

NOTABLE PEOPLE

R.M. of Morris's Significant Historical Figures

List of Significant People (The Short List)

There are 32 individuals who have been identified in this evaluation part of the R.M. of Morris's Notable People project as being Significant People. This list has been developed by including only those individuals presented on the complete inventory whose claims for potential significance were noted as High.

The list has been organized by occupation or general claims. Each entry features text from our local history, *Furrows in the Valley*, along with a brief note on the person's significance, called the Heritage Value Summary.

FOUNDERS

Count Antoine d'Aubigny
John Lowe
R.H. Waddell

PIONEERS – SETTLERS

Henry Warkentin Brandt
Flavien Chartier
George Clubb
James Clubb
Abram Groening Sr. (and wife Helena Loeppky)
Peter Kastner Family
James Lewis
Carl A. Reckseidler
Sevoine Robert (known as Celevenne)
Henry Snarr
H.W. Brown
Orville Brown
Matthew James Stevenson

MERCHANTS - BUSINESS

Diedrich Heppner
Moses Rosner

SERVICES

Mrs. James Lewis
Louise Ritz
John Wilton

EDUCATION – TEACHERS

Isaak J. Warkentin

TRANSPORTATION

William Shewan

MEDICAL SERVICES

Mrs. Helena Eidse
Dr. Robert F. McTavish
Dr. R.L. Ross

CLERGY – RELIGIOUS

Father J.A. Beaudry
Father Mathias Desrosier
Sister Claudette Robert

POLITICIANS

Hon. Richard Spink Bowles
Hon. William Clubb

MILITARY

Lewis Brothers

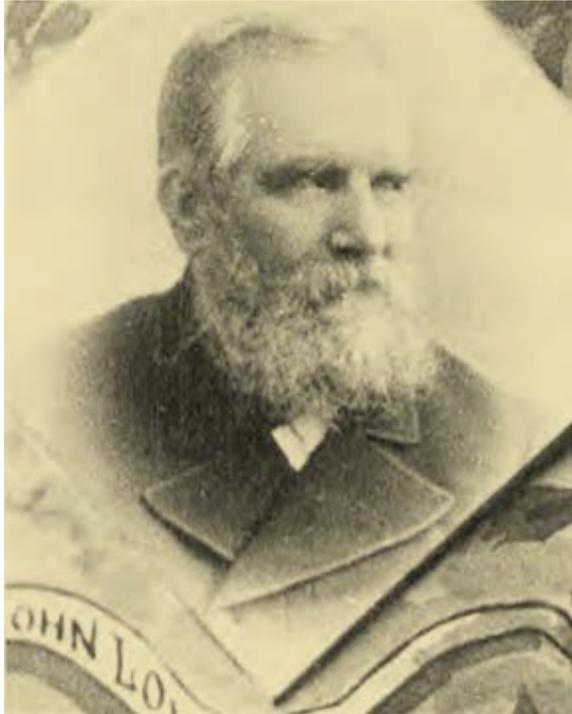
COUNT ANTOINE D'AUBIGNY



The community of Aubigny was named in 1903 to honour Count Antoine d'Aubigny, a rich Frenchman who became a Trappist monk and who left his fortune to establish a mission in Manitoba.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “The first settlers who arrived in 1877 from New Hampshire, U.S.A. were the Chartier and Hebert families. They took possession of River Lots 447 and 441, respectively. Their descendants are still living on Lot 447, 100 years later. Before the arrival of these settlers, this area was inhabited by some Métis families, the Berthelette, Lariviere, Desmarais, Laplante and Boudrault, who had taken possession of some lots as 'squatters', meaning that they had no official rights to their land. Many of these families had to find other homes when the government sold their lands to the newcomers. During the 1880s, families by the names of Decelles, Robert, Pelland, Millette, Roy, Mousseau, Clyne, Laferriere, St. Jacques, St. Onge, Bessette, Verrier, L'Heureux, Perreault, Clement, Fisette, Bouchard, Girouard, Ouimet, arrived from Eastern Canada. These families belonged to the Parish of Ste. Agathe, and often walked to church there on Sunday, to attend mass. The first post office in Aubigny was opened in 1885, with Henri Mousseau acting as postman.”

JOHN LOWE



John Lowe (1824-date) was a major political and early agricultural pioneer in the Morris area.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Mr. Lowe was listed in *Canada's Who's Who* in 1910. Born in 1824, in Warrington, Lancashire, England, he arrived in Canada at the age of sixteen. He was first employed as a bookkeeper in a Montreal fur house, and was a reporter for the *Montreal Gazette* in 1846. In 1852, he left for Toronto, where he became involved with another newspaper. He entered the civil service as assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, with the title of Secretary in 1869, having in charge, immigration to Canada. John Lowe was Secretary of Agriculture in 1874, the year the Mennonites were immigrating to Canada, and had established correspondence with them regarding their settlement in the province of Manitoba. In July 1888, he retired from public office. He took great interest in Manitoba farming, and was known as the founder of Lowe Farm.

“The story of the Lowe Farm area began in the early 1880s. Around the year 1882 three Englishmen, J. Lowe, Mr. Rose, and Mr. Hope, who apparently were men of means and influence, obtained large tracts of land at very low cost in the area west of Morris and immediately north of the Mennonite West Reserve. They established farms in the districts now known as Lowe Farm, Rose Farm and Hope Farm respectively. An idea of the size of their holdings may be gained from the fact that in 1897 John Lowe held 13 sections (8320 acres) in and adjacent to what is now the school district of Lowe Farm – more than 8,320 acres.”

R.H. WADDELL



A smart man, well thought of, a go-getter. So was the pithy summary of the life of R.H. Waddell, the founder of the community of Sperling. Born in 1866 in Ontario, Waddell arrived in the Morris area in the late 1800s.

He was determined to have a townsite, later called Sperling, on his section 29-6-2 W, and to ensure a more sympathetic view of the railway companies he built a livery barn, general store and hardware store to suggest the best location for a community.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “R.H. Waddell was born in 1866 in Ontario. After residing in North Dakota he came to Sperling, Manitoba, where he owned land upon which he hoped to locate a village. He was instrumental in starting a park about one quarter of a mile east of the village in 1900, but some Hallowe'en pranksters threw garbage on his endeavor and the area became the nuisance ground. It has been said that he was a millionaire three times over. The Waddells had two children, Alfred and Theresa. In 1926, Mr. Waddell's beloved wife passed away.

In 1933, he loaded his 1924 Dodge with Boy Scouts to take them to camp Killarney. He visited with his sister Mrs. Elizabeth Millar before he returned the boys to their homes. The teenagers of Sperling on their first driving trips were warned to give R.H. a wide berth if they met him in their travels. His driving left much to be desired.

His latter years were lived in the yellow house with the windmill, in the village. His death came in 1938, at the age of 72.

