where she now works for Watkins Inc. Elva was one of the last pupils to go to attend school at Middleton.

**Nora Ann** (1957) moved to Winnipeg in 1975 and worked for the Wheat Board until 1978, then a travel agent until 1985 and now Air Canada where her husband Don also works. They have two children: *Brent* (1988) and *Jennifer* (1997).

**Arthur** (1959) graduated in 1977 and worked at several jobs before he took the Agriculture Diploma Course at the U of M. graduating in 1982. He joined the Provincial Assessment Branch in Portage la Prairie moving to the Selkirk office and now is working out of the Steinbach office. Arthur and Karen Schewe were married in 1982 and have a son *Travis* born in 1984; they live in Beausejour.

**Donna May** (1961) after graduation in 1979 moved to Winnipeg where she worked at several jobs for five years. In 1984 she moved back to Manitou and worked for two years. In 1984 she and Scott Nichol were married and moved to their farm at Darlingford. They have two children: *Jessica* (1989) and *Steven* (1991).

**Alice** (1963) moved to Winnipeg after graduation in 1981 and for the next three and one-half years held several full time jobs. In 1984 she and Danny Wiebe were married and moved to their broiler grain farm north of LaRiviere. They have two sons: *Michael* (1988) and *Evan* (1992).



*Standing – Alice, Nora Ann, Bill, Dave  
Sitting – Donna May, Arthur, Doreen, Elva, Marie*

### **Boyle, Thomas and Sarah Jane**

Thomas Boyle moved with his family from Kinburn, Ontario in 1877. They settled on the SW 3 14-3-7, and shortly after Tom took up a homestead on the SE 3 30-3-7W in the Middleton District, later adding the SW 3 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 could not be made and one fall the machine company came and took Tom=s best team of horses. After many heartbreaking years, times improved and the farm was finally a paying proposition. They had a family of two, both receiving their education at Middleton School.

**Edgar** married Blanche Rombough and had a daughter *Alice* (Dick Shaver).

**Laura** married Herbert Storey and had two children: *Verna* and *John*.

Tom passed away in 1921 and his wife many years later after living on the farm with her son and daughter-in-law. Edgar sold the farm in 1945 to Ronald Waddingham and they moved to Morden.

### **Brown, Garnett and Marge**

Garnett and his wife Marge (Bloxom) of the Kaleida area came to the SW 6-4-7W in Middleton in the early 1930's. Here their daughter **Grace** and son **Donald** were born. They both attended Middleton School. Garnett had real water problems and often had to haul water in a water wagon from a neighbour. This farm is on the edge of ALizard Lake≡ and during these dry and dirty years many farmers from south of Manitou and Kaleida would come and camp and make hay. The hay was hauled home later in the fall when they had time. In 1939 the family left and spent the winter with relatives at Kaleida. Early in 1940 they moved to Cremona, AB. There Garnett owned and operated a garage. Marge passed away in 1994, son Donald in 1996 and Garnett in 1999. It is known that the Andy Crozier family spent some time on the SW 6-4-7W. The family included Edna (Mrs. Cliff Bowler), Allan and Gladys (Mrs. Jack Madill). The oldest children attended Middleton School but later moved to Clearwater. The Bob Stewart family also spent time here, but dates are not known.

In the early 1920's the Cadger family lived here and it is thought they were the one to start the present house. This was a soldier settlement quarter and the NW quarter was a wood lot registered to an Albert Eaton in 1878.

### **Brown, Jack and Mildred**

John (Jack) Brown (1923-1992) son of Howard and Pearl (Whitney) Brown. He received his education and played goal during hockey seasons in Manitou. In 1939 when his brother Garnett and family moved off the farm in the Middleton district SW 6-4-7W, he came to the farm with his parents.

This was the beginning of a life long career in farming. Howard died in the winter of 1948. Pearl remained with Jack and his family until ill health made it necessary for her to make her home the Tabor Home, Morden in 1968 until her death in 1977.

In 1950 Jack married Mildred Neelin of Neelin, MB who had come to the area as a permit teacher. More treed land was purchased and this in turn was bulldozed and cleared of roots and stones by hand. He began enlarging the cattle herd and feeding out some of the steers and heifers. Mildred has remained in her home and is active in the Middleton Ladies Club, Manitou United Church, Horticulture, senior curling, etc. Together Jack and Mildred raised a family of five. All were involved in Manitou 4-H Beef Club, coming home with many ribbons. They also showed and sold at Carman Fair. The girls all attended Messengers, Explorers and C.G.I.T. at the Manitou United Church. During the winter the girls belonged to the Darlingford Figure Skating Club and the boys played hockey.

**Richard** (1951) See Richard and Dianne Brown

**Deborah** (1954) attended Middleton for two years and then to Manitou School. She worked as a receptionist at Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre. She married Rodney Hemminger in 1977 and they moved to Gillam where Rod worked for hydro. They came back to Winnipeg to live in 1983. They have two children: *Derek* (1982) and



*Standing-Richard, Debbie, Rod  
Sitting-Janis, Mildred, Jack, Sharon*

*Dana* (1989).

**Sharon** (1957) took a LPN course and nursed at Gimli and Killarney. She married Ian Reichert of Killarney in 1978 and they still live on a farm there. They have two children: *Michael* (1982) and *Janet* (1984).

**Janis** (1959) obtained her RN at Grace Hospital in Winnipeg where she continues to work. She married Bryan Lipski of Winnipeg in 1987. They have two children: *Jerritt* (1991) and *Kara* (1994).

**Rodney** (1964) worked for UGG in Manitou and Winnipeg, and construction work in Brandon. Rod was very active in hockey; he played goal for Manitou, Miami, Morden and Pilot Mound. He purchased the SE 32-3-7W several years ago. While living there, he farms out of the home yard with his brother.

### **Brown, Richard and Dianne**



Richard attended Middleton School until it closed in 1962, then finished in Manitou. Upon leaving, farming became his full time occupation. He and his father enlarged the feed lot and put up many new sheds and granaries. Water has always been scarce; today the yard contains five wells. He got his pilots license and a plane, but since has sold it. In 1979 he married Dianne Edwards of Carman. They lived in Darlingford until a new home was built along the lane. Dianne is continuing her studies for her master degree at the University of Manitoba.

### **Cadger, Isaac and Margaret**

The Cadgers lived in the Middleton District for seven years 1920-1927. Isaac built a house in 1927 where the Brown's now live but remained there only eight months when they moved to Winnipeg where he became a landscaper. He passed away in 1961. They had seven children:

**Barbara (Barrie), Margaret (Peggy)** see Thomas and Margaret Berry,  
**Elizabeth (Lizzie), Robert (Bob), Alice, Gertrude (Gertie), Mary (Mollie).**

### **Carriss, Edward and Alice**

Edward (Teddy) Carriss and his wife (Alice Nairne) were among the very early settlers of the Middleton District. They came here in 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 NW 36-3-8 and NE 31-3-7 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 was quite young. They lived here until about 1908 when the family moved to Turtleford, SK where the father and sons took up homesteads.

### Checkley, Alvin and Hellen

Alvin ( 1921-1993) was born on 35-3-8W. He attended Middleton School and as a lad, spent many hours skating and playing hockey. He married Hellen Johnston in 1953. On the NW 26-3-8W they raised a family of five: Brent, Dianne, twins Dale and Daryl and Cheryl.



*Dianne, Cheryl, Dale, Daryl, Brent*

**Brent** (1954) and wife Christine (McMurchy) with children Lynn (1978) Erin (1980), Megan (1981) and Nevin (1986) live in Pilot Mound. Brent a diesel mechanic along with his partner operate a garage.

**Dianne** (1955) married Doug Dobson (1946) a farmer, in 1978 and live on the NW 28-3-8W. They have three children *Chauncey* (1980), *Lane* (1981) and *Tanner* (1986). Dianne is a Lab Tech at Lorne Memorial Hospital, Swan Lake.

Doug has two children: *Camille* (1969), a registered nurse married Mike Meub in 1990, now divorced. Their children: Alyssa (1990) and Evan (1994). *Darren* (1972) of Winnipeg works with Manitoba Credit Union.

**Dale** (1959) graduated from a Hertz course in 1979. He married Lynn Brogden in 1994 and with his daughter Danita (1982) live in St. Vital.

**Daryl** (1959-1990) Along with wife JoAnne (Barke of Thornhill) and girls *Jaime* (1983) and *Kayla* (1987) lived in Morden. He worked for Morden Tire Shop and Pembina Poultry. JoAnne and girls now reside in Australia.

**Cheryl** (1961) see Ron and Cheryl Thiessen.

### Checkley, Ephriam and Elsie

Ephriam Checkley (1879-1960) came to the Middleton district in 1907 and worked for Albert Owens. He left and returned in 1910 with Norman, Mary (1884-1972), and Mrs. Checkley (Mary Ann Woods) to the Ben Swanson farm. Mary stayed for a while before marrying Fred McDonald and moving to BC. Mrs. Checkley went to BC in 1916.

Eph married Elsie Johns (1895-1981) in 1917 and lived on the SE 1-4-8 (Sprung farm) for one and one-half years. They bought SW 35-3-8W (Hewitts) where they resided until 1934 when they moved across the road to the Owens farm (NW 26-3-8W). 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*. In 1956 they retired to town. Elsie married George Beckett in 1967. They lived at Beausejour for a while before returning to Manitou.

**Fred** (1918-1993) married Helen Osterlund (d.1982) of Saskatoon while in the Air Force in 1942. He farmed the McAuley farm before buying Epp farm southeast of Manitou and later worked for the Good



*Helen, Fred, Hellen, Alvin, Floyd, Pat, Edith, Tom Checkley*

Roads. In 1966 they moved to Winnipeg. Their children are *Jim* (1943), *Don* (1953), *Sharon* (1947), and *Bob* (1948). They have two grandchildren.

**Alvin** (see Alvin and Hellen Checkley)

**Tom** (1931) is retired and with wife Edith (Pinder) live in Winnipeg. He worked as an electrician's helper before moving to Winnipeg to live. They have three children: *Brenda* (1958), *Beverly* (1959), *Grant* (1960) and six grandchildren.

**Floyd** (1933) and Pat (Hodgson) reside in Winnipeg after many moves as far as BC. Floyd took a diploma course in Agriculture. They have four children: *Myles* (1958), *Brad* (1959), *Dawn* (1961) and *Tricia* (1968). They have four grandchildren.

### **Checkley, Norman and Margaret**

Norman Checkley (1886-1978) was born in Fitzroy County Carelton, On. Norman married Margaret Balfour (1897-1933) and settled on the Wiggy Johnson farm SW 1-4-8W in Middleton. They had two daughters: Marjorie and Shirley. Margaret passed away while the family was young and Norman married Bette Cunningham bringing her daughter Mary to join the family. Bette Checkley helped start the first Ladies Group in 1936, a group of ladies that are still active. Norman and Bette retired to Manitou in 1950. Norman was school caretaker and Bette a hospital matron. They retired to the West Coast where daughter Mary lived. Norman died in 1978, and Bette in 1987.

**Marjorie** (1927) in 1951 she married Herb Pelzer (1931-1996). While in business in Regina two children were born: *Craig* (1952) and *Peggy*. (1956). Marjorie has four grandchildren.

**Shirley** (1932-1967), a RN, married Deane Hillsman. They have two children: *David* (1961) and *Donna* (1963) and two grandchildren.

**Mary** (Bette=s daughter) Cunningham attended school at Middleton for a short time and then took correspondence. She married George Piercy of BC. Mary suffered with MS and passed away 1992. Mary had two children: *David* and *Beth*.



*Eph, Norman, Mary & Fred McDonald,  
Mary Ann Checkley (Mother)*

### **Dickson, Harvey and Marion**

Harvey Dickson (1885-1966) was born in Manitou . His parents were William W. Dickson who came to Manitou from Pakenham, ON, in 1878 and Bella Tait who had come from Renfrew, ON. Harvey was a

grain buyer in Manitou area for forty-five years and operated a mixed farm operation. He was a life member of the Masonic Lodge. Marion (Smith) was a life member of the Rebeccas. Harvey and Marion were both members of the United Church. They had a family of six children: **Alex** (1913-1966) served overseas in the airforce during WWII. He returned to Manitou in 1945. He worked as an electrician in Manitou until 1946 when he moved to Red Lake, ON, district where he was employed in the gold mines, **Jack** (1915-1979) served overseas with the artillery division in Italy. He returned to Manitou in 1945. He married Mary Ridley in 1947. Jack worked for C.P. Moores as a mechanic for several years and for Canada Customs for a short while. They had two children, *Marion* (1948) who attended school in Manitou until moving to Winnipeg in 1958. She works for the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the Health Sciences Center. *James* (1950) attended school in Manitou until he moved to Winnipeg in 1958. He resides in Vancouver, BC, where he works as District Manager for Arnold Brothers Transport. He is married to Melody Spring and they have two children, Jordan and Sara; **Thomas** (1917-1999) spent his life in Manitou. He received his schooling here. He worked on the family farm for many years and also for Manitou Broiler Farms for twenty-two years. He retired in 1982. **Roy** (1919-1920); **Grace** (1922-1923); **Jean** (1926-1992)

### **Dobson, Amos and Hannah Jane**

Amos Breckon Dobson (1878-1957) and along with a brother Alf came to the United States when a young man. In 1905 he married Hannah Jane Barker (1878 -1962). They spent their early-married life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where Amos was policeman for the railroad. While in the states five children were born: **William, Eileen, George, Tom and Jane**. Tom was born in Yorkshire, England, when the family was back to the old country on a holiday. In the spring of 1918 Amos 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 1954 they retired to Manitou after their youngest son Jim married. Mr. Dobson had the misfortune to fall in 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 in 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.

**William** (1907-1986) see Bill and Margaret Dobson.

**Eileen** (1909-1994) married Alex McDonald in 1937. They were blessed with three children: Allen, Stuart and Shirley.

**George** (1912-1925) passed away at the age of 13 years.

**Tom** (1914-1956) was with the RCAF overseas and on his return bought SW 34-3-8.

**Jane** (1915) see Melville and Jane Stone.

**Mary** (1919) see Stuart and Mary Young.

**Amos** (1920-1944) enlisted in RCAF in 1941. While posted at Dorval he was killed on active duty in an accident near Ellenberg, N.Y.

**James** (1923-1990) see Jim and Marge Dobson.

From a family of eight children, Jane Stone and Mary Young are only two still surviving.

### **Dobson, Bill and Margaret**

Joseph William (Bill) Dobson was born Feb. 10, 1907 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Amos Breckon Dobson and Hannah Jane (Barker) Dobson who had emigrated from Loftus, Yorkshire, England. In 1917 the family came to Canada to farm in the Hazel School District of Manitoba on section 11-4-9 and in 1927 purchased and moved to 27-3-8 in the Middleton district. Bill set out farming on his own in 1929 by renting the west half of 2-4-8 in New Haven. He married Laura Boden Hay of Clearwater on October 22, 1932 and their children were William Ronald (October 15, 1933), Kenneth George (Dec.9, 1936), and Laura Jean (Oct.28, 1938). Laura passed away tragically of blood poisoning in early January of 1940 leaving Bill a widower with 3 small children.

Jessie Margaret Young was born Sept. 20, 1911 on 13-3-9 south of Manitou to Kenneth McKenzie Young and Annette Isabel (Murdoch) Young of Pilot Mound. After Ken suffered a number of broken ribs in an encounter with a large cow, he sold the farm and in the fall of 1918 moved the family to Vancouver, BC. Ken and Nettie didn't like the damp winter weather of Vancouver and Ken was restless and anxious to return to farm life. In the spring of 1921 they returned to the east half of 35-3-8 in the Middleton district where the family remained and more land was acquired. Margaret attended Middleton school, completed her high school in Manitou and later in 1932 received her teacher's certificate from the Manitou Normal School. In December 1932 Margaret married Charles David Evans and moved to LaRiviere where she operated the Esso gas station until she made the decision to return to her parents' home in Middleton in October 1938. She and Charles had no children and her divorce from him was granted in October 1940 and became final in June of 1941. On June 30, 1941 at 1:00 p.m. in Knox United Church in Winnipeg Joseph William Dobson and Jessie Margaret Young Evans were married and Margaret immediately became a mother to Bill's three children. Amos McKenzie (Mac) was born August 27, 1942 while the family was still renting the "Bill Falls place" on the west half of 2-4-8. Just after Christmas in 1944 at -40 F with another child on the way, the family of six moved to their newly purchased and mortgaged section of land at 31-3-8. With winter still firmly gripping the land Murdoch Barker (Barrie) arrived on March 6, 1945. The trend of sons seemed established when the birth of Joseph Young quickly followed on June 29, 1946. Neil Edward was born November 25, 1948 and Dale Ian on October 12 1950. The family of ten left the farm just north of Manitou in the fall of 1956 and moved into town to reside in the big house at 226 Fuller Ave. Margaret and Bill were surprised to say the least when a daughter, Eileen Margaret Marie was born Feb. 11, 1957 and not surprised but delighted when their eighth son Shane Owen arrived on October 14, 1958. Margaret's life revolved completely around raising her ten children while the family led by Bill managed to be sustained by a variety of jobs and the income from the north-west quarter of 27-3-8 which was purchased from Bill's father after the sale of 31-3-8.

