

*Mr. Burdiak and Grandson Teddy, Summer kitchen on side, 1940.*

taking loving care of the linen, washing and ironing it and putting it away.

Katherine's husband Harry worked on the railroad for about 35 years.

Katherine remembers that her father used to cut fresh hay and make mattresses out of it and it used to smell so nice and fresh. "After sleeping on it we would take it out for a day's airing and then bring it back into the house for the night again," said Katherine.

We all worked from sunrise to sunset. We baked bread twice a week. My Mother was a very good cook and we especially loved her big pot of good old homemade soup. During the depression years when young men used to ride the rails, dirty and hungry, we never turned a hungry man from our house.

Katherine and Harry when they married, lived in a barn made out of logs. They pushed two beds together and the kitchen and living room served as one room.

We kept one cow in a lean-to attached to the barn and another lean-to served as the chicken house. Katherine says, "I have many happy memories about the 1920's." Anastasia Burdiak passed away on Feb. 27, 1962, and is buried in the Holy Trinity Churchyard Cemetery in Gonor.

## **STANLEY (HANK) CAMERON BURGESS**

*submitted by Isabel Jonasson*

Stanley Cameron Burgess was born on Dec. 26, 1901 at Crapaud, P.E.I., the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Burgess. Stanley was known as Hank to everyone who knew him.

Hank came to the St. Clements Municipality in 1928 when he came to work for Jacob Jonasson, he worked for many years. Then in the late 1930's and early 1940's, he worked for the late Mr. and Mrs. Moulder and also for the late Mr. and Mrs. Gus Light, both from the St. Peters district.

In Jan. 1945, Hank came back to work for Jonasson Farms, and worked until the summer of 1965, when he had a heart attack and wasn't able to work anymore. He had a home with Hugh and Isabel Jonasson until he had to be hospitalized in the St. Boniface Hospital, in May

1972, where he passed away on June 7, 1972. Hank was a trusted, valued and loyal employee.

Hank had two brothers, John Maxwell Burgess born on May 7, 1900 at Crapaud, P.E.I., he passed away in Charlottetown on June 1, 1951. Also a brother, Lionel Burgess of Sudbury, Ont.

## **THE BURNETT FAMILY**

*submitted by Myrtle Burnett*

John Barron, eldest son of George and Elizabeth Burnett, was born October 25, 1866 in Winterbourne, Ont.

John Barron's grandfather, James Burnett, was among the first Burnett's to come to Canada. They originally came from the Parish of Kennethmont, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. In June of 1836 James (26 years old) took passage on a sailing vessel with his older brother who was coming to the great new land of Canada with his wife and four children. They arrived in September after nearly thirteen weeks of rough sailing on the broad Atlantic; then forged their way up into the forest of Ontario, arriving in Winterbourne. Here James spent his life. He rented a farm, which he later bought, married Agnes Mackie and to them were born one son and four daughters.

Their son George (born in 1839), lived his life in the Winterbourne area and married Elizabeth Barron. Together they raised three sons and two daughters, their eldest son being John Barron Burnett.

John met Jessie Veitch in Winterbourne and they married on the ninth of November, 1887. Here they farmed for ten years until 1897 when they moved to



*Russell and Ina Burnett, 1952.*



*Jessie Burnett, daughter of Russell Burnett, Navy.*

Gilbert Plains, Man. They took with them their two sons, George Russell and Hugh Alexander, aged seven and five years respectively. In Gilbert Plains, two more children were born, Vera (the late Mrs. Jack Holmberg) and Hazel (Mrs. Bill Martin of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia).

In 1904 the family moved to the East Selkirk area. Here timber was cut and hauled to the sawmill in Tyndall and then the first Burnett home was built in the Mayfield district. This house, still standing today, is where their last son, Gordon Barron, was born on Oct. 7, 1906.

John Barron's two oldest sons, George Russell, known to his friends as Russell, and Hugh Alexander farmed together on land adjacent to their father's homestead. In 1918, during the devastating flu epidemic, Hugh passed away and Russell continued to farm the land alone.

In addition to farming, John Barron was active in municipal government, serving as Councillor of Ward 3 from 1910-1915 inclusive.

He continued to farm his land until his death in 1936; his wife Jessie died the previous year in 1935.

In 1923, Gordon Barron married Myrtle Young. In 1927, they moved to Selkirk where Gordon operated the ferry on the Red River for three years and also served on the town's police force. Upon John Barron's death, Gordon and his family moved back to his father's homestead and took over the family farm. Together Gordon and Myrtle farmed here until Gordon's death in 1979. During his years of farming, Gordon raised registered Hereford cattle and was associated with the Manitoba Pool Elevators for thirty years.

Gordon and Myrtle's four daughters, Eileen, Evelyn, Audrey and Mildred all married and left the Mayfield district.

Following Gordon's death in 1979, the farm was sold (1980), ending an integral part of the Burnett heritage.

Russell married Willina (Ina) Dixon in 1920. He built a

home on his land and together Russell and Ina worked over the years to expand and beautify their homestead. General farming with a large measure of community service was the pattern set by Russell and Ina. They were Blessed with four daughters, Dorothy, Marjorie, Jessie and Shirley, and two sons, Hugh and George. The girls all married and left Mayfield to take up residence in other parts of Canada and the United States.

