



Maria and Isbrandt Unrau.



Peter and Sarah (Kroeker) Klassen.



*Jacob and Mary Wiebe
(his second wife).*



*Cornelius and
Eva (Giesbrecht) Kroeker.*



Peter and Katherine (Unrau) Kroeker.

CORNELIUS & MARIE (DUECK) KROEKER

Submitted by Abe Kroeker

Maria Dueck was the daughter of Peter Dueck (1840 - 1910). She married Cornelius on July 7, 1875.

Around 1897, Cornelius and Marie moved to the Altona area

from the East Reserve. Apparently they moved onto a farm near Gnadenfeld. Their families, along with many others, took up farming. Others found other means for their livelihood. Records suggest they paid about \$6,600 for the farm. Shortly after 1900, Cornelius and Marie moved to a farm in the Lowe Farm area. Their farm was about one and a half miles southeast of Lowe Farm.

Our family started attending the Bergthaler Church in the late 1940's. Sunday School classes were part of the Inter-denominational and Bergthaler groups. The Sommerfelds only included this as part of their service some time later. In the 1930's, with the beginning of the influence of the American Evangelical movement, members of the Bergthaler group left to start the Rudnerwieder Church. In the 1940's, another group left the Bergthalers to begin the Emmanuel Gospel Church.

In the early 1930's, our grandparents, Cornelius and Maria Kroeker, ran into financial problems after co-signing loans for other families. I remember going to their farm with a tractor and binder to help them with harvesting their crop.

Shortly after giving up the farm, Cornelius and Maria moved in with their children, Cornelius and Eva and their children. After



Cornelius and Maria (Dueck) Kroeker.

some time, they were offered a custodial position in the Kronsweide Church. A year after making this move, Grandmother died of cancer. Grandfather then moved back with my parents.

In March, 1941, my parents and Grandfather went with an open sleigh to attend a funeral about seven miles away. On their way back, a severe snowstorm developed, making it very difficult for them to find their way. About a quarter mile from home, Dad and Grandfather got off the sleigh in an attempt to find the driveway. Grandfather got lost and was found the next morning, two-and-a-half miles from where he had gotten off. He was badly frozen, and died a week later, at the age of 71.

We really missed him, as he was a big help around the farm. He was also missed for his friendship and caring for us as grandchildren. I remember that on occasion, we would not go to church on very cold Sunday mornings. On these days, Grandfather would call us into his room upstairs, read a few portions from his big Bible, and sing a few songs. After he was finished we would run downstairs to enjoy the noon meal Mother had prepared. I also remember Grandfather would give thanks before and after the meal.

CORNELIUS & EVA KROEKER

Submitted by Armin Wiebe



Cornelius and Eva Kroeker.



The home of Cornelius and Eva Kroeker.



*The children of Cornelius and Eva Kroeker;
Abe, Dora, Erdman, Emmie, Marie, Alvin, and John.*

Brick siding - that was one feature the grandparents a mile or so down the road. Of course, the two half-mile dirt driveways sometimes made just getting there an adventure, especially if Dad decided to take the driveway from the south at the wrong time of year.

The warmth of that brick siding house disguised the hard times that had been experienced there. I'm told that my grandparents didn't own the farm until some years after I was born.

Grandpa Kroeker was a man with a droll sense of humor, full of stories which tended to emphasize the funny side of life, whether he was relating the more pungent smoking habits of some of his neighbors or coming up with imaginative solutions to farm problems. For example, he told of his experience with growing sugar beets. When the fellow with the row crop cultivator finished cultivating the rows the long way, Grandpa asked him to cultivate the rows "dedwaa" (crossways) as well to reduce the amount of thinning that would have to be done with a hoe.

Grandpa Kroeker was also an inventor. He made the first mechanical bale loader I ever saw out of an old "begga" grain loader. People from around the neighborhood came to see Kroeker's bales hoisted up to the hayloft under the power of a stationary engine. Finding ways of making work easier was one of Grandpa's trademarks. Mom has told me that he rigged up a motor to Grandma's hand-powered washing machine to relieve her of this drudgery. Years

later, this attitude had Grandpa install running water in that bricksiding farmhouse to ease Grandma's arthritis. Another man might have invested in a bigger tractor instead.

The green '51 Ford and the red Massey-Harris 44 tractor were perhaps the only new vehicles Grandpa bought in his life. He owned the '51 Ford for 13 years and missed it when it was gone. At his farm auction he refused to sell the 44 for less than he thought it was worth.

I remember Grandma in the garden wearing her 'jungle' hat and men's shoes. Her garden was a magical place, especially the rows of raspberries and 'hymnberries'. I have a memory of waking up from an extended afternoon nap, (severe punishment on the farm where there was so much to miss), and running outside to find Grandma smiling as she filled a bowl with berries from the bushes that seemed to stretch all the way from the brick siding house to the white garage. The last time I saw her she smiled from her wheelchair, hiding her arthritic pain.

ABE & IRENE KROEKER

Submitted by Abe Kroeker

Abe, son of Cornelius and Eva (Giesbrecht) Kroeker, and Irene (Fast) Kroeker were married in 1953. This was the year of the crowning of Queen Elizabeth, so our children have royal descent! They include: Kenneth Charles, Geraldine Anne and Ella May, who came along to complete the family.

We moved to Winnipeg in 1953, and we both got employment. In December, 1954, Kenneth came into our lives and changed our lifestyle. During the following years, two girls, Geraldine Anne and Ella May were born, completing our family.

In the early 1950's Dad and I invested in some land near Langruth, Manitoba. This venture did not turn out. At first the rainy weather made it almost impossible to develop; then we realized there was a bombing range a few miles away. This proved to be entertaining at first, but became rather disturbing.

In 1956, the property my parents had been renting since 1927 was offered for sale. Dad bought 280 acres and we bought 200 acres. This move directed our lives back to farming again. This new start was a very modest farming start.

Our community involvement took much of our time. Sunday School, youth work and choir, coop boards, the community centre and then a stint of driving a school van were some extra involvements.

My 12-year involvement as a school trustee took too much of my time and also left an unfair responsibility at home. However, in the end, I was pleased that with the help of others I got the Division's music program on the road. However, I almost lost my shirt in getting the stage addition to the Lowe Farm School. In retirement, the board gave me a school bell and a plaque with the

inscription, "Your striving for the inclusion in the curriculum of the things that raise the thoughts of the students from the mundane to the artistic and intellectual qualities in life."

Our retirement years have also been very busy and meaningful. I have worked for three terms as custodial helper at the Canadian Mennonite Bible College and now work as security staff at Bethel Place, a senior home. For the last few years I have been compiling a Kroeker genealogy.

DORA KROEKER WIEBE

Dora Kroeker Wiebe was born on Grandma Giesbrecht's home place, about two miles northeast of Lowe Farm. My parents moved to a farm just one and a half miles east of Grandma's. I spent many hours at Grandma and Uncle Henry's home. I still have the salt shaker Grandmother gave me on my fifth birthday. This was the year my great-grandmother Kroeker passed away. She was almost blind, but could peel an apple without breaking the peel.

In 1935, grandparents Cornelius and Maria Dueck Kroeker moved in with us. Then, a year later, grandmother Kroeker died of cancer. Grandfather was living with us until 1941 when he got lost in a snowstorm and died a week later. He was of great help around the house and garden.

One day as Emmie and I started out toward school, Grandfather called me back. He kissed me for my fourteenth birthday. I told Emmie that when she turned 14 she would get a kiss from him too. Sadly, I was wrong, for that was the last time I saw my grandfather alive.

DONALD & SALLY (FRIESEN) LEWIS



Donald and Sally Lewis

Don and Sally Lewis were married on April 6, 1957, in the Morris United Church.

Sally was born and raised half a mile east and half south of Lowe Farm, the youngest daughter of Jacob and Nettie Friesen. She received her education in Lowe Farm, and it was during her high school years that she met Don, who had transferred from the Morris High School to Lowe Farm during the flood of 1950.

Don, who is the son of Ralph and Olive Lewis, received his primary education at the Pleasant Valley School situated just one mile north of his home. The Lewis home farm is two-and-a-half miles east and five miles north of Lowe Farm. After high school Don attended the University of Manitoba and received his diploma in Agriculture. Sally started working in the Bank of Montreal in Winnipeg after high school. After their marriage she worked at the Bank of Montreal in Morris for three-and-a-half years. Don started farming during these years on the home farm on Sec 27-5-1w.

Don has taken an active part in community affairs, acting as board member and chairman of the Lowe Farm Pool Elevators for many years, board member of the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op, representative on the Morris General Hospital board as well as various other community involvements. Sally has served on the board of the Lowe Farm Co-op Services, and has been active in community, social, and church activities.

They have three children: Howard, Linda, and Robert.

Howard and Heather (Kingdon) live in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. Their children are Megan, and Riley, and Declan (deceased in infancy).

Linda and Rick Dwyer live with their little son Jesse at Melfort, Saskatchewan.

Rob lives in Winnipeg and attends the University of Manitoba.

GLEN & DIANE (YOUNG) LILKE

Glen and Diane (Young) Lilke were married April 15, 1968. They have three children: Rodney Glen, born October 1, 1968; Richard Edward, born September 2, 1972; and Sherolyn Diane, born December 21, 1977. They also have five grandchildren: William, Steffanie, Channing, Cody and Megan.

Glen was born in Altona Hospital on February 21, 1949. He was raised until age five in Rosenfeld and then they resided in Manitou. His parents were August and Ella Lilke.

Diane was born in Morden Hospital to Stuart and Mary Young on March 5, 1950. She grew up in Manitou where her parents are still living and farming.

Glen works in Winnipeg for General Truck Sales as a warranty administrator. Diane is a teacher's assistant with Lowe Farm School and is also a first responder/ fire fighter with the Lowe Farm Fire Department.

Rodney and Liz live in Ingersoll, Ontario. Rod is an

executive with Siemens Distributing in London, Ontario. A big wig! Liz works for Siemens as well. The five grandchildren are Rod's kids.

Richard and Tina live in Winnipeg. Rick graduated from John Taylor Collegiate in Winnipeg and Tina graduated from St. Jean. Rick works at West End Plumbing and Heating as a sales representative. Tina is attending the University of Manitoba.

Sherolyn is doing respite work with Michael and Timothy Dyck as well as other babysitting jobs. She also subs in as a teacher's assistant when the others are unable to be there. She graduated from Morris High School with Honors.

Glen and Diane Lilke along with their son Richard and daughter Sherolyn moved to Lowe Farm from the city in June of 1991. Glen and Diane decided they wanted to leave the hustle and bustle of the city life and move closer to their roots.

ABE & MARGE MATTHIES

Submitted by Marge Matthies

Abe was born in Portage La Prairie, in the summer of 1926. He grew up in the Culross area. In 1949, together with his dad and sister, he moved to Sperling, where he farmed with his dad for many years.

Marge was born in Russia, also in 1926. She moved to Canada with her parents in 1929 and grew up in northern Saskatchewan, near the small village of Glenbush.

Abe was a farmer by trade and my profession was teaching. After we moved to Manitoba I was hired to teach in a country school in the Sperling area, where I met my husband. We were married in the fall of 1951. We had three children:

Clifford was born in 1953. He married Gloria Schroeder in 1974. He served on the Credit Union staff in Lowe Farm and Lethbridge, Alberta. He could not get the farm out of his system and so, in 1976 they moved back to Manitoba and took up farming. He has been farming in summertime in the Lowe Farm area and long distance trucking in the wintertime for 21 years. They have three children: Cameron, Jeryn and Jocelyn.

Jacqueline was born in 1957. She married Les Dyck in 1977. She worked in the Bank of Montreal at Carman and later in Morris. Les is a carpenter (cabinet maker) by trade. They have three children: Kere, Riley and Kelsey. About a year-and-a-half after Kelsey was born, Jackie came down with a very rare blood disease called "aplastic anemia". She underwent a bone marrow transplant, which seemed to prove successful, but a virus hit her liver and she died on April 4, 1997. Only God has the answer to the question, why?

Dennis was born in 1959. He still lives at our home place at Lowe Farm. After finishing high school, he too joined the staff of the Lowe Farm Credit Union. He soon was promoted to the position of manager and is still

there.

Besides farming, my husband worked for the Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation for 13 years. In the year 1986 we retired from the farm and moved to Winkler. We are enjoying our retirement. We have gone on several trips with Fehr-Way Tours and other ways. We enjoy our many friends, neighbors and our church. We spend our time doing volunteer work for the Mennonite Central Committee, Senior Centre and serving in our church.

JOHN & SUSAN (KLASSEN) MARTENS

John, son of the late John D. Martens, and Susan, daughter of the late John K. Klassen, were married on August 3, 1957. Both of John's parents are deceased. Susan's mother, Nettie Klassen, resides at the Prairie View Apartments in Lowe Farm.

We have three children: Maureen Christine, Richard John Darryl, and Tamara Suzanne.

Christine is married to Ed Froese. They live on a hobby farm close to Plum Coulee. They have three girls, Amanda Koren, Tiffany Paige, and Marley Christine. Ed is the loan officer at the Lowe Farm Credit Union. Chris is employed at Grace's Place in Altona. Amanda has graduated from high school and is presently attending South Winnipeg Technical College. Tiffany is in Grade X and Marley is in Grade VII.

Richard is married to Candace Renae Dyck. They reside in Winkler where Candace was employed at the hospital for over seven years. They had a baby daughter in October, Brielle Rikkia, so Candace is presently at home looking after their new baby. Rick is employed at D. W. Friesen's in Altona.

Tammy is married to Byron Klassen and they reside in Morris. Byron is employed at the Pembina Valley Water Treatment plant in Morris. Tammy was director of nursing at the Rosenort Eventide Home until the "Flood of the Century" destroyed the home and the elementary school in Rosenort in the spring of 1997. Tammy is presently up-grading to her Bachelor of Nursing, and taking care of their one year old daughter, Jessica Suzanne.

John was employed with Paul Braun Construction, then with Norman Spalding Construction, but purchased his own truck in 1962. John was self-employed for 24 years, until he started working for Manitoba Highways in the fall of 1985. He had already been working for them off and on with his truck for 18 years. John worked for the Highways Department until his retirement in 1997.

Susan started working with the Home Care Program in 1987 until July of 1996. She also worked at Ike and Olga's store for one and a half years, from 1965 - 1966.

Susan and the family used to go along with the camper when John would work away from home during the summer months. This has cultivated many friendships. Now that we are retired we are spending more

and more time, sometimes half the summer, in our "RV". Our favorite haunts still seem to be Falcon Lake and Bird's Hill Provincial Park.

ADOLF & MARY (REMPEL) MURNER

Submitted by Evelyn Rose



Fiftieth anniversary of Adolf and Mary. (l-r) Charlotte, Evelyn, Alvin, Wally, Edith, Dianne; front, Adolf and Mary.



*Adolf and Mary Murner
on their 55th wedding anniversary, 1989.*

Adolf was born May 6, 1901, in Reudlen near Reichenbach in Switzerland, the oldest of six children. He immigrated to Canada in 1923 with a friend. After working at various jobs in Ontario he traveled west to Saskatchewan where he worked as a carpenter, construction worker and a farm hand. While in Saskatchewan Adolf served as secretary for a Swiss Club.

In 1929, it became virtually impossible to find a job. With his savings all gone, Adolf finally found work on a dairy farm in exchange for his room and board. He

received no pay for three years but he never complained, as he was thankful to have a roof over his head and food to eat.

Maria (Mary) was born on a farm in Bergfeld, Manitoba, near Grunthal, on October 9, 1907, to Cornelius and Katharina (Friesen) Rempel. Born prematurely at a time when premature babies were not expected to live, Mary was placed in a shoe box which was kept by the wood cookstove to keep her warm.

In 1913, the family moved to a farm near Lowe Farm. Mary enjoyed helping her father in the field. She said her dad was proud of the straight furrows she made in the field with a five horse team. She even broke in some horses and loved the excitement of it. All this when she was around 12 years old. She enjoyed playing cowboy with her brother Abe as they herded the cattle. Threshing and hauling grain to the elevator with the horses was also exciting.

Mary attended the one room Heabert School in the country east of Lowe Farm with her brothers and sisters until she was taken out of school due to health problems.

Mary's health problems started when she was about 12 years old. During that time there was an epidemic of measles, scarlet fever, mumps and the flu. It was during the bout with measles that Mary's eyes became very sore. Different medications were tried but nothing helped. In the end her eyes were damaged to the point where she lost all sight and became blind. The years following were filled with many agonizing treatments and experiments to her eyes. She lived with a doctor and his family for about four years while he treated her eyes. After 10 years of treatments, 25 percent of her eye sight was restored.

During the years of sickness, blindness, pain and loneliness, Mary turned to God. She cried out to Him for help and He relieved her pain and agony. God gave her peace in her heart and soul and she continually praised and thanked Him for that.

It was in 1932, that Adolf began to correspond with Mary as the result of an ad for pen pals placed in the Weekly Prairie Farmer. (Stamps were only three cents.) With the encouragement of Mary, Adolf decided to seek work in Manitoba. He came to Manitoba in 1933, and they were married September 30, 1934, in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Church.

They made their home in Lowe Farm for the first 10 years of their marriage. Five of their six children were born during this time.

When both jobs and gasoline were scarce, Dad trudged many miles searching for work in order to feed his family. He would make a circle walking from Lowe Farm to Morris, Aubigny, Rosenort, Sperling, Homewood, Roland and back to Lowe Farm. The family moved to Sperling in 1944 because work seemed to be more plentiful there. Their fifth child was born just before the move and their sixth and last child was born the following year.

Through the years Dad worked mainly in carpentry and construction. He built many barns in the Lowe Farm - Sperling area and did a lot of home renovations. By the late 1960s he was working as a maintenance man in charge of several buildings in Winnipeg. He retired in 1968 due to health problems. After living in Sanford alternately with a son's and a daughter's family for a time, Adolf and Mary moved back to Lowe Farm in 1970. In 1986 they moved out of their house and into the Prairieview Apartments in Lowe Farm.

During their retirement years Mom and Dad enjoyed relatively good health. They were able to travel frequently visiting their children who by this time had scattered into British Columbia and the United States.

One of the most exciting days of Mom's life occurred in 1974 when she won the Dream Kitchen Contest. She won many appliances and also some money. With a bit of help from their children, Mom and Dad were able to take a trip to Switzerland. It was to be the only time Dad would return to his homeland. He was reunited with his only remaining brother and sister-in-law as well as an aunt and some cousins. It gave him great pleasure to be able to show his wife where he was raised and to introduce her to his relatives. (Some of Ad and Mary's children were also able to go to Switzerland to meet relatives before Dad's death.)

From the time Dad and Mom returned to Lowe Farm in 1970, they were faithful attendees at the Emmanuel Gospel Church. Ironically they both died on a Sunday morning. Mom died at home from a heart attack in 1990 while preparing to go to church. Dad died in the Morris Hospital from pneumonia in 1994. Both are buried in the Lowe Farm Cemetery.

Adolf and Mary's children, in order of age are:

Alvin married Lillian Nurnberg. They live in Sanford and have one married son, Rickie, and two grandchildren. Alvin retired as District Chief with the Winnipeg Fire Department in 1994 after 37 years of service. He was also Fire Chief for the Macdonald Fire Department for 25 years and served as Boyne River District Mutual Aid Coordinator for 18 years.

Evelyn married Henry Rose. They live in Lowe Farm and have three married children, Deborah, Barrie and Tony, and eight grandchildren. Evelyn retired from the Manitoba Telephone System in 1996.

