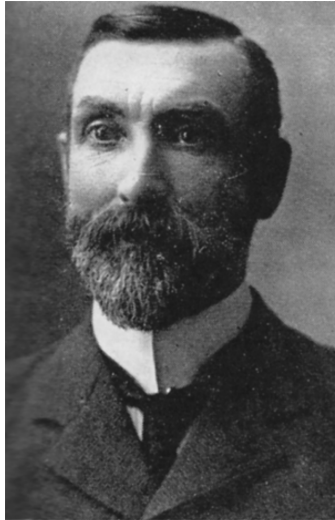


Early Days

Adapted from, "A Few Notes on Early Days in Killarney by T. J. Lawlor.



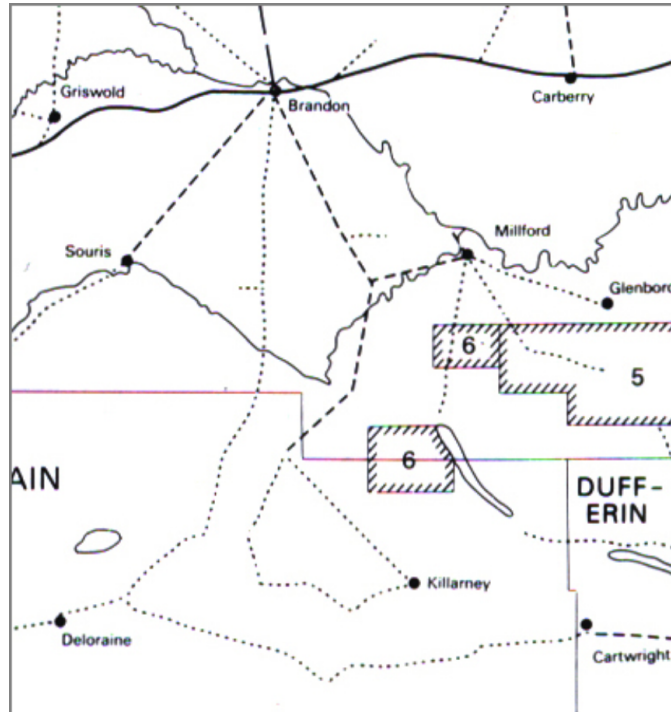
T.J. Lawlor



John Sidney O'Brien

Killarney is situated about twelve miles north of the Boundary line, and between Cartwright and Deloraine. The original name was Oak Lake, the present name was the result of a conversation jokingly carried on between three pioneers, one of whom was the late John Sidney O'Brien, Land Guide, and which ended by one party saying to Mr. O'Brien, "I suppose you would like to call it 'Killarney', after the lakes in Ireland," so, Killarney it has been ever since. That would be in about 1882.

The Municipality of Turtle Mountain was created in 1882, but was not fully organized until the next year.



Stage lines and Mail Delivery routes prior to 1885.

Late in 1883, the CPR ran a branch from Rosenfelt to Manitou, which was the end of the track until 1885. That fall the road was continued west and south of lakes Rock, Louise, Lorne and Pelican, passing through Killarney in December and reaching Boissevain January 1st, 1886. At that date, the road was taken over from the contractors, and opened for traffic.

Canadian and United States investors had obtained a charter, known as the Manitoba South-Western Railway. The route, starting from Winnipeg, proceeding westward, a few miles north of Carman, then turning south west and running north of the first three lakes previously mentioned, following the valley of the Pembina, and coming out of the prairie at Tisdale. The survey continued westward to the Height, or Rowland district, about north of Ninga. The town of Tisdale was surveyed and lots were sold, but the railroad was not built yet. Between 1882 and the fall of 1885, the CPR acquired the charter, and instead of building north of the Lakes, they continued their Rosenfeldt - Manitou branch, via La Riviere, Crystal City, Killarney and Boissevain. It was extended to Deloraine in 1885 and that remained the end of the road for several years.