Bill was drayman for the CPR until the trains gave way to trucks for bringing goods to town. He also drove a school bus for many years and in the early years had a horse drawn yellow caboose on runners for winter use, complete with a pot bellied stove. He and the younger boys delivered groceries for two stores at the same time and for many years they mowed and maintained the Manitou Cemetery. In later years Bill was the relief man for the Water Treatment plant operator. He served for many years on the Cemetery Committee and together with Margaret they sold memorial head stones for Portage Memorials. The family was always active in the St Andrews United Church. Bill served on the Board of Session and assisted with Boy Scouts while Margaret helped out in many ways including singing in the choir once the children were raised. It was a large and active family with each child being very different yet similar in so many ways. Each had to learn to take responsibility and to make decisions for his or herself. The children were all active in their church, schools, and community. There were constant rounds of mowing lawns, shovelling snow from sidewalks and driveways, and paper routes followed by music,

friends, and fun. Several of the boys had a passion for flying and Dale and Neil became licensed pilots. All the boys loved cars and every one of them purchased their own as soon as they could earn enough money. For over three decades the big house on Fuller Ave. was the centre of neighbourhood activity. Bikes and balls, kites and kittens, gave way to autos and aeroplanes, growing friendships and families. The torsos and legs of teenaged boys protruded from under bumpers and hoods while smiling young girls stood patiently by. As her sons' small aeroplane pirouetted high in the sky above the house Margaret would hurry inside from her clothesline to avoid watching the minor spectacle. There passed a constant progression of nature's seasons as each child grew through adolescence to adulthood, to leave home or perhaps return to stay briefly before establishing their own families and the cycle of life began again.

Bill and Margaret lived on together in the big house until Bill died suddenly of acute leukaemia after feeling ill for just few weeks. He passed away at 1:00 p.m. June 30, 1986 exactly 45 years to the hour from the time of his marriage to Margaret. Finally in November of 1989 the house became empty when Margaret moved to the Manitou Kinsmen Haven where she continues to live in good health enjoying visits from her friends and her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

William Ronald (**Ron**) Dobson born in 1933 at Clearwater, MB He worked at various jobs in the Manitou area until 1955 when he began farming with his Uncle Tom Dobson, later inheriting his uncle's quarter. See Ron & Florence Dobson.

**Ken** (1936) lived and went to school in New Haven until Grade 3; moved north of Manitou and continued school in Manitou. Ken loved to hunt from an early age, and played hockey in Manitou, Pilot Mound, Crystal City, and for the Pembina Valley Old-timers. He coached minor hockey in Crystal City and Morden. May 1955 started work at Canada Packers in Manitou. Ken married Dorothy Sparrow of MacGregor in 1963. In 1968 he became manager of the Crystal City Canada Packers until December 1972. He was then transferred to Morden Creamery as Manager. Ken was awarded the Canadian Dairy Division Silver Cup Award in 1978, and was named "Yogurt King" in 1979! In June 1980, Ken was transferred to Brandon as Sales manager with Beatrice Foods. He was promoted to Manager in 1982. Retired Jan. 1994. Ken in partnership with Neil Cline of Wawanesa, started up a small restaurant in Wawanesa - Wawanesa Drive Inn - April 1989. Became sole owner in 1990. Sold out May 1996. Ken & Dorothy bought the quarter section SE 1-6-17W R.M. of Riverside Nov. 1993. Built a home in 1994 and took up cattle farming! Ken and Dorothy have two children - Lorine and Troy. *Lorine* (1967) - married Paul Fox in 1988 and have 4 children Randi (1989); Debra (1991); Stephanie (1992), and Scott (1994). They live in Manitou. Lorine is a Hairdresser; Paul is a heavy-duty mechanic in Crystal City.

*Troy* (1970) - married Christy Simmonds in 1991. They have 2 sons - Brendon (1993) and Ryan (1994). They live in Grunthal, MB. Troy is a detective with the Winnipeg Police Service; Christy is a Registered Nurse (private duty in Wpg. & nursing home in Grunthal).

Laura **Jean** (1938-1993)

*Eulogy written by Jean's brother Dale Dobson and spoke by him at her memorial service.*

Last Wednesday evening Jean made the decision to come to the Manitou Health Centre when she realized her deteriorating condition could no longer be managed at home. Early last Thursday morning from her hospital bed my sister Jean asked me if I would say a few words on this day. I told her I would be honoured to do so and I truly am honoured to tell you today a little of Jean's life and few of my own memories of her.

Jean was born October 28, 1938 right here in Manitou and, except for a short time studying Home Economics in Brandon, she spent her entire life in this community. Jean was born the third child to Joseph William Dobson and Laura Boden Hay. At one year of age Jean and her older brothers Ron and Ken were left without a mother when Laura died. In June of 1941 Dad married Margaret Young. Ron, Ken

and Jean grew to dearly love their new mother and over the years the family grew from three children to ten as Mac, Barrie, Joe, Neil, Dale, Marie and Shane arrived, a total of eight boys and two girls.

As a young girl Jean attended Sunday School and sang in the choir of this church. Along with her lifetime friend and future sister-in-law Florence, Jean was in the very first class of graduates from the CGIT. Jean was confirmed as a member of the United Church in 1957 at 18 years of age.

Jean was a very social person, she loved being with people and it showed in both her work and play. After her return from studying in Brandon, Jean worked for several years with Bill and Jenny Leadbeater at the Jolly Canuck Cafe, which was in the building that is now the Legion. During this time she dated a young man named Lorne Charles McLean. Jean and Lorne were married on June 10, 1960, a day of beautiful sunshine, blossoms and a radiant bride, I will remember standing right down here with Lorne=s niece Lorna Magnusson during the ceremony. She carried the flowers while I proudly took responsibility for the gold rings. Jean and Lorne returned from a lovely honeymoon to the Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota to the McLean family farm where they have lived ever since.

Their first son, William Charles *Kevin*, was born November 10, 1961 followed by *Grant* Edward on May 23, 1963. In October of 1964 everyone was shocked by the diagnosis of Kevin=s leukaemia. Over the next three years the family rode a roller coaster of emotions from hope to elation to despair as the best doctors available sought to save his life. During this period the happiest day of all was September 30, 1967 when *Allison* Margaret Ellen was born. Their joy at her birth was tempered by the loss of Kevin just six weeks later to his cancer on November 15, just five days after his sixth birthday. These were the darkest days of Jean=s life but in time she rose from her despair to smiles and laughter again. She had every reason to smile at the birth of *Kimberly* Jean on February 27, 1970. Her children were always Jean=s greatest joy.

Jean used to enjoy skating and curling. She loved the social aspect of curling and I am also told she was quite good at the game. This skill certainly seems to have been passed to her children. Anyone who has come up against Grant, Allison or Kim on the ice certainly knows that they are a curling force to be reckoned with.

Jean always loved music, dancing and the theatre. She particularly enjoyed square dancing. My own first recollection of dancing was with Jean as my very tall partner. We have danced together at many family weddings over the years and I always thought of her grace and ease on the dance floor to be just like her natural ability to relate to people - even those that she had just met.

Although not a world traveller, Jean loved to go places. She enjoyed trips to the southern US Canada=s West Coast and to Ontario. The common thread in almost all her trips was that she travelled with family to visit family. The most enjoyable part for Jean of her trip to Florida with Grant, Allison and Kim was seeing them have such a wonderful time.

Jean was lost without wheels - she loved the automobile. Not for it but for its ability to take her wherever she wanted to go. She worked hard for her pay and always wanted to get the best value for her dollars. When Jean spied a premium used car on a local dealer=s lot I know of the challenge he encountered as Jean brought Grant in to dicker on the purchase.

Jean loved her work and her co-workers. Health care was ideal for her because she had such a natural desire to help others. She always had a kind word for the residents and patients alike at the Health Centre. She was a loyal and reliable employee whose interest in her work went far beyond the job. She served for many years on the Hospital Auxiliary. Jean loved harmony and fairness. She was always a diplomat and a peacemaker. She never put on airs and always treated everyone with equal respect.

Jean was a mother through and through. Babies and children were always her speciality. She could take a howling child in her arms and in no time it would be laughing or asleep.

Jean herself loved to laugh and had a wonderful sense of humour that never left her. Her cheerful smile and sparkling eyes will never be forgotten. She loved with an easy grace and was easy to love in return. Jean was especially close to her family - a large family that never left her during her trouble.

Jean enjoyed robust health through all except the last few months of her life. We were all devastated by the diagnosis of her cancer that would take her almost as quickly as cancer took Dad in 1986. We felt so helpless as it became apparent there was no way to stop it.

Jean died peacefully last Saturday morning with her loving family at her side including her caring Aunt Marge who so faithfully watched over her.

We will all miss Jean and there is no shame in our tears. Those tears will heal the great wound we have suffered. We will mourn but we will also rejoice and celebrate the life of Jean who has left us all enriched by her presence on this earth.

On Saturday morning after Jean died I stood in her darkened hospital room and suddenly felt the need to throw open the drapes and let in the light of the new day. It was then through my tears that I saw in Jean=s face that her suffering was gone and the hint of her smile had returned. There was peace and beauty there that I shall never forget.

Amos McKenzie Dobson (**Mac**) (1942) married Patricia Loulse (nee Stepaniuk) in 1964 They have three sons - *Michael McKenzie* (1967) and identical twins *David William* and *Daniel Peter* (1969). Mac began his career in the RCAF in 1960, spending 5 years as Radar Technician. He left the RCAF in 1966 and spent 10 years with Harrison-Nowell Mobile Radio Services as a two-way Radio Technician. Mac joined the Manitoba Telephone System in 1977 and is now a System Specialist with MTS Mobility Inc. Operations Engineering in Winnipeg. Patricia has provided a wonderful home for her husband and sons. She takes great pride in her yard and gardening, spending much time tending her gardens, making her yard one of the most attractive in the neighbourhood. Pat is currently developing her interest in genealogy, searching for family roots and history. Michael graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (4-year) in Anthropology. He has written and published a book "A Reference To Projectile Points of Southern Manitoba". Since graduating, Michael has worked as an Archaeologist recovering Manitoba's past. Daniel graduated from the University of Winnipeg in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science Degree (4-year) in Business Computing. Daniel has, since graduation, been producing "task specific" computer programming for various companies in

Winnipeg. David graduated from the University, of Winnipeg in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Administrative Studies. While attending University, David worked for Manitoba Hydro and Westfare Extra Foods in Winnipeg.

Murdoch Barker (**Barrie**) Dobson (1945) operated a backhoe for Tom Strange trenching as a young man.

In 1962, at 17 years old, joined the Royal Canadian Navy for a 3-year term serving on destroyers and minesweepers as an Able Seaman. He was on active duty during the 1963 Cuban Missile crisis. Received his honourable discharge in 1965 whereupon he returned to work for Tom Strange trenching until Feb. 1967. During that time he also worked on weekends with Joe Remillard and Sons carpenters and for Holiday Mountain Ski Resort until 1970. From Feb. 1967 to Aug 1968 Barrie worked for Interprovincial PipeLine Inc. at Glenboro on the pipeline maintenance crew. On Sept 29, 1968 while working with Remillards on a construction site he came into contact with a high voltage overhead power line. He was hospitalized for 4 months and underwent many surgeries and skin grafts to repair the damage. This accident interrupted his course in Autobody and Painting at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon where he was President of the Student Council that year. However he was able to complete his course upon release from hospital. From 1969 to April 1971 Barrie lived in Boissevain where he worked for Van's Autobody. In April 1971 he bought NE 1/4 6-4-8 at Manitou and took up farming. Later he purchased SE 1/4 6-4-8. In 1971 he married Leslie Florence Forrest. They had 4

children: *Kyle Forrest Barker* (1975) *Brodie Jay Richard* (1978), *Tyler Jennilee* (1982) and *Rory Hayden* (1985) From April 1987 to the present Barrie has been Operations manager for Subcan Ltd. of Manitou with his brother Dale. The company is involved in oil and gas pipeline excavations and general excavations. In Sept. 1988 Barrie and Leslie separated and were later divorced. Kyle and Brodie have both become backhoe and heavy equipment operators. Tyler and Rory attended school in St Norbert.

**Joseph** Young Dobson (1946) upon completing high-school Joe worked for several years Canada Packers Manitou Hatchery. Then he attended Red River Community College in Winnipeg, graduating as an apprentice Electrician in 1969. As a result of his high academic standing he was offered a long-term contract in the Caribbean. However, he chose to marry and remain in Winnipeg. In 1969 Joe married Brenda Lee Razella of Winnipeg. Nutty Club candy manufacturer employed him for a short time. In 1970 he joined Bendo construction a cable T.V. installation contractor. Joe worked his way up to running all areas of the company's operations. In 1995 Joe and Brenda created Dobson Cable Services and currently contract primarily commercial cable installations in Winnipeg to Shaw Cable Systems. Joe and Brenda have 4 children: *Terry Faith* (1970) graduated Red River Community College-Dental Assistant 2 currently employed by Sutherland Supply as a buyer married in 1996 to Wayne Sankar of Winnipeg. *Bonnie Marie* (1971) married in 1989 to Alain Messner of Somerset. Bonnie and Alain have two children: *Jeremy Gerald Joseph* (1989) and *Melissa Lee Marie* (1990). Bonnie and Alain separated and were divorced in, 1994. *Sean Joseph Alexander* (1981) and *Marc William* (1986).

**Neil** Edward Dobson (1948). As a teenager Neil worked with Gerald Talbot doing house construction. In 1965 he attended Red River Community College studying carpentry. During this training he contract Federal Government to build homes on the Swan Lake Reserve and apprenticed with Peter Leitch Construction on the Assiniboine River Diversion at Portage La Prairie. In 1969 Neil graduated as a Journeyman Carpenter, one of the top six in the province and was chosen to compete in a carpentry competition broadcast by CBC-TV. From 1969 to 1971 Neil worked with Bird Construction in Winnipeg on such projects as the Winnipeg City Hall, Main St. tunnel, Bank of Montreal and Grace Hospital. In 1971 he moved to New Westminster, BC where he worked on various construction projects. In 1973 he returned to Manitoba and obtained his Private Pilot License at Morden. This enabled him to fly in and out of Norway House working on projects such as the new RCMP barracks as well as winter road projects. In 1974 he moved to Burnaby, BC employed with E. Witt Construction as foreman on the construction of several large churches. In 1977 he started Cypress Metals Co. Ltd. a buyer, seller and storage of steel products located in Coquitlam, BC He constructed steel boat hulls and contracted with a South American government to install refrigeration systems on two large fishing trawlers. In 1983 he sold Cypress Metals and from then through 1985 he leased property at the base of the Second Narrows Bridge in North Vancouver and constructed his own warehouse complex to house 24 separate businesses on a lease basis. From 1988 to the present Neil owns and operates South Surrey Carpet Centre as a complete floor covering service to sell and install floorings in new apartment blocks, commercial buildings and homes. In 1976 Neil married Shirley Janice Powell in Vancouver. They had 3 children: *Jeremy* (1978) *Tanya* (1979) and *Sarah* (1982). Neil and Janice were divorced in 1986. In 1987 Neil married Rosalina Tongson Mella at Vancouver. They have two children: *Angela Rose* (1988) and *Nathan Edward* (1991). Neil, Rosie and family live at in South Surrey, BC

**Dale** Ian Dobson (1950) worked for Russell Langseth at Langseth's Pharmacy part time during his last two years of high school. After graduation in Sept. of 1969 he moved to Burnaby, BC where he worked until March 1971 in the Drug Department of Woodward Stores Ltd. During his time in BC he fulfilled a lifelong dream by becoming a licensed Private Pilot on Sept 9, 1970 at Skyway Air Services in Langley, BC. In the spring of 1971 he moved back to Manitou where he worked from April to Sept for Manitoba Dept. of Highways. From Sept 1971 to June 1973 he attended Red River Community College taking the

2-year Business Administration Diploma course. In July and August of 1972 Dale worked for Western Building Materials in Manitou. In June to Sept of 1973 he worked for Modern Dairies of Morden. In October 1973, after finishing at Red River College he was employed with Ontario Central Airlines in Gimli as an accountant/dispatcher. In 1974 Dale married Jennifer Marie Nelson of Pilot Mound. From June 1974 until May 1975 Ontario Central Airlines/Hooker Air Service employed them at Pickle Lake; Ontario where Dale was the base manager and Jennifer were the bookkeeper. In 1975 they moved to Winnipeg where Dale was employed until Jan 1976 with Skywest Ltd. in St James. Dale was the Stations Supervisor until the Manitoba Government that had originated it disbanded the airline. From July 1975 until Jan 1979 Jennifer worked in the Personnel Dept of Standard Aero Industries Ltd. From March 1976 to May 1978 Dale was employed as the Personnel Officer at Flyer Industries Ltd. in Winnipeg. In May 1978 through Jan 1979 Dale worked at Beaver Lumber Co. at Carman. The company employed him in preparation for opening his own lumberyard. In Nov 1978 Manitou Building Centre was incorporated and opened in January 1979 when Dale and Jennifer moved to Manitou. It was a completely independent franchise of Beaver Lumber Co Ltd. Russ and Shirley Langseth were shareholders in the business until the spring of 1983 when Dale and Jennifer who were operating the business purchased their shares. In 1986 Manitou Building Centre discontinued its relationship with Beaver Lumber Co. and it continued independently until it was sold May 16, 1995 to Gladwin and Linda Friesen and Brian and Elaine Friesen. In April 1987 Dale formed Subcan Ltd. as an oil and gas pipeline and general excavator operated with his brother Barrie and it continues to the present. In Sept 1996 after several months of study, exams and training in financial planning, Dale became a fully licensed representative of Investors Group. Dale and Jennifer have 3 children: *Thomas Breckon* (1979) *Merina Leigh* (1982) and *Meghan Marie* (1985) Eileen Margaret **Marie** Dobson (1957). Marie attended the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg from 1975 through 1978 in the Faculty of Science. In 1978 she married Darryl William Allan and moved to Fort Frances, Ontario, Darryl=s hometown. From 1978 to 1982 Marie worked in the lab at the Fort Frances Medical Clinic. In 1982 through 1987 she worked for a public accounting firm while studying for her professional Certified General Accounting designation which she obtained in 1987. Since then and up to the present Marie has been employed as a Senior Accountant with B.D.O. Dunwoody in Fort Frances. Darryl Allan was the Director/Curator of the Fort Frances Area Museum for 17 years. In early 1994 he became the Manager of Administration and Finance for the Town of Fort Frances and acts as Deputy Chief Administrator reporting to the mayor and council. Marie and Darryl have one child: *Christopher Darryl Dobson Allan* born in 1992

**Shane** Owen Dobson (1958) graduated from Nellie McClung Collegiate in 1976. In the fall of 1976 through April 1980 he attended the University of Manitoba and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. On June 9, 1979 Shane married Jacqueline Leigh Penner of LaRiviere. From June 1980 through Dec. 1995 Shane was employed by Alberta Agriculture as an agrologist at Athabaska, Two Hills, and Vermillion. In December 1995 they moved back to Manitoba where Shane is employed as an agrologist with Manitoba Agriculture at Melita. Shane and Jackie have 3 children: *Shannon Elizabeth* (1982), *Nicholas Shane William* (1984) and *Joseph Andrew* (1986).

