Neudorf Memories of Pioneer Roots : A History of the Village of Neudorf, Baber, Carrhill, Duck's Point, Neudorf, Pheasant Hills, Piller, Prairie, Reimer, Roadside, Snowflake, and Ulmer School Districts

Source: http://www.ourroots.ca/

Extracts - p52 to p57, p189 to p194.

p54 - reference to R.H. Hall (Rowland Hambleton Hall 167)

p190 - reference to Mary Piller (Mary Ann Piller 255) and her marriage to Rowland Hall.

The extracts include information on the Piller School and details of the Piller family history from the time of its arrival in Canada in 1888.

NEUDORF MEMORIES
OF
PIONEER ROOTS

A HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF NEUDORF, BABER, CARRHILL, DUCK'S POINT, NEUDORF, PHEASANT HILLS, PILLER, PRAIRIE, REIMER, ROADSIDE, SNOWFLAKE, AND ULMER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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PHEASANT HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 417

submitted by Alfred Maurer, Norman Maurer

The Pheasant Hills School District No. 417 was one of the oldest school districts in this area. The district was first settled mainly by English families who believed in education for their children. So on Monday, March 30, 1896, it became a recognized school district comprising of the following land: Sections 1 to 5, 8 to 17, 20 to 29 of Township 21, Range 8, West 2nd; also added to these were Sections 34 to 36, Township 20, Range 8. The first trustees were Thos. M. Bee, Richard Amy and John W. Matthews, who also was the secretary.

Among the first homesteaders were Richard Amy, John and Charles Buckler, Amos Cobb, George Whitlock and Fred Gattinger. These families settled here as early as 1883. However by the turn of the century, families of different ethnic origins took up homesteads in this area, among them John Allen, Karl Adolf, William Amy, Thomas M. Bec, Rev. William Bee, Peter Bieber, Sam R. Barnsly, Stan Batycki, William Hollinger, Jacob Hollinger, Ferd. Keller, George Kirk, John W. Matthews, Peter Maurer, George Kilback, Thomas Todd, Jacob Ulmer, George Sedgwick, Chris Ulmer, Johan Mohr and Peter Mohr.

Although the English settlers wanted to start a school, they found it most difficult, since the other settlers knew little or no English so communication was limited. Also these people felt it more important that their children stay at home and help them, herding cows, since there were no fences, or clearing land. Many of these pupils only got a few weeks of education during the winter months.

Classes were held as early as 1900, Miss Grace Smith being the first teacher. Since no school had yet been built, we presume that these classes were held in some home. Also Johan Mohr, a local farmer, held classes in his home but these were in German and of a religious nature.

In June of 1904 the board asked for debentures for $500.00 to build a school. By June, 1905 a new frame, shingled roof, 18 feet by 24 feet school with a five by six foot porch was built on N.E. Sec. 15-21-8 and was opened that year with the first teacher being J.D. Campbell of Wingham, Ontario for a salary of $300.00 a year.

By 1908 most of the English settlers had moved out, leaving only two families with children remaining. Since they had to have an average attendance of six pupils to keep the school open these families were getting concerned.

The teacher Walter Coulter reported that the following families did not send their children at all, namely George Kunzelman, Fred Knaublauch and John Wilhelm and dissatisfactory the children of John Armbruster, Peter Maurer and Fred Terleski.

The board reports that one of the trustees could not read or write in English so they enquired of the Department of Public Instruction if this was permissible.

As if they didn't have enough problems in 1909 they hired a teacher, A.W. Hargrave who would send home pupils who brought garlic in their lunch.

1914 to 1918 saw World War I upon them. As far as we know only Fred Bieber was in the services from this district.

In 1918 the district was not to escape the Spanish flu epidemic, some families lost loved ones, also the school was forced to close for several weeks.

After this, things went normally until the depression years when the board began to feel the pinch. For example, in 1931 the board found they could not pay the teacher, Elsie Schick, the $700.00 a year they had contracted for, so a compromise was reached and they paid her $600.00. They also paid a pupil $10.00 a year for bringing five gallons of water daily, $2.00 for a cord of wood, cut, split and set up.

In 1939 World War II was declared and again young men went to serve their country, among them Harold Goebel, Alan Loveridge, Albert Issel, Raymond Gattinger, Leslie Lenton, John Schutz and Ernest Armbruster.

Now the old school was getting dilapidated so the ratepayers decided it was time to build a new school. On September 5, 1949 a contract was awarded to Chris Yanke and Val Issel to construct a new school for $7,150.00.

Until now most of the teachers were single and would board at one of the ratepayers; however the board found that this was not always possible, so to accommodate married teachers they bought a house from Philip Issel in 1953 and moved it to the site for a teacherage. In 1958 electric power was brought in to the school and teacherage.

In 1964 the school ceased operation when they joined the other schools to form the Neudorf Consolidated School District.

The school was sold to a religious group who moved it away.

Pheasant Hills Boys, 1940.

