

Mr. and Mrs. John Hnatiuk.

Phillip. Anthony died as a young boy but the other children lived to be adults.

To support this growing family, John Hnatiuk was employed as a carriage driver for the village priest, driving him to places to perform his religious duties.

Around the year 1899, immigration officials from Canada came to Korsow with the offer of free land to any family willing to come to Canada. Mary Hnatiuk, the daughter of John and Ann Hnatiuk was recently married to her husband Mike Pewarchuk. This offer of free land, totalling 160 acres appealed to Mike and Mary, so they with his mother and father sold all their belongings and moved to Canada. When they arrived in Canada, they found out that the 160 acres that was offered was miles out in the wilderness so they bought forty acres along the Red River, one and one-half chains wide and four miles long for five dollars an acre. He wrote a letter to John



Philip Hnatiuk youngest son of John and Anne Hnatiuk.



Richard Hnatiuk, 1969.



Joe, Violet, Richard, Jack and Allan at Wanasing Beach.

Hnatiuk to ask them to come to Canada. In 1901, the Hnatiuk family came to Canada via ship and train with a total of thirteen days of travelling. When the train arrived in Manitoba, they hired out a carriage to take them to Mike Pewarchuk's homestead.

The Hnatiuk family lived with the Pewarchuk's for about a year, and then John Hnatiuk bought 20 acres described as River Lot 262, in the municipality of St. Clements, for eleven dollars an acre. Another child was born to John and Ann, a little girl called Hapoonia, but she died as a baby.

On their twenty acres, the back section was all bush so the neighbors gave them a hand to build a two room log cabin, and a stable. Their first winter was so cold that they had to keep the cow in their kitchen to keep warm. John Hnatiuk had to walk twelve miles over a muddy Indian trail to Wpg. to bring back groceries for home. We worked at Highland Park, clearing land for 50¢ daily, and after this, John worked as a trackman for the Winnipeg Selkirk and Lake Winnipeg Electric Railway for \$1.00 per day.

While at work, Harry, Oksenka, and Phillip were in charge of gardening, and the animals. When they got a wagon load of wheat, about 15 to 20 bushels, it was taken



Garry, John, Nathlie, Cathy, Charlie, Debbie, Gordon Hnatiuk, Aug. 1977.

to the Oak Bank Flour Mill. They would leave at 4 a.m. and arrive at 6 p.m. They would sleep over night while their wheat was being milled, and in the morning they would journey home.

Harry Hnatiuk became a farmer, while Oksenka married Gabriel Struchinsky, and Phillip went to Central Business College in Winnipeg for a start in a business career. Phillip was trusted by many towns people to do their legal work as many of the people knew no English.

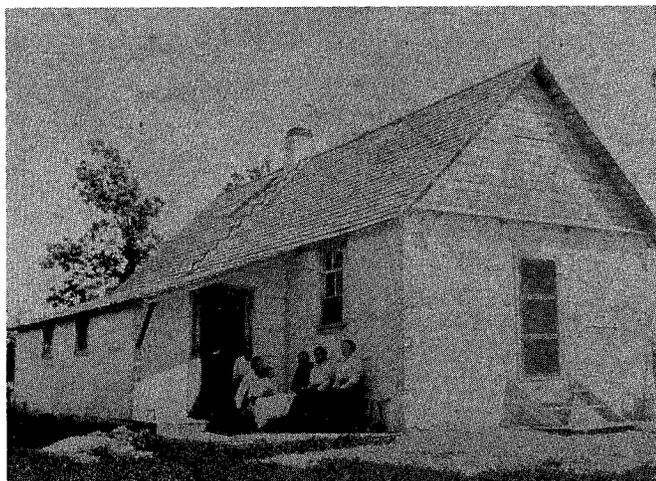
As John and Ann Hnatiuk grew older, Phillip kept up the farm, and on Aug. 23, 1929, John Hnatiuk passed away. In 1931, his daughter Mary Pewarchuk passed away, and a year later in 1932, Ann Nahorny Hnatiuk died. Oksenka died in 1936, and Harry passed on in 1967. Phillip is still alive and well in Sarnia, Ont.