### **Dobson, Jim and Marge**



Jim (1923-1990) and Marge (Sokoloski) were married September 25, 1954. They resided on the home farm 27-3-8W in the Middleton District. Marge was a registered nurse and was employed at the Pembina Manitou Hospital for 41 years of which she was Administrator/Director of Nursing for 20 years. They had a family of three:

**James Richard** received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Economics from Brandon University. He resides in Burnaby, BC and has the ADobson Lawns and Gardens≡ business.

**Robert John** graduated from University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He married Geri Brake September 17, 1982 and resides in Beaumont, AB. They have 3 children: *Amber Lynn* (1988), *Adam James* (1990) and *Stephanie Dawn* (1992).

**Lora Jane** is a registered nurse who graduated from Brandon General Hospital School of Nursing. She received the Agold medal≡ for the highest standing in total program and B.G.H. Scholarship for scholastic and clinical achievement. She is employed at the Grace Hospital, Winnipeg. Jim passed away in 1990 after a short illness. Marge remains on the family farm.



*Robert, Marge, Richard, Lora, Geri, Adam, Stephanie,  
Amber (1997)*

### **Dobson, Ron and Florence**

Ronald (Ron) Dobson (1933) is the oldest son of William and Laura (Hay) Dobson. He worked at various jobs in the Manitou area until 1955 when he began farming with his Uncle Tom Dobson, later inheriting his uncle's quarter.

In 1959 he married Florence (1938) Hancock, daughter of Clarence and Ida (Tickner) Hancock. In 1960 they moved to the SW 34-3-8W in the Middleton District. Here they raised their three children: Ian, Walter and Mona. Florence worked at the Manitou Hospital for many years, retiring in 1998. In 1966 they bought the SE and NE of 34-3-8W in Middleton from Milton Alkerton. Besides farming Ron enjoys curling and his work at the Manitou Agricultural Fair.

**Ian** (1960) took a commercial cooking course at R.R.C. He then returned home starting a farrowing operation and working with his father on the family farm where he lives with his parents.

**Walter** (1961) went to U. of B. and U. of M. attaining a B. Sc. and B. Comm Hon=s degree. In 1997 Walter married Nina Woloshyn. Presently they are living in Winnipeg where Walter works for the Federal Government.

**Mona** (1963) took a graphic arts course at R.R.C. and works for Friesens Ltd. at Altona. She married Doug Rathwell in 1993. Their home is in Holland, MB



*Ron, Ian  
Florence, Mona, Walter*

### **Evans, Melvin**

Melvin Evans lived on 1-4-8W from 1919-24. Those of the family attending Middleton School were Edward, Teddy, Margaret and Phyllis. Maurice Sprung now owns the farm.

### **Falls, John, William and Hannah**

Bill Falls owned the W 2 2-4-8W. He was married to Hannah Jordan, a sister of Hazlem Jordan. They had a son William. Hannah died at the time of the birth of their daughter Lily. Bill Falls later married, and adopted a daughter Joan. In 1918 the Falls moved to Winnipeg and the farm was rented to Fred Moore. In 1929 the Moores moved to Altamont and the farm was rented to Bill Dobson. The Dobsons left in 1944 and one quarter was sold to John Young and the other quarter to Stuart Young.

In 1945 the house off of the farm was moved to the Stuart Young yard and was their home until 1967. The barn went to the George Klassen farm northwest of Manitou. Malcolm and Judy Young and S & D Young Ltd now own the quarters.

John Falls; brother of William homesteaded the SW 25-3-8W June 1879. He had a son Dick. Dick had a daughter Erna who was a pupil at Middleton School from 1920-1930. Dick moved to the Harvey Dickson farm and Erna went to Manitou School.

### **Fleck, John and Elizabeth**

John Fleck, a carpenter by trade, came from Paisley Scotland to Winnipeg. As an immigrant, John was sent to Manitou area where he went to Mowbray on a project of building the American Store and others. He returned to Manitou in 1914. He and wife Elizabeth had a family of John, twins Alec and Robbie, and Mary. Elizabeth passed away in 1918. He farmed E1/2 34-3-8 (Abe Epp) in the Middleton District until 1932.

**John** married Dorothy Dennis.

**Mary** married Henry Ross.

**Robbie (Bob)** (d.1986) married Mabel Watson, a nurse from Saskatchewan. Robbie farmed the Ben Armitage farm, the NW 3-4-8W; he moved to LaRiviere in 1944 and worked as a mechanic in Manitou at Pembina Motors. They had four children: *Betty* married Albert Wiklund of LaRiviere, *Helen* who previously attended New Haven School, married Walter Klassen. *Glen* a construction crew foreman, married Alice Singleton in 1959, *Stuart*, a RCAF Civil Service Radar Technician married Henni Bouma of Manitou in 1967.

**Alec** (Robbie=s twin) (d. 1969) a bachelor lived with Robbie and his family and worked for CPR B&B gang in LaRiviere. He later worked as a CPR mechanic in Winnipeg.

### **Forrest, Samuel and Catherine**

Samuel (1845-1939) was born on a 100-acre farm in Admaston Township near Renfrew, ON. He had nine sisters and two brothers. When Sam was twenty-five years old, Colonel Garnet Wolsely was appointed to lead an expedition to the Red River Colonies to help quell the Reil Rebellion. Sam was hired on as a *Avoyageur* in charge of the boats". When they reached Fort Garry, Reil had already retreated to the United States. Sam returned to Ottawa. Sam married Catherine Tait and farmed in Bromley Township.

They had four children: **Henry, Mary, Isabel and Jessie**. In 1879 the family came west. He obtained the south half of 33-3-8W two miles northeast of Manitou where the Sibbicks now reside. Catherine and daughter Jessie tragically died when grain, stored in the loft above their bedroom, broke through and smothered them. They were the first to be buried in the new cemetery.

In 1890 Sam married Jean Fraser from Renfrew County. In 1905 he moved the family to Vancouver Island and bought a market garden. In 1908 they returned to Manitou and bought the NE 1/4 of 29-3-8, where granddaughter Doreen and Tom Strange now reside. Sam continued to live on the farm until his death in 1939 at the age of ninety-three and Jean lived there until she died in 1953.

Samuel and Jean Forrest=s seven children are:

**Marion**, married Harry Tuff had six children; *Stuart, Bill, Margaret, Betty, Marion and Ann*.

**Stuart**, married to Ida Tait have three children, *Jack, Doreen and Marjorie*.

**Bessie**, married Bert Owens, have two children, *Bob and Jean*.

**Fraser**, married Violet Crosbie have one daughter *Pat*.

**Grace** never married and lived her entire life in the Manitou area.

**Jean** married Frank McIntosh. After his death she married Bill Smith.

**Charlie** (1903) was born on the S ½ 33-3-8W, now owned by Brian Sibbick. In 1931 Charlie married Ethel Maloney and moved to Kaleida. They have five children: *Shirley, Larry, Keith, Fraser* and *Ronald*.

### Hamilton, Ian and Bonnie

Ian (1953) worked for D.K. Compton for eight years. In 1975 he married Bonnie Scott, daughter of Charles and Winona Scott from the Manitou area. Ian and Bonnie have operated the family farm north of Darlingford since 1979. They moved there in 1981 at which time John and Laura moved into their new house in Darlingford. They have named their farm Amaglen Limousin and have been raising purebred Limousin cattle since 1982. The family has been actively involved in the Manitou 4-H Beef Club for many years. The family has enjoyed showing cattle across the province. They have had many bull test station successes and have sold cattle as far away as Mexico. They have two children:



**Amanda** (1978) graduated from grade 12 in 1996, graduated from the Faculty of Education at the Brandon University in 2000. She is teaching for Garden Valley School Division. Amanda has been very involved in 4-H serving on District and Provincial 4-H Council. She was selected for several 4-H trips. The most memorable was the six weeks spent in the United Kingdom. She is still actively helping with 4-H.

**Glen** (1980) graduated from Grade 12 in 1998, Manitoba High School Rodeo Assoc. Yearend and Finals, Team Roping Champion and is currently a member of several rodeo Associations and competes across Canada and the U.S.A. He works at a P.F.R.A. community pasture.

In 1995, Ian and Bonnie moved from their house trailer to a new house.

### Hamilton, Jim and Margaret



James (1916-1982) married Margaret Adams of the Manitou district in March 1953. They farmed the NE 36-3-8W in the Middleton District. Jim passed away in 1982 and Margaret moved to 220 Hamilton St. in Manitou. They have two children:

**Mary** (1954) after her schooling in Manitou went to Brandon Nursing School and graduated as a registered nurse. Mary nurses at Morden. She married Morris Olafson in 1975. They

have five children: *Shawn* (1979) farms his Grampa Olafson farm and was an active 4-H member. *Heather* (1980) a junior 4-H leader in cooking, now attends school in Brandon, *David* (1982) involved in 4-H welding and mechanics, is presently farming and twin *Kelvin* (1982) both grade twelve graduates in June 2000. Kelvin was involved in 4-H photography and drama, and *Mark* (1984) a student and in 4-H.

Mary and Morris farm south of Morden, SW 12-1-6W.

**James Richard (Dick)** (1957) see Dick and Sandra Hamilton.



*Morris & Mary Olafson Family*

### Hamilton, John and Laura

John married Laura Vincent of Stonewall a teacher at Middleton School, in 1945. They bought the north 2 30-3-7 from Wm. Elliot. John and Laura have three children.

In 1968 Laura started doing part time teaching in Darlingford School. In 1971 when Darlingford School became part of the Pembina Valley School Division, she was asked to become a Resource Teacher within the PVSD. She travelled to Snowflake, LaRiviere, Manitou, Darlingford and the Pembina Hutterite Colony.

In 1981 John and Laura moved to Darlingford; Laura retired in 1984. From 1981 John started taking down the old farmhouse which had been built in 1890.

Since their retirement they have enjoyed many trips mainly in Canada. John keeps busy weaving footstools or doing woodwork. Going to the coffee shop in the morning is a must; one has to learn what is happening in town. Laura keeps busy with church activities or the Evergreen Seniors Club. In 1990 John and Laura celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary at the Darlingford Evergreen Seniors facilities and in 1995 they celebrated their 50th anniversary at Tom and Debbie's newly rebuilt home.

**Thomas (Tom)** (1948) worked for Elmer Scharf on road construction, Dennis Branfield at the Manitou Auto Body and then Queensway Volkswagen in Toronto. In 1971 he married Deborah Lindsay of Darlingford. They have two children: *Jason* (1972) a 1996 graduate of the Faculty of Law at the U of M and *Kevin* (1975) a 1994 graduate of South Winnipeg Technical Centre with his C.W.B. flat line welding ticket. Since 1973 they have lived on NW 1/4 20-3-7W which had belonged to Tom's Uncle Richard Hamilton and which had also belonged to Debbie's grandfather at one time. In 1981 he bought the Manitou Auto Body. He served as an R.M. of Pembina councillor from 1989 to 1995. In



*Back Row – Ian, Bonnie, Amanda, Glen, Betty, Debbie, Tom*

*Front Row – Jason, Laura, John, Kevin 1995*

1995 he sold the Manitou Auto Body Shop to Grant Baloun. Tom then started working for Snap On Tools. Tom and Debbie built a new house in 1988. Then on May 20, 1994 it was destroyed by fire. They had it rebuilt that summer.

**Elizabeth (Betty)** (1950) is employed at the Royal Bank in Morden as a Personal Banker. She has travelled extensively and enjoys accompanying her parents on longer trips. In 2000, Betty received a 30-year pin for service with the Royal Bank.

**Ian** (1953) see Ian and Bonnie Hamilton

### Hamilton, Richard and Jessie

In 1910 Richard O. Hamilton came to the Carman area from the Lothians near Edinburgh, Scotland. He worked for a farmer, Isaac Campbell. In the fall of 1913 he returned to Scotland and in 1914 married Jessie Ford. Jessie and Richard had four sons. After living in the Homewood, and Haywood areas, in 1929 the Hamilton's purchased the NW and SE 3 of 31-3-7W in the Middleton District. Jim, Richie and

Bill attended school at Middleton. Like the other citizens of Middleton District, they had their ups and downs. In 1935 they had to burn the wheat which was badly rusted. After the death of Richard in 1943, Jessie and her sons John and Bill continued farming the home place. In 1964 Jessie passed away. Both Jessie and Richard had been very active in the life of the community. He had served on the school board and she had been President of the Ladies Club for many years.

**John** (1915) see John and Laura Hamilton.

**James** (1916 -1982) see Jim and Margaret Hamilton.

**Richard** (Richie) (1919-1992) actively farmed for fifty years. In 1976 he took a months holiday in Scotland where he enjoyed visiting with all the relatives. He passed away on Feb. 12, 1992 and is buried in the Darlingford Cemetery.

**William** (Bill) (1921-2000) farmed the family farm until 1982 when his nephew Ian started renting from him. In December of 1982 he had open-heart surgery. He still continued keeping his Shorthorn cattle until 1995 at which time he had a complete dispersal sale. The writing of our family history would have been much more difficult without the help of his great memory. His memory of Shorthorn bloodlines was acknowledged in the Shorthorn News in the spring of 1996. Bill passed away in January 2000.

### Hamilton, Richard and Sandra

Richard “Dick” (1957) attended school in Manitou. He was involved with the Manitou 4-H beef club, played hockey in Darlingford and later Manitou. In 1978, Dick married Sandra (Teichrib) of the 1-6 Morden area. They have two sons: **Matthew** (1983) and **Michael** (1985). Matt and Michael both enjoy sports, and particularly enjoy playing hockey. The whole family works together on the cattle and grain farm since Dick began in 1975.



*Sandra, Dick, Matthew, Michael  
(1993)*



*Matthew  
(1991) First  
Year Minor  
Hockey*



*Michael 91-92  
Hockey Season*

### Hancock, Clarence and Ida

Clarence S. Hancock (1909-1993) in 1935 married Ida Tickner (1907-1978) daughter of Walter and Florence (Compton) Tickner. They farmed in the Orange Hill district until the fall of 1938 when they bought Sec. 1-3-8W southwest of Darlingford. Here they're three children: Florence, Dale, and Marilyn were born. They sold the farm to a Mr. Laird of Manitou in the fall of 1948.

In April of 1949 Clarence and family moved to acreage on the southwest corner of Manitou where they kept chickens and cattle for a few years. He started a trucking business working during the early years of the major upgrading of our highway throughout Manitoba. During the winter he was caretaker at the skating rink.

While raising the family, Ida enjoyed many hours on her crafts. She took an active part in the United Church ladies group, curled and golfed.

They built a B.A. Service Station and lunch bar at the corner of Main Street and Hwy No. 3; it opened in 1955. Here the family spent many hours working and enjoying the company of many fine customers. Their son, Dale joined them and later bought into the business. Ida retired from the restaurant in 1974 because of ill health and died in 1978. After her death two of Clarence's sisters Ida and Vera came to live with him. The business was sold in April of 1980. Clarence spent many hours enjoying his grandchildren and family. Due to ill health Clarence moved in 1987 to Tabor Home, Morden until his death in 1993.

**Florence** (1938) see Ron and Florence Dobson.

**Dale** married Margaret Harder. They have two children, *Josh* (1970) and *Dena* and two granddaughters Summer and Nadine.

**Marilyn** (1946) trained as a hair dresser and married Bill Jordan (1935) They live on the family farm in the New Haven District, SE 29-4-8W. They have two sons: *Glenn* and *Don*. Glen married Tammy Windsor and they have a son Cody (1998). They and Tammy's daughters, Angela (1986) and Brittany (1990), reside in Manitou.

### **Hancock, Silas and Annie**

Silas Hancock (1875-1959) came west to the Manitou area in 1895. He worked as a stone mason, then farmed in the McKenzie District. He married Annie Carriss in 1902 and moved to the Middleton District 36-3-8W, the Carriss family farm. In 1908 the Carriss family moved to Turtleford, SK.

Silas and Annie had five children: John, Cliff, Mina, Alice, Clarence, Vera and Ida. They all attended Middleton School. In 1920 the family moved to the Darlingford area attending Barclay School. In 1925, they moved south of Darlingford. Annie passed away in November of that year. Silas continued to live with his sons until his death in October 1959.

**John** passed away in 1981. John and Cliff lived in Manitou. Frances Hope was a long time housekeeper.

**Clifford** had his sisters living with him in later years when his health was failing. He died in 1992.

**Mina** married Bill Bamford of the McKenzie District raising a family of five: *Allan, Thelma, Gladys, Alice, Eileen, Robert, and Lillace*. They retired to LaRiviere. Mina died in 1984.

