

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

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

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

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

### JACOB & AGANETHA (GIESBRECHT) BLATZ

*Submitted by Dora Hildebrand*



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### AGNES BLATZ

*From Furrows in the Valley*

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



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

### HELEN BLATZ (JOHN DYCK)

*From Furrows in the Valley*

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

### FRANK & MARY (DUECK) BLATZ

*From Furrows in the Valley*



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

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



**JACOB & TENA (PENNER) BORN**

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



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



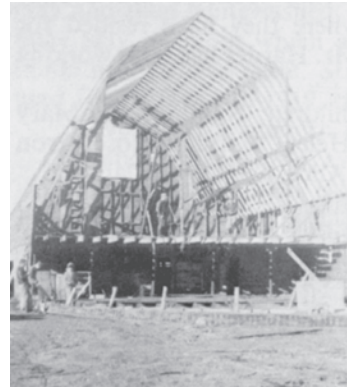
*The Jake Born Family and their "caboose" in 1945*

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

## EDWARD & MARGARET SUSAN (GEISBRECHT) BRAUN



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

### **GORDON & DONNA (GIESBRECHT) BRAUN**

*Submitted by Gordon Braun*



*Gordon, Donna, Scott and Chan Braun, 1998.*

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

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

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

Roblin, Regina, Carman, Melville and Altona.

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

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

### **JACOB F. & MARY (DYCK) BRAUN**

*Submitted by Betty Freeman*



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



*Harry Braun*



*John Braun*



*Brum Tops*

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

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

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

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

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

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



**JACOB E. & MARIE (KLASSEN) BRAUN**

*Marie and Jacob E. Braun.*

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

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

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

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

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

Both Jake and Marie rest in the Lowe Farm Cemetery.

**JOHAN J. BRAUN**

*From Furrows in the Valley*

*Originally written by Sara Peters and Tina Gollan*



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

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

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

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

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

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

Then, in 1934 Johan married Margaretha Loewen.

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

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

The move to Weidenfeld was made in 1914 with a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

couple of stooks, sparing the stubble field.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## JOHN & ANNIE (FALK) BRAUN

*Submitted by Annie Braun*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## KATHERINE (KAY) & BERNHARDT (BEN) BRAUN

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

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

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

Construction took Ben to many locations in Canada,



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



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

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



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

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

As reported in the paper:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Ben and Kay had two daughters: Sandra and Merelyn.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## PETER U. & HELENA (WARKENTIN) BRAUN



*Peter and Helena Braun.*

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

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



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

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

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

Their children:

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

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

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

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

in Winkler, Manitoba.

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

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

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

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

### **PETER L. & JUSTINA (BRAUN) BRAUN**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## BRIAN & ALICE (FRIESEN) BROWN

*Submitted by Alice Brown*

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ISAAC G. BROWN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### HOWARD & BEV (EIDSE) BROWN



*Howard, Bev, Chantel and Nikki Brown.*



*Howard and his dad, Jake I. Brown.*



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

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

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

### **PETER I. & MATILDA (GROENING) BROWN**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **TERRY AND RICKI (PARKIN) BROWN**



*Shelly, Ricki, Terry and Jenny Brown*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **TINA HARDER (JOHN A.) BROWN**

*Submitted by Leona M. Deorksen*



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



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



*Tina and Jacob H. Peters, March, 1955.*

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ABE F. and KATHERINE DERKSEN



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### HENRY G. & BERTHA (NEUFELD) DEORKSEN

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

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

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

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

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

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





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



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

and board. They returned a couple of months later.

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

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

kept warm.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

**WILLIAM DEUTSCHMAN***Submitted by Carol Wiebe*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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



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



*Anna Doell feeding her chickens, daughter Suzie at left.*

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

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

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

### **JACOB P. & ANGANETHA (GIESBRECHT) DUECK**

*Submitted by Peter G. Dueck*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*The Jacob P. Dueck farm in 1978.*



*Anganetha Dueck and her children and grandchildren.*

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

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

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

Nettie married Jacob Gerbrandt of Lowe Farm and they



*Jacob P. and Anganetha Dueck.*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Post script to Jacob P. Dueck family.

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

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

## **PETER G. & HELENA (GERBRANDT) DUECK**

*Submitted by Peter G. Dueck*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Peter and Helena Dueck.*



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



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



*The Peter G. Dueck farm in 1980.*



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

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

## ANTON & ANNIE (DOELL) DYCK

*Submitted by Anton Dyck*



*Anton and Annie Dyck.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our children:

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

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

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

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

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

### **TONY & JOYCE (KRAHN) DYCK**

*Submitted by Tony Dyck*



*Tony, Joyce, Kristin, Michael and Timothy Dyck.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **BILL & SADIE (PENNER) DYCK**

*Submitted by Charlotte Dyck*



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





*Bill and Sadie Dyck*

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

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

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

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

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

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

They have three children: Gordon, Jean and Marion.

Gordon married Charlotte

Murner. (See their story).

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

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

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

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

## GORDON & CHARLOTTE (MURNER) DYCK

*Submitted by Charlotte Dyck*



*Gordon and Charlotte Dyck.*

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



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

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

Lowe Farm has always been a part of our lives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are still living on Vancouver Island.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## DANIEL & MARY (WIEBE) DYCK

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





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

sisters and four brothers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are currently 20 grandchildren.

## DAN & ESTHER DYCK

*Submitted by Esther Dyck*



*Dan, Esther, Jeremy, Randall and Tyler Dyck.*

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

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

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

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

## HENRY I. DYCK

*Submitted by Abram Dyck*



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

times.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## JOHN I. AND ELIZABETH (NEUFELD) DYCK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## JOHN N. & ELIZABETH (NEUFELD) DYCK

*Submitted by Mary Mitchell VanDaele*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elmer and Lena (Fast) retired in Rivers.

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

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

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

## JOHN P. AND AGANETHA DYCK

*Submitted by Agatha Gerbrandt*



*John and Aganetha Dyck, 1941.*



*The Rose Farm EMMC, 1937 - 1975.*

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

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



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

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

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

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

### **ABRAM & KATHERINA (UNRAU) FALK**

*From Furrows in the Valley*



*Abram and Katherina (Unrau) Falk.*

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

Both Abram and Katherina died in 1949.

### **CORNELIUS FALK**

*From Furrows in the Valley*

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

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

### **HEINRICH FALK**

*Submitted by Margaret Friesen*



*Henry and Elizabeth Falk in Kronsgradt, 1922*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The children: Helena, (1894 - 1986) married Jacob A. Elias, a blacksmith from Plum Coulee; Abram (1896 - 1918) died during the flu epidemic; Heinrich (1897 - 1974) married Sarah Wall. They had a garage in Altona; Elizabeth (1898 - 1993) married John P. Hamm. He worked at Hometown Ford in Winkler; Katherina (1900 - 1985) remained single; Aaron Falk (1901 - 1987), married Helena Hiebert and was a farmer at Schoenthal and Graysville. (These were my parents); Maria (1903) married George Hoeppner, a farmer from Hoffnungsort; Anna (1906 - 1997) remained single; Peter (1907 - 1994) married Tina Hiebert. They farmed at Grunthal; Sara (1909 - 1997) remained single; Cornelius (1911) married

Sadie Hoeppner and farmed close to his parents; Susanna and David both died in infancy.