TRAUGOTT AND CAROLINE HOFFMAN

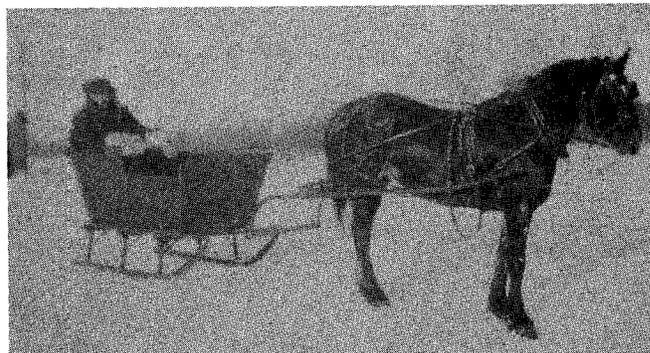
submitted by Esther McKenty

Traugott Hoffman first came to Canada in 1892, and worked here until 1896, when he returned to Poland. He then brought his wife Caroline and four children, one son and three daughters returning to Canada in 1899. People were very poor in Poland, that is why men came over alone and worked and saved their money then returned to bring their families over. There is no record of the cost of the trip, but travel was slow, the boat trip took two weeks, as in the North Atlantic huge icebergs floated around in the summer. They landed at the Port of St. Johns, then made their way to Wpg., by the CPR in July 1899.

The reason the Hoffman's took up a homestead in the bush and swamp area which later became known as Libau, was because having no money, it was easiest to get one there, and as there was lots of bush, it gave them wood to build log houses. The Hoffman family moved out there in 1900, into a small log house. There were no roads, just trails, and until they got horses and wagons, they had to carry supplies from West Selkirk. People walked to East Selkirk and there they could catch a C.P. Train into Wpg.



Hoffman Home in Libau.



Emil Hoffman



Binding on the Hoffman farm near Libau, the late 1920's.

There were no medical services, the nearest Doctor, was in West Selkirk. Dr. Grain did travel out to Libau and vaccinate children for small pox, but mostly people looked after themselves as best as they could. Children died of diptheria and Scarlet fever.

Mrs. Hoffman served as a midwife, and brought a lot of children into the world, and she never lost any. In later years Dr. Ross was sometimes called out, but by the time he got there the baby had arrived. He would check the baby and Mother, and as often it was night time he would tell Mrs. Hoffman to look after things, as he had to get home and get some sleep.



Traugott and Caroline Hoffman on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1931.

The Hoffman family had 3 more children born in Libau, one died and two daughters survived. The Hoffman's had one son, Emil, and he was a Councillor in St. Clements during the 1920's.

When the railroad was built through to Grand Beach about 1912-13 it proved a great help to people, though it was a long political battle. Dr. Grain was a member of Parliament for that area at that time, and was very influential. And a Mr. Schalme, who was a well educated man, and actually the man who gave Libau it's name. The Schalme family came from Libau in Latvia, and as they had the first Post Office, they gave it its name. Mr. Schalme also had the first sawmill out there, and he later was Secretary of the School board, as well as, Assessor for St. Clements for many years. The Schalme family had one daughter, and she married a Pastor Spohr. The Spohr family often spent part of the summer visiting the Schalme family. One of the Spohr sons, Arnold, became well-known as the Director of The Royal Wpg., Ballet.

Life was hard, and Mr. Hoffman did his own blacksmithing, such as sharpening plow shares and axes, grub hoes, not only his own, but also for all the neighbors, and as money was scarce, it was mostly free, people would help one another.

There was no organized Church in those days, so Pastors from Wpg. came out several times a year, to baptize children, also instruct them and confirm them. Services were held in the Hoffman house, and later at the school. Mr. Hoffman was a Church Elder, and visiting Pastors would be picked up at the Railroad station, once there was a railroad, before that, by horse and buggy or sleigh from Selkirk. Mr. Hoffman drove a lot of Pastors, and they often stayed at the Hoffman house.

A Lutheran Church was built in Libau in 1928. Pastor E. Schiewe of Wpg., had organized the congregation and helped to get a Church built, but it has been closed down since 1952, as there are so few people left of the Lutheran faith that they could not afford a minister. So some now go to the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in West Selkirk.

CHARLIE AND NELLIE HOFFMAN

submitted by Charles Hoffman

Charlie and Nellie Hoffman were both born and raised in the Selkirk area. Nellie was a Pascal, her parents died when she was a young child and she was brought up by the Ericksons in Selkirk. The Hoffmans came to manage the Star Hotel in the summer of '42' (there is a great movie by that name!)

They had two children, Irene, a Registered Nurse, living in Byron, Ont. Charles (Chuck) an Insurance Adjuster, living in North Vancouver, B.C.

As Chuck writes, the Star Hotel, being the local beer parlour, was the focal point of East Selkirk, centrally located on the Main road. It is recalled that many cold winter nights would find Nellie going out to the cars and trucks and coaxing the wives and children into the Hotel to provide warmth and a snack, while waiting for the good old hubbies who were wetting their whistle after a hard day's work.



Charlie Hoffman, Star Hotel 1944-51.

The East Selkirk district was a great place to be, in duck hunting season, with both Charlie and Chuck participating. The farmers would drop in to let the Hoffmans know whose fields the ducks were coming into, and, of course we would be there morning and night.