HENRY W. BRANDT



Brandt family in front of H. W. Brandt residence in Rosenort in 1930. LEFT TO RIGHT: Nick Brandt, Peter W. Brandt, Jake Brandt, California, Heinrich W. Brandt, Peter F. Brandt, Peter T. Brandt, California, Mrs. Peter F. Brandt, Calif., Mary W. Brandt, Mrs. H. W. Brandt, Helena W. Brandt, Mrs. Abe Classen, Nebraska, Margaret W. Brandt.

Henry W. Brandt was a key pioneer businessman in the R.M. of Morris, first as the developer of Rosenort's inaugural cheese factory and then as the operator of an early general store. In both enterprises, Mr. Brandt showed himself to be an astute observer of gaps in local business needs, but as a devout Mennonite who eschewed grand profits, he also made himself well known and well respected in the Rosenort area.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: "Henry W. Brandt was born September 23, 1867, in the Ukraine. He was a boy of seven when he came along with his parents, to help establish a new village—Steinbach—in the year 1874. His father had learned the trade of building wagons in the old country and so taught him to do carpenter work. All the education Henry got was in the old village school, to learn to read and write and do some number work, and that in the German language only. To be successful in this English speaking country, he would have to be a self-taught man. As a young man, Henry became a member of the Klein Gemeinde. He had also learned to know a girl, Elizabeth Warkentin, who lived in the same community in the village of Rosenort. Henry and Elizabeth were married, June 8, 1890, and decided to make their home in Rosenort the following year.

It was believed that farming was the only occupation to make a Christian living. Of course it had to be mixed farming. Every family had some cows for milk, butter and meat. However, there was no cheese factory in the community, and Henry Brandt saw the need and started the first one that very year. A little later he realized that the community was much more in need of a general store. Around the year 1906 Henry Brandt decided to start farming. He sold the store to Johann W. Deck, who was in company with several Rempels, and they hired H.H. Enns as a manager of the store. Brandt bought a quarter section of land, east of the Morris River, from Klass Friesen, father of Peter W.X. Friesen. Brandt used his carpentry skills, and with some help, built the whole set of buildings on a site, which was on the bank of a creek running into the Morris River."

FLAVIEN CHARTIER



Mr. and Mrs. Noel Chartier in 1921, in front of the house that Flavien Chartier built in 1877.

Flavien Chartier was a major Francophone pioneer in the Ste. Agathe area, arriving here in 1877. The Chartier family was active in the community for more than a century.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “In 1877, Flavien Chartier left Nashua, New Hampshire where he had been employed in an axe factory. Accompanied by his wife Zoe, a son Alfred and a daughter Zoe, he eventually boarded a boat headed for Manitoba, in search of a promising land where he could raise a family. Originally from Quebec, it was most appropriate that the family travel as far as St. Boniface, which they reached in May. Under the instigation of Reverend Fillion, Flavien left his family in St. Boniface and walked back south along the west side of the Red River until he reached a spot ten miles south of Ste. Agathe. This he decided was the future site of his home and with the determination and courage that only pioneers can appreciate, he cleared a piece of land and built a log cabin on the river lot known as 447. In October of that year, he walked back to St. Boniface where he became the proud owner of a cart and a pair of oxen. Needless to say it took but little time to pack his wife and children in that new wonder – and all headed south to what was to be home to the Chartiers for over a century. Flavien and his wife had more children but only four were left after the untimely deaths of several infants and of six year old Severe, who drowned in the Red River.”

GEORGE CLUBB



Mr. and Mrs. George Clubb in early 1900's.

George Clubb and his wife Alice were pioneers in the Broadview district, southwest of Morris, with George arriving in 1878. Their farm, called “Clover Lodge” is still in the Clubb family.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “The year was 1878 and the railroad had just been completed from St. Paul, Minnesota to Winnipeg. “Land for sale - easy accessibility by rail,” were advertisements appearing in many Ontario papers. In Brantford, Ontario, these advertisements caught the eye and challenged the pioneer spirit of George Clubb, a native of Scotland and his recent bride, Alice Jex. They proceeded to purchase land in Township four, five miles southwest of the Town of Morris, in the Broadview District. In early 1880, George Clubb arrived in Emerson. His Scottish Presbyterian upbringing comes to the fore when he wrote to his wife, “This is a wicked place. The hotels are open even on Sunday.” In the later letter to his wife in May, 1880, he reported, “I have managed to get eight bushels of wheat and eight of oats sown. I intend to put in some

potatoes and turnips. It has been a very cold and backward Spring, but I like the country. It is good for a poor man, or after the first year, an independent man – that is, if he has any luck. There are no woods to clear. All you have to do is put in the plough and sow the seed, then hope for the best in weather. On July 15 of that same year he reported, “I have a job helping to draw lumber up from a raft. The lumber is to be used to build a hotel. It is a very wet and late season. My potatoes that I planted have all rotted in the ground. Next week I will commence to build our “mansion” on our land.” This reference is to a small frame, one-storey home, which served as a residence until 1896, when a two-storey frame house replaced it. This house is still standing on the original property. In a subsequent letter Mr. Clubb reported that the house was completed and suggested that his wife Alice join him in Morris in September, 1880. He proposed to meet her at Emerson, as there was only one boat a week running from Emerson to Morris. With Alice's arrival in September they lived in the Town of Morris for several winters, where Mr. Clubb worked as a blacksmith. In the summer months they lived on the farm.”

JAMES CLUBB



James and Jennie Clubb in 1939.

James Clubb was one of first pioneer settlers to the Broadview area. Married to Jennie Morrison and father to three children, James was a leader, serving as a councilor (1905-10), reeve (1912-14), and as a Broadview School Trustee. He was also active in farm delegations and in efforts to improve local drainage and build bridges.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “James Clubb purchased land adjacent to his brother George in the Broadview area in the late 1890s, here building a home for his family. He was a farmer who was interested and involved in community affairs. He served as councillor for the Rural Municipality of Morris for five years, four years as Reeve (1911-13), and was school trustee for the Broadview School. Being active in farm organizations, he was frequently a delegate to conventions in both eastern and western Canada. During his term in office, high waters in 1912 meant the implementation of improved drainage policies, and a new steel bridge over the Red River. The latter involved a trip to Ottawa to interview federal authorities for the purpose of obtaining assistance for a bridge, which was not accomplished until 1920. The number of schools by this time had increased to thirty-one, a by-law requiring the licensing of all dogs in the municipality brought a delegation of 59 people to a council meeting. Road repairs were constantly required and ditches reconstructed. All this in the name of progress!”

ABRAM GROENING SR.