The youngest son, George, was the last to leave when he, his wife Dorothy (nee Tulloch) and their family moved to Calgary in 1969.

Although Russell was associated with various community organizations, he was best known and remembered for his outstanding contribution and tireless dedication to the political life of the R.M. of St. Clements. As well as Russell's active participation on the Municipal Council for eight years, he was also elected Reeve in 1939. He made an outstanding contribution to municipal life in the district during those difficult years. He held office during and immediately following World War II. In addition to the many humanitarian services he rendered to people in the municipality, he built many roads for the farmers and was instrumental in the introduction of electricity in the municipality.



*Left to Right: Hugh Russell and George Burnett, 1951.*

As Reeve he went to Ottawa representing smaller farmers in his district in their fight to retain permit rights on marsh hayland.

Near the end of his tenure of office, in keeping with his statement on becoming Reeve of St. Clements Municipality, "that should the municipality be free of debt during his term of office, he would stand treat for a banquet," Reeve Burnett entertained councillors, employers and other officials of St. Clements, 21 in all, officially marking the municipality having liquidated all current liabilities. This represented an advance of \$90,000.00 from the first of 1940 until the end of 1944. Russell Burnett set a high standard throughout his political career.

Due to ill health, he retired as Reeve in 1947 and continued to farm, with the help of his sons Hugh and George, until his death in 1953. Ina continued living on their homestead until her death in 1965.

Hugh, the eldest son, remained on his parents' homestead which he had farmed and expanded over the years since his father's death. Here he and his wife Marlene (nee Brown) reside with their six sons, Russell, Scott, Gregory, Blake, Dean and Graham and their daughter Allison.

Presently, under his supervision, Hugh's eldest sons Russell and Scott (aged twenty-three and twenty-one respectively) are beginning the fourth generation of the Burnett family to farm in the Mayfield district.



*Gordon Burnett and daughter, Mildred in 1933. Policeman for the town of Selkirk for 10 yrs., 1931-41.*

## **GORDON BARRON BURNETT**

*submitted by slh*

Gordon B. Burnett was born on Oct. 7, 1906 the son of John Burnett and Jessie Veitch. Gordon lived in the Mayfield area of the Munc. of St. Clements most all of his life and attended the Mayfield School.

In 1923, Gordon married Myrtle Young and they raised a family of four daughters: Eileen, Evelyn, Audrey and Mildred.

Apart from farming, Gordon also operated the Selkirk Ferry for 3 years, and served as a Constable for the Town of Selkirk Police Force for about 12 years.

When his father passed away in 1936, Gordon and Myrtle returned to the family farm and continued to operate it up until 1979 when Gordon very sadly passed away. The Burnett farm was located on Provincial Road No. 212 (old Libau Highway) about 2 miles north of the Highway No. 59 turnoff. Their farm can be identified by

a sign at the end of their driveway which bears the name "The Happy Thought Farm". The Burnett's named their farm when they had to register with the gov't for a number they could tattoo on their cattle. They had first applied for a number under the name "Mayfair" but it was turned down, because the name was already in use. Then Mr. Burnett received the letter informing him to choose another name, he was in the East Selkirk Post Office (the old Machewski Store, now the Lighthouse) and he happened to look south and saw the old Stone Happy Thought School and decided to use the same name for his farm.

The farmhouse in which Gordon and Myrtle lived was built by Gordon's father, John, who lived there with his wife Jessie. Gordon was born right in that house. Gordon did some renovating, painting and upgrading of the heating system, but basically the house remained unchanged since he was a boy.

John, the father of Gordon, planted the first trees around the yard in 1907/08 and now at the present time, the Russian Poplar Maples are very tall, healthy and mature trees. In the front yard is a beautiful Blue Spruce that is the envy of all who view it.

Each Christmastime, the Burnett farm created a colorful festive appearance with the installation of hundreds of lights.

Myrtle, the wife of Gordon, added to the attractive landscaping scene by the planting, cultivation and care of flowering beds and borders. The begonias in the planter near the north side patio were especially luxuriant each year as were the borders of petunias and Marigolds throughout the yard.

In the year 1977 Gordon and Myrtle Burnett were presented with the "Birks Dingwall Cup Award" for the "Best Farm Home Grounds in Man." The presentation for the award was made at the 68th Anniversary Dinner of the Manitoba Good Roads Assoc. on Friday, Nov. 4, 1977. Reeve Max Dubas proudly presented the award to Gordon and Myrtle and accepted a share of the pride this prestigious cup brought the Munc. of St. Clements. in whose boundaries the "Burnett Farm" was located.

