

Pippin Family History

From "Reflections—Pike Lake Valley Park"

Published by Pike Lake Women's Institute 1981

ISBN 0-88925-225-4

THE PIPPINS — 1905

Bert Pippin was born in Tagwell, Ill. on Aug. 25th, 1878. Florence May Brady was born in Howell County, Missouri on Jan. 12th, 1879. They were married Oct. 26th, 1904. Their first boy born in Pittsburg, Kansas was named John Ralph; followed in later years by Millard Arnold, Fredrick Conrad, Lila Florence, Mildred Alma, Edith Evelyn, Glenn Gerald, Helen Caroline, and Geraldine Charlotte all born at Pike Lake, Sask. Geraldine passed away in 1923 at the age of three years.

Having heard much talk of homesteads and free land in Canada, Bert and his brother-in-law, William Francis Kinzie decided to investigate so in 1905 they went to Saskatoon, Sask. and from there were driven by hired team and democrat to the now famous Goose Lake country. Having been raised in bush country in U.S.A. the prairie did not look good to them and not being able to find any water suitable for household use they went back to Saskatoon and from there to a place called Pike Lake. There they chose homesteads lying east of the lake, Bert on the S.W.16-34-6-W3rd, Uncle Bill on the N.W.16-34-6-W3rd.

In the spring of 1906 they returned to Saskatoon with their families, their household goods, and Bert's blacksmith tools. They arrived on April 12th - and Mr. Joseph Caswell was seeding wheat on the farm now occupied by the Glow Bros. They lived in tents on the S.W.16-34-6-W3rd and during the summer they built a two room cabin on each quarter, also a log barn each and a small building for storing and curing meat which was known as a smoke house. These buildings were all plastered with mud between the logs making them quite warm, but freezing and thawing caused the mud to drop out so they had to be redone every fall. How much better if they had known of the method used by the people from the Ukraine who added straw to the mud and stripped the logs with small trees and plastered the outside all over.

A creek flowing from Pike Lake into the Saskatchewan River cut across both quarters affording plenty of water until wells were established.

They soon found that Pike Lake was teeming with fish and the Pinnated Grouse were everywhere. Muskrats were in Pike Lake by the hundreds. Coyotes were plentiful but wary of being caught, and there were some lynx and mink. Having done considerable trapping in the U.S., Bert lost no time in getting out a trap line. Muskrat pelts sold at 18¢ each, Coyotes \$2.50, Lynx \$5.00 to \$7.00, Mink \$10.00 to \$12.00. Pelts had to be shipped to Becker Bros. in Chicago, U.S.A. as there was no fur buyer in Saskatoon.

Deer were not plentiful in those days being all mule deer and it was not until the 1920's that the Whitetail deer came, and along with more conservation, built up the deer herds of today. However, Bert and his Winchester 25-35 gained quite a reputation for bringing home the venison.

Indians often camped near the Lake to fish and trap and I remember going with Dad to a camp with a big, black kettle hanging over a campfire. They had taken the pelts from the muskrats and their insides out but their tails were left on. The fattest, ugliest squaw I ever saw was lifting the rats by the tail to see if they were cooked. The tails hung over the outside of the kettle and were used as a handle to lift them.

The winter of 1906-07 was very cold and there was very deep snow. A man named Riley had a survey crew working in the Pike Lake area. They lived in tents in 50 below weather.

Christmas 1910 was a good year and I remember a Christmas tree made from a Poplar tree with creeping cedar tied on for branches.

Bert had worked as a blacksmith at the coal mines in U.S. and he built a shop of logs on his homestead and for many years did the smithy work for the settlers. He built the first blacksmith shop in Vanscoy selling it to Hector Bourget in 1911.

Pike Lake School No. 172 was formed about this time and he did considerable work and served as trustee and secretary for many years.

A team of mules named Tiny and Queen were purchased and proved to be a runaway pair and had to be watched constantly so he traded them for horses named Dick, Daisy and Dot. These three did considerable breaking on the homestead and also raised some very fine colts.