Abram Groening was one of the first settlers to Manitoba, a hard-working pioneer farmer with a particular interest in gardening. With his wife Helena, he arrived here in the mid 1870s and moved to the Kane-Lowe Farm area in 1897.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Three brothers, Abram, Jacob and Frank Groening, were early residents in the Lowe Farm, Kane and Rose Farm area. They had emigrated in 1874-75 from Bergthal, Russia. Abram Groening Sr. (b. 1851) and wife, Helena (Loeppky), arrived with the first settlers to Manitoba. Abram and Helena Groening spent their first winter in Manitoba in a sod house. Provisions were meager, consisting mostly of bread and potatoes and whatever the men were able to hunt. Abram Groening soon moved to the Altona-Winkler area, known then as the West Reserve. Abram settled in Gnadenthal, where he farmed for twenty years. Abram Groening was a hard working pioneer farmer, with a particular interest in gardening. The construction of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railroad in 1889 stimulated agricultural opportunities in the Kane-Lowe Farm region. As a result, Abram decided to make the move and in 1897 purchased 21-4-2 West for the sum of \$8.00 per acre. The land was unbroken and covered with prairie grass so tall the cows would occasionally get lost. Using a sturdy team of oxen and help from sons, Henry and Abram Jr., the land was slowly broken. Abram Groening understandably appreciated the Jewish pedlars who occasionally worked the district at that time. Often, they would stop overnight at the Groening farm. When trips into Lowe Farm were necessary, Abram Groening would take his grandchildren along on a buggy, taking care that each had equal opportunity of riding with grandfather. As Abram grew older and his share of the farm work was absorbed by his sons, he would involve himself wherever possible. During harvest, he would take the job of "busheler," filling and tying the bags of grain cleaned by the thresher. Abram Groening died in 1917, aged 66.”

PETER KASTNER



Peter Kastner family in 1902 at Oakwood Farm. BACK ROW, Left to Right: Otto, Caroline, Elsie, Jake. SECOND ROW: Leonie, Anna, Mrs. Kastner, Peter Kastner, Minnie, Kate. FRONT ROW: Peter, Gertrude, Olive, John.

Peter Kastner began his life in Manitoba in Morris, where he operated a hotel. He later developed "Oakwood Farm" on the Red River just north of Morris. Oakwood Farm is still owned by descendants of the Kastner family.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: "Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kastner moved with their young family to Western Canada in 1893 and settled in the Morris District. Although they travelled from Kastnerville, near Stratford, Ontario, Wilhelmina Kastner's journey to her pioneer home at Morris began in Bavaria, where she was born in 1848. Their first home was a farm west of Morris. In 1895 they moved into Morris, where Mr. Kastner operated a hotel just east of the C.N.R. station and which was known as the "Kastner House." Later it was renamed "The Cecil" and has long since been demolished. In 1906 the hotel was sold and the farm known as "Oakwood Farm," just a mile north of the town of Morris on the banks of the Red River, became the permanent home of the Kastner Family. There were thirteen children, ten daughters and three sons in the family. Peter Kastner died in April, 1919 and his wife, Wilhelmina Kastner died in April, 1947 in her 99th year. At the time of her passing there were 32 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren. The number of great-grandchildren has since exceeded 70 and thus the Kastner family members are far and wide in Canada and the United States. Oakwood Farm was owned and operated for many years after the death of his parents, by one son, John Kastner, while he and his sister, Mrs. Anna Muldner and her son Randolph Muldner resided there. The farm is still owned by descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kastner and remains a beloved centre of family life with ever-present memories of their forebears."

JAMES LEWIS



James Lewis and Emily Moody were the first couple to be married in the Morris district, on December 3, 1878. Ten years later they were photographed, above, with their children Bob, Joe, baby Emily, and Tom.

James Lewis led one of early pioneer families to the Morris district. He married Emily Moody in 1878, and the couple moved to a homestead in 1880, a site that is still occupied by family members. James was very community-minded – he helped form Carleton School District, and served on municipal council and the Agricultural Society. Emily was also active, and has the distinction of being the first president of the first Women's Institute formed in Western Canada.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “One of the earliest pioneer families in the Morris District was the James Lewis family. James Nettleton Lewis was born near Porta Dacon, County Armagh, Ireland, on February 1839. In 1849 the elder Lewis family, of five children, emigrated to Canada, and settled near Mona Mills, Ontario, where James grew up and pursued his trade as a cabinet maker. James came west via Duluth to Moorhead, and from that point on a flat bottom stern wheeler, the "Dacota" to the thriving young city of Winnipeg. Here James followed his trade for the next four years and boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moody. The Moody family, originally from southern Ireland, included Emily Melissa, the youngest of twelve

children. On December 3, 1878, at the home of her brother, George, Emily Moody and James Lewis were united in marriage by the Rev. J.B. Hames, a Methodist minister. This was the first marriage to be performed in the Morris District. Their first home was located just north of the Morris River on the west side. They resided there for two years and their first child, Margaret Alexandria, was born. In the spring of 1880, having decided to farm, they moved to a small house they had built on a homestead site northwest of Morris. Their eldest son, Joseph George, was born here. Having the opportunity to purchase river lots 369 and 371, the Lewis' moved "back off" the prairie in 1882 and lived in a granary until the "new" house was built. The lumber was hauled the previous winter by team and sleigh from Emerson. Mr. Lewis, a Presbyterian, became a Methodist after his marriage, and the family worshipped in the Methodist Church in Morris, but that did not deter James from helping to build the Presbyterian Church at Silver Plains. He was always interested in community affairs; helped form the Carleton School Division, acting as secretary-treasurer for a number of years. He also served on the municipal council, the Agriculture Society, and was a staunch Orangeman. Mrs. Lewis also took an active interest in her church, the Agriculture Society and held the distinction of being the first president of the first Women's Institute formed in Western Canada.”

CARL A. RECKSIEDLER



C.A. Recksiedler family. BACK ROW, Left to Right: Louis, Henry, Helena, Roy. FRONT ROW, Seated: Gustav, Ferdinand, Carl, Matilda, Adelina, Daniel.

Carl A. Recksiedler was a noted pioneer in the Rosenfeld area, and then later in life (after moving to Beausejour for a time) in Sewell.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Carl A. Recksiedler, one of the early settlers of Southern Manitoba, came to Canada from Poland, arriving in Gretna on May 2nd, 1892, with his wife Matilda and a daughter of about nine months old. Not finding any work in Gretna and having no money, he walked to Winnipeg where he got work at the C.P.R. railroad. Being a section man, he worked at Raeburn, Manitoba at \$5.75 per day. A week or so later his wife and daughter came to Winnipeg by train and he got some work at a market garden owned by a Mr. Magner. Several weeks later, the little girl became sick and died. About the middle of August 1892 they came to Rosenfeld and Carl worked at many places, mostly doing carpentry work. They lived in Rosenfeld until 1896, when they moved to Beausejour, Manitoba where they started farming. By 1914 the family included six sons and three daughters, all working and becoming quite prosperous. More land was bought; they finally owned a total of four quarters of land. Transportation until 1917 was all by horses and buggies and in winter by sleigh. It was quite common to drive ten or twelve miles for the family needs in winter, as well as in summer, and on Sunday to church. In 1917, they bought a brand new Model T Ford car, the pride for summer driving. In 1916, they built a large new modern house, so the family did not have to live in the living quarters on one end of the barn anymore. The children were growing up and getting married, and by 1940 they were all married. Carl and Matilda were devoted Christians and members of the Lutheran Church. When they moved to Sewell they joined the St. John's Lutheran Church in Rosenfeld, and were faithful members. Carl and Matilda's family now includes 27 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and some great-great-grandchildren.”