With the advent of Daylight Savings time, and West Selkirk going on Daylight time, whereas East Selkirk stayed on Standard; there was the nightly migration at 10:00 p.m. to the East Selkirk Hotel and a blaze of dust one hour later on the way back to Selkirk.

There was beer rationing during the War, whereby the Hotel would be open sporadically an hour a day, one day a week. For that period the Hotel went from silence to a crowd of noisy beer drinkers and back to silence.

Half of the main floor was formerly a Pool Room and the Hoffman's converted it into a Hall. Many weddings, banquets, School Graduations, etc., used the facilities. Saturday night dances were held and many other special occasion dances also.

Chuck recalls the almost annual Red River floods. The thirteen mile trip around Lockport found much doubling and tripling up to save expenses.

The waterworks arrived during the Hoffman tenancy. The rooms previously had grand washbasins and pitchers, which were thrown out, but should have been saved.

One of the longest term residents was Bill Sokolowski, the Sec.Treas. of the Municipality of St. Clements. A man, who in his quiet way, certainly had to be one of the sensible influences on that little ruffian Hoffman boy. Other permanent residents included School Principals, Henry Rosner and Val Yachula; and teachers Misses Budinski, Copot, Chimchak and Lucy Belay, who later married Lonnie Patson.

Irene went to Normal School and taught for one year in Ashern, Man. The following year she entered registered Nurses training at the St. Boniface Hospital. Upon graduating, she became a Stewardess with Trans Canada Airlines. She married Bill Robertson.



Nell Hoffman in front of the Star Hotel in her St. John's Ambulance uniform.

Charles was active in Sports. He recalls the ice rink in Witwicki's field. Everyone cooperated in building it and maintaining it. Teams came from as far away as that great City of Wpg. What an effort was made! What great times were had! All the kids in the neighbourhood learned to skate there.

Following graduation from High School, Charles, through the auspices of Gordon Skinner became associated with the Detroit Red Wing Hockey farm club system and went to the Flin Flon Bombers in the fall of 1950. In 1957, Charles married Betty Parsons of Kenora, Ont.

Charlie and Nellie left the Star Hotel in the spring of 1951. Charlie died at age 76 years in 1975. Nellie has continued to live in Wpg.

Charles ends his family's history by stating that the nine years spent in this district were precious years. And one last tidbit that came to mind was that, while all four Hoffmans were born in this area, it was only Chuck who was actually born in the St. Clements Municipality, somewhere between Libau and Grand Beach, in a log cabin. Mother used to tell the story that we were so poor; she could not afford to go to a hospital and rather than being delivered by a stork, young Chuck came riding in on the back of a Bear!



Irene and Charles Hoffman leaving for school, 1940's.

SVEINBJORN AND EMY AUGUSTA HOLM

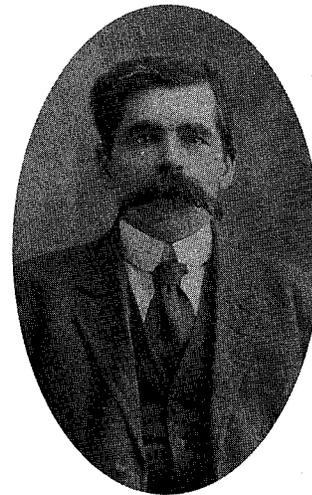
submitted by Bina Bolin

Emy Augusta Anderson (Icelandic) lived with her parents on the farm in Poplar Park until she married Sveinbjorn Holm, a dairy farmer. They lived on the farm next to the Anderson home, prior to moving to Selkirk where they lived a short while. They then moved to Husavick where they raised six children, Arthur, Hildur, Bjorgveig (Veiga), Arnor, Julius and Andres.

EMIL AND GENIVIEVE HOLUBOWICH

submitted by Stella Chomicki

Emil Holubowich married Genivieve Slawpic in Poland and they came to Canada in 1901. When they departed from their homeland they brought their three children with them. Marion, born in about 1890, John born in 1892, and a young daughter, Stella, born in 1897. Emil, their father had been a skilled machinist in the old country and also farmed the land. They sailed by boat, landing in the east and made the journey to Wpg., by CPR and stayed in the city for a while, and were looking for a homestead.



Emil Holubowich Sr. father to John, Marion and Stella.

Finally, they decided on property in the Libau area on 15-12-6E (now Hwy 317). The children were able to attend school at Libau East.

Emil did some mixed farming, but there was not enough money in this to support the family, so Emil was forced to leave the home and work in St. Boniface at a Brick plant to supplement the family income.