By 1887 transportation lines had changed. The mail came by train and was delivered to rural post offices from Killarney.

On January 2nd, 1886, T. J. Lawlor arrived at Killarney station with a car load of general merchandise and building material. In the meantime, he had arranged to have his store in Tisdale taken down and brought over to the new town.

The Land Commissioner gave him information as to the exact location of the CPR Station, and from there, he located his lots on the North East of South Railway and Broadway avenue, and other buildings following the same direction, the town grew North and South instead of East and West.

The location of the lake, within a half a mile of the track, was an inducement for people to seek homes in the town.

In January 1886, the CPR townsite surveyors arrived and surveyed the first part of the town. The site had been homesteaded and pre-empted by George Geates, on the north half and John Williams on the south half. They entered into arrangements with the CPR to have the town site and station on Section 2. Both homesteaders retained a western portion of their lands, which was not included in the town site.

1886 – A Busy Year in Killarney

While saying that a town sprang up “overnight” might be a bit of an exaggeration, it’s hard to imagine just how quickly Killarney went from being a few scattered lakeside shacks with a nearby school and post office, to a busy commercial centre with a street lined with shops and services.

It all started with railway service and a temporary station. Mr. Mills, of Gretna, was the first carpenter on the scene, and with the lumber of the Tisdale store, and a supply brought from Rosenfeldt, he proceeded to erect the first building on the townsite for T. J. Lawlor in January 1886.

Later in the month the CPR townsite surveyors arrived and surveyed the first part of the town.

James McCann, who had previously been in Nelsonville and Morden, secured lots on the East side of Broadway, and built the Leland Hotel.



J. McCann

Following him were the Coleman Bros, William and Richard, Samuel Rowe, A. Wilson, Samuel Pierce, T. G. Dixon and Jas. Harrison. The Grand Central Hotel, built and conducted by Alex Goldie, of Gretna, came next, that summer. Mrs. John Melville has conducted a public boarding house on Williams Avenue

Next to Mrs. Dufty's on Railway Street was a store built by Frank Rollins, who previous to that time had a store down by the Bay. The next business place was a hardware store, whose proprietor, Mr. Bird came from Emerson.

Then followed a building put up for Dr. Fawcet, where he ran a drug store and occupied the upstairs as a dwelling.

William Pritchard, who supplied the railroad contractors with meat and vegetables, came to settle in the town in the summer of '86. He built the place known as Pritchard's Hall, the first floor of which was used as a butcher shop. On the rear of the lots he placed a small dwelling. He was the first to buy and ship cattle and produce by the carload.

George Robinson had a store immediately south of Pritchard's Hall. Next to him were Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Wallis who had at first opened a small store at the north side of the lake.

Early in 1886, J. W. Smaill also started a Real Estate, Insurance and Collection agency, and built a home on Williams Avenue.

In 1886, Ogilvies built a plank platform and were represented by Frank Simpson and James Dunsford, who were on the market for one season only.

Finlay M. Young and his brother, Donald, were also on the market, for Winnipeg dealers, during the winter of 1886.

In the fall of 1886, Mr. Bate moved the post office into town and later built a dwelling and office on Williams avenue.

A small paper called “The Southern Manitoba” was printed for a short time in the summer of 1886, by an American from Dakota.

By the end of that first year, the region’s homesteaders, who had endured long trips to buy supplies and market their crops, could simply come to town – where they could get almost anything they needed.



The Leland Hotel



The Grand Central Hotel



And early street scene.

The Melville House



Killarney residents might recognize this building that until fairly recently could be found at 427 Williams Street. It served for many decades as the Killarney Hotel, but before that it was Mrs. Melville's Boarding House.