SEVOINE ROBERT (KNOWN AS CELEVENNE)



The original house built by Celevenne Robert, which today houses the fourth generation. STANDING AT REAR: Fortuna, and wife Blanche. SEATED: Mr. and Mrs. Celevenne Robert with Stanislas, children at right, Berthilde, Artémise, Ovide and Frédéric.

Sevoine Robert, a lumberjack and logger originally from Quebec, was an early pioneer to the Aubigny area, arriving in 1880. The log house he built is (still standing?).

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Sevoine, better known as Celevenne, was born May 5, 1852, in Berthier, Province of Quebec. Celevenne met and married Melanise Lafond in Quebec. In 1880, the great westward trek was made by this young couple and their three youngsters, the oldest being five years old. After Celevenne had walked and walked and looked around for a suitable site to settle, he decided on a wooded lot some miles south of the village of Ste. Agathe. There, he built a log cabin for his family, and he turned a small area of sod in a clearing in the bush, in readiness to seed his first crop. History says that his first crop was a whopper of one (1) bushel, which he kept preciousy in the house for the next seeding season. In Quebec, Celevenne was a lumberjack and logger, so the farming business must have been a challenge. The west offered him and his sons the opportunity to be their own bosses; the work was tedious, but freedom was worth it. Once the house was built, an income was needed, so Celevenne went to work on the railroad at night, and during the day he'd clear more land with his horses. The hours of sleep must have been just the bare minimum needed. With hard work by all members of the family, Celevenne bought and cleared more land, which became part of the rich Red River Valley agricultural land.”

HENRY SNARR



Henry Snarr - A Master Farmer who earned the reputation as being one of the most efficient and progressive farmers in the Silver Plains area. A well-liked man, he was also keenly interested in community and municipal affairs spending many years in public life.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: "Henry Snarr was born in Germany on April 9, 1852. He came to Ontario in 1866. Eight years later, in 1874, he journeyed west to Emerson. From this point of entry, he came north to Morris via flat-bottom boat on the Red River and settled on R.L. 385, now the residence of his son, John. A few years later Mr. Snarr returned to Tavistock, Ontario and married Lydia Daum. Five children were born to this pioneer couple.

Until his death in 1925, Henry Snarr was an active and diligent farmer, specializing in top quality seed grain. At times the farm resembled a small experimental station. On several occasions he captured outstanding awards on his exhibits of seed grains at Chicago, Kansas City and Winnipeg seed fairs. He received a gold watch suitably engraved, for the Sweepstakes prize at the Chicago fair, for Timothy seed. Mr. Snarr was keenly interested in all community and municipal affairs, having spent 13 years on the rural council, 10 years as Reeve, also serving as Justice of the Peace. He helped organize the Carleton school district, and was a board member for many years.

This tribute was paid Mr. Snarr by his colleagues upon retirement from office: "In the ten years he has been Reeve, the debts of the municipality have been placed in satisfactory condition, the municipality settled, roads built and graded, schools erected, and the whole municipality has been changed from a practical state of being inhabited, to that of a well settled municipality, having one of the best railway services in Canada."

It is known that Henry Snarr's genuine hospitality and friendliness was a great asset to him in the execution of his duties."

H.W. BROWN



H.W. Brown family in 1911. BACK ROW: Myrtle, Orville, Ella, Chester, Aurilla. FRONT ROW: Evelyn, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Brown, Mabelle

H.W. Brown, was an early agricultural farmer who with his family arrived from Rockford, Illinois to the Sperling area in 1907. Dubbed “Yankee Brown” he established a successful farming operation on which he built a substantial brick house in 1918. Still managed and lived in by now five successive generations of the family, Mr. Brown was a major figure in the history of the community.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “It was April 9, 1907, when my parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Brown and their seven children, ranging in age from 17 years down to 2 years, left Rockford, Illinois, to come to Canada. It was spring when we left Rockford, but in Winnipeg, the snow blocked the train tracks, causing us to spend five days in the Immigration Hall, near the C.P. Station. We finally arrived in Sperling, only to spend two more days during a blizzard at the Hotel, with the owners, the Stevens, who had only just arrived themselves! My father had been in Manitoba the fall before and had located our two sections of land (7 and 8-6-1 West) by finding the mounds in the deep prairie grass. On the northwest corner, nearest Sperling, he erected a small stable and a shack. He had brought some equipment, a team of horses, a cow, a plough and tools. He started to make the foundation for a real house. The house was 16' x 24', one storey. In Rockford, we had a fourteen room house, so this was quite a change. Our carloads of goods arrived somewhat later. One boxcar contained a dismantled barn from our farm in Rockford. Each beam and timber was numbered to facilitate its re-erection, and the following summer it was rebuilt. We younger children had the task of finding and bringing home the stones for the foundation. Of course, we couldn't build the house we had planned, and Papa raised the roof on the shack, so we had an upstairs, and lived there for eleven years. Whenever we teased for a new house, Papa would say, "When we get 40 bushels per acre, we will build one." Well, in 1915, it happened, and as we had a large acreage into wheat, that crop built our brick home, which was completed in 1918. My father was called "Yankee Brown" by the Sperling people, but we were also known

as "East Browns," to distinguish us from the Tom Brown family who lived directly south of Sperling. The descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Brown include 19 grandchildren, 63 great grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. The majority reside in Southern Manitoba, but are also represented across Canada, from Montreal to Victoria. The buildings on the original homestead are now occupied by two grandsons, Glenn and Robert Brown and their families.”

ORVILLE BROWN



Sleeves team at the Browns in 1929

Orville Brown was one of the earliest of the H.W. Brown family who with his brother Chester, jointly operated Brown Bros farm (Lonestar Farm – see H.W. Brown entry). Living and rooted in the farm operation established by his father, he was also a leader and active member in the Sperling community.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Orville was the earliest of the H.W. Brown family. He came to Sperling with the family in 1907 at the age of eighteen. He spent the rest of his life on the farm which was settled by his family. From the mid twenties until the time of his death in 1953, Orville and his brother Chester jointly operated the farm as "Brown Bros." Orville was very active in community affairs. He was a founding member of the Sperling Cooperative Elevator Association and served on the boards of other local Cooperatives. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and served for many years as secretary. He was also secretary-treasurer of the Lone Star School District for several years. An active member of the Sperling United Church, Orville was an elder and a member of the board of stewards. In 1929 Orville married Norma Stonehouse and together they faced the difficulties of the "dirty thirties." Their younger son, Gordon, died accidentally in childhood. The three oldest girls are married to Manitoba farmers: Alice is Mrs. Ken Larson, of Teulon; Carol is Mrs. Doug Brown of Otterburne; and Evelyn is Mrs. Brian Watt of Morris.”