Waldo (Wally) married Sandra Merriman. They live in Woodstock, Georgia, and have two sons, William and Kenneth. Wally is the Regional Sales Manager for Baumer Foods.

Edith married Wright Parker. They live in Sanford and have two married children, Edward and Wendy, and five grandchildren. Edith was a teacher's aid at the J. A. Cuddy School in Sanford for 14 years. She retired in the fall of 1996.

Dianne married Stan Ferris. They live in Cloverdale, British Columbia and have four children, Christine, Wesley, Michael and Verena, and one grandchild. Dianne

operates her own day care centre.

Charlotte married Gordon Dyck. They live in Black Creek (Campbell River), British Columbia and have four married children, Bernadine, Randal, Robert and Lorrina, and 13 grandchildren. Charlotte and Gordon own and operate Campbell River Auction in Campbell River.

ABRAM & NETTIE NEUFELD



Farmyard of Abram and Nettie Neufeld

Abram and Nettie Neufeld, who were married in the fall of 1935, moved to the St. Peter's district near Sewell, Manitoba.

Dad had a threshing machine, which he had purchased in 1925. Together with his gang of 15 to 20 men, he was busy threshing for others in the community, as well as doing their own farming. They raised mostly cereal grains, but always kept some livestock.

They were blessed with eight healthy children: Edna, Edwin, Elmer, Edward, Esther, Eleanora, Evelyn and Ernie. We spent our elementary school days in St. Peters and Lowe Farm High School. We usually traveled to school with horse and buggy, or sleigh in the winter time. If the horses were being used on the farm, we would have to walk two-and-a-half miles to school.

The family is all married and live in the following areas: Edna and John Kehler live at Kane. They had three children (one deceased); Edwin and verna live in Morris and have three children; Elmer and Hilda live in Winnipeg and have two children; Edward and Beverly live in Campbell River, British Columbia. They had two children (one deceased); Esther and Perry Kuhl reside in Winnipeg and have two children; Eleanora and Ed Peters reside in Winkler and have one child; Evelyn and Bernie Penner reside in Altona and have two children; Ernie and Robyn live in Winnipeg and have one child.

The family farm was sold in 1966 and the Neufelds retired to Winkler. They kept busy caring for their large garden and by other activities. Abram died January 14, 1994. Nettie died February 16, 1994.

PETER P. & NETTIE PAETKAU

Peter P. and Nettie Paetkau settled on NW 24-5-2w from the Sperling area in 1949. Here they farmed until 1975 and semi-retired to the previous school yard of Neufeld School District SE 25-5-2w. The Neufeld S.D. is located four miles north of Lowe Farm. Semi-retired, Peter worked at the sugar factory in



Peter and Nettie Paetkau

Winnipeg and Loewen Bearing in Altona. Never being totally retired from farming, he worked as a 'gopher' for his sons. Later in 1988 they moved to Winkler for a more permanent retirement. Peter and Nettie also raised three sons; Cornie, Abe and John. Cornie and Abe reside at Lowe Farm and John and his wife Sharon reside in Pipestone, Minnesota.

Both Peter P. and Nettie are deceased. Peter was born September 11, 1910, and died October 23, 1990. Nettie was born October 14, 1916, and died October 2, 1994.

CORNIE P. & ELLEN PAETKAU

Cornie P. and Ellen Paetkau first settled on SE 25-5-2w for one year and in 1967 moved to NW 17-5-2w where they are still farming. We have two sons, Russell and Trevor. Russell is married to Pearl (Wiebe) and they have two children- Corey and Madyson. Russell has a full time job at Integra in Winkler and farms part time with his father.

Trevor works at the St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg. Russell is the third generation living on SE 25-5-2w.



Back row: Corey, Madyson, Russell, Pearl, Trevor; Front row: Ellen and Cornie.



Picture of land at NW 17-5-2w where Cornie and Ellen reside.



Former Neufeld school yard, SE 25-5-2w, home of Russell and Pearl Paetkau.

VICTOR ABE & ESTHER (DYCK) PAETKAU

Submitted by Abe Paetkau

I am the second of three sons born to Peter P. and Nettie Paetkau (1910 - 1990), of Lowe Farm. We moved to the Lowe Farm area in 1949 from Sperling. I was three years old at the time and remember moving to Lowe Farm, Section 24-5-2w.

The farm was bought from Rev. Abram F. Wiebe, who built the farm homestead. The two-story house was built in 1938. We lived in the Neufeld School District all of our life, farming with Mom and Dad and two other brothers.

In 1967, we bought the NE quarter of 24-5-2w and I was married to Esther Dyck from Elm Creek in 1968. We farmed together for several years with the help of some rented land. In 1974, we sold the cultivated acres and made a living off of livestock and local jobs such as trucking and construction work.

In 1975, we started on a new venture of erecting steel grain bins for farmers and agriculture dealers in the area as seasonal work. This venture took us from the Steinbach area west to Yorkton, Saskatchewan and north from Dauphin and the St. Rose area to south of the United States border in the Cavalier and Langdon, North Dakota area.

In the fall and winter months I hired on as a bus driver in the city of Winnipeg and on highway buses, a second income together with my wife Esther, who is the tour guide. We have done many tours to the United States in the fall and winter. We tour such places as Florida, Arizona, Nevada, Nashville, and Branson, the Black Hills as well as the east coast.

Born to us are three sons. All are married and living in the area: Todd married Joanne Friesen of Lowe Farm; Terry married Susan Dyck of Carman; Joel married Anglia Reimer of Altona.

We have also been blessed with four grandchildren: Bradley, Michael, Nicholas and Amanda.



The Paetkau farm, NE 1/4, 24-5-2w.



Abe and Esther Paetkau, 25th anniversary, 1994.



The children of Abe and Esther. Front row: Terry and Susan, Todd and Joanne, Joel and Ang. Back row: Esther and Abe.



Grain bins, set up at various places with a busbel capacity of approximately 35,000 per bin.



Moving grain bins out of Dominion City to the yard of Ray St. Goddard yard. The bin has a 4,000 busbel capacity.



The old homestead.

LORNE & IRENE (WIEBE) PENNER

Lorne is the youngest of the nine children of Ben and Tina Penner. He was born in Morris General Hospital on January 14, 1952, and spent his growing up years in Lowe Farm. After being released early from high school (for good behavior) he entered the work force. On July 1, 1972, he married his high school sweetheart, Irene Wiebe, daughter of the late Jake and Tiena Wiebe, now of Altona.

Lorne and Irene live on an acreage just west of Brandon, Manitoba, and have three children. They own and operate a business consisting of overhead door sales and service, as well as truck cap and accessories sales. They attend the McDiarmid Drive Alliance Church.

Kathy was born on March 22, 1977. She married Mike Hildebrand on August 3, 1996. They live on a farm south of Brandon and have one son, Dominik, born May 18, 1998.

Brian was born March 27, 1979. He lives and works in Brandon. Jon was born June 17, 1980, and lives at home, working in Brandon.

COREY & KATHRYN (FULFORD) PENNER



Corey and Kathryn Penner

Corey, the son of George and Mary Penner, was born in Morden on July 3, 1969. He grew up on the family farm one mile south of Kane where he lived for 20 years prior to purchasing a house in Lowe Farm (#16, 1st Ave.).

Corey started farming with the family farm in 1991 and continues to farm today. He was married on July 4, 1992, to Kathryn Fulford. Kathryn, the daughter of Bill and Rosalie Fulford, was born in Winnipeg, January 23, 1968. She grew up in Morris and, following high school, entered University where she obtained a Bachelor of

Human Ecology, Foods and Nutrition degree. This was followed by the completion of a Dietetic Internship in July 1995. Kathryn is currently employed as a clinical dietitian at both Misericordia and Victoria Hospitals in Winnipeg.

PETER & SARAH (HIEBERT) PENNER

Submitted by Charlotte Dyck



Sarah and Peter Penner on their 50th anniversary.



Elizabeth, Raymond, Marjorie, Sadie, Sarah and Peter Penner.

Peter was born September 7, 1902, one of 12 children born to Peter F. and Margaretha (Harder) Penner. Peter F. and Margaretha were born 1873 and 1875 in Schoenfeld, Russland.

Sarah was born November 23, 1905, the first of 15 children born to Abram (1883) and Sarah (1886) (Funk) Hiebert. Her grandparents, John and Sarah Funk and Johan and Anna (Harder) Hiebert, lived in the Lowe Farm area.

Peter married Sarah Hiebert of Lowe Farm in 1923. They farmed in the Kane district and raised their family there.

They had four children: Sadie married Bill Dyck. They had three children; Gordon, Jean and Marion.

Marjorie married Anton Friesen. They had three children; Gary, Walter and Joan.

Elizabeth married George Penner. They had four children; Dianne, Linda, Jacqueline and Lottie.

Raymond married Jean Cross. They had one child; Wendy. Raymond died when he was 24.

Peter and Sarah retired to Lowe Farm in September, 1966, where they lived until December, 1974 when Peter's health failed and they moved to the Winkler Salem home.

On October 7, 1973, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Lowe Farm Junior High School.

Peter died in 1975 and Sarah in 1982.

PETER P. & ANNA (EWERT) PENNER

Submitted by Mary Penner



Peter Penner celebrating his 100th birthday in Lowe Farm, September 30, 1979. (l - r) He is flanked by his 10 children, Diedrich, Jacob, Dave, Ben, Peter, Helen Falk, Margaret Peters, Mary Froese, Tina Klassen, Annie Wiebe.

Peter P. Penner was born in the Plum Coulee area to Peter and Margaretha Penner (nee Wiebe) on September 29, 1879. His parents had immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1874. He grew up on his parents farm and on July 9, 1901, he was united in marriage to Anna Ewert.

Anna was one of identical twins born to Johann and Helen Ewert (nee Sawatsky) on May 17, 1884. The Ewerts had immigrated to Canada from Russia in 1875.

The twins, Anna and Margaretha, were so much alike that their school teachers, friends, and even their stepfather, could not tell them apart. They remained so much alike in later years, and always made identical dresses. It was amazing to see them show up at weddings or other public functions, wearing the same dresses, without having discussed it beforehand. Even their grandchildren couldn't tell them apart.

The Penners farmed in the Plum Coulee area, and nine children were born to the family; Helen, Peter, Margaret, Henry, Ben, David, Mary, John and Jacob.

In 1918, Peter purchased north half of Section 27-4-2w near Lowe Farm and moved there to farm. After a few bad crops, and a depression in the making, Peter lost everything he owned. There were born into the family at Lowe Farm three more children: Tina, Diedrich, and Annie.

In the years following the loss of his land, Peter worked at various jobs, whatever was available. He worked some years for the Rural Municipality of Morris, and for drainage maintenance hauling lumber. he also did some bricklaying. At the age of 70 or 72 he was seen on the roof of the Berghthaler Church, making a chimney. In later years he also worked for Manitoba Sugar in Winnipeg.

After living in various empty farm yards, they purchased the old Moses Altman house in Lowe Farm in 1936 and moved it to the west end of Main Street. They lived there until 1966.

When their son Henry died in 1951, Peter inherited his 1949 Austin and in the following years he was nicknamed "the taxi driver." If someone needed to go to the doctor or dentist and had no means of going, Peter was the man to see. Some days he made two or three trips to Morris. Sometimes he drove to Altona or Winkler, or even Morden.

After Anna suffered several

strokes and poor health, they moved to the Ebenezer Units in Altona in January of 1966. Anna passed away on March 24, 1966.

Peter celebrated his 99th birthday on September 29, 1978, and lived in the Ebenezer Home for the Aged in Altona. Peter P. Penner passed away in 1980 at the age of 100 and eight months.

Concerning the Penner children:

Peter and Helen (Penner) Falk lived for many years in Lowe Farm. They moved to Winnipeg. Peter passed away in 1983 and Helen passed away in 1989.

Peter Penner passed away in 1991. Margaret (John) Peters passed away in 1996. Mary (Frank) Froese passed away in 1989. Tina (Isaac) Klassen lost her husband in 1989. She still resides in Winnipeg. Annie (Clanton) Wiebe and her husband live in Winnipeg. Diedrich Penner passed away in 1998. His widow resides in Penticton, British Columbia.

DAVE & MARY PENNER



Dave and Mary Penner

Dave and Mary Penner can probably be considered “pure bred” Lowe Farmers! Mary’s maternal grandparents, the Frank Giesbrechts, settled on section 15-4-2w in 1879 where her mother Margaret grew up.

In 1920, Margaret Giesbrecht married the recent widower, Henry B. Wiebe (the watchmaker) who was originally from Altona, but who had purchased the north half of 34-4-2w in the Kane district in 1919. He farmed this land as well as the north half of 35-4-2w in the Lowe Farm district, which was owned by his father. When his own land returned to its original owner in 1927, Henry bought his father’s land and the family moved there. It is on this farm that Mary grew up, attending school from Grades I - VIII in Lowe Farm.



Heppner's Pond. Allan, Leonard and Janice Penner, Paul, Herman and Alice Friesen, Lornie Penner and Keith Braun, 1961.



Waiting for the game at Heppner's Pond, 1960. Allan and Leonard Penner.



(l - r) Jake Loeppky, Dave Penner and Alf Goldman.



The Dave Penner Family in 1993.

Dave Penner, whom Mary married in 1940, worked for her father. Dave's parents, Peter and Anna (Ewert) Penner, originally farmed near Plum Coulee, but moved to the Lowe Farm area when Dave was about six. He got his early education in the Kronsweide, Kane and Heabert schools.

The town of Lowe Farm has been home to Dave and Mary since they left the Wiebe farm in 1942. Their first home was a two-room house on the south side of the tracks in Lowe Farm. The only other buildings on this side of the tracks were the elevators, CN station, and CN section house and the old cattle loading pens and shoots (a great playground for Rose Marie, Margie and Bobby). Mary recalls having a nightmare that a train on the tracks blocked her ability to rescue her sleeping

children from their burning house. She had left them momentarily as she ran across the track to the Rosner's store for some groceries. Those children were never left unattended! In 1948 the house was moved to the "right side of the tracks" and was added onto over the years as the family grew in size. In 1978, this house was torn down and Dave and Mary moved into a new house on the same property.

Although Dave and Mary moved to Morris in 1996 because there was no suitable housing in Lowe Farm for an active elderly couple after they sold the house, their hearts remain in Lowe Farm.

The annual dividend from the Co-op merchants comes in handy and the coffee and camaraderie are still the best in the Lowe Farm coffee shop. They meet their friends in the Friendship Centre and the Emmanuel Gospel Church



Tom and Cindy Ashton.

continues to be their place of worship as it has been for 44 years.

Dave's adult life began at 14, when he began to work as a farm

hand on farms around Lowe Farm. In 1943 he began working for the CNR and was employed by them until his retirement in 1978 with a brief interruption during WWII. Dave accepted the draft in January, 1944, trained in British Columbia, and was stationed on Partridge Island in the Bay of Fundy, then in Shilo and Winnipeg until his discharge in August, 1946. For Mary these two and a half years with three babies were difficult ones.

Dave worked as a Section man and foreman for the CNR in Myrtle, Dakotah, Silver Plains, Roland, Miami, Morris and Lowe Farm. The home base, however, was Lowe Farm. When it was impossible to travel back and forth, Dave stayed in cold, lonely bunk cars and Mary tended a house full of kids by herself. Dave's stories of walking to work to Myrtle or Morris in a blizzard, with temperatures of minus 35 degrees Celsius, with his back pack full of food for the week and newspapers stuffed in his boots to keep his feet from freezing, are bone chilling!

In addition to helping keep the school buildings full of children and the grocery store in business, Dave and Mary's presence was felt in the community. Dave served on the board of directors of the Lowe Farm Co-op for many years and was on the original board that worked for the construction of the Senior's apartments. He served on this board for 10 years. Mary's major contributions were through her activities in the Emmanuel Gospel Church where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, and in the ladies' trio. She was the secretary or president of the Ladies Missionary Fellowship for many years. She helped to organize the meal program at the senior's apartments.

Currently, Dave and Mary are still active in the Church, Friendship Centre, and the meal program and devote much time and energy to the MCC Self Help store in Morris. Those crisply starched and ironed doilies, some of those neatly dressed dolls, some of those blankets patched from those seventies polyester pants and skirts, and the finishing touches on Dave's creations, are Mary's handiwork. Doll cribs, little end tables, plant stands, bric-a-brac shelves, and repair jobs on furniture, are Dave's contribution. They enjoy travelling with seniors tour groups and visiting their children. Dave has developed a new interest in the past few years - computer games! His checker and chess skills are well known in southern Manitoba. (He won the second prize in a checker tournament in 1998.) Now he enjoys matching his skills against those on screen characters.

Dave and Mary's children: Rose Marie (1941), Marjorie (1942), Bob (1944), Allan (1948), Leonard (1952), Janice (1953), Roxanna (1958), Loretta (1961-1962) and Douglas (1964), grew up in Lowe Farm over a 41 year time span. (1941 - 1962) Their parents encouraged them to put their faith in God and to get an education.

The oldest four graduated from the Lowe Farm Collegiate and the youngest four from the Morris Colle-

giate after consolidation. They are all proud to be Lowe Farmers and cherish the friendships that were started sometimes before they started school and continued through 12 years of schooling. Many of these friendships still endure today.

Their lives were positively influenced and enriched by school teachers like: Anna and Justina Wiens, J. P. Goossen, John Enns, A. P. Hildebrand, J. L. Doerkson, Hardy Kehler, Cornie Fehr, Katherine Klassen, Bill Kehler, Vernon Penner, Larry Eidse, and church leaders like: their Uncle Jake and Aunt Sadie Wiebe, Ron and Norma Hoeppner, Bill and Dorothy Kehler, Marvin and May Ann Wall, and numerous Sunday School and music teachers.

Although the school and the church, with their planned agendas, were strong influences in the Penner children's lives, Lowe Farm provided other significant people and places. The parents of their friends at whose homes they often spent almost as much time as at their own served as their "other parents" and reinforced the life style and values taught in their own home. The expression, "It takes a village to raise a child," applied to Lowe Farm.

Uncle Jake Peters' barbershop was a haven for checker players, horseshoe players, aspiring young guitarists, political and intellectual debates and freshly roasted sunflower seeds. Mrs. Herman Brown's house was always opened to young people interested in her large library of books. Fond memories remain of meeting friends at the swings on the school yard after dark or at Heppner's pond or going for a walk along the railway tracks or to Falk's bridge.

The Heppner woods with its tree house, built and rebuilt over the years, could be a battle field, the Black Forest, or whatever imagination dictated. It could also be just a pleasant spot for a private moment with one's thoughts.

The skating rink, even the little hut with the pot bellied stove in the 1950's, provided opportunities to be with peers away from the watchful eyes of parents. The curling rink provided the unique opportunity for youth and adults to get together, either on the same team or in friendly rivalry. The "generation gap" was nonexistent at the curling rink.

Fun, in the 1940's and 1950's and early 1960's, was largely self-made. There are pleasant memories of daylong summer hikes or bike rides with a Klik or bologna sandwich in a lunch pail, to explore dykes, bridges and water ponds, and collect frogs and beer bottles. Even those hours shelling peas around the laundry tub was fun if they did it with Ruth, Paul and Herman Friesen at the Penner house one day and the Friesens' the next. Hours were spent organizing sports activities. Whatever sport was in season, be it baseball, football, or hockey, was played without adult involvement. The game would accommodate all who showed up to play.

Massive snow forts dug into huge snow drifts; waiting to hear the good news that school had been cancelled due to an overnight snow storm, and freezing ears on the walk to school when it hadn't; shoveling snow off Heppner's pond so the game could go on; cutting and carrying blocks of snow to fill the cistern for a water supply; these are part of our childhood winters in Lowe Farm.