Year	*Teacher*	*Trustees*		
1900	Grace C. Smith	Thos. M. Bee	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1901		Thos. M. Bee	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1902		Thos. M. Bee	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1903		Thos. M. Bee	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1904		Thos. M. Bee	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1905	James Campbell	Thos. M. Bee	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1906	R.C. Fraser	Joseph Sedgwick	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1907	R.C. Fraser	Joseph Sedgwick	Richard Amy	John W. Matthews
1908	J. Walter Coulter A.W. Hargrave	Joseph Sedgwick	P.H. Schweitzer	John W. Matthews
1909	Anson W. Morrow	Joseph Sedgwick	P.H. Schweitzer	John W. Matthews
1910	Vernon H. Craig Ralph Tanner	Joseph Sedgwick	P.H. Schweitzer	John W. Matthews
1911	Marion Kent	Joseph Sedgwick	P.H. Schweitzer	John W. Matthews
1912	James Campbell	Joseph Sedgwick	P.H. Schweitzer	John W. Matthews
1913	Thomas Earl Walker F.J. Sabage	Joseph Sedgwick	Geo. Kirk	Ludwig Hollinger
1914	Albert Bauer	Joseph Sedgwick	Geo. Kirk	Ludwig Hollinger
1915	Irene Rauston	Joseph Sedgwick	Geo. Kirk	Albert Dales
1916	H. Crane G.F. Hanmer	Joseph Sedgwick	Geo. Kirk	Albert Dales
1917	Fred Morganroth Mr. Penny	Joseph Sedgwick	Geo. Kirk	Albert Dales
1918	R. Grammett	Joseph Sedgwick	Geo. Kirk	Albert Dales
1919	R.J. Roberts	Joseph Sedgwick	Geo. Kirk	Walter Dales
1920	Miss A. Amy	Ludwig Hollinger	Geo. Kirk	Walter Dales
1921	Dan J. McTher	Ludwig Hollinger	Geo. Kirk	A.E. Matthews
1922	Fred W. Greenough	Ludwig Hollinger	Val Goebel	A.E. Matthews
1923	Fred W. Greenough Mr. McNeven	Henry Hahn	Val Goebel	A.E. Matthews
1924	E.A. Hobbs	Henry Hahn	Val Goebel	A.E. Matthews
1925	Collen Humphies	Henry Hahn	Wm. Issel	A.E. Matthews
1926	Collen Humphies	Henry Hahn	Wm. Issel	A.E. Matthews
1927	Lorne Devern	Henry Hahn	Wm. Issel	Adam Hauser
1928	Miss E.M. Stilborn	Henry Hahn	A.E. Loveridge	Adam Hauser
1929	Lula Jameson	Henry Hahn	A.E. Loveridge	Adam Hauser
1930	Lula Jameson	Henry Hahn	A.E. Loveridge	Wm. Issel
1931	Elsie Schick	Henry Hahn	A.E. Loveridge	Wm. Issel
1932	Ruth White	Fred J. Loveridge	A.E. Loveridge	Wm. Issel
1933	Ruth White	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Fred J. Loveridge
1934	Ruth White	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Fred J. Loveridge
1935	Ruth White	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Fred J. Loveridge
1936	Ruth White	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Fred J. Loveridge
1937	Eleanor Boyle	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Fred J. Loveridge
1938	Eleanor Boyle	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Wm. Goebel
1939	Doris Welch	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Wm. Goebel
1940	Doris Welch	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Wm. Goebel
1941	Anton Rittaler	A.E. Loveridge	Henry Maurer	Wm. Goebel
1942	Alice Zimmerman	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Wm. Goebel
1943	Alice Zimmerman	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Fred J. Loveridge
1944	J. Maradyn Miss Stiffa Parfeniuk	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Pete Ulmer
1945	Marion Hack	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Pete Ulmer
1946	Marion Hack	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Pete Ulmer
1947	Marion Hack	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Pete Ulmer
1948	Marion Hack	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Pete Ulmer
1949	Miss June Rothwell	A.E. Loveridge	Philip Issel	Pete Ulmer
1950	Miss June Rothwell	Frank Issel	Philip Issel	Louis Kirk
1951	Miss June Rothwell	Frank Issel	Philip Issel	Louis Kirk
1952	Queen O'Brien Linton	Frank Issel	Philip Issel	Louis Kirk
1953	W.G. Sparkman	Pete Ulmer	Val Hollinger	Louis Kirk

1954	W.G. Sparkman	Pete Ulmer	Val Hollinger	Louis Kirk
1955	W.G. Sparkman	Pete Ulmer	Val Hollinger	Louis Kirk
1956	Mrs. I.G. Hoffard	Pete Ulmer	Val Hollinger	J. Armbruster
1957	Mrs. I.G. Hoffard	Pete Ulmer	Val Hollinger	J. Armbruster
1958	Winnifred Issel	Pete Ulmer	Val Hollinger	Ben Goebel
1959	Marjorie Bjornson	Norman Maurer	Val Hollinger	Ben Goebel
1960	Steve Novakowski	Norman Maurer	Val Hollinger	Ben Goebel
1961	Steve Novakowski	Norman Maurer	Val Hollinger	Ben Goebel
1962	K.F. Gattinger	Norman Maurer	Val Hollinger	Lorne Scheirer
1963	K.F. Gattinger	John P. Hollinger	Mervin Loveridge	Norman Loveridge
1964	K.F. Gattinger	John P. Hollinger	Mervin Loveridge	Norman Loveridge

PILLER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 391

submitted by H. F. Tempel

November 25, 1895

To the Council of Public Instruction of the Northwest Territories.

The humble petition of the undersigned ratepayers of the Piller School District showeth:

1. That we have a good school building erected in the Piller Public School District situated on the Northwest Quarter of Section twenty nine, Township nineteen, Range seven, west of the second meridian, which is conveniently situated although not quite in the center of the District.
2. We humbly request your Council may grant us permission to permanently locate the schoolhouse on the present site.
3. We also humbly request your Council to arrange with the Government for a grant of one acre of land from the above named Quarter Section for the purpose of a school site.