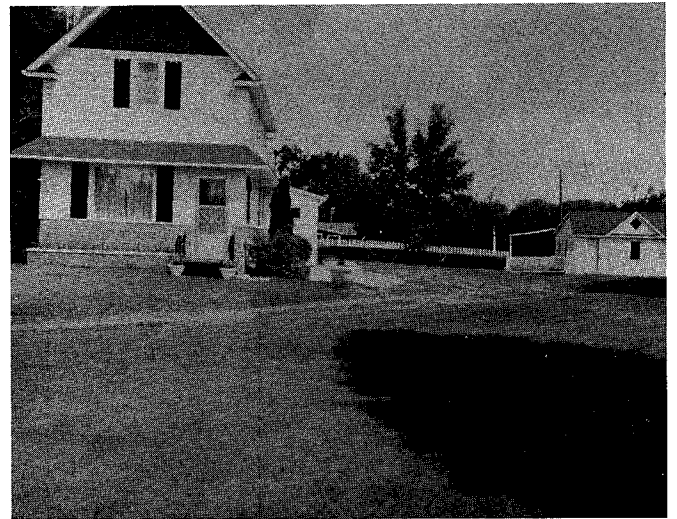
The Burnett's said that they always worked hard to keep their yard and buildings nice and neat every year. The standard they maintained, had a great deal to do



*Gordon Burnett's Reg. Hereford bull.*



*Good Roads dinner at the Fort Garry Hotel, the late Max Dubas presenting the Birk's Dingwall trophy for best kept farm home grounds in 1977. N.W. Sec. 28-13-6E. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Burnett.*



*Gordon Burnett's house and yard.*



*Gordon and Myrtle Burnett at their home on the farm, 50th wedding anniversary, Aug., 12, 1973.*

with Gordon's father, who always claimed that anyone could walk through his farmyard at night, without tripping over anything.

The Burnett's claimed that the location of their farmyard, which was situated on top of a sandy hill, was natural assistance in keeping their yard clean.

When the Judges of the Competition arrived to make their perusal of the farm and yard, the Burnetts were away from home at the time. Gordon was involved with the Manitoba Pool Elevators and served on the local Board for over 30 years. He also was a breeder of registered Hereford cattle and travelled to the East, where he showed his stock at the Toronto Royal Fair. Gordon purchased his first registered Hereford cattle in 1944 and continued to sell breeding stock until about

1965 when he was forced to sell due to ill health.

Gordon took a keen interest in agriculture and for many years he was both President and Director of the St. Clements-St. Andrews Agricultural Society.

Gordon was a Conservative by politics and took keen interest in the welfare of his community. He ran in the provincial election in 1959 (Conservative) but was unsuccessful in his bid.

Gordon very sadly passed away on Friday, April 20, 1979 at the age of 72 years. In the year 1980, Mrs. Burnett, Myrtle, sold the Burnett farm and moved to the Town of Selkirk where she now resides.

The old "Blue Spruce" stands as a tribute to Gordon, his courage, strength, pride of excellence and his love of the land.

The Burnett girls are all married, Eileen married John Tarrant and they live in Victoria, B.C. Evelyn married Hans Dommosch and they live in Saskatoon, Sask. Audrey married David Marr and Mildred married George Hodgson, and they all reside in Manitoba.

In conclusion, had Gordon and Myrtle had a son, they would have turned the old Burnett homestead over to him. As it was, it was too much for Myrtle to handle the farm on her own and she had to look to the future and care for herself now that Gordon was gone.

Myrtle misses Gordon with a passion and says "he was a wonderful husband and a much loved father."

## **JOHN AND PEARL BYRKO**

*submitted by slh*

John Byrko came from Austria to Canada in the year 1900. He made the trip by himself, promising his brothers, Steven and Harry, that he would send for them as soon as he had got settled and could financially manage it. John did fulfill this promise and later brought the two boys over to Canada and sponsored them upon arrival. Both boys are now deceased.

John first settled in the Brokenhead area and finally in about 1909 he purchased land (10 acres) on the 2 mile

road in East Selkirk. Here he built a 3-room log home by hand, with the help of neighbors.

In 1910, John met and married Pearl Maritzko. Pearl was the daughter of Catherine and Steven Maritzko from the village of East Selkirk. Pearl was one of four girls born to Catherine and Steven Maritzko, the girls names were Mary, Anne, Pauline and Pearl. The father, Steven, married a second time and had two more children, Alex and Eva.

John and Pearl Byrko had seven children, Annie born in about 1911, Katie in 1912, Steven in 1913, Mary in 1914, Mike in 1918, Jean, and finally Walter in 1927.

Of the seven children, only Mary and Mike survived, the others died at a very tender age. Mike was to live only to the age of 22 years, and died in 1941, rather tragically.

Both Mike and Mary attended the Happy Thought School and Mary remembers very fondly one of the teachers, Phyllis Franks, who taught her for several years. Her favorite subject was geography and she enjoyed baseball and sports and was considered very early on, to be a talented art student. Mary was a good student and in achievement was at the top of her class.

John Byrko purchased another 15 acres and farmed a total of 25 acres, mostly mixed farming. They had cows, pigs, chickens, horses and a garden for home use. John also grew potatoes for sale to people by car load. To supplement the family income, John worked off and on for the CNR and Pearl did custom sewing for members of the community.

Mary remembers her father bringing home a little kitten in his pocket, lost in the bush, they named it Jimmie and it lived as the family pet for 13 years.

