

*Peter, Max and Bill, 1971.*

time, in the winter they were filled with seasoned mashed potatoes or sauerkraut, and in summer with young dill and green onions.

Mother made our dresses entirely by hand, and she made her clothes for her burial many years before they would be needed. Material for mothers dresses and ours would be purchased in Selkirk, or the rare visit to Winnipeg. A trip to Winnipeg meant a long walk to Selkirk, and then a street car to the city. Every summer a pedlar with his horse drawn caravan laden with fabrics, needles and thread, pots and pans, would call on the villagers. We were always excited about his visit, the beautiful ribbons, and lovely materials, we could look, not touch, and most of the time mother would buy some ribbon, along with other goods.

In early years mother and father would cut the grain with a sickle, and bind the sheaves with twine by hand. We would help stook the sheaves, and when the threshing crew came, we would hold the bags to catch the grain. The harvest season was a very busy and exciting time. The potatoes were dug with a digging fork, sorted and carried to the cellar for storage or bagged for sale. There wasn't any electricity or running water, all work was done by hand. Neighbours always helped each other with the spring planting and the harvest.

Peter, Max and Bill left home in the late teens. Peter married and settled in Windsor, Ont.. Later moving to Burlington. Max and Bill both went to Regina and also married and lived there. Bill and his family moved to Vancouver in 1942.

Mother died in 1927, leaving father to raise four daughters, the eldest, Anne was thirteen, and Nettie, the baby was four. Father was a gentle and kind man, with a wonderful sense of humour. After mother passed away it was the beginning of the depression for us, we missed her very much but were thankful she no longer suffered. Father taught us to cook simple meals and to bake bread. With the help of friends and neighbors and the new home economic course at school we learned to sew, bake and knit.

One by one we left home also. Anne went to Toronto, she lives in Richmond Hill, Ont. now. Marion lives in Winnipeg, Nettie also went to Toronto and later moved with her family to California, she lives now in Agoura, California. I also went east, but now make our home in Victoria, B.C.

After Nettie left home, father lived alone until his death in 1954. Mother and Father are buried in the cemetery he helped clear. Their grave is visited and cared for by Marion and her children. The rest of us visit the cemetery when we come "Home" again.

## **ANTON AND IRENE PITLOWNY**

*submitted by Mrs. Marion French*

My father, Anton, arrived in Canada around 1912 from Western Ukraine. He left mother (Irene) and 3 sons, Peter, Max, and Bill, until he had a place for them.

They came to East Selkirk and settled on 3 acres of land with a house on it. I remember the house was one long room and had windows from the ceiling to the floor, there was a lean-to which was used for a kitchen. We had an outdoor oven for baking our bread.

Mother Irene brought her feather quilts and linens with her from the Ukraine. Father had chosen a good location, as it had Cooks Creek on 2 sides of it, a C.N.R. track on the third side and the road on the 4th side, now known as Church road. It ran over the foot bridge and to the other highway.

Anne, myself (Marion), Rose and Nettie were born between 1914 and 1922. In 1923 we built a new house. It was a real building bee with neighbors and friends squaring the logs and the women cooking and preparing the food for the hungry men. After the frame and roof was up, we plastered between the logs with clay mixed with water, fine straw and horse manure, that had to be gathered in the pastures. When that was done it was left several days to dry. We then used lime and whitewashed both the inside and outside. That made everything sparkling white and clean smelling.

We got our water from the creek for washing, and from a neighbor's (Harry and Mary Kryviak) well for drinking.

In the 1920's, the brothers left home to look for work. They went to work in Ontario, in the mines, but Max and Bill came back west and both got work in Regina in hotels. Peter went on to Toronto and then settled in Windsor, working for General Motors.

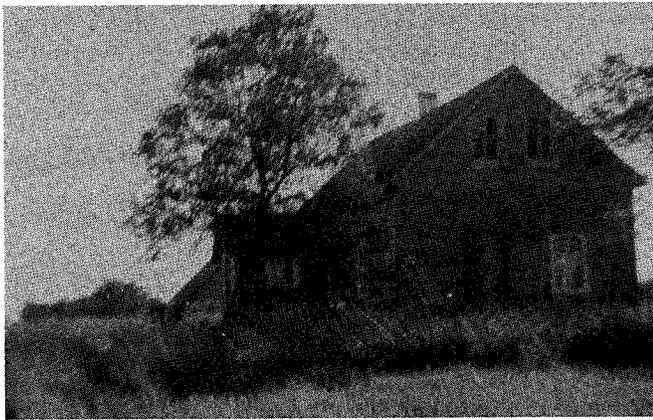
In 1926, mother was suffering with cancer and was operated on by Dr. Ross in the Selkirk General Hospital.

Things were going on pretty well, when another lump appeared and she had another operation. This one did not heal and mother passed away on March 17, 1927.

Dad had to quit work then and stay home with us. He got a job as Janitor for the 2-room elementary school, at \$12.00 per month. It paid for our sugar, flour, tea, and other staples.