And your Petitioners will even pray, etc.

The Names and Addresses of the Ratepayers:

November 6	Louis Streich, Jacob Kraushaar, Martin Armbruster, Valentine Armbruster, Johann Armbruster, Adam Kraehenbil.
November 7	Peter Ulmer, Jacob Ulmer, Jacob Ott, Sr., Phillipp Kendal, Jacob Ott, Jr., Philipp Ott, Philipp Graf, Jacob Hoehn, Carl Brady.
November 12	August Schultz, Fred Piller, Jacob Piller, Johann Fesser, Johann Schultz, Friederich Schultz, Johann Hubenig.
November 15	Philipp Armbruster, Micheal Huminilowicz, Rosalia Ludwig Graf.
November 25	Konrad Graf, Christoph Schultz, Frank Stein, Trustees of the Piller School District Hyde P.Q., Assa., N.W.T. Canada signed by Frank Stein.

The above petition was the official beginning of Piller School. This school served the district social center and meeting place and in the early years, also served as a church and Sunday School. The name Piller was chosen because the Piller farm was nearby.

The organizational meeting to form the school district was held on June 19, 1895 at the home of Jacob Ott, Sr., Louis Streich was the *PRO TEM*chairman and Martin Armbruster acted as secretary. Two memorable resolutions were passed at this meeting. The first and most important was the majority vote of the ratepayers in favor of the creation of the Piller School District. The second resolution elected the first Board of Trustees, namely Conrad Graf, Christoph Schulz and Frank Stein.

The new board wasted no time. They held their first meeting on June 22, 1895. The resolutions passed this day were of some significance. Since the new board was already bound by regulations of the Council of Public Instruction for the Northwest Territories dealing with organizing, building and operating a school, they complied with the first requirement appointment of officers. Conrad Graf was elected chairman, Frank Stein - secretary and Christoph Schulz - treasurer.

The first resolution passed dealt with the school ordinances. While most of the ratepayers spoke and wrote more than one language, English was not one of them. They therefore requested the Council of Public Instruction to translate the ordinances into German.

They also requested the Council to grant one acre of land for the school site, the N.W. 1/4 29-19-7-W2.

Their third request was that the school house be placed near the center of the district.

The final (and amazing) request asked permission of the Council to take possession of the school house which had already been built in the three days between the organizational meeting and the first board meeting.

By December 14,1894 they were in financial difficulty and a resolution was passed to borrow two hundred and fifty dollars from the Bank of Messrs, Love and Tryon at Grenfell.

To establish a base for school taxes, R. H. Hall was appointed Assessor for the year 1896 at $12.00 per year. In reading the April 3, 1897 minutes, it can be inferred that the assessment for 1896 had been based on the land and all personal property and buildings. The rate for 1897 was set at one percent of the assessed value of the land only.

Also in 1896, the trustees decided to weatherboard the school and to install double windows. On April 3, 1897 the Board decided to call tenders for this work. This tender is quite interesting and is quoted below:

"The lumber to be first class pine, to be hauled from Grenfell. The person tendering must side in the school in a workmanlike manner. In addition to siding the school, he must build an addition to the school porch the same to be used as a storehouse for stoves and pipes and which shall be built on the southeast corner, of the same dimensions extending north and south as the porch, to be extended from the porch to the east side of the main building, the same being about 8 ft. by 14 ft. more or less, and to be the same height as the porch and to be shingled with first class shingles and to be completed in a first class manner. The lumber for this addition shall also be furnished by the person so tendering and the whole job must be approved by the Chairman of the Board. The trustees decided they would pay fifty dollars for the completion --"

There were no takers of this offer but the Board left their offer open. The tender requirements were not only demanding but also demonstrated the care and frugality of the trustees.

The original benches built by the homesteaders were gradually replaced with benches purchased from Cristies' Bookstore. A bill for$30.45 was approved for benches and slate tablets on June 11, 1906.

In 1908, the teachers salary was to be $60 to $70 dollars per month beginning in April. Another expenditure at this time was $25.50 for six desks. This spending was then followed by the borrowing of $200 from Moses Ottenberg, a Neudorf grocer, for 45 days at 12% interest. (And we think interest rates are high today!)

The treasurer's commission for collection of taxes went from a flat $10 a year to 2.5% of collection. At the same time the Board began to pay the Secretary an annual stipend of $20.

1908 also saw the beginning of discounts on early payment of taxes. The rate for this year was about 9%.

In 1909 interest of 10% on arrears of taxes was introduced. C. W. Cress of Edmonton was hired as tax collector and paid $10.05.

The year 1910 was an exciting time for both pupils and parents in the Piller School District. First, it was decided to build a 30 ft. x 14 ft. barn to be completed by November. But by July the plan was changed. Instead a school 38 ft. x 22 ft. was to be built 50 feet from the old school, which would be used as a barn.

Plans for the new school were obtained from the Department of Education. It was resolved to sell $1,000 worth of debentures to be repaid over 10 years at no more than 8% interest to finance the building. The tender for building and painting the school went to the Neudorf Trading Co. whose bid was $1,100.

To aid in financing, taxes were raised to $10 per quarter and each family was assessed an additional $100 for the new school.

A special meeting of ratepayers was called on March 22, 1911 to consider moving the school a half mile west. Eighteen voted against and 12 voted for the motion. But the matter did not rest there. It was again considered by the Trustees in 1912 when they decided to petition the Local Improvement District to move the school to no avail. The school remained on the same site for 69 years.