Today's modern conveniences such as microwave ovens, refrigerators and vacuum cleaners allow even the domestically challenged to fend for themselves. But in pioneer times days it just wasn't efficient to live alone. Bachelors might well have no idea how to cook and do laundry. Single ladies would have the skills, but in those days before affordable labour-saving devices it just made more sense to have those services provided. Before setting off to work one would be served a real breakfast. After a hard day's work the guests came "home" to an evening meal served at the dining table. While it is true that busy singles today have the option of picking up burgers and fries at a drive-through, or popping some frozen concoction into a microwave, does that really seem like progress?

That's why in any new prairie town boarding or rooming houses were one of the first services to appear. In 1886, right after the arrival of the railway created the town, Mrs. John Melville opened for business.

She had some experience

John Melville filed for a homestead near Wakopa it as soon as the Land Office opened at Deloraine in 1880. The following spring he brought out his wife and

family. Jane Melville was the only woman for miles around and she baked and washed, not only for her own family, but for others who stayed with them and for neighbouring bachelors. She baked bread every day, boiling hops to make yeast, and kneading the bread in a large trough.

After the railway came to Killarney, Jane Melville capitalized on her experience feeding the hungry on the homestead and opened a boarding house in the rapidly growing town.

She still sold bread. Eleanor Bate (Mrs. A. M. High) remembers, "We bought big loaves of home-made bread from Mrs. John Melville for five cents a loaf."

Promoted as a "high class boarding house" Mrs. Melville, a strong and capable woman whose "Home away from Home" was patronized by many having Killarney on their regular beat. The "Melville House" porter was something to see. Dressed in a uniform and a fine hat, with buttons and braid, one of his duties was to meet the passenger train morning and evening, with a push cart in summer and a sleigh in winter to carry the valises of travellers past the hotels to the homier atmosphere of "The Melville House".

In 1901 it narrowly escaped being destroyed by fire, but was repaired and a new double decker verandah was built on, enhancing three sides of the building.

It operated many years until it was converted to the Morden House, and then to the Killarney Hotel.

The Card Family....

You do what you have to do....

George arrived in Killarney with no more capital to his mane than a \$5 bill in his pocket and a cobbler's outfit bought with borrowed money. He secured a small space in Lawlor's General Store, whittled a piece of wood into some semblance of a boot, painted it, hung it outside as his sign and took in shoe mending for a little ready cash. One wonders where in the midst of cutting and hauling logs from lakes and building his new home he ever found time to mend shoes in town.



Oliver and Carson's Store on the left.



Dr. Fawcett's building.

A Trip To Town

Those of us who grew up on farms rural Manitoba in the 1950's fondly remember that Saturday night trip to town. After a week, or sometimes more, without much human contact outside of the family, except perhaps the classmates in the one-room school, a crowded sidewalk and a busy store were welcome sites. Farm life had a sameness that may have been comforting and purposeful, but we all need a little variety in our lives. As a six-year old, recently transplanted from Winnipeg, those first Saturday nights were an experience I haven't forgotten.

If they were special to those of use who grew up with the conveniences of telephones, radios and automobiles, imagine what trips to town might have felt like to a child growing up in a time when farm families were really isolated.

Mrs. Elizabeth Priestley tells the story of such a trip to town.

A shopping trip to Killarney in our childhood days was a very important event. Mother usually had butter and eggs to be taken in to Rueben Cross, produce dealer. Butter came from the cool depth of the well, was wrapped in cold wet cloths, many layers of paper, and packed in a wooden box. This went under the seat of the buggy, out of the sun, and always got to town in good condition. There were usually plowshares to be sharpened at Stilwell's Blacksmith Shop. Mother drove the buggy with us children set on a small "jump" seat at her feet.

The "trails" then went cross-country, through the neighbours's yard. Mrs. Hawthorne would greet us as we drove past her door, calling, "Bring out mail please". Then Walter Constantine from his door would call, "Bring me a plug of tobacco and a pan of bread, and our mail please." Old Mrs. Ditchfield, next, would come out for a chat. The trail went past Northcote School, and dipped down into the valley of the Little Pembina River, and over the wooden bridge. This was a beautiful place, with trees and flowering shrubs full of birds, and yellow waterlillies on the river.