The Penner children were town kids, but all remember fondly the day long reciprocating visits with their friends on the farm. They learned much about farm life during those visits.

We are proud to have grown up in Lowe Farm and are happy to have this opportunity to say thank you to the community that helped to raise us, on the occasion of its 100th birthday.

This is where the Penner children are now:

Rose Marie became a teacher and while teaching near Russell, Manitoba she married Jim Kieper, the most eligible young farmer in the area, in 1964. They are grain farmers and raise pure bred Hereford cattle on their Half Diamond K Ranch. Their son Tom with wife Cindy and children Ashton, 5, and Wyatt, 3, are part of the Kieper farm operation and live on the farm. Daughter Teresa and her husband Curtis Boucher and sons Lane, 4, and Luke, 2, live in Russell where Teresa is a high school teacher and Curtis works for Paterson Grain. Son Richard and his wife Debbie live in Winnipeg where Richard is an agricultural engineer presently employed in the head office of Monsanto. Debbie works in the Paterson head office.

Marjorie was a nursing instructor in Winnipeg before marrying an up and coming young lawyer, Jim Fraser, in 1971. Jim still practices law in Winnipeg and Marjorie does occasional contract work as a research assistant. Their son David is a chiropractor in Winnipeg and son Jim has been employed in sales after graduation from the University of Manitoba. First he worked in sporting goods and now is in auto sales, also in Winnipeg.

Bob, a chartered accountant, is a senior partner at KPMG, specializing in taxation. He had three children with his ex wife, Nancy Melville. Robert and his fiancée Monica Peters will both graduate from medicine from the University of Alberta in Edmonton in the spring of 1999. Michelle is attending Mount Royal College in Calgary. Maria Barnes is completing her Ph.D. in Law and Psychology. Her love, Werner Muller Clemm, a Ph.D. graduate from the University of Victoria, works in the office of the Auditor General. They live in Ottawa.

Allan, also a chartered accountant, is the EVP and CFO for International Properties Group Ltd., in Calgary. He married Lynn Garnett, a registered nurse, in 1971. She does casual work in nursing and is studying gerontology in Canmore, Alberta, where the family lives. Their daughter Marnie is taking a break from her university studies, travelling in Europe, and will be working as a nanny in Germany in 1999. Son Curtis is a third year

Management student at the University of Calgary. Son Eric graduated from high school and is currently a Rotary Club exchange student in Cologne, Germany. Daughter Dana is a Grade XI student in Canmore.

Leonard is an Environmental Land Use Planner with the Alberta government. He lives in Edmonton with his wife of 22 years, Elfrieda, a school librarian, and their daughters Laurie, 14, and Angela, 12.

Janice, a graduate of Winnipeg Bible College and the St. Boniface School of Nursing, married Jack Penner, an electronics technician with MTS, in 1978. They live in Winnipeg with their four children, Jeremy, 17, Roslyn, 15, Cheryl, 13, and Melanie, 11.

Roxanna, a graduate of the Grace Hospital School of Nursing, married Mark Meaney, a fireman, builder, and hobby farmer, whom she met while travelling in Australia. They live near Kapunda, South Australia with their three children, Joshua, 9, Kaitlin, 6, and Richard, 3.

Douglas obtained a Bachelor of Computer Science degree from the University of Manitoba and works for Transport Canada at the Winnipeg International Airport. He married Judy Ivy in 1996. She is a Certified General Accountant.

BERNHARD (BEN) & TINA (THIESSEN) PENNER

Dad, Bernhard (Ben) Penner, was born September 23, 1911, in the Plum Coulee area to Peter and Anna Penner. He was the seventh of 14 children. Mom was born in the Kronsweide area in 1913, to Jacob and Katharina Thiessen. She was the sixth of 13 children.

Mom and Dad first set eyes on one another in Lowe Farm and were married in the Sommerfeld Church on June 5, 1932.

Their first years of married life consisted of working for a number of different farmers, and beginning a family of their own. They moved into Lowe Farm in 1938, and lived there for the next 50 years.

By this time Dad was beginning to recognize that farming was not his calling in life. While Mom was involved full time with raising Doreen (1932), John (1934) and Harry (1936), Dad took a job with Ed Anderson of Morris. After some "on the job training," Dad moved into his new occupation as a dragline operator, and over the years honed his skills until he became one of the best.

Over the course of the next decade, Dad worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris, Government Drainage Maintenance Board, Kane Equipment, Manitoba Sugar Beet Co., Majestic Pipelines and Nelson River Construction. During his years at Kane Equipment and Nelson River, he also worked as a heavy duty mechanic.

In the early 1950's, he also operated his own garage in Lowe farm. Not satisfied to be just a crane operator or mechanic, Dad took and passed a course as a high pressure welder. Mom continued to raise the regular



The Ben and Tina Penner family at the Penner reunion, July 29, 1995.



Ben and Tina Penner, 1997, on their 65th wedding anniversary.

additions to the family, namely, Walter (1938), Eddy (1940), Ben (1942), Margaret (1943), Anna (1946) and Lorne (1952).

In 1951 they moved the Heide house from the Horndean area into Lowe Farm. This house almost had enough room for nine children and was unique in the fact that it had no electrical wiring and still had ceiling hooks in each room to hang the coal oil lamps.

After years of commuting back and forth to Winnipeg, Dad took jobs, first at Bobrowski Welding and then at Western Flyer in Morris.

Failing health forced Dad into semi-retirement in 1975. He continued to putter at home in his shop in Lowe Farm, and as his health began to improve, what was to be his retirement turned into some of the busiest years of his life. His skills as a welder, mechanic, machinist, and inventor were used to repair anything from the farmer's largest equipment, to a lawnmower, to a footstool. Dad truly was a jack-of-all-trades, and he mastered quite a few of them.

Throughout the years that Mom and Dad lived in Lowe Farm, they were involved in Emmanuel Gospel Church where Dad served as a board member and a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Mom was, and is, a faithful, devoted companion and mother, who was always around when we needed her.

Dad suffered a stroke in 1986 and this ended his enjoyment of repairing and inventing. In 1988, their property in Lowe Farm was sold, and an auction sale was held. They moved into an apartment in Winkler, where they continue to live after 66 years together.

BENY (BERNARD) & DEANNA (DYCK) PENNER

Benny was born at Lowe Farm on March 24, 1942, the sixth of the nine children of Ben and Tina Penner.

After leaving school in 1961, he trained as a telegraph operator/station agent, working at various locations in the prairies and Ontario. In 1972, he changed vocations to that of selling trailers/mobile homes/manufactured housing.

Benny and Deanna were married October 17, 1964, at the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm. They have lived in Stettler, Alberta since 1979, where they own and operate Bernie's Homes, a retail mobile home sales lot.

Benny and Deanna have three children. Pam, born in March, 1966, is a librarian in Edmonton; Paul, born in May, 1968, is a sales representative with the family business. Penny was born in March, 1972. She is a homemaker, married to Brad Dahl. Brad is a carpenter and a farmer. Penny and Brad live in Botha, Alberta and have two daughters, Brittany and Roxy.

ED PENNER

Submitted by Ed Penner

I, Ed Penner, was born in Morris, Manitoba, July 14, 1940, to Ben and Tina (Thiessen) Penner and was raised in Lowe Farm. I served a five year hitch with the Canadian Navy from 1959 to 1964, then worked for the Canadian National Railways as assistant agent on northern Ontario and Manitoba main lines.

I got into watch repair, taking my training at the Manitoba Institute of Technology and was employed by Silverman Jewelers until the lure of quick and easy cash took me to the Alberta Oil Patch, where I have been employed ever since.

Now, semi-retired, I have moved back to Morden, Manitoba, where I'm kept busy restoring a stone Victorian house and repairing a large collection of clocks and watches which I have accumulated over the years.

Occasionally, I'll step out of retirement and lend a hand when things get busy in Alberta.

JOHAN (JOHN) & KATHARINA (FALK) PETERS

Submitted by Agatha Plohman and Kathrine (Giesbrecht) Hiebert



John and Katharina Peters



Johan Peters

The traumatic story of this child, "Das Verstoszene Kind," was written by William Enns (Big Bill), a reporter for the Steinbach Post and appeared as a serial in that paper either in 1943 or 1944.

Johan was born at Odessa, Marianpole, Russia on April 12, 1863. His mother abandoned him at birth. A Mrs. Derksen found the newborn babe in a pig pen, rescued him and took him to a Harder family. Mrs. Harder was able to nurse him, and that is where he spent the first year of his life.

When the Mennonites prepared to emigrate to Canada, the Derksens could not afford to pay for his passage. Once again he was abandoned. The Peters family was also immigrating to Canada. Mr. Peters found the abandoned boy, paid his passage and brought him along to Canada. This was in 1876.

Johan lived with the Peters family, earning his keep, and also adopting their name when he joined the church. In 1889, he married Katherina Falk. They homesteaded north of Plum Coulee until they bought a section of land north of Lowe Farm. He bought a "big" International Tractor, but also used lots of horses for farm work. Purchasing a combine was for his own use as well as for the neighbors. They built an extremely large home here, with six bedrooms upstairs and three downstairs, as well as building a huge barn to house all the horses and cattle.

Katherina passed away in 1915. There were nine children born of this marriage: Katherina (John) Reimer; Maria (David) Penner; Margaretha (Jacob) Friesen; Helena (Ben) Rempel; Johan (Annabel Crewson); Peter (Agatha Braun); Jacob (Lizzie Klassen); Anna (Ben) Giesbrecht; Sara (Jacob) Rempel; one child died in infancy.

In March 1916, Johan married Nettie Wall and they continued farming and raised nine children:

Mary (Rudolph) Reimer; Nettie (John) Klassen; Henry (Vera Schmidt); Susan (Herb) Markwort; Abram (Ina Rongue); Lillian (Clarence) Martin; Fred and David died in infancy; Agatha (Hans) Plohman.

In 1934 the farm was sold and they moved into Lowe Farm where John passed away in September of 1946. Nettie moved to Winnipeg in 1952, where she passed away on May 17, 1971.

Johan's descendants number more than 600. Of his children, only Nettie Klassen, Susan Markwart, Abram Peters, Lillian Martin, and Agatha Plohman are still living. Two of his sons, Abram and Fred, served in the Second World War. Fred served with the Glengary Highlanders in Europe and Abram with the Winnipeg Grenadiers as a Hong Kong prisoner of war from 1941 to 1945. During these years my father's only wish was to live until Abram would be released and returned to his family. His wish was granted.

PETER & TINA (WARKENTIN) PETERS

Submitted by Tina Peters

Peter and Tina Peters were married in 1940 at the Lichtenauer Church near Ste. Elizabeth. We moved to the Broadview District near Morris. In 1945, we moved three and a quarter miles east of Lowe Farm, where we farmed for 20 years. In 1965, we had a new house moved to Lowe Farm (presently the Dave Schmidt house). We sold it to Mrs. Martin Friesen in 1966, and bought the former C. P. Kroeker farm where we farmed for 10 years. (Eldon and Mildred Schroeder are the present owners.)

In 1969, Pete began working part-time as a meat cutter for the Co-op store in Lowe Farm, and in 1976, we had a new house built for us by the Lowe Farm Co-op on the west end of town. Pete was then working full-time at the Co-op



Peter and Tina Peter farm from 1965.



Peter and Tina Peters 25th anniversary, 1965.



Peter Peters last round on the farm.



Peter and Tina Peter's first rented farm, 1945 - 1965.



Peter Peters combining by the Shannon.



A coffee break while combining (Peter Peters).

store. In 1980, he was forced to retire for health reasons.

We had five children, two died in infancy. The others, Eugene, Linda, and Emmy, all received their education in Lowe Farm. After Grade XII, they attended Bible school and/or university. They are all married with families.

Pete was always involved in community affairs with Smith Spur Pool Elevator, the Farmers Union, and as Lowe Farm School trustee for many years. For 15 years, he was on the Credit Union committee. We were both involved in church, in various committees. Pete also served as deacon, and I have served on the Ladies Group executive. We have also both worked at the Mennonite Central Committee Store in Morris.

For 47 years, from 1945 to 1992, Lowe Farm was our home. Since then, we have retired to Winkler where we are enjoying life as parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. We also enjoy our condo beside the railway tracks. The rumble of a train is a reminder of our former home along PTH 23 near Lowe Farm.

HENRY REIMER

*From Furrows in the Valley
Originally submitted by Mary
Stoesz*

Henry Reimer was born in Russia in 1873. He came to Canada with his parents as a baby and grew up south of Plum Coulee in the Grimsby District.

As a young man, he bought a homestead in Alberta and began to farm and raise cattle and sheep. He married in 1911, and to this union was born two sons and a daughter.

In 1924, they decided to move back to Manitoba, buying a farm in the Rose Farm District. Five years later, his wife died and Henry moved back to the same farm he grew up on (1932). He passed away on July 17, 1952.

The oldest son, Diedrich, took over his father's farm, raising four

sons and one daughter there. After he died June 17, 1966, his wife moved to Winkler.

Henry, his second son, farms in Alberta; he has two daughters and one son.

Daughter Mary married Jake Stoesz, an upholsterer from Plum Coulee. They resided there with their two daughters and three sons.

JOHN & EDITH (NELSON) REIMER

Submitted by John Reimer

John's parents, Nettie and William Reimer.

I was raised at Kane and Edith (Nelson) was raised at Robin Hood, Saskatchewan, a small village like Kane. I am the oldest son of William and Nettie Reimer of Kane.

I went to Kane School for 11 years. After that I worked at a garage in Lowe Farm owned by Pete Martens and his brothers. For nine months after that I worked on the farm for Bill Deutchmen, and then, summers only, for three years. I then got a job at Dinsmore, Saskatchewan, as an apprentice mechanic. I took my apprenticeship in Saskatoon. In my last year of apprenticeship I worked for a General Motors dealer in Saskatoon. I got my Journeyman's Papers in 1958.

While I was working in Saskatoon I met Edith. We were married December 12, 1958. Ten months later we moved to Dinsmore. Bill was born in Saskatoon in 1959. Diane was born in 1960. I worked in Dinsmore until 1962.

In 1962, we moved to an acreage formerly owned by my uncle Abe Dyck. We lived there for one year and then moved to the J. L. Derksen place on Highway 23 west of Lowe Farm where I am still residing.

I worked at Stern Trucks in Winnipeg for three months and then I started working at the Lowe



Edith and John Reimer



Edith and John Reimer and family.



Edith Nelson and John Reimer.



The family of Edith and John Reimer.



Edith and John Reimer's 25th anniversary with

Farm Co-op. Then I operated a service station in Morris for awhile and in 1968 I came back to the Co-op. I worked there for a total of about five years.

After the fire at the Co-op, I worked for J. R. Friesen in Morris until we bought P. L. Braun's Service Station in Lowe Farm. We operated that until Edith passed away on June 21, 1997.

During our time in Lowe Farm, we had four more children, Ken, Paul, Kathy and Shirley. All our children went to the Lowe Farm School and graduated in Morris.

Bill is an engineer for the North West Territory government at Fort Smith. Diane is a registered nurse in Edmonton, Alberta. Ken, his wife Eileen and their four children live in Calgary where Ken works as a carpenter. Paul lives in Lowe Farm and works for Brunet Construction of Morris. Shirley is in Taiwan teaching English. Kathy lives in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and works for Bombardier. She is married to Neil Servold and has two children.

KEN & SHARON (WIEBE) REIMER

Submitted by Ken Reimer



Ken and Sharon Reimer, Andrea and Candice.

Ken and Sharon Reimer, together with daughters Andrea and Candice, live on the farm two miles south and three quarter mile east of Lowe Farm on NE 19-4-1w.

Ken, the oldest of five children, grew up on his parents, Cornie and Annie Reimer's, farm southwest of Lowe Farm in the Kronsweide district. The Kronsweide School is where I (Ken) started my elementary school years. After the completion of Grade I, however, the school was closed due to the consolidation process and all the students were moved to the Lowe Farm School. Here I finished my elementary and junior high education, followed by high school in Morris where I took vocational Agriculture. After graduation in 1979, I found short-term employment at several local businesses, but in 1981 I started farming with Dad.

In 1983, I married Sharon Wiebe, daughter of John and Helen Wiebe of Plum Coulee (Grossweide District). Together we settled in the Lowe Farm area starting with a short-term rental residence, followed by the purchase of our current homestead in 1984. Andrea, our older daughter, was born on March 28, 1985. Candice, the younger, was born December 14, 1988. Both Andrea (Grade VIII) and Candice (Grade IV) are being educated in Lowe Farm School.

Community involvement has always been important to us. My involvement started at a young age when I was elected to serve on the local board of Manitoba Pool in Lowe Farm as well as a sub-district councilor. Shortly after this I was elected to the board of the Lowe Farm Co-op where I served for eight years. I have also served as a volunteer on the Lowe Farm Fire Department for 15 years.

Church involvement is also very important to our family. We attend the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church where I serve as a youth leader and Sharon serves as a Sunday School teacher.

BEN (EWART) REMPEL



Eva Rempel's family on her 90th birthday.

Bernhard Ewart Rempel was born to Peter K. and Margaretha (Ewart, Heppner) Rempel in the Kronsweide area. His youth was spent helping his father on the farm with his brothers and sisters.

At a young age, he met and courted Eva Dyck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dyck of the Horndean area. They were both baptized as members of the Sommerfeld Church. They were wed on January 3, 1926. Ben worked hard at supplying the necessities of life for his growing family. They moved to a home across from his parents' home. The house stood on the yard where Dennis and Teresa Rempel's house now stands. He bought some machinery and did some custom swathing and threshing.

Ben was also a mechanic and moved to Roland into a rented home when he was employed as a mechanic in a garage there. The family went to his parents' home to visit Grandpa, who was suffering injuries he received when a trolley (or pulley, used to lift hay into the loft), came undone at the peak of the barn, and landed on his head. Upon their return home to Roland they discovered that their home and all their possessions were destroyed by fire.

At this time the family consisted of two girls and two boys: Helen, Jake, John and Justina. They moved into a house in Morris for a short time. This is where Benny was born. The house across from Grandma and Grandpa was available again, so this is where the family moved for the second time. Ben began to deal with used parts and scrap iron.

In the spring of 1933, another baby boy was born but died a few weeks after birth. In 1935, a baby girl joined the family. By now the older three were of school age. The Depression affected everyone and jobs were hard to find. Ben sometimes walked four miles to Lowe Farm to work for one dollar a day. He was a man who did not want charity, but at the height of the Depression, he asked the councilors of the Municipality for 'relief', which we would call 'welfare' today. This organization supplied the bare necessities.

In the spring of 1937, another daughter joined the family and in fall of that same year, the family bought a building and moved it into Lowe Farm. It was a

mighty cold winter. The previous owners had used ashes as insulation. In early spring a lot of renovations were made to the dwelling. The roof was raised to supply an upstairs which was used as bedrooms for the children. Wood shavings were used for insulation and the main level was partitioned into three rooms. Later a large addition on the north side became a kitchen which gave ample room to feed the family as well as workers.

Ben went into partnership with Peter Martens to operate a garage. During World War II, Peter Martens went into the Army and Ben worked at McDonald's Airport in Winnipeg.

After World War II, trucks could be bought at very reasonable prices so Ben purchased several and began his own trucking business under the name of Rempel and Sons Trucking. They were kept busy. In summer they hauled grain and gravel, and in winter they hauled a lot of ice blocks. They also moved buildings. His business was big enough that, besides his sons, he needed to hire workers. In 1938, another baby girl was born.