In the fall of 1910, the Department of Education began to pressure school districts to spend at least $10 for library books in order to receive the school grant. The trustees went so far as to spend $2 on the library and at the same time voted an additional $1.50 to buy a flag.

In 1912 a noon break of one hour was established in the school day. The trustees also decreed that, although instruction was to remain in English, German was to be taught every day from three to four o'clock.

At this time the school district was made up of 13,342 acres. Taxes were $7.20 per quarter so total tax receipts were $600.61. Added to this was a grant of $84.39 from the Local Improvement District plus, of course the government school grant. The financial burden of the districts was eased about this time by the provision of primers and readers by the Department of Education.

An interesting minute appears in 1917: "Each child must place his horse in the barn in order of arrival -- first boy to choose his stall and so on. The teacher's stall must not be used." To think there were parking problems then!

On October 22, 1918 the school was closed because of the Spanish influenza epidemic. Sickness again affected the school in 1937 when the board decided, during an infantile paralysis epidemic, to have a doctor examine all the school childern at the District's expense.

In the 1919 minutes mention is made of putting the schoolhouse on cement foundations. Noted also is the school picnic held on July 25. Was this the first?

By 1920 a meaningful library was started with the purchase of the Books of Knowledge. This was added to in 1921 when a New Standard Dictionary, Maps of Canada and the World, four Sweet Pea Readers, a library record book and pint, quart, and gallon measures were purchased.

The minutes for 1932 show a drop in the teacher's salary to $500. In that year also contracts were let to bring drinking water to the school.

In order to attract teachers (and because ratepayers were no longer to board teachers) a teacherage was built in 1956. The total cost, including interest, was $7,579.

The end of the Piller School came in 1964 when the district amalgamated with the newly formed Neudorf Consolidated School District. Both the school and teacherage were sold and are now residences in Neudorf.

THE SCHOOL TERM

During the early years of the Piller School, classes were conducted only during the warm months when the children without shoes could go barefoot. This continued until 1908 when the school was kept open for 7 or 8 months beginning in April. By 1911 the school was kept open for a full term of 200 days.

THE PEOPLE

A school is really people - pupils, teachers, parents.

Among the organizers of Piller School was one man educated in both English andGerman who undoubtedly had considerable influence with the other homesteaders. He was the Reverend Louis Streich, an American belonging to the German Reformed Church. He came not as a clergyman but as a homesteader and only later was persuaded to organize a congregation of his church by a pioneer missionary from Winninpeg. (See booklet - *The First Sixty Years of the Piller School District*). The minutes of the school district from the beginning were written in excellent English in his hand. One might assume that he was the first teacher since few if any of the other homesteaders were equipped to conduct classes in English.* He also must have been a great help in interpreting the School Ordinance and in drafting documents and correspondence.

*On June 11, 1896 an agreement between the District and a teacher was drawn up but the teacher's name was not mentioned.

In the early days most of the pupils walked to school but some who lived a considerable distance came by horse and buggy. Fred Krieger, who lived down the valley, had the problem of climbing a long hill. His buggy was left each day at the top of the hill and the next day Fred, leading his pony and carrying two sheaves for the pony's feed, would climb the hill, hitch up and go to school. This was a far cry from being picked up in the yard by a bus!

In 1911 the school attendance register showed 52 pupils enrolled. Several years later the enrolment was 72. With that pupil - teacher ratio one can understand why a teacher would stay for only one year.

There was one teacher who did stay longer. He was a Maritimer, C. M. (Charlie) Dunn who taught at Piller School from 1913 to 1916. His landlady (Mrs. Frank Stein, the writer's grandmother) was a good cook so one wonders if Dunn was encouraged to stay because of the hearty meals or because of Kate McLeod who lived at the bottom of Hyde Hill. It is safe to assume the latter since Charlie later married Kate.

Mr. Dunn went on to become prominent in the insurance business and in politics. He was an underwriter for the Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Melville and in 1934 he was M.L.A. for Melville. Later he was Minister of Highways in the Patterson government. After he was defeated for re-election in 1944 he became manager of the Mutual Life office in Regina until his retirement, after which he and Mrs. Dunn moved to Kelowna, B.C.

All of the teachers at Piller School undoubtedly had some impact on the district but Mr. Dunn is the only one of which the writer has personal knowledge.

Another teacher who deserves acknowledgement here is Mrs. P. Smith who, with her students wrote and published a booklet, *The First Sixty Years of the Piller School District*, in 1956.

From 1911 to 1964, a total of 42 teachers served the Piller School for varying periods of time. A list of these is appended.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

In the very early years the school was used for church services until the Reform Church was built in 1899. Until the early 1900's, Sunday School was also held in the school.

When Mr. Dunn was teacher as many as 30 to 40 children attended a non-denominational Sunday School. The school board minutes for 1915 show that Mr. Dunn was paid $14.60 for curtain rods, paint and chalk. The curtains and rods were used to divide the school into four classrooms for Sunday School.

In later years school dances were held for the area's young people.

Mr. Dunn also organized a baseball team during his tenure. The players (Fred Krieger, Fred Stein, Frank, Carl and Bill Niebergall, Fred Graf, Jack Wendel, George, Frank and Fred Piller, Jr.) would compete with the Tempel team and the Neudorf team.* The teams practised twice a week, finding time, in spite of their hard work and long hours working with horses, for the sporting and social activities which they enjoyed.