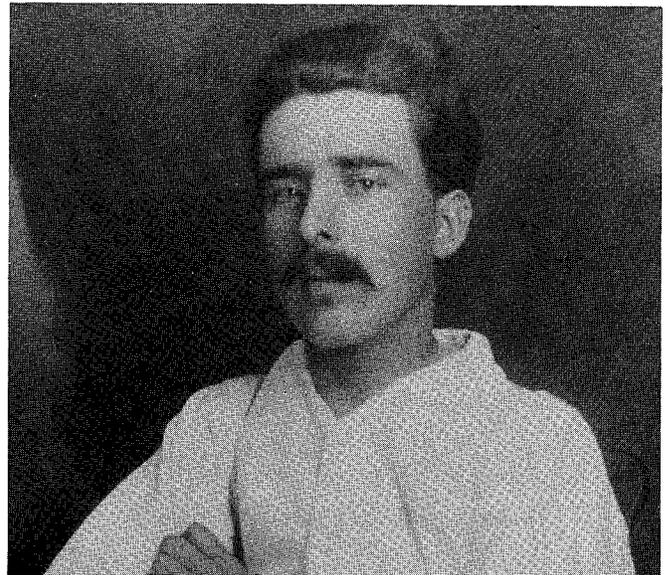
Emil worked very hard to provide a home and education for his three children and was very proud of all their achievements. Emil lived a long life and passed away in his 88th year. Genivieve held the home together, worked hard and was an excellent gardener and cook. She died at age 98, just one week before her 99th birthday.



John and Stella Holubowich. Sitting: Their mother Genivieve.

Marion was the artist in the family and his great gift and talent was discovered early in life and recognized when he was attending the Libau East School. He went on to study at the Manitoba Art School and attended the Minneapolis Institute of Art in Minnesota to complete his education. Marion's painting was in demand and he did beautiful scenery as backdrops for stages and theatrical productions. Marion painted a large scenery curtain for the Poplar Park Hall as well as the Ukrainian Society in the south end of the municipality in Narol. He also did the murals for the Ukrainian Labor Temple in Wpg., as well as several theatres including the Playhouse. Marion married Hilda Koch of Wpg., and they never had a family. Marion died as a young man in a tragic accident.

Stella attended the Libau East school and while working in Wpg., she met and married Fred Chomicki. They had two sons, Leo and Eugene. Leo died at 21 years of age and Eugene passed away in his 30th year. Stella was an excellent seamstress and worked at this trade for



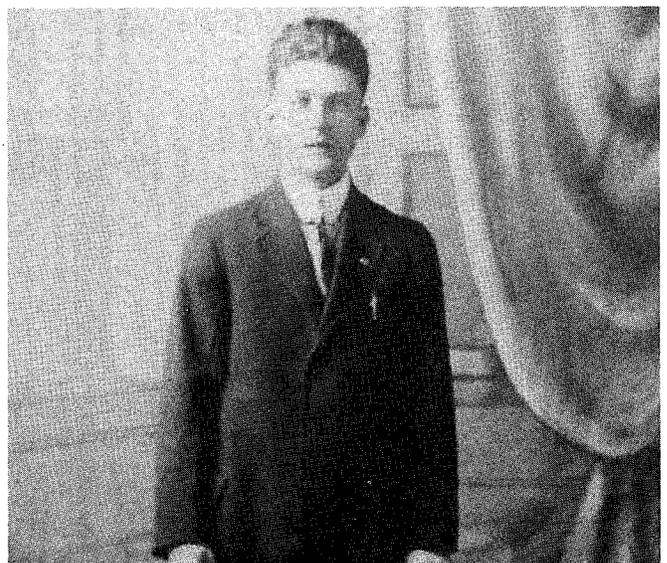
Marion Holubowich son of Emil, brother to John and Stella.

many years. Fred was a machinist for the CPR. Fred passed away at age 74. Stella moved back to Libau from Wpg., to help look after her parents. Her father, Emil, became blind in later years and Stella was the dutiful daughter who tended her parents with loving care.

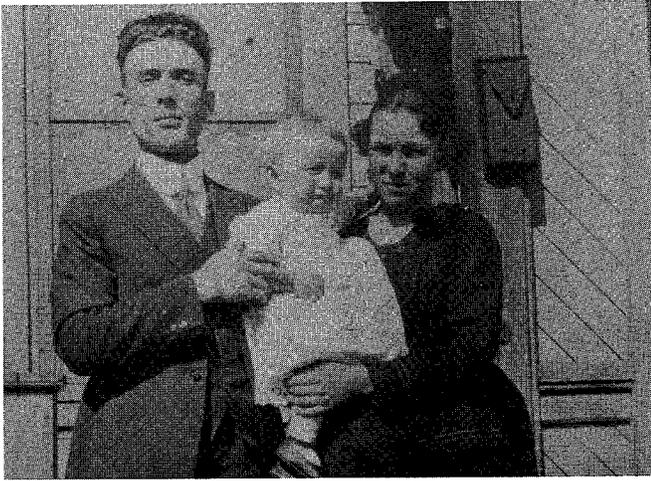
John (Kasimir) was the musician in the family and his violin could be heard at schools, concerts, socials and weddings. He loved to play a tune. John farmed with his parents and finally bought a farm of his own, just east of his parents homestead, where he did mixed farming. John married Mary Fray from Wpg., and they had two children, Emil and Adeline. John died at age 65. When John was only 13 years of age, he ran away from home and got a job in a hotel in Selkirk. His father Emil found him and brought him back home. John's son, Emil Jr., is also musical and plays the accordion.