### PETER F. FALK

Peter was born and raised on a farm north of Altona. At the age of 25, he decided to go north, to a community called Lowe Farm.

He then started farming just south of the town.

In 1954, he moved from Altona to a farm yard south of town, farming during the summer time and working in Winnipeg during winter time.

Peter married Sadie Zacharias of Bergfeld in 1959. They purchased the property, No. 2 Main St. in 1967 and moved to town. They raised three children; Sandra, Rosalie and Peter J.

In 1987 Peter lost his wife through death and continued to live in Lowe Farm with his children. In 1992, he sold his old house, moved off the property and started building a new one.

Peter really enjoyed living in Lowe Farm. It is a great place to live, with wonderful people.

Peter served the community as director of the Co-op and Credit Union. He also served on the board of the Manitoba Pool Elevator. He doesn't regret anything, and still enjoys farming at Lowe Farm.

As life goes on, he plans to get married in the near future to Tina Nickel (Kehler) of Winkler, and live happily ever after.

### CORNELIUS & RUTH FEHR

*Submitted by Ruth Fehr*

The Cornelius and Ruth Fehr family came to the Lowe Farm community from the Homewood area in 1961 to fill a teaching position with the Lowe Farm Consolidated School. Cornie was born and raised on a farm south of Morden, while Ruth was born in Winkler, but resided in various places in Manitoba.

We were a family of three with Douglas being seven months of age when we moved. Later additions were Terry, in 1963, and Sandra, in 1967.

Cornie taught at the Lowe Farm School for 18 years, teaching all subjects areas mostly in Grades V and VI. He also taught junior high subjects for several years, when teaching was done by subject area.

Douglas, Terry and Sandra all received their education in the Lowe Farm and Morris Schools. They attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church Sunday School, Young Peoples and summer camps. Douglas and Terry were active playing hockey, baseball and worked at being paper boys for both dailies for many years. Sandra played school sports, enjoyed crafts, studied piano and did babysitting.

As a family we attended the Emmanuel Gospel Church under the ministry of Jake Wiebe. We continue to the present, 1999. Cornie taught adult Sunday School





*The Cornelius Fehr family.*

for many years, served as Sunday School Superintendent and in various committees. We also sang in church choirs, served with special music, worked in church club programs and helped in church building programs.

Cornie served as volunteer for the Lowe Farm Fire Brigade for many years with a number of those years as Fire Chief. Presently he serves as secretary-treasurer for the Lowe Farm Housing Corporation. After Cornie discontinued teaching he kept busy working the farms at Morden and Austin, Manitoba.

Ruth kept busy being a homemaker and doing various other activities such as painting and serving as a volunteer hairdresser at the Red River Valley Lodge. In 1978, Ruth started part time work in the Lowe Farm Coop Grocery Store. Today, in 1999, she still works at the Coop as store supervisor.

As a family we enjoyed camping, travelling and other family activities. We traveled to Ontario's Niagara Falls, west to Vancouver, to Disneyland in California and into Mexico.

Today our three children are all married and have families of their own:

Douglas is married to Bernie with a family of three; Melanie, 10, Patrick, 8, and Stephanie, 5. They live in LaSalle, Manitoba. Douglas is a sales representative for Elias Woodwork in Winkler and Bernie is a library technician at LaSalle School.

Terry is married to Brenda with a family of three boys; Bradley, 5, Jordan, 3, and Matthew, an infant. They live in Altona. Brenda, who worked many years as a credit union clerk is now a full time homemaker. Terry works as an assistant administrator in the office of the Rural Municipality of Rhineland.

Sandra is married to Tim Bergen and has a family of two daughters; Tiffany, 3, and Candace. They live in Winnipeg. Sandra is a Registered Nurse at the Health Science Center where she has worked for 10 years. Tim works at Westeel Industries in the manufacturing of various types of bins.

Since Lowe Farm is the place our family has grown up in, where they made friends and went to school - to them this is home.

### **JACOB P. & HELENA (PENNER) FEHR**

Jacob P. Fehr was born on August 30, 1914 and was one of nine children born to Peter and Katrin Fehr (nee Geswein) of the Reinland village southeast of Winkler. Helena was born on April 23, 1911 to Jacob and Katherine Penner (nee Remple) from the Grimsby School District south of Plum Coulee. She was the sixth of seven children.

The Fehr family history began on September 6, 1939 when Jacob and Helena married and moved to the northeast corner of Section 18-5-1w, three miles north and one mile east of Lowe Farm.

This quarter section of land was part of the dowry that included three cows, one steer, eight chickens and one horse. The yard consisted of a small, two-room house and Jacob constructed a large barn for the livestock which still stands today. Helena loved to garden and the new homestead was soon graced with fruit trees, a large garden and trees for shelter.

The Fehr family had its first addition in August of 1940 when Katherine was born at Winkler Hospital. Jacob purchased the southeast quarter of section 18 shortly after their daughter Susan was born in February of 1942. A larger home would soon be needed and was built just prior to the birth of their third daughter, Erna, who was born in July, 1943. A fourth child, Linda, was born in December 1944.

Katherine was nearing school age and, since Jacob and Helena wanted to expand the farming operation, they purchased a yard with a two story house, old barn and a quarter section of land across the road from the Neufeld School, four miles north of Lowe Farm along what is now PR #332.

Finally a son, William (Bill) Jacob was born in February, 1947. The second story of the house was finished, a large hip roof barn was



*The Febr farm.*



*Jacob and Helena Febr.*



*Back row: (l - r) Erna, Susan, Kathy, Linda.. Front row: Mabel, Bernice, Gladys; Missing: James.*

built to accommodate the ever increasing livestock, and machinery was expanded to work the newly acquired land.

Gladys was born in October, 1948 just prior to the Olaf Erikson Crusade at the Lowe Farm Coop Hall, where Jacob and Helena accepted Jesus and became members of the Emmanuel Gospel Church in Lowe Farm.

In August, 1951, Mabel was born and the dining area became too small for the family to enjoy meals together so Jacob added a large sun filled dining room to the house. Hydro was finally made available to this rural area and soon two large chicken barns were moved onto the

yard and turkeys were added to the livestock.

Jacob and Helena loved music and greatly encouraged their children to learn to sing and play a variety of instruments. The Febr children became well known for their musical talents in the local area.

The seventh daughter, Bernice Fay was born in December 1954 and a second son, Darryl James (Jim) was born in 1956.

From 1966 to 1971, Jacob and Helena farmed together with son Bill, his wife Maria, their daughter Erna and her husband Lawrence. They built a large farrow to finish hog operation and expanded the grain farming operation.