**Clarence** see Clarence and Ida Hancock .

**Vera** and **Ida** helped their Dad and brothers on the farm until 1939 when they went to Winnipeg to work in the airplane factory with the Air Force during World War II. Following the war Vera worked for the T. Eaton company in the millinery department for over twenty-five years and Ida worked for Eaton's making catalogues. When the catalogues moved to Montreal, Ida went to work for Birks Jewellery. Upon returning, Vera and Ida moved to Manitou to live with their brother Clarence and later Cliff. Vera died in 1992. Ida resides at Prairie View Lodge.

**Alice** (1908) see Harry and Alice Leatherdale.

### **Hewitt, Arthur**

In 1904, Arthur Hewitt built a large barn Ontario style with driveway on the SW 35-3-8W in the Middleton District. The 58' x 108' barn had vertical style siding similar to old Ontario barns. The stone walls were held together with a lime mixture, as cement was unavailable. Arthur had a dairy and was a cheesemaker. He brought the first Black Aberdeen Angus cattle to the area. Arthur sold the property to Ephriam Checkley in 1920. Ken and Nettie Young purchased the farm from Eph Checkley in 1934, and John and Agatha Young raised their family here, with



*May 1980*

son Malcolm and his wife and family residing on the farm since 1973. In 1980 the eight-foot stone walls were removed from the barn, and the building was lowered. The structure was used for machinery storage until it collapsed under heavy snow load in 1997.

### **Hutter, Peter**

The Peter Hutters lived where Marge Dobson now lives E 2 27-3-8W in the Middleton District. 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.

### Johns, John and Mary

John Johns (1851-1921) was born in England and came to this district in 1878 from Bowmanville, Ontario. He filed for a homestead on SW 1/4 36-3-8W in Middleton in 1879. The NW 25-3-8 was purchased under pre-emption sale. He later bought NE 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 MacNamara. He had married Mary Johns in 1876 at New York Suspension Bridge and in 1883 she came by train one-half mile on this side of Darlingford to live in a shanty. They built a house in 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 3 c 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. John Johns passed away in 1921; Mary Johns passed away in 1950.

**Walter** (1883) was killed in 1914 at the age of 30 by lightning. He and his brothers were returning from Lizard 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** (1887-1953) married Sam Pearce of Darlingford and went to Englefeld, SK. to homestead. Sam had his leg amputated at Morden in 1919. Mabel passed away in 1953 and Sam shortly after. They had six children: *Alice*, *Edith*, twins: *Clara and Harold*, *Bertha and Edna*.

**Eva** (1888-1957) married Roy Checkley in 1912 (1<sup>st</sup> cousin of Eph) of Forest River N.D. and raised two girls, *Marie* (1918-1966) and *Verna* (1924). Eva had gone to town to school and worked as a seamstress. After Roy's death in 1937, she worked serving hot school lunches.

**Fred** (1891-1915) was interested in engineering and built a wooden threshing machine and bob sleighs. Fred loved nature and helped Jack on his Sask. Homestead. He died of cancer.

**John Edwin (Jack)** (1892-1978) homesteaded at St. Brieux, SK in 1912. He married Lillie Williams of Thornhill, in 1916. They had two children: *Martha* (1920) Skillingstod had a son Patrick (1942) and *Ernest*. (1927) never married. Last of the Johns name.

**Elsie** (1895-1981) see Ephriam and Elsie Checkley.



*Mary Johns*

**Bill** (1899-1963) 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. Bill was the original owner of a 1926 Hudson Brougham Sedan. He drove it new from the showroom floor in Winnipeg. It went on many trips to Saskatchewan and North Dakota. He still drove his Hudson Sedan to town until 1963 when he died. The car now belongs to Brent Checkley of Pilot Mound. Bill Johns farmed until 1961 with John Deere "D" plow, and cultivator bought new in 1932.



*1926 Hudson Brougham Sedan*

### **Johnson, Elisah**

Elisah (Wiggy) Johnson farmed the SW 1-4-8W around 1900. Norman Checkley took the farm over in 1915 and Fred Sprung in 1947. As a result of a disagreement while working Statue of Labour gang, a fistfight caused Mr. Johnson to lose his wig, which was a surprise and the nickname, stuck.

### **Jones, William and Isabella**

William Jones (1848- 1921) and his wife Isabella (Brice) (1851- 1936) lived in a little shack on their farm east of Manitou in the 1890=s and later built a house and farm buildings.

They had ten children: *Albert, Edward, George, Ernest* (killed WW1), *Robert, James, Laura, Martha, Irene and Kate*. 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 before 1900. 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.

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

**George** married Elizabeth Keown in Manitou, in 1904. Martha and Norman Fenson were married at the same time in Grandpa Jones house. George had five sons and three daughters who all attended school at Middleton, *Harold* (1906 -1972) enlisted in 1923 and was with the Air Force when the King and Queen (1939) went across Canada. He married Mary Kisty and had four children: Pat, George, Ronald and Florence, *Leslie* (1907- 1984) married Elsie Bradshaw of Portage. They had two children Beverley and Carol. Les lived in LaRiviere. He was a mechanic and had a T.V. repair shop. *Allen* married to Jean Armstrong and later married again. He had six children: Hughie, Tommy, Beth, Penny, Mike and Cathy. *Clifford* (1910-1983) had four children: Floyd, Gladys, Shirley and Dorothy, *Eva* (d 1992) married John Hardy of Winnipeg; they had two children: Bill and Shirley. *Doris* (1911) married Cecil Bender of Teulon (d). They had two children, Gerald and Marilyn. *Hazel* (1919) married Ron Mitchell. They have three

children: Ruth (1949) is very musical and enjoys entertaining with her accordion and piano. She also has a lovely voice for singing. Ruth is now hospitalized due to poor health. Jim (1950) married Pat Williams and have four children: Beverly – working in South Carolina, Angela working in Calgary, Tami married Bill Watson and resides in Pilot Mound, and Richard attending school in Manitou. Don (1951) was accidentally killed when working for Manitoba Hydro in 1973. *Stuart* (1921-1990) was a mechanic, electrical repair and caretaker of the school at LaRiviere.

**Ernest** was killed in France during WW1.

**Robert** (1886-1976) married May Burnett and moved to the Middleton district in 1929. They farmed one mile south of Middleton school where they resided until 1940 when they moved to Manitou. In 1948 they moved to Vancouver where their daughter, Marguerite lived. May passed away in 1961. *Marguerite* started to Middleton school in 1930. Her father also went there in the early 1900's. In 1942 Marguerite married Les Cousins from LaRiviere. In 1943 they moved to Vancouver where Les was stationed in RCAF. They have four daughters and 10 grandchildren.

**James (Jim)** the youngest son and his wife Jennie lived on the farm. Jim and Jennie (Watson) Jones moved to Middleton in 1917. In 1944-45 they moved to Manitou. Jennie passed away in 1964 and James passed in 1972 as a result of an accident. They have two children: *Jack* passed (d. 1964) and *Bella* (Simpson) Dundas is now retired and lives near Reston.

**Laura** see Jack and Laura Tait.

**Martha** married Norman Fenson and after his death married Chas. Miller.

**Irene** married Ernest Jackson.

**Kate** married Chas. Armstrong and had one daughter Topsy.

### **Kealey, Moses and Nickolas**

Moses and Nickolas were oldest children of James and Margaret who had a family of four boys and five girls. Annie married Jacob Deamel of Hazel District.

**Moses** Kealey, a bachelor, homesteaded NE 26-3-8W in 1879. Moses and his sister Mary Anne lived in a small shack where Jim and Susan Young=s garage now stands. Mary was a pupil at Middleton School in 1891. She wed David Berry of Calgary.

**Nicholas** Kealey (Hanna Metcalfe) homesteaded SW 35-3-8W in 1878 and lived in Middleton District until 1908. They had a family of six children: *Lena* (John Henry) of Winnipeg, *Edna* (married John Ridley) of Manitou, *James*, *John*, *Sylvester*, *Wilfred*.

### **Klassen, John, Peter and Jacob**

The Klassen lived on the Tom Toohey place (E ½ 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. Klassen used his training to help build the refinery still in use there. John, Peter and Jacob attended school at Middleton.

### **Klippenstein, Bernhard H. and Mary**

Bernhard H. Klippenstein and Mary Dick who were married in 1899 at Altona came to the Middleton District in 1933, after farming for six years in the Archibald district. They lived on the NE 36-3-8W, the farm better known as the R.J. Chalmer=s place and now owned by Dick Hamilton. Four of their nine children came with them, the others having previously married and established their own homes. Many folks may recall Mr. Klippenstein=s novel musical talents and his interest in photography in earlier days. Grandma Klippenstein=s homemade buns and other delicacies always drew hungry grandchildren to her table. 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. He died in 1973. They had nine children:

**Mary** (1900-1972) married Peter Klassen.

**Sadie** (1903-1995) married Cornelius Friesen.

**Anne** (1904-1994) married George Brown.

**Margaret** (1906-1998) married Ed Friesen (d 1957) and remarried Alexander Lobban in 1992.

**Ben** (1909) married Helena Toews

**Neta** (1911) married Art Friesen (d.1971). She lives in BC.

**Agatha** (1913-1995) see John and Agatha Young.

**John** (1917) and his wife Bernice farmed on the NE 36-3-8W for a year then established their present home on the NE 25-2-9W.

**Harry** (1917) married Adina Reimer. He lives in BC.



*Back- Ben, John, Harry  
Middle- Margaret Lobban, Neta Friesen  
Front- John and Agatha Young 1994*

### Leatherdale, Harry and Alice



Harry Leatherdale (1892 -1986) came to Middleton District from Rosebank in the fall of 1925. In 1927 he rented the N1/2 30-3-7W where Ian Hamilton now lives. He married Alice Hancock (1908) in 1930. In the fall of 1938 he purchased the N 2 24-3-8W from George Jones. They raised a family of two, Gwen and Murray. Harry continued to farm with his son Murray until his death in 1986. Alice now lives in Manitou.

**Gwen** (1931) worked in the Royal Bank of Canada at Manitou and Crystal City. She married Arthur Kemp of Pilot Mound July 23, 1955. They have three children: *Linda* (1956) married David Christianson of Virden and has three children, *Ross* (1959) married Wanda Ganske and has three children. Ross operates a feedlot as Kemp Farms and *Dale* (1962) married Janine Samec and lives in Winnipeg.

**Murray** (1934) went to school in Middleton, taking Grade IX by correspondence. He rode horseback to Darlingford School for a year. Murray farmed with his father and raised cattle. He was involved with the Agricultural Fair. Murray has resided in Manitou since 1997.



*Murray Leatherdale*

*Back Row (L-R) Ross & Wanda Kemp, Dave & Linda Christianson, Gwen (Leatherdale) Kemp, Arthur Kemp, Janine Kemp, Dale Kemp. Front Row (L-R) Megan Kemp, Nolan, Naomi & Adriana Christianson, (Insert) Austin Kemp*

### Lowry, David

David Lowry homesteaded the NE 22-3-8W in the Middleton District in Dec. 1879. Lowry pupils attended Middleton School: 1889 George, 1890 Jennie, 1892 Annie, 1895 Lily, 1896 Richard, Margaret, Lella May 1900 Lizzie.

### Massey, Henry and Hilda

The Henry Massey family came to live on 31-3-7W in the Middleton District from 1931 to 1933. They had a family of four: Fred, Laura, Eddie and Martha. Dick Hamilton owns the farm.

### McAuley, John and Lucy

John McAuley came west in 1888 and took a job with Ben Swanson. During the time he worked, he purchased the S 2 24-3-8 in Middleton from Margaret Johnson. 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 (McKenzie District) and brother Phil of Manitou came from Ontario before him. John helped to build Ben Swanson'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, AB. In 1913, he married Lucy Swanson. Their only child, **Margaret** was born in 1917. She received her education in Middleton School where her mother had received hers, and went on to high school in Manitou. (See Jeffrey and Margaret Pedersen). John McAuley passed away in 1938. Lucy continued farming with the help of her nephew, Alan Cousins and Margaret, until 1944 when she moved to the Deamel house in Manitou. Lucy McAuley lived with her daughter's family until her death in 1959.



### McGregor, George and Elizabeth

George Gall McGregor came to Manitou from Scotland in 1905 and Elizabeth Scott came the following year. They were married in 1906. George worked for the CPR for several years before enlisting in the 184<sup>th</sup> Battalion in 1916, and serving overseas until 1918. On his return, he again worked for the CPR for a few years before he bought the farm SE 3-4-8W, and the family moved there in 1923. Although the family went to Manitou Schools, most of their recreational activities took place in the Middleton area, skating and playing hockey. Mrs. McGregor attended the Ladies meetings.

**Anne**, the eldest child, married Clifford Gorrell from Pilot Mound and they farmed in that area for several years. They had two children, *Jeanne* and *Glenn*.

**Mary** married Jack G. Bannister and they lived in the Manitou area for several years before moving to Winnipeg where Jack worked for an airline. They had six children: *Betty* (Mrs. Jim Ferguson), *Mac*, *Bill*, *Shirley*, *George* (died in infancy) and *Wayne*.

**Robert** see Robert and Margaret McGregor.

**Walter** married Edith Johnson from Mafeking and farmed at Birch River. They had one son *Scott*.

**Jean** married John McTavish and they farmed in the Rosebank area. They had a family of four: *Helen*, *Edwin*, *Walter* and *Brian*.

**Helen** married Bob Bell and they farmed north of Roland and raised three children: *Ross*, *Miles* and *Diane*.

**George** (1921) was born in Manitou and moved with the family, while quite young, to the farm in the Middleton area. He took part in hockey while working on the family farm until 1942, at which time he joined the RCAF, returning to England in 1945, and Canada in 1946. George bought a farm in the New Haven District in 1946 and in 1947 married Mary Murphy. George and Mary lived on a farm in the New Haven district until 1960. The family moved to a farm southwest of Manitou. They have five children: *Helena*, *Glenn*, *Michael*, *James* and *Kevin*. George and Mary were very active in community affairs and of course, hockey, curling and golf.

### **McGregor, Robert and Margaret**

Robert was a son of Mrs. & Mrs. G.G. McGregor. The family lived just north of Manitou until after WW1 when the father came home from service overseas in the army. The family moved to the farm northeast of town. Bob worked in the Kaleida district in his youth, at Red Lake, ON, and in Alaska. When WWII broke out, he joined the army and was with the Royal Canadian Electrical Mechanical Engineers, stationed in Canada, England and Belgium. On his return from overseas, he took employment with the City of Winnipeg Engineers as timekeeper. While there, he met his wife, Margaret Skarban, and they were married in 1947. In that year, they moved to the farm where they lived until 1976. While there Bob also drove a school bus for a number of years. Bob passed away suddenly in 1991. He and Margaret have two sons; **John T.** resides on a farm near Glenora.

**Bill** of Beaumont, AB. Bill attended U of M and obtained his B of Sc. and his MSc. While at the U of M., Bill met Cathy McLennan; they married in 1973. In 1974 they moved to Saskatoon, SK where Bill received his Ph D in Agriculture, from there they moved to Edmonton where he is employed a research science specialist with Dow Elanco. Bill and Cathy have two daughters, *Kristen* and *Lindsay*.

### **McKenny, E.**

Mr. E. McKenny was of English descent. He came to Manitou in the early days. At one time he was a jeweller and after settling on a couple of acres on the NE of 3-8 he still repaired clocks and watches for many of his neighbours. 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 28-3-8W in the Middleton District. 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. 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. 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. It was said that no one ever saw either of them shoot at a sitting bird.

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.

### **McMurtey, Maud and Clarence**

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

## McNab

McNabs moved around 1910 from the Midland district to the Matt Riddell place SW ¼ 34-3-8, 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 attended school at Middleton.

**Jean** (Mrs. Barclay) of Manitou and **Jessie** in Vancouver.

## Mitchell, Adam and May

Adam and May (Beatty) and four children Lloyd, Roy, Ella and Marj arrived in Manitou in 1909. Adam went into partnership with Marsh Beatty and they opened a livery barn, which they operated until it was destroyed by fire in the fall of 1910. The family then moved to the Tom Toohey farm in the Middleton district E 2 35-3-8 (Doug Young now lives on this farm) in the spring of 1911 where they lived for eleven years. Many friends were made and good times enjoyed at house parties, picnics, school concerts, etc. Three more children Tom, Joe and Bette were born there. Lloyd, Roy, Ella, Tom and Marj attended school at Middleton until the spring of 1921 when they moved to Darlingford District where Ivan was born.

In 1923 they moved again this time to the Overdale district three miles south of Kaleida. Two more brothers Maurice and Harold joined the family.

**Lloyd** married Margaret Hunter and they had three daughters and one son. Lloyd and Margaret retired to Victoria, BC, where Lloyd passed away in 1994. Margaret still lives in Victoria. Their three daughters all live in BC and Dale in Boissevain, MB.

**Roy** (d 1981) married Arlene Hutter (d.1988) formerly of Middleton School District.

**Ella** (d 1974) married Cecil Biggar and lived on the farm east of Kaleida.

**Marj** (b 1908) married Geo. Young and lived on the farm south east of Kaleida until 1936 when she moved to Manitou. George passed away suddenly in 1953 at the early age of 41. Marj lived in Manitou for 52 years and after making a hard decision moved to Morden Legion House #2 in 1989. They had four children: *Bob* married Sharon Cook of Pipestone; lived in Thompson. They had two children: Bryan who still lives in Thompson and Jennifer who passed away when she was nine months old. Bob and Sharon retired to Morden in the fall of 1995. Bob passed away in 1998. *Shirley* married Ray Wheadon and they had two daughters: Linda and Tammie. They made numerous moves with the RCMP but are retired in Victoria, BC. *Elymer (Butch)* married Grace Conner of Snowflake and had a family of three children: Dawn, Brent and Brad. They moved to The Pas and are still living there. *Berniece* married Walter Voth of Morden; they have two sons, Doug and Wayne. They lived in Edmonton and Fort McMurray for a number of years but are retired and live in Okotoks, AB.