We had cows, pigs, and chickens, also food from our garden.

By 1929, things got worse, and as we had very little rain, the crops were poor, the dry years continued with grasshoppers coming in and eating every green thing that grew. Our potatoes were so small that we didn't even peel them. Since there wasn't any hay for the cows, we had to sell them for what we could get, which was about \$18.00, where a few years before they were worth \$300.00. We also sold the pigs or killed them, and were left with chickens and ducks.



*Built in 1921 of logs and later lumber.*

During those years, Anne and Marion went to work in Wpg., to lighten the food supply at home.

Father, Anton couldn't get much to do either, as he quit his job when Mother Irene died to stay at home with us.

The Selkirk Bridge was being built, so in order to get food vouchers to get staples from the store, the municipality paid the labourers for hauling gravel for the bridge by wheelbarrow, 10 cents an hour and that was paid to you in food vouchers.

When the bridge was finished, the town wanted to charge a toll to cross it. The people refused the toll and continued to use the ferry. Since it was a lift bridge, the town put the centre lift up, so you could not use it.

One spring, when I came home on my weekly visits from the city, Nettie wanted to go to the movies in Selkirk, so I gave her the 15 cents to go. Dad was at the General Store, as it was a custom for the people to meet at Machewski's store in the evening and discuss local matters. When he came home and discovered Nettie went to the movies in Selkirk, he was quite disturbed, because he told me the lift was up and the ice was melting on either side of the river. He then took a lantern and started for the bridge. She had climbed up to the span and crossed over that way, both coming and going.

I got heck (bawled out) for giving her the money to go. But we did get the bridge, the next summer without a toll. This bridge was built to give jobs to the jobless. But the pay was food vouchers. It still didn't help you with clothes or wood for heating our homes. We went into the woods and dragged the dry, fallen trees home and Dad would cut them and chop it for firewood. Every so often our brothers would send us some money. But they were in the same boat and they had young families to feed.

Ann and I (Marion) went to work in the early 1930's, and although we couldn't help very much with money, it was two less people to feed.

We passed down our clothes to Rose and Nettie and there were times we were able to buy something new.

The foot bridge that crossed Cooks Creek at the foot of our garden, was another meeting place for the young. It was a lovely path down the hill. We called it lover's lane. Too bad they never built it up again. The spring run off and ice flows used to break it up, every so often. We

also fished off that bridge in the summer. I used to get bull heads using a safety pin on a grocery cord! Our swimming hole was down behind our barn, just down the hill, and every nice summer day, the boys and girls would gather there for the whole afternoon, farther down the creek the water was shallow and we would pick up stones and catch the crabs, but we would let them go.

The other place I miss very much, are the woods from the cemetery to the Selkirk bridge. The hydro plant ruined those woods with the "sludge" they spew out into the area. They were beautiful elms and ferns and mushrooms, and a wonderful path as well as a road, in the winter the sleighs used to drive through. We would be walking to Selkirk when we would hear the bells on the harnesses and would be ready to jump on the passing sleigh for a ride. The drivers were kind and slowed down for us.

Our winter sport was behind our barn, sliding down the hill across the creek and back. Or skating along the winding creek as far as you could go. Then stopping and making a fire and heating hot dogs, and warming our hands. We also hiked through the bushes, which now have disappeared.

As the Hydro Plant came in and Grand Beach got a highway, there were no more Beach trains going through East Selkirk. In the years before, on holidays like May 24, July 1, and Labor Day, the trains came through every 20 minutes, through the day and returning after 8 p.m. on the same schedule with the train and cars filled to capacity. On Saturday night the Moonlight trains took you to Grand Beach for a dance, for 75 cents for the return fare to the beach and 5 cents a dance. Yes, there are many fond memories of living in East Selkirk and living beside the Grand Beach line, we looked forward to the train and waved to the engineer and the passengers, as it passed by.

Anne went to Toronto in 1934, and married Albert Valcourt from Montreal. They were married in Montreal and lived in Toronto. Anne and Albert had 2 sons. Anne now lives in Richmond Hill.

Rose went to Toronto in 1937, she married Nickolas Sherrin from Windsor. They were married in 1940, in Windsor. Nickolas was in the air force, so they travelled



*Church Street, East Selkirk looking east from the foot bridge.*

from coast to coast. Now they are settled in Victoria, B.C. They have a daughter and a son.

Nettie was married in 1943, to Walter Shroetter, from Montreal. They were married in Montreal. They have 2 sons and now live in Los Angeles, Calif. Nettie has her PHD in Social work and works for the County of Los Angeles.

I (Marion) married in 1942, to Melville (Duke) French and we have one son and 3 daughters. My husband Melville French died in 1972.

Our father, Anton passed away on Jan. 7, 1954. I, Marion was then living in Penticton, B.C. and he was to come and live with us. He died of a heart attack on a Christmas Day, when none of his children came for Christmas. He was a good father, and mother to us girls.