In 1971, Jacob's health caused him to retire from the hog business and they moved to their third farm yard, across the road from the family farmstead. Helena drove school bus to Winkler each day and Jacob continued with grain farming until the fall of 1975 when they retired to Lowe Farm. In 1977 they decided to move to Winkler and in the process of constructing their new home, Jacob passed away on September 30, 1977 at the age of 63.

Helena and her son Jim moved to the new home in Winkler after Jacob's death and lived there together for 16 years. In 1993, Helena married Gerhard (George) Harder who had formerly been a resident of Lowe Farm area (1947-1949). George passed away in May of 1998 and Helena decided she wanted to be closer to her family.

Where are they today:

Katherine graduated from Grace Hospital as a Registered Nurse. She married Bill Toews from Altona in 1963 and had two children, Kevin and Tammy. They all live in Winnipeg, where Kathy continues to work as an R.N. and works together with Bill for Child Evangelism. They are now proud grandparents of Alyssa and Corey Toews, and Brittany and Miranda Trowbridge.

Susan trained as a receptionist at Angus Commercial College. She married Henry Martens from MacGregor in 1963 and raised three children; Corrinna, Christopher and Crystal. Henry worked as finishing carpenter and Susan retained and continues to work as a home support worker. They have settled on an acreage near Rosser and enjoy their grandchildren Cayla, Catie and Brady.

Erna trained as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Red River Community College and married Lawrence Dyck of Altona in 1965. They had three children; Jacqueline, Steven and Mark. Lawrence and Erna have farmed and continue to live on their farm that was the Febr home-stead four miles north of Lowe Farm. Erna now works at Ebenezer Home in Altona and Lawrence continues to work in the farming industry. They have two grandchildren, Brandon and Andrea Olson.

Linda trained as hairdresser at Marvel and married Helmut Lehmann in 1965. They had two children; Richard and Laurie. Linda, Helmut, their son Rick and his wife Brenda are busy with their expanding farming



operation three miles east of Morris. Laurie and her husband live in Ottawa. They have been blessed with five grandchildren; Dale, Victoria, and Troy Lehmann and Hannah and Leah Doermer.

Bill farmed until 1971 and then trained as an electrician at Red River Community College. He presently works as the Chief Maintenance Electrician for the River East School Division. He married Maria Klassen of Grunthal in 1970 and together they had three sons; Russel, Michael and Cameron. They live in Niverville.

Gladys trained as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Red River Community College and married Jacob Friesen of Lowe Farm in 1970. They have two sons; Vincent and Mark. Gladys presently works as a home care coordinator and Jake is a home construction contractor. They live in Langley, British Columbia.

Mabel married Barry Rempel from Starbuck in 1970 and had one daughter, Heather. Barry passed away in 1977 and Mabel moved to Alberta where she obtained her diploma in Business Administration. She presently lives in Cremona, Alberta and operates a real estate agency. She has two grandchildren, Alaura and Jillian Wood.

Bernice married Raymond St. Godard of St. Jean in 1974 and moved to the third farm yard after Jacob and Helena retired from farming in 1975. They have two daughters, Jamie and Rachel and continue to live four miles north of Lowe Farm. Bernice works as the Administrative Coordinator at Morris Hospital and Raymond works in the farming industry. Jim works at the Valley Rehab Centre in Winkler and presently resides at the Mountain View Residence in Morden.

Jacob P. Fehr will always be cherished by his family as a loving father and husband, and remembered as a hard worker who always provided for his family. Helena moved to Morris Manor in June 1998 where she still resides today.

## CORNELIUS A. & MARY (BRAUN) FRIESEN



*The C. A. Friesen family in 1994.*

On August 23, 1923, Cornie (Cornelius) A. Friesen was born to Martin M. and Anna (Schroeder) Friesen. Cornie attended school at Steinfeld School District just one and half miles south of his parents' farm.

On October 9, 1949, he was married to Mary Braun, daughter Mr. and Mrs. Peter V. Braun of Kane. We lived with Cornie's parents on the farm until they retired to Lowe Farm in the fall of 1950. In the spring of 1952 we moved across the road to the NE 1/4 of Section 18-4-1w, where we farmed until September, 1989. We retired to Lowe Farm.

We have seven children who grew up on the farm in the former Steinfeld School District south of town. They attended school at Steinfeld, Lowe Farm and Morris.

Henrietta is married to Ken Wiebe of Winkler. They have two daughters, Tammy (married to Jeremy Harder) living in Winkler, and Melissa.

Erna is married to Don Falk. They farm in the Crystal City area. They have three children; Greg (married to Christine Lufka) of Winnipeg, Derek and Teresa.

Harold married Lois (Klassen). They live in Winnipeg with their three children, Angela, Michelle and Tim.

Donald is married to Karen (Fehr) of Winkler and they have three daughters; Lynn, Jacqueline, and Katelin.

Judy lives in Lowe Farm with her husband Jerry Brown and their two children, Jennifer and Jeffrey.

Karen married Randy Brown. They are living in Winnipeg with their two children; Chris and Ashley.

Dennis lives on the home place, and is married to Heather (Hildebrand). They have two children; Kevin and Maisie.

## DAVID PETER & JACQUELINE (WIEBE) FRIESEN

David Peter Friesen was born on December 1, 1962 in Winkler, Manitoba. Dave attended school in Lowe Farm and graduated in Morris, Manitoba. His vocation was building trades.

Dave married Jacqueline Wiebe in Winnipeg on July 23, 1983. Jackie was born on October 7, 1966 in Morden, Manitoba. She grew up and attended school in Winnipeg.



*Dave, Jackie, Crystal, Angela and Jessica Friesen*

Dave is currently working at N.R.S. Construction as a builder. He has had the pleasure of working at many different jobs, but always comes back to his real love, building. He is a song leader in the Kronsweide Church. He enjoys singing, building, woodwork and yard work. He also likes spending time with his family and friends.

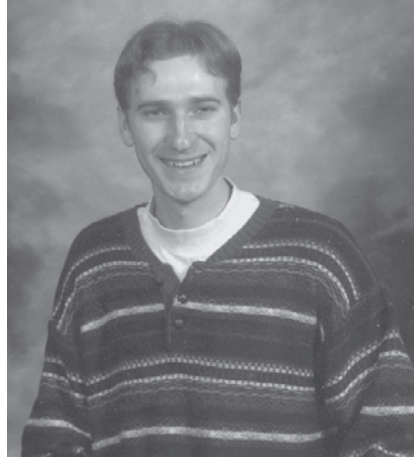
Dave and Jackie were blessed with three daughters: Crystal Dawn, born in Winnipeg December 16, 1985; Angela Marie, born in Winnipeg March 19, 1989; Jessica Mischelle, born July 28, 1993.

Jackie is currently working at the Lowe Farm Grocery Store as a meat lady. She spent most of her 15 years of marriage as a stay-at-home mom. She also enjoys keeping house, baking, cooking and volunteering with Daily Vacation Bible School and religion classes in school when time permits. She also enjoys singing.

Dave and Jackie have recently joined the Sommerfeld Mass Choir.