MATTHEW J. STEVENSON



Matthew James Stevenson, was an early and stalwart pioneer to the Morris area, who from an early age had a love for the beauty of trees - in particular, evergreens. To realize his life ambition, he started in 1926 with sons Charles and Bronson, Stevenson Evergreen Nursery, which successfully operated in the Silver Plains district by family for over five decades.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Matthew James (Jim) Stevenson was born in Beachburg, Ontario (April 10, 1872) and emigrated to the Morris district with his parents in 1883. Their home was six miles north of Morris, section 36-5-1 East. Jim's love of trees was evident at an early age. As a youth he brought small trees from the Red River and planted many around his parents' home. In 1894 Jim acquired a half-section of land four miles north of Morris, Section 23-5-1 East. On December 23, 1896 he married Mary Ann Blackwell of Holmfield, who was teaching at Silver Plains School prior to their marriage. They took up residence in a two room shanty on the bank of a coulee which flowed through the farm. There, despite discouraging remarks of some neighbours, they set to work to prove that given proper care trees could be grown on the bare prairies. The first trees planted were hauled fifty miles by a team and sleigh, these being chopped out of a frozen swamp and brought home atop a load of firewood. Spring after spring Jim travelled back to the "bush," a three day trip, for a load of young trees, mostly white spruce, some tamarac and balsam. Matthew attended a Horticultural short course at the Agricultural College (now the University of Manitoba) in Winnipeg, in February, 1926, and it was there that he was convinced that he should be in the nursery business. Evergreen seeds of the better known varieties were ordered, and in May of 1926, the first seedbeds were planted. The growing of evergreens from seed is a long slow task, and takes four to six years to produce some of the varieties to a foot in height. This meant few trees were ready for sales until the 1930s. Business was slow at first, the country being into the Depression. It was also thought by many people that evergreens would not grow on the prairies.

The first trees were peddled door to door on a four wheel trailer, pulled by a 1926 Chevrolet. The trees were usually planted and guaranteed to grow. It took only a few years to demonstrate that evergreens could be successfully grown on the prairies, so this was no longer necessary. 1978 will be the 52nd year of operation.

Jim passed away in 1943, but will long be remembered as a pioneer tree planter of the Red River Valley.”

DIEDRICH HEPPNER



*Diedrich Heppner in his early Lowe Farm days in driver's seat.
LEFT: Abram Giesbrecht, his uncle. RIGHT: Peter Giesbrecht, his
cousin. Silting, another Giesbrecht cousin? (at Winnipeg
Exhibition)*

Diedrich Heppner, “introduced into business by the time he was tall enough to look over the counter”, was a man of high work ethics. He was fond of, and interested in the well-being of young children, instilling in them the importance of education and hard work. Community minded Mr. Heppner served many years in public life, as trustee, advisor, and as a trusted friend.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Diedrich Heppner was born on Jan. 5, 1889, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hoepfner on a farm south of Plum Coulee. His parents were immigrants from Minnesota. They left the farm and moved to Plum Coulee where Mr. Hoepfner had a general store in partnership with Hiebert and Kenty. Here young Diedrich was introduced to business by the time he was tall enough to look over the counter. Education was of prime interest to the Hoepfners and Diedrich attended the Mennonite Educational Institute at Gretna. Later on he became one of the directors of the M.E.I. at Altona where he met his future wife, Susan E. Loewen, daughter of John J. and Anna Loewen. The elder Heppner sold his share of the store and bought Lowe's farm, west of Morris. As people moved in nearby, lots were sold along the C.N.R. tracks, giving the town its long, narrow profile. Diedrich was very fond of children, and had time for his nephews and nieces and in laws. He initiated his nephews into the business he built up and taught them hard work and good management. He also served on the school board for many years and paid his taxes faithfully that the children of Lowe Farm got free books and supplies, which was not the case in other schools in the days of the depression. Mrs. Heppner also liked children and helped out in the teaching profession whenever the teachers were in short supply or ill. He was connected with the church and served for many years as one of three trustees of the Bergthaler Mennonite Church. In the many years he served as a trustee on the Lowe Farm School Board he did much to shape the education of the community. Mr. Heppner was in public life for many years. He served for 8 years as a councillor of the municipality and as reeve for 12 years.”

MOSES ROSNER



Moses and Julia (Morganstern) Rosner.

Moses Rosner and his wife Julia were well-known and respected pioneer business people, establishing a family-owned, general merchandise store in Lowe Farm in 1907. Hard-working, the Rosner's showed great courage in observing the business needs of the community, persevering even when devastation of fire took their store. Of Jewish origins, Mr. Rosner was all-rounded, a respectful observer of the faiths of others.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: "Moses Rosner was born in 1860s in the Province of Bassarabia, Romania. He migrated directly from Romania to Plum Coulee in 1897, where his younger brother Sam had migrated to some twelve years earlier. This brother, who was known as "Uncle Sam," was mayor of the town of Plum Coulee. Moses married in 1900 to Julia Morganstern, who arrived with her parents, brothers and sisters from a neighboring village in Romania. In 1907 Rosners moved to Lowe Farm where they established the business known as M. Rosner and later M. Rosner and Sons, dealing in general merchandising. Although the Rosners were not of the Mennonite faith, Mr. Rosner was very interested and instrumental up to a point in the building of the first church, the Berghaler Church in Lowe Farm. A religious and Godfearing man, he enjoyed discussing religious topics and Biblical characters with the Church Elders. He respected all religions as much as his own which was Judaism, and brought his sons up in the same religion and also with a respect for other faiths. His business ethics contained high moral standards and he tried hard to impart these standards to his family. They were blessed with eight sons, Charles, Israel, Sam, Saul, Irvin, Ephraim, Abe and Bernard. In May of 1921 a great tragedy befell the Rosners. The home and store were burnt to the ground and in this fire the second son Israel at the age of 17 lost his life. Half of the business section of the town was razed. The senior Rosners with all their courage took upon themselves to rebuild and stay in the town. Three generations of Rosners have lived in Lowe Farm. As the sons grew older, Rosner Sr. took less interest in the business and the store

was closed when Abe left for Winnipeg, Mr. Rosner passed away in 1955 and Mrs. Rosner in 1965.”

MRS. JAMES LEWIS



Mrs. James Lewis of Morris, first president of the Women's Institute.

With the theme for work being done in the community and home, and also for women to take an active role in communities, newly organized women's societies supported many worthwhile projects for which they hold many records of achievements. The Morris Institute was one such society, the first organized in Manitoba with pioneer Mrs. James Lewis elected as president in 1910. (see also James Lewis entry)

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “The first Women's Institute movement in the world had its small beginning in Stoney Creek, Ontario. Adelaide Hoodless, the founder, saw the need for better homes, schools, methods of sanitation and more instruction in the care and training of children and also out of a great need in the women themselves for a means of self expression. The Morris Women's Institute is proud of the fact that they hold Charter No. 1 as being the first Institute organized in Manitoba. For this they are indebted to the boundless energy, enthusiasm and loyalty of the late Mrs. Finley McKenzie, who became enthused over the Institute movement on a visit to Ontario in 1910 along with Mrs. Fred Peck's sister, Mrs. Graham, who sought to interest the women of Morris in the movement. Mrs. Peck worked enthusiastically along with Mrs. Graham by driving with horse and buggy through the country for an organizational meeting. Over forty women attended the first meeting on Aug. 13, 1910, and thirty-seven joined, at a fee of twenty-five cents a year. The organization was primarily made up of rural women, so the officers elected were President Mrs. James Lewis, and several others. The first project was to send a box containing butter, eggs, cakes, cookies, honey and dressed chickens to the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg, in time for Thanksgiving. Among the subjects discussed and papers presented the first few years included care and storing of vegetables for winter use; making the home beautiful; a talk on the white plague, known to us as tuberculosis; paper on the ideal wife; a talk by Mrs. Campbell on her trip to the coronation of King Edward VII. Mrs. Nellie McClung gave a lecture on one of her

books. Miss Juniper, from the Extension Service, gave a short course on millinery, "How to Build a Hat" which could be done for one dollar and seventy cents."

