



VIRTUAL GUIDED TOUR: SHMIGELSKI / DMYTRYK
FAMILIES

The Pioneer Generations

ABSTRACT

A tour of some of the points of special interest that relate to the lives lived and the resting places of these founding families for the Canadian branches of their heritage with (limited) background on their family heritage and information about their descendants.

Author: Rick Dondo

With a special focus on but not limited to the areas of the Rural Municipality of Rockwood in the Interlake region of Manitoba, CANADA

Virtual Guided Tour

Especially the Rural Municipalities of Rockwood and St Andrews in the Interlake Region of Manitoba

Also including places of interest in the Greater Winnipeg area

Shmigelski - Dmytryk Families

Purpose, Sources, and Acknowledgements

This document has been prepared as a means of passing along information about the pioneer generations of this family to their living descendants, other members of these families, and to their future descendants.

The stories told here leverage heavily:

- the family research done by the author, himself a descendant of a Shmigelski daughter, in concert with other descendants on various branches of these connected family trees
- the 1982 and 2000 editions of the volume "Beyond the Gates of Lower Fort Garry" produced by "Volunteers in the Municipality of St. Andrews"
- the 1964 book "EARLY UKRAINIAN SETTLEMENTS IN CANADA 1895-1900" by "VLADIMIR J. KAYE", sponsored by the Ukrainian Canadian Research Foundation
- the article "Ukrainian Settlements in Manitoba" taken from the book "Ukrainian Catholic Churches of Winnipeg Archeparchy, History of Ukrainian Catholic Churches in Canada, Volume 4" by Anna Maria Kowcz-Baran (Saskatoon, 1991)
- the 1977 book "Spruce Swamp and Stone - Gimli" by Michael Ewanchuk
- the book "The Interlake Beckoned - A History of Inwood and Surrounding Districts (A History of Inwood and Surrounding Districts" (date unknown) produced by the specially instantiated book committee
- the 1973(?) book "The Land in the Middle – Manitoba's Interlake" produced at the request of the Manitoba Interlake Development Corporation
- the 1982 book "Rockwood Municipality - 100 years of history" produced by Rockwood Municipality History
- the 1981 book "Selkirk - The First Hundred Years" by Barry Potyondi
- several other books about Manitoba local histories
- available public records at the Library and Archives Canada website
(e.g., arrival manifests, censuses, homestead records, etc.)
- available public resources from the Manitoba Historical Society [MHS]
- available public resources via the Digital Collections of the University of Manitoba
- information available on the "Find a Grave" service
- various other internet services (for maps and other enriching content)

Links to many of these are provided in the "[Additional resources](#)" section below.

Please note: The author intends to continue his research efforts. As a result, more or different information could come to hand. Also, the currently living people mentioned in these stories will have changes in their lives of interest to the reader. For that reason, you are asked to check often that you have [the latest version of this document](#), which the author will update from time to time.

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Organization and Scope

To provide some focus in this journey, which could have been laid out in many ways, the material is organized in categories:

- [Homesteads \(and notable familial residences\)](#)
- [Personal Histories](#)
- [Their Legacy](#)
- [Cemeteries and memorials](#)
- [Points of special interest](#)
- [Additional resources](#)

While the focus is without a doubt the area in and around Winnipeg, there is a small collection of points of special interest that relate to Peter Shmigelski (1919), son of Cassian (1868) and his wife Anastasia (née Dmytryk, 1878), who lost his life in the defense of freedom in the Second World War.

All of the information in this document that has a geographical nature has been captured at some level of detail in a [single custom map](#), available on the internet as a Google “My Maps” resource. It is intended as a visual guide to the proximity of the various locations mentioned below. In addition, more information and content are available directly in that resource as part of each “pin” for the locations described below.

The author has attempted to capture enough information here to provide a foundation for understanding the places that were vital parts of the lives of our shared ancestors. It in no way pretends to be an exhaustive account of their lives.

Links in this document take the reader to both specialized and public resources that are not well captured in this format without it becoming overwhelming. Of special note: the “virtual cemeteries” referenced below are maintained by the author and have a much greater scope than this group of families. They may give one a sense of the way the lives of our ancestors were connected that are otherwise not readily understood today.