The Lord is the main Leader of our family. He has blessed us very richly in our married lives. Our daughter Crystal is currently involved with Young Peoples in the Kronsweide Church. All the girls enjoy Sunday School. May the Lord continue to bless, not only our family, but also everyone in this community as He has for the past 100 years.

## DONALD MARK FRIESEN



*Donald Friesen*

Donald was born on November 6, 1971 at the Bethel Hospital in Winkler, to Jake and Margaret Friesen. He was baptized on May 19, 1991 at the Kronsweide Sommerfeld Church.

Don attended Sunday School and Youth at Kronsweide Church. He is currently teaching ages 10 - 12 in class 4. He is presently attending young adult Bible Study in Winkler. He enjoys singing, music and sports.

He attended elementary school in Lowe Farm and high school in Morris and Altona. He graduated in 1990 from Miller Collegiate, Altona with University Entrance, as well as a Building Construction Diploma. In 1992 - 1993 Don attended Red River Community College in Winnipeg where he graduated with a certificate in Electrical.

Don lives with his parents and is farming with his parents and brother Leonard. At the same time he owns an 80 sow, farrow to weanling barn.

## JACOB H. & NETTIE (THIESSEN) FRIESEN

Jacob H. Friesen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Friesen was born at Grossweide in October, 1897. Here he attended school and in 1913 the family moved to Lowe Farm into the Jacob Reimer place.



*Jacob and Nettie Friesen*

In 1921, Jacob was married to Nettie Thiessen, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Thiessen of the Kronsweide District.

The Friesens farmed in the Lowe Farm area. In 1923 they moved to the Harken farm, half a mile east and half a mile south of Lowe Farm. They later purchased this land, where they raised their family and resided until their semi-retirement in 1996. At this time they sold the land to Anton Dyck.

The landscape has completely changed as the yard is gone and the old bridge that the kids used to play on and under is gone. The neighboring yard south of the Shannon is gone as well, with the exception of a few old granaries. All that is left there now is farmland. On their retirement Jacob and Nettie purchased a home and moved it onto the lot on the corner of First Street and Centre Street in Lowe Farm where they enjoyed visiting with their friends and relatives and family.

In the early 1930's when farm prices were poor, Jacob supplemented his income by filling bridge approaches with scoops and horses for the municipality. Later he purchased a tractor to operate the pile driver in the years when Diedrich Heppner was Reeve of the Municipality. Jacob enjoyed politics and was a staunch supporter of the Conservative Party. Honesty, integrity, and generosity were part of his lifestyle.

Nettie, a person with much stamina and optimism, was always a good cook and gardener in the Mennonite tradition.

Jacob and Nettie, members of the Sommerfelder Church, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1971 with many friends and relatives in attendance.

Jacob passed away in 1973. Nettie remained in their home until 1980 when a seniors apartment building, Bethel Place, was built in Winnipeg. Upon completion of this complex, she moved into an apartment in this building. Nettie passed away in 1985.

They had three sons and three daughters: Nettie and Henry Loeppky, of Langley, British Columbia; Edward (deceased 1989) was married to Mary Braun of Abbotsford, British Columbia; Martin (deceased 1992) was married to Mary Klassen (deceased 1994); Edna and Ben Marten live in Winnipeg, Manitoba; Sally and Don Lewis live at Rural Route #1, Morris, Manitoba; Herman died in infancy.

### **MARTIN J. & MARY (KLASSEN) FRIESEN**

Martin Friesen, born in 1926, was the son of Jacob H. and Nettie Friesen. Mary, born in 1928, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Klassen. All were from Lowe Farm. Martin and Mary both received their education in Lowe Farm, and were married in Lowe Farm in 1948.

At the age of 18 Martin lost one eye, but through much perseverance and strength of character would not let this stop him from carrying on a normal life and work. Martin started working at Funk's Massey Harris Dealership, and among other jobs, he got his Mechanic's Certificate and worked at Marten's Garage and the Lowe Farm Co-op Garage, and later at the Morris-Montcalm Weed Control District. Mary worked for many years at the Lowe Farm Co-op Store.

They had one daughter, Janet, who is married to Ken Howard. They have one son, Matthew and live in Winnipeg.

Martin passed away on July 20, 1992, and Mary passed away on March 29, 1994.

### **JACOB W. & AGATHA FRIESEN**

*Submitted by Cornie Friesen*

Jacob W. and Agatha Friesen, together with their two young sons, moved into the Lowe Farm area around 1918. They started farming four and a half miles south-east of Lowe Farm on 160 acres. This was increased by another 320 acres of land rented from A. Chisholm from Morris. They farmed this land till 1945. Their family of seven sons and three daughters were all raised on this farm.

In the early years I remember hitching up the horses and driving to Lowe Farm with eggs and chickens to trade for goods not produced on the farm. We traded these commodities at Rosners General Store. I fondly remember old Moses Rosner coming to the stables at the back of the store and checking out what I had brought

and giving us the coffee, sugar, spices, etc. in trade. In the latter years, Lowe Farm Consumers Co-op opened and we bought some groceries there also, but it was not as interesting as Rosners'.

Our farm repairs were mostly done at Martens Service in Lowe Farm or at Martin A. Friesens on the farm in his machine shop. Around 1937, we bought the first combine in the area. The small Massey Harris tractor could not handle the combine so we traded the tractor for the larger Model D John Deere. We never owned a truck and either hired someone to deliver grain or hauled it to the elevator with horses.

We all started our education at St. Peters School District southeast of Lowe Farm. Jake took high school at Lowe Farm. I started school in St. Peters in 1935 when Anna Wiens was the teacher and I have good memories of my schooling with her.

In March, 1937, Dad was called to serve as Minister of the Sommerfeld Church at Kronsweide. This involved preaching in other Sommerfeld churches in the province.

In 1938, we got a Model A Ford to help Dad with his travels in the ministry. During the war years he was called to visit the Conscientious Objectors serving in the Prairies and British Columbia. He enjoyed visiting the young men in the different camps, hospitals, farms and coal mines. When he returned home between these duties there were many relatives of the young men who eagerly waited for some news and greetings from their loved ones.

In our family, four sons and one son-in-law were involved in the alternative service. This meant that Dad had additional incentive for visiting the camps. Being of short stature he was known as "Kjeena Freisuh".

Dad passed away November 30, 1945, at the age of 52 years. Mom sold the farm and moved to Altona in October 1947. She was an inspiration of courage to her many visitors during her wheelchair years. She passed away in Altona in August 1968, at the age of 73 years.

Bill passed away in October 1971, at Morris at the age of 55 years. Jake passed away in October, 1977, at Lowe Farm at the age of 60 years. Dave still resides at the elevator site where he delivered grain as a boy. John lives in Winnipeg. Tiena and Mary live in Altona. Ed lives in Grand Forks, British Columbia. Pete passed away in Thunder Bay in April 1992 at the age of 64 years. I, Cornie Friesen, live in Altona where I moved to in 1948. Dorothy lives in Regina.