Genivieve Holubowich



John Holubowich



John Holubowich, wife Mary and Son, Emil Jr.

John was elected as Reeve of the Municipality of St. Clements in 1922, by a majority of 19 votes. However, by late April there was a petition circulating to have him removed from office on the grounds that he was unable to meet the necessary qualifications to read and write English. The court case was a rather heated battle between Flett and John which lasted until early Nov., 1922. The judgement rendered in July unseated John on the grounds that he was not the owner of property within the Municipality. John appealed the case, but the appeal failed. There were four judgements handed down on Oct. 31, 1922 by the Manitoba Court of Appeal declaring his election as Reeve invalid on the grounds that he did not possess enough property qualification. John's property was in Brokenhead and his dad's farm was in St. Clements - John was a definite favorite of the people and it was unfortunate that his property lay outside the municipal boundary.

Stella Chomicki lives quietly on the old Holubowich farm on PR No. 317 and enjoys her solitude, gardens and tv programs. She says that the Art and Helen Wanag family have been very kind to her and help her with many of the farm and house chores as well as being friends. Wanag's organized a surprise birthday party for her recently, complete with cake and gifts. Stella said it was very nice to be blessed with such kind and friendly neighbors. Stella enjoys good health and is in her 86th year, as she was born in 1897.

VASIL HOMENICK

submitted by Lillian Hnatchuk

Vasil and his wife Julia (Markoski) and 3 sons, Nick, John, and Peter left Europe in 1899 arriving in Canada on New Year's Day of 1900. They came from the east to Manitoba via East Selkirk. Their first home was in Gonor (Lot 183 from the river to the 4 mi road). They built their first home near the riverbank. It was a log building with two rooms and a small attic.

They then bought a pair of oxen and used them for breaking the land. After a few years they moved from the



Vasil and Julia Homenick.

river to the east side of the trail road, when the land was appropriated by the government, when preparing for the St. Andrews Locks early in 1902.

The wood and logs to build the new house was hauled by oxen from the 4 mile limit. This time, they built a 3 room house to accommodate them and their 4 children.

This house stood for many years, being torn down by son, Bill, in 1950 to make room for the present Homenick home, built on the same location.

Vasil Homenick worked his land, provided for his family and lived to the age of 79. He died in 1940 and is buried at the McDonald Cemetery on Henderson Hwy. Mrs. Homenick predeceased her husband by one year, having died in 1939 at the age of 69. She rests beside her husband.

Vasil Homenick had 7 children, 5 boys and 2 girls. His 3 eldest sons, Nick, John and Peter were born in Europe and immigrated with their parents, while George, Bill, Annie and Doris were born at the Homestead in Gonor.

Nick married Nettie Steck from Brokenhead and they had 3 children, Ethel, Harry and Lawrence.

John married Nellie Semeniuk and they had 4 girls and 1 boy, Bunnie, Lily-Anne, Germaine and Joycie.

Peter married Nettie Negrich and they had 4 children Raymond, Patsy, and Shirley (Raymond's twin brother died in infancy).

George married Emma Elms from Brokenhead and they had 6 children (4 boys and 2 girls), Allan, Roger, Herbie, Russel, Lorraine and Sharon.