As a means of providing a jumping off point for further exploration of the area and the families’ connections to it, the “Additional Resources” section lists but a few of the great collections and services out there that provide more insight into the history these people lived and the ways they made us who we are today.

Left out of this document, are details about other Interlake families (e.g., the Fred (1854) and Dokija (née Vordyniak, 1859) Russin’s, the Zachary (1877) and Wasylena (née Sawczuk; 1888) Watowich’s, and the Fred (1880) and Kateryna (née Kruchownar, 1882) Smotrycki’s) that had a significant influence on the lives of these ancestors; people who may have been related in ways we do not understand and who spent many days socializing as well as assisting with the business of working a farm in the early 20th century. Nor does it explore in any detail the lives led by descendants who left the Interlake. That work is left for another day...

Neither is there any attempt made here to address family lore about other “Shmigelski” families in the province at the time. There is a belief some of them may have been related, but the connections only get harder to make as time passes.

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Homesteads (and notable familial residences)

See the very much related [“MyMaps” resource](#) for a visual presentation of these locations and further details.

Family Homesteads:

- [Cassian / Anastazia Shmigelski Homestead](#)

Located on NE-16-17-2-E1 (50.458333, -97.258364) in the area of Komarno, MB

Family home to all the Shmigelski children all but one of whom were born in Manitoba.

This is generally believed to also be the final resting place of the young “Rosie” (1920), who perished in an accident in the home that involved scalding hot water in 1922.

It is also understood to be the final resting place of “Michalina”, the couple’s first child, born in the Ukraine prior to their departure for Canada. She is noted in travel documents and was recorded on the 1901 Canadian census, aged about 10 years old (which is an error!), but who never appears again in any known records.

Cassian is known to have ceded or sold a portion of the land to the local school board; moved onto it, the pre-existing McMillan School was in use until it was later replaced with a newer structure; a young Michael Russin (1900), Pawlina’s future husband, is believed to have taught here early in his career.

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Shmigelski Children in the Interlake:

- Annie (1912) and her husband John (1911) Smotrycki

Annie and John lived on the Smotrycki farm after their marriage in 1935. John's father Fred had passed away in 1929, so John was the titular head of the household even though his mother continued to live with them. This property is located on NW-22-17-2-E1 (50.473377, -97.246750), and their daughter Donna continues to live there today.

Shmigelski Children in Winnipeg, Manitoba:

While Cassian died on the family homestead, Nellie remained on the homestead only until some time after Annie's marriage in 1925. From that time on, she lived with her children in and around Winnipeg, providing help with the upkeep of their homes and care-giving as was necessary for, as an example, her daughter Paulina after her major stroke in the 1940's.

Other than Annie, their children did not continue to farm and pursued their own dreams in and around Winnipeg.

The children's stories are not the focus of this document and these discussions provide only a summary of their places of residence in the city.

- Homes and other abodes in Winnipeg for Michael (1900) and his wife Paulina (née Shmigelski, 1905) Russin (the couple who link these two pioneer families)

488 Bowman Avenue

Long-time home of Stefania (née Shmigelski, 1901) and her husband Fred Kwasnicki (1890); served as a "waystation" for many family members as they transitioned from farm life to city life, including but not limited to her youngest sibling Peter; it was also a "sometimes" home to her mother, Anastasia, after Cassian's passing.