Kilpatrick's store in 1886

The Circus

A memory by Anne Burrows:

The circuses that came to town, especially the loading and unloading of the circus equipment, the parades, and the watering of the elephants and camels down at the Bay were wonderful attractions for the young fry. The minstrel shows and plays such as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" presented in the old Orange stone hall just north of the school grounds provided additional entertainment at long intervals for old and young. Fly-by-night barkers selling quack medicines on platforms erected on the town dray in front of the Leland Hotel, with their quick sale harangues interspersed with negro and banjo music, drew and delighted large crowds at various times.

Shopping at Mr. Lawlor's Store

In 1885, when settlers in the Killarney region learned that the much-anticipated railway would proceed from Manitou, south of the Rock Lake and pass by Killarney Lake, Mr. Lawlor of Tisdale wasted no time. Tisdale would soon be a ghost town, so he dismantled his thriving store at and re-established his business in Killarney, arriving with merchandise and building materials on January 2, 1886. His was the first "real" building erected in the newly-surveyed townsite, on the corner of South Railways Street and Broadway. While waiting for that he did business on the sidewalk.

The first stores in any community were aptly named "general" stores. For some time they would be the only store – so they covered all the bases by carrying everything a new settler might want. In time other retail outlets would spring up, specializing in this or that – hardware store, tailor shops, jewelry stores and more. In that way, today's "Super" stores are a return to that retailing strategy – one stop shopping.

The store was typical for the time and differed from today's retail outlets in several key ways. The most noticeable difference was the nature of the shopping experience. It would be some time before the self-serve format would change shopping. Instead of roaming the aisles and selecting items to put in your cart, you approached the counter and made your request. Most of the food was stored in large barrels – popular items such as sugar, soda crackers, tea biscuits, raisin biscuits, ginger snaps, molasses, syrup, and apples. Your purchase would be placed in the appropriate sort of bag or container by the staff. Coffee, tea and cocoa came in large square caddies and were dispensed by the pound. Cheese came in large round cakes and was sliced to order with a copper wire. Cheese along with dried apples and prunes were popular items with the numerous bachelors in a pioneer community. Clothing, furniture, and a host of household items would be available.

Another very important departure from big city and modern stores was that the store bought items directly from customers as well as selling to them. Butter, eggs, chickens and other foods were often taken in trade. This was a practical arrangement at a time when it made no sense to ship supplies from far away when they could be sources from right nearby. It helped many a struggling farm family to stay afloat in those crucial first few years.

As was the custom in pioneer towns, Mr. Lawlor offered credit. This was essential both for the survival of the store and the nature of farm finances. Bills were paid at harvest time. In years of crop failure, that might mean ... next harvest.



The proprietor awaits your request...