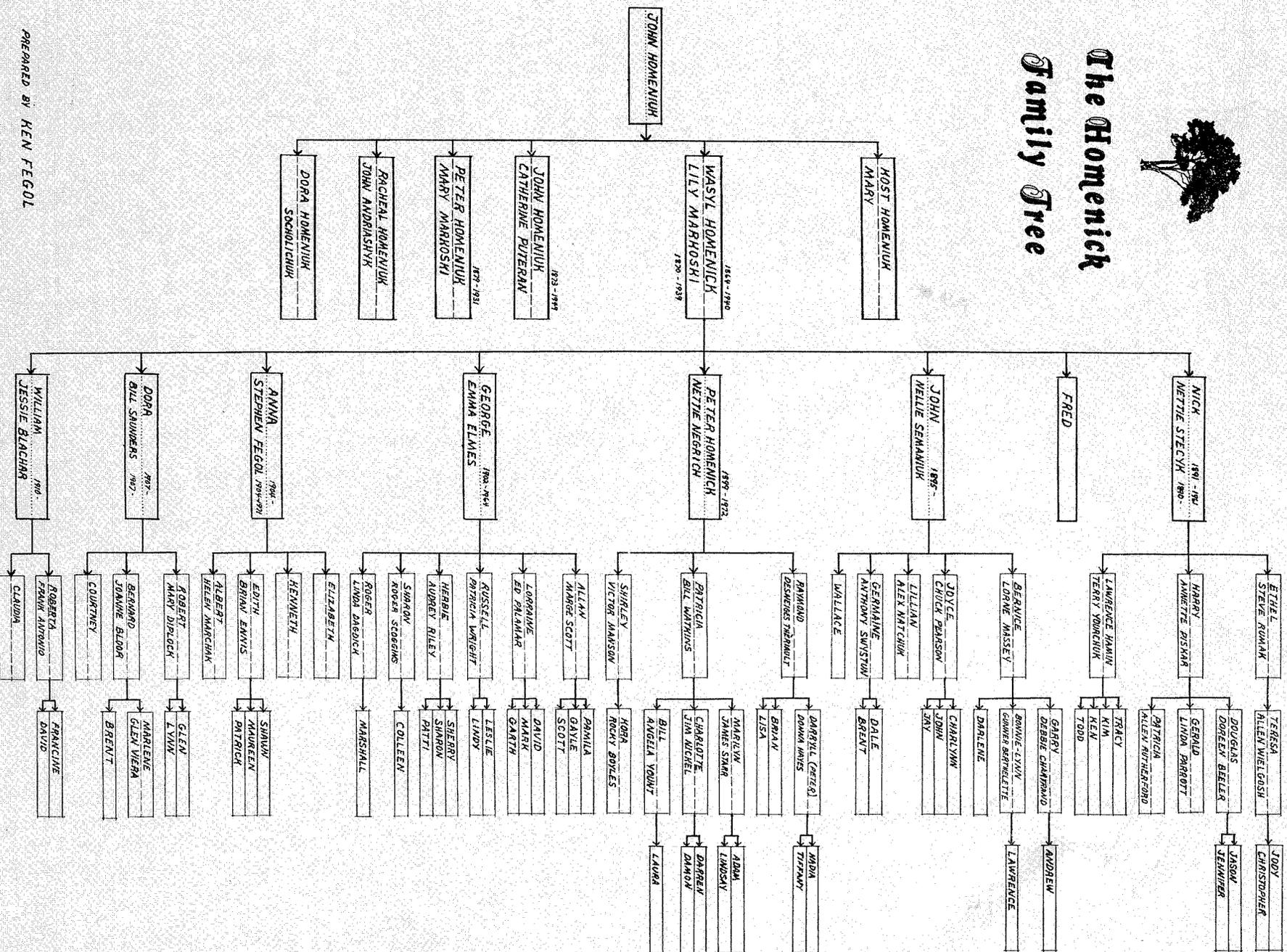
Bill married Jessie Blacher and they had 2 children, Roberta and Claudia.

Annie married Steve Fegol and they had 4 children Kenneth, Albert, Betty and Edith.

Doris married Bill Saunders and they had 4 children Bernard, Bob, Cort, and 1 girl that died in infancy.



The Homenuick Family Tree



PREPARED BY HEN FEGOL

JOHN HOMENICK AND FAMILY

submitted by Lillian Natchuk

Wasayle and Julia Homenick gave birth to a son Yuvon (John) in 1895, at Kitzman, Bukovina. As a lad he came to Canada in 1900 with his parents and brothers Nick, Fred, John and Peter. They settled in Gonor on a river lot. John would drive oxen for his dad to the city and stop at Hoddinott Road for their watering hole. He enjoyed setting night lines, for fish, on the Red River.

Then, as the years went by he ventured out and bought a farm in Estevan, Sask. Due to ill health he had to give it up and he came back, where he helped his dad.

As other young men, he would go west harvesting. At this time has met a girl named Nellie Semeniuk, who worked for the same farmer, as he did, in Birtle in 1925. Then in 1926 he went back to Birtle, and low and behold, she was still there. They were married on November 19, 1927 in the United Church at Rossburn, Man. John brought his bride home to Gonor. Nellie's parents gave them a cow for a wedding gift, which was sold for \$37.00. They rented land and farmed. John drove a bus, for his brother Peter, as far as the C.P.R. Subway on Henderson Highway, and drove teachers to Tyndall with a horse and sleigh, when roads were drifted with snow. They would row in a boat across the Red River to worship with the



Nellie and John Homenick on their wedding day, Nov. 19, 1927.



Children of John and Nellie Homenick, Germaine, Wallace, Lillian, Joyce and Bernice.