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- Homes and other abodes in Winnipeg for John (1902) and his wife Elizabeth (née Balamutowski, 1908) Shmigelski-Smiley
In addition to owning and operating Smiley's Lunch on William Avenue for four years, they lived at several addresses in the city. Their daughter was born at 1901 Elgin Ave.
Other known addresses include: 887 Corydon Avenue, 507 McAdam Avenue, 442 McDermot Avenue, 355 McDermot Avenue, 25 Buckingham Road, Dudley Avenue, etc.
- Homes and other abodes in Winnipeg for Mary (née Shmigelski, 1905) and her husband Joseph Watowich (1908)
The couple lived in several locations in the city, including a small acreage in North Kildonan on what is now McLeod Avenue. Other known addresses include: 488 Bowman Avenue(!), 356 Harbison Avenue, 267 and 336 Hazel Dell Avenue, etc. Mary died in care in the Holy Family Nursing Home
- Homes and other abodes in Winnipeg for Pawlina (1906) and her husband Michael Russin (1900)
After deciding to quit teaching in rural school districts around the province, they moved their family to the city in 1942. They kept two stores, the first at York and Smith, the second at 268 Albany Ave. The couple retired to 118 Sinawik Bay before each spending the last few years of their lives in care; Pauline in the Holy Family Nursing Home and Michael (TBD); Her mother Nellie often stayed with them to look after Pauline after her major stroke in the 1940's and her subsequent related health problems

Family Homesteads of Spouses to the Shmigelski Children:

- [Fred / Dokia Russin Homestead](#)
NE-2-17-3-E1 (50.429212, -97.073312)
It is understood Paulina met her husband Michael while he was teaching at MacMillan School when the building was located on land ceded from the Shmigelski homestead. The relative proximity of the Russin farm is believed to have had little impact on the Shmigelski family prior to their meeting.
- [Jachari / Lena Watowich Homestead #2](#)
Family home to Joseph, husband of Mary Shmigelski (1905), and about a mile from the North Polsen School, was also home to that young couple in the early years of their marriage
Of note: This is "#2" because Zachary had a first homestead nearby (NE-2-17-1-E1; 50.429419, -97.350516) that he abandoned within the first year! In fact, it was in the same township as the Cassian Shmigelski homestead (NE-16-17-2-E1; 50.458333, 97.258364)
- Fred (1880) and Katherine (née Kruch; 1882) Smotrycki farm
Fred and Katherine moved out from Winnipeg to take up farming on this purchased parcel in 1917; their son John (1911) married Anna Shmigelski (1912) and carried on farming here
The property is still in the family; it is now the home of their daughter Donna (née Smotrycki) (1954) and her husband Wayne Michaluk (1957) (NW-22-17-2-E1; 50.473377, -97.246750)

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Personal Stories

To allow everyone reading this document to gain further insight into the information gathered by the author about the main players in these stories, the senior generations, the pioneers, he used the available features in Ancestry to generate two versions of the information that service now holds for all of us. First, a "Life Story" for each of them is available in a file that is also available to download:

- [Cassian Shmigelski \(1869 - 1929\)](#)
- His wife [Anastasia "Nellie" \(née Dmytryk, 1878-1964\) Shmigelski-Bazyk](#)

Nellie remarried in 1931 following Cassian's death, with John Bazyk (1879 - 1937). Information about this very brief union is nearly non-existent. He is believed to have been chased from the house shortly after the wedding because of some unforgiveable impropriety that is not well understood today. What we have been able to learn of him was obtained from his death registration (i.e., birth and death dates) and a single travel document for a return in 1923 from a three-year visit to his family in the Ukraine.

It appears he left a wife there to return to Canada and take up work as a labourer on his brother's farm which was only 2 miles down the road from the Shmigelski property. His story, as the author understands it, is told on the placeholder "[Find a Grave](#)" [memorial](#) set up for him. No obituary or other information about the final disposition of his remains have yet come to hand.

Interestingly, a Voters List from 1935 lists Anastasia as "Mrs Kasian Shmigelski, widow". It is apparent that, although Anastasia chose to be buried under the name "Bazyk", this "marriage" did not last long, indeed.

Secondly, he has generated another document for each of them, a capture of their "profile" information. This view provides insight into both the "facts" about them and the sources that support them, currently:

- [Cassian Shmigelski \(1869 - 1929\)](#)
- His wife [Anastasia "Nellie" \(née Dmytryk, 1878-1964\) Shmigelski-Bazyk](#)

The reader is welcome to take advantage of the information and to offer any suggestions for missing material or corrections. All help is welcome!

Also, of note: the author has extensive information about many people related to these key players by direct descentance and by marriage. Within reason... **questions and requests are welcome!**

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Their Legacy

As readers are aware, the story of these families is on-going. This founding couple, whose children married and raised their own families, have since left us. However, their memory and their achievements live on in many ways through each of us.