### **DAVE & MARGARET (REMPER) FRIESEN**

*From Furrows in the Valley*

*Originally submitted by Agatha (Schroeder) Friesen*

Dave Friesen was born on April 2, 1919, in the Rosenfeld area in Manitoba. With his parents he moved to the farm in St. Peters District, where he grew up and also attended public school. After leaving school he



hired out as a laborer, working in various places.

In the early fall of 1941 he went as a Conscientious Objector to a camp at Clear Lake Manitoba, remaining there until the end of November.

On December 7, 1941, he married Margaret Rempel, daughter of Peter and Margaret (Ewart) Rempel. Dave and Margaret are members of the Sommerfeld Church.

They lived with their parents for the first year of their marriage and then moved to Melba in 1942. A year later a house was moved on to his father's farm and they lived there until 1946, when they settled on a farm at Plumas, Manitoba. In 1949 they took up residence in Morris. For a while Dave was employed in an elevator at McTavish, Manitoba. Then, in 1960, he became manager of the elevator at Smith Spur.

Dave and Margaret Friesen have four children (one son and three daughters), and three granddaughters: Jim Friesen and his daughter Shannon reside in British Columbia; Judy and Ron Fawcett and daughter Laura live in Calgary, Alberta; Joanne and Gary Irwin and daughter Dawn live in Winnipeg; Janet Friesen, student, also makes her home in Winnipeg.

Besides raising their own family, they also provided a home for many foster children for a number of years. Margaret divided her time between household duties and occasional volunteer work at the Red River Valley Lodge in Morris.

He delivered grain as a boy. John lives in Winnipeg. Tiena and Mary live in Altona. Ed lives in Grand Forks, British Columbia. Pete passed away in Thunder Bay in April, 1992, at the age of 64 years. I, Cornie Friesen, live in Altona where I moved to in 1948. Dorothy lives in Regina.

## JAKE L. & MARGARET FRIESEN

*Submitted by Margaret Friesen*



*Jake and Margaret Friesen*

Jake L. Friesen, born October 3, 1939, grew up on his parents farm south of Lowe Farm and received his public and high school education at Steinfeld and Lowe Farm Schools.

Margaret Falk, born April 26, 1938, grew up on a farm at Schornthal, near Altona, Manitoba. In 1948, her parents emigrated to Paraguay, South America. However, in 1949, they returned to Canada to a farm at Graysville, Manitoba. For several years she was employed at Winkler Hospital.

Jake and Margaret were married September 18, 1960, at the Kronswiede Sommerfelder Church. They moved onto the farm, two miles south of Lowe Farm where Jake's grandfather, Henry G. Doerksen had started farming in 1919. They farmed there until October, 1972, when Jake's dad, Rev. Peter A. Friesen, passed away. They then moved to the old home place where they presently reside. The whole family attends church at Kronswiede. Since 1972, Jake has been a song leader there.

Children of Jake and Margaret Friesen: David is married to Jacqueline Wiebe; Leonard is married to Wendy Giesbrecht; Donald farms at home.

## JACOB (JAKE) J. & AGATHA (SCHROEDER) FRIESEN

Jacob J. Friesen was born February 19, 1917, to Rev. Jacob and Agatha (Stoesz) Friesen in the Rosenfeld area. At an early age, he moved with his parents to the St. Peter's School District, where he grew up and also attended Public School. Jake was fortunate in that his parents were educationally minded, and so he was able to attend High School in Lowe Farm. However, this meant a four and one half mile walk in the summer and a cold trip by horse-drawn sleigh or caboose in the winter.

After leaving school, he worked for various farmers for some years. On January 1, 1942, he married Agatha Schroeder, the daughter of John and Agatha (Driedger) Schroeder, of Sommerfeld, Altona. Jake and Agatha were both baptized in the Kronswiede Church and became members of the Sommerfeld Church.

In early April of 1942, Jake went as a Conscientious Objector to camp at Clear Lake, Manitoba. Three weeks later he, with a number of other young men, was transferred to Campbell River on Vancouver Island and other places in British Columbia for the duration of the war. He was in B.C. for 19 months. During that time his wife remained with her parents. Returning from camp, he, his wife, and little daughter continued to live with them till the spring of 1946, when they bought a lot in Lowe Farm and moved to town.

He worked for a while on a gravel gang, and later became manager of the local Lowe Farm Co-op Store. Then, having a natural ability and a desire to build, he gathered a crew, including his two teenage sons, and started out in the field carpentry.

For years he was in charge of the Red Cross drive, helping to organize whist drives in aid of the skating rink, and served as secretary of the Lowe Farm Burial Aids,

all on a voluntary basis.

During the 1950 Flood, when Jake was Manager at the Co-op Store, the Co-op Hall opened its doors to the flood victims. The hall was adjacent to the Co-op Store, which was used as a supply Depot. As a result he very often worked around the clock, looking after the people's needs.

For years whenever an election rolled around, he would be asked to be one of the Deputy Returning Officers. He was known for his impartiality and was trusted by all parties to run a fair and unbiased poll.

In spring of 1969, Jake suffered his first heart attack and his days as a carpenter were over. He recovered sufficiently to continue with his gravel checking job in summer, for the Morris Municipality for some time, but eventually gave that up also. He kept his workshop though, creating cupboards, spoon racks, kindergarten sets, and various other items with artistic flair and meticulous precision. He excelled as a craftsman and built things that his grandchildren will be proud to inherit. You would often find him standing on his latest project, giving it the "Friesen test of strength", (e.g. Alice's doll house and Herman's rocking chair). He never refused anyone who came down for advice or to borrow a tool.

As soon as the roads and fields were dry in spring, he enjoyed nothing better than to take his children on a trip to the old Friesen farm to hunt for arrow heads and relive the magic of those days when he, as a boy, chased ducks and other wildlife along the edges of the old slough.

He was proud of his Mennonite heritage. He well understood the essence of some of the more humorous Low German short stories and poems. With a twinkle in his eye, and in deep, gravelly tones, he would make these stories come alive for friends and neighbors.

A part of his daily routine was a trip (or two) to Derksen's Coffee Shop to discuss the usual topics of "local interest", and it also being a gathering place for the farmers, he could keep up with current farming news.

Like his father, he enjoyed visiting, his genial personality allowing him to converse and work with all ages. It was hard not to be his friend, if you knew him. He loved life, his family, and his friends.

During all these years, Agatha was always at Jake's side, quiet and unassuming. Jake passed away at his home in Lowe Farm on October 11, 1977, after having spent several days in the hospital. He was 60 years of age. He is buried at the Kronsweide cemetery, beside his brother Bill and his parents.

After Dad died, Mum went to work at her son, Herman's, Motel 75 for several years. She became a very independent person, taking trips on her own, etc. She joined the Lowe Farm community seniors group and served on several committees. She enjoyed this immensely and had a lot of friends.

Above all, Grandma Friesen was most beloved by her grandchildren - ones near and far. She became Grandma Friesen and Mum to a lot of young folks, friends of her children and grandchildren. She had only been living in the seniors' complex for about a month when she suffered a stroke while visiting her daughter, Ruth and family in Portage. She passed away on December 10, 1995. She and Dad are very much missed.