The Piller School team doubtless inspired by Mr. Dunn, even had a team yell to create enthusiasm:

Sagamorack! Sagamorack!
Oscar whisk away!
Piller School baseball -
Piller School baseball -
Hooray! Hooray!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This is just a glimpse at the history of Piller School. If time permitted more research, a book could be written on the contributions of the students and teachers to the district, to the Neudorf area and to the province and country. A number of students served in the Armed Forces in World War II. Some became educators, farmers, politicians - their service covers many fields of endeavor.

The writer wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Messrs. Fred Krieger and Fred Stein in providing much appreciated information, Thanks to my wife, Ruth, for her willing and able assistance in editing the script. Thanks also to Mrs. Frank Goebel for providing a copy of *The First Sixty Years of the Piller School District* and

Pupils of Piller School, 1912.

for her foresight in saving the original minutes of the Piller School District from 1895 to 1940.

*Some of Tempel players were Philip, Gus and John Tempel, Carl Schiembein and Philip Assman.
Neudorf Team: Metson brothers, Ernie Kuss, Bill Hupp, Feldy Armbruster, Leo (Kaiser) Geib and Philip, Jake and George Schramm.

APPENDIX

TEACHER	PERIOD
I. Halliday	1911-12
J.W. Welwood	1912-13
C.M. Dunn	1913-15
George Harris	1915
Chas E. Piavlt	1915-17
Arthur G. Harvey	1917-18
Harry L. Hobbs	1918-19
A. Hollenberg	1919-20
Alice M. Hibbert	1920-21
John M. Leader	1921-22
Clifford E. Nesbitt	1922
Francis A. Rybak	1923
G.I.K. Penny	1923
Angus Tibbett	1923
M.R.McIver	1923-24
L. Cinch	1924
Jas Geddes	1924-25
Archie Powell	1925-26
Janet B. Powell	1926-31
M.E. Harris	1931-33
Alex Gutwin	1933-35
Emma Neibergall	1935-37
L.M.B. Barber	1937-38
El Wesa	1938-39
Irene Schramm	1939-41
Fred Switzer	1941-42
Minnie A. MacLean	1942-43
Hazel Holtzman	1943-44
Wilfred Holtzman	1944
Mrs. Nellie Burianyk	1945
Charlotte Gottfried	1945
Harry Mahnke	1945-47
Raymond Bean	1947-48
Hazel Douglas	1948-50
E.M. Hauser	1950-51
Eugene W. Paluck	1951-52
Mrs. H.I. Piller	1952-53
Z.R. Kozey	1953-54
Donald P. Maurer	1954-55
Mrs. P. Smith	1955-56
Mrs. A.M. Brodie	1956-61
Johanna J. Exner	1961-64
Mrs. Mildred Mayo	1964

Pete and Lena Wendell, Alice Hebert, Teacher; Louie Wendell.

Piller School District Church.

First Piller School.

Perkins home.

HAROLD PERKINS HISTORY

submitted by Harold Perkins

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Perkins (my parents) homesteaded S.W. 35-18-9-W2 in the early 1900's. They lived in a caboose until a house was built. I was born on this homestead in 1905. Before 1914, Dad sold this land to Douglas Campbell and we moved to S.W. 36, which Dad rented until he bought N.E. 6-19A-8-W2, from the Jackson Brothers. We were all born in this district and we all attended Carr-Hill School. There were eleven children in our family - Art, Doris, myself, Phyllis, May, Norman, Jack, Stan, Margaret, Agnes and Victor. It was about 1939, when I took over the farm. In 1947 I bought a new truck. I used to pick up some of my neighbours and we went to many picnics and sports days together, I sold the farm in 1965 to Sid Allen and I retired. I reside in Fort Qu'Appelle now. Margaret and Charlie Morton live in Fort Qu'Appelle; Norman lives in Balcarres; Jack lives in Moose Jaw; Art and Kay live in Craven; Phyllis and Agnes live in the U.S.

"Harold was (and still is) Uncle Harold to all the children in our district. He always had a bag of candies for the children when he visited each neighbor."

Bud, Agnes
Kay, Arthur
Harold

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Norman Perkins,
Margaret Morton
Harold Perkins

NORTH HILL PILLER HISTORY

submitted by Mrs. Jerry Piller

The Piller family came to Canada from Austria in November 1888, and as they had their choice of homesteads they chose one close to a lake. Here they found what was essential; water, pasture and a wooded area. This lake is still referred to as the 'Piller Lake'.

The homes of many of these first pioneers were sod huts, but later log buildings were built where circumstances permitted.

The old summer kitchen on Piller farm.

Clothing and small necessities had been brought with them, but when supplies were needed a trip had to be made to the nearest town which was either Grenfell or Wolseley. To avoid these long trips, the settlers had their mail brought to the Hyde Post Office which was situated in the Qu'Appelle Valley at the 'Spill Way' which is still there. A store was also built here for the convenience of the people.

It was necessary to have a stopping place both going to town and returning. This trip was tiresome at any time but was especially difficult in winter when the roads were hard to follow. This was the time when the early pioneers left a light burning in the window to guide the travellers home or to help the others who might have lost their way.

Although there was plenty of work for everyone there were also times of gaiety and celebration such as weddings and christenings. Not only did the pioneers gather for good times but also when difficulties arose. If there was sickness or other emergencies everyone was ready to lend a helping hand, showing a true pioneer spirit, throughout the community.

On June 19, 1895 a school board was formed and land was obtained on the N.W. 1/4 of 29-19-7. A log building was built and this school was named 'Piller School' - after the first homesteader in this area. In 1910 a new school was built and the old building was then used as a barn.