Mary started sewing at a very early age, taught by her mother who was considered an exceptionally fine seamstress. By the age of 16, Mary could sew as well as her mother and then some.

The family attended the St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church in East Selkirk, and Mary said those were grand days.

Mary finally went out to work in the Town of Selkirk at the Monarch Sewing factory, a place she was employed for over 10 years. She continued to help at home, as well, with the farm, gardening and canning, etc.

Pearl died in 1955 and John in 1960. Both are buried in the East Selkirk cemetery. Mary looked after both of her parents until the end. It was quite a heavy load for Mary, the care of the parents and the home.

The home that John Byrko had built back in 1909 stood the test of time, however, it was constructed very low and thus when hydro was hooking up the farm lines it was not approved for service. Thus, John never had the benefit of hydro or telephone all his life. Also, he never owned a motor vehicle of any type, but continued with horse and wagon only.

Mary continued living in the old homestead alone after her parents died and finally, in 1963, with the help of Kuzminski's had an older home moved onto the property, and placed on a new foundation. This home, said Mary, had three spacious rooms and at last Mary had the benefit of hydro, electricity for the first time. The telephone was never installed. This was Mary's home for the next 18 years up until 1981 when she retired to the

Town of Selkirk. The old home and 10 acres of property was sold to Hans Heide. The other 15 acres had been bought by the Kuzminski family.

Mary, since 1981, has lived in an apartment on Eaton Ave. and still keeps busy with her beautiful sewing and handiwork. At the time of this writing Mary had just completed ten colourful aprons all sewed by herself in the neatest, straightest seams. Mary says some of the aprons sewn now are too small and dainty and are not at all serviceable. Hers were large and had deep pockets and were lovely. Mary plays Bingo on Mondays and says she has won at least four times. She enjoys her sewing, knitting and crocheting, watches only a little T.V. and likes to visit her friend, Violet Foreman.

Mary says she never married, but has no regrets, as she never really met anybody she liked well enough to marry.

Mary's life was not easy and tribute should be paid to Mary who spent her entire life dedicated to the care of her parents, her brothers and sisters, the home and the land.

Although Mary's new home on Eaton Ave. is cozy, neat and compact, she misses the two mile road, the rural atmosphere, the land and the old homestead.

As a seamstress, Pearl and Mary Byrko will long be remembered for their skill, ability and dexterity.



*The Calder family. Back Row, Left to Right: Annie, Bill, Florence, Hugh and Victoria. Second Row: Isobel, Mrs. and Mr. Calder and Beth. Front Row: Kathleen, Alvin and Eva.*

## JOHN THOMAS CALDER

*submitted by slh*

John Thomas Calder was born on Oct. 11, 1865 on the site of the old "Redfeather Farm" on the land owned by his Grandfather, William Folster. John Thomas was the son of Thomas Calder and Annie Folster. Annie died on Sept. 26, 1914 at 68 years. She is buried at Mapleton.

Of Scottish descent, John Calder's Great Grandfather, Captain Alexander Calder, emigrated from Scotland shortly after the turn of the last century under the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, and became Factor of their post at York Factory.

His Grandfather, George Calder, was born at York

Factory in about 1823, later moving near Selkirk, where his Father, Thomas Calder was born at Old England, in about 1845. George Calder lived to be a great age and died in Dec. 1906 at Keewatin, Ont. He had caught a chill during the journey from Selkirk to Keewatin, which proved fatal. He was buried at Mapleton.

John Thomas was born in 1865, and spent his early childhood at Old England, and later, as a young man, worked at Rat Portage and Keewatin from about 1883 to 1885.

In 1886, John Thomas Calder returned to the Selkirk area where he met and married Grace Ann Matheson, the daughter of Jesse Matheson who had come west from Bruce County, Ont. Grace Ann was born in the year 1867 in Kincardin, Ont.

A word about Jesse Matheson, the father of Grace Ann. Jesse had come to Manitoba from Ontario in about 1882. For the first year after his arrival he operated a Restaurant in Kildonan, afterwards moving to the Mapleton area. He only stayed there about a year and moved out to Lake Winnipeg where he established a "Stopping off Place" at Bull Head. During the fall of 1898 and spring of 1899, he built a new home at that location. Mrs. Matheson never lived to enjoy her new home as she died at Bull Head from La grippe (flu), on Friday Feb. 24, 1899. Jesse brought her in from the Lake to the Mapleton Cemetery. Grace Ann Calder, her daughter, was with her Mother at the time of her death, as were her grandchildren.

Excursionists of the Lake used to stop there and berry picking was plentiful on the Island most years and widely enjoyed by the lake travellers. He was well known by Lake people and had an organ (purchased from Moody's in Selkirk in late June, 1899) with which much music was enjoyed by all. Jesse also did considerable trade in supplying wood to the steamers going to and from on the lake. Jesse very sadly passed away in the year 1907 just as the leaves on his beloved Island trees were falling. (Monday, Oct. 14, 1907) and he was brought in on his last trip across Lake Winnipeg and interred in Mapleton. Jesse was only 67 years old and the Calder family mourned their grandfather just as the Lake people were saddened at the loss of a great friend.