Jake and Agatha Friesen had four children. Ruth, the eldest, and her husband Keith Johnson live in Portage la Prairie. They have three children: daughter Kari, husband Kevin Knox and daughter, Kiaran of Portage; Brent in Edmonton, Alberta; Marla and her husband, Shane Maly of Westbourne, Manitoba.

Paul, his wife, Adrienne (Oliviero), and their daughter, Lisa, live in Kelowna, B.C.

Herman and his wife Carol (Klassen) of Victoria, B.C. have four children: Aynsley, Melissa, Mackenzie and Spencer.

Alice and her husband, Brian Brown have three daughters: Trina and her husband, Edward Landry; Angela, husband Henry Isaak and their daughter Emily; and Stephanie.

They are all of Lowe Farm.

## A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JAKE FRIESEN

*Kindly and respectfully submitted by  
Mary Dyck Mitchell VanDaele, a co-worker  
at the Lowe Farm Co-op from 1949 to 1952*

Jake Friesen was also known as "Little Jake Friesen." (This was more or less because his father was known as this) Jake had a personality all of his own and one would have to go a long way to meet his equal.

Jake was short of stature - on the husky side - he was very muscular, with a short neck. One would not have wanted to tangle with him as there was strength in those short husky arms. He always came to work with a smile, full of vim and vigor. Nothing ever ruffled him too much, nor was any task too large. His eyes always had a twinkle and they were as true and blue as one would want them. He could put you in your place without hesitation and just as quickly turn around and all was over and done with - no hard feelings remaining. In the same breath he could compliment and praise and put one on cloud nine.

To sum up Jake Friesen, I would say he was one of the best. His word was good and his million dollar smile melted everyone. Everyone who knew him will remember his heart of gold.

## LEONARD & WENDY FRIESEN



*Len, Wendy, Corey, Amanda, Jennifer and Bradley Friesen, 1998.*

Leonard John Friesen was born October 21, 1966 at Winkler, Manitoba. He married Wndy Pearl born August 6, 1966 in the Kronsweide Church on June 20, 1987.

Leonard attended school in Lowe Farm and later in Dominion City where he studied Power Mechanics. Leonard has always attended church in Kronsweide where he was baptized in 1986. He chose a life of farming, starting with grain farming and then adding a hog operation to this when he purchased his own yard. His hog operation has continually been improving with the addition of modern hog barns and expansions that now include 45 sows, farrow to finish.

Leonard married Wendy in 1987 and they have four children. Leonard and Wendy built an addition to their home in 1997.

Wendy was born and raised in Winnipeg where she attended school and also worked before she married. She graduated from Grade XII with honors and during high school she also completed her

Health Care Certificate. She worked in a Personal Care Home as a Nurse's Aide and also in the kitchen. Wendy has taken various courses since then, including courses in Accounting and Income Tax.

Wendy has been organist for the Kronsweide Church for several years. Although she attended Sunday School and church in Winnipeg, she was baptized in the Kronsweide Church in 1983.

Leonard and Wendy are very family oriented and try to include their children in their activities, even in the barns occasionally. After all, children are the spice of life!

The children of Leonard and Wendy: Corey Allan, born March 3, 1990, in Winnipeg, is always on the cutting edge. He enjoys trying new things, friends, and school; Amanda Louise, born October 16, 1991, in Winnipeg, is an avid reader. She enjoys playing dolls and story writing; Jennifer Rose, born October 7, 1997, in Altona, is very much a toy lover. She has a vivid imagination and uses it well; Bradley Justin, born November 28, 1997, is just beginning his journey into fun and freedom. He is a happy, loving little boy.

## MARIANNE (KLASSEN) & FRANK FRIESEN

*Submitted by Marianne Friesen*



*Frank and Marianne Friesen with their family: Ward and Karen, Conner and LaDawn Friesen, Shelley and Eldon, Danika and Mackenzie Reimer, 1996.*

I, Marianne Friesen (nee Klassen) the youngest daughter and fifth of six children was born March 2, 1946, to John K. and Nettie Klassen. At the age of six in August of 1952, I was paralyzed by the polio epidemic, spending 100 days in King George Hospital in Winnipeg, followed by almost five years of exercising three hours daily and weekly physiotherapy sessions in Winnipeg. I can't thank my parents enough for all the time and love they gave me. I'll never win a race, but life has been good.

Frank was born November 23, 1941, in a little house two miles north of Morris to Bernhard and Tina Friesen. He has a brother Allan who is one year older, and a sister Florence who is four years younger. They moved to Mexico when Frank was eight and during that time his father died of cancer at age 37 in Kansas City, Missouri. They moved back to Manitoba when Frank was



thirteen and could not continue high school due to working and supporting his mom. Following our marriage on June 6, 1964, he got his Grade XII equivalency.

I received my education in Lowe Farm. I took Grades I and II with Miss Wiens and Grades III and IV with Miss Wiebe in the "Little Red Brick School" house. Grades V - VIII were in the now Lowe Farm Community Center, and Grade IX in Kane when the High School was built. I finished Grade X, and Grade XII typing by correspondence. I couldn't finish high school because my dad passed away and we needed to support the family.

I started working at Ike's Cafe in Lowe Farm, and later at the Worker's Compensation Board in Winnipeg until my marriage to Frank Friesen. We've resided in Rosenort for over 34 years with Frank in the lumber business all that time; first working for, then managing Loewen Lumber and then owning (with partners) Rosenort Building Center until the end of 1998.

We've been blessed with two children and four grandchildren. Our son Jeffrey Ward was born May 14, 1965. He married Karen Diane Wiebe of Lowe Farm on November 28, 1987. They have a son Connor Dane, born December 10, 1992, and a daughter LaDawn Nicole, born January 22, 1996. They live in Winnipeg where Karen works part-time as a nurse in emergency at the Victoria General Hospital, and as of January 1999, Ward owns and manages Friesen Floor and Decor in Rosenort.

Our daughter Shelley May was born May 28, 1966. She married Eldon John Reimer of Crystal City on November 1, 1986. They have a daughter Danika Coryn, born January 11, 1990, and a son Mackenzie Reed, born September 21, 1991. They live in Winnipeg where Eldon is employed at Videon Cable and Shelley is a consultant for Partylites. Together they enjoy crafting and craft sales.

Frank and I enjoy our grandchildren, travelling, camping with family and friends, some golf, and lots of yard work. Frank has been a volunteer fireman with the Rosenort Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, played hockey for the Regals, coached the Regals, been on the Rosenort Credit Union Boards, as well as involvement in various community projects. I was an Avon lady for twelve years making it possible for me to be home with my children as they were growing up. I also worked at the Rosenort Eventide Home as an activity director for six and a half years until a few days before I became a grandmother for the first time.

We are members and fellowship at the Rosenort Fellowship Chapel and are quite involved serving as deacons and in various positions. We have enjoyed being a part of the community.