In 1889 a church, named 'The German Reformed Church', was built on S.E. 1/4 of 19. The first minister was Rev. L. Streick until 1903, when Rev. Hoffman took over until 1910.

The following is a 'Family Tree' of the first homesteader and how the homestead changed management and ownership down through several generations.

First Generation

George Piller (Sr.) - was 60 years old when he came to Canada. He was married twice. From the first wife (name unknown) there were three girls and two boys.

Second Generation

Old Country Family

1. Katherine - married William Bohne
2. Mary Elizabeth - married Conrad Graff
3. Elizabeth married Philip Temple
*4. Jacob (John J.) married Margaret Stein - farmed homestead
5. George Jr. died in Austria at the age of 12. His second wife was Magdalene Gieger and they had one girl and four boys.

Canadian Family

1. Mary married Frank Lowenberg
2. George married Lena Lowenberg
3. John married Phyllis Ortt
4. Philip married Katherine Fuchs
5. William married Sophie Fuchs.

Third Generation

1. Fred - born February 18, 1874 - married Anne Marie Hahn.
2. Mary - born June 3, 1876 - married R. Hall
3. Wilhelmina - born March 12, 1879 - married William Krieger
4. Jacob - born May 23, 1882 - married Lizzie Temple
5. Katherine - born October 18, 1884 - married Leo Brady
6. Margaret - born March 27, 1886 - married Dan Parker
7. Lizzie - born April 29, 1890 - married Fred Beal
8. Frank - born September 27, 1892 - married Christine Chisholm
* 9. Philip - born October 2, 1895 - married Katharina Armbruster - farmed homestead.
10. George - born February 6, 1900 - married Margaret Ortt.

Philip Piller was born October 2, 1895. He married Katharina Armbruster, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (nee Bender) Armbruster on January 9, 1921 in Neudorf by Pastor M. Richter. They farmed on the homestead and this marriage was blessed with seven children. Philip passed away in Regina on February 19, 1965. Katie passed away in Regina Hospital on July 30, 1978. Both

John J. and Margaretha Piller.

FRONT ROW: John J. Piller, George, Margaretha Piller.
BACK ROW: Philip, Frank, Elizabeth.

John J. Piller (Jake) was born in 1854. He married Margareta Stein and their family is referred to as the 'North Hill Pillers'. He farmed on the homestead, and died in 1942. Margareta died in 1936. They are both buried in the 'Piller Cemetery' southeast of Neudorf near the homestead. This marriage was blessed with 10 children, namely:

are buried in the Christ Lutheran Cemetery at Neudorf. The children are:

Fourth Generation

1. Evelyn married George Krieger
2. Ruby married Gordon Schweitzer
3. Alfred married Hazel Douglas
4. Edwin married Hilda Bieberdorf

Phillip and Katherine Nee Armbruster on their wedding day.

5. Tom married Anita Hauser
6. Jerry married Elfriede Baber
7. Don married Jacqueline Rieger.

Fifth and Sixth Generations

1. Evelyn and George have two children -
   1. Marion married Brian Patrick. They have two children: Jody and Craig.
   2. Patsy married Larry Jeworski. They have two children: Cherlyn and Jerad.
2. Ruby and Gordon have two children:
   1. Don married Rhona Libby
   2. Kathy married Lorne Skrypnyk. They have two children: Lawnie and Michael.
3. Alfred and Hazel have four children:
   1. Bill
   2. Dave married Debby Cameron. They have two children: Samantha and Shawn.
   3. Brian
   4. Dynette
4. Edwin and Hilda have three children:
   1. Terry married John Hodges. They have one child: Jayton.
   2. Janice
   3. Philip
5. Tom and Anita have two children:
   1. Mark
   2. Patti

*6-

Jerry and Elfriede have two children:

   1. Linda
   2. Ken

Jerry is presently farming the homestead.

7. Don and Jacqueline have one child:
   1. Warren

FRONT ROW: Ruby (Schweitzer) Katherine, Philip, Evelyn (Krueger). BACK ROW: Tom, Alfred, Jerry, Ed, Don.

Lunchtime for threshers.

Jerry pulling Don, Patsy and Marion.

JACOB PILLER SR. FAMILY

submitted by Fred Sens and Gladys Piller

Jacob Piller Sr. was born in Russia on May 23, 1881. He was the son of John and Margaret Piller (nee Stein).

Jacob and his parents along with his sisters and brothers lived on a farm where Jerry Piller now farms.

Elizabeth Temple was born in Austria in 1888. She was the daughter of Jacob and Beatrice Temple (nee Ott).

Jacob and Elizabeth got married on June 7, 1904. The pastor who married them was Pastor George Hoffman. They made their home in the Piller District S.W. 28-19-7. They farmed there for eighteen years. In 1923, they sold that land and bought a farm in the Qu'Appelle Valley from Dan Parker N.W. 2-19A-8. This is the farm which Ed and Gladys now reside on.

The barn had burned down the previous fall, so there was no place for the horses when they moved down in spring. Temporary quarters were set up until a barn was built. The family recalls it was a warm spring day. There was water everywhere. Later it snowed again. The drifts were ten feet high.

As all pioneers encountered hardships and hard work, there were many memories of good times as well.

Together with their family, they farmed until 1947 at which time Jacob Piller passed away. Mrs. Piller remained on the farm with two sons, Philip and Edward.

In 1950 the house was fully remodeled. In 1951 Ed and Gladys got married and shortly after, mother retired to Grenfell. She loved doing fancy work and gardening as well as entertaining friends and relatives.