One mark they have left, in most cases, is a memorial or grave marker in a cemetery. That has not always been the case and the locations of same have not all been found, but we can still create virtual memorials for them on services such as "Find a Grave". That allows us to visit them, to think about them, to honour their memory, to recognize the way they shaped our own lives, while seated in a favorite spot, with a favorite beverage at hand...

The documents referenced here are the results of the family history research of the author. For errors and omissions, he accepts full blame. He is also open to all help in making the material better. He trusts you will find the journey they invoke to be a pleasant one.

While these documents offer a "point in time" view of our shared family history, they need not be static. With help and further research, they can be updated. This document will always refer to the most recent version available, so come back often and, please, make suggestions that will keep them up to date.

The first document is a simple list of descendants. Since the children of these couples married and raised their own families, there is a certain level of overlap in the documents. This is unavoidable since the families are, after all, connected. However, each one offers the reader a chance to explore the realm of the lives of great-uncles and great-aunts (and further back!) and their descendance; second cousins and beyond who may not have been known before looking at these materials:

- [Cassian Shmigelski \(1868 - 1929\) and his wife Anastasia "Nellie" \(Dmytryk\) Shmigelski-Bazyk](#)

The second document is another list. This one represents the known (or explicitly unknown!) resting places of those who have gone before us. As the reader will see, the lists go far beyond the scope of the map offered in support of this document. There are graves and memorials in cemeteries all over North America (and beyond!) all marking the lives lived of our forebearers and worthy of our attention, at least, from time to time:

- [Cassian \(1868 - 1929\) and his wife Anastasia "Nellie" \(née Dmytryk, 1878-1964\) Shmigelski \(later Bazyk\)](#)

As an additional way of seeing the ways these people's legacies have grown, here are **Word Cloud** representations of the surnames of all the descendants in those lists:

- [Cassian \(1868 - 1929\) and his wife Anastasia "Nellie" \(née Dmytryk, 1878-1964\) Shmigelski \(later Bazyk\)](#)

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Cemeteries and Memorials

See the [“MyMaps” resource](#) for a visual presentation of these locations and further details.

Each link associated with the cemeteries in the list below is to the author’s curated “virtual cemetery” for the yard in question. Each is meant to capture ALL the graves in the yard that are related to people in the author’s extensive family tree.

While many names will be familiar, others may evoke a sense of wonder... wondering about just how the reader might be related to that person. While not everyone is closely related, they are on the author’s tree for a reason and sometimes, that reason is both surprising and informative.

One thing the author has learned while compiling this information: We are ALL... cousins!

Author’s note:

If any reader is aware of any details of anyone missing from these lists, including the final disposition of their remains, please get in touch. I welcome all help in making these resources as complete and accurate as humanly possible.

Note: In direct reference to the above comments, the “MyMaps” resource includes pins for some cemeteries in the area that are not in these lists. This was done to suggest to the reader that there are more relatives buried in the area than appear on our direct lines of heritage... We owe... SO MUCH!

South Interlake / RM of Rockwood area:

- [St. Stephen’s UC Cemetery, Pleasant Home](#)
Cassian Shmigelski, other Shmigelski’s possibly related, and others by marriage
- [St. George’s Cemetery, Pleasant Home](#)
Smotrycki’s, related by marriage to Anne Shmigelski, and others by marriage
- [Holy Trinity Cemetery](#), Komarno, MB
ANOTHER Shmigelski family, (only *possibly*... related); others by marriage
- [War Memorial \(Cenotaph\)](#) in Stonewall, MB
Peter Shmigelski (1919) mentioned
- [War Memorial \(Cenotaph\)](#) in Teulon, MB
Peter Shmigelski (1919) mentioned

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Greater Winnipeg and close suburbs area:

- [All Saints Cemetery, West St Paul](#)
Shmigelski / Smiley, Bazyk (Dmytryk), Watowich, Kwasnicki, Zarowski, Balamutowski, Chopp, and many others by marriage
Note: The parish's [search service](#)
- [Glen Eden Cemetery, West St Paul](#)
Shmigelski, Russin, Kwasnicki, Payuk, Dondo, Watowich, Harrison, and many others by marriage
- [BCATP Garden of Memories, Winnipeg](#)
Peter Shmigelski (1919)
- [Glen Lawn Memorial Gardens, Winnipeg](#)
Dziedzic (married a Smotrycki daughter)

Further afield:

- [Avonlea Cemetery, Domain, MB](#)
Smotrycki
- [Alto-Reste Cemetery, Red Deer, AB](#)
Smiley
- [Ashes Scattered](#)
A collection of people whose choices for their remains involved cremation and the scattering of their ashes in locations that may or may not be known to the author

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All the following places (real and virtual) are related to honouring the memory of Peter Shmigelski (1919), who died in service in WWII:

- Library and Archives Canada - [Personal entry in the Service Files of the Second World War](#)
- [Veterans Affairs Canada Virtual War Memorial Entry](#)
- [Memorial Chamber, Peace Tower, House of Parliament](#), Ottawa, ON
- [Personal entry](#) in The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)
- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) - [War Dead entry](#)
- [Runnymede Memorial, England](#) (Peter's place there)
- [Runnymede Memorial, England](#) (An overview by Veterans Affairs Canada)
- [Royal Canadian Air Force Second World War British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Memorial](#)
Brandon, MB; 300 feet of black granite etched with 19,256 names, an eight-foot bronze airman and 12,000 square feet of paving stone, including a 60-foot RCAF wing in full colour
- [Government of Canada description of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan \(BCATP\)](#)
- [Lake Shmigelsky](#) - Place of Honour - [Province of Manitoba Geographical Names Project](#)

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Points of Special Interest

See the [“MyMaps” resource](#) for a visual presentation of these locations and further details.

In Winnipeg and its contiguous suburbs:

[488 Bowman Avenue](#), Winnipeg, MB

the long-time home of Stefania (Shmigelski) (1901) and her husband Fred Kwasnicki (1890); served as a “waystation” for many family members as they transitioned from farm life to city life

In the Manitoba Interlake:

[Komarno, MB](#)

[Narcisse Snake Dens](#)

These locations in Manitoba outside the Interlake are related to the teaching career of Michael Russin (1900), though the exact years in which he carried out his appointments are, in many cases, unclear

- [McMillan School No. 1109](#)
No documentation has been found to support this surmise, however, it is believed Michael Russin (1900) taught here for his first posting and that he met Paulina (1906) during that time. The history on the MHS site includes the telling detail that the building was located on the (ceded) Shmigelski property on their homestead (NE16-17-2E)
- [Vimy Ridge School No 1922](#)
Michael taught here from 1925 through 1935 and Paulina (1905) appears to have contributed to the school experience in some way, as well
- [Kerr School No 2204](#)
Little is known about his time here and the available information seems to contradict other background known to be more reliable
- [Garland School No 1374](#)
The Manitoba Teachers Society has records indicating his time here included being highly active in the local “Teachers Association” which predated the current union; again, the information about the timing of his appointments is unclear

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Additional Resources

A free and public website:

[This online resource](#) provides a way for anyone desiring a peek into the connections that make us all cousins to explore the full extent of the author's family tree.

The site gives access to the names and many facts about all the 17,900+ people for which he has information.

Feel free to explore! ESPECIALLY... the other lines of your own heritage that are not expressly discussed in the documents you will find there.

The author has worked to allow any living person on his tree to be able to show any living relative their (normally) 16 great-great-grandparents. In some cases, I have overachieved. In others, I have work left to do. I am hoping this will begin a collection of conversations that will help us ALL to understand the unexpected ways we are connected to people we may meet.

In addition, you will find there, links to "[Virtual Guided Tours](#)" for ancestors you may or may not share with the author.