## THE PLYSIUK FAMILY

*submitted by Stephie Carr*

Alexander Plysiuk was born on April 4, 1896, the eldest of nine children, in Tartakow, Sokol, Ukraine. He immigrated to Canada in 1913 at the age of 17. He worked on numerous farms around Warren, Man. and Osage, Sask. Later he found employment in Winnipeg with different firms such as Huxley Cartage, Ryan Brothers Refrigeration, Shea's Brewery and the Cordite Plant.

Anne Slobodian arrived in Canada in 1924. She was born in Zubiw, Trembola, Ukraine, on Dec 21, 1903. At an early age she became an orphan and grew up in foster homes. Upon her arrival in Winnipeg she experienced difficulty in finding a job. Eventually, however, she did find work at an orphanage in West Kildonan.

Alex and Anne met in Winnipeg and after a brief courtship they were married on Nov 27, 1924. They lived in Winnipeg for a short time before moving to East Selkirk where they purchased a house on Strathcona Street.

Alex worked at the Van Horne Farms (now known as the Searle Farms) for several years. He was later employed at the Manitoba Steel Foundry until his retirement in 1961 after 19 years of service. During this time Anne, in addition to looking after a house and family, worked on numerous farms in the district doing field work.

Anne passed away in Sept., 1955. Alex resided in East Selkirk until 1961 when he moved to East Kildonan. He later moved to the North End where he lived until his death in January, 1982.

They raised a family of two daughters, Helen and Stephanie, and one son, Peter.

Helen married Paul Maxwell on Nov. 18, 1947. Paul was enlisted in the U.S. Army at the time of their marriage and they lived in different parts of the United States, Japan and France. Helen and Paul had a family of 13 children; eight sons and five daughters: Barbara, Valerie, Lawrence, Carolyn, Merle, Charles, Grant, David, Daniel, Marie, Mark, Clayton and Marlana. Helen now resides in Sandy, Utah.

Stephanie married Michael Carr on July 25, 1958 and they have two sons, Bradley and Jeffrey. They live in East Kildonan.

Peter married Levine Hnatiuk on June 22, 1957 and had a family of two sons, Kevin and Craig, and a daughter Leanne. Peter passed away in April, 1982.

## HARRY AND STANISLAWA POPIEL

*submitted by Mrs. Janet Shapkin*

Our dad came to Canada in 1911. Dad was born in Zrscinochy, a small town in Tramboula, Austria. Mom came to Canada in June of 1928. Mom was the daughter of Jacob Zanczak. Mom came from the Archdiocese of Lubaczow, Parish of Narol, Poland. Dad and Mom were married in June of 1929, then Dad bought land on Lot 229 and Lot 230, St. Peters Road. He mixed farmed the land and worked at the Steel Foundry. Mom and Dad had to work real hard in those days. Mom and Dad had five children: Bernice, Andrew, Walter, Elizabeth, and Janet.

Bernice married Wally Joss, and they live in Winnipeg. Bernice and Wally have six children and two grandchildren. Bernice and Wally's six children are: Theresa, Cynthia, Marianne and her husband Ed Evashuk, (they have 2 children Scott and Kristine), Blaine who married Kathy and Gregory and Kathleen.

Andrew lives in Winnipeg, he has two children and two Grandchildren. His children are: Douglas who is married



*Harry and Stanislawa Popiel on their wedding day.*

to Gail, and they have one son John and one daughter Amber.

Walter is married to Rose, they live in Fernie, B.C. and they have two sons, Lydon and Shawn.

Elizabeth is married to Emil Machinski, they live in Poplar Park. They have five children: Ronald, Russel, Walter, Peter and Kathy.

Janet married Jerry Shapkin and we live on the home property. We have three children: Angela, Randall and Kenneth.

Mom and Dad worked very hard together, life wasn't easy in those days. They enjoyed living in East Selkirk and made many good friends in their lifetime. Dad died on Dec. 18, 1952, leaving Mother to look after the rest of the family. Mother did all sorts of odd jobs until we could all look after ourselves. Life wasn't easy for her but she never complained. Mom died on Sept. 19, 1973.

## PORTER

*submitted by Linda Porter*

Donald Alexander Porter and Linda Dian Porter (nee Thompson) moved to the Rural Municipality of St. Clements in September 1974 from Winnipeg. Recently married in July of the same year, the Porters chose St. Clements because of its locality to Selkirk. Dr. Porter had opened his practice of Optometry in the new Medical clinic in Selkirk in October 1973.

Linda Porter was born and raised in the Elmwood area of Winnipeg, where she completed her high school education and then attended business college. After completion of her courses she entered the field of advertising with the Winnipeg firm of MacLaren Advertising. After several years with this company she furthered her career with additional courses in Toronto, Ontario in the media field. On her return she assumed the position of Media Director for MacLaren's Winnipeg office, where she continued until the birth of her daughter in 1977.