In the fall of 1911 he purchased a threshing outfit consisting of a Buffalo Pitts steamer and an Aultman and Taylor separator. He used this outfit for four years and then bought the first gas tractor in this area, a Fairbanks-Morse 15-30. This tractor weighed nine tons and was a single cylinder and burned kerosene as fuel. It proved to be a good threshing engine and was very good at bush breaking. It pulled a 24 in. brush breaker and the right front wheel ran in the furrow and the right front drive wheel ran on the turned over land and good sized brush and trees would be smashed flat by the great weight and plowed under to rot.

He had a single cylinder Stickney five horse power engine which had its gas tank on a two by four some 8 or 9 ft. in the air so that the gas was sure to run into the cylinder. It had a hot plug which had to be heated to start it and then it depended on firing much as a Diesel. He changed it over to a battery and timer system and a spark plug and sawed wood and chopped grain with it.

In 1917 he bought a Model T Ford in Saskatoon. He had never driven a car before and he was taken to the outskirts of the city and told he was on his own. He arrived home O.K. and the Model T served the family until 1926.

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Bert Pippin clearing land, 1927.

Then came the Influenza epidemic of 1918 and perhaps here is as good a place to pay tribute to that pioneer woman who was my Mother. Imagine looking after a family of eight through such an epidemic even when sick herself! In all her years on the homestead she always raised a huge garden, milked cows, fed pigs, raised chickens, and yet she always seemed to have a bit of spare time for a visit and a joke or two. I must also remember Grandma Brady, that grand old lady who came to live with us and helped us kids through many of our troubles.

By 1922 Bert had acquired 18 horses and in 1923 Swamp Fever struck and they died off like flies so a Fordson Tractor was purchased to help with the field work. Also he got an International truck to be used for hauling grain and general farm work. This truck was not a success so in 1928 he traded it in on a new one which proved to be very good.

The Fordson tractor pulled 2 plows at $2\frac{1}{2}$ mi. per hour. He liked tractor farming so in 1926 he bought a McDeering 15-30 which pulled 4 plows at $3\frac{1}{4}$ mi. per hour. In 1927 he purchased a second McDeering and from then on his farm was gas powered. These two tractors are now owned by two sons and are both in running order.

In 1927 he got an Eagle brush cutter. This machine was pulled behind the tractor. It had a sloping blade with huge sections similar in shape to a mower knife and two star wheels ran in the ground to keep it from pushing sideways. The brush had to be piled or pushed away each round. It would cut a poplar tree ten inches thick even with the small tractor. In 1929 a V type brush cutter was built to push ahead of the tractor. It would cut scrub up to 4 or 5 in. and did not require the brush to be moved before the next round.



Ralph Pippin discing breaking, 1927.

He had acquired about 125 head of cattle by this time and in the fall two or three neighbors would get together and round up the ones to be sold and drive them to Saskatoon by saddle horse. I can remember when the stockyard was just east of where Early's Feed and Seed Store now stands and we were taking 35 head of cattle up Ave. A and a trolley car was coming towards us. Four steers standing on the track put their heads down and just stood in front of the street car. The conductor clanged his bell and swore but they refused to move so he had to get out and reverse his trolley and back up. Speaking of swearing he had nothing on some of the ladies when two or three cattle would take a notion to leave the herd and go on a spree in their gardens.

In 1928 Bert and Florence and their daughter Edith and son Glenn made a motor trip to their old home in Kansas. It rained nearly all the way and the roads were so muddy in Saskatchewan and Manitoba that they were ten days making the trip. They drove a 1926 Buick Touring Car.

In 1929 Bert purchased the first combine to be used in the area known as the Valley. It was a six ft. cut McCormick Deering. It surely seemed a wonderful way to handle a crop. By now he acquired 1240 acres of land. In 1935 part of this land was taken over by sons.

Mother Pippin passed away July 10th, 1945 ending a very busy life at the age of 66. Dad Pippin passed away on Oct. 11, 1958 in his 81st year, thus ending the history of two of Pike Lake's pioneers.

Written by Ralph Pippin with many thanks to brothers and sisters and others who helped remember parts of this history.