On one occasion he was dismantling iron, perhaps a truck chassis or combine frame, with a large chisel and sledge hammer when a piece of steel got lodged in his eye. The doctors tried to save it but the other eye became infected so they had to remove the injured eye.

During his confinement, another baby boy joined the family. This was in November and Christmas was fast approaching. It is a mystery how the parents were able to supply each of their children with a gift, but the best gift of all was that dad was home for Christmas.

Sometime after this Ben was stricken with severe headaches. He became unconscious and was taken to hospital. They diagnosed it as sleeping sickness. He had a high fever and after much prayer,

the fever broke and soon he was home again.

Jeanette Ann was born on December 6, 1944, and Menno James was born November 8, 1947. At about this time, roads were being built and Ben and his sons formed Rempel's Construction. The business went very well.

In March 1951, they had another house fire where their home was totally destroyed. The family still at home rented a place and the parents built a new home. This house still stands at the west end of Lowe Farm. It had five bedrooms and also a large dining room. This was great for family gatherings.

Ben was a hard working man and so was his wife, Eva. Ben was told by his doctor to slow down, but this wasn't his nature. On November 7, a day after his 55th birthday, he died of a heart attack. His widow Eva had a smaller house built and she and her youngest son Jim moved into it. She sold the former place to Edward and Justina (her daughter). When the senior apartments were built, she sold her home and took up residence in the apartments. She lived there until heart congestion and other ailments forced her to move to the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris where she was well looked after until her death on October 17, 1997.

The following is a list of family members of Ben and Eva Rempel:

Helen married David Brown. David died in June, 1968. Their children are: Terry, Kenneth, Janet, Lori, Randy and Curtis.

Jake married Elizabeth Brown. He died in January, 1996. Their children are: Myrna, Ross, Clifford and Jackie

John married Irene Brown. He died July 9, 1974. Their children are: Mark, Michael Ben and Neal.

Justina married Edward Funk. Their children include: Debra, Beverly and Leslie, Terese, Coleen and Jeffrey.

Henry David died in infancy in 1933.

Mary Evelyn married John VanEek. John died January 28, 1959. Kimberly Jane was born to this union. Evelyn's second marriage was to Dick Hunter. Their children are: Kathy, Keith and Kelly.

Agnes (Nettie) married Adrian Brunet. Their children are: Leo Gerald (died in infancy in 1960), Gregory, Corina, Regina and David.

Catherine married Richard McKelvey. Richard died on September 20, 1992. Their children are: Joan, Kevin and Sandra.

George married Lesley Barber. Their children include: Roger, Gordon and Kristin.

Jeanette Ann married Ken McIntosh. Ken died October 17, 1990. Their children are: Sean and Susan. Jeanette remarried George Asmore, November 22, 1997.

Menno James married Evelyn Spalding. Their children are: Lisa, Benjamin and Jonathon.

CORNELIUS & KATHARINA (FRIESEN) REMPEL



Cornelius and Katharina Rempel with Jake and Tina.



*Back row: Cornelius Rempel children:
(l-r) Abe, Cornie, Ben, Pete; Front: Susan, Tina, Helen and
Mary. Jake and John missing.*

Cornelius was born in Russia January 29, 1866, to Johann and Margaretha (Sawatsky) Rempel. The sixth of 12 children, Cornelius came to Canada with his family in 1874 on the S. S. Sarmatian when he was nine years old.

An incident occurred toward the end of that voyage. During a thunder storm, the ship struck an iceberg that had broken loose, causing them to be literally ship-

wrecked for awhile, but they were close enough to the Canadian coast that help wasn't too long in coming. By then they were running low on food, but all survived.

Katharina was born on April 9, 1874, and came to Canada with her parents Bernhard and Katharina (Baerg) Friesen, in 1888 at the age of 14. She was one of six children.

Katharina married Cornelius in 1893, following the death of his first wife at the birth of their third child.

They moved to Lowe Farm in March of 1913 from the Grunthal area. Cornelius was a farmer, first dairy, and then grain. In 1930 they left the farm and moved into Lowe Farm.

Cornelius died in July, 1939, and Katharina in October, 1939.

Their children: Peter married Susan Wiebe. They had two sons, Ben and Rick.

Ben married Helen Peters. They had five children, Bill, Eddie, Helen, Sarah, and John.

Tina married Bill Heinrichs. They had nine children, Peter, Martha, William, David, Mary, Harry, Joanne, Edna and Randall.

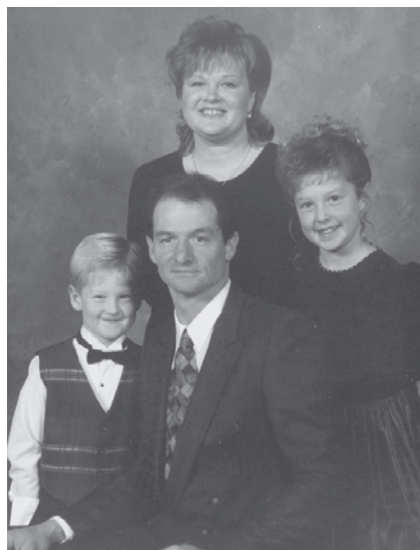
John (Jack) married Vera Churchill. They had three sons, Gilbert, Elmer and Bruce.

Cornie married Anne Born. They had five children, Raymond, Joyce, Walford, Leona and Donald. Jake married Fay Hanna. They had twin sons, James (Jim) and Allan. Susan married Luther Lewis. Mary married Adolf Murner. They had six children, Alvin, Evelyn, Waldo, Edith, Dianne, and Charlotte.

Abe married Lillian Dee. They had two children, Dale and Warren. Helen married George Wiebe. They had five children, Melvin, Victoria, Leona, Ruth, Ronald, and Timothy.

DENNIS & TERESA (WIEBE) REMPEL

Dennis is the youngest of five children, born on May 6, 1959 to Cornie and Mary Rempel of Lowe Farm.



*Dennis, Teresa, Breanne
and Matthew Rempel.*

Dennis attended school at the Kronsweide School and then in Lowe Farm and Morris. He worked for the Paterson Elevator in Kane and Triangle Lumber in Roland before taking over the family farm south of Lowe Farm in 1983.

In 1985, he married Teresa Wiebe. Teresa is the oldest of four daughters, born on March 22, 1964 to Bernhard and Lucille Wiebe of Lowe Farm. She continued to work in Winnipeg until they began their family.

Dennis and Teresa have two children, Breanne, born on March 8, 1988, and Matthew, born on April 6, 1991, who now attended the Lowe Farm School. Together they are the third generation to operate the family farm, in which one parcel of land has been in the family for 100 years. Dennis continues to do carpentry in the off season and also drives a school bus.

PETER K. & ANNA (ENNS) REMPEL

From Furrows in the Valley

Peter K. Rempel was born July 15, 1867 in the village of Heuboden Bergthall Colony, South Russia, close to the Black Sea. His parents were Jacob and Agenetha



*House built by Peter K. Rempel in
1903-1904.*



*The Peter K. Rempel family. Back row:
Son, Peter. Middle row: (l - r) Mrs.
Rempel (Anna Enns), Mr. Rempel,
Agenetha. Foreground: Anna.*



*Peter K. Rempel family, 1910. Back
row: Anna, Susanna. Peter K. holding
Jacob. Second wife, Margaretba
(Heppner, nee Ewart) holding John,
Margaretba's children, Helen and
Abraham Heppner, Bernard Rempel.*

(nee Klippenstein) Rempel. His mother died when he was just two years old. His father remarried, and together with his parents and two sisters Peter migrated to Canada with the first contingent of Mennonites in 1874. They settled on the east side of the Red River on a tract of land designated for the Mennonites by the government. Their first place of residence was the village of Blumengart, near Steinbach.

In 1886, he married Anna Enns. They lived on the SW 1/4 section 36-7-5 near Choritz. A few years later they moved to the west of the Red River near Plum Coulee in the district of Grossweide on the SW section 33-3-2. One old receipt it is called Manchester County.

In 1898, he purchased the SW 1/4 24-4-2w in the district of Kronsweide near Lowe Farm in the Municipality of Morris. It was a virgin prairie except for a few furrows that had been ploughed by the former owner. (I believe it was a Mr. Stephenson).

There was a shallow well, and a slight depression in the soil which held some water in the spring and after rainfalls. This was later excavated with scoops pulled by horses and served as the first pond. (In 1935, Peter E. Penner deepened it with a dragline). Most of the water had to be hauled from Hespler Creek near Roseheim, about five or six miles.

He built a barn, 28 by 56 feet, which was partitioned and served as living quarters as well. In the next year he purchased the SE 1/4 adjoining the homestead. Other settlers along the trail between 24 and 23 were the Johann Schroeders, Johann Neufelds, Peter Klassens, and on SW 1/4 25 were the Jacob Schroeders, later minister of the church.

The first school was built at the dividing line or the NE and NW 1/4 section of 23, which also served as the church for the community. A cemetery was started just west of the school yard on the NE 1/4. One of the first to be laid to rest there was Peter and Anna's son Jacob in 1899. The cemetery is still in use but more land has been added.

In 1903 and 1904, Peter built a one-and-a-half story, "L" shaped house with full basement and hot air furnace. The carpenter was Charles Nester. The lumber was purchased in Plum Coulee for \$800. The dealer gave him a picture window with stained glass as a premium, providing it was installed in the side facing the road for advertising purposes, this being the first of its kind in the community. When the house was dismantled in 1976, the original stained glass was intact, except for eight pieces, which were broken during a hailstorm in 1947.

Peter served as song leader for many years.

In November, 1905, Anna died after giving birth to their tenth child, of which five had died in infancy.

In February, 1906, Peter married Margaretha Heppner (nee Ewert), widow of the late Mr. Heppner who had homesteaded on NW 1/4 18-4-1w. There were 11 children born into this marriage. All but one of these reached adulthood. They were all born in the farm

home, and nearly all without a doctor in attendance.

Margaretha was well known in the community for serving as a midwife, preparing the dead for burial and taking care of the sick. She had many home remedies which were very good. Peter served as councillor in the Rural Municipality of Morris from 1902-1916, inclusive.

At the time of his second marriage Peter still had a team of oxen. This was because a few years previous his horses got sick and 10 out of 11 had to be destroyed. He always liked to have a good driving horse. He increased his supply of horses by either purchase or breeding, so at one time he had 23 horses to work the land (before the tractor era). At one time he owned a Regal car, and in 1918 he purchased a new Dodge. Many years later, he accepted a Gray Dart as payment from a man he had cosigned for.

Following are land holdings which he had at one time or another either by purchase or rental: SW 1/4 of section 24-4-2w. The 1899 taxes were \$15.20. This land is now farmed by Peter's son David; SE 1/4 of section 24-4-2w. The 1899 taxes for half section were \$33.62; SE 1/4 of section 13-4-2w in 1905; NW 1/4 of section 18-4-1w, in 1906. This land is now farmed by grandson Peter E. Rempel; N half of section 34-4-1w in 1908 according to the first time drainage tax listed; SE 1/4 of section 23-4-2w purchased in 1919 from Johann Schroeder. It is now farmed by son Cornelius; SE 1/4 114-4-2w; SE and NE 1/4 of 3-5-2w, by rental, known as the McDermot farm; NW 1/4 11-5-2w.

Old Mr. Shewman, who built drainage ditches in the community, had a camp south of our yard and got such provisions as milk, butter, eggs, water, garden vegetables, and even bread sometimes.

In 1918, Peter had the barn renovated and put on a foundation. A concrete floor was poured and a track and trolley installed to lift the hay into the loft. Due to a malfunction of the trolley there was an accident. The trolley came off the track and dropped down, striking Peter, who was on the load down below, on the head. He was knocked unconscious. Mother took care of the wound and after regaining consciousness he remarked, "I thought we were going to unload hay." Mother assured him his services would not be needed that day.

About this time there was a controversy in regards to education in the district. Parents wanted to keep the school private and taught in the German language, but since the country had been at war with Germany, the request was denied. The government hired a teacher, Tom Black, and all classes were to be held in English. Several parents objected to this and refused to send their children. Instead, private classes were started in the Rempels' summer kitchen. It was a two-roomed building and one room served as a classroom, the other as kitchen. Miss Anna Friesen was the teacher. This was only done for one season. The parents gave in and sent their children to school, but were allowed to hire the teachers and have half an hour of German, providing this

was done before regular classes.

During the busy harvest season, bread had to be baked daily. Mother said she had used as much as 100 pounds of flour a week. She did the baking in an outside brick oven which she built herself.

Father had a great interest in the development of farm machinery and in 1927, the brothers Harry and George Anderson demonstrated straight-combining of wheat for him. At another time he had the one way disk demonstrated on his land. He also introduced the seeding of rye in the area, for which he was nicknamed "Rye Rempel." He also raised sheep at one time and several acres were fenced in for this purpose.

In the early 1930's, there were many grasshoppers in the area and it was very dry. Mother and we younger children saved some of the garden by chasing the grasshoppers out by walking back and forth along the rows waving rags, thereby not allowing them to sit long enough to chew the vegetation. One day we watched a colony or swarm of grasshoppers migrating across the parched soil in the yard. They just simply marched like a regiment of soldiers. The men attached a trough to the binder and filled it with old oil and as they cut the grain the grasshoppers would fly up and land in the oil, when it was filled they would empty it and repeat the process thus preventing them lay eggs. Sometimes grasshoppers would migrate in huge swarms like a cloud creating a shadow when passing the sun.

In 1931, Father had the misfortune of falling into the basement, striking his head against the base of the chimney that was made of fieldstone. His skull was fractured. Dr. McGavin of Plum Coulee was summoned. He did not give much hope for his recovery, but gave Mother instructions on how to take care of him. Father was unconscious for several days and semi-conscious for several weeks, but with good care and the answer to prayers, he got well, but was unable to be in charge of the farm operations. So, until John and Henry went out on their own, they took charge. In the late 1930's, Cornelius and David rented the land until 1962 when they purchased it.

In 1956, the Rempels celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Peter passed away in 1957 at the age of 89 years, seven months, in his own house.

In 1961, Margaretha and Tina moved to Lowe Farm. She passed away in 1975 at the age of 91 years.

Mr. Rempel had 21 children, 10 by his first wife, 11 by his second, as well as two stepchildren. Sixteen reached adulthood.

From his first marriage: Peter (1888-1968), farmer in the R. M. of Morris. He died of a heart attack; Agenetha (1889-1892) and Anna (1891-1892) both died of diphtheria July 8 and 10; Agenetha (1893-1973) married William Klassen, a farmer in the R. M. of Morris; Jacob (1896-1899); Anna (1898-1953) married Henry Huff. She died of cancer; Susanna (1901-1969) died of hypertension; Elizabeth (1901-1901) died at birth. She was the twin of



Peter K. Rempel, at the age of 75 on horse drawn plow.



*Mr. and Mrs. P. K. Rempel
on their Golden Anniversary in 1956.*



Five generations of Peter K. Rempel's family, 1953. Peter K. Rempel, aged 85, Peter P. Rempel holding P. K. 's great-granddaughter, Dianna Klassen. Back row: Dianna's grandmother, Tina Wiens (formerly Mrs. Peter Schroeder) and Dianna's mother, Nettie Klassen (nee Schroeder)

Susanna; Frank (1905-1905) died soon after birth.

Stepchildren: Abraham Heppner (1902-1962), died of a heart attack in INCO nickel mine at Sudbury, Ontario. Abraham had a threshing machine in his younger years and did custom threshing. He also did some auctioneering and was employed by Diedrich Heppner before moving to Ontario in 1943; Helen Heppner (1904), married Arron Thiessen, and is now residing in Winnipeg.

Children of second marriage: Bernhard (1906-1961), was a farmer, laborer, trucker, and a construction contractor. He died of a heart attack. Jacob (1908 - 1983), was a farmer in the R. M. of Morris. He then moved to Plumas, where he farmed until the time of retirement. He also served as a councillor of Plumas.

John (1909-1977) was a farmer and laborer. He died of a heart attack. Henry (1911-1952) was a laborer. He died of complications following surgery.

Cornelius (1913 - 1996) was a farmer. He married Mary Klassen (1921 - 1993) He married Eva Stoess (1924) in 1995. Eva lives in Winnipeg.

Marie (1915 - 1998), married Jacob Derksen (1911 - 1993), a mechanic.

David (1917) was a farmer. He married Tina Klassen (1920).

Katherine (1919) was a homemaker for her parents for as long as they lived. Then she was employed at Morris General Hospital. She retired in 1979, and now lives in the Lowe Farm Prairie View Apartments; William (1921) is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota, in the United States. He married Leola Seip of Swan River.

Margaret (1923 - 1986), married David Friesen, a grain buyer for Smith Spur.

Frank (1925-1925), died eight hours after birth.

PETER P. & NETTIE (KLASSEN) REMPLE

From Furrows in the Valley



*The children of Peter P. Remple.
(l - r) Tina, Anna, Nettie, Peter.*

Nettie Klassen was born June, 1893, near Plum Coulee, daughter of Peter A. and Katherine (Klippenstein) Klassen. When she was a little girl, her family moved to the Kronsweide District on S 24-4-2w.

On July 16, 1911, Nettie married Peter P. Remple, son of Peter K. and Nettie Remple, of the Kronsweide District. They farmed the land on S18-4-1w. Nettie and Peter were very hard workers. Due to Peter's illness, Nettie spent many hours out on the field, as well as having a big garden and raising chickens. Nettie was known to have had a great sense of humor. Her family always remembers her to have been young at heart and felt like she was one of them. Peter was very interested in singing and for many years, was the song leader of the Sommerfeld Church.

They raised four children: Tina (J. B.) Wiens (formerly Mrs. Peter Schroeder) lives in the Prairie View Apartments in Lowe Farm; Anna (Ed) Giesbrecht lives in Vernon, British Columbia; Nettie (Abe) Schroeder also lives in the Prairie View Apartments; Peter married Helen Klassen and lives in Winkler.

Nettie had been sick for several years and died on January 20, 1935. In 1936, Peter Remple married Mrs. Agnes Dueck, who had four children. Peter Remple died January 31, 1968.

HENRY & EVELYN (MURNER) ROSE

Submitted by Evelyn Rose

We moved to Lowe Farm in July 1973 from Roland Heights, California after living in California for 11 years. Moving from a busy city to a small village was quite a change for our three children but they adapted quite easily.

Rural life was not new to Henry and me. Henry was born in Sperling to Esther and Maurice Rose. He is the fourth youngest of 14 children. I am the second oldest of six children born to Mary (Rempel) and Adolf Murner. The first six years of my life were spent in Lowe Farm after which our family moved to Sperling.

After our marriage we lived in Sperling for a time. Henry farmed for his father and later was the fuel truck driver for the Sperling Co-op. I worked for Manitoba Telephone System before our marriage and for a short time after. In those days special permission had to be obtained from MTS to hire a woman who was married.

In 1958, we, with our two children, Debbie and Barry, moved to Lac Du Bonnet where Henry was a grain buyer for Canadian Consolidated Grain. After the birth of our third child, Tony, in 1960 we moved to Winnipeg.

While in Winnipeg I returned to work for MTS. Henry worked for Dorwin Industries installing doors and windows.

In 1962, Henry decided to seek greener pastures south of the border. Under the sponsorship of his brother Rene, our family moved to Southern California.

Henry planned to work in heavy construction but it took time as every job was filled through the Teamster's Union which was very strong. In the mean time Henry found a job driving a cement truck for Transit Mixed Concrete.