Donald Porter was born and raised in Dauphin, Man. Following completion of high school he moved to Winnipeg to attend Red River Community College where he graduated in Architectural drafting. After working for a Saskatchewan Architectural firm for one year he entered the University of Alberta to obtain required Science courses for entrance to the School of Optometry, in Waterloo, Ont. In 1965 he enrolled in the University of Waterloo and graduated with his doctorate in Optometry in 1970. He practiced in the St. James area of Winnipeg for three years during which time he met and married his wife Linda before moving to St. Clements near the village of East Selkirk.

On April 11th, 1977 their daughter Dallas Raegan was born at the Selkirk General Hospital. Two years later the Porters moved to complete a new house on a 40 acre homestead in the Walkleyburg district of St. Clements located at S.W. 8-14-6 E. Here they pursued an ambition to raise and breed purebred donkeys and their "North Forke Ranch" became the first registered Donkey breeding Ranch in Manitoba and one of the few in Canada.

## WILLIAM ARNOLD PRINCE

*submitted by Valerie Prince/slh*

William Prince Sr. and his wife Clemons had four children: Petheul, Rubin, Ruffas and Ruby.

Petheul, son of William, met and married Marie Robinson and they had 5 children: Wlm. Arnold, Edgar, George, Nathaniel and Agnes. Petheul's wife, Marie, was one of five Robinson children: Christie, Vernick, Rose and Florence.

William Arnold, son of Petheul, grew up at Fisher River. He met and married Valerie Grogan, a daughter of Alice (Gwen) and Percy Grogan. Alice and her daughter Valerie had emigrated to Canada from England after the death of Percy Grogan. Valerie had received all her education in England. Alice says that when Valerie was a youngster she would bring home stray animals, especially dogs and cats, and tend to them. If an animal was sick, Valerie would lovingly care for them until they were better.

William Arnold and Valerie Prince had four children: Debbie (1956), Louis (1958), Byron (1961), and Amy (1977).

Arnold has worked most all of his adult years in the lumber trade. He was employed by Portage Lumber for over 20 years until the company ceased operating. He immediately transferred to Dominion Lumber, where he still works.

Arnold and Valerie are both involved in Animal Control, with Arnold being the Municipal Poundkeeper for the Municipality of St. Clements and Valerie contracted as Animal Control Officer for the Town of Selkirk. They both have great compassion and love for all animals.

As a hobby, Valerie and Arnold breed race horses and usually have one horse at the track during racing season, and have met with some success at winning. Their brood mare is "Song of Oden" and their newest colt is "Selamy's Song" while some of the track winners were: "Slippery Ice" and "Big Bike".

Sports and recreation has always been an important aspect of the Prince family way of life. Very early on all the children were involved with horse shows and rodeos as well as hockey and boxing. Byron twice won the Manitoba high point trophy in his class while Louis took many awards for his steer riding and Debbie for goat roping. The family were members of the Manitoba Rodeo Association, as well as the Rosser 4-H Club, as the children were growing up.

They owned and operated the Circle-P Ranch where they kept their own stock as well as boarded other horses.

Valerie was a Veterinary Nurse for many years and daughter Debbie has carried on the tradition. Like her Mother, Debbie has a soft heart and was responsible for the variety of dogs and other stray animals that found a home at the Circle-P.

Louis and Byron won many awards during their Boxing career. Byron represented Manitoba in the Junior Olympics in 1972, was the bronze medallist in 1973 and entered and won at the Canada Summer Games. Louis was the 1973 Manitoba Bantam Boxing Champion for the province and has scores of ribbons and trophies for

his rodeo participation as Steer rider.

Debbie married Rick Makinson and they have one daughter, Selina, who attends Happy Thought School in East Selkirk. They live at 6851 Henderson Hwy. Debbie has worked at the Pembina Animal Hospital since she was 17 years old.

Byron and Louis are not married at the present time and work in Wpg.

Arnold and Valerie moved from the Circle-P Ranch to a 10 acre parcel on Henderson Hwy. in Gonor, Man. where Mr. Jung used to live (the old Romano House) on Lot 197. They fenced it for the horses and after Arnold became Poundkeeper, they did further changes to allow kennels for dogs, and a barbed-wire enclosure for larger stock impoundment.

The family love St. Clements and the east side of the Red River and do not plan making any further moves.

Their youngest daughter, Amy, who was born in 1977, is very talented at swimming and has a natural born love of all animals, and especially enjoys making friends with all the strays and other dogs that her father picks up for the Pound. Amy's Godparents, John and Shirley Herda, live on the adjoining property.

## THOMAS (TYMKO) AND MARIA PRONYK

*submitted by Mathew Pronyk*

Tymko Pronyk came to Canada in Aug. of 1903 from Trembolia, Austria with his wife Maria, one year old daughter Anna and his wife's parent's, Joseph and Anna Dzuba.

They were met by friends (Ewaschuks) or relatives (Hutts) at the immigration office in Selkirk. They lived with the Ewaschuk family for over the coming winter.