John Thomas and Grace Ann Calder lived on the east side of the Red River in the municipality of St. Clements for a while after their marriage and then moved to Matheson Island. From Matheson, they made their home at Bull Head on Lake Winnipeg where some 12 years were spent and most of their 12 children were born.

Hugh was their first born child at Bull Head, he being born on Oct. 30, 1887, followed by: William, Aug. 10, 1890, Thomas, Feb. 10, 1892, (He died in infancy) Isobel, July 3, 1893, Annie, March 11, 1895, Florence, Jan. 28, 1897, Beth, Sept. 6, 1898, Victoria, March 6, 1900, Christina, March 9, 1902, (Christina died in infancy) Alvin, April 21, 1904, Eva, Jan. 23, 1906, and Kathleen (Kay) Feb. 18, 1908.

To obtain schooling facilities, Mr. Calder moved back to St. Clements in 1902 where they settled on the Calder farm on Lot 107. They carried on a mixed farm operation. Alvin, Eva and Kathleen were born on the east side of the Red River on this lot of land.

The other Calder property was located at lot 116 on the east side in St. Clements where Henry George Calder and Thomas Calder lived. Further north of this land, on Lot 107, is where John Thomas Calder and his wife Grace and their 10 remaining children lived and put down firm roots. The Calders attended the St. Clements Anglican Church on the west side of the River for spiritual needs and the Kitchener School for their education.

John Thomas served as a Trustee of the Kitchener School District and took an avid interest in all educational matters. His term of office was prior to the First World War and during the depression years when things were really tough for the district. During 1908 Mr. Calder had a mammoth potato crop with some weighing 2 lbs. each. His large garden was very bountiful that year.

Hugh stayed on the farm until the year his father died, then he and his mother moved across the river into the Town of Selkirk. They lived at 229 Rosser Ave. for a number of years. Hugh in later years moved into the Betel home, where he lived to age 86, passing away on May 21, 1974.

Isobel married George Camplin and they resided at Lockport and then moved to Dryden, Ont.

Annie married Jim Chalmers and they lived in Niagara Falls. Annie is deceased.

Florence married Alfred Bedard and they lived in Selkirk.

Beth married Lawrence Gracey and they lived in Bedford, Indiana.

Victoria married Lawrence McKenzie and they reside in Selkirk.

Eva married Sam Surgeoner and they lived at Niagara Falls.

Kathleen (Kay) married Howard Houck of El Cajon, California, Kay is now married to Dr. Conrad Riddell. They reside in San Diego, California.

Victoria (McKenzie) and Kathleen (Riddell) are the only surviving children of John Thomas Calder and his wife Grace Anne (Matheson).

The Calder and the Matheson names have been placed on the map of our province as a tribute to these early pioneer families.

## **ALEX AND ANNIE CHERNETSKY**

*submitted by Ann Chernetsky*

Anne was born in Jan. 1930 in Libau, the daughter of Wasył (Wlm) and Anastasia Kosack. She began her education in the Libau West School and worked on her parents' farm as well as worked at various jobs in Winnipeg.

She met and married Alex Chernetsky from the Poplar Park area in the year 1951. They stayed on the family farm, then moved into Winnipeg where they operated the A & P Grocery on Derby Street. They then moved into their own home for ten years on Ashburn St. and are presently residing on Edison Ave. in Winnipeg.

Alex and Anne are parents of four children, two sons and two daughters: Elaine, Kenneth, Janis and Alexander.

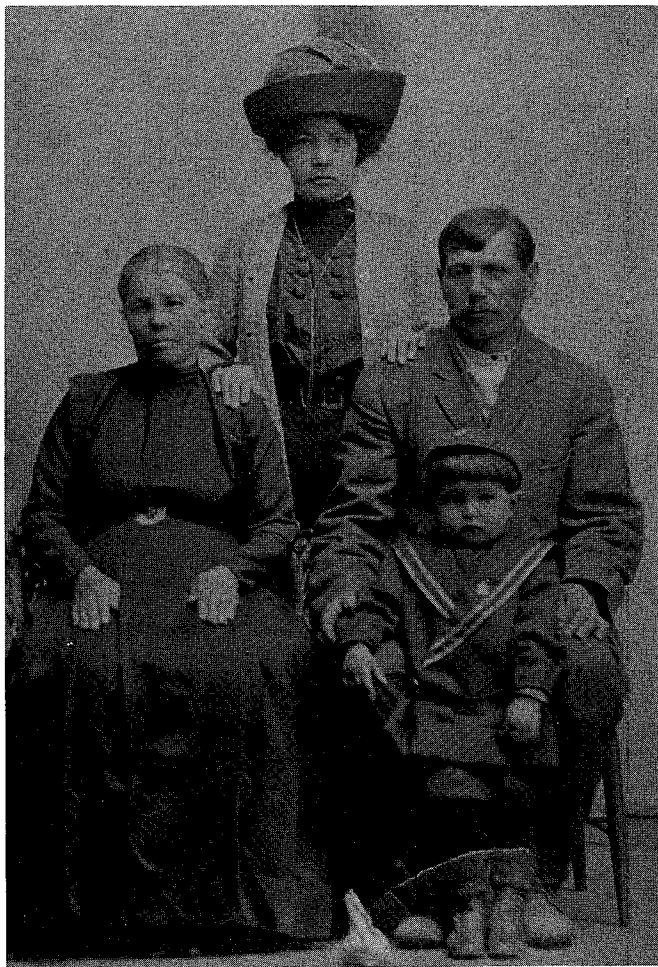
Elaine was born in Selkirk, Man. in April, 1953. She

