

THE EAST SIDE OF THE RED
A CENTENNIAL PROJECT OF THE
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF ST. CLEMENTS
1884 to 1984



Compiled by the St. Clements Historical Committee
Box 2, Grp. 35, R.R.1, East Selkirk, Manitoba



Samuel Uskiw

FOREWORD

*submitted by Samuel Uskiw, Minister
Highways and Transportation*

I was honoured being asked to write the foreward to the history of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements. As a lifelong resident of this municipality, I would especially like to commend those who had the foresight and dedication to produce this book. We all owe them a great debt for their considerable time and effort in overseeing this book's production to its completion. In addition, we owe a debt of gratitude to countless others who contributed in many ways to the creation of this legacy.

St. Clements was created as a municipality through the partition of the County of Lisgar. In its earlier years, St. Clements' boundaries extended six miles east beyond Beausejour and northward to include Victoria Beach and Elk Island. After several boundary adjustments the municipality's area took on its present dimensions.

St. Clements has a unique and rich history. It was decided that the main line for our first Trans Canada railway would be built to run through Selkirk. This line was constructed to within several miles east of Selkirk. However because of a last moment change of mind, it was decided to re-route the main line to Winnipeg. This "eleventh hour" decision led to Winnipeg rather than the Selkirk and southern St. Clements area becoming Manitoba's growth metropolis. The bend in the railroad track re-routing the historic main line away from Selkirk onto Winnipeg can still be found within our municipality.

At the turn of the century a converted C.P.R. roundhouse located in the East Selkirk area served as an immigration centre. For a very short period the bulk of foreign immigration destined for points westward were temporarily accommodated at this centre.

However, the richest and most valuable aspect of St. Clements' past is found within the records of our residents, many of whom are still living today. Our first natives and successive waves of settlers from British and European origins stamped our municipality with culturally rich and varied traditions. I trust you will take pride as I do in reading about their courage, determination, resourcefulness and character.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Samuel Uskiw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'S'.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our heartfelt thanks to the many people who submitted articles, photographs and family histories. Special thanks to the following who gave of their time, effort and energy to ensure the success and completion of this project.

Andrews, Alice	Martin, Florence
Andrews, Robert	Martin, Lois
Bosko, Peter	Martin, Roberta
Bruce, Patrick	Martin, Wilfred
Bunio, John	Murray, Doreen
Chorney, Adeline	Myslawchuk, Steve
Collingwood, Bryan	Perchotte, Jen
Craigie, Dorothy	Sopko, Stanley
Devanik, Tannis	Starodub, Joanne
Dewer, Ione	Starodub, Phillip
Doherty, Helen	Sul, Stella
Dolinski, John	Taylor, Robert (Bob)
Dubas, Stella	Wachal, Frank
Fiebelkorn, Debbie	Wardrop, Olive
Froehlich, Noreen	Waytiuk, Cathy
Furdyck, Mary	Waytiuk, Audrey
Gloss, Jack	Whitelam, Debbie
Goodman, Pat	Wilson, Jim
Harrison, Olga	Witwicki, Jenny
Herda, Shirley	Wood, Henry
Jonasson, Isobel	Wood, Jackie
King, Len (Pat)	Woodward, Eileen
Kozyniak, Joan	Woodward, Miranda
Linklater, Betty	

Special vote of thanks to the Provincial Archives of Manitoba, Provincial Library and the Department of Education - Fletcher Building, the Staff of the Rural Municipality of St. Clements and Inter-Collegiate Press.

In a publication of this size there are bound to be errors contained therein. These errors are the responsibility of the coordinator, Mrs. Shirley L. Herda and no reflection on the Committee above.



Victor Watko



Telephone: 1-(204) 482-3300
EAST SELKIRK, MANITOBA
ROE OMO

In the space of One Century the landscape of our Municipality was transformed from alternating areas of dense bush, open prairie and swamps, to fertile farm lands and villages, which offer all local services including Churches of various denominations, Schools, Recreation, Service Shops and Stores, all of which have changed over the years to accommodate the needs of the people.

The Municipality is now served by a network of gravel surfaced Municipal Roads and also many miles of Provincial Trunk Highways and Provincial Roads. We also have constructed many miles of drainage ditches to protect our fertile soil.

I want to pay tribute to the first Council of St. Clements, led by Reeve, Robert Hay, for taking on such an impossible task. I also want to pay tribute to all succeeding Council members, School Board trustees, our public service employees, and to all our pioneers who worked so hard to make our Municipality one of the finest in the land, and it is my hope that those who succeed us will strive to improve on the foundations already in place.

I Commend our Centennial Committee for their hard work in planning and co-ordinating the activities of our Centennial Year 1984 A.D.

To our Historical Committee and our Historian, Mrs. Shirley Herda, a special "Thank You" for your dedicated service.

To all who read this book, I hope you enjoy its contents, I also hope it will be a form of learning especially for our young people who did not live through the most trying times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victor Watko".

Reeve.



MANITOBA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

On behalf of all residents of Gimli constituency, I wish to extend my congratulations to the Rural Municipality of St. Clements on the occasion of its celebration of One Hundred Years of Incorporation in 1984.

The R. M. of St. Clements has a rich history. The many people who settled this area have added a new dimension to our culture and we are all the richer for it.