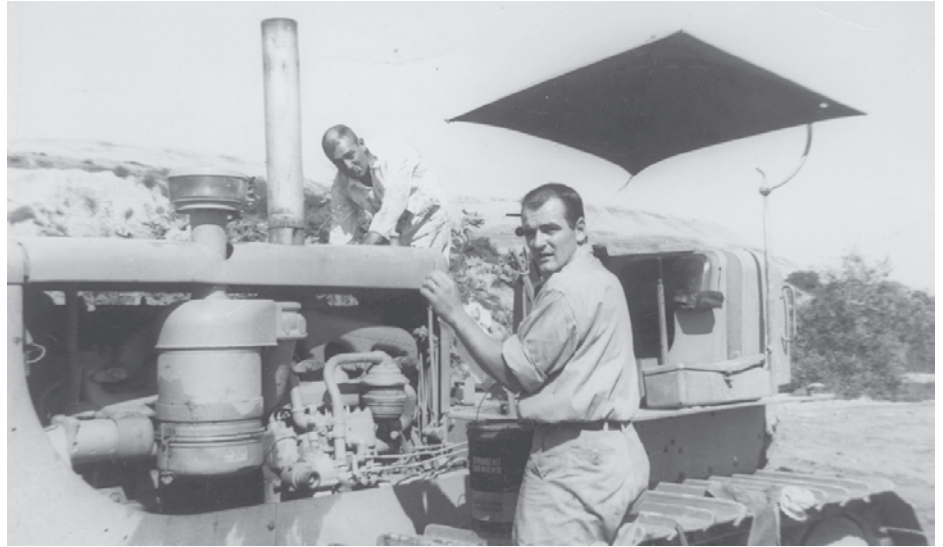
Henry and Evelyn Rose.

He has two specific memories that stand out in his mind. He was hauling concrete to the site where the popular TV series "Bonanza" was taped. While unloading the concrete the chute came loose and swung around and knocked a corner off the Cartwrights' house. No one became excited, maybe because it was not really a house anyway, just the outside wall to represent a house.

Another incident occurred in downtown Los Angeles. While unloading concrete, he saw a man fall off a beam several stories high and be impaled by a steel pole at the bottom.

After being laid off by Transit Mixed during the slow, rainy season he went to work for Knudsen's Creamery in Los Angeles. He was working there in 1965 when the Watts' Riot was raging. It was a very fearful time. I remember sitting up all night listening to the TV and following the riot's progression up the streets of Los Angeles on my map. Even the black men working at Knudsen didn't dare to go home. Fortunately the riot stopped two blocks away from the Creamery.

Henry did eventually obtain his teamster card and went to work for his brother Rene driving a cat and scraper as well as a water pull.



Henry Rose in the foreground and his brother Rene in the background, 1962.

After Rene's untimely death at the age of 39, Henry went to work for Consolidated Rock where he drove a cement truck for awhile and then moved on to become a grader operator.

I, meanwhile, returned to my former occupation and joined the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company as an operator. I moved to various positions within the company and at the time we left I was Chief Training Analyst.

While in California we experienced two severe earthquakes and a couple of smaller ones. I especially remember the one causing a lot of damage in downtown Los Angeles. My office was in Los Angeles and I was at home getting ready for work when the earthquake hit. When I arrived at work there were pieces of brick and stone from the buildings scattered all over the streets and sidewalks. Not thinking, I took the elevator up to the seventh floor where I worked. The elevator swayed and bumped the sides of the elevator shaft all the way up. Every available person was sent to man the switchboards. Two buildings which had been joined by an enclosed walkway were now joined by a couple of planks and a view of the ground below. To get to the switchboards from our floor we had to walk the

planks. Next to the Watts' Riot, that was the most frightening experience of my life.

We worshipped at the Wesleyan Church in La Puente and took part in the various church activities. It was in California, after the death of his brother, that Henry accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. And it was in California that I rededicated my life to the Lord.

Life in California was busy and that included our children. Debbie was on the school drill team, sang in the school choir and was very active in the church youth group.

Barrie tried out for a baseball team and was accepted but before the season began he fell at school and broke his arm. Barrie liked to go cycling on the hills a short distance behind our house with his cousin Gregg. Finding a dead man in the hills one day left both of them pretty shaken.

With Tony, it was either playing with snakes or playing baseball. Fortunately, playing baseball took up most of his time. He pitched, played third base and catcher. We were all very proud when he was chosen for the All Star team. We will always remember his first home run. The ball sailed high over the fence and right into the windshield of his father's pick-up.



Henry Rose standing next to his CN service truck.



Henry and Evelyn Rose with Barrie, Debbie and Tony.

After his brother's death and his father's a year later, Henry's dream was to return to Manitoba. Debbie graduated from Rowland Heights High School in June of 1973 and a few days later we were packed and on our way to Lowe Farm where my parents lived.

We rented the Emmanuel Gospel Church manse until they acquired a new pastor. We then rented the Art Groening house until we purchased a farm yard near Kane from Alvin Penner. In 1983 we purchased the house at 14 2nd Street West where we still reside.

Henry's first job was working for the Lowe Farm Co-op. From there he went to Viscount Trailers in Morris. He started with Canadian National Railways in 1974 working on the track and later as a heavy-duty mechanic in the Transcona Shops. In 1982, he purchased Ed

Neufeld's Water Hauling business which he sold in 1984. He served as custodian at the Lowe Farm School, Elm Creek School and head custodian at Carman Collegiate.

Henry is semi-retired now and seems to have come full circle. He drove a school van while living at the farm in Sperling both before and after he was married. Now he is once again driving a school bus. In the fall of the year he can also be found driving a potato truck for Kroeker Farms Limited of Winkler.

Since our return to Lowe Farm I have worked at the Lowe Farm Co-op doing books. I cleaned and also cooked at the Colonial Inn in Morris. In 1983, I once again went to work for MTS. I started in Winnipeg as an operator then later worked in the business office. In 1990, I transferred to Winkler to work in the newly opened Phone Centre in the Southland Mall. When that closed I went to Morden to work in the Phone Centre there and later in the business office. I took early retirement in 1996 due to cutbacks at MTS. Since my retirement I have done some writing for the Crow Wing Warrior/Scratching River Post in Morris. I have been writing for this paper on and off since 1982.

Our children are all married. Deborah (Debbie) married Robert Anderson of Carman (formerly of Sperling). They live in Carman and have two daughters; Nicole and Jenalee.

Barrie married Connie Penner of Lowe Farm. They also live in Carman and have two daughters and one son; Erin, Michael and Stacey.

Tony married Eleanor Gerbrandt of Lowe Farm. They have three children; Candice, Dustin and Ashley and live in Morris.

TONY & ELEANOR ROSE

Submitted by Evelyn Rose



Tony, Candice, Eleanor, Ashley and Dustin Rose.

Tony, along with his parents and two siblings, moved to Lowe Farm from Southern California in 1973. He is the youngest son born to Henry and Evelyn Rose, formerly of Sperling. The family moved to the United States when Tony was only two years old. After 11 years they returned to Manitoba to make their home in Lowe Farm where Tony's grandparents, Adolf and Mary Murner lived.

Tony's love of baseball saw him play for the Kane Pirates and later the Lowe Farm Blues. He, along with his brother Barrie both played for the Dakota Imperials in Winnipeg when they won the Division 111 Championship.

In the last few years Tony has turned his attention to coaching his children's baseball teams.

Eleanor is the youngest daughter of John and Agatha Gerbrandt of Winkler, formerly of Rose Farm.

Tony and Eleanor were married in the Lowe Farm Emmanuel Gospel Church in 1980. The first home they purchased was in Lowe Farm. In 1983, they sold the house to purchase a farm yard near Kane.

When Eleanor's parents moved to Winkler in 1989, Tony and Eleanor bought the Gerbrandt farm yard. Then in 1998, they sold their home in the country and moved to Morris.

Tony worked for the Rural Municipality of Morris for 18 years. He left the R.M. in 1997 to take a job with Westfield Industries in Rosenort where he is still employed.

Eleanor is a spare bus driver for the Morris Macdonald School Division and also does the mail run from Lowe Farm to Kane. She also served as a Director for the Lowe Farm Co-op.

Tony and Eleanor have three children: Candice, Dustin and Ashley.

Tony, Eleanor and the three children are actively involved in the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm.

MOSES & JULIA ROSNER

Submitted by Bernard Rosner



Abe Rosner and four of his children.



Bernard and Abie Rosner, 1995.

Moses Rosner was born in the 1860's in the Province of Bassarabia, Romania. He migrated directly to Plum Coulee in 1897, where his younger brother Sam had migrated some 12 years earlier. This brother, who was known as "Uncle Sam", was the mayor of the town of Plum Coulee.

Moses married in 1900 to Julia Morganstern, who arrived with her parents, brothers and sisters from a neighboring village in Romania.

In 1907, the Rosners moved to

Lowe Farm where they established the business known as M. Rosner and later M. Rosner and Sons, dealing in general merchandising.

Although the Rosners were not of the Mennonite faith, Mr. Rosner Sr. was very interested and instrumental up to a point in the building of the first church, namely the Bergthaler Church in Lowe Farm. A religious and God-fearing man, he enjoyed discussing religious topics and Biblical characters with the church elders. He respected all religions as much as his own, which was Judaism, and brought his sons up in the same religion and also with a respect for other faiths. His business ethics contained high moral standards and he tried hard to impart these standards to his family.

Moses Rosner's wife, Julia, was known and respected as a good mother. She raised her family with a smile, through good times and bad, always with an optimistic outlook.

They were blessed with eight sons: Charles, Israel, Sam, Saul, Irvin, Ephraim, Abe and Bernard.

In May of 1921, a great tragedy befell the Rosners. Their home and store were burnt to the ground and in this fire the second son, Israel, 17, lost his life. Half of the business section of the town was razed. The senior Rosners with all their courage took upon themselves to rebuild and stay in the town.

Charles started farming in 1935, two miles west and one mile north of the town of Lowe Farm. He retired from farming in 1966. He was married to Cecilia Black and they had one son, David who was a social worker with the Department of Northern Affairs and is presently back at the University of Waterloo pursuing his Ph.D. in Social Work. Charles passed away in 1970.

Three generations of Rosners

have lived in Lowe Farm. With the birth of David Rosner, the third generation was started. Similarly, Abe and Edith's two sons lived in Lowe Farm for the first years.

As the sons grew older, Moses Rosner Sr. took less interest in the business and the store was closed when Abe left for Winnipeg. Moses Rosner passed away in 1955 and Julia Rosner died in 1965.

Sam started up in business in the town of Morris in 1927 and remained there until 1933. Apart from his business ventures he was quite active with community affairs, such as the Tennis Club, the Morris Park on the riverbank and "ye old swimming hole" which was the Red River.

Saul, after graduating from the University of Manitoba, pursued a business career in Winnipeg.

Irvin, after graduating as an Optometrist in Toronto, practiced in Timmins, Ontario and later Los Angeles, California.

Epraim ran the Lowe Farm business after the senior Rosners retired and remained until 1949. Abe took over the operation of the store from 1949 until 1954. Abe had served with the Canadian Army overseas during World War II. Abe has two sons, one of which attended his primary grades in Lowe Farm. Gerald, Abe's eldest son is a science teacher in Winnipeg and Marshall, his second son, is an audiologist with the school board.

Bernard graduated from Lowe Farm High School and then continued university to graduate as an optometrist and is presently practicing in Winnipeg. During World War II he served overseas with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

I would like to add this humorous incident that happened during the Dirty Thirties: Early one morning in summer, about 2:00 a.m., the lights of a Model T Ford were flashing into our upstairs windows. Someone was pounding at the door and the Model T horn was tooting. I stuck my head out of the window to inquire what was wanted. The answer was, "Phone the doctor."

I assumed the population of our great municipality was about to be increased. I hastily pulled on my trousers and came out and asked "George the noisemaker" which doctor to call.

"Phone Doctor Skinner."

Dr. Skinner was the veterinarian at that time.

I inquired of George what the problem was and to which he answered, "My best mare just gave birth to a colt and now the mare is losing her innards."

I reported this to Dr. Skinner by telephone, to which he answered, "Tell George there is nothing I can do as every time the mare coughs she'll lose them again, as the ligaments are all torn and I'm afraid he's going to lose his mare."

I reported same to George, to which he reacted in a manner that I thought the mare was his wife. I felt so sorry for him that I didn't even ask him for the nickel for the phone call.

At about ten o'clock that evening George appeared at the store.

"George, how's the mare doing?"

The answer: "Oh she's fine, she had twins."

ABE & LENA SAWATZKY

Submitted by Lena Sawatzky



Abe, Lena, Victor and Lorna, 1990.

Abe spent most of his growing up and school years in Lowe Farm. At the age of 16, he started working for the Canadian National Railroad. Then he did long distance trucking for many winters, hauling pulp in Northern Ontario. In the summer he hauled gravel locally and worked on construction. His jobs took him to many places across Canada and the United States. He had many interesting experiences and enjoyed telling them in story form. Abe was a people person and enjoyed life to its fullest.

In summer of 1969, Abe married Lena Epp from Homewood, and that fall we moved to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory for one and a half years. We moved back to Lowe Farm in 1974, to the corner of 1st Street East and 2nd Avenue. Here Abe worked as a grader operator for the Department of Highways for almost 15 years.

Our daughter Lorna was born in the Yukon, and Victor was born shortly after we moved to Lowe Farm. They received their elementary and high school education in Lowe Farm and Morris.

Lorna married Allan Agerbak from Winnipeg in the summer of 1993. They are living in Transcona and have one son, Tyler. Lorna graduated from Grace Hospital School of Nursing as a Registered Nurse in 1994 and is working in nursing homes. Allan is employed at Palliser Furniture Manufacturer in Transcona.

Victor is a long distance trucker and seems to enjoy it. He also calls my home his home.

I worked for Home Care for 15 years. A year ago I moved to Morden and am enjoying my free time.

On January 4, 1991, Abe had a heart attack on the job and on January 19, 1991, he peacefully passed on to his eternal home.

**ABE & ERNA (HILDEBRAND)
SAWATSKY**

Submitted by Abe Sawatsky



Erna and Abe Sawatsky



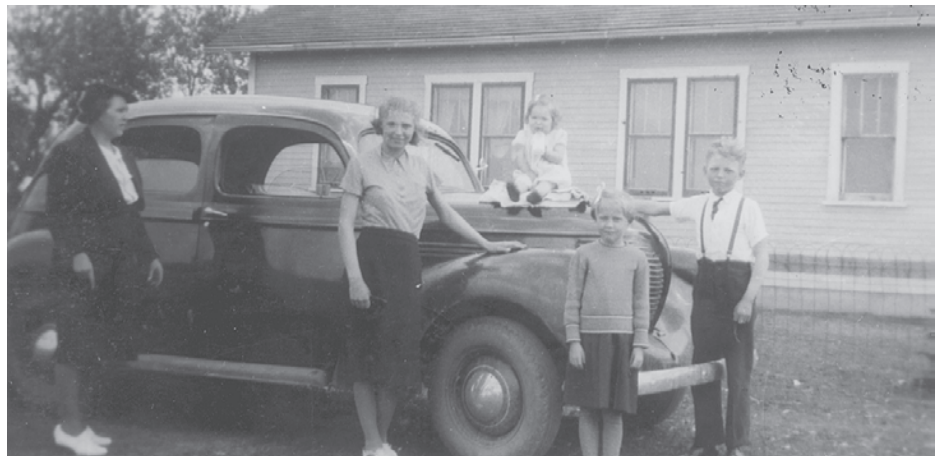
Agatba Sawatsky, spring of 1943.



Esther (left) and Ruth.



Sara, Abe and Martha Sawatsky, 1939.



The Sawatzky family in 1941. Margrete, Agatba, Abe, Sara and Martha.



Walter, Eunice, Esther, Abe, Matthew, Erna, James and Steve.

My great-grandfather from Dad's side, Peter Sawatzky (born 1811) left Russia in 1874 to come to Canada with his family and his new wife.

My great-grandparents, also on Dad's side, Cornelius Wiebe (born 1853) and Susana Dyck Wiebe (born 1856), also left Russia in 1874 to come to Canada.

Although they were on different ships, apparently the journey across the Atlantic was a bit difficult for both families. The ships landed in Quebec. The Sawatzky family came by boat and train via Duluth to Fargo Moorhead, where they had to stay over winter. Here a very sad thing happened to the family. Great-grandpa died after a short illness and was buried beneath a big tree. His widow could not take care of the family and my grandpa, age 14, and his three brothers and three sisters were sort of adopted by the other immigrants.

In the spring of 1875, the journey continued north on the Red River to the landing site near Niverville.

Grandpa Abram Sawatzky was born in Bergthal, Prussia on June 1, 1860. In 1881, at age 21, he homesteaded five miles northeast of Altona, Manitoba. He married and had three children (girls). Later, he was widowed. In 1886 he married Agatha Wiebe, daughter of the above mentioned Cornelius Wiebe.

In 1900, great-grandparents Cornelius Weibe and family homesteaded on Section 23-4-1w in the Rural Municipality of Morris. Great-grandpa's brother Henry Wiebe homesteaded on Section 22-4-1w. It took a number of years before their farm became successful.

Cornelius Wiebe died in 1929 at the age of 76. Susana Dyck Wiebe died in 1935 at the age of 79. Both passed away on the homestead farm and are buried there.

My dad, Cornelius Sawatzky, was born July 3, 1899 to Abram and Agatha (Wiebe) Sawatzky in Sommerfeld.

My mother, Margrete Derksen was born November 15, 1905 to Isaac and Margrete (Driedger) Derksen in Neuendorf, Russia. Grandpa Derksen was born on Aug. 20, 1879 and passed away on January 23, 1920 in Neuendorf, Russia. His occupation was farming. Grandma Derksen, born February 17, 1877 in Neuendorf, Russia, came to Canada in 1923 with her children; Margrete (my mother), Tina, Marie, Peter and Isaac.

My parents married on November 15, 1925, in Eigengruend, Manitoba which is five miles east of Altona. Sara was born in 1926, Abram in 1927, and Martha in 1933. Martha married Bill Peters in 1954 and passed away in 1993. Agatha Mae was born in 1939 and married Abe Krahn in 1958. (Note: My dad has a nice write up in the book *Furrows in the Valley*, pages 602 - 604.)

My parents bought a farm on Section 22-4-1w from Great-Grandpa Cornelius Wiebe in 1929. They paid \$3,100 for the northeast 1/4 section.

They farmed there until 1955 when they moved to Abbotsford, British Columbia. Here they operated a grocery store and built and sold new houses. My dad

loved the store and the carpentry work.

Dad passed away on April 30, 1988. He was 88 years old. Mother passed away on November 25, 1989, at 84 years.

I, Abe Sawatsky, (Abram Sawatsky), the second child, was born November 24, 1927, six miles east of Altona, where my parents lived at the time. I even remember the cold November night and the warm blankets!

I enjoyed my young years in the St. Peters School District where my parents farmed since 1929. We had many neighbors within biking distance and it was always a big treat to get permission to go and see them.

Farming in those days was quite time consuming for my parents, so I, the only son, got a good chance to help and learn farming at a young age. It was a good experience and also very educational. However, it did not fulfill my desire to study and to become a medical doctor (surgeon).

But life was always full of fun, be it helping at home, playing, or going to school with a horse and sleigh. One fall, when I was only eight years old, I managed to plow with three horses and one bottom plow for over 30 days, (one and a half acres a day) before the school inspector came to my parents' place in his shiny car to check why the little boy did not show up in school. Needless to say, this little guy was sent to school the very next day. The teacher, Miss Wiens, was good at her job and in a short while I was caught up in my school work.