LOUISE RITZ



Louise Ritz, first postmistress at De Wet - 1913.

De Wet Post Office - at first functioning in a granary, it was not until 1913, that a purpose-built space was established, set aside in a house built by the first post master, John Ritz. Not uncommon to many fledgling communities, first post offices often involved other services, were social meeting places in addition to exchange of mail services - but in all cases, were of central importance to settlers needs. Louise Ritz served as first postmistress and assistant to her father at De Wet.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Outside of the railway, the post office was the first of public services to be had. Between 1912 and 1913 a decision was made to get a post office for De Wet. The post office was established on April 1, 1913. The first postmaster of De Wet was John Ritz, with Louise Ritz as the assistant. For the first year the post office was in a granary. But in 1913, John Ritz Sr. built a large house on the southeast corner of the S.W. quarter of section 1-4-1W. Space was also provided for the post office. Prior to this the residents of the De Wet district had to go to Rosenfeld for their mail. The Ritz's held the post office till 1920. At that time the mailing list was a good 40 families.”

JOHN WILTON



John Wilton, known for being “unwaveringly honest, straight-forward and public spirited”, served no less than seventeen years in public life – as Reeve of the municipality (1905-07), councilor (1899-1904), alderman, and mayor and postmaster of Morris. He was instrumental in having a pontoon bridge constructed over the Red River in Morris (1913), and instigating a review of drainage policies in the municipality.



Scenes such as this were common, as spring thaw, and water from the west came across the land. It was many years before these problems were corrected.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “The first drainage project undertaken by the provincial government during 1880-1887 was the drainage of the prairie marshes, one of which was the Boyne Marsh. The plan was to prevent flooding by carrying the waters of the Boyne River and Tobacco Creek through to the Morris River by artificial channels and numerous ditches. Considerable flooding in 1912, however, had the people up in arms. There was a great concern that the drainage that had been designed to alleviate problems, only made them worse. Now, lands were flooding that had never flooded before. In May, 1916, various municipalities turned their surplus water onto the Morris Municipality.

John Wilton had been appointed drainage commissioner for the Rural Municipality of Morris and he called a meeting of the ex-Reeves to review the drainage problem. John Wilton, James Clubb, Henry Snarr, Dr. Molloy and A.E.

Code made several decisions. They would request government assistance for financing drainage, employ a competent surveyor for advice, and hold a ratepayers meeting. Ratepayers were urged to co-operate with council to make a strong case for compensation from the government for damages caused, and for maintenance of bridges and ditches in the future. It was agreed that a survey was necessary, but would cost about \$4500.00. The municipalities themselves could not resolve the problem because they did not have the funds, secondly, many drains involved work in two municipalities. The solution? *"Petition to have the work done under The Drainage Act."* This would give government power to act, funds could be provided, and work completed. To this end, petition forms were prepared and circulated, representing the Red River Valley Drainage Improvement Association. Representatives from the municipalities of Morris, Dufferin, MacDonald, Montcalm, Rhineland, Roland and Thompson, who had met for discussion of local water problems, and protested against any further drainage being done until the Drainage Commission had made its report. The hopes expressed were "for a successful end to give the expected relief to the patient and long suffering farmer who has been trying each year to carry on seeding operations in a mixture of water and Red River clay." Dominion land surveyors, Gilbert B. and Samuel Ebenezer McColl, were contracted to make a topographical survey of the entire municipality, including drawing up plans, placing bench monuments, and other work specified. This was to ascertain the losses and damages ratepayers incur as a result of draining land from outside the municipal boundaries, for the purpose of making out a case against the government and adjoining municipalities for compensation, and to suggest remedies to prevent the enormous loss which occurs annually here.

"The basic industry of man is agriculture and the greatest economic service we can render to the Empire, is to increase the production of foodstuffs. Next to the soil itself, the most essential requirement for successful farming is the proper control of surface water. In thorough and systematic drainage, lies the only hope of

ensuring good crops from year to year" quoted by G.B. McColl from "Drainage in the Red River Valley in Manitoba." Drains that were constructed have been the means of reclaiming large areas of swamp land which were converted into productive farms, and to change inaccessible and underdeveloped sections of the country into revenue producing municipalities."

ISAAK J. WARKENTIN



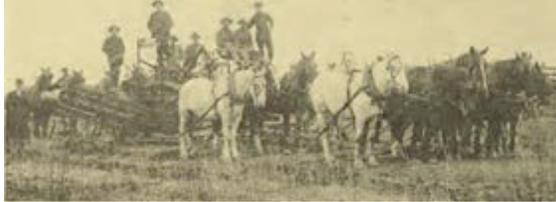
I.J. Warkentin

With a thirst for knowledge – and a love for teaching”, Isaak Warkentin played a pivotal role in the education of many students in the Rural Municipality of Morris (as well as many Mennonite communities in southern Manitoba). At first teaching in rural - and later intermediate schools, Mr. Warkentin, was principal at Lowe Farm in the period 1926-44. He showed himself to be a dedicated teacher, making many personal sacrifices, to benefit and ensure every opportunity to young people.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Isaak J. Warkentin who was born in the Mennonite farm village of Hoffnungsfeld in 1885, could have teathed on a pencil, for that was to be the main tool of his profession for years to come -- teaching. Isaak's parents had come to south central Manitoba from South Russia in the great Mennonite migrations of the 1870s. No doubt they had seen and endured much privation, and instilled in young Isaak the importance of preparing for his future. Isaak attended school in Winkler and Gretna, taking Normal School training in Altona in 1904-1905. After teaching in rural schools for three years, he attended Wesley College in Winnipeg, graduating with a B.A. in 1912. The following term found him holding the position as principal in the Intermediate School in Winkler. Always with a thirst for more knowledge, Isaak left for Germany in 1913, to study at Leipzig University. But the tragedies of war took their toll in his life too, as he was interned as a prisoner of war in the Ruhleben P.O.W. Camp shortly after the outbreak of World War I. No doubt Isaak didn't have an inkling that when he left for Germany in 1913 that it would be five years before he returned; and not with the accomplishment of knowledge and education, but with the taste of bitter experience. In 1919, this seeker returned to the halls of learning at the Normal School in Winnipeg, spending a term there before he resumed his first love, teaching. During the period from 1919 to 1953, Isaak taught in many Mennonite communities including Winkler, Altona, Lowe Farm, Steinbach and Grunthal. During his eighteen years as principal in Lowe Farm (1926-1944), he

participated in everything possible, having a real desire to stimulate and motivate young people towards a better future. He loved to travel, and frequently showed slides at school, using his own projector. He supplied free textbooks to students he thought would benefit, making many sacrifices out of his own pocketbook during the Depression years.”