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ARNOLD AND MARIAN PIPPIN

Millard Arnold Pippin, second son of Bert and Florence Pippin, was born at Pike Lake, Saskatchewan on August 29th, 1907. Attended Pike Lake School and has resided most of his life in the same district. He married Bessie Marian Ward who lived 4 miles west of the Lake, on June 29, 1936. They lived on their farm east of Pike Lake in the area known as the Valley Park district on E ½ Sec. 9 T34 R6 W3rd from 1936 to 1944 when they moved to Saskatoon due to the Valley Park district school closing. Arnold continued to farm from the city and carried on his trapping vocation during the winter months at the lake and the river. During the years, he did custom farming for several farmers in the Pike Lake, Valley Park, Gledhow and Rabbit Foot Lake districts. He also acted in the capacity of Deputy Game Warden and Secretary of the Pike Lake Fur Co-Op for several years. Later when the Pike Lake Provincial Park was formed he became the Provincial Park trapper, a position he still holds.

Five children were born to them:

Myrna Pearl Dennise

Duane Arnold (Buck)

Barry Ward

Roger Darryl

Allan Brent

John and Dennise Weigel now reside at Caroline, Alberta on their acreage. Dennise teaches school and music in the Caroline Composite School. John carries on his business known as J.R.J. Gas and Oilfield Construction Ltd., from headquarters in Caroline.

Duane and Lynne live in Regina with their three children, Laurie, Scott, Steven, and Marlon, a four year old, full blood Indian they have had since he was five days old. They hope the Indian Affairs will allow them to adopt him in the near future. Buck works for A.A. Murphy and Sons as a travelling salesman, in the electrical line. Lynne is a secretary with the Social Services in Regina.

Barry, Sharon and Rhonda, their only child, reside at Pike Lake. Barry is a travelling salesman for the Pauline Chambers Co. of Canada and to date has been with them fifteen years.

Darryl, still single, lives at Comox on Vancouver Island. He is a High School teacher at the George Vanier Comprehensive School in Courtney, B.C.

Allan and Georgette are building their home on a small acreage at Pike Lake. Allan is the Chief Engineer for C.J.W.W. radio station which he planned and built for Roy Currie and Associated, 1976. Georgette is Manageress of Production for Develcon Electronics Ltd.

Arnold and Marian sold their farm in 1975 to Dennise and Darryl. They still have their cottage at Pike Lake just bordering the North side of the park and Arnold carries on his trapping from there. Arnold was appointed Municipal Councilor for Division I in the Municipality of Vanscoy No. 345 during the year 1966, a position he still holds.

Marian during the course of years since 1936, was a secretary for six years at Mount Royal Collegiate, a commercial teacher for the Delisle Composite High School and later for Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon. Subsequently, she sold real estate for a firm in Saskatoon for four years.

Throughout their years both have been interested in music and have played in several dance bands. The band called "Pippins' Peppy Five" was well known in the district, neighboring schools and dance halls. Later it became shortened to "The Pippins' Orchestra", in each case being comprised of all Pippins from the first generation. To date "The New Pippins" include the second generation, Barry and Sharon.

Arnold and Marion have a cottage at the lake where they and their family spend most of the summer. They spend the rest of the time in their home in Saskatoon. He farms the E ½-9-34-6. He enjoys fishing and hunting and several times has served as Game Warden.

DUANE AND LYNNE PIPPIN

Duane, better known to us as "Buckie" married Lynne Forest of Saskatoon. They have built a home at the Lake. Buckie does electrical work and works with Glenn Pippin. They have two sons and one daughter.

GLENN AND GLADYS PIPPIN

Glenn Pippin married Gladys Puttick of Delisle. They have two daughters and two sons, Betty, Kenny, Brenda and Garth. For many years Glenn operated a garage and repair shop. He is now our electrician and T.V. repair man.