Plymoth Brethren at Mr. McDonald's Residence. In winter they would walk across the river ice.

In 1930 Nellie and John saw their way to purchase a farm in Kirkness on Kirkness Road. There they raised their family of five. Bernice was born in 1928, Joyce 1930, Lillian 1934, Germaine 1935, and Wallace 1936.

They farmed and would haul their vegetables to Selkirk by wagon and horses and later by tractor. John would bring candy suckers as treats for his children.

In 1940 John had an opportunity to work on the St. Andrews bridge. A coin was tossed and he received the job.

John worked in 1944 for 58 cents per hour at the Rolling Mills in Selkirk. When the roads were drifted he would walk five miles to work. In those days potatoes sold for 25 cents per 100 lb. bag.

A farm was purchased from George Harris in 1943. Their house was almost destroyed by fire that devastated the Greek Orthodox Church in Gonor. Here the Homenicks were market gardeners and hauled their vegetables to Winnipeg. Later a vegetable wholesaler would drive out from Winnipeg and pick up their produce.

Nellie went to work for Progress Candy in 1955. She held this job for fifteen years.

With their children married, the property was sold in 1971. Nellie and John moved to Selkirk.

On November 19, 1977, Nellie and John celebrated their 50th anniversary with a small gathering. That afternoon there was a bad snowstorm and this prevented many from attending the affair. The storm paralyzed the town of Selkirk and the countryside.

In 1982 they celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

Presently, John is at The Tudor House Nursing Home, where he will celebrate his 88th birthday on January 19, 1983.

Nellie still resides in their home on Eveline Street in Selkirk. She is 76 years old.

Their children are all married.

Bernice is married to Lorne Massey, now living in Selkirk, Man. They have three children, Garry married



Nellie and John Homenick and gifts received at their 50th Wedding Anniversary Nov. 19, 1977.



Nettie and Peter Homenick, 1926.



Raymond, Shirly, Patsy children of Peter Homenick.

Debbie Chartrand, they have a son Andrew, Darleen, and Bonny-Lyn had married Guner Berthelette and have a son Lawrence.

Joyce is married to Charles Pearson, now living in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. They have three children, Charlyne, John, and Jay.

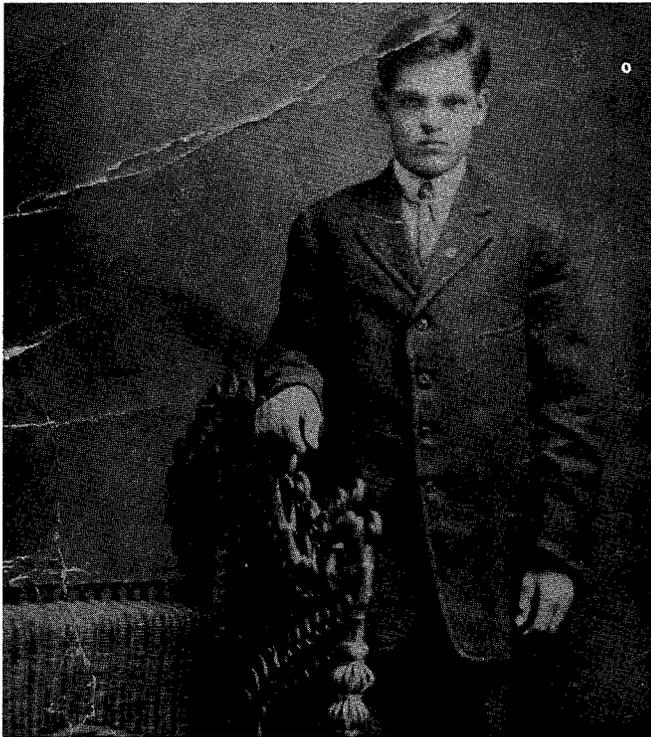
Lillian, married to the late Alex Natchuk who passed away in 1978, is now living in Lockport, Man.

Germaine is married to Anthony Swystun now living in St. Andrews, Man. They have two children, Dale and Brent.

Wallace John Kieth, their only son, passed away in 1964 at the age of 27 years.



Nettie Homenick nee: Negrich and Marie Zapp.



Peter Homenick (1915).

GEORGE AND EMMA HOMENICK FAMILY

submitted by Roger Homenick

Roger, the youngest son of George and Emma Homenick of Gonor, has been employed as a firefighter in the City of Winnipeg for the past several years. He is married to Linda (nee Dagdiek) who is a registered nurse, mainly involved in nursing inservice education. Until two and a half years ago, (Sept. 1980), when son Marshall was born, Roger and Linda enjoyed dividing travel time between Mexico, Europe (especially Spain and Portugal) and South America.