WILLIAM SHEWMAN



Crew of the road building gang in 1910. It took 18 horses to pull this elevating grader. Billy Shewman worked on one of these gangs.

William Shewman - a Roadmaster who played a key role in the early building of roads and highways in the Municipality of Morris. Here, where the need for roadwork increased as the district became settled, he contracted to build many of the roads – the first being in 1900. Owning as many as 100 horses at one time, Mr. Shewman furnished teams of horses for graders.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “During the first summer, a road was put through past our place. Billy Shewman (the father of Harry Shewman, M.L.A.) had an elevator grader and horses for work. I think there were 20 horses on each grader, but I'm not sure. A large tent for the horses, and cabooses for the men and family, made up the caravan, and with this outfit they camped wherever a road was to be made. It was wonderful for us to have children to play with. We enjoyed Lottie, Lily and Harry Shewman so much, and it was a lonely day for us when they moved on. Roadmasters had the power to require teams or carts, wagons or plows, horses or oxen, and men to manage them, from any person within the district. In the event of an emergency, the roadmaster had the authority to call out any person in his district to repair bridges or remove obstructions caused by washouts, etc. This applied to any local or public road, not including the "Great Highway," in the municipality, the first being in 1900, for which he furnished teams for two graders for \$52.00 per day. A considerable amount of road work was done that year by Mr. Shewman's teams, since his remuneration was \$4,628.00. Tom Tinkler and W.P. Falordeau operated the graders.”

MRS. HELENA EIDSE



Mrs. Abram E. Eidse, midwife, bonesetter and undertaker.

Mrs. **Helena Eidse** was a noted pioneer and midwife in the Rosenhoff area, practicing at a time when doctors rarely attended women in childbirth. She learned her skills, often assisting as a guide and English interpreter to Dr. McTavish (one of the first doctors in the area) who taught her nursing and midwifery. She shared the duties with other midwives in the area, following in the footsteps of pioneers, Mrs. John P. Friesen and Mrs. Klaas Brandt.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Mrs. Helena Eidse (1861-1938) was the giant in her field. She delivered hundreds of babies (no records can establish the exact number), the last one on August 23, 1938. She never lost a baby and only one mother died in childbirth, in 1910.”

DR. ROBERT MCTAVISH



Dr. McTavish

Pioneer Dr. Robert McTavish first began his life in the Morris area, homesteading with his four brothers – at what would become McTavish Siding. Recognizing the civic needs of an early community, he later took an active role in public life, serving as mayor of Morris in 1885. As a doctor, he practiced at a time when rural areas had few of them, and when good medical care had up to the time been only available in larger centres.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “One of the first doctors in this area was Dr. Robert F. McTavish. He was one of the four McTavish brothers who settled north-west of Morris on homesteads there. It has been reported that Dr. McTavish delivered his first baby at the age of eighteen, which raises some question as to when he received his medical training. The McTavish's lived in a house on Main Street from which the doctor practised medicine. The good doctor also served as mayor of the town of Morris in 1885, during the famous "railroad controversy" years. It appears he spent more time doctoring than mayoring, as when he left office there was some delight expressed amongst his colleagues.”

DR. R.L. ROSS



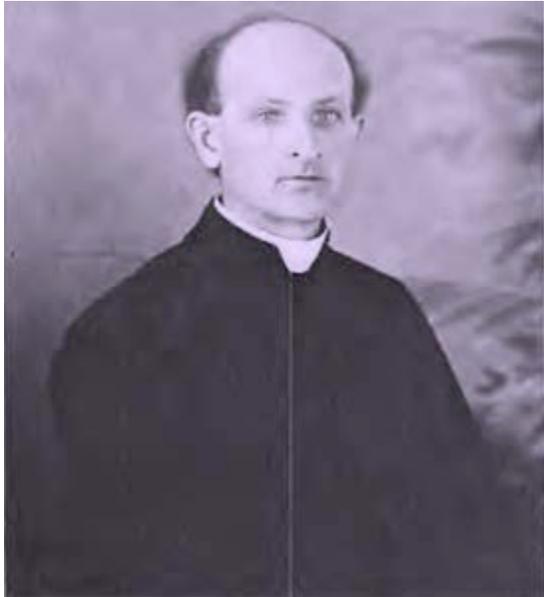
Dr. Ross

Dr. Ross was a noted early **doctor**, the first medical doctor in the Morris area (1909). He practiced at a time when doctors were prepared to make home visits, when horse and buggy were still the primary means of local transportation, and before first hospitals were established in the district.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Dr. R.L. Ross was well known throughout the district. He first became medical officer here in 1909, succeeding Dr. McTavish.

The first hospital was established by Dr. Arkin in a home on Charles Street, in Morris in 1936. It operated on a shoestring budget, but provided needed medical care for local residents. These facilities were not adequate, and in the 1940s the Molloy home, a large two storey dwelling, was remodelled to serve as a hospital, served by Dr. J.S. Holowin. A district nurse was hired in the early 1900s and supplied with a horse and buggy to accomplish her duties in the district. Not long after, complaints were received from her that the pony was just too slow. Nurse McIntyre wanted a car! In 1928, a Chevrolet coupe roadster was purchased (for \$875.00) from the J.H. Garage, for her use. Apparently this nurse also served other municipalities, as she was ordered not to drive this car in those municipalities from whom no remuneration was received! In the hard times of the Depression, the public health nurse was let go, as they couldn't afford her services.”

FATHER J.A. BEAUDRY



Father J.A. Beaudry, was parish priest in Aubigny for 26 years. He arrived in Aubigny in 1919.

Father Beaudry was a long-serving, early priest arriving to the Parish of St. Antoine d'Aubigny in 1919. Succeeding Father Desrosier (founding priest), Father Beaudry served 26 years in the parish including during a period of construction (1928-45) when a new rectory and church were built. He dedicated much of his life to the parish, encouraging new settlement during its early years.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Father J.A. Beaudry spent 26 years in the Aubigny parish from 1919 till 1927, 1928 to 1945 and again in 1948 until 1950. On one of his absences (1927-1928), Father Beaudry announced that he was going down east (probably Quebec) to encourage families to settle in the Aubigny area.”

FATHER MATHIAS DESROSIER



Father Mathias Desrosiers, who was the founding priest of the R.C. parish of Aubigny in 1903. When he left Aubigny in 1919, he went to St. Jean Baptiste



Aubigny's first church from 1903-1932 and the first rectory from 1903-1931.

Father Mathias Desrosier is noted as the Founding Priest at the Roman Catholic Parish of d'Aubigny.