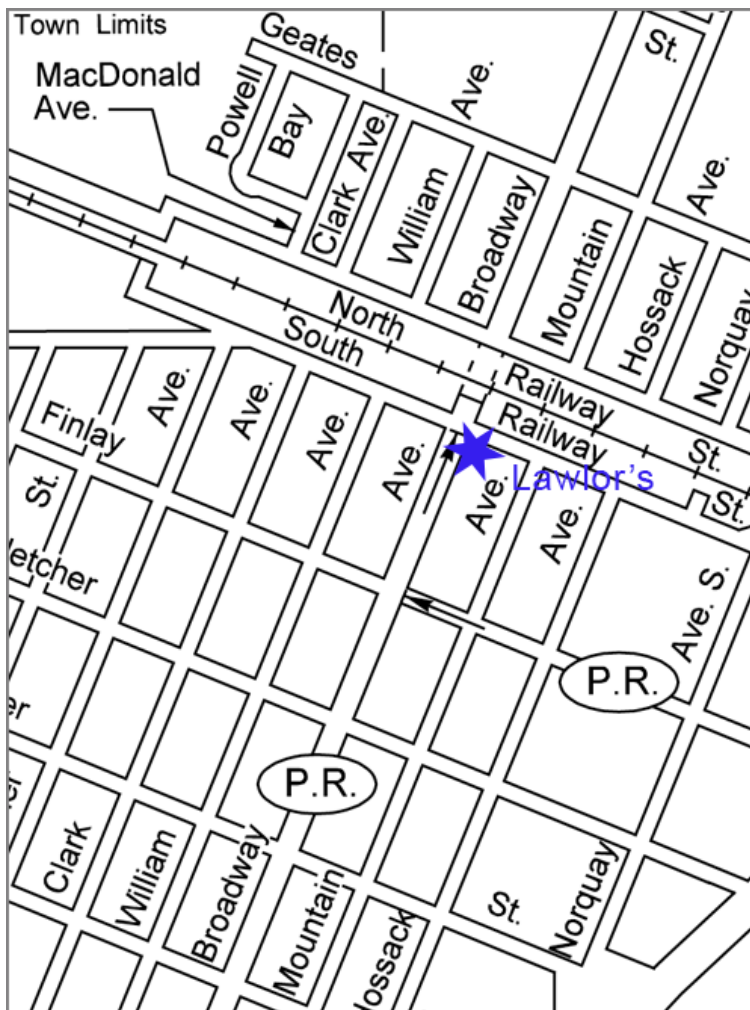
Other services were also provided. Lawlor installed a large safe in the rear of the store where grain buyers and other businesses could store cash. Scales were available at the rear of the building to be used for cattle, grain and other produce for a nominal fee.

Last, but perhaps not least, the store was more than just a place of business. For isolated farm families, shopping trips were social occasions. The store was a natural meeting place.

And what else might have been available to enhance the shopping experience and make a trip to town more interesting?

Mary Card recalls a few things about food.

I remember Dad buying a big barrel of brown sugar. Mom used to cook with brown sugar and would make syrup with it. We like brown sugar with bread and butter. I remember stealing brown sugar out of the barrel and eating it like candy. We never had any oranges in those days but a few years later you could buy them as a special treat at picnics. Our main meat was pork – fat and all, fresh in the winter, salted in the summer and kept in brine. We always had lots of lard and oodles of doughnuts. Mother cooked potatoes in the black pot and at Christmas, boiled the plum pudding in one of them. She put the pudding in a cotton cloth, white of course, tied it with a strong string, leaving lots of room to rise, put a plate in the bottom of the pot in boiling water and put the pudding into water on a plate. As it boiled, the plate kept up a continuous clatter. If it stopped, that was bad. That would mean the water was not boiling and that would spoil the pudding. To me it was as music to my ears to hear the Christmas pudding boiling and when the cloth was taken off the pudding was a round ball – a big one, too – and oh it tasted good!



Downtown - surveyed in 1885.

Soon after the town was started, the government arranged for a County Court district, and sessions were held at intervals. A small stone building, which served the purposes for council meetings and a jail was erected about 1904 on Mountain Avenue. Previous to that a boxcar was occasionally pressed into service to accommodate disturbers of the peace.

In 1903, Killarney was incorporated as a village.

Charles Bate – Justice of the Peace and Postmaster



Charles Bate was born in Plymouth, England, and entered the Royal Navy in 1853 where he served for twenty- six years, retiring in 1879 with a pension and two medals.

In 1880 the Bate family ventured forth to Ottawa where they spent two years. It was there that Charles met John Sydney O'Brien who told him about Killarney. In the spring of 1882, Charles came to Killarney where he filed a claim to E 4-3-17, part on one side of the lake and part on the other. He had a house built of poplar boards from the mill at Wakopa. His wife and daughters left Ottawa October 11 and he met them at Emerson wearing a peaked cap, grey shirt, and red bandanna neckerchief. His wife was horrified. She had never seen him in public except in navy uniform or with top hat and cane.