In Nov. of 1903, my father purchased a piece of land, 48 acres, 92 feet wide and 4 miles long, stretching from the Red River, to what is now Birds Hill Park. This land being part of Lot 217 in Narol along Henderson Hwy.

My father and Grandfather Dzuba walked over two miles daily clearing, cutting and hewing logs to build a house the next spring. Mother and Grandmother Dzuba mixed clay and hay to plaster the holes between the logs to keep out the winds, rain, snow and mosquitos. They later added to the original cabin in the shape of a T, where my grandparents lived until their death; Joseph Dzuba in 1926 and Anna Dzuba in 1927.

When the Lockport bridge was being built, my dad worked there for a few years to pay off the land. He also used to walk to Dryden, Ont. to work on the railway that was being built. This was between seeding and harvesting time. Money was badly needed to buy farm equipment, livestock and to help pay for the passages to Canada for other relatives, (brothers) wishing to come to Canada.

The family made their living by selling cream, butter, eggs, cottage cheese, and vegetables at the market, or from door to door in Winnipeg. Their children all worked in the fields to help out with the weeding, hoeing, picking potatoes and making hay in the "Bog".

There were six children in the Thomas and Maria Pronyk family. They are: Anna who married Tony Kaschynyc (passed away in 1962). They had two children



*Anna Dzuba, her sisters, her daughter Maria, son-in-law Tymko Pronyk and grandchildren.*

Pauline who married Mr. Buzta, and Joe who lived in Detroit.

Ksenka (Alexina, Jennie) married to Wasyl Bazan, in Gonor. They had four children, Jean Zibroski, Florence Nebo, William Bazan, and Anna Cherest.

John married to Nettie Mitchel, of Florida (died 1978) their children are, Sharon and Ron Pronyk.

Walter married Adele, they are retired and live in Florida. They had two children, Marlene Rithchie and Lorraine.

Mathew married to Kathryn (Kosterewa) and they are living on the old homeplace. Jean married Mr. Wilk, and lives in Detroit, he is retired from the Ford Motor Co. They have three boys, Larry, Tommy, and Jimmy.



*Tymko and Maria Pronyk, John and Walter Pronyk.*



*Steve Pronyk and wife, Paul and wife and Tymko Pronyk, 1948.*



*Pronyk house built in 1928-29.*

Times were hard and so was the work. A story I like to repeat is the one Jean Wilk tells: "When I have hard or heavy work to do, I say to myself, "It beats picking cucumbers" of which they had 5 acres to do one year.

My father had two brothers, Paul Pronyk and Steve Pronyk, who came to Canada at the beginning of the century. They also worked on the Lockport Bridge for a time, then married and settled in Rossdale and farmed. Uncle Steve had one daughter, Lena Cheslock, and a son who drowned in Gunn's Creek near Lockport at the age of 14. Uncle Paul Pronyk had three children, Joe, John and Lena (Dutka).

My mother had four sisters: The Hutts family who came to Narol in 1898, from the old country. They had ten children. The other sisters were Christina, Andrlich, Anna Kornago, and Mina Specht.

My parents are gone, as are my aunts and uncles. Mother Maria died in April of 1944, at the age of 64, and my Father Thomas (Tymko) died in March of 1965 at the age of 89.

## **MATHEW PRONYK**

*submitted by Mathew Pronyk*

Mathew Pronyk was born in Narol, on Feb. 6, 1919, the youngest son to Thomas and Maria Pronyk. He attended Donald School until he was old enough to help on the farm picking potatoes, or field work. After leaving school, he worked on the farm or hauling gravel, wood, making hay on the "Bog" and doing farm chores. There was no work to be had in industry during the depression anyway.

Mathew served in the army during the Second War in the North Pacific and Europe. Upon returning, Mathew spent eight months in Deer Lodge Hospital. Then he resumed farming on the "home place". Later on he started working in Transportation, and he still works as a school bus driver for the River East School Division.

I, Kathryn Pronyk, (Kasterewa) grew up in McMunn (near Falcon Lake), where I received my early education. As there was no high school in the area, I went to Teulon for Grade XI. After a break of some ten years, due to Mother's death and hard times, I took grade 12 in St. Joseph's Academy. I taught school on a permit for two years, at Whitemouth River, and Shell Vale School District, near Roblin. In 1946-47, I took Teacher Training in Tuxedo. I taught four years at East Braintree, 1 year at Elma elementary, 9 years at McMunn and 15 years in East St. Paul, at Dr. Hamilton and Birds Hill Schools, retiring from teaching in 1976.

Mathew and Kathryn were married in 1961, and have no family. Kathryn came from a family of three sisters and three brothers. Kathryn says, "My parents also were pioneers coming to Canada around 1912 or 1913, and settling along the "Water Line".



*Back Row, Left to Right: John, Mathew, Jean, Walter. Front: Anna, Father Tymko, Ksenka day after Matt and Kay Pronyk's wedding.*



July 22, 1961 Olga, Ann, George, Mike, Bill, Kasterewa family. Thomas, Kathryn, Mathew, Thomas, Anna, Jennie, Jean and Walter, Pronyk family.