**Tom** married Evelyn Swerdfger (d 1995) of Darlingford and lived in Winnipeg. They had seven sons and one daughter. Tom continues to live in Winnipeg.

**Bette** married Jack Wilson of Manitou and they have one daughter Carol and live in Red Deer, AB.

**Ivan** married Thelma Beswitherick and lives in Victoria, BC. They have three children: *Judy, Jo-Anne and Terry.*

**Joe** (d. 1986) met with an accident in his early years and was crippled so spent his last 20 years in Tabor Home in Morden.

**Maurice** married Celeste Shetzel of Consort, AB and lived in Edmonton. They had one daughter *Denise*. Maurice was killed in an accident there in 1956 at the young age of 31. Celeste now lives in Saskatoon. **Harold** died in infancy.

### **Mutcher, Henry and Helen**

The family of Henry Mutcher (d 1964) lived on 31-3-7 in the Middleton District from 1933-1943 recently vacated by the Henry Masseys. They had two children; Marion and Elmer Marion started school in Middleton. They sold their farm to Bill Baumgart and moved to Haney, BC.

**Marion** married Robert Dreger; they have a family of four boys. They farmed in the Brown District 14 miles south of Morden. Following Robert's death, Marion and the family moved to BC.

**Elmer** (d 1993) and his wife Lillian had a family of two boys and one girl.

### **Nairne, George and Christina**

George (1850-1924) and his wife, Christina (1851-1934) came to Manitoba from Arnprior, ON, in 1881. They lived in a tent where the Union Station in Winnipeg now stands. They acquired a homestead in the Middleton district in 1892 and lived there until 1905 when they moved into Manitou. There were eight children born into their family: Mary, Thomas, Jack, Mae, Robert, Hugh (Toot), Christina (Teenie), and Jessie. George was a mail carrier for many years and also farmed where the golf course is now located. As well he had 80 acres on the edge of the Pembina Valley, southwest of Manitou. Christina (Granny Nairne) was famous for her oatmeal cookies that she supplied to all the kids on their way to and from school.

**Thomas** (1885-1971) married Ruby Swanson (1893-1982) in Manitou in 1915. Tom had a dray business and in 1921 took over the Imperial Oil agency delivering to the farms around Manitou first with horses and in 1921 with Model-T Ford Truck tank wagon. Tom later drove a cream truck to Mowbray, for the Manitou Creamery. Tom and Ruby were among the first to live in the Kinsmen Haven in 1963. They had two children, *Ronald (Din)* and *Robert*.

*Din* (1915) worked in the United Store as grocery clerk starting in 1934 at \$5.00 per week. He tells many stories of working late into the night on Fridays and of the huge containers of sugar, cheese and other goods that had to be cut and sorted for shoppers. During this time Din began dating a young lady named Edna Gill (1920-1991). She was the youngest daughter of Chas. A. Gill, who ran the bakery in Manitou. Din and Edna were married in Winnipeg in 1941. Two months later, he joined the RCAF and served until 1945. He was with the 10th Squadron as a mid-upper gunner on Halifax bombers, both in Europe and in the Middle East campaign. Din returned to Manitou upon discharge and worked for the BA Oil Co. until 1948. He was then employed with W. J. Barrett as a grocery clerk until 1954 when he joined the Federal Civil Service. Din spent 27 years as a Customs Officer living and working at the port of Snowflake. For many years while in Snowflake, Edna sold Avon products, travelling around the countryside to Snowflake, Purves, and Kaleida and Mowbray. When Din retired from the Customs in 1980, he and Edna moved to Winnipeg where he presently resides. Din and Edna have three children. Diane (1945) completed her schooling in Pilot Mound and trained as a nurse at St. Boniface Hospital graduating in 1966. In September 1966 she married Ray Aboud. They now live in Ottawa. They have three children, David, Susan and Brian.

Craig (1947) completed his schooling in Crystal City and joined the armed services as a cadet at Royal Roads in Victoria and graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston, ON, in 1969 as a Naval

Lieutenant. Craig married Carol Houlden of Pilot Mound in 1970. They now reside in Ottawa. They have two children, Shawn and Stacy.

Deborah (1957) graduated from the U of M in 1978 with her Bachelors of Education. She married Blair Russell of Carman, where she began her teaching career. They still reside in Carman and have two children, Scott and Christine.

**Robert** (1917-1991) was the youngest son of Tom and Ruby. He went to school in Manitou and had odd jobs until the war began. He joined the Army in 1940 and was discharged in 1945. He worked for Winnipeg Transit (streetcars) for a few years and for Harris Construction Co.

He married Emma in Winnipeg in 1946. They moved to Los Angeles in 1960 where he worked as a carpenter until he retired. Bob and Emma have two children, Laureen and Tom.

**Hugh** married Nettie Spratt, a schoolteacher in Manitou. He owned the barbershop and poolroom.

**Teenie** married Frank McCharles and lived in Winnipeg.

**Jessie** worked in the telephone office in the 1920's and lived in the United States.

**Bob** worked around Manitou and area and also in British Columbia. He married Margaret McNaughton. They had a son Don who lived in the United States.

### Owens, Albert and Annie

Albert Owens (d. 1929) lived north of Darlingford on the farm now owned by Margaret Cram. He obtained this land from the crown in 1883. Albert and his wife Annie Rutherford (d. 1897) had two children: Pearl and Ed. In 1893 this farm was sold to Alex Cram. Mr. Owens had obtained NW 26-3-8W in the Middleton District from the Hudson Bay Co, this farm is now owned by Hellen Checkley. Albert and Annie moved with their children making this their home and taking an active part in their community and church life.

In 1919 **Pearl** (d. 1945) married Joe Compton (d. 1957) of Darlingford. They had two children: *Bill* and *Lorna* (Mrs Mel Cassels)

**Ed** farmed until 1934 when he sold the farm to Eph 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.

### Pedersen, Jeffrey and Margaret



*Back Row – John, Linda, Fran, May Front Row –  
Mary, Jeff, Margaret*

In 1947 Margaret (McAuley) (1917) married Jeffrey Pedersen (1925) of LaRiviere who worked on the railroad. Jeff and Margaret raised their family of five on the SW 24-3-8W in the Middleton District. (the John McAuley farm). In the fall of 1981 they sold the farm to Larry Seymour but kept the yardsite. In 1985 they moved into their new home in Manitou at 314 Fuller Ave.

**May** (1948) went into M.I.T. where she trained as a practical nurse. She worked in Morden Hospital after graduating until the following

April 1969, when she married Charlie Vidnes of Carberry. They have three children: *Darla* (1972) married Martin Willcox in 1992, *Cheryl* (1973) married Dave Walker in 1997 and have a daughter *Trina* (1998) and *Nolan* (1977). They reside in Carberry.

**Mary** (1951) a LPN worked at the Misericordia General Hospital and took a short Medical Office Course. In 1974 she married Fred Figura of Flin Flon. They have two children: *Chris* (1977) and *Duane* (1980). Fred and Mary presently reside in Peachland, BC

**Linda** (1953) worked for MTS in Morden until she moved to Winnipeg in 1972 and worked at MHSC. In 1974 she married Ken Hosea from Morden. In 1980 they moved to Saskatoon and returned to Morden in 1992. They have two children: *Cynthia* (1978) and *Jason* (1981).

**Frances** (1956) graduated from McClung Collegiate in 1974 and moved to Winnipeg to work for Manitoba Crop Insurance. When the insurance moved to Portage La Prairie she came back to Morden. She married Edward Knox in 1976 and moved to Miami. She works at the Notre Dame Foyer as a Nurses Aid. They have three children: *Angie* (1978) married Dustin Unger in 1999, (1980) and *Greg* (1982).

**John** (1958) worked with Manitoba Highways in Manitou. He transferred to Carman to the surveying department and is now working as a gravel pit inspector. In 1981 he went to live in Morden and in 1982 he married Christine Davidson of Darlingford. They have two children: *Andrew* (1985) and *Brittany* (1988).



*Jeff & Margaret Pederson Family 1987  
(Inserts) Left – Brittany Pederson Right – Trina Walker*

### **Penner, Peter J.**

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Penner came from Roland to live on 23-3-8W in the Middleton District in 1945. They lived five and one-half miles east of Manitou, (Jimmy Jones place) for fifteen years. They have eight children: Peter, Jake, George, Betty, John, Katie, David, and Leonard. The oldest three sons worked for farmers. Betty, John, Katie, David, and Len went to Middleton School. Dad's health forced him to give up farming; Mom and Dad moved to Morden in 1960 where he worked on construction. He enjoyed playing the violin and she played the guitar. Dad passed away in 1978. Mom continued to live in her house and in 1984 moved to Tabor Unit 12. Mother is 88 years now and still loves to sing, bakes buns and cookies etc. She has 25 grandchildren and 36 great grandchildren.

**Peter** went to Winkler Bible Institute; then moved to Winnipeg. He worked at Western Glove. He has sung in a quartet for years with his brother and also in choir. Peter moved to Morden Tabor Apartments where he delivers meals to seniors and helps at the Tabor Home with exercises, bingo, music etc.

**Jake** worked in Winnipeg at Western Glove and T. Eaton Co. He married Selma Kroker and has three children: Ester, George and Peter. They have eleven grandchildren. Jake and Selma are retired now in Winnipeg

**George** worked on the farm and had a turkey business. He moved to Winnipeg and worked at a shoe factory. He married Helen Thiessen of Kitchener, On in 1958 and moved to Ontario. They have three children.

**Betty** due to Mom's health, Betty quit school then she worked in Manitou for Bill Barrett. She married Mel Lambert of Darlingford in 1958. They have four children Ken, Don, Curtis and Connie. Mel farmed together with his brother Ed for fifteen years then moved to Harry Guderian farm. They now reside in Calgary, AB.

**John** helped on the farm and moved to Winnipeg where he worked at Canada Wire and Cable. He married Mary Dueck and has four children: Ron, Richard, Robert and Darlene. John loves to sing in a quartet with his boys.

**Katie** enjoyed the outdoor work, gardening, trucking grain. Katie took piano lessons from Mrs. Mackintosh then went to Winnipeg and worked for H.L. McKinnen Co. packing coffee and tea filling city orders. In 1958 she married Ed Lambrecht of Darlingford in a double wedding with her sister Betty and Ed's brother Mel. They farmed together for fifteen years. Katie gave piano lessons and also worked at the Salem Home. They moved to Morden in 1982. They have three children: Will, Jeannie, and Jim. *Will* passed away in 1994 and is greatly missed. *Jim* is on the farm along with his wife Kelly. *Jeannie* and Jim live south of Morden. Katie is presently a leader of a sixteen players orchestra called Harmony Strings.

**David** took his grade 10 and 11 in Manitou and finished his schooling in Winkler. David continued his education at the U of M. and got his B.Sc. Degree and B. Ed. He taught school from 1958 to 1993. He married Margaret Neudorf of Altona. They moved to Pilot Mound, Deloraine and then to Brandon where he taught at Vincent Massey School.

**Leonard** (b. Dec. 20, 1941) retired from teaching in 1997. He married Gloria Massey of Deer Creek area (south of Morden in 1963, divorced in 1992). They have four children: *Keith* (1964), *Steven* (1967), *Jeff* (1970) and adopted son *Bruce* (1974). Leonard sang in the Calvary Temple T.V choir.

### **Richards, Dean and Shuana**

Dean (1969) and Shuana (Keown) Richards moved to the Middleton area SW 31-3-7W in the spring of 1993. In 1998 they moved to the Richards home farm, the W ½ 35-3-7W. Dean has his degree in agriculture and is the manager of the Manitou branch of Boundary Farm Service Ltd. Shuana has her degree in developmental studies and is the director of Pembina Valley Day Care Centre in Morden. They have two children: *Taylor* (1994) and *Hailley* (1998).

### **Riddel, Mathew R**

Mathew R. Riddel homesteaded the SW 34-3-8W June 1878. He had an auction at Moody Livery in Manitou April 1904.

### **Riddell, Robert and Lorraine**

Robert (1938) Riddell and Lorraine (1934) Sanderson were married in 1996 and lived on the Sanderson yardsite. Lorraine (Girouard) moved to this area in 1989 after marrying Ken Sanderson. Lorraine remained living on the SW 25-3-8 after Ken's death in 1990. Robert and Lorraine became dance partners in 1993, having met at Jordan's Food Town where Lorraine worked part time. They were married in 1996.

Robert moved to Darlingford, from Miami in 1993 to a house on Dufferin Ave. He was teaching at Skyview Colony and retired in December 1993. After his retirement, Robert did volunteer teaching at Manitou Elementary School and substitute teaching in the area. Robert joined the Polka Dots, an oldtime music orchestra, as drummer in 1994. Lorraine has been piano player for the group since 1991. They enjoy their music with the Polka Dots, dancing and their challenging crossword puzzles. Robert and Lorraine moved to Manitou in 1998, selling the yard to David and Susie Wiebe.

### **Rutherford, Andrew and Nellie**

Andrew (d 1936) married Nellie Moore of Mather and they made their home in the Middleton District on the NE 3 26-3-8 (Jim Young=s). Over the years they made a home for a good many of the local teachers. Mrs. Rutherford, with the aid of her brother Willie Moore, remained on the farm until her sale in 1939. Nellie spent the next year visiting in the Mather and Manitou districts. She then went to Winnipeg where she resided until her death. Andrew had four sisters: Mrs. Gid Owens, Mrs. Albert Owens, Mrs. Jim Anderson, all of Manitou, and Mrs. McClaren of Swan Lake.

The Andy Rutherford house, where many teachers boarded, is still standing in 2000. It has been vacant for many years.

### **Sanderson, Ken and Mary**

Maria (Mary) Baloun (1925-1986)) married Ken Sanderson in 1947 in Port Alberni, BC. Ken had a logging camp in Powell River, BC until 1966 when they moved to her parent's farm – the Jerry Baloun place. Mary and Ken had two children: Barbara and Howard.

**Barbara** married Owen Smith in 1980; they have four children: *Gerry, Crystal, Cherrie and Brent*. Owen and his wife, Barbara live in Morden. Barbara is employed at the Bethel Hospital and Owen is employed with Manitoba Hydro

**Howard (Howie)** married Brenda (Renton) in 1983; they have two daughters: *Amy and Rachel*. Howie has his own repair business on his farm. They live in the Kaleida District.

Ken remarried Lorraine Girouard of Somerset in 1989. Ken passed away in 1990.

### **Sepke, Emil**

The Emil Sepke family took up farming on the Bob Jones farm, S.1/2 25-3-8W in 1941. Their four oldest girls; **Marie, Elizabeth, Irene and Thelma** came to the Middleton School in 1941 in grades one to six. Their oldest son **Melvin** started school here in 1943. They left in 1944 to take up farming on the Sam

Brown farm near Snowflake, then bought a farm near Glenboro. They raised a large family of eight girls and four boys.

### Seymour, Larry and Marie

In the spring of 1964, Larry Seymour of Thornhill bought the William Jones farm NE 23-3-8W in Middleton and married Marie Hunt of Darlingford. They have three boys: Darren, Dale and Dwight. Larry grain farms and has cattle. He also raised pigs up until 1990. In 1967 Larry got a break by finding a flowing well where formerly there was a lack of water. Marie worked at several part-time jobs besides helping on the farm and in 1988 took training and started working at Bethel Hospital in Winkler as a nurse's aide.

**Darren** see Darren & Liz Seymour.

**Dale** graduated from Nellie McClung collegiate in 1984 and then attended Assiniboine Community College in Brandon for two years where he earned his heavy duty mechanic licence and played hockey with ACC Cougars. In 1991, Dale married Angela Andrews. They lived in a mobile home on the Andrews' farm near Kaleida until 1998 when they bought the farm site from Lyle and Joyce Andrews. In 1992, twin sons *Christopher* and *Brendon* arrived. *Brendon* was stillborn. *Brett* was born in 1994 and *Kaitlyn* in 1997. Dale worked as a mechanic at ARK New Tech in Manitou and at Greenvalley Equipment in Morden as well as renting land and farming until 1998 when he started his own business doing custom trenching, shaling, air conditioning, mechanic, combining and continuing to farm. Angela is a teacher at the Manitou Elementary School.



*Dwight, Liz, Darren, Angela, Dale  
Trish (holding Jenna), Larry, Marie, Brett, Kaitlyn,  
Christopher (missing – Alexandria)*

Dale played baseball with Kaleida K's and Pembina Valley Orioles (Junior Team) and played hockey with Morden Redskins for several years and was picked up by St. Boniface to play for the Allen cup in 1988. The Seymour family enjoys most outdoor sports.

**Dwight** went to Fargo, North Dakota in 1994 where he trained to be a Paramedic. After working for Fargo ambulance for six months, he then returned to Manitoba to be ambulance co-ordinator in Morden. He married Trish Murdy from The Pas in 1996. Trish took training to be nurses' assistant and worked at Morden Hospital until September 1998 when Dwight accepted a job as Emergency Medical Services Manager for the Interlake Region, living in Stonewall. In September 2000 Dwight accepted a position with the Winnipeg Fire Department. Dwight and Trish have two daughters: *Jenna* (1997) and *Alexandria* (1999). They live in Carman.