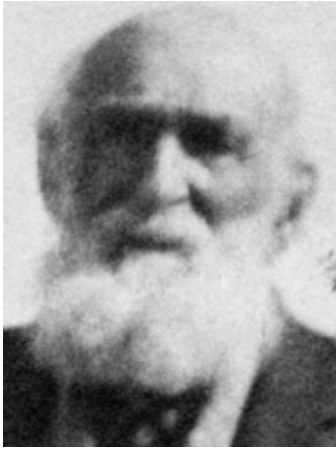
We were unbelievable greenhorns," wrote his daughter, "When we did not know how to get the chickens killed for the winter, my elder brother Charles solved the problem by shooting them with his revolver. When a calf or a pig had to be butchered our neighbour, William Riddell, came over and helped. Mother had learned to make bread before leaving Ottawa, and at a stopping house on the way she had observed a woman making butter. She proceeded to make butter, colouring it with carrot juice and packing it for the winter in large ornamental vases Father had brought from China. She made pie from rabbits we children snared in the bush and prepared standard English food like roast beef and suet pudding. (Alas! the day C. W. Gordon chanced to stay for a meal she had nothing in the house to offer him but potatoes.) But whatever the fare Mother always set the table with a white cloth and table napkins."

They had hardly any money. What Charles saved from his navy pay was all spent, mostly on equipping the farm, and his pension and salary were infinitesimal. But they all worked and the older children, Charles and Aquila, contributed to the family exchequer.

Charles Bate was elected to the Council of Turtle Mountain Municipality in 1883, appointed Justice of the Peace, and was one of the first trustees of Killarney School, later serving as secretary- treasurer until 1906.



David Hysop's Good Idea



David Hysop

In the early years of railway travel, passengers were often impressed by the gardens they saw when the train steamed into a station. What most would not know is that it was David Hysop of Killarney, Manitoba, who suggested the idea.

Hysop came west with a Grand Trunk Railway survey party, and later he took a position with the CPR, before homesteading in Killarney. William Whyte, Superintendent of Western Lines, commissioned Hysop to investigate claims made by farmers for damages to their homes and livestock caused by fires started by sparks from the locomotives. Hysop in his report advised that fireguards be ploughed along the right of way.

When someone suggested planting grass on the right of way to advertise the good quality of the prairie soil, Hysop cautioned that it would be better to keep the

fireguard plowed and, instead, plant gardens at the stations. He suggested that the vegetables and flowers could be used in the dining cars and shown at fairs. Whyte took steps to have the gardens established and appointed Hysop the superintendent of gardens from Brandon to Golden.

The gardens became a matter of local pride. They were practical and attractive – a perfect promotion for a growing town.

The company encouraged employees to plant and care for the gardens. During the thirties, with crop failure and desolation around them, the grass and flowers at the station became a symbol of faith in the country and hope for the future.

Sadly, as the importance of the trains to the economy and lifestyle of prairie towns declined so did the need for the gardens and they began disappearing in the 1950's.

Although his duties sometimes took him away from Killarney, David and his wife were important figures in the life of the district and could always take time to be good neighbours. In several of the stories written by other pioneers the statement occurs, "Mr. and Mrs. David Hysop were our first visitors," and in one "They brought us some eggs and some butter, and we were happy because that meant we could have a cake for Christmas."

*****For more on the Railway Gardens see the excellent article by Aileen Garland in Manitoba Pageant, Winter 1977***



The First CPR Station

The first lumber yards were owned by Robert Rolston and Fred Davis. Mr. Davis only remained a few years. Mr. Rolston erected a residence on the corner now occupied by the “Guide” office, and later a home on Clarke Ave. After Mr. Rolston’s death, the Wholesale Lumber Dealers carried on the business until it was bought out by A. M. High.



A.M. High

Robert Rolston built and owned the first livery barn, known as the “Bronco Stable.” The first furniture store was built by A. Leitch, north of the track, where he also built a double house of stone. The first blacksmith shop was opened by Edward Machon.