### MARTIN M. & ANNA (SCHROEDER) FRIESEN

In the spring of 1920, they moved north to NW 17-4-1w, south of Lowe Farm. There were no buildings here and the land was only partially broken. They came with



*Martin and Anna Friesen with sons, Cornie and Jake.*



*Martin and Anna Friesen with sons, Cornie and Jake.*

*The Friesen yard, taken from the road around 1950.*

*Martin M. Friesen grew up in the Weidenfeld District north of Altona. In July, 1909, he married Anna Schroeder, daughter of Johann Schroeder of Kronsweide.*

two hayracks piled high with feed, lumber and personal belongings.

The first morning Anna went to cultivate the field while Martin began to build the first building. When she came home at noon he already had the rafters in place. Together they worked hard to establish a farm. The barn was built first in stages. The house was built in 1919. The yard and the gardens, with a white fence all along the front, were always well kept.

The Friesens were members of the Kronsweide Church. In this family, Christian values were taught and church attendance was encouraged. The children attended the Farmfield private school, one mile north, until it closed. After this they attended Steinfeld School.

Martin and Anna retired in the autumn of 1950 and moved to Lowe Farm. Martin died suddenly on February 27, 1953, and Anna 14 days later on March 13, 1953. They are buried in the Kronsweide Cemetery.

Children of Martin and Anna Friesen: Martin, married Agatha Thiessen. John married Sarah Gerbrandt and later, Tina Letkeman. He was ordained as a minister in June, 1950, and ordained as Bishop in April, 1955.

Mary was married to Ed E. Klassen.

Peter married Louise Doerksen and was ordained as minister in February, 1958.

Jake married Elizabeth Klassen.

Cornelius married Mary Braun.

Annie married Peter Toews.

All of the children of Martin and Anna Friesen became farmers in the Lowe Farm community.

### MARTIN A. & AGATHA (THIESSEN) FRIESEN



*Peter and Susie Friesen, Andy, Carol and Joanne, 1981.*



*Andy, Kim, Matthew and Travis Friesen.*



*Todd, Joanne, Nicolas and Amanda Paetkau.*

Martin, son of Martin M. and Anna (Schroeder) Friesen was born on August 6, 1910, on Section 17-4-1w in the Steinfeld School District, four miles south of Lowe Farm. He had two sisters, Annie (Pete) Toews and Mary (Ed) Klassen, as well as four brothers, John, Peter, Jake and Cornie.

Martin was born and raised on his parents' farm and married Agatha Thiessen. She was born April 19, 1913, the daughter of Aaron and Aganetha Thiessen of the Kronsweide School District.

After Martin and Agatha married they bought a farm and

moved a quarter mile east of Martin's parents' place. Here they had a grain farm, as well as some animals to chore. Martin also ran an area blacksmith shop. Martin passed away on the farm at the age of 52 years after suffering from a heart condition for many years. Agatha was a good partner for Martin, cooking, serving, and lending a helping hand on the farm.

Agatha bought a house in Lowe Farm and later moved to the Prairie View Apartments, where she resides and is enjoying fairly good health. (November, 1998)

Martin and Agatha raised two daughters: Annie (Cornie) Reimer and Susie (Pete) Friesen.

Annie, born November 15, 1936, enjoyed the farm. She married Cornie Reimer from Plum Coulee in October, 1957. Cornie farmed and did custom work for a living. Cornie also served on numerous boards in the community. After farming for 40 years, they sold the homestead to George and Mary Penner and moved to Winkler. The move took place in April, 1997, just before the "Flood of the Century."

The Lord blessed us with five children: Ken, Wayne, Sharon, Randall, Daryl and their spouses, as well as 10 grandchildren. What we are thankful for is the Lord's guidance, health, and keeping our family, and us safe here for 40 years.

Susie married Peter Friesen of Roseisle May 10, 1964. They bought her parents' farm four miles southeast of Lowe Farm. Peter and Susie had three children, Andy, Carol and Joanne. They moved to Lowe Farm in 1980. Peter worked at Westfield Industries in Rosenort until he passed away on November 11, 1990, at 51 years of age. Susie still lives in Lowe Farm.

Their family: Andy married Kim Wiens (daughter of Ron and Susan Wiens of Lowe Farm) on September 12, 1987. They have



two boys; Matthew and Travis. They live in Lowe Farm. Carol married Jim Derksen of Miami, Manitoba on April 23, 1989. They have two daughters and live south of Miami. Joanne married Todd Paetkau (son of Abe and Esther Paetkau from four miles north of Lowe Farm) on August 29, 1993. They have two children; Nicolas and Amanda. They also make their home in Lowe Farm.

### **PETER A. & LOUISE (DOERKSEN) FRIESEN**



*Rev. Peter A. and Louise Friesen.*

Peter A. Friesen, son of Martin and Anna Friesen of Lowe Farm was born October 30, 1914. He grew up on his parents farm and received his education at Steinfeld School. He married Louise Doerksen, born February 11, 1918, daughter of Henry G. and Bertha Doerksen. The wedding took place at her parents home, two miles south of Lowe Farm on Sept. 30, 1937.

Together they started a new farm yard on SE 7-4-1w, just across from the Steinfeld School. Here the children received their early public education. Later they attended Lowe Farm High School. Peter was a school trustee for many years. The Friesens were members of the Kronswiede Church and in February, 1958, Peter was ordained there as a minister. Rev. Peter Friesen died suddenly at his farm home on October 2, 1972. Louise moved to Winkler in 1976, where she still resides.

Children of Peter and Louise Friesen: Jake married Margaret Falk; Fred married Helena Penner; Bertha married Bernard Penner; Barbara, married Ed Rempel.

### **PETER FRIESEN**

*Submitted by Peter Friesen*



*The Peter Friesen family, 1998.*

The writer of the following article had the privilege of being part of a family whose parents made the choice in the prime time of their life to emigrate to a country that they believed was the best country to live in.

Because of that choice, my parents, Abram J. and Maria Friesen and family, including the writer, left the troubled and unpeaceful country Russia, namely the Ukraine to journey by train, ship and train again in 1924 to our chosen and adopted country Canada.

We traveled many a mile to arrive in that part of Canada where my parents had been informed there was a need for new settlers to come to and pick up the profession of farming which had been their mainstay in the old country. I was too young to remember anything of that country, for I was only one year old.

It was the middle of August when we arrived in Winkler. Harvest was in progress so Dad was able to help in this and earn some money. Dad bought land near the village of Blumenfeld and we settled down in that village to live there a few years. I even started school here, but farming was not that productive and the parents bought some land northeast of Lowe Farm in the winter of 1931.

This was the time that by now is known as the Dirty Thirties, but we were able to come through those times reasonably well. Prices were very low, feed grains had a price of about seven cents a bushel and wheat from 25 to 40 cents. By and large we were self-sustaining except for the few staples of life



that we could not produce ourselves and had to be bought in the store.

All families were in similar situations and so we all did the best we could in those trying times. Below normal crops and a few years of many grasshoppers were experienced.

The later thirties did improve considerably. As a Friesen family we grew up four brothers and four sisters. We all pitched in doing the chores in the barn and the household duties, learning life's lessons, being faithful and obedient all helped to get a good start in what life expected of us. Many happy and profitable experiences come to memory in thinking back to those growing-up years.