### Seymour, Darren and Liz

In 1984 Darren bought the Pedersen farmyard SW 24-3-8W in 1984 and married Elizabeth Nichol of Darlingford in 1987. Darren earned his journeyman electrician while working for Robbins's Electric of

Darlingford for ten years. He gave that job up to give farming more attention as he farms a number of acres besides doing custom seeding, swathing and combining. In 1996 Darren and Liz started a hot tub business and opened Seyhunt Spas and Saunas in Manitou, July 1997, selling hot tubs, saunas and a variety of related products. Darren and Liz both belong to different community organizations and keep busy with sports and their businesses.

### **Smith, Alexander and Jean**

In 1905 Alexander Leckie Smith (1855-1910) and Jean Fraser (1860-1946) his wife and their ten children came to Middleton. They remained here until 1908 when the father took up homestead land in the Poplar Dell District near Edam, SK. He returned to Manitou and died there in 1910. He is buried in the Manitou Cemetery. In 1911 the family moved to the Saskatchewan homestead. Their children were: **John, Marion** (m. Harvey Dickson) whose children are Alex, Jack, Jean, and Tom; **Anne; Eliza (Mary)** m. James Fraser McDonald and has five girls; **Edna** (married Sam Moffatt and has eight children, **James; Neil; Archie; Thomas; and Cyril**. They lived first on the former Rendall farm and then on the Doug Young farm. Their five youngest children attended Middleton School

### **Sprung, Fitz Allen and Martha**

Fitz Allen Sprung (1844-1920) and Martha Jane Locklin (1849-1906) both of Hullett Township in Huron County, were married in 1868 in Nile, On

Fitz Allen's family consisted of **Morris** (1869-unknown), **Gabriel** (1872-1939), **Emma** (1874-1931), **Ida** (1876-1896) **Dora** (1878-1965) and **John** (1887-1954) Morris settled in Pontiac, Michigan. Emma married Tom Gorrel of Pilot Mound and Dora married Will Archer of Manitou. John married Martie Lowry of Darlingford.

The Sprung family came from Huron County, Ontario in 1896 and farmed in the Archibald district before moving to the Middleton district. Fitz Allen and Martha Sprung purchased the east ½ of 1-4-8W on March 2, 1898 and moved to the farm in the spring. The family lived there until 1904, when Fitz Allen and Martha built a house in Darlingford and retired from farming. Marjory McCallum presently owns this house. Martha died in 1906. A few years later Fitz Allen married Mrs. Rosa Irvine, who went east to live with her daughter after Mr. Sprung died in 1920 from influenza. He was on the original cemetery board at Darlingford and a devoted member of the Methodist Church.

**Gabriel** bought the E ½ 12-4-8W in 1898. He apparently lived in a log cabin on the edge of Lizard Lake some of the time but moved to the east ½ of 1-4-8W when Fitz Allen and Martha retired in 1904. Gabriel married Alberta Shobbrook (1878-1920) of Londesboro, On. in 1905. After their marriage they settled on the east ½ 1-4-8W which they purchased in 1907. They farmed until 1912 at which time they moved to Darlingford and Gabe worked as a carpenter.

They had three children: *Gordon Locklin* (1909-1987) *Fred Elgin* (1913-1979) and *Alberta Susan* (1920-1928). The mother, Alberta, died a few days after her birth having contracted influenza. Gabriel married Minerva Jane "Minnie" Storey (1879-1954) in 1921. The land was rented to Norman Checkley 1913-1915, to Eph Checkley 1916-1918 and to Melville Evans 1919-1925. Minnie being very interested in farming, Gabriel, Minnie and family returned from Darlingford to the east ½ 1-4-8W and east ½ of 12-4-8W in the spring of 1925. Berta died in 1928 of scarlet fever. The same year, Gabriel and Minnie adopted

a three month old girl, Elsie May Martha aka Elsie Mae. Gabriel died in 1939 and Minnie and Elsie Mae moved to Manitou that year. Minnie died in 1954.

*Elsie May Martha* (1928-1993) attended Success Business College, then worked for the CBC in Winnipeg and Churchill. It was in Fort Churchill that she met and married Joseph Jean Scanlan (1928-1976). They lived in many parts of Canada but later settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia. where they lived out their lives with their family. They had two daughters, *Shauna* and *Deidre*. Shauna Marie Scanlan (1956) married Edward William Tobias (1951) in 1984. Their children are Jamie William Richard (1985) and Kelly Erin (1988). Shauna and the children live in Halifax. Deidre Anne (1958) married Barry Joseph Burke in 1977. Their marriage ended in 1979 at which time she moved to Alberta. She then married Leo Gregory Macht (1955) in Coldale, AB in 1984. Their children are Gregory Joseph (1986) and Andrew Philip (1988). They reside in Calgary, AB.

### **Sprung, Fred and Bea**



Frederick Elgin Sprung (1913-1979) moved to the Middleton District from Darlingford in 1925. He farmed with his father and brother Gordon until 1941, at which time he joined the R.C.A.F., serving as a navigator. After returning from overseas, he purchased the Norman Checkley farm, the SW 1-4-8W, in 1947. In 1951 he married Jeanette Isabelle "Bea" Alexander (1922-1986) of Roblin, MB. They farmed until 1978, at which time Fred and Bea moved to their new home in Manitou. They had three children:

**Thomas Elgin** (1952) see Tom and Lisa Sprung.

**John Alexander "Johnny"** (1955) died of pneumonia in infancy.

**Elizabeth Jean** (1957) married Kevin Ewart Parsons of Winnipeg in 1984. Kevin and Jean live in Winnipeg where they work for the Bank of Nova Scotia. Their children are *Lauren Elizabeth* (1985), *Jillian Johanne* (1987) and *Shane Sullivan* (1991).



*Kevin and Jean Parsons and family*

## Sprung, Gordon and Ella

In 1933 Gordon Sprung (1909-1987) married Ellen Elizabeth (Ella) Scharf (1906-1982) of LaRiviere, a graduate nurse. Gordon's father, Gabriel built a second house on the yard at this time. It was on the E ½ of 1-4-8W that Gordon and Ella raised their family of five. In 1964 Gordon and Ella moved to Manitou from the farm. They lived on the corner of Park and Mary, formerly known as the Frank Russell house. It was at this time that he also was the first weed supervisor, for one year, for the Pembina Municipality. He also purchased straw for Kimberly-Clark for a period of time. Gordon continued to farm from town with his son, Maurice until 1982 when he retired. Ella enjoyed living in town and making frequent trips to the farm with Gordon to make meals in their summerhouse. Gordon and Ella enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren. They attended the Alliance Church in Manitou, in which they took an active role.



**Harold Gordon** (1934) married Carol Eileen Neighbour (1944) in 1960. They have two children: *Richard Gordon* (1961) and *Veronica Lynn* (1966). Harold and Carol divorced in 1973. Harold married Crystal Joy Conrad (1954) in 1975 and they reside in Bloomer, Wisconsin, and Crystal's hometown. Richard lives in Nelson, BC. His children are Adrianna Astrosel Falcon (1989), and Vannessa Carol Sprung (1994). Veronica is married to Shaun Ray Gifford (1968) and resides in Minnesota. They have a daughter, Catherine Mary Lynn Carol Eileen (1995).

**Allan Howard** (1937) worked in Winnipeg until his retirement in 1998. He continues to live at the Deaf Centre Manitoba in Winnipeg.

**Maurice Earle** (1941) see Maurice and Elaine Sprung .

**Elizabeth Ruth** (1942) completed nurses training at Grace Hospital and graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Nursing. She married Dwight Lawrence Thomas Cook (1944) of Steeprock, MB in 1969. They ranch on Peonan Point, MB and have two daughters: *Lynette Elizabeth* (1972) and *Janice Anne* (1975). Lynette graduated from Briercrest Bible College. In 1995 she married Kevin James Unger (1968) of Salmon Arm, BC. They reside in Banff, AB where they manage the High Country Inn. Janice graduated from Physiotherapy at the University of Alberta in 2000. She is presently working in this field in Calgary, AB.



*Gordon & Ella Sprung Family 1998*

**Gerald Ross** (1944) studied diesel mechanics in Winnipeg and worked there for a few years. He returned to Manitou in 1968, worked on the farm for a brief time and then began employment with Canada Packers in Manitou. In 1972 Ross married Linda Dawn Meggison (1950) who was from Goodlands, and is the Home Economist with Manitoba Agriculture at Morden. After their marriage, they lived in Manitou. In 1977 Ross began employment with Agriculture Canada at the Morden Research Station. Ross and Linda moved to Morden in 1978 where they both continued working. They have two children: *Janelle Dawn* (1981) is presently enrolled at the University of Manitoba and *Meghan Lynne* (1983) in Grade Twelve in Morden.

## Sprung, Maurice and Elaine



*Philip Ludwig-Sprung, Doreen Ludwig-Sprung, Michael, Kaitlyn & Laurie Crowe, Kyle Sprung  
Jenna Crowe, Elaine Sprung, Tyler Crowe, Maurice, Leanne, Clayton & Jennifer Sprung October 2000*

Maurice married Ruth Elaine Tickner (1942) of Darlingford on September 5, 1964. They settled on the family farm and Gordon and Ella moved to Manitou in June of 1964. Maurice and Elaine's children are the fifth generation to live on the SE 1-4-8W. Gordon continued to farm with Maurice until 1982. In 1990 Maurice began work as tractor operator at the Morden Research Station. Maurice and Elaine continued to manage the farm operation with the help of their sons Philip and Kyle. Elaine has been employed as a registered nurse at Eden Mental Health Centre in Winkler for the past thirteen years. Maurice spent the first fifty-five years of his life in the same farm home. In September of 1996 Maurice and Elaine moved to Morden, to be closer to their jobs and to make room for the next generation on the farm. On July 19, 1998 the Sprung Family Farm Centennial was celebrated.

Maurice and Elaine's five children are Laurie, Stephen, Leanne, Philip and Kyle.

**Laurie Arlene** (1965) graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Human Ecology. Laurie married Michael Crowe (1964) of Deloraine in 1987. They farm and have a mechanical repair business, Country Roads Truck and Diesel. Laurie is the manager of the Prairie Skills Education and Training Project in Deloraine. They have three children: Jenna Rae (1992) and Tyler James (1996) and Kaitlyn Michelle (1998).

**Stephen Earle** (1967) died in infancy.

**Leanne Rae** (1968) graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Human Ecology, Family Studies major. Leanne works for Manitoba Agriculture as 4-H and Youth Specialist for Central Region. She lives in Portage la Prairie. .

**Philip Maurice** (1971) was lovingly adopted into the family in 1971. Philip is a long distance truck driver and has been living in Edmonton. In November 2000, he married Doreen Ludwig of Bremerhaven, Germany. Philip and Doreen are presently residing in Germany.

**Kyle James** (1972) married Jennifer Ellen Lea (1974) in 1997. They live on the family farm. He has a cow/calf operation and works as a machine operator with the pipeline part time. Jennifer graduated from Brandon University with a Bachelor Education. Kyle and Jennifer have a son Clayton Locklin (2000). Clayton is the sixth generation to live in the original house on the family farm.



*Kyle, Clayton & Jennifer Sprung*

## Sprung, Tom and Lisa

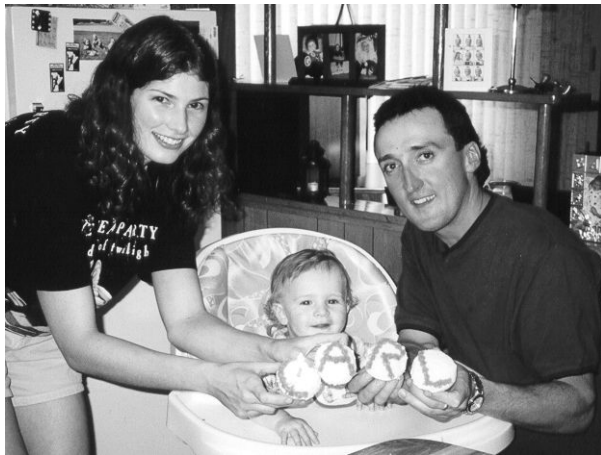
Tom Sprung married Lisa Jean Amy (1952) in 1970. They resided in Darlingford until 1978 when they moved to Tom's parents farm SW 1-4-8W in the Middleton District. Tom has been employed with Manitoba Hydro since 1970. Lisa is employed with Canada Post and operates the post office in Darlingford. They farmed with Tom's parents from 1976 until Fred's death in 1979 and still continue to farm until the present time. Tom and Lisa have three children:

**Christopher Wayne** (1971) attended Manitou school until his graduation from McClung Collegiate in 1989. From the

spring of 1990 to 1993 he was employed by Manitoba Telephone System, installing private lines and fibre optics. In January of 1994, Chris travelled throughout Saskatchewan and Alberta where he worked the oil fields, including pipeline, drilling rigs and exploration. In 1995 he entered the Manitoba Hydro Powerline Journeyman Apprentice program and achieved his Journeyman status in 1999. Chris and Liz Selby reside in Manitou with their son, *Carl Alexander* (1999).



*Nathan, Tom, Chris, Lisa, Jennifer*



*Liz, Carl, Chris*

**Jennifer Jean** (1972) received her education at Manitou, graduating from Nellie McClung Collegiate in 1990. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Manitoba in 1993, and then worked for the Bank of Commerce in Winnipeg for two years. In 1995 she returned to the University of Manitoba, enrolling in the Master of Natural Resources Management program, which she completed in 1999. Agriculture Canada PFRA now employs her in Regina, SK.

**Nathan Thomas** (1975) received his education at Manitou school. Nathan worked for Wiebe's Trenching from 1994 to the summer of 1998. He is presently employed with Rohl Construction working out of Winnipeg, MB

### **Stone, Hershel and Ada**

Hershel (1875-1949) and Ada came from Ontario to live in the Middleton District about 1920. They lived on the farm where Ian Hamilton now lives, across the road where Bill Hamilton lives, and then purchased the land where Richard Hamilton lived. They built up the buildings there and sold that farm to Richard Hamilton in 1942. Hershel and Ada Stone went back to Ontario after they sold the farm.

Their only child **Mel** (1911-1988) married Jane Dobson (1915) the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Dobson. They settled on the NE 21-2-7W (now owned by Margaret Cram). They later moved to the Robert Lowry farm, before going to live in Darlingford in 1946. Jane was a telephone operator from 1951 until July 1971 when the office in town was closed. Mel did carpentry work and also had the lumberyard in Darlingford. Jane and Mel had two sons: *James* (1937) married Grace Lowry of Mather in 1958. They have three children: Debra, Kenneth and David. And *Donald* (1940-1980) who married Joyce Lone has two sons Robert and Ryan. Mel and Jane took great pride in the upkeep of their garden and yard in Darlingford and won several prizes in home ground competitions. Mel passed away in 1988. Jane sold their home in Darlingford in the spring of 1996 and makes her home in Manitou.

### **Storey, George**

Mr. and Mrs. George Storey lived on the NE 24-3-8W from 1893 to 1895. Their family consisted of **Albert** (1893), **Alda** (1895) and **Irvin** (1896). Murray Leatherdale now owns the land.

### **Storey, William**

William Storey and his wife homesteaded N 2 30-3-7W in Middleton 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. In 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Storey sold their farm to Johnnie Lowry of Darlingford and retired to 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. Ian Hamilton now owns this land.

### Swanson, Ben and Lucy

Ben took up a homestead in the Manitou district, before the railroad came through and Emerson was their town. In 1880 he homesteaded SW 1/4 31-3-7 and SE 1/4 36-3-8. His brother Alex took up NW 1/4 18-3-7. Ben built a log house on the land and made the improvements that were required of a homestead. He often told of how he had copies of Byron and Burns and how he had memorized them to put in time. In 1882 he married Lucy Furnier of Carman. 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. They 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. 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. In January of 1910, Ben sold out and moved the remainder of the family to Manitou. Lucy and Ben and his brother Alex lived in Bowel, AB (1910-1913), Manitou until 1925, then Winnipeg and back to Manitou where Lucy and Ben died in 1933 and 1934.

**Lucy** (1883) married John McAuley in 1913.

**Alex** (Doc) (1885) married Annie Dickson in 1910. John Alexander Swanson and Annie Dickson were both born in the Manitou district. Alex studied and practised as a veterinarian in Manitou district until the family moved to Winnipeg in 1937. He joined the Civil Service as a government inspector. There were four children: *Wallace* a pharmacist, *Lawrence* worked for the civil service in the veterinary department in Dauphin. Lawrence and Mary have as son Larry, Isabel went to university where she obtained a home economics degree and worked in Winnipeg until she married Dr. Louis Wettlaufer. They moved to Yellow Grass, SK where he practised medicine until his passing in 1951. Isabel and their son, Robert moved back to Winnipeg where she taught home economics for years. Isabel on her retirement lived in Victoria with her second husband then moved back to Regina, SK to be near her son Robert, his wife Janice and their two daughters. Isabel is now the only living member of the Dr. Swanson family. *Neil* worked for the CN Railway in Winnipeg for years at outside jobs because of his serious asthma condition. Neil and Shirley had two sons: Donald who still lives in Winnipeg and Brian, who like his Dad had a serious asthma condition, passed away in 1974. Neil passed away in 1993. Shirley lives in Winnipeg.

**Annie** (1886-1980) a teacher married Herb Tufts of Boissevain in 1917 and moved to Plenty, SK, to farm. They had two sons *Harold* and *Allan* presently living in Lethbridge, AB.

**Laura** (1891-1948) lived in town and worked in a store until she married John Dickson in 1915. They lived in Winnipeg until 1935 then moved to Turtleford, SK to farm. They had two children: *Helen* (1915) *Mac* (1917). John died in 1966.

**Lawrence** (Lorne) (1889-1945) remained single.

**Ruby** (1893-1982) see George and Christina Nairne.

### **Tait, John and Laura**

Among the early settlers in the Middleton School district were the Tait, 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 McPhail, 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.