The late George Treleaven opened the first harness shop. He built the Treleaven Block on Broadway Avenue and a brick cottage near the bay.



An early photo of Killarney

The honor of buying the first grain at Killarney belongs to the Ogilvie Milling Co.

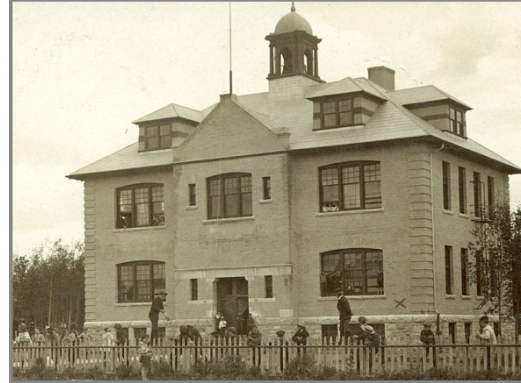
In 1886 Ogilvie's built a plank platform. Then followed D. H. MacMillan & Brother. They erected the first grain warehouse. Finlay M. Young and his brother, Donald, were also on the market, for Winnipeg dealers, during the winter of 1886.

The first elevator was put up by the Harrison Bros. The next elevator known as "The Farmers" was built by James Hatch. He leased it, and bought for S. P. Clarke, of Winnipeg. Mr. Hatch also gave bin accommodation to other buyers. Nichol & Son, of Boissevain represented by Hugh Sutherland, and several, who came and were here but a short time.

Then came a gristmill north of the track. Woodruff & Sons, of Ontario, built and equipped this mill. Young Bros. & Buck took possession and also erected an elevator on a spur track. This enabled them, with their roller mill process, to supply local and export trade, and at times to handle most of the grain on the local market.



Thomas Buck - Businessman



Killarney High School

The late Finlay M. Young, after representing the Constituency of Killarney for two, or more terms, part of which time he was Speaker of the House, was later called to the Senate at Ottawa, which position he filled till 1916. Mr. Young erected a fine brick dwelling on the corner of Clarke Avenue and Finlay Street, Alex Middleton's home today.

A school house, built in 1883 by Andrew McNamee senior, was replaced in 1891, by a wood frame, brick veneered, four-roomed school. In 1906, the present High School of solid brick was added.

Previous to 1883, the nearest post offices were Smith's Hill, on the east, Wakopa, on the west and Glendenning on the north. Mr. Chas. Bate opened the first post office in this district, in his house on the farm on the north shore of the Lake, April 1, 1883. When first the post office was opened the mail was fetched from Wakopa. It was brought by rail to Brandon, thence to Deloraine by courier. Another courier took it to Wakopa, and a third brought it from Wakopa to the newly opened post office at Killarney. Later it was brought in from Brandon, via old Souris City and Langvale. In the fall of 1886, Mr. Bate moved the post office into town and later built a dwelling and office on Williams Avenue. Here the post office remained till 1923, several years after Mr. Bate's death.



Post Office and Bate Residence – later the Museum

The first English church service in this district was held in the schoolhouse in September 1883. The church, without the chancel, was built in 1890 and opened in December of that year. The chancel was added, and the building brick veneered

Before the church was built, the Presbyterians worshipped for a time in Pritchard's Hall, McNaughton's Hall and the old Methodist church. The stone church, Erskine, was erected in 1898, Rev. Dr. Pitbaldo, of Westminster Church, Winnipeg, conducted the services, when the church was opened and dedicated. Rev. M. P. Floyd was the first settled pastor in the new church. He was followed by Rev. Dan McIvor.



McNaughton's Hall

A small paper called "The Southern Manitoba" was printed for a short time in the summer of 1886, by an American from Dakota. Later we had another, also short lived, printed by Rev, Charles Whyte. In 1896 the "Killarney Guide" came into existence.