At age 14, after eight enjoyable years in school, it was time for full time farm education on my parents' farm. The early thirties were called the dry, Dirty Thirties because of the depression and little rain. Sometimes the sky was full of dust and grasshoppers, supposedly coming from Saskatchewan.

Farm product prices fell through the floor. Wheat went down to 40 cents a bushel, and eggs were eight cents a dozen. Farm wages were 25 cents a day. After a few years, grain and livestock prices increased a lot, and farming was better. In 1936, my parents could pay for the 1/4 section that they bought for \$3,100 in 1929. The farm grew and my parents had enough work to keep their only son happy and busy. Besides field work, there were a lot of farm chores. I took care of horses, milk cows, sheep, pigs, laying hens, geese and ducks.

In 1937, my parents built a new house at a cost of \$2,000. In 1938, a new car was purchased for \$900. In 1939 a new tractor, \$400 and a new combine, \$400 were bought.

Of course there was no hydro or telephone until 1947 and (fortunately) no TV or radio to waste precious time with. But there was time to go horse back riding. The horse called Polly was the best horse for riding. The new bike was kept spotlessly clean, although it made many short trips.

There was also time to attend functions like music and choir practice in school two evenings a week which the teacher, Mr. Pauls, organized and kept going for

many years. Sunday morning was Sunday school and Church service in the St. Peters school. Sunday evenings was Jugendverein (Young People's Meeting), a Christian program which most of the people in the school district would attend and contribute to. This lasted until the late forties, when cars made traveling longer distances easy and attendance dropped. In 1959, the school was completely closed and the St. Peters School District became part of the Lowe Farm School District.

In 1948, Erna Hildebrand, born in 1931 (my wife to be), one brother, one sister and her son, as well as their mother, came to Abbotsford, Canada, after hard war years in Russia and Germany.

Erna's good stepmother had a cousin in Altona which happened to be my grandma, Margrete Driedger Derksen Thiessen. It was during a week-long visit in Altona between these cousins that I met my future wife. Luckily, God has given guys the ability to know when and where to look and act when opportunity knocks. After a week, the family moved on to British Columbia, but Erna and I kept in touch with letters. The happy event of our marriage took place on September 24, 1950. We were married on my parents' farm, as was the custom at the time. The wedding day took place on a beautiful, warm fall day, and our life together has stayed beautiful and warm every day.

We were blessed with four beautiful children: Ruth, 1953, Esther, 1955, Walter, 1958 and Steve, 1973. Ruth and Joe and son Charles live in Colorado. Esther lives in Penticton, British Columbia. Walter and Eunice and their four children live close to home. Steve attends the University of Manitoba (second year) and farms with Mom and me.

When Erna and I got married in 1950, we felt rich in spirit but were financially poor. However, in the fall of 1952, we managed to buy 80 acres from Ed Heppner, which was on Section 21-4-1w, where we homesteaded. The land price was \$6,825, which included the \$25 down payment. After a lengthy discussion with the Farm Credit Corporation and an inspection of the farm, they lent us the money. We bought a house from Manitoba Pool Elevators at Smith Spur for \$480. The movers charged \$50 to move it to the farm.

The live chicken (capon) business flourished because the Jewish people in Winnipeg loved these big chickens and gladly paid a good premium. Farm prices were good and in a number of years the farm grew and proved to be a good enterprise. Soon our motto became "Farming for Fun." In 1965 we built a brand new house, just in time for the family to enjoy it. In 1988 we built our second new house.

In the 1970s the two wheel drive tractors became almost obsolete when the big four wheel drive tractors made their appearance. The farm grew from 80 acres to 3,000 acres to accommodate Walter and Steve.

In 1975, Erna and I celebrated our 25th (silver) anniversary in the Lowe Farm Berghaler church where



The Sawatsky house, built in 1988.



Abe and Erna's first house, 1953 - 1965. Abe, Erna, Ruth, Esther and Walter.

we along with our children attend church. Our celebrations also included a trip to Hawaii and a new car.

In 1971, Ruth married and had two beautiful children. In 1977, Walter and Eunice Hildebrand married and had four beautiful children; James, 1980, Matthew, 1984, Jesse, 1987, and Amy Beth, 1989.

In 1994, our granddaughter Colleen (1975) and Pete Kehler were married and they now live in Plum Coulee with their two beautiful children. Erna and I can now boast to be the proud great grandparents of Brook and Kyle. We must be (and we are) very thankful to have such a healthy family.

In the year 2000, the good Lord willing, these proud great-grandparents will celebrate their Golden anniversary - fifty years - a happy and event-filled marriage.

We are very thankful that we could live in this great country and in this community. We also appreciate the opportunities to serve in church and other community affairs.

WALTER & EUNICE SAWATZKY*Submitted by Eunice Sawatzky**Walter and Eunice Sawatzky with their children, James, Matthew, Jesse and Amy-Beth, 1998.*

Walter Bernhard Sawatzky was the third child born to Abe D. and Erna Sawatzky on February 7, 1958. He grew up on the farm located on SW 21-4-1w.

Eunice Gail Sawatzky, youngest child of Henry & Susan Hildebrand, was born on October 4, 1959. She grew up in the town of Lowe Farm.

Walter and Eunice received their education at Lowe Farm School and then at Morris School. Walter and Eunice got married November 26, 1977 when they were 19 and 18 respectively. They moved into their first home, which they were still in the process of construction, on the same yard as Walter's parents. Eighteen months later they sold their house and began construction on another house on the same yard in which they are still living.

James Ian, the first of four children, was born December 22, 1980. Matthew John was born March 3, 1984. Jesse Aaron was born October 2, 1987 and Amy Elizabeth was born on November 10, 1989.

Together with their children, the Sawatzky family has enjoyed travelling to many parts of North America. Whether close to home or far away, they enjoy camping, tenting, hiking, biking and swimming. James has also enjoyed travelling abroad, once to Europe with the Morris School, and once to Paraguay with a friend.

Walter and Eunice have been involved over the years in various ways in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church. Presently, Walter is the Education Chairman and Eunice is the executive secretary. They also both teach

Sunday School. Walter has also been a member of the Credit Union Board of Directors for 15 years, the past nine as president. Eunice enjoys working with the Daily Vacation Bible School each summer as well as volunteering at the Lowe Farm School.

The Sawatzkys run a mixed grain and hog farm. Both Walter and Eunice enjoy working together with their children on the farm. When they are not working, both are involved in hobbies. Walter is an avid wood worker and Eunice enjoys many different crafts, the current one being porcelain doll crafting.

ABE & MARGARET SCHMIDT*Abe and Margaret Schmidt and family*

Lowe Farm, they say, is a good place to come from. I agree. Since we moved to Winnipeg, we live in Linden Woods, which isn't bad either. We will never forget the good years when I grew up and farmed at Lowe Farm. We have one daughter and three sons who are all not at Lowe Farm.

Some years were a bit too wet and some too dry; when the crop was good there was a surplus and grain was hard to sell. However, after we built the hog barn and sold 1,500 hogs a year, things worked out all right.

Our farm was located three miles north of town on PR 332. You'll notice the three miles of shelter belt we planted.

With being involved in community affairs, church work, school board, Credit Union, kids in school and sports activities, it got to be quite busy. We decided to rent out our land, which was a good move at the time. Less work and more profit. It all added up to a hard working family.

This was also the time of the motorcycle era, so I joined the trend. I remember going to Credit Union chapter meetings with all of us on bikes, and found out the best therapy is riding in the fresh air. Even now I drive out and smell the country air and the roses.

I fondly remember the homecomings, the annual Shannon Festival, the parades and the Credit Union

breakfasts.

This continued; Lowe Farm's reputation can only be insured by the traditional community spirit of participation and cooperation.

Lowe Farm is our home town and these friendly people will never be forgotten by Abe and Margaret Schmidt.

ELDON & MILDRED (WALL) SCHROEDER

Submitted by Mildred Schroeder



Eldon and Mildred Schroeder and family, 1998.

Eldon, son of Beno and Alby Schroeder, and Mildred, daughter of Ben and Annie Wall, grew up in the Lowe Farm area. We were married in the spring of 1966 and lived in Winnipeg for seven years and near Springstein for three years.

We then moved to Lowe Farm in the fall of 1976, having purchased the former Peter Peters and Cornie P. Kroeker farm. The location is three miles east and one-and-a-quarter miles north of Lowe Farm. We are farming full time. I do hair dressing part time in the home.

We have raised our three children here. They are: Byron, Curt and Lindsay.

Byron is married to Carol Toews of New Hope. They live in Altona where Byron is employed at D.W. Friesens and Carol at the Altona Credit Union.

Curt is married to Briggy Fisher of Cache Creek, British Columbia. They have one daughter, Leeza Anne. Curt is employed as a mechanic at Brandt Tractor in Calgary, Alberta. Briggy is a homemaker.

Lindsay lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is employed at Golden Links Lodge.

RON & LYNDA SCHROEDER

Ron Schroeder, son of Beno H. and Alby Schroeder, and Lynda Dyck, daughter of Diedrich and Helen Dyck, were married on May 9, 1970.

We lived in Winnipeg from May to the end of December 1970. We then moved to Ron's grandparents' farm where we lived till 1984 when we moved to Ron's Dad and Mom's farm after they retired to Winkler.

We have three children and one grandchild. Kelly married Kim Galbraith and has a son, Brenden. Theresa lives in British Columbia, and Keith, lives in Winnipeg.

We have been busy over the years with Ron working at the Glendale Trailer Factory in Morris, Motor Coach Industries in Winnipeg and working as a mechanic for a number of years, also driving school bus, raising hogs and grain farming. Lynda has also been busy with milking cows for many years, working at the Co-op Store and working as a teacher's aid in the Lowe Farm School.

DIEDRICH & HELEN SCHROEDER

In the fall of 1964, Diedrich and Helen Schroeder moved into the area, just east of Lowe Farm, from a farm north of Horndean in the Grossweide district. They arrived with their two sons, Dennis and Randy (older daughter Marlene had already left home some years earlier) and farmed the previous site of John and Helen Hiebert, sister and brother-in-law to Diedrich.

At Lowe Farm they engaged in a similar style and practice of farming as at Horndean, though they had to adopt the practice of disker seeding versus that of a seed drill. A few years after their arrival the cow barn was converted to a two-story poultry house. Later a one-story structure was added in order to house one of the largest hatching egg flocks in the area for that time.

Diedrich and Helen continued until they sold the farm to son Randy and wife Irene in winter of 1977. Over the course of their stay they made many close friends and came to greatly appreciate the community for its hospitality and acceptance.

They attended and served in the Lowe Farm Berghthaler Mennonite Church from about 1965 until their departure. Diedrich and Helen moved to Altona in February of 1977 where they soon established themselves within a new and wider circle of friends. Diedrich worked for the Town of Altona Works and Operation for eight years until his final retirement and Helen turned to volunteer work and high school, through correspondence. Both felt that the Lowe Farm area had offered them warm social, spiritual and economic rewards and always remember it fondly.

RANDY & IRENE SCHROEDER

Randy and Irene Schroeder moved from Winnipeg to Lowe Farm in February of 1977 along with their one year old son, Kevin. Randy grew up in the areas of Horndean (Grossweide School District) and later, Lowe Farm. Irene spent her childhood in the town of Altona where they met as adults, both attending Elim Bible School.

They married and took over the farm from Randy's

parents and operated it as it was for a couple of years. In 1978 they expanded the hatching egg flock with the addition of a new automated layer barn.

Around that time, during the flood of 1979, daughter Melanie was born on April 23, with the rising Red River hampering the access to their Winnipeg hospital.

In 1992 they expanded their land base but until time of writing, poultry has always been their main occupation. In conjunction with the poultry business, Randy was elected to the Board of Directors of Granny's Poultry Co-op (where their eggs are shipped) in 1985 and serves to this day.

Irene's interests centered around gardening, music, singing and farm work. Both serve in the Lowe Farm Bergthaler Mennonite Church. The children attended grade school in Lowe Farm and finished their high school at the Mennonite Collegiate Institute in Gretna. Both Randy and Irene enjoy the comparative freedom of having grown children and enjoy traveling when time and the poultry business allows.

JACOB SPENST & HELENA (HEINRICHS) SCHROEDER



The Rev. Jacob Schroeder family. Back row: (l - r) Annie, George, John; Front row: Mary, Helena, Abe, Jacob, Jacob.

Jacob Schroeder was one of Manitoba's solid farmers, living near Lowe Farm all his life and enjoying the good times and the bad. He never made the headlines in public life but he was liked for what he was, a plain, hard working farmer - the kind that make the backbone of the Canadian West.

Jacob Spenst Schroeder was born to Rev. and Mrs. Jacob Schroeder at Schoenhorst, near Gretna, on November 3, 1891. His family consisted of four brothers; John, George, Abram and Peter, and two sisters; Mary and Annie. On April 1, 1903, at the age of 12, Jacob

moved to Lowe Farm with the family. Land was a little cheaper here and more readily available.

Here he continued to go to school for a few more years, but the real schooling for him was learning to farm from his dad. He was baptized by Bishop Abram Doerksen in 1911 and accepted into the Sommerfeld Church in Kronsriede. When he married he transferred his membership to the Bergthaler Church.

His father was a minister and as a result, much of the farming responsibility fell on the family. There was no water available for the household or the cattle, so water was carted from the river in Morris. As soon as possible, dugouts were made to solve the water problem.

At the age of 21, Jacob started farming on his own, paying \$4,000 for a quarter section with a set of run-down buildings. He lived alone on his farm for a few years but found it quite lonely.

At a funeral for an uncle, Diedrich Schroeder, at Halbstadt, Jacob got to see a black-haired, brown-eyed, slim young lady by the name of Helena Heinrichs. He immediately knew that she was "Miss Right" for him. It took until June for him to make a special trip to Halbstadt to the Jacob Heinrichs residence to pursue his heart's desire. He arrived, driving a trim top buggy, drawn by a sleek brown horse and his knees covered by a light blanket. He quickly won the heart of Helena and on October 22, 1914, they were married by Rev. Henry Ewert at the home of Helena's parents. With a sparkle in his eye Jacob used to say, "She was quite a girl, my Helena." In addition to being good looking, she could also cook.

They immediately moved to Lowe Farm, half a mile west of Jacob's parents, and started farming. In 1918 they moved to a farm one-and-a-half miles south of Lowe Farm.

Farming took up the major part of their time but wheat prices were good and for a young farmer, Jake became moderately prosperous for those times.

While Jacob was busy in the fields Helena was busy with the children as they came along. She would plant a large vegetable and fruit garden. There were usually enough vegetables for the family as well as enough to sell or trade for other products. The poultry department also belonged to Helena. There were always chickens for eggs, roasts and soup. When a traveler would come along and want to sell material, fish or kinds of fruit which she didn't grow, she would politely but firmly tell him, "If you don't buy my wares, I can't buy yours. We have no money, just things that grow on the farm." Eventually a deal would be made.

In 1922, Jake purchased a Titan tractor but it was unsatisfactory, so he switched to a Rumley Oil Pull which was quite a machine in those days. He was one of the first to own a car in the district and occasionally chauffeured ministers around to various churches, particularly during World War I.



Jacob and Helen Schroeder in 1920.



Jacob and Helen Schroeder in 1965 at their 50th wedding anniversary.



Jacob Schroeder displaying a registered purebred short horn bull on his farm.



Jacob and Helen's Lowe Farm home since 1918. Picture taken in 1969.



Threshing machine and crew. Jacob Schroeder with bowler hat with his daughters Anna and Dora in front of him. Jacob Harder is on his left, three unidentified.



Combining outfit in 1945.

Around that time Jake and a friend went to Winnipeg to buy an Overland car. They had both set their hearts on a particular model. The dealer was anxious to sell and for a good price they ended up with three cars instead of two.

A few weeks later he attempted to buy more land from one of his older neighbors in the Rosenfeld District. He was not successful but the older gentleman showed interest in Jacob's new Overland car. So he sold him the third car at a neat profit of \$600.

The Depression came but it didn't hurt him too much as the land was paid for and he had a few dollars. He was sensitive though to the need around him and helped where he could. He worked closely together with his older brother John, who went into the implement business in the late 20's. Jacob, however, stuck to farming.

Besides growing grain he had a real interest in raising purebred shorthorn cattle. Cattle, horses and other farm animals had to be looked after and treated well. He also enjoyed the wildlife around the farm such as rabbits, the occasional deer and especially the prairie chickens.

Jacob Schroeder used to enjoy talking about days gone by. He used to tell about the time as a boy, he took a few armfuls of hay into the Morris hotel, so he could sleep there. (The adults got the beds.) He also used to relate the story of how a horse kicked him on the head. He was rushed to Morris where Dr. McTavish stitched his scalp. For this little operation he had his hands and legs tied to a table, a newspaper in his mouth to bite on. The job was done in about fifteen minutes with hardly a scar to show for it.

By the time of World War II, he was farming not only his own land but also a farm belonging to an American family. They became anxious to sell but Jacob advised them to hold on for a while and he would farm it for them. They



Jacob Schroeder unloading grain in the late 1960's.



Jacob Schroeder with team and sleigh - "old time snowmobile."



The Schroeder family on Jacob and Helen's 50th anniversary in 1964. Back row: (l - r) Susan Giesbrecht, Anna Neufeld, Jacob, Beno; Front row: Helen Martens, Dora Hunkin, Maria, Olga Braun; Sitting: Jacob and Helena Schroeder.

decided to heed his advice, and after the war this land sold for twice the pre-war price. When asked why he didn't buy it himself at the low pre-war price he said, "That's not how you treat your lifelong neighbors."

He never sought community leadership but was always willing to help. He served on the local school board for a number of years, was a charter member of the Lowe Farm Credit Union, and was on the board of directors of the Red River Valley Mutual Insurance Company for a number of years.

Jacob and Helena enjoyed sharing their home with family and friends. There was a meal or a cup of coffee available at all times. They enjoyed talking to people and hearing of other places.

Jacob was an early riser and worked long hours during the busy season. Farming to him was recreation, like golf to a golfer. He didn't believe in wasting time, especially on the road getting from place to place.

They were a thrifty couple by nature but they believed in buying quality.

Jacob was even-tempered and patient with his family of eight children; six girls and two boys. There were enough children for a baseball or football team and he would often join in. After a game Helena usually had a treat of cookies and milk for everyone.

Jacob and Helena had a real interest in the church. He was instrumental in starting the first services in the school in Lowe Farm. Various denominations took part in these. Whenever possible the whole family was at the service. If the weather was uncooperative and travel was impossible, the family would gather around the organ to sing hymns. Sunday school verses were recited and the lesson read. The entire family was encouraged to take part in Sunday School, choir practice and later 'Jugendverein'. They were concerned about the spiritual and material welfare of their family. They worked hard to provide for them and also to establish a future for them.

In July 1929, he took his family for a trip to Lockport, Manitoba and caused quite a sensation on Portage Avenue when the Overland car stalled and passerby realized his family consisted of eight children, a wife and a maid to help with the children. He also helped out with school trips. As early as 1934, he helped chaperone a trip to West Hawk Lake, together with the school principal, I. J. Warkentin. Later in 1936 and again in 1947 he took students to Pine Falls, Seven Sisters, Falcon Lake and West Hawk Lake on the back of his 1936 International truck.

In the fall of 1970, the Schroeders retired to Lowe Farm. Jacob was not well. He found leaving the farm very difficult. After a lengthy illness and a stay of one week in the Morris Hospital he passed away quietly on May 24, 1971.