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 U.S.A. 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 Turnbells until her death in 1912.

John (Jack) Tait (1858-1929) was one of the first settlers of the township. He lived on 23-3-8W, east of Manitou, for 48 years. He took a very active interest in the building of this community and was identified with many farmers' organizations, particularly that of the Agricultural Society Jack and Laura had six children: Ed, Ethel, Bella and Samuel, Ida and Dorothy. The eldest four attended school in Middleton before 1913 and then the family attended Manitou School.

There was an extraordinary incident in the lives of the Jack Tait family. In July of 1900, their house was lifted by a cyclone and scattered for a couple of miles. Laura and baby Ethel had a few cuts and bruises. Ed, a small boy, was carried some distance and suffered a broken arm and some face cuts. Jack Tait was working in the field at the south end of the farm. He rushed home on horseback to find that most of the neighbours had been out looking for Ed. The cyclone also took a large wall clock, which had very little damage done to it. It may still be working.

**Edward** (1896-1974) was born and raised in the Middleton area. He left the family farm to go to Agricultural College. He went off to war while still in his teens. He served in WWI with the Manitoba Machine Gun Brigade on active duty in Europe (France and Germany) upon returning home; Ed farmed east of Manitou. In 1932 he married Marion, daughter of Josh and Emma Bradley. They have one son William (1934). Ed and Marion farmed until 1963 when they retired and moved into Manitou. Both were active community workers being involved in agriculture and horticulture societies. Marion played the organ for St. John the Baptist Church for many years and Ed was a faithful vestry member and warden. They were willing workers wherever needed.

**Ethel** taught school in Saskatchewan where she met and married Lester Blachford and now lives in Colonsay, Saskatchewan.

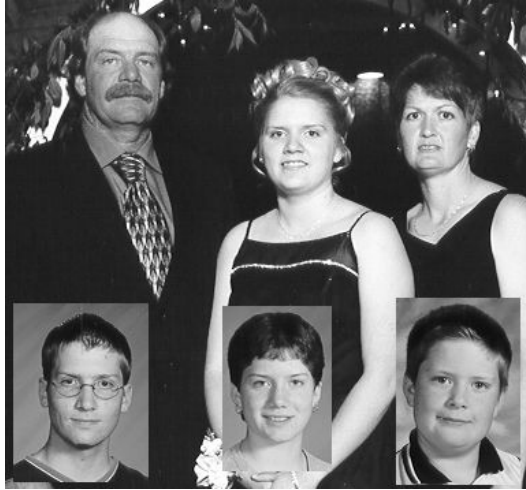
**Bella** married Jack Leech. She passed away in 1959.

**Samuel** married Kathleen McLeod, a former schoolteacher at Middleton. They farmed on the Jack Tait Sr. farm until 1954 when they moved to Manitou. They had three children. **Ray** married Bette Maloney; they live in Kelowna, BC. They have three children. **Isla** married Lyle Ehnes and they live in Chemanis; they have two children. **Jack** married Judy Gillis and they have three children; they live in Winnipeg. **Kae** taught school in Manitou for twelve years. **Samuel** had two legs amputated before he passed away in 1978. **Kathleen** and **Sam** were living in Winnipeg at the time. **Kae** moved back to Manitou in 1980.

**Ida** (1906-1991) married **Stuart Forrest** (1892-1978) in 1924. They were members of the United Church and active in community affairs. In 1955 they moved to his parents farm (**Sam** and **Jennie Forrest**) taking a keen interest in the home grounds improvement; scoring first and second in the Horticultural and Provincial Home Grounds Competition in 1963. In 1972 they moved to Manitou where they enjoyed semi-retirement. They have three children: **Jack**, **Doreen** and **Marjorie**.

**Dorothy** married **Jack Ward**. They lived in Winnipeg. Both are deceased.

### Thiessen, Ron and Cheryl



*Ron, Kari, Cheryl, Shane, Stacie, Chase*

Ron Thiessen married Cheryl Checkley in 1980. In 1983 they moved to the SW 36-3-8W, the John Johns homestead. In 1990 this farm received the Century Farm Award for 100 years in the family.

On June 6, 1908 a contract for the granary on this property was between J. Johns and Magees and Wyllie. Specs of the contract: size of the structure - 24x24 with 18ft walls, 4x8 sills, 3x8 joists, 2x6 studding – double studding at division of bins, 6x10 beams supporting 2x10 upper joist, 8x8 posts supporting beams. Outside walls covered with medium “Manitoba” galvanized siding. Cost of the building \$778.00. There was a leg from the pit to the cupola at the top. Belts with cups were used to lift grain to the top. Spouts directed the grain to desired bins.

This granary was first run with horsepower. The wagon was backed up to pit and lower board opened to release grain to pit with the help of a shovel. A Massey engine

was installed in a lean-to on west side in later years. Tom Checkley installed the lights in 1955. The granary hasn't been used since early 1980's. In 2000, Ron and Cheryl Thiessen recovered the granary after the barn was demolished. The granary was converted into a barn. The original barn was a stone foundation built into a hill for easy access to the loft.

Ron and Cheryl have four children:

**Kari** (1981), **Shane** (1984),  
**Stacie** (1986) and **Chase** (1990).



### Tiessen, Diedrick

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 BC. This land is now owned by Dick Hamilton.

### Toohey, Tom

Tom Toohey farmed the E 2 35-3-8W (Doug Young) in the early 1880's. He was a bachelor and always had a hired man. He was part of the first school meeting July 1886. John Armitage, Wm. Dickson, T. Dawson, and Moses Kealy were friends

### **Voros**

The Voros were a Hungarian family who came to the Middleton 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 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 older 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; his hand blew 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, SK from here.

### **Wiebe, David and Susan**

David and Susan were both raised in the Winkler area. David came to the Manitou area about eight years ago. Susan joined him in 1997 when they were married. In 1998 they purchased the yard site on SW 25-3-8W from Lorraine Riddell. (formerly the Jerry Baloun yard). David and Susan's little son Ezra David was born on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

## Young, Alex and Alma

Alexander Mackenzie Young (1910-1994) eldest son of Ken and Nettie Young 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 the NE 26-3-8W. Alex and Alma continued farming but gave up feeding pigs and milking cows. Jim by this time had graduated with a degree of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Manitoba and working at his profession for a few years and was ready to take over his Dad's farm.

Alex and Alma built a new house in Manitou and they moved to town. Alex was ready to retire although he helped with the farm work during the busy seasons. They

managed to take a few tours to Florida, Bahamas, Alaska, and

overseas to England, France, and Switzerland. Alex's health deteriorated with diabetes and Parkinson's in his right arm so was confined to his home the last few years. He passed away in July 1994. Alex and Alma have six children:

**Kenneth Boyd** (1938) a graduate of the University of Manitoba attended Bozeman Montana University obtaining Doctorate Degree in Agriculture. He was on staff at Lubbock Texas University and then spent two years in Indonesia working for the government along with wife Lois. He is now at University of Fayetteville doing research on Rice Marketing, living in Conway, Arkansas. They have a daughter, *Heather*. She married Joel Jespersion and they have two sons Lars (1997) and Haydan (2000). They live in Arkansas.

**Murray** (1939) received his diploma in Agriculture and is farming the Bailey place in the McFadden District. He married Marilyn Klassen of Morden. They have two children: *Jennifer* (1967) has a son *Reece* (1992). Jennifer married Carl Wood in 1999 and they live in Morden and *Matthew* (1969) works in tourism in Nelson, BC.

**Glen** (1944) received his degree in Science at United College. He is single, lives in Winnipeg and works for True Value.

**David** (1945) married Bonnie Bluhm of Morden. They live on the George Thompson farm in the McFadden District. They have three children: *Blair* (1965) has his Geology Degree and is Branch Manager for Power Vac in Thunder Bay, On. *Sherri* (1967), who has her Masters in Psychology, works with First Nations in Calgary, AB. Sherri married Wes Water Chief in 1998. They have two children: *Ross* (1997) and *Erin* (1999) and *Keith* (1973) who has a Bachelor of Commerce, married *Melanie* (Wallcraft) and have two children: *Alexa* (1995) and *Dylan* (1997) They are living in The Pas where Keith is working for Northland Ford in the accounting department.

**Linda Ann** (1948) a graduate of the University of Manitoba married Gordon Pincock. Linda



*Alma, Jim, Glen, Ken, David, Murray, Linda, Alec*

lives in Spruce Grove, AB. They have six children: *Jason* (1975) married Izabella Phskar in September 2000, *Leigh* (1977) is a teacher, *Scott* (1979) is attending university, and *Shannon* (1981) is in College, *Kerry* (1983) and *David* (1986).

**James** (1951) see Jim and Susan Young.

### Young, Douglas and Joyce

Douglas (1945) was born in Morden. Doug attended school at Middleton and Manitou and graduated from the University of Manitoba in April 1968 with a Diploma in Agriculture. In 1967 Doug married Joyce Ehnes, the only daughter of Sandy and Esther Ehnes of Manitou. Following graduation, Doug and Joyce returned to the family farm east of Manitou, which they now operate with their son Geoffrey, and his wife Kiera. Doug and Joyce have three children, Melanie, Scott and Geoffrey.

**Melanie** (1970) was born in Manitou. She graduated from Nellie McClung Collegiate in 1988 and the University of Manitoba in December 1992 with a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours). Melanie married Paul Gustafson of Kenora, Ontario in 1993. Melanie has two children: *Dakota Drew* (1994) and *Emerson Aliya* (1999). Melanie and her family reside in Winnipeg where she is employed at Ag Canada.

**Scott** (1971-1978) was born in Manitou. He attended kindergarten and grade one at the Manitou Primary School. He died in a farm-related accident in 1978. His sunshine smile and his great love of sports and farm life have not been forgotten. Scott is buried in the Manitou Cemetery.



**Geoffrey** (1973) was born in Manitou. He graduated from Nellie McClung Collegiate in 1991. In 1996 he graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Diploma in Agriculture and in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science Advance Major). Geoff married Kiera Andrew of Morden in October 1999. Geoff is employed by the Manitoba Canola Growers at Carman and Kiera is a mechanical engineer at Standard Aero in Winnipeg.



*Doug, Joyce, Dakota, Geoffrey,  
Keira, Melanie, Emerson*

### Young, Jim and Susan Crawford

Jim graduated from the University of Manitoba with BSc degree in Mechanical engineering in 1973. After working for three years as an engineer, he came back to Manitou and took up farming. Jim married Susan Crawford in 1978. Susan has a BSc in Electrical Engineering, a Pre-Masters in Education and works as an engineer, writer, painter, and nurses aid. They have three children:

**Janet** (1980) is attending the University of Manitoba, second year Bio Systems Engineering. Loves music, sings, plays the saxophone and piano. She also loves tree planting.

**Nancy** (1982) is attending the University of Manitoba, University 1, taking a combination of Science and Arts. She loves drawing and is a bookworm.

**Andrew** (1985) is a student at McClung Collegiate in Grade 10. His interest is in motors and motorized anything and anything else with wheels.



*Jim, Susan, Nancy, Andrew, Janet*

### Young, John and Agatha



John Matthew Young (1913), second son of Ken and Nettie Young, married Agatha Klippenstein in 1934. They lived for a couple of years in the log house on the SE 35-3-8W and then moved to the SW 35-3-8W the old Hewitt farm. There they raised their family of five. John enjoyed his competitions in the Manitoba Rifle Association. In 1957 he won perfect score and received the SS McMillan Memorial Shield at the 75th anniversary of the Manitoba Provincial Rifle Association at the St. Charles Range in Winnipeg.

John served as councillor on the Rural Municipality of

Pembina council for the years 1960 to 1980. In 1973 John and Agatha moved to 523 Dufferin Ave. in Manitou. There they continued to enjoy their retirement years until Agatha=s passing in 1995. John presently resides in Manitou.

**Garry** (1935) attended university and became an electrician in 1959. In 1968 he married Merle Coleman and moved to Manitou. Garry operates his own business, Young=s Electronics in Manitou. Merle was born on the NE 17-4-8W and attended Midland School. In 1962 she moved to Manitou and worked at Strong=s Drug=s and later Langseth=s Pharmacy. They reside at 549 Park Ave. in Manitou.

**Malcolm** (1942) see Malcolm and Judy Young

**Janet** (1946) worked for Manitoba Hydro before her marriage in 1968 to William Lightly. They have lived in Winnipegosis, The Pas, Brandon and Winnipeg. They presently live in Brunkhild, MB. Jan

works at the Bank of Nova Scotia and Bill for the Province of Manitoba. Their family: *Robert (Rob)* (1970) is employed as an elevator mechanic. He and his wife Nikki live in Calgary, Alberta. *Sheri-Marie* (1973) died in infancy, and *Sheila* (1974), has completed Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba, and is employed in Winnipeg.

**Judy** (1949) also worked for the Manitoba Hydro. In 1969 she married George Kozak. In 1977 they moved to Manitou where they operated the GM dealership Kimberly Chev Olds. They have two children: *Kimberly* (1972) lives in Manitou with her son Joshua (1994) and *Christopher* (1979) works in Morden. Judy divorced in 1987. In 1989 she graduated from the St. Boniface School of Nursing and nurses at Foyer in Notre Dame, MB. In 1997, she married Lorne Bradley and they live on the NW 19-4-8W.

**Doreen** (1951) has her B.Ed. She married Jim Matthews in 1971. They resided in Winnipeg until the spring of 1975 when they moved to Manitou and purchased the Red and White Store from Pete Johnston. While living in Manitou their two children were born. After relocating to Morden and Winnipeg, the Matthews family set down roots in Rivers, MB in 1983. Jim is manager of the local Stan=s IGA grocery store and Doreen teaches at Rivers Elementary School. They have two children: *Valerie* (1976) and *Bryan* (1978).



*Judy & Malcolm Young, Doreen & Jim Matthews, Jan & Bill Lightly, Judy & Lorne Bradley, Merle & Garry Young, John & Agatha Young*

### **Young, Ken and Nettie**

Kenneth McKenzie Young (1879-1968) eldest son of Dr. Matthew Young and Maria Anne (Tweed) was born in Ontario and came west to Winnipeg with his parents in the early 1880=s settling south of Manitou. He bought the NW 3 13-3-9, the Alex Cochrane place and brought to it his bride, Annette (Nettie) Murdoch (d. 1964) a schoolteacher 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 E 2 35-3-8, the former Tom Toohey farm.

**Anne** (1908) married Tom Oakes of the Opawaka District in 1937. They have three daughters: Ruth, Mabel and Edith. Anne resides in Winnipeg with her daughter Mabel.

**Alex** (1910-1994)) see Alex and Alma Young.

**Margaret** (1912) see Bill and Margaret Dobson.

**John** (1913) see John and Agatha Young.

**Stuart** (1916) see Stuart and Mary Young.

### Young, Malcolm and Judy

Malcolm attended school at Middleton and Manitou. He continued helping his father farm and started winter employment with D.Voth & Sons for a few winters and construction work with a crew building McClung Collegiate. In 1973 he married Judy Coleman of Manitou.

Judy attended school Grades 1-5 at the Midland School north of Manitou. When the school closed in 1962 she then attended schools in Manitou graduating from McClung Collegiate in 1970. She obtained

employment in an office in Winnipeg where she continued working until the fall of 1972. She then began working with A.W. Durham Secretary Treasurer of the R.M. of Pembina. While raising their family, Judy continued to work part time as an administrative assistant in the R.M. office. It was in those years while working part time that she continued her education and in 1989 was appointed Municipal Administrator, taking over from retiring Administrator Richard Moore. Malcolm and Judy continue to farm the Young family farm, SW 35-3-8. They have two children:



**Ryan** (1975) graduated from McClung Collegiate in 1993. He works locally and is a partner in a computer business.

**Dena** (1978) a graduate of McClung Collegiate in 1996, obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in Psychology at Brandon University in May, 2000. She is employed in the area.

The family started a U-Pick Strawberry business in 1995. It has grown to one acre in size in 2000.

### Young, Stuart and Mary

Stuart Farquharson Young (1916) is the youngest child of Ken and Nettie Young. He received his education at the Middleton School then helped on the family farm. One of Stuart's schoolteachers, Mrs. Kay Tait, still resides in Manitou.

Stuart was keenly interested in sports, especially hockey. He played for Middleton and Manitou Hockey teams for several years. In later years he supported the community by serving on several agricultural boards and church board. He is still a strong supporter of the Manitou St. Andrew's United Church.

In 1940 Stuart married Mary Dobson (1919) the sixth child of Amos and Hannah Dobson. Together they started farming on the SE1/4 35-3-8W in Middleton where they still reside today.

They were blessed with three children; who had their schooling at Middleton and Manitou Schools.

**Patricia** (1942) received her RN from Victoria General Hospital of Nursing in Winnipeg and in 1965 married Bill Hamilton, eldest son of Cliff and Edna Hamilton. Bill is a licensed mechanic and works for



Shelmerdine Nurseries and Garden Centre Ltd. Pat helps with her grandchildren and works part time at the Health Sciences Center. They have two children: *Ken* (1966) married Dawn Sahulka in June 1996. They have two children Gareth (1998) and Lexie (2000) and *Krista* (1968) married Frank Apperley in October 1988. They have two children: Tanya (1992) and Alexander (1998)

**Doug** (1945) see Doug and Joyce Young.

**Diane** (1950) married Glen Lilke in 1968. They make their home Lowe Farm where Diane has a position at Lowe Farm School and Glen works for Paul Brandt Trucking. They have three children: *Rodney* (1968) has three children: William (1987), Steffanie (1989) and Megan (1993), *Richard* (1972) and *Sherolyn* (1977).