began her education in Winnipeg at Isaac Brock and graduated from the River East Collegiate in Grade 12, Accounting Course. Elaine is presently employed at the Canadian Wheat Board as an Assistant Accountant.

Kenneth was born in Winnipeg in 1954. He began his education at the Isaac Brock School and went on to R.B. Russel where he graduated as a Chef. He worked as a cook in the Pinawa Hotel, at Canada Metal, and is presently working for the City of Winnipeg as a Machine Operator in the city work program. He met and married Cathy Mankir of Winnipeg in the year of 1977. They are the parents of one daughter, Jennifer.

Janis was born in Winnipeg in April, 1959. She began her education at the Isaac Brock School, then went on to Kildonan East, where she graduated from Grade 12 taking Business Administration. She began her working career at Winnipeg Supply and Fuel, and is presently working for Proliphic Graphics, Janis met and married Michael Panteluk of Winnipeg in the year 1979.

Alexander was born in Winnipeg in June, 1968. He began his education in the Springfield High then onto Junior High at Chief Pequis where he is presently attending. Alex is taking dancing lessons in Ukrainian and plays the guitar.



*Maria, John Chernestsky and son Peter, and ?.*

## THE HARVEY CHERNETSKY FAMILY HISTORY

*submitted by Mary Chernetsky*

The Chernetsky family history dates back to Harvey's grandparents, John and Maria Chernetsky. Both were born in Bukovina in the Western Ukraine. John in 1865 and Maria in 1860.

In the year of 1890 and the years that followed, the Canadian government's campaign echoed throughout the European countries.

"Come to Canada, be your own master on your own land."

There was a strong need to develop the prime agricultural land, and thus a potential source of enormous wealth for Canada. The Canadian government decided to open up the vast spaces of the Western Plains to immigration. Scores of pamphlets and posters were distributed throughout the European countries encouraging the people to give up their present life of poverty for a better future in the rich lands of the Canadian west. The people chosen for this immigration had to be hard workers and able to withstand a great deal of deprivation. Each immigrant family was offered 160 acres of land on a homestead for the fee of ten dollars.

The idea of owning 160 acres of land appealed to John and Maria. If they were to divide their land holdings amongst their children, neither would have owned very much. The future looked bleak. Moving to Canada would give the family an opportunity for greater prosperity than ever would be possible in their own homeland. So, in 1903, with saddened hearts, but looking forward to their new life in Canada with great anticipation, they started the proceedings for their move.

They sold their land and all belongings except the very essentials that would be required to start their new life. Very carefully, they packed a large wooden trunk with tools, seeds, beddings and clothing. With heavy hearts and tearfilled eyes they bid farewell to relatives, friends and their life in Bukovina. Accompanied by their six children, Peter, William, Prokop, Nellie, Sophie, and Annie. John and Maria travelled via train, ship and finally train to complete their long journey to the new land.

Upon arriving in Winnipeg, with the aid of an immigration officer they purchased a homestead North of Libau, which was known as Oakpoint. Settling on this undeveloped land wasn't easy. At first fear and despair invaded the high hopes that John and Maria had for a bright future. Times were difficult for the Chernetsky's, but strong determination, hard work, and their knowledge of good farming, soon spirited their hopes again, as they realized there could be a better future.

Fortunately, at a very early age, the children of John and Maria, were taught the art of good farming and the benefits of hard work. John died at an early age in 1924. This left Peter (Harvey's father) to look after the family farm, and to take care of Maria in her aging years. She died in 1938.

Harvey's father Peter was born in 1889. In 1918 he met Annie Lysack of Brokenhead, through her brother-in-law Steve Myketiuk from Poplar Park. Soon after, they were



*Peter Chernetsky  
(Harvey's dad).*

married. Annie, who was born in 1902, was the daughter of John and Telka Lysack, who emigrated from Brody in 1907.

The Chernetsky's had purchased 160 acres of wooded land west of their homestead, and here started their new permanent dwellings. Peter and Annie raised five children: Mary, Sophie, Alex, Harvey and Patrick. Grandmother Maria took care of the children, while Peter and Annie busied themselves with the farm chores. The grandchildren enjoyed the homemade candy which Maria usually had on hand, as a reward for being good. They loved their Boonia (grandmother) dearly.

In the early years of Peter and Annie's married life they had several men working for them, clearing the huge oak and elm trees. Often these men were willing to work for very minimal wages, as times were difficult for most in those days. Cooking and washing for this extra help was a heavy load for young Annie to bear, but she had a good heart and seldom complained.