The family lived north of Gonor off the highway that Roger's dad used to travel on with his Northern Coach Bus Line to Grand Beach route. They have recently begun to build their first home on Pioneer Road just east of Lockport in the Gonor area. Perhaps, in another hundred years when histories are written about the then pioneers, we shall be reading about Marshall and his family, and so the cycle shall continue.

In 1964, one year after graduating as a Registered Nurse from the Winnipeg General Hospital, Sharon, daughter of George and Emma Homenick of Gonor, moved to Santa Monica, California, where she continued



George and Emma Homenick on their wedding day March 2, 1932.

to practise her profession at UCLA Hospital. Through the years, she has steadily progressed to the point where she is presently head nurse in the hemodialysis department at UCLA Hospital. Two years after arriving in California, she married Roger Scoggins, who was also in the health care field. They had one child, Colleen during their six years of marriage. Colleen is in Junior High School where she maintains an "A" average. She is active in extracurricular activities such as roller-skating, tap-dancing, ballet, water-skiing, and ice-skating. She is also enrolled in a basic computer science course.

During her many years as a dialysis nurse, Sharon had the opportunity to travel with one of her patients, Judy, whose husband, Jan Kadar was a movie director. Several years ago, Sharon travelled to Montana with Mr. and Mrs. Kadar, where a movie entitled, "The Other Side of Hell" was being filmed about the life of Bill Thomas who is now Sharon's fiance.

Bill's book, "The Shoe Leather Treatment" became a best seller in 1981. Bill is a volunteer for the Mental Health Association where he holds the office of president-elect. During the world-wide promotion of Bill's movie, Sharon and Bill flew to Australia. Upon returning from Australia, Judy Kadar asked Sharon to accompany her to Natchez, Mississippi, where Jan was directing a movie called, "Freedom Road" which starred Muhammed Ali and Kris Kristofferson. At that time,

Colleen was eight years old and enjoyed sitting on Muhammed Ali's lap. Her outgoing personality made her popular with the stars.

Two years ago, Bill and Sharon established a business to represent celebrity-type people. Their company, "Creative Images Associates" currently represents forty-eight people, including actors, actresses, authors and lecturers. The company also represents Bill's new book, "The Bumble-Bee", which is scheduled to be published in the late fall.

Sharon and Bill enjoy bicycle riding, taking long walks, reading and touring the Pacific Coast.

Herb, the son of George and Emma Homenick, and wife Audrey (nee Ripley) who is a homemaker, have lived for the past several years in George and Emma's second home in Gonor. They have three teenagers; Sherri, and twins Patti and Sharon.

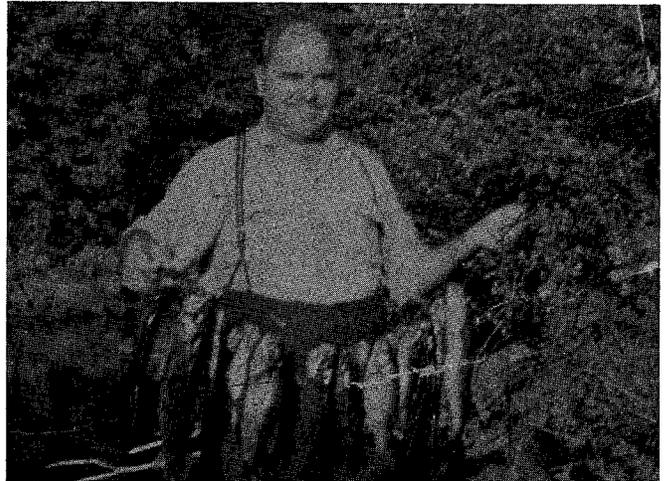
Sherri is a senior at the Selkirk Comprehensive School, and most days during the fishing season, you can find her working at Lilly Anne's Bait House.

The twins also attend the "Comp" and are enjoying their first year there. They are kept busy in their spare time with numerous babysitting jobs for family and neighbors.

Lorraine, the daughter of George and Emma Homenick, is married to Edward Palamar who is employed by the City of Winnipeg as a firefighter. They live in North Kildonan with their three sons, David, Mark and Garth.

Lorraine and the children are in attendance at the University of Manitoba. Lorraine is in her first year in the faculty of Human Ecology. David has a Bachelor of Arts degree and is presently working towards a Law degree. Mark will be graduating in the spring of 1983 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Garth is in his second year of Business Administration.

Russell, son of George and Emma Homenick, is employed by the federal government in the Post Office. He is married to Patricia Wright who works as the Director of Instructional Support Services at the Pacific Vocational Institute in Burnaby, B.C. Russell and Pat live in Port Coquitlam, B.C. They had two daughters, Leslie born in 1971 and Lindy born in 1973. The girls are



George Homenick