When Doug and Joyce were married in 1967 they took over the farmstead and Stuart and Mary moved to a new house about a quarter of a mile west. They continued helping on the farm and now with Doug=s son Geoffrey helping it makes the fourth generation on this land.

Stuart and Mary have enjoyed their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It was a very sad time when they lost their little six-year-old grandson Scott in 1978 due to a farm accident.

Stuart and Mary have enjoyed several nice trips together and for the past twenty years have spent a few months each winter in McAllen, Texas, where they have acquired many dear friends.

In July 2000 they celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (actual date April 10<sup>th</sup>). All their family were able to be home for the happy occasion and honoured their parents by hosting a tea and dinner in the C.E. Building, Manitou for their many friends and relatives.

Mary is still active in the Middleton Ladies Club, Manitou U.C.W. and Horticultural Society. Stuart will celebrate his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday and seventy-nine years on the SE ¼ 35-3-8W. He still takes a keen interest in the farm and enjoys driving a tractor or combine or wherever he can be of some help in the busy seasons.



*Stuart Young Family*

### **Zilkey, Adolph and Jennie**

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 five daughters. 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's. They moved into the town of Morden in April 1945 where they lived until Adolph passed away in the fall of 1965.

**Jean**, the eldest, (Mrs. Klassen) had a family of five daughters and two sons. Jean married Glen Steele in 1972. Jean's family: Jackie Klassen (d 1972). *Dianne* married Harvey Miner in 1969. They have two children: Nathan Miner (1975) and Jason Miner (1972), *Mary* married Jim Bryant in 1971 Divorced in 1982. They have three children: Patricia Verjean Bryant (1971), James Bryant (1994) and Christopher James Bryant (1974). Mary married Larry Eldon Murphy in 1996. *Linda* married Carl Brum in 1973. They have one son: Jerry Brum (1976). Linda divorced in 1978 and married Lorne Steele in 1980. They have two children: Jennifer (1981) and Jamie (1984). *Janice* married Dave Siebald in 1979, divorced 1995. Their children: Ashley (1980) and Travis (1984). *Murray* and *Dennis* are not married.

**Grace** trained as a registered nurse. She married Peter Predy. Their family of four children. *Les, Bruce, Jill, and Barbara*. In 1990 she married Bobby Michael Duff (1961). They have two sons: *Ryan Timothy Duff* (1991) and *Robert Peter Duff* (1995).

**Pearl** married Eddie Atkins. They had a hardware store in Morden. and have a family of two: *Pamela Margaret* married David Joey Wiebe in 1988. They have a daughter PearlAnn Lindsay (1992), *Bradley Carl* married Stella Blackburn in 1995. They have three children. Pearl Atkins passed away in 1991 and Ed Atkins passed away 1994.

**Inez** married a plumber John Loewen in Winkler, where they lived for several years. They have two daughters: *Darlene* married Steven Neil Cunningham in 1972 and has a son Jeremy Neil (1973) Darlene and Steve divorced in 1981. In 1992 Darlene married Mike Johnson (1941). They have two children: Jeremy and Jocelyn. Jocelyn married Dennis Bruce in 1987 and have a daughter Heather Anne Bruce (1989).

**Freda**, the youngest, married a man in the forces, Cork Loewen Freda passed away Nov. 26, 1979 Their family: *Barry* married Gail Vandekerckhove (2968) in 1990. They have one daughter: Alison Ellen (1994) and *Jane* – never married.

## ODDS & ENDS

### Middleton Ladies' Club Celebrates 60 Years 1996

*Western Canadian August 27, 1996*

The Middleton W.A. was formed on September 15, 1936 at the home of Mrs. Norman Checkley. Officers elected were President Mrs. Richard Hamilton, Vice President, Mrs. Ken Young, and Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Norman Checkley.

It was voted that a meeting was to be held once a month on the first Wednesday. Membership was to be twenty-five cents a year. Meetings were held regularly when weather or bad roads didn't interfere. Although it was often said the ladies got together for their meetings no matter what the weather was like.

Members present were: Mrs. Tom Berry, Mrs. Norman Checkley, Mrs. Richard Hamilton, Mrs. Harry Leatherdale, Mrs. Jack McAuley, Miss Margaret McAuley, Mrs. Andy Rutherford, Mrs. Gordon Sprung, Miss Anne Young, Mrs. John Young, and Mrs. Ken Young.

Discussion followed re the Annual Fowl Supper and resulted in a committee to be appointed by the President and Miss Reta McDowell. Rev. and Mrs. G. Dyker of Manitou attended the meeting.

At the next meeting held at Mrs. R. Hamilton's five new members joined: Mrs. Amos Dobson, Miss Mary Dobson, Mrs. Bill Dobson, Mrs. Lowry (Mrs. Rutherford's sister), and Mrs. H. Stone. Business included a report that \$64.50 was realized from the Annual Fowl Supper. The members decided to start making quilts.

Meetings opened with a reading from the scriptures, prayer and singing of a hymn.

In a report given in 1937 at the church annual when Mr. Dyker was still here, it indicated the membership of the W.A. was 24 and that the average attendance was 14 to 18 members.

Over the years many quilts were made, also articles from flour sacks such as aprons, pillow cases, tea cloths and towels etc. were made and sold.

The W.A. stopped meeting monthly in September 1942 and during the war years the organization was very busy working for the Red Cross.

February 26, 1947 after an afternoon of quilting at Mrs. Alex Young's, a discussion was held re holding monthly meetings again of the W.A. or to discontinue them. It was passed that the group continue and new officers were elected; President Mrs. John Hamilton, Vice-President Mrs. John Young, Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Stuart Young, Buying Committee Mrs. Leatherdale and Miss G. Alkerton.

At the next meeting, March 13, 1947, it was moved that the group be called "Middleton Ladies Club" instead of Middleton W.A., seconded and passed. The Cruikshanks and later the Kings of Manitou often attended the meetings. Mrs. King hosted several meetings of the club.

Some of the clubs activities were sending gifts to the boys overseas, donating \$2 for milk for Britain, sending 15 dozen crates of fresh eggs to Gimli Camp, shower gifts, wedding gifts, blankets and



*Seated are charter members from 60 years ago - Alice Leatherdale, Margaret Pedersen, Anne Oakes, Mary Young. Standing are past and present members of the Middleton Ladies' Club - Margaret Hamilton, Hellen Checkley, Mildred Brown, Margaret McGregor, Alma Young, Jessie Mackintosh, Laura Hamilton, Doreen Berry, Helen Bell, Kay Tait*

spreads for Pembina-Manitou Hospital, gifts to shut-ins and sick as well as making donations to current drives.

A project some may remember was entering the “Building the Model Farm Home’ contest for which an Honourable Mention prize of twenty-five dollars was received in October, 1948.

Over the years the Ladies Club has continued to help the community in many ways as is seen today in their arranging this gathering combining the yearly picnic with wishing newly weds Dwight and Trish Seymour well and giving our best wishes to Maurice and Elaine Sprung who are leaving the community.

The Middleton Ladies Club continues to meet once a month on the third Thursday. At present time we have 11 members and our average attendance is 8 members and we are carrying on the making of quilts.

Alice Leatherdale, Margaret McAuley (Pedersen) and Mary Dobson (Young) were members when the group was first formed and are still active members of the Middleton Ladies Club. Retired teachers Kae Tait and Jessie Mackintosh were frequent visitors.

This has been a brief review of 60 years of the Middleton Ladies Club activities and we wish them every success for the next 60 years.

At each meeting the following Grace is led by Alma Young:

*Be present at our table Lord  
Be here and every where adored  
These mercies bless and grant that we may spend our lives in serving thee.*



*Middleton Ladies Club Anniversary Cake  
1936-1996*



*1965 at Berrys'  
Agatha Young, Helen (Mrs. Fred) Checkley,  
Mrs. Sutherland, Laura Hamilton behind  
Ella Sprung, Mary Young, Mildred Brown,  
Margaret Pederson, Alma Young, Barbara  
Berry, Margaret Hamilton, Alice  
Leatherdale and child?*



*Tea Time at Alice Leatherdales'*

## Century Farm Awards

**1981**

### ***BILL AND DOREEN BERRY***



On November 28, 1981 a Century Farm Award was presented to W.R. and Doreen Berry.

The NE 2-4-8 homestead entry date 28-5-79 – homesteaded by James Berry. James Berry (1844) came to Manitou in the 1860's walking from Emerson. His mother Anne and sister Elizabeth joining him in the 1870's. Jim's brother John and family of four children, stayed with Jim and grandmother 1891-1895. Tom, John's youngest son, stayed and married Margaret Cadger, staying until 1951. They had six children: William, James, John, Donald, Dulcie and Barbara. Bill took over the farm in 1945, marrying Doreen Davidson in 1951. They have seven children; Marie, David, Elva, Nora Ann, Arthur, Donna May and Alice.

**1990**

### ***RON AND CHERYL THIESSEN***

A Century Farm Award was presented to Ron and Cheryl Thiessen at the Manitou Agricultural Fair in July, 1990

John Johns came to the Middleton area to homestead in 1879 on SW ¼ 36-3-8. His wife Mary came by train to Darlingford. They raised a family of four boys and three girls. Bill Johns was the youngest and farmed until 1963.

This was where the Middleton Skating Rink started in the early 30's. It was a community project and remained active until early 1940's. The hockey team was quite active and it is said many romances started there.

Bill passed the land onto his nephew Alvin Checkley who, along with brothers Fred, Tom and Floyd, were born and raised nearby. Alvin and Hellen raised five children. The youngest Cheryl and husband Ron Thiessen moved in 1983 to the present house built in 1913. Their children are Kari, Shane, Stacie and Chase.

Cheryl is the great-granddaughter of John Johns.



**1998**  
***SPRUNG FAMILY FARM CENTENNIAL JULY 19, 1998.***

The descendants of Fitz Allen and Martha Sprung celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sprung's on the E ½ 1-4-8W.

Two hundred and thirty friends and relatives gathered in the shade of the beautiful cottonwood tree that was planted by their ancestors.

During the afternoon program, greetings were received from the Reeve of the R.M. of Pembina, Robert McLean. Merv Tweed MLA presented a Manitoba flag and the gate sign; Lee Treilhard from the Manitoba Historical Society presented a plaque; family members reviewed the family history; reflections on stewardship of the land and rural life were shared by Laurie Crowe; Laurie, Rosemary, Percy and Bob Lea provided musical entertainment; bus tours to Lizard Lake and the Sprung Conservation project and wagon rides with teams owned by John Maloney and Dennis Jordan were enjoyed by many of the guests. A barbecue supper concluded the day's activities.



*Maurice Sprung family with Century Farm Sign placed in the special frame, made by Micheal Crowe, situated beside the refurbished walking plow, brought by the family members in 1898*



*Descendants of Fitz Allen Sprung*

## **Van Drivers**

In the earlier years once the pupils were ready to attend high school, they had to find their own means of transportation. Some walked to meet the closest van coming out to pick up families in consolidation. Others boarded in Manitou and did a certain amount of housework etc. to help pay for their board. Around the latter 1950's, Bill Cassels picked up students at the school, then went south and picked up Leonard Penner. Later Bill Duncan picked up students at their homes. Following Mr. Duncan, Tom Strange gathered up high school students. These drivers all had to supply their own vehicles.

In 1962 Middleton School was closed and the district went into consolidation with Manitou and Darlingford and all students were on regular bus routes.

Jim Thompson drove the students from this area from 1962 until his retirement in June 1998. Mr. Tom Shipman now picks up the students from the Middleton District.

## **Clubs**

Many young people were active in:

- Explorers, Messengers and C.G.I.T. – Debbie, Sharon, and Janis Brown, Mary Hamilton, Dianne Checkley, Elva, Nora Ann and Alice Berry.
- Girl Guides – Marie Berry
- Figure Skating (at Darlingford.) – Sharon and Janis Brown, and Jean Sprung
- Baseball – Donna May Berry
- Tae Kwon Do – Black Belts- Donna May (Berry) and Jessica Nichol, Alice (Berry) Wiebe, Steven and Michael - members
- Boy Scouts – Rodney Brown, Darren Seymour, Dave and Arthur Berry
- 4-H Calf Club – Richard, Debbie, Sharon, Janis and Rod Brown, Dick and Mary Hamilton, Jean Sprung, Diane, Judy, and Janet Young, Phillip and Kyle Sprung, Darren, Dale, and Dwight Seymour, Glen and Amanda Hamilton, Kari, Shane, Stacie and Chase Thiessen.  
Leaders: Allan Forrest, Harold Rendall, Jack Edgar, Ian Hamilton, and Harold Rendall.
- Horse Club – The Maurice Sprung family participated as well as sold equipment. Cheryl Checkley also active with Sunset Riders.
- Clothing Club – Lora Dobson
- Seed Club – Doug and David Young, Doug Dobson, Leader Bill Cassels
- Two trophies from the Middleton Hockey Club for competition are kept at McClung Collegiate.
- Many were active in curling and hockey.

Four generations took part in the CIBC Run For The Cure Breast Cancer Research Walk in October 2000. These members of the “Tickner Team” collected donations from the community, and walked one or five kilometers at the University of Manitoba.



*Joe and Rae Tickner, Maurice and Elaine Sprung, Kyle, Clayton and Jennifer Sprung*

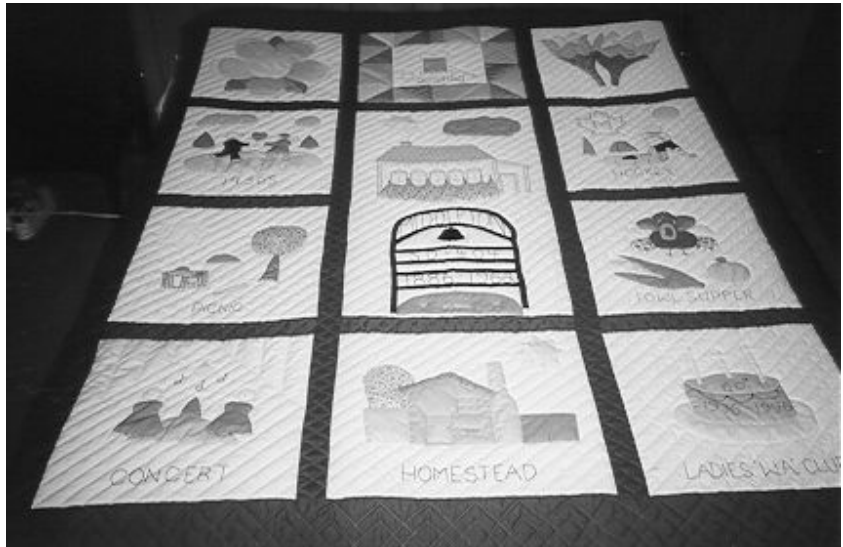
### **Cookbook**

In May, 1967 the making of a community cookbook was discussed. March 1967 the price of printing or use of church stencil was discussed. Lily Leatherdale typed the stencils. The first edition was printed in 1967. With the help of Rev. Fraser Muldrew the church gestetner was used and the book put together in the Church C.E. Building. The cover has a picture of the Middleton School on yellow, with green pages to mark sections. The book was dedicated to Rev. Dyker. On November 4, 1968 it was moved more books be made. Price \$2.00.

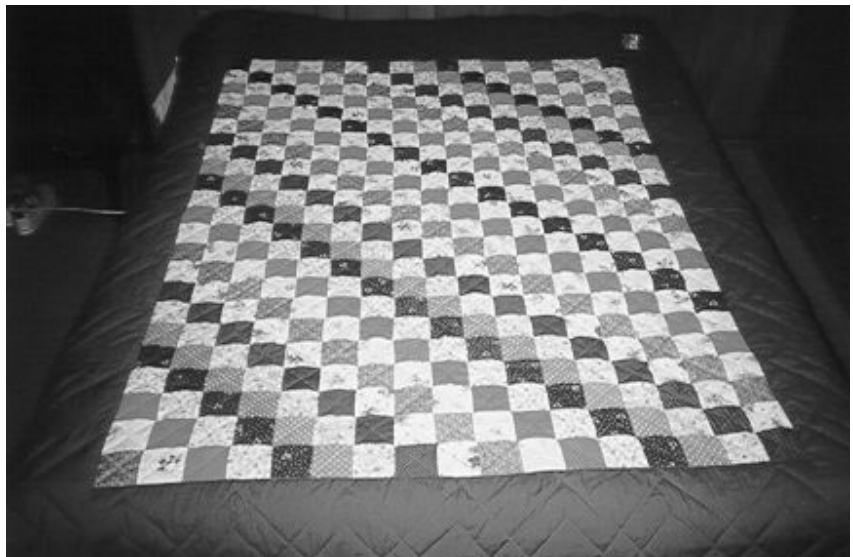
## The Middleton Quilts

The Middleton quilt made for the Village of Manitou Centennial in 1997, depicts:

- ❑ The lovely prairie rose and the hills of crocuses to the east of the school site
- ❑ The skating rink in the 1930's was a place of much co-operation to build and many good times, with a few romances !
- ❑ The hockey team was very active, travelling to compete with other teams nearby.
- ❑ The school was the community center with Christmas concerts, social activities and church services.
- ❑ The fowl (Fall) suppers and annual school picnics were enjoyed by young and old.
- ❑ The Ladies Aid Club has celebrated 60 years of kinship and prayer. With sewing and making of quilts,
- ❑ A cookbook and a local history to honor and remember those who came to homestead, some to pass through and those who stayed.
- ❑ A cairn now marks the school site.



*Middleton Centennial Quilt 1997*



*Ladies Club Quilt made in 1996/97*

## Float Entries



*1999 Darlingford Centennial*



## Trophies



*Left: R.M. of Pembina Centennial 1990 Best Overall Entry  
Right: Manitou Ag Society Centennial Parade 1983 Most  
Original Float*