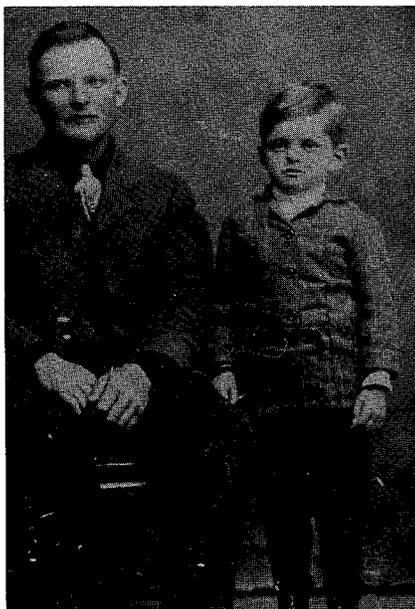
## WILLIAM (WILLIE) PRUDEN THE PRUDEN FAMILY

*Bill Pruden, Patricia Beach*

The earliest ancestor I know about is John Peter Pruden. This colourful figure came from Edmonton, Middlesex, England in 1778. He was employed as a Chief Factor by the Hudson's Bay Company.

John Peter Pruden had ten children one of which was my great-grandfather Peter. Peter had five sons, my grandfather's name was William. William married Alice Leask. After my grandfather's death, at an early age, my grandmother married David Bruce.

My father Dave (or D.T. Pruden as he liked to be known) was the second son of William and Alice. He married Mary Cooke daughter of William and Catherine. My childhood was spent at Poplar Park and we later moved to Sandy Point where my parents homesteaded. I was the oldest of Dave and Mary's 14 children. Both my parents were laid to rest in the Anglican Cemetery in Poplar Park.



*Heavy on the strap - sharpening his razor on the martingale of the harness is David A. Bruce, Ambrose Pruden standing, Old William Cook house behind.*

I don't know too much about my wife's ancestors. Henry Thomas, her paternal grandfather married Charlotte Parisiene. Charlotte was buried in the old St. Peter's Cemetery in East Selkirk. Many years after Charlotte's death, Henry married an English lady named Agnes. For many years they ran a little store in Balsam Bay. After Henry died, Agnes later married my great uncle John Leask and lived at Poplar Park.

My wife's father was born in St. Boniface and was baptized by Jean Baptiste in the Catholic Church, when he was a few hours old. I don't know why this was done as he was a Protestant all his life. This fact came to light when Robert applied for his birth certificate.

Robert Thomas married Jessie Knott. Jessie's mother, Barbara Linklater's family was from James Bay and they travelled down from there by york boat. Barbara married Alex Knott. They spent their married life in Stony Point, Balsam Bay and Grand Marais. It was Barbara who founded the first Anglican Church at Grand Marais. Both Barbara and Alex are buried at Grand Marais.

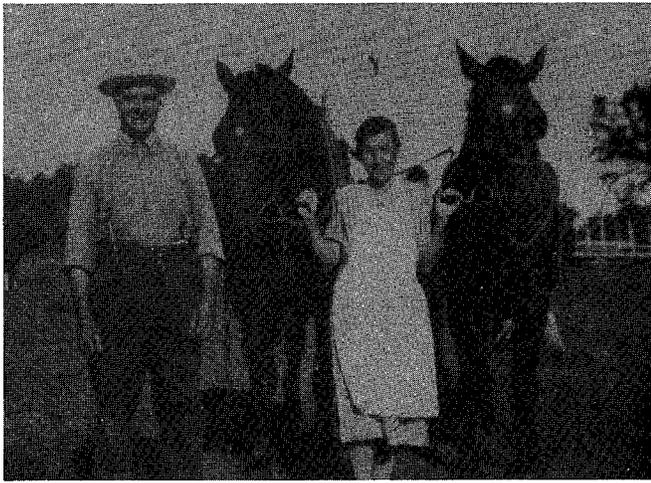
Robert and Jessie settled in Balsam Bay, where my wife was born the seventh child of ten children. They later moved to Stony Point where they were to live for the remainder of their years. Robert made a living farming and commercial fishing. Jessie died, in 1955 and Robert in 1967. Both are laid to rest in the Balsam Bay cemetery.

I met my wife, Irene, in the middle of the great depression in 1936, when I came down to see Mrs. Bob Thomas about buying a turkey tom.

We were married a year later at St. Phillip's Church in Scanterbury. Our wedding night was spent at the home of Irene's sister and brother-in-law Winnie and Willie Harper, where we had to share a bed with Winnie's young son, Welland.

We settled in Stony Point and were blessed with the first of our nine children, Verland, in 1938. There were to be three more daughters born while living at Stony Point.

Times were hard during this period. Electricity was



*Robert Thomas Pruden and wife Jessie Pruden.*

unheard of, there were no modern conveniences and the only transportation was horses. Roads were almost non-existent. To go shopping at "Kutsy's Store" in Beaconia, we used the railroad and track or went around by the lake shore.