Mixed farming was Peter's main occupation. He baled and sold tons upon tons of hay, that was loaded into boxcars at Libau and shipped to Winnipeg. Living near the lake and marshes, the family took advantage of the muskrat trapping season to supplement their income.

Peter built most of his own farm buildings, and took special pride in keeping his farmyard and buildings neat. Annie was a tireless worker at any task. She could stook up a field of sheaves faster than most. Her helping hand in the hayfield was not unusual. Annie's sense of good humour and pleasant personality made her children's tasks easier and worthwhile. These parents had a great love for their family, others and life itself. As a reward for their hard work and ambition the family never really knew hard times. So it was, that the children of Peter and Annie were raised in a home filled with love, good humor, achievement and an appreciation for a good life.

In the late 1940's, water from the lake flooded great portions of the family farm. After giving up all hopes of the water ever receding to its normal level, very reluctantly Annie, Peter and son Alex and wife Anne had to give up the land they so loved. In 1952 they sold their

land, and moved to Winnipeg. In partnership with their son Alex and daughter-in-law Anne they purchased a grocery store in the North end of Winnipeg. They operated this store until Peter's retirement. They then moved to the west end of Winnipeg and lived there until Peter's death in 1962. Annie resided in Selkirk at the Red River Manor for two years prior to her death in 1976.

Their eldest daughter Mary married Tony Kolbuck from Melrose in 1942. They lived in Winnipeg. Mary died in 1965. Their children are Sydney and Roy. Sophie married Peter Hlady from Dencross in 1940. They reside in Beausejour. They have two daughters, Stella and Rose Marie. In 1951 Alex married Anne Kossack from Libau. They reside in Winnipeg. Their children are Elaine, Kenny, Janis and Alexander. Patrick married Lea Vandall from Winnipeg in 1956. They lived in Winnipeg until Pat's death in 1977. Lea and Patrick had five children, Wanda, Wayne, Garry, Darrin and Mark.

In 1945 Harvey met Mary Banash during the time she taught in the Arnhold School in Oak Point. This was the school that all the Chernetsky children attended. Mary and Harvey were married in 1949.

Mary is the daughter of Andrew and Mary Banash from Walkleyburg. Mary taught school and did substitute teaching for many years, while Harvey worked on the family farm. Harvey served 2 years in the armed forces.



*Mary and Harvey Chernetsky in Great Falls Bush Camp, 1950. Behind: Office, store and bedroom.*

Harvey and Mary first took up residence on a small farm in Dencross, which is 14 miles north of Beausejour. This place was purchased from Harvey's brother-in-law Peter Hlady. During this time, Harvey farmed and worked for the R.M. of St. Clements.

Mary and Harvey spent 13 enjoyable years in Dencross. For this, they give credit to their wonderful neighbors and friends, who were always there in time of need. Harvey worked long tiring hours at his job to meet family needs, so was seldom home during daylight hours. Many of the unforeseen problems that a young farm wife could experience were quickly remedied by Mary's good neighbor Sophie Chorney.

Since there were no phones for the first few years





*Bottom Row, Left to Right: Sophie Hlady, Mother - Annie Chernetsky, Mary Kolbuck. Top Row: Alex, Harvey, Pat Chernetsky.*

visiting with neighbors and friends was the popular thing to do. There were no T.V.'s either, so long winter evenings were spent playing cards, reading books, knitting, crocheting, sewing and doing other crafts. Many evenings were spent listening to the music of Peter Hlady (Harvey's brother-in-law) and his violin. He loved to entertain and family and friends loved to listen. These



*Harvey and Mary. Bottom, Left to Right: Charlotte, Ryan, Randy Chernetsky, 1974.*

experiences brought neighbors and friends closer together. The value of this friendship is something that Mary and Harvey continue to cherish.

For several winters Harvey worked in the bush camps in Great Falls and Pine Falls. Harvey cut cordwood, worked on a bulldozer clearing bush for roads and also as a sub-contractor. Mary joined him one winter in Great Falls and was hired as company bookkeeper and store clerk. This was one winter that Mary was free from the cookstove, as meals were served by the camp cook. The second winter Mary joined Harvey while he worked at the Pine Falls Camp. They felt very much at home in these bush camps, as many friends and neighbors, from the Brokenhead area worked in there too. Most men farmed in summer and worked in the bush for the winter months. It was rather difficult to adapt to the meager living quarters, and to the tea-colored water that had to be brought in from the creek. Some of these men not only brought their axe and saw, but their talent also. Amidst all these bush whackers (so they were called) one always found that several were good musicians and singers, and were very willing to entertain. Everyone looked forward to these weekends of western entertainment.

In 1962, Harvey took on the position of Public Works Foreman for the Rural Municipality of St. Clements, a position which he continues to hold. He moved his family and house to the village of East Selkirk from the Den-cross farm and located on a lot purchased from Leslie Mazur for \$450.00. Since then, he built two more houses along side the first one. He built the third house on a lot he purchased from the Karasiuks for \$1100.00 in 1967.

Presently, Mary is employed by the Lord Selkirk School Division as a Resource Teacher Aide.