With the passing of her husband, Helena was a very lonely woman. But she soon realized there were other needy people around her and she put her cooking skills to good use in the neighborhood and her families'

homes. She made several trips to British Columbia to visit her friends and relatives. She also spent quite a bit of time in the homes of her children helping with whatever she could do. She was always counting her blessings.

In 1978, she sold her house in Lowe Farm and moved in with her daughter, Susan and her husband Lawrence Giesbrecht, in Altona. She lived with them until August 28, 1991, when due to failing health and memory she moved into the Ebenezer Home in Altona. Here she spent the next five years. Having 'faspa' with those who came to see her was still a special treat.

On November 8, 1996, at the age of 103 years, 11 months, and 15 days she also quietly passed away. Both Jacob and Helena are buried on the Kronswiede Cemetery south of Lowe Farm as are their children: Anna (died 1994) and her husband Cornelius J. Neufeld (died 1998), Maria (died 1970) and Jacob (died 1996). Olga (died 1990) and her husband Jacob L. Braun (died 1993) and daughter-in-law Albertine Schroeder (died 1998).

The Schroeders raised eight children: Anna (C. J.) Neufeld of Lowe Farm; Dora (Ken) Hunkin of Morris; Helen (Frank) Martens of Morris; Jake (Ruth) Schroeder of Lowe Farm; Mary, at home; Beno (Albertine) of Lowe Farm; Olga (Jacob L.) Braun of Kane; and Susan (Lawrence) Giesbrecht of Altona.

JAKE & RUTH (ENNS) SCHROEDER

Jacob Schroeder was born on the farm of Jacob and Helena Schroeder, one and a half mile south of Lowe Farm. Ruth was born and grew up on the farm five miles north of Winkler. She was the daughter of Frank and Maria Enns.

Jake attended the Lowe Farm School and Ruth attended the Burwalde School north of Winkler. Jake and Ruth were married on September 30, 1945. Together with his father, Jake took up farming, which was always the joy of his life. At first they lived in a small house built on his father's land but later they bought land closer to town and started a larger yard and built a bigger house.

To supplement the farm income Jake worked at several other jobs. When hydro came to Lowe Farm he obtained a Journeyman's License and helped several farmers prepare their yards and buildings for hydro. Later he also worked for the local garage and also at the trailer factory in Morris.

Together they raised four children; two daughters and two sons. They all attended school at Lowe Farm.

Sandra, the oldest, married Harvey Stoesz. Presently they live in the country close to Strathmore, Alberta. Harv works for a fertilizer company in the area and Sandra has a cottage industry of teddy bears at home. They have one son, Christopher, who is a graduate of the College of Lethbridge and lives in Calgary.



Jake and Ruth Schroeder and family. Back row: (l - r) Michael Schroeder, Andrew Dueck, Pam Dueck, Meghan Schroeder, Tyrel Schroeder; Second row: Ed Schroeder, Peter Dueck, Chris Stoesz, Harv Stoesz, Rick Schroeder; Third row: Ursula Schroeder, Diana Dueck, Jake and Ruth Schroeder, Sandra Stoesz, Terese Schroeder; Front: Christine Schroeder, KaeLeigh Schroeder.



The farm yard of Jake and Ruth Schroeder, 1994.

Diana, the second daughter, married Peter Dueck. They live in St. Germain, close to Winnipeg, but both work in the city. Peter as a chartered accountant and Diana at a bank. They have two children. Andrew is a student of the University of Manitoba and Pamela is a grade XI student.

Edward, the oldest son, married Ursula Hille. They live in Winfield, British Columbia. Both have jobs in Kelowna. They also have two children. Michael is a Grade XII graduate and Christine is in Grade VI.

Richard, the second son, married Terese Funk. They live in Morden. Currently Rick is working for a farm machinery company in Winkler, and Terese is a teacher's aide in the Morden school system. Their son Tyrel is present attending computer college in Calgary. Daughters Meghan and KaeLeigh both attend the Morden Collegiate, Grades XI and VII.

Jake and Ruth enjoyed taking an annual trip to visit the kids. In 1990 they went as far west and north as Prince Rupert, British Columbia to watch the huge grain ships being loaded as well as travelling and up to Kitimat to visit a friend.

Jake and Ruth celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary in 1995.

In March of 1996, Jake passed away suddenly in the Morris Hospital. Later that same year Ruth moved into the Lowe Farm Apartments.

JOHANN & MARIA (HEPPNER) SCHROEDER

The Johann Schroeders came to Canada from Russia in 1876. Johann's wife died en route in the Niverville area. He then married Maria Heppner.

The Schroeders lived by the creek just north of Plum Coulee until 1895 - 1896, when they moved north to Kronsweide, south of Lowe Farm. Here they home-

stead on SE 23-4-2w. Community church services were held in their home until the private school was completed in 1898. This was the beginning of the Kronsweide Church. The Schroeders continued to farm this land until 1919 when it was sold to Peter K. Rempel. They then moved to a new home that had been built for them in their daughter Anna's tree garden (Mrs. Martin Friesen).

In the early winter of 1919, Johann Schroeder died. Maria Schroeder passed on in August, 1923, on the day of her grandson, Cornie Friesen's birth. The Schroeders are buried at the Kronsweide Cemetery.

The children of Johann and Maria Schroeder: Marie, married to Daniel Penner, died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Agatha, married to Jacob I. Friesen. Anna, married to Martin M. Friesen. Susan, married to Peter M. Friesen. Margaret, married to Franz Harder, moved to the Paraguayan Chaco in 1926. Anton, moved to the Paraguayan Chaco in 1927. He contracted typhoid and died on a return trip in 1928. He is buried in Kronsweide Cemetery. Abram, married for two weeks, died of a heart attack. Jacob remained single. Peter was injured in an accident with horses at the Lowe Farm elevator. He was in a wheelchair until he died.

None of the boys in this family reached the age of thirty.

NETTIE (REMPLE) & ABE SCHROEDER

From Furrows in the Valley

Nettie was the third daughter of Peter P. and Nettie Remple. On June 25, 1936, Nettie married Abe Schroeder, son of George and Susan Schroeder. They farmed in the Kronsweide District.

They had four children: Verna is living in Winnipeg; Betty married Bill McBride and lives in Killarney, they have three daughters. Judy married Lawrie Hawn. They have two children and live in Ottawa, Ontario; Melvin is living in Steinbach.

They retired in 1974 and moved to Plum Coulee in 1976. On November 30, 1977, Abe passed away. Nettie resides in Plum Coulee.

CHARLES A. SPALDING

Submitted by Norman Spalding

Charles Anson Spalding, my father, was born in the Toronto area, March 27, 1880, of Scottish parents. He was the second oldest in a family of seven and grew up in Preston, Ontario.

He worked as an apprentice in tinsmithing and plumbing. He came west as far as Saskatchewan by train, planning to try homesteading, but found that too lonely. He left for Brandon, Manitoba, where he worked on a farm for a few years. From there he went to Plum Coulee, where he got on as a tinsmith and plumber with the Stewart Brothers.



C.A. Spalding, John L. Hiebert, and Pete Giesbrecht of Lowe Farm. Spalding house at right, livery stable in background.



Charles and Marion Spalding with Evelyn, Norman and Grandma Voyt.

It was at a dance in Plum Coulee that he met my mother, Mary Dyck. It was love at first sight for my dad, but mother's mother was slow in wanting her daughter to marry out of the Mennonite Church. However, my dad charmed her into accepting him, thus winning her approval and they were married after a short courtship. They were married by author Ralph Connor on April 19, 1909. All courting was done by horse and buggy during the spring wet season. Needless to say, there were not too many visits, since my mother lived in Lowe Farm at the time.

Shortly after they were married, Dad and Mr. Reichert started a business in Lowe Farm, Reichert was a harness maker, and my dad was tinsmith and plumber. He installed quite a few hot water systems in homes in and around Lowe Farm.

After a few years in business, Reichert moved to Roland, and my dad went into farming for four years, for Henry Harkins, one half-section south and east of Lowe Farm.

In 1918, he bought the old Grand Pacific Hotel in Lowe Farm. He started a store on the main floor, and had rooms for rent on the second floor, as well as his tinsmithing and plumbing shop.

During the flu epidemic, the people would come to his store for medicine left there by Dr. McGavin from Plum Coulee, and Dr. Rose from Morris. The medicine consisted largely of colored pills and doses of hard liquor.

My mother boarded traveling salesmen and transients who came to town by train. She was always busy with the family as well. They had two children, Evelyn and Norman.

After Rosner's General Store was destroyed by fire in 1921, my father sold the former Grand Pacific Hotel to Moses Rosner. The Rosners had lost their second eldest son in that fire.

My father had a severe heart problem and was forced to sell the business because of this. His physician had given him six months to live, but suggested that he try chiropractic treatments. This proved to be most helpful and his condition improved greatly. As a result, he took a great interest in the chiropractic method and subsequently trained for six months at Davenport, Iowa. He was able to help some people after this short course of training.

In 1926, he was instrumental in getting the high school started in Lowe Farm. That same year, he bought a quarter section of land at \$10.00 per acre, north of Lowe Farm. They went through very hard times during the 1930's. To make ends meet, he went to work in Winnipeg as a plumber for two winters. My mother continued to help by taking in boarders and serving meals to travelers going through town. I can remember times when she learned that her customer had given her his last 50 cents (the price of the meal), and she would give it back to him.

When my mother had these boarders, she was also the chambermaid, you might say, as there was no plumbing. She equipped each room with a pitcher, basin and chamber pot, which had to be tended each day. The laundry was done by one of the hand-operated washers with water heated on the stove.



Caroline Groening (later to be Mrs. Norman Spalding), on running board of A.A. Groening's first car. Ed and Walter Groening in back.

My mother died very suddenly in 1937. It was a great shock to all of us! My dad was nominated and elected councilor for Ward 5 in the Rural Municipality of Morris, which helped to fill his lonely days. He held that post for six years.

He married Tina Friesen in 1944 and went to live in Renata, British Columbia. They moved back to Manitoba and bought a store in Dunrae. After a few years, they retired to Mission, B. C., where he passed away in 1954.

My sister, Evelyn, married Shirley Johnson in November 1928. He was the Imperial Oil agent in Lowe Farm. Evelyn and Shirley Johnson had five children: Charlie, Jean, Dorothy, Bernice and Ernest. From Manitoba, Evelyn and Shirley and their children moved to Alberta. Evelyn and Shirley are buried in Stettler, Alberta. Charlie, Bernice, and Ernest live in Alberta, and Dorothy lives in Vancouver. Jean passed away in the spring of 1998.

I, Norman, married in 1935 to Caroline Groening. My dad and I farmed together all his farming years. Four children were born to us: Norma, June, Howard and Diana Evelyn.

Norma married Ronald Hoepfner of Altona. Ron and Norma have lived in Whitehorse, Yukon since 1970. Ron was a teacher there for 20 years before he started his own consulting business. They have four grown children. Norma worked in the school system as secretary for many years, and more recently at a medical clinic. They are the happy grandparents of 10 grandchildren. Their daughter Patti and husband Emery and their three children also live in Whitehorse. Chuck and his wife Debbie and two sons live in Victoria. Geoff and his wife Tricia and three children live Edmonton. Colleen and her husband Terry and two children live in Alberta as well.

June married Eldon Wiebe of Lowe Farm in 1957. Eldon retired from his job as an appraiser with the Federal Government a few years ago and are now living in Lacombe, Alberta. They have two grown sons. Malcolm and his wife Faye and two children live in Edmonton where Malcolm works for the WCB. Ian and his wife Shelley and two children live in Quesnel, B.C. where Ian is a Crown Prosecutor. For the last couple of winters, Eldon and June have been enjoying the winters in Parksville, B.C., instead of shoveling snow in Alberta.

Howard lives in Saint John, New Brunswick. He married Donna Gillis of Sydney, Nova Scotia. Howard and Donna have lived in New Brunswick for the last 20 years. Howard is a lawyer at a law firm in St. John. Donna is doing consulting work in various areas of social issues. They have seven children, two of them working in Alberta, and five of them in New Brunswick.

Diana Evelyn lives in Lacombe, Alberta. She is married to Jim Rempel of Lowe Farm. After their marriage in 1968 and living in Winnipeg for two years, they moved to Whitehorse in 1970. Three children, Lisa, Ben and Jonathan, were all born there. Evelyn and Jim started a diesel repair business there, and in 1981 moved

to Alberta and continued in that line of work with their own shop in Red Deer. For the last six years they have owned a pizza business in Lacombe. It is a 'take out and delivery' business and they watched it grow to the point where they opened another location about 20 minutes to the north. Ben manages that store. The younger son Jonathan is in third year of business at the University of Calgary. Lisa and her husband Tim Baron live in Houston, Texas where Tim is working as a physiotherapist.

I have 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. We moved to Redwater, Alberta on my retirement. Caroline died in 1981 and I married Nora Hiebert of Lowe Farm in 1982. We are still residing in Redwater.

ARON A. & AGANETHA (WIEBE) THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley



Aron and Aganetha Thiessen on their wedding day, July 27, 1897.



Stone house of A. A. Thiessen built in 1918.



Aganetha and Isaac Hildebrand

Born in Russia in January, 1875, Aron A. Thiessen was six months old when he came to Manitoba with his parents, the Aron Thiessens'. They settled near Horndean, Manitoba, but one year after Aron married Aganetha Wiebe, daughter of the Bernard A. Wiebes near Weidenfeld, they moved to section 22-4-2w, in the Rural Municipality of Morris. Here he bought a quarter of land for about \$6.50 an acre. They built a sizable 20 by 30 foot house. The ground had to be broken up and it was not an easy task with horses as the only means to do it.

In 1917, Aron purchased his first tractor. Families were usually large in those in those days, and as soon as the boys were old enough to help their father, they stayed home from school for weeks at a time to help. The girls also had to stay home during the busy seasons to help mother, as store bought food and clothes were not readily available at the time. If they needed a loaf of bread, it had to be baked and if clothes were needed, they were handmade.

School was not considered to be essential, and so, if the children had attended a few years, they had enough of an education to get along. The schools were run by private individuals, and not regulated by government.

In 1918, the Thiessens built a new home. It was an extravagant structure, using four carloads of brick shipped from Steinbach, and then hauled from Lowe Farm with a horse drawn wagon. The cost of

the home was \$6,000, and as of 1979, the house is still standing and has almost never been vacant.

Their old house was then moved to section 14-5-2w to land Aron purchased, and it was later used by some of their married children to live in for a few years until they bought land of their own.

However, two years after the completion of the new stone home, Aron was taken ill with a stroke and he died five years later, in 1925.

He left to mourn, his wife, Aganetha, and their 11 children: Aron, Bernard, Aganetha, John, Abraham, Jacob, Agatha, Anna, Sara, Henry and Katherine. One baby died in infancy.

Aganetha remarried in 1929 to Isaac Hildebrand from the Rural Municipality of Rhineland. They lived in the Halbstadt area for one year then moved back to her homestead, living there until retiring in 1943, when they moved back to Altona. He died in 1952 and his wife in 1965.

ARON W. & HELENA (HEPPNER) THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley

Aron, born in 1898, was the oldest of the family. He married Helena Heppner in July, 1922. She was the daughter of Abram Heppners' and was born on September 1, 1904.

They lived with her parents for the first nine months of their marriage, after which they bought their own place, which was 23-4-2w. They farmed for 25 years, after which they moved to Winnipeg, buying a home in St. Vital. On July 10, 1972, the Thiessens celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

They had six children: Dorothy, Margaret, John, Harry, Mabel and Gladys.

ABRAM H. & TENA THIESSEN*From Furrows in the Valley*

Abram H. Thiessen (1907), son of Aron A. Thiessens, was married to Tena (1909), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abram B. Wiebe, on October 21, 1926.

The Thiessens moved first to section 14-5-2w, where they farmed for 11 years before moving to town for four years. They lived in the Steinfeld school district for eight years, after which they moved to section 22-4-2w, moving to the stone house which his parents had built.

In 1953, they moved to their own place (SW 1/4 35-4-2w) where they farmed until their retirement in 1966, when they moved into Lowe Farm. Three children were born to them: Herman, Eddie and Edna.

ANNA THIESSEN*From Furrows in the Valley*

Anna Thiessen (1915) was married to Henry J. Kehler in November, 1935. They farmed, but Henry became ill with diabetes and died at the age of 52 years in 1959. This left a widow with one son, Jake, and four daughters, Nettie, Martha, Elma and Dorothy.

After her husband's death, Anna moved to Winkler for several years, working in the sewing factory.

She remarried in January, 1966, to Jacob A. Wiebe from Vanderhoof, British Columbia. He predeceased her in June, 1968, and so, after only two and a half years of marriage, she was once more a widow.

Anna remarried in May, 1971, to Jacob E. Hebert from Blumenort. Jacob had 11 children from his previous marriage, three of which were still at home.

It was also that same year that her oldest child, Nettie, died. Nettie left behind her husband, Jake Klassen and their four children.

BERNARD W. & LENA (FRIESEN) THIESSEN*From Furrows in the Valley*

B. W. and Lena Thiessen.

Bernard W. Thiessen was born in the Lowe Farm district on January 30, 1900, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Aron A. Thiessen. He had five brothers and five sisters. At the age of 19, he married Lena Friesen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Friesen of Plum Coulee. They became the parents of seven children, including one son and six daughters.

These children are: Ed Thiessen of Vancouver; Helen (Jim) Robertson; Sadie (Abe) Wiebe; Erna (Jake) Hildebrand; all from Winnipeg. Susan (Henry) Hildebrand of Lowe Farm; and Evelyn (Henry) Siemens of Horndean; The youngest daughter, Margaret Rose, died in infancy.

Ben and Lena were members of the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church. Their residence was two miles west and two-and-one-half miles south of Lowe Farm, where they farmed all their lives. He attended school at Kronsweide until the eighth grade.

Ben was very active in public life and community affairs. In 1930, a group of local residents organized a society known as the Lowe Farm Consumers Co-operative. They elected him as their first president, with Abram A. Hoepfner as sale manager. In 1931, he was elected councillor of Ward 5 in the Rural Municipality of Morris, and served in that office for almost 20 years. He was Reeve for two of those years. Much of this time in office was during the Great Depression, when money was

scarce and everyone had to endure the hardships of the dirty 30's. Another time of crisis for him was the 1950 flood, when people had to evacuate their homes and animals had to be rescued and brought to higher ground.

He was a faithful member and president of the Lowe Farm Chamber of Commerce for many years. He served as a director of the Altona Hospital for 17 years, and as director of the Morris Hospital for two years. He was an agent for Wawanesa Insurance Co. for 17 years and a school trustee for 10 years. From 1943 until 1946, he was director of the Lowe Farm Credit Union Society Ltd., when it was in its early stages.

Ben was head of the Morris flood relief and took part in civil defense organizations. He also served as a district representative for the Empire Automobile Association for many years. His interest in provincial and federal politics was especially great during the Diefenbaker era.

In spite of his many community and business activities, Ben also managed to operate a small farm and to raise a family. His wife was a warm and generous woman, a great hostess and wonderful cook. She loved to entertain guests with a home cooked meal, and made sure that no one would ever leave her house hungry.

In 1941, with the help of his family, Ben began to build a new house and assorted farm buildings. These were pre-Manitoba Hydro times, so he wired all the buildings and erected a forty foot tower with the 32 volt wind charger on the top to produce electricity for lights, washer, pumps, and iron. That was all it could handle. On windy days, there were bright lights as the sixteen glass batteries charged, and on calm days, electricity had to be rationed.