At the age of 83 she passed away on December 16, 1971.

Jacob and Elizabeth Piller are laid to rest in the Piller Cemetery. They raised 9 children: Elizabeth, Jacob Jr., Alice, Alma, Philip, Victor, Edward, Pearl and Matilda who died in infancy in 1928.

Lizzie - married Charlie Miller. They raised 8 children.

1. Doreen married Olwald Ulmer.
   a) Dale married Susan Sweinson.
      - Lisa
      - Deanna
   b) Marlene married George Eberle
      - Shawn
      - Shannon
2. Mildred married Louie Schweitzer.
   a) Cheryl married Ron Adams
      - Dallas
      - Heidi
   b) Lorrie married Marie Leibel
3. Lawerence married Eileen Schmidt
   a) Rodney
   b) Morley
4. Audry married Rogalski
   a) Perry
   b) Wanda
   c) Jodi
   d) Leanne
5. Yvonne married Peter Risch
   a) Dino
   b) Tammy
   c) Marlo
   d) Melony
6. Delmer married Judy Stradetski
   a) Delwin
   b) Shelley
7. Jack married Yvonne Undershutz. He passed away at the age of 34 in 1977.
   a) Terry
   b) Corey
   c) Melony
8. Garth married Gail Risch
   a) Jeffery

Jake - married Katherine Wolf. Katherine passed away in 1953. They had three children:

1. Lloyd married Eileen Rathgeber. Their children are:
   - Cindy
   - Cathy
   - Ken
   - Kim
2. Raymond married Nora Baber. Their children are:
   - Marla
   - Kelly
   - Dean
   - Darren
3. Constance married William Gerhardt. Their children are:
   - Stacey
   - Brenda
   - Corey

Jake and Katherine farmed in the valley, which was at one time the Jim Parker farm, S.W. 1-19-8. Later, son Raymond took over this farm, and Jake bought the Carl Schienbein farm, S.W. 5-19A-8. Jake stayed with son Lloyd, who had an adjoining farm. They mostly worked the land together. Lloyd has since taken this land over. Jake Jr. retired to Neudorf in 1972.

Alice - married Fred Armbruster in 1950. He passed away in 1964. In 1972 she married Fred Sens of Neudorf.

Alma - married Arnold Hack. They farmed in Grenfell and Summerberry area, she now resides in Grenfell. Arnold passed away in 1974. They had three children:

1. Les married Inga Schlamp. Their children are:
   - Tim
   - Brian
   - Derrin
   - Andrea
2. Kenneth married Ursala Schlamp. Their children are:
   - Devon
   - Robynn
   - Shane
3. Larry married Dorothy Schlamp. Their Children are:
   - Trent
   - Trevor

Philip - resided with Ed and Gladys until retiring to Neudorf in 1973. He passed away suddenly on August 27, 1974.

Victor - married Jeanne Cressey. They make their home in Vancouver.

Edward - married Gladys Assman. They have two sons:

- Richard (Dick)
- Randy

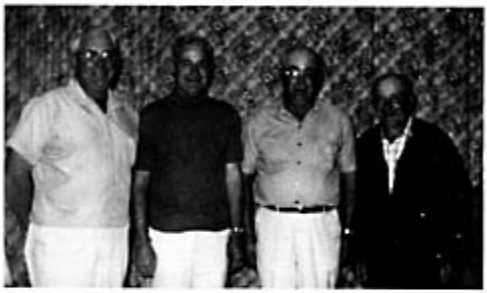
Pearl - married Harold Schmidt. Harold passed away in 1978. Their children are:

1. Sandra married Dan Connery
   - Shana
2. Blair

Wedding car of Jacob Jr. and Katherine Wolfe, 1934.

Jacob and Elizabeth, 1944.

BACK ROW: Alma, Pearl.
FRONT ROW: Alice, Elizabeth, Lizzie.



Ed, Victor, Philip and Jake.

Some of the family of Jacob and Elizabeth.

Dick, Ed, Gladys, Randy, on their 25th wedding anniversary.

LLOYD AND EILEEN PILLER FAMILY

submitted by Eileen Piller

Lloyd Piller was born on July 14, 1935, son of Jacob and Katherine Piller Jr., attended Duck Point School. He was employed as a truckdriver for Bernie Armbruster during the construction of the bi-pass at Regina. On November 22, 1957, he married Eileen Rathbeger in Melville.

We resided in Regina only a few months after our marriage, and I was employed at Simpson Sears. Early in 1958, we moved to Grenfell. Lloyd was employed at Schlamps Garage as a trucker hauling bulk fuel. I was employed first at a cafe, then at Harold Ballers Grocery Store.

We rented the former Stan Bender farm in the Carr-Hill District and moved in, in February, 1960. I had been to this farm prior to our marriage and during the summer season. Now all the roads were closed due to snow drifts and I was totally lost as we crossed the fields.

The house looked very bare and felt very cold upon our arrival. By late evening we had the main floor comfortable, but the bedrooms upstairs were still very cold, so we decided to sleep on a mattress on the living room floor. I have a great fear of mice, so I sat up very alert all night, and featured mice as big as cats staring at me. This seemed like the longest night that I ever spent.