Harvey's and Mary's marriage was blessed with three children. Randy (1952) completed his secondary education at the Lord Selkirk Comprehensive School. He went on to Red River College and received his diploma as a computer programmer. He is presently employed with Consolidated Parts Distributors of Canada Ltd., as a computer analyst in a managerial position. He married Audrey Dumka from Selkirk. Audrey is the daughter of Jean and Alex Dumka. She received her certificate as home economist from the University of Winnipeg. Randy and Audrey have one daughter Jenna.

Ryan (1955) completed his secondary education at the Lord Selkirk Comprehensive School in Selkirk. Ryan is presently employed at Red River Brick and Tile in Lockport as a loader operator.

Charlotte (1959) completed her secondary education at the Lord Selkirk Comprehensive School in Selkirk. She is presently employed by the Royal Bank Of Canada in Selkirk, as an Administrative Support Officer.

Reasons were many and varied for our ancestors to come to Canada, settle, and make it their new home. We, as second and third generation Canadians, are proud of their accomplishment, and look to the future with confidence and optimism.

## **GREGORY (HARRY) CHERNETSKI FAMILY**

*submitted by Ann Chernetsky*

Gregory Chernetski and his wife (Sawchuk) arrived in Canada in 1899 with their four children. Annie born in 1888, Katie born in 1895, and Lena born in 1898 and Bill an infant born just before arrival and enroute.

Harry and his wife were blessed with 4 more children after settling in Canada. They were Julie, Mary, Eva, 1908, Johnnie, 1907, and Polly. Polly died at 10 years of age in (about) 1922 from Diphtheria during an epidemic.

The family had settled at Poplar Park about 5 miles from Whittles Point where they homesteaded and raised a few cows, pigs, chickens and horses and did gardening. The children attended Poplar Park school and the family attended the Catholic Church in Poplar Park.

Annie married Harry Yaremko and they had no children. Katie married John Bakaluk and they had 14 children. Lena married Adam Slioworski and they had 5 children. Bill married Mary Kowaluk and they had 5 children. Julie married Fred Wakshansky they had 3 children. Mary married Henry Pascoe and they had 2 children. Eva married Gisli Gislason and they had 1 child. Johnnie never married.

Annie is now 94, Katie is 87, Bill is 82, Eva is 74 and Johnnie is 73. Julie and Mary are both deceased and Lena died in 1953.

Mr. Gregory (Harry) Chernetski died in 1947 and his wife in 1953. They are both buried in Poplar Park Orthodox Church Cemetery.

Johnnie is 73 and resides in Winnipeg in the Senior Citizens Home, and not enjoying good health at the time of this writing.

## **GEORGE AND ANNE CHOPEK**

*submitted by Mary, Doris, Bill and John*

George and Anne were born in Austria in Dec. 1890 just 4 days apart. George came to Canada in 1912, and Anne came in 1913. They were married in 1914, in Winnipeg. They lived there until 1917, the days of the big strike in the city. They moved to St. Clements, and settled on a little farm on the 2 mile road, where there was nothing but bush and swamp. They had four children, 2 girls and 2 boys. Their younger daughter died at the age of 2 years. They struggled there, after they bought a little bit more land. With a little mixed farming, they managed a living and brought up their family there.

George had a serious train accident in 1947. After that his health was failing every year. Then they sold the farm and they moved to Lockport on Henderson Highway. They lived there until 1956 at the time of his death.

Anne struggled on until the floodway came through. Then she moved to the Village of East Selkirk, to be close to her family, where the old immigration building used to be, next to her grandson. She lived there until her demise in 1974.

## **JOHN CHORNEY**

*submitted by Adeline Chorney*

John Chorney was born in Belzec, Poland on May 5, 1883, the eldest of the eight children of Michael and Anna Chorney. When he was still very young he had to go out to work to help his father provide for his family. John cut wood and hauled it to the sawmill. Most of his earnings went to his father but he was able to put away and hide a small portion each payday.

In the spring of 1903 John's dream came true. With the money he had saved he bought a ticket to go to Canada. Two of his friends, John Wigosh and Albert Przednowek, came to Canada with him.

When John arrived in Canada he made his home with his step-uncle, John Ilchena. He worked in Winnipeg building roads with horses and scrapers. Within one year he had saved enough money to purchase property in the Sandhill area, Sec. 33-13-7E. With neighbors' help John started to build a house. Before it was completed he purchased tickets to bring his parents, brothers and sisters to Canada. Within one and a half years after leaving Poland, John had his whole family with him in Canada.



*John and Nellie  
Chorney, 1938.*

On January 22, 1907 John married Nellie Teichman who had come from Lubaczowa, Poland in 1904 at the age of 18. They built their first home one eighth of a mile west of the original homestead on the property where his parents now live. Three years later he sold the farm to his brother Peter and moved to Brokenhead. Here he lived until October, 1918 when he purchased a farm in Walkleyburg in East Selkirk along the Selkirk line.

Shortly after John and family moved, they found out what good neighborliness is all about. The great influenza epidemic struck John and family hard. John himself was unconscious for six weeks. The Chorneys