We all got our public school education in a little white country school called Heabert School District No. 1282. Fortunately we were only half a mile away from school, so many a time we walked there. Several times we'd take the old horse, "Old John" and go to school by stone boat, I'd turn the horse to face going home, hang up the reins and he'd head back home, where Dad was waiting for him.

Most of the family had the privilege of getting their high school education in Lowe Farm. Three of the brothers took up the teaching profession. Abe and David stayed with it right to their retirement. John went to the University of Manitoba and was later working for the government. Helen and Betty took up employment in Winnipeg. Except for Helen, the rest married and raised their families in other Manitoba communities.

I stayed on the farm and took over after our parents deceased. I got married to Elizabeth and we raised a family of five children. We carried on in farming much in the fashion of our parents, but with much improved prices and to be sure better machinery. In my growing-up years, I started in helping Dad by driving a team of either two or four horses. The

change over to mechanization came when Dad was still here, he bought our first tractor in 1937.

When it came time for our children to go to school, the smaller school districts had consolidated with Lowe Farm. They were picked up by a school van and were transported to our town school. They received their Grade I through Grade IX education here. All our five children graduated from high school in Morris, attended Bible school and are gainfully employed. They are all married and have their own families.

Grace and Peter Petkau work and live in Winnipeg. Betty and Eldon Pullman and family enjoy city life and work there as well, and so are Gwen and Pat Wasyliv and their family. Bernie and Cheryl and family live near Rosenort and are farming. Ron and Lyn and family live in Hague, Saskatchewan. He is employed in Prince Albert.

As a family we all were active in our home church, the Emmanuel Gospel Church in town. We worshipped and served there. My present helpmate Sara and I are retired from farming, but still reside on the farm. There is always something to do, or somewhere to go to - somehow we keep busy. We do some traveling, we have taken a few bus trips into the United States. We have been in Washington, D. C. and other points of interest in our neighboring country. We both enjoy fairly good health, and are active in maintaining the farmyard, garden, etc. We do a lot of reading, fellowship and worship in our home church, and endeavor, with the Lord's help, to be good witnesses for Him.

Lord,  
We keep forgetting all those who lived before us,  
We keep forgetting those who lived and worked in our communities,  
We keep forgetting those who prayed and sang hymns in our churches before we were born,  
We keep forgetting what our fathers have done for us,

We commit the sin, Lord, of assuming that everything began with us,  
We drink from wells we did not find,  
We eat food from farm land we did not develop,  
We enjoy freedoms which we have not earned,  
We worship in churches which we did not build,  
We live in communities we did not establish,  
This day, make us grateful for our heritage.  
Amen  
Selected and contributed (but not authored) by Peter Friesen.

### PETER & HELEN FRIESEN



*Peter and Helen Friesen.*

Peter and Helen Friesen moved to Lowe Farm in August of 1967 together with five children. Their sixth and oldest was married and living in Winnipeg.

Peter was the manager of the United Grain Growers Elevator in Lowe Farm from August of 1967 until August of 1975. They were very active in the community. Peter served on the Chamber of Commerce, Curling Club and helped organize baseball teams and umpired many games.

Helen served many years on the Women's Institute and did Home Care in and around the community. They were involved in the Kronsweide Church where Helen taught Sunday School and

was part of the ladies group in the church.

Peter and Helen moved to Winnipeg in October, 1975, where Peter attended school and changed careers, becoming an accountant. On moving, they left behind three daughters, who had all married and settled in the Lowe Farm area. Peter and Helen moved to Carman in 1986, where they are currently enjoying their retirement.

**PETER M. & SUSANNA  
(SCHROEDER) FRIESEN**



*The wedding of  
Peter and Susanna Friesen.*



*Peter and Susanna Friesen in 1954.*



*The bagger.*



*The entire Friesen family, excluding Hank, who was in British Columbia.*



*Cars lined up at a Friesen Christmas gathering.*





*Peter Friesen's machinery repair shop.*

Peter and Susanna (nee Schroeder) Friesen moved into Lowe Farm in 1937, from the farm that was north of the town, with their family of four daughters. Mary (died at age seven), Susanne, Agatha and Margaret. Then they had nine sons, Peter, John, Marten, Anthony, twins Isaac and Cornelius, Henry, Abram and Bernard. Another daughter, Annie, came along, but died at the age of seven.

Peter M. and sons built a house with shop attached in Lowe Farm and moved into town with family, poultry and assorted animals. The shop was called the "Machinery Repair Shop." Peter did not want to call it a black smith shop because he did not want to shoe horses.

Regardless of the economic condition of the times, work ethics were taught at a very early age. Peter bought a brand new anvil which one of the sons wore round by sharpening plow shears. Two sons herded up to 75 head of town cattle to help meet the financial needs. They made 75 cents per head a month but sometimes the money was hard to collect. People complained they had not watered the cattle right, nor watched what weed they were feeding on, causing the milk not to taste right.

Other sons helped in the shop and got their training from Dad or from Mom in the kitchen until they started to work for local farmers. Everyone had a job to do. The daughters, being the oldest, left home first.

Peter M. enjoyed research work, and was an inventor. He invented such things as a grain elevator (bagger), a pump to pump out ditches with a fan instead of a gear, an auger, and a spinning wheel attachment for the sewing machine. Peter obtained a patent for this last invention. He was offered money for it, but declined. He also invented a remote trap door, and manufactured a rocker washing machine and a rotary lawn mower. Almost all the tools in the shop were home made. Peter made a tractor from an old Model T and many more items, too numerous to mention. A number of his sons inherited his inventive mind, which was passed on down the generations.

Susanna was a very gentle, loving, and caring person. She was a busy lady - washing clothes and gardening (her garden had to have flowers). In the kitchen, cooking for a gang often necessitated one course dinners. For one of those meals she would place a stack of pumpkin plats in the middle of the table for everyone to

enjoy. Another common meal was one big pot of borscht with buns on the table. Susanna would use a 100 pound bag of flour a week to feed the family. The meals were simple but there was always enough. All but two of the family grew up to be very tall.

Peter M. was always concerned that each son had to have his own car. Susanna's concern was that every one of the children had their own home.

There was a big trend for nick names in the area. In this family, all were called the Schmatte (blacksmith) Friesen, and Patent Friesen. The shop closed for service in 1950, when Abe moved to Winnipeg and there was no one left to take over.

## EDWARD & JUSTINA (REMPLE) FUNK



*Edward and Justina Funk's family: (l - r) Coleen, Terese, Beverly, Debra, Jeffrey, and Leslie.*



*The grandchildren of Edward and Justina Funk. Back row: (l - r) Jennifer Hudson, Josbua Hudson, Tyrel Schroeder, David Funk, Laurie Giesbrecht, Meghan Schroeder. Front row: Matthew Hudson, Michael Funk, Colin Funk, David Funk, Kelsey Funk, Caitlin Funk, Kaeleigh Schroeder.*