I have many fond memories of these years. When somebody had a party, people would come from as far away as Victoria Beach. The annual school picnic, with a



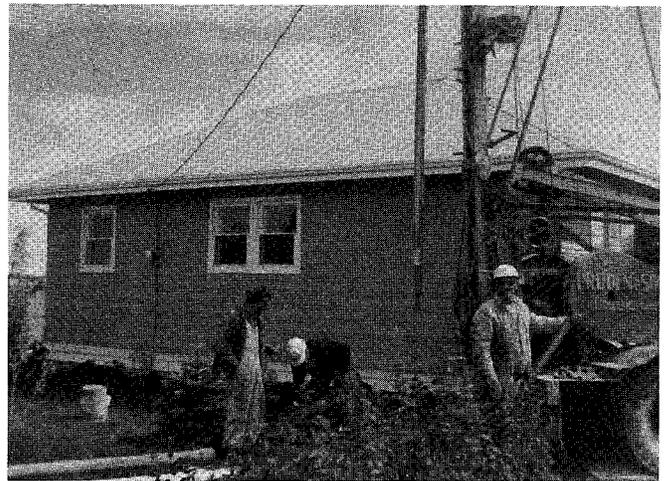
*Mary Pruden (nee Cook) wife of Dave Thomas Pruden and son Willie, inset son Bobi.*



*Violet Pruden daughter of Dave and Mary Pruden, 1946.*

dance afterward was a big event, looked forward to all year. We also had good "old time" dances and basket socials with local fiddlers, organists and guitarists supplying the music.

I made a living by fishing and trapping. When the Second World War broke out, I tried to enlist three times and was rejected each time on account of medical reasons.



*Charlie Pruden drilling in Libau west of the Libau hotel.*

I got a job in Selkirk, at the Rolling Mills in 1944, I took my wife and young family there on the train. My father-in-law brought our household goods with horses and wagon. This trip took all day. A year later we moved to Winnipeg where we were to live for the next 31 years. I was employed with Brewery Products for 16 years and was later transferred to Labatt's. Irene helped out keeping the kids fed and clothed by hanging nets.

As the years went by, our children left home and got married. I retired in 1978 and Irene and I returned to Stony Point. Our lives had come full circle.

Times have really changed in Stony Point including its name. This area is now known as Patricia Beach. Progress has caught up and we now enjoy all the modern conveniences of the city.

Although we are enjoying our present life, it is nice to sit back and reflect on the happy memories of long ago.



*Alex and Anne Pruden.*

## **ALEX PRUDEN**

*submitted by John Bunio*

Alex Pruden's great grandparents (Peter Pruden and his wife) came to Canada from England in the 1800's, and worked for the Hudson Bay Company. They eventually settled at Whittles Point about six miles north of Libau, Man., where later his grandparents, James and Katherine Pruden lived. As time went by Alex's parents, William and Sara Pruden, moved onto property about three miles north of Libau where his half-brother Andrew resides.

Alex married Anne Fedcheshen and they had four children, two boys and two girls: Mary (Zalutski) and Helen (Kamke) John and Greg. They all lived at Poplar Park, later in 1951 moving to property two miles east of Libau, where as of 1983, they still reside.

Alex is now retired. Alex speaks Ukrainian fluently (as well as most people of Ukrainian background) and when he was asked if he learned to speak Ukrainian from his wife, Alex said, "No, when I went to school almost all of the children were Ukrainian, and no English was spoken, so I learned the language well." Alex also mentioned that his four children spoke very little English when they started school, as well.

Alex is in his mid-seventies and is enjoying good health and keeping very active. He enjoys the land and his family and good conversation.