Our little dog Buddy barked so loudly at the telephone because of the different sound, that I couldn't even listen on the party line. I didn't know anyone in the district. Lloyd knew them slightly. Our good neighbors didn't let this last very long, as they surprised us one evening with a house warming party. I suddenly met the Benders, Wegers, Rings, Leniczeks and Harold Perkins. As I recall there were a few more, the Edgars for one, who moved later to the McCormick farm. This made us feel very welcome to know we had and still have wonderful neighbors in a beautiful district.

Our first daughter Cindy was born on April 6, 1960. With the help of Rob Bender we made it to the main road and to the Grenfell hospital.

We started farming with 4 cows, Lloyd's dad's faithful team (Fanny and Mabel) and a black dog (Mongrel).

When Cathy arrived on February 20, 1963, we purcased a milking machine to milk our ten cows, and also the farm from Stan Bender in the fall.

Kenneth arrived on June 22, 1964, in time to disrupt Dr. Sheppard's golf game.

By this time we had a good herd of cattle, pigs, chickens, and milked a dozen cows.

Kim arrived on November 11, 1971. The milking chore was given up, being replaced by more beef cattle. More land had been purchased before this time as well, from Lloyd's dad, my dad, and George Lenizek.

Our children all attended school in Neudorf. Cindy is presently employed in Regina. Cathy, Ken, and Kim still attend school. The girls enjoyed school sports including volleyball, curling, and softball. Lloyd, Ken and Kim all play hockey. Cindy, Cathy and Ken are also 4-H members.

Lloyd has been on Christ Lutheran Church council, has led the 4-H Beef Club for 9 years and is presently

Cindy, Cathy, Eileen, Lloyd, Ken, Kim in front.

councillor for Division Two of the R.M. of McLeod. Both Lloyd and I are on the Winter Sports Executive. I have been involved with Community College, 4-H, Celebrate Saskatchewan and am on the History Book Committee which is responsible for the making of this book.

An interesting part about this farm is that in 1924 it was owned by the Smiths and called "Trefelyn", Stan Bender called it "Stanford Hereford Farm." When we acquired our purebred Angus cattle we named it "Sun-E-Site."

WILHELMINA MILLER (NEE RATHGEBER)

submitted by Mrs. Elsie Alberda

Jacob and Caroline Rathgeber arrived by ship landing at Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1892 with their two small sons, Rudolf and Joseph. They travelled to Grenfell, Saskatchewan by train; then bought oxen and travelled to Carr Hill District where they homesteaded. They built a sod house and started clearing land for farming. Several more children were born to them at this homestead. They were Philipina, May, John, Carrie, Margaret, Katie and Christie. Mary and John died as infants. They next purchased a farm in Baber School District. Three more daughters, Wilhelmina, Anellia and Elizabeth were born at this home.

Philip Miller (Mueller) son of Carl and Magdalena Mueller of Romania came to Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1929 at age of 23. He travelled to Melville, Saskatchewan by train where two aunts and uncles and several cousins lived. He started work for Keller and Bender, a butcher and farming operation. After 15 months at Keller and Bender, he worked for John Jones on a farm. After this he went to Mac Nut, Saskatchewan, and was employed by Fred Kendal on a farm. He returned to Melville, Saskatchewan to his uncle Jake Miller's farm, working there for two years. Then he rented one quarter section of land south of Melville and began his own farming operation.

In 1937 he married Wilhelmina Rathgeber. Wilhelmina lost her Canadian citizenship because Philip was not a Canadian citizen. He became a citizen in 1938 and Wilhelmina became a naturalized citizen at the same

Jacob and Carolina Rathgeber.

time. They moved to her parents' farm and lived there for four and a half years. In 1940 their son William Harvey was born. In 1943 they rented one quarter section from their brother-in-law Louis Daunheimer near Snowflake School. In 1945 they purchased one quarter section from Peter Kletchko which was one half mile south of the Daunheimer farm. There was a small house, a small barn and two granaries at this farm. In 1946 their daughter Elsie was born. In 1950 they purchased the quarter section from the Daunheimer family which is located one half mile north.

They worked hard clearing the land, improved the house, and moved a large barn from the Daunheimer farm to the Kletchko farm and built more granaries.

In 1970 Philip and Minnie retired to Regina, Saskatchewan and rented the land to John Dowhaniuk of Killaly. They took a long vacation to visit their son, Bill, in Whitehorse, Yukon in 1971. They also travelled to Germany to visit Philip's brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews. This was the first time in 43 years that he had seen his brothers and sisters.

In 1974 Philip and Minnie sold their land to John Dowhaniuk and moved to Calgary where their daughter Elsie and son-in-law Al Alberda live.

Philip and Minnie have seven grandchildren. Son Bill in Whitehorse has two daughters, Cheryl and Heidi and one son Mark. Their daughter Elsie has four sons, Philip, Danny, Tommy and Neal.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A LIFETIME

by Christina Rathgeber (Mrs. George Berryere)

My parents, Jacob and Caroline Rathgeber, emigrated from Neudorf, Austria, to Canada in 1892. My two older brothers, Rudolph and Joe, were already born and accompanied them. They settled on a homestead (S.W. Section 28-19-8-W2nd) which was located south of Neudorf, Northwest Territories.

Pioneer life was very difficult for all. Much bush had to be cleared before the land could be broken. The growing seasons seemed so short and the winters so long with extremely cold temperatures and so much snow. There were no roads - just some prairie trails. Working with oxen was slow and exhausting. A good many times the oxen ran into the nearest slough, along with plow or harrows, in an attempt to escape from the ever-present and bothersome mosquitoes and flies or to cool off because of extreme high summer temperatures. Whenever this happened there was nothing one could do but sit and wait until they were ready to come out.