In 1984 we pause to remember, to recall the struggles and successes, and to pay tribute to the many men and women who have made their contribution to the settlement of the R. M. of St. Clements.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all those individuals who have contributed pictures and articles to this book and offer congratulations to those persons who through their untiring efforts have made this Centennial History a reality.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Bucklaschuk
M.L.A. for Gimli

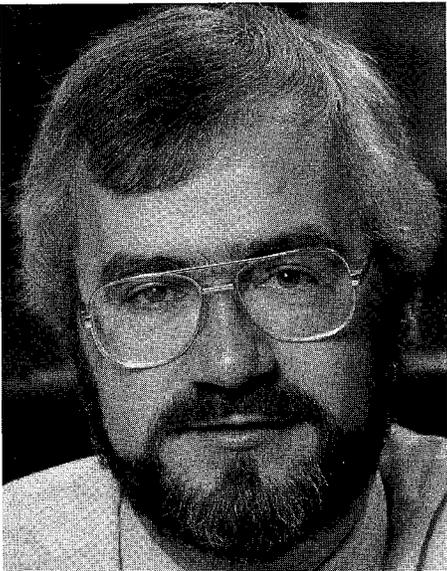
Dear Friends:

Knowing our history makes us prouder of the little piece of earth we call home.

Those who want to learn about their history deserve credit for undertaking the meticulous work required for this task. Those of us who benefit from the hard work of volunteer historians owe to them not only thanks but also congratulations for having shed light on the dark pages of the past.

I am pleased to be able to add my voice to the many who are appreciative of the efforts going into the 100th anniversary history of this area.

Best wishes for the book and the future!



Terry Sargeant
Terry Sargeant, M.P.
Selkirk-Interlake

Father God:

We keep forgetting all of those who lived before us.

We keep forgetting those who lived and worked in this community.

We keep forgetting those who prayed and sang hymns in this church before we were born.

We keep forgetting what our fathers have done for us.

We commit the sin, Lord, of assuming that everything begins with us.

We drink from wells we did not find, we eat food from farmland we did not develop, we enjoy freedoms which we have not earned, we worship in churches which we did not build, we live in communities that we did not establish.

This day, make us grateful for our heritage.

Turn our minds to those who lived in another day and under different circumstances, until we are aware of their faith and work.

Today we need to feel our oneness, not only with those of a recent generation who lived here, but those of every generation in every place, whose faith and works have enriched our lives.

We need to learn from them in order that our faith will be as vital, our commitment as sincere, our worship as alive, our fellowship as deep, as many of the devout and faithful who lived in other times and places.

AMEN

(Convenanter's Church)
(Grand Pré, N.B.)



*Early Settlers
(names unknown)*



RIDEAU HALL
OTTAWA
K1A 0A1

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
RÉSIDENCE DU GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL

18th January 1984

Дякує Вівар:

Dear Mr. Dolinski,

Thank you for your letter of the 5th of January and for the two books of your poetry, one in Ukrainian and one in English, which I am pleased to have for our Canadiana library.

With reference to your query about the poem you have written about me, I would have no objection to it being published in your next book and/or in the Rural Municipality Centennial Book, should that be your wish.

Yours sincerely,

U. N. Spivak
Governor General of Canada

Mr. John Dolinski,
R. R. 1,
East Selkirk,
Manitoba,
ROE OMO



Ed's first campaign photograph.



In 1962, Ed was re-elected to his 3rd term as MLA.



Ed becomes leader of the Manitoba NDP June 7, 1969.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

submitted by John Dolinski

*Up the ladder from the bottom rung,
he never seemed to tire
That incredible man from Beausejour,
His Excellency Edward Schreyer,
From MLA to MP, then to Premier
a remarkable achievement indeed.
Yet he always found the time,
to speak to those in need.*

*Just a common farmer's son,
he began teaching at an early age,
But soon he joined the Political arena,
and turned another page,
many folks who knew him wondered,
when his dazzling career would stop
But there was no turning back
until he hit the top.*

*Yet his success never got to him
He showed no arrogance nor pride,
He still retained his humble disposition
and this he did not hide.
Some times we all wonder
how he was so placid and serene
when he was called to represent his Country
by her Majesty, the Queen*

*He won our respect and admiration
we are not afraid to tell him so,
But still he maintained that pleasant poise
of the man we used to know.
He discharged his duties very well
throughout our wide Domain.
But we are all waiting patiently
to welcome him home again.*

THE HOMESTEADERS

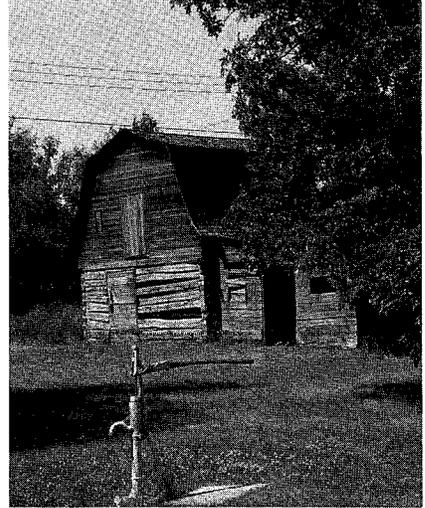
John Dolinski

*Of course we're smart we did it all
We drive big cars and trucks,
But we owe a debt of gratitude
To the pioneer with his ox,
Let's not forget this courageous man
Who braved these odds alone,
With no assistance of any kind
He did things on his own.*



*He had no trails or roads to follow
Only the high spots he could track,
He drove his ox the best he could
Or packed things on his back,
They hued the logs with a broad ax
They followed a narrow line,
Made by wood and charcoal
On a stretched out binder twine.*

*On a big and rugged sawhorse
They followed a steady beat,
One pushed and saw downwards
While the other one heaved beneath,
I love to admire the old pioneer buildings
As the sun sets in the west,
They stand out there as symbols
To remind us of the past.*



*Observe those old sagging buildings
As they stand there so forlorn,
But the dove and tail corners are visible
The walls are grey and torn,
We can only marvel the pioneers tenacity
That tough and hardy breed,
There is history written on those walls
If we would only stop and read.*