Ancestry family trees:

(Ancestry account required)

(N.B., Viewing of some or all content may also require permission from the owner)

Of note: there are other family trees on Ancestry that provide in-depth information about other parts of the more distant relationships to other living relatives

[Rick Dondo \(1955\)'s main tree](#)

As of this writing, this tree contains information about more than 17,900 people, with more than 12,000 photos and images, more than 975 stories, and is supported by more than 34,000 records, with more than 51,400 unprocessed "discoveries" that could add depth to the stories these profiles tell about the people who went before us

N.B., The tree is "Public" on Ancestry and readily accessible; Ask if you want to see living people

[Dan Pilgrim \(1963\)'s main tree](#)

At this date: 520+ people; more than 50 photos; supported by more than 200 records
Public; Ask if you want to see living people.

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Publicly Available Records of significance:

[SS Tunisian 1900, Allan Line](#) (The Ship's List)

[Passenger List entry for Cassian's arrival in Quebec City](#) (Library and Archives Canada)

[Land Grant \(for the homestead at NE-16-17-E2\)](#) (Library and Archives Canada)

[Canada Census 1901 - "Migelski" family in Komarno](#) (Library and Archives Canada)

[Canada Census 1911 - "Sznigiclsk" family in Komarno](#) (Library and Archives Canada)

[Canada Census 1916 - "Shmilzski" family in Komarno](#) (Library and Archives Canada)

[Canada Census 1921 - "Shmygelski" family in Komarno](#) (Library and Archives Canada)

[Canada Census 1926 - "Srmigielski" family in Komarno](#) (Library and Archives Canada)

[Canada Census 1926 - "Kwasnick" family in East Kildonan](#) [Stefania and Fred; N.B., No Walter!]
(Library and Archives Canada)

[1926 Canada Census item for John "Shanigelish" in East Kildonan](#) (Library and Archives Canada)
N.B., He was double counted in this census

[Canada Census 1926 - Michael Russin family in Pine River](#) [Michael and Pauline]
(Library and Archives Canada)

[History of McMillan School No. 1109 on the Shmigelski property](#) (Manitoba Historical Society)

[Manitoba Property Search service](#) (Government of MB; use 16 17 2E and section NE)

[Former Galician precinct of origin](#) (Google Maps)

[Galicia \(Eastern Europe\)](#) (Wikipedia)

[Dominion Land Survey](#) (Wikipedia)

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Place name correspondences:

(No account required)

[FamilySearch Catalog Places Search](#)

This service offers a comprehensive collection of documents that are collated, among other ways, by the place names with which they are associated. It is a powerful tool for determining the current place name(s) associated with the ones we encounter on old documents.

Historical projects about and maps of Galicia:

(No accounts required)

[Forgotten Galicia](#)

Take special note of the collection of maps

[Gesher Galicia](#)

Take special note of the collection of maps and the town name search

["Modern" Galicia \(via Google Maps\)](#)

A way to orient oneself to the approximate geography of the "lost kingdom" of Galicia

Snapshot images of ancestral family trees:

*(N.B. these are drawn from Ancestry trees and offered as a reference;
The trees may change at any time when new information comes to hand,
so these snapshots may become obsolete or otherwise inaccurate)*

[Cassian Shmigelski \(1868\) / Anastazia \(Dmytryk\) \(1878\) Family Tree](#)

Of note here:

The connection to their parents is known to be accurate based on the available birth registration of their first-born, Michalina. The connection to Shmigelski siblings is purely speculative! We have NO documentation beyond some public family trees on Ancestry to support these connections and, at this time, the accumulating evidence indicates the two families are NOT related

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Manitoba Local Histories:

["Ukrainian Settlements in Manitoba" \(article\)](#)

["Rockwood Municipality - 100 years of history"](#)

["The Interlake Beckoned - A History of Inwood and Surrounding Districts"](#)

["Spruce, Swamp and Stone - A History of the Pioneer Ukrainian Settlements in the Gimli Area"](#)

["The Land in the Middle – Manitoba's Interlake"](#)

["Selkirk - The First Hundred Years"](#)

[Manitoba's Municipal History; RM's and Districts](#) (Manitoba Historical Society)

Many others via [the Manitoba Historical Society](#)

Many others via [the Digital Collections at the University of Manitoba](#)

Family photo albums online:

At this time, there are none to publish here, but all offers will be gladly received, and this document will be updated.

Check back often!