Arriving in 1903 and serving 16 years at a time when the first church and rectory were established, he was prominent in the parish's formative years. He is also noted for having encouraged farming among the new settlers who numbered 32 families at the time.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: "The parish of St. Antoine d'Aubigny, was founded in 1903 and given the name of a rich Frenchman, the Count Antoine d'Aubigny. He became a Trappist monk at St. Norbert, and had left money to help open a mission in Manitoba. The first priest to reside in Aubigny was Father Mathias Desrosiers. He spent the winter of 1903-1904 at the home of Alfred Chartier, celebrating mass in their home. In the spring of 1904, a church and rectory were built on the same lot as the present church, but slightly to the east. This first church was later used as a parish hall, while the rectory served as a convent from 1932 until 1967. This is now the Liddles' residence. When Father Desrosiers took the census of his parish in 1903, he counted 32 families made up of 255 persons. He encouraged farming and owned the first steam engine and plow in the area."

SISTER CLAUDETTE ROBERT



Sister Claudette Robert, who became a Sister of St. Joseph in August 1975. She is a daughter of Louis J. Robert, and great-granddaughter of pioneers, Sivoine and Melanie Robert.

Sister **Claudette Robert** is noteworthy for the religious role she chose in life – of personal sacrifice and service to the needs of others with the order of St. Joseph. She is the great granddaughter of pioneer settlers, Sivoine (Celevenne) and Melanie Robert who arrived to the Aubigny area as early as 1880 (see separate entry).

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Sister Claudette Robert became a Sister of St. Joseph in August 1975. She is a daughter of Louis J. Robert, and great-granddaughter of pioneers, Sivoine and Melanie Robert.”

HON. RICHARD SPINK BOWLES



Richard Spink Bowles (1912-1988): Lawyer,
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba (1965-1970)

Richard Spink Bowles was a major political figure, a practicing lawyer (1937-65) who was appointed Queen's Counsel (1955) and who served as Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba (1965-70). He owned a property in the Union Point area, still used as a retreat by family members. Well-known and respected in the area, Honorable Bowles is buried at Union Point Cemetery.

As Sourced from: *Memorable Manitobans: Richard Spink Bowles (1912-1988)*: "Born at Winnipeg 16 November 1912, son of dentist Manley Bowles (1875-1946) and Florence Mae Spink (1884-1958), grandson of Samuel Spink, he was educated at Kelvin High School and University of Manitoba (BA 1933, LLB 1937). He practiced law from 1937 to 1965, establishing his own law firm in 1940, and being appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1955. He was the first President of the Winnipeg Home and School Association in 1952, a member of the Winnipeg Board of Parks and Recreation from 1953 to 1957, President of the Manitoba Bar Association (1961) and of the Law Society of Manitoba (1964 to 1965). He served as a member of the Welfare Planning Council and President of the United Way. He was made a Knight of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. He received honorary degrees from the University of Manitoba (1968) and the University of Winnipeg, and he received the Manitoba Centennial Medal from the Manitoba Historical Society (1970), a Good Citizenship Award (1971), a Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal (1977), and a Hall of Fame Award from the Red River Valley Historical Society. He returned to private law practice following his term of office as Lieutenant-Governor, serving also as Chancellor of the University of Manitoba from 1974 to 1977. He died at his home, 928 Wellington Crescent, on 9 July 1988 and was buried in Union Point Cemetery at St. Agathe, Manitoba."

HON. WILLIAM CLUBB



Wedding of W.R. Clubb and Gertrude Kastner - Dec. 3, 1913.

William Reid Clubb, son of pioneer George Clubb (see George Clubb entry), was a major political figure, active in both local and provincial government - first as MLA for Morris and later as Minister of Labour. Married to Gertrude Kastner (see Kastner family entry), George Clubb was well-known in the Morris area, a prominent member of the community who from the beginning, remained actively involved in the family farm (Clover Lodge) throughout his life.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: "After his graduation from the Manitoba Agriculture College, William Reid Clubb joined his father in operating the farm in the Broadview District, which the family had named "Clover Lodge." This name is still used by the members of the family to this day. William was elected to the Morris Municipal Council, which was his first public office. In 1920, at the age of 36, he was elected M.L.A. for Morris in the Manitoba Legislature. Two years later he was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Public Works. In 1934 he became the first Minister of Labour in the Manitoba Provincial Government and headed up the Department of Labour for seven years. In December, 1913, Bill Clubb married Gertrude Kastner, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kastner of Oakwood Farm, Morris. Bill and Gertrude continued to take an active interest in Clover Lodge Farm throughout their lives. Bill Clubb passed away at his beloved farm home in August, 1962 and Gertrude Clubb passed away in December, 1977, at the age of 93."

THE LEWIS BROTHERS



FAR LEFT: James P., Jerry and Clark Lewis.



Owen Lewis, all sons of Tom and Vera (Palmer) Lewis, served in the Army or Air Force during World War II.

Lewis Brothers – James, Clark, Jerry and Owen were four brothers who served in the armed forces during the Second World War. They represent thousands of Canadians who served overseas during the war, and like so many others are recognized for their personal sacrifice, individual roles and contribution. They exemplify dedication to country and are particularly noteworthy for the collective sacrifices made of one family and community. The Lewis brothers are grandsons of noted pioneers Mr. and Mrs. James Lewis (see individual entries) both who held active and distinctive positions in the Morris community.

As noted in *Furrows in the Valley*: “Tom (Lewis) married Vera Palmer of Treherne, in 1917. Vera died in 1925, leaving Tom to bring up four little boys; Jim, Clark, Jerry and Owen. During World War II, the boys served in the armed forces, Jim and Clark, air Force, Jerry and Owen, in the army. Owen died in 1960 and left his wife, Lorna (nee Walker) with Pat, Tim and Barry to carry on the family name. Jerry, married to Betty Lou Ginn of Dominion City, died in June, 1973. There are three children from this union - Kim, Brock and Lori. Jim and Clark, unmarried, reside in Winnipeg. During his lifetime, Tom Lewis was always very active in community affairs; served as reeve of the municipality of Morris, helped organize and was the first President of the local Pool Elevator Association. He also acted as trustee on the school board, was very active in the Agriculture Society, the Game and Fish Association, in local and provincial politics and was well known provincially for his race horses. In 1949; he married Miss Bertha Wood of Melita. He died in March, 1971. Emily Lewis married Charles Kastner, a local boy, in 1912. They farmed northwest of Morris until their retirement to town in 1943. Charles died in 1955 and Emily in 1962. They had four children, Louis, Eric and Mary (Mrs. A. Weedeman) of Winnipeg, and Allan of St. Bruno, Quebec. During the 1939-1945 war, Eric served overseas with the Canadian Army and Allan in the navy. There are nine grandchildren. Robert married Alberta

Jenkins of Winnipeg, in 1929. Their daughter, Margaret, her husband, Ross Wilson, two sons and a daughter, live near Nesbitt, Manitoba. "Bob" always interested in the community, acted as secretary-treasurer of Carleton School Division, and served a term of office councillor for the town of Morris. He died in 1967. At the time of writing, Mrs. Joe Lewis, Mrs. Tom Lewis and Mrs. Robert Lewis live in Morris and District."