*Alex Pruden's children Mary, Helen, John and Greg 1941.*



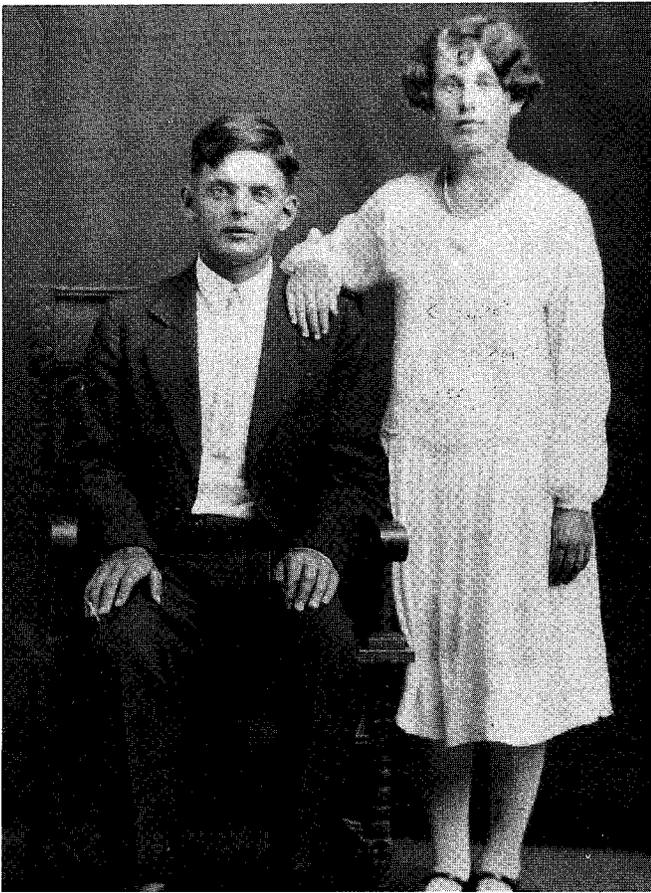
*Aunt and mother Sara.*

## **JAMES PETER PRUDEN FAMILY**

*submitted by Grace Znak*

James Peter Pruden, was born in Edmonton, Middlesex, England in 1778 and entered the service of the Hudson Bay Company in 1791 as an apprentice. Later he became a writer at York Factory. From 1798 to 1808 he was on the Saskatchewan River and from 1808 to 1824 he was in charge of Carlton House. In 1821 he was made a Chief Trader. He was in command of Norway House in 1825---1826 but later returned to command Carlton House. He was promoted to Chief Factor in 1836. He retired in 1837. After his retirement he lived in the Red River Settlement and served for a time as member of the Council of Assiniboia. In 1839 he married Miss Ann Armstrong, a teacher at Red River Academy. He died on the 30th of May 1869 at the age of 90 and was buried in St. John's Cathedral Churchyard cemetery in Winnipeg. He left seven children.

*His son James*, settled in Poplar Park and was married to Katherine Miller, one of the Selkirk Settlers. Katherine worked as a midwife in the District. They had five children. Their first son *Andrew James* married Mary Cook, sister of William Cook. They had thirteen children Rosie, Kathleen, Grace, Bob, Maggie, Walter, twins Alec and Annie, Victoria, Mabel, Irene, Sisper and Daisy.



*Alex and Ann Pruden.*

They lived at Oak Point.

James and Katherine's second son *William Alfred* settled on an adjoining farm. He married Sarah Magnusson. They had two sons. Alec married Annie Fedcheschen and Alfred was unmarried. Sarah died at an early age. Years later he (William Alfred) (Sept. 4, 1879 - Died Sept. 15, 1947) married Annie Chwaykoski, who had come over from Austria on a boat. They had eight children: Katie married Andrew Anderson - had one daughter. Andrew - unmarried, Lena - unmarried, Stella married Alec Stryk from Walkleyburg - no children, Grace married Michael Znak - had six children, Sarah - unmarried, Walter - unmarried, and Patricia who married Norman Stewart from Winnipeg - had two children.

Besides mixed farming William Pruden went out on Lake Winnipeg and hauled fish out for the fishermen with a team of horses as there were no trucks in those days. He also baled hay and straw from stacks, with a press. As well he hauled cordwood to Selkirk.

## **JOHN PUTERAN**

*submitted by Doc Puteran*

John Puteran, along with his wife Anna Markowsky and family of four daughters: Lena, Katherine, Sophie, and Doris, emigrated to Canada at the turn of the cen-



*Mr. Puteran's second wife and his family.*

ture. They travelled to Manitoba where John chose a prime piece of property, lying on the east bank of the Red River, in the district known as Gonor.

John cleared land and built a home for his family. He carried on a mixed farm operation and worked out in the district to supplement his income.

Very early on it was soon discovered that John had brought with him to this new country a trade and a natural born gift of healing the sick and injured, whether it was the cattle of the field or a child in pain. People soon came to depend on John whenever sickness or disease hit the community. John was always compassionate and helpful in times of trouble or stress, and gave of his time, freely.

John's wife Anna very sadly passed away and was missed greatly by the family, especially her four daughters.

As in all things, John carried on the best he could, as life must go on.

In the year 1907, John remarried to Elizabeth Markowsky and they continued with the farm operation on the Puteran homestead. Eventually, John and Elizabeth were blessed with three children: Ann born in April of 1910, William (Doc) born on Oct. 1, 1913, and Doris born on July 12, 1917.

The family attended the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church of Gonor for their spiritual needs and their educational needs at the Gonor School.

To supplement his farm income and provide for his family, John worked on the Lockport Bridge and doing road work for the municipality.

John passed away in the year 1939, at the age of 77. He is buried in the St. Nicholas Churchyard Cemetery in Gonor. Elizabeth lived to be 77, and passed away in 1956.

Lena married Metro Bazan, Katherine married John Pawluck, Sophie married Mike Karpinski, and Doris is deceased.

Anne married Martin Karpinski, brother to Mike, and William (Doc) Puteran married Victoria Zaversnuke, and Doris, the youngest child of John Puteran, married Paul Praznik.

Life was not always easy but John contributed to the betterment of the community in many ways.