Ben was always proud to show of his own inventions, but they did not always work to his advantage. In 1945, he built what must be one

of the first self-propelled swathers in the district.

He used it for several years before trading it off. In 1938, when the old threshing machines became obsolete, he purchased a new combine and did some custom harvesting for a few years.

He was always very particular in the way he kept his possessions. Everything had an order and everything had its own proper place. If there were any fingerprints on his shiny black Oldsmobile, he would know that one of his grandchildren must be the culprit.

His life of 62 years ended suddenly with cardiac arrest on August 24, 1962. In 1971, mother passed away. They are resting in the Kronsweide Cemetery, just across the field from the farm yard where they had lived all their lives.

HENRY W. & KATHARINA THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley

On December 16, 1901, Henry was born to Aron and Aganetha Thiessen. He married Katharina Friesen in September, 1921.

The Henry Thiessens farmed in the Burwalde district, near Winkler, until 1929 when they sold their land and moved to Lowe Farm. He then worked for some time in the store, for the transfer, and then owned and operated the White Rose Gas Station for several years.

In the late 1940's they moved to Winnipeg, residing there till in the late 1960's, at which time they moved to Surrey, British Columbia. In 1971, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The Thiessen children are: Herman, Susie, Harry, Raymond, Leona, Elvira and Lawrence. Two children died in infancy.

JACOB H. THIESSEN



Jacob H. and Tina Thiessen

Jacob was born on September 9, 1910 to Aaron and Aganetha Thiessen. He was married to Helen Toews on October 17, 1937. They farmed in the Lowe Farm area for many years. Jacob used horses in the spring of 1935 and in the summer of 1936 bought his first tractor. Jacob and Helen lived on the farm until 1965 at which time they moved to a new home they built in Lowe Farm. After moving to town they didn't farm as much land anymore, so they had more leisure time.

Jacob and Helen had two sons, Daniel, born December 10, 1939 and Grant Wayne, born December 20, 1946. Dan farmed with his dad for a few years and then later went farming on his own. He married Helen Martens of the Melba School District. Grant moved to Winnipeg and found employment. He married Jan Nutall in 1968 and they are currently living in the St. Vital area.

Helen passed away on July 30, 1980. On October 25, 1981 Jacob married Mrs. Tina (Julius) Wiens. They lived in Lowe Farm till July of 1997 at which time they moved to Lions Manor in Winkler.

DAN AND HELEN (MARTINS) THIESSEN

Daniel, son of Jacob H. and Helen Thiessen was born on December 10, 1939, and has lived in the Lowe Farm area most of his life. He married Helen Martens of the Melba School District and for the first few years of their married life they lived in that area.

They then bought a house in Lowe Farm in 1971 and lived there until 1979, at which time they moved to what used to be his parents' farm yard on 34-4-2w just a few miles out of town and built a new house in 1980/81.

On November 12, 1967, Monica, the first of three children was born. Rhonda arrived on July 30, 1971 and Stefan on March 29, 1973. After moving to the farm in 1979 they could let the children have some of the things that town life didn't allow. They were lucky enough to get a pony to use if they provided a home for it, and that proved to be the start of things as far as horses were concerned, especially for the girls. A go-cart and motorbike came later, which were more in Stefan's interests.

Dan had started farming at a young age and supplemented his income by doing various jobs the first few years. He helped with bridge building on Shannon drain, operated construction equipment, working for Remple Construction, and also was doing carpentry for a number of years.

Dan was a member of the Lowe Farm Fire Department during the eight years they lived in town. He was also a member and president of the Chamber of Commerce. It was at this time that Dan ran for council in a municipal by-election and won a seat. He was a councillor from 1977 - 1983 and Reeve from 1983 - 1995.

Helen was involved with the Kronsweide Church Ladies group, volunteer canvassing for various organizations and a director with

Valley Ag Society for 12 years. She served on the Lowe Farm Recreation Commission, the Red River Valley Health District Hospital Board (for six years), and the Red River Valley Health District Foundation Board.

As councillor and reeve for the Rural Municipality of Morris, Dan has been involved with planning and implementation of many projects. One of his priorities on council was to upgrade fire departments by ensuring there was money in the budget for improvements to firehalls and equipment. This was accomplished in all the communities in the Rural Municipality. As councillor for Ward 5, he was quite involved with the sewer and water project for Lowe



*Reeve Dan Thiessen (front, middle)
with the Rural Municipality of Morris Council, 1995.*



158b. Dan and Helen Thiessen with children; Monica Thiessen, Rhonda and Craig Shewchuk and Stefan Thiessen.

Farm. While a director with Pembina Valley Development Corporation and also Pembina Valley Development Corporation Water Co-op the initial workings began for the water supply that was completed in 1998.

Dan served on many boards and committees while on council, including the Red River Valley Hospital Board and Rail Retention Committee for the CNR Morris-Hartney line and the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO).

During the 1979 flood, when then Premier Sterling Lyon issued an evacuation notice for Morris, the Lowe Farm curling rink became a temporary headquarters for EMO, and so councillor, Dan was kept busy.

Monica went to elementary school in Lowe Farm and graduated from Morris School in 1985. While in school she participated in the usual activities and took piano and figure skating. She has had various jobs and now has her own windshield repair business and lives in Winnipeg.

Rhonda graduated in 1989, worked for a few years at different jobs and after completion of a computer programming course at Red River Community College, has found employment in that field. She always had a love and gift for horsemanship and had trained her own horses as well as for others. She has successfully competed at many Arabian horse shows. Rhonda married Craig Shewchuk in May of 1998 and they are living just outside Winnipeg.

Stefan went to school in Lowe Farm and Morris, taking vocational at St. Jean. He enjoyed playing hockey for the Morris team a few years and liked riding his dirt bikes in summer and competed in motocross racing. Stefan graduated in 1991 and worked as a welder for a few years locally and for a year in Surrey, British Columbia. He also resides in Winnipeg and is currently attending Red River Community College.

JOHN W. & MARIE (GERBRANDT) THIESSEN

From Furrows in the Valley

John W. Thiessen was born in 1905. In 1928, he married Marie Gerbrandt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Gerbrandt of Lowe Farm.

They farmed all their lives, renting land for the first years. They farmed in Lowe Farm, Horndean, and Myrtle.

Then in 1935, they bought section 11-4-2w. There was much work to be done here as buildings were old and all in need of great repair.

Marie always kept herself busy as housewife as well as helping outside when needed. She also enjoyed gardening and sewing.

They had five children: Tena, Mary, Pete, Hilda and Nettie.

In the fall of 1976, after living for 41 years at their farm, they retired to town.

In October, 1978, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, in the Lowe Farm School auditorium.

KATHERINA THIESSEN (HARDER)

From Furrows in the Valley

Youngest in the Aron A. Thiessen family, Katherina was born in 1919. She is better known as Tena, and married on October 11, 1938, to John D. Harder.

The Harders' lived in Lowe Farm for five years before moving to Steinbach, where they spent 10 years. They then moved to Brandon, where they have resided for almost 25 years, and where Mr. Harder has been working as a painter.

The Harders' had nine children: Natalie Ann, Mary Jane, Henry Edward, Nora Helen, Margaret Rose, Aron John, Katharina May, Edna Alice and David Daniel.

CORNELIUS P. & ANNA (GINTER) UNRAU

Submitted by Peter G. Unrau



The C. P. Unrau farmstead as it appeared in winter in the late 1920's.



C.P. Unrau's threshing outfit, 1947.



Feed cutting at the Unrau farm in the 1940's.

My parents were Cornelius and Anna (Ginter) Unrau. I came with them when they moved from the Plum Coulee area where I was born, to Lowe Farm in October, 1926, when I was nine months old.

They settled on the NE quarter of Section 17-5-1w. With crop failures the first two years due to an over abundance of rain, my father found that he could not keep up with the land payments and the taxes and lost the land during the early part of the Dirty Thirties. Hard working man that my father was, he stuck it out, bought the land again and was able to add 40 acres to that, and in 1946 bought another quarter section.

During those years the Lord blessed them with 10 more children, five sets of twins. Five of these babies died in infancy, my sister Annie died of diphtheria at age seven. Those were sad, hard times for the Unrau family. Only one set of twins survived to grow to adulthood, Diedrich (Dick) and Mary.

Dick and his wife Tina live in Steinbach. Mary and her husband Wilfred Demke live on a farm near Thornhill, west of Morden. John lives in Winnipeg, while Eva and her husband John Harder farm north of Lowe Farm.

Our father passed away in January 1976, and Mother died in April 1989.

In the summer of 1951, I went to Ontario to work in a fruit cannery for a season. While there I met a young lady that went by the name of Mary Derksen, who grew up and lived near Ste. Elizabeth, all of 20 miles from Lowe Farm. We were married in October, 1952. A year after we were married, my father bought another quarter section of land to give us a chance to start farming. This quarter had only 120 acres of cultivated land.

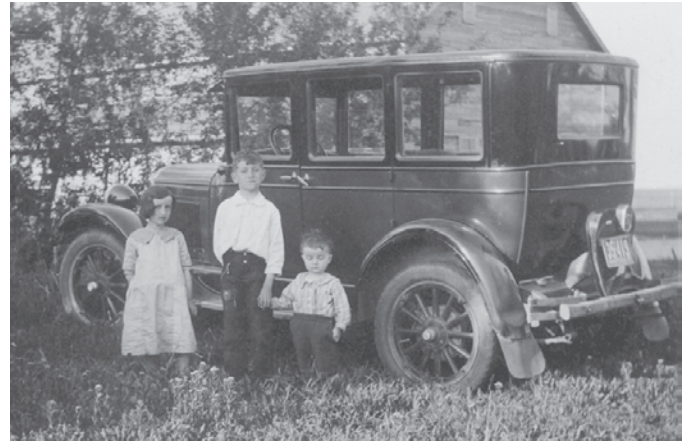
We rented and lived on this farm for 10 years, until my parents retired and moved to Lowe Farm, in October, 1963. We then took over their farm. During those 10 years on the first farm we were blessed with three children; Cornelius (Neil) born December, 1953, Annie Louise born in November, 1956, and Kathleen Marie in October, 1959. Dorothy Patricia took longer, she arrived in July of 1967, almost four years after we moved onto the old home place.

Our children are all married now. Neil married Genny Funk of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They have two girls. They live in Edmonton and are working with dysfunctional families.

Annie is married to Richard Troy of Courtenay, British Columbia, where they have four girls. Annie is a lab technologist, and Rick works for the Highways department.

Kathy married David Bear Chernauski, in Vanderhoof, British Columbia, where they live. Kathy has her Bachelor of Nursing. Her job is home nursing. Bear is a school teacher.

Dorothy is married to Abe Suderman from Chortitz, south of Winkler. They have a girl and a baby boy. Dorothy is a Registered Nurse and works at the Health Sciences Center in Winnipeg. Abe works as a mechanic in Morris. Dorothy and Abe now live on the original



Pete, Annie and John Unrau, 1935 with 1927 Chev.

home place. That farm has been in the Unrau family for 72 years now.

Mary and I are retired from active farming, and moved to Morris in September of 1991. We now are at home at 107 Willow Drive. We are kept busy doing volunteer work at Morris Mennonite Central Committee thrift stores, babysitting and singing in two choirs, as well as gardening in summer. For the last 35 years I continually served the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Mennonite Church in one capacity or another. During the same time I have also served on the boards of the Co-op Services, and the Lowe Farm Credit Union, and 15 years on the board of the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation.

The Lord has blessed us greatly, give Him the glory.

JOHN & BETTY UNRAU

We moved to the Kronsweide School District on our wedding day, April 26, 1953. We bought 160 acres with the home place owned by the Henry Nickel family, four and a half miles southwest of Lowe Farm, later adding another 80 acres. Then in 1966 we bought another quarter just a mile south of us.

We had dirt road past our place until 1966, when it was graveled. Our older three children started school in Kronsweide, and later were bused to Lowe Farm. We had seven children who all attended school in Lowe Farm and Morris. Elaine (1954 - 1978) married Tom Chipman; Kenneth (1957) married Dale Mikoluf; Marlene (1958) married Rick Goodman; Melvin (1962) married Louise Milette; Valerie (1966) married Jim Johnson; Viola (1966) married Mike Poitras; Audrey (1969) married Ross Leckie.

We are the proud grandparents of nine wonderful grandchildren.

In 1990 we moved off the farm to Winkler when son Mel and family took over the farm. They are still residing there.

ROD & GLADYS WALL



*Rod and Gladys Wall
with Ryan, Evan, Anna, Terril and Benji.*

We began our farming career in the fall of 1978 when we moved to Lowe Farm from Winkler, where Rod was employed at Shamrock Seeds. We made our home at the former Ed B. Harder residence. With this we rented approximately 400 acres and started up a sow-weanling operation. After residing here three years we moved to the family farm of Rod's dad, Ben Wall. We continued our hog operation and increased our land base to approximately 600 acres. After residing here three years we purchased the yard and 160 acres.

By the 1990's, we changed to farming strictly feeder hogs. We doubled our operation with the aid of a hog shelter. From 1992 - 1996, Gladys operated a hairdressing business out of our home.

Ryan, our oldest son, who is now 20 years of age, is currently working at D.W. Friesen Corporation in Altona, after returning from a one year Intermenno Exchange Program in Germany. Evan, also 20 years of age, is newly married and living in Winkler. He is employed at Triple E and his wife Anna is employed at the Winkler Co-op Store. Our daughter Terril is in Grade XI at Morris Collegiate and our youngest son Benji is attending school at Lowe Farm Elementary and is in Grade VIII.

ABRAM & ANNA (FRIESEN) WIEBE

Abram Henry Wiebe was born in 1899, the seventh child of Henry and Katherine Wiebe of Sewell in Manitoba. His parents, who had been part of the Mennonite immigration from Russia in 1874, operated a general store, along with their farm, two and one half miles south of Smith Spur Siding on PTH 23. There had been 18 siblings in the family, of which 14 lived to adulthood and four died when young.

Among other things that kept this family busy, the St.

Peter's School District teacher boarded with them. It was during her first year of teaching in that district that Anna Friesen of Schoenthal (near Altona) and Abram Wiebe were engaged. They married a year later in 1923. Anna had taught school at Kronswiede School District for one or two years before that.

Abram and Anna were as optimistic about the future as any young couple might be. They bought a small farm just a mile south of Smith Spur Siding and began what was to become a long career in farming. But poor soil due to poor drainage kept the farm from providing more than a meager living for them as they tried to raise their growing family. The Depression years that intervened hit them hard, but with faith and perseverance, they endured.

In 1937, after 13 years in the tiny house with their nine children, the Wiebes moved to the Sass farm in the Heabert School District where their tenth child was born. The prospects for good farming were much better on this land and they eagerly applied their energies to house renovation and gradual improvement in other areas of their farm life.

Always an early riser, Dad loved the early hours of the morning and expected us all to join him in the sheer joy of being alive at the crack of dawn. Although he was not always successful, his industriousness brought him considerable rewards. Gradually the financial strain of raising a large family was reduced.

Dad had a good sense of the relationship between the Creator and the created. He had a healthy respect for the work of his own hands but he recognized his dependence upon God's grace for what his hands could accomplish. So, many a springtime, on a Sunday just after church, he would walk alongside his freshly seeded fields with one or several of his family and show them the germinating seeds, then call on God for a special blessing on that field. The simplicity of his faith helped him throughout good times and bad.

Having received only limited formal education, he looked to Mother with her somewhat better education, and private-school teaching experience, for help in interpreting the paper work related to the farm and also in matters pertaining to his spiritual ministry. She was a great support to him.

Living in the Heabert School District, they were three miles removed from Lowe Farm, so much involvement with the church there was difficult. But, Abram, wanting his family to be in Sunday School, started one with rural children at the Heabert School. Later, the family became more involved with the life of the church at Lowe Farm where he taught Sunday School for some years. In 1942 he was ordained to be a deacon in the Bergthaler fellowship and he held this position until his retirement in 1960.

During this time Abram was deeply involved in community service through the church, spending much time visiting the sick and those in need. He gave gener-

ously of himself as time, energy, and resources allowed. He thrived on fellowship with, and stimulation from, other people. Abram brought much of their influence into our home. A significant factor in our growing up was the fact that itinerant ministers and missionaries often over-nighted at our house and we benefited from their broader experiences as they expanded on them in the casual contact within our home. He was also quick to offer a place to sleep and eat to the penniless wanderer, or short-term work to the casual job hunter, all of which made our lives briefly interesting.

Dad did not become deeply involved with our schooling; he left that to Mother. But he made sure that we went, and expected us to abide by the rules and he was proud of us when we did well. He looked for help from us to do his income tax returns or to work out the cost of a new farm building. He was also conscientious in all matters with a sufficient sense of leadership to serve as the first chairman of the school board formed at Heabert School District in the 1940's, and he helped to plan the construction of a new school in that district in 1951.

As farm machinery became more sophisticated, he resorted to grain farming entirely, making the work load much more seasonal and allowing us to attend various schools and colleges away from home base. In 1952 Dad's health deteriorated with the onset of diabetes and he limited his activities somewhat in all areas. Finally, when the farm responsibilities became too heavy, they retired to live in the town of Morris for the last seven years of their lives, having sold the home place to John and Marie Schmidt of Lowe Farm.

When speaking of human development, modern psychologists attach much significance to the sequence of birth or positioning of children within the family constellation. In our family we were quite conscious of the patterning and how it affected much of our lives. There was Agnes, the first born, who at a very young age learned to assume much responsibility for the ones to follow. Then there were three boys, David, Ernest, and Bernhard, who became identified as the big boys. They were followed by three girls; Katherine, Rose and Clara, whose education in most domestic matters happened in that group. Finally there were three boys, Benjamin, Eldon, and John, who were mostly known as the three little boys. The three little boys experienced much endearment because of the grouping, while the three big boys had expectations of responsible behavior laid on them. These groupings were convenient designations for the household chores and even for social activities.

Although we accepted the size of our family as a simple matter of fact, our friends and neighbors deserve our appreciation for sorting us out and accepting us as we were. Those who risked a closer association knew that there was a lot more to it than what met the average eye. Because of the size, there was always plenty of activity - a winter sleighride, a spring softball game, a

feeding of the late summer threshing gang, etc. One neighbor may have expressed it best when he said that their Christmas was never complete until they had a good carol sing at our house - it was simply a family affair.

BERNHARD & LUCILLE (GERBRANDT) WIEBE



Bernhard and Lucille Wiebe.

Bernhard was born at Lowe Farm on October 21, 1939, the son of Peter and Susan Wiebe. They started their farm four-and-a-half miles north of Lowe Farm on Sec. 25-5-2w.

Bernhard married Lucille Gerbrandt in June 1963. They lived in Lowe Farm for two years then moved to the farm in 1966. At this time Bernhard's parents moved into their home in Lowe Farm, but Peter Wiebe continued to help out on the farm through the years.

Lucille's parents, Peter and Helen Gerbrandt, lived in Lowe Farm where Peter Gerbrandt was employed by the Lowe Farm Consumers, and later was the grain buyer for the United Grain Growers Elevator until they moved to Winnipeg in 1960.

In the past Bernhard has worked at many jobs off the farm. They include working for Ben Braun Construction, Ed Groening Seed Plant, Hoffman Construction, Lowe Farm Consumers, and carpentry.

Bernhard and Lucille have four daughters: Teresa and Dennis Rempel (Breanne, Matthew) live and farm near Lowe Farm; Kimberly and Nelson Olfert (Caleb, Josh) live in Winnipeg; Karen and Ward Friesen (Connor and LaDawn) live in Winnipeg; Sherry and Kevin Harder live in Morden.