During the past ten years since new members have been added to our family, four dear, healthy grandchildren make our life eventful and hectic. Craig John, Joyleen Gladys, Wendy Louise, children of Betty and John Podgursky. On October 16/71 our oldest son Ken, took as his bride Louise Bibyk. Our youngest grandson Tyler Kenneth, son of Ken and Louise was born January 31/75. Our newest family member is Ron Ritz who was married to our daughter Brenda May on July 5/75. Garth lived at home until 1977 when he moved into an apartment in Saskatoon. He worked at Western Caisson from 1974-76. After a short time at the C.N.R. he moved on to work at Mid Town Plaza in the engineering department, where he is still employed. 1967 was a happy and a sad year for us. We laid to rest my brother and his wife in Vancouver. Their 12 year old daughter Janice Puttick came to live with us. In June 1970 she returned to live in Vancouver and finish her education. In August of 1967 Glenn and I celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary with an open house and a family dinner. On our 30th and 35th anniversary our children surprised us with a family dinner in Saskatoon.

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LOUISE AND KEN PIPPIN

Ken Pippin was born on January 6/48. He attended Pike Lake and Delisle School where he received a shop award in his last year of school. As soon as he was out of school he started to work with his Dad in the Electrical business and has continued to do so to date. Ken married Theresa Louise Bibyk on October 16/71. Louise attended school in Saskatoon then worked in the dry-cleaning business with her Dad until 1975 when Tyler Kenneth was born on January 31. Ken and Louise lived in an apartment in Saskatoon for a short time, then moved into the old home place until their new house was ready for occupation. In 1977 they added two bedrooms onto their house. They are looking forward to an addition to their family in early January, 1979.

RALPH AND VICKIE PIPPIN

Ralph married Vickie Harvey of Saskatoon and farms section 20-34-6. They have two sons, Harvey and Leslie who attend school in Delisle and a daughter Elaine who attends Pike Lake School. Ralph has served a number of years on the Pike Lake School Board. Vickie is the present teacher at Pike Lake.

John Ralph Pippin acquired the Bert Pippin homestead in 1964 from Mabel Pippin.

In 1972 he sold three quarters of land on section 20-34-6-W3rd to Elwood Harvey, his brother-in-law. He started driving a school bus in 1963 and retired in 1973. At present he is living on 10 acres of land which he retained on the NE 20-34-6-W3rd, which is the location of his house and buildings. He retired from active farming in 1975.

Victoria Pippin temporarily retired from teaching after a total of twenty years, twelve of which were spent at Vanscoy, four at Pike Lake, and one at Gledhow. She also taught three years before she was married. She is now back teaching in Vanscoy.

Harvey Ralph Pippin married Mary Elizabeth Ross, daughter of Harry and Kay Ross in 1966. Three children were born to this union — Ross John George - April 10, 1967, April Rae - April 15, 1971, and Dale Vincent - December 2, 1974. Harvey and his family are now living on the old Bert Pippin homestead. He is employed by the Prince Albert Pulp and Chemical Co., Saskatoon, Sask.

Leslie Wayne Pippin married Donna May McKinney, daughter of George and Luella McKinney, in 1970. Two children were born to them — Grant Michael - March 13, 1970, and Michelle Leslie - June 18, 1973. Leslie lives in a new home he built at Pike Lake, and is employed by the C.N.R. in Saskatoon.

Elaine Mary Pippin graduated from the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences with her R.N. in 1972. She is presently employed in the operating theatre at the University Hospital in Saskatoon.

BETTY AND JOHN PODGURSKY

Betty came to Pike Lake as a ten day old baby. She received her education at Pike Lake and Saskatoon. John spent his childhood days at Arelee. He received his education at Arelee and Saskatoon. They were married on December 22, 1962. They lived at Lizard Lake and Gallivan where John taught school before moving to Saskatoon. John graduated from the College of Education in 1970 and since has done post graduate studies.

Three healthy children have blessed their lives - Craig John (June 2/68), Joyleen Gladys (August 5/70), and Wendy Louise (April 9/73). John taught school at Mayfair and was Vice-Principal at King George. He is now on sick leave from teaching.

In 1974 John and Betty purchased the Henry Dahlen farm at Pike Lake and started remodelling the old house. They hope to go into the insurance business for which Betty has been studying.