To our surrounding district belongs much of the credit for this progress. Killarney district was a large one, and the town drew trade from an area extending from Cartwright to Boissevain, and from the Boundary line, to well on towards Brandon.

Though life in the pioneer days was hard, and many privations were borne, they were also happy years. Neighbors were all friends in these days, and a visitor could always be sure of a welcome, and the best the house afforded, though sometimes the best was not very good, especially when the potatoes were all frozen, and bread made from frozen wheat flour was to be found in every home.

Mrs. John Williams tells of her first start in poultry raising. Securing a setting of eggs from a neighbor, she found a wild duck's nest and a prairie chicken's nest, and traded eggs with the nest owners with the result, that in due course, every

egg but one brought forth a little chick, which was watched for, and carefully tended in the house, until able to fend for itself.

We had picnics in those early days, which were red-letter days especially the Sunday School picnics, when Mr. James Finlay would lead the procession of wagons playing on the bagpipes, and founts came for miles to join in the fun.

We had an occasional concert too. The first concert was held in the school, in March 1885, as a farewell to Rev. Andrew Stewart, the first minister to hold services in this district. We also had a banquet and concert in September of the same year, to say goodbye to Charles W. Gordon, then but a student, never thinking that he would become, as "Ralph Connor", such a noted writer in later years. The centre of community life, in the early days, was the church service, and every one attended, no matter what the denomination of the preacher. Some of the early settlers will remember how J. G. Smith used to get the right tone for the hymns from his tuning fork, and how, once Mrs. John Williams started "Nearer My God to Thee" to the tune of "Robin Adair." It went well, too.

A Literary and Musical Society was started in 1886, which lasted for five or six years.

The first boat to be placed on the lake was built for Mr. John Williams by Milo Harris from lumber brought from Portage la Prairie; Mr. Williams brought it on a Red River cart, drawn by an ox. The boat, which was called "The Pioneer", was built in Mr. Williams house in 1883, and had to be put through the window. There were several home-made flat-bottomed punts on the lake, previous to this, but no real boats.

Looking backward, we have much to be thankful for, and looking forward, we think of the young people, whose duty it will be to carry on. May they take up the burden, with hearts full of song and press onward, singing in all sincerity, "O Canada, we stand on guard for thee."

**Reminiscences of Agnes G. Grant, daughter of Thomas J. Lawlor
Pioneer merchant of Killarney. Oct. 16, 1961**

Thomas James Lawlor was born in North Sydney, Nova Scotia, in 1853. He received his early education in North Sydney and later attended Commercial College in Boston, Mass. Upon completion of his education, he operated a general store in Dartmouth, N.S., until 1882. In that year he heeded the "Go West, Young Man" call and travelled to Manitoba with high hopes.

Upon arrival in Winnipeg in 1882 he entered the employ of Thibaudeau's Wholesale Grocery firm, as a salesman. His selling route took him as far west as Regina, and in the course of carrying out his duties, he was often forced to travel great distances on foot to meet his widely scattered customers.

In 1883, Mr. Lawlor built a two-storey structure at Tisdale, north of Killarney, for use as a general store. The store at Tisdale was dismantled in late 1885 and on January 2nd, 1886, Mr. Lawlor arrived in Killarney with supplies of merchandise and building materials.

On November 6th, 1886, Mr. Lawlor married Sarah Frances Brown in Winnipeg. Upon arrival by train in Killarney, the bridal couple was escorted by a torch-light procession of early pioneers to the Grand Central Hotel. The bride and groom "honeymooned" at the hotel for a week, while the newly plastered walls of the upstairs of the store dried sufficiently for occupancy.

Lawlor's store naturally was a hub of activity in the new town. Many of the farm families were carried on credit with the hope that fall would bring a harvest sufficiently bountiful to take care of the store account. If the harvest was poor, it meant that Mr. Lawlor simply awaited the next harvest.

General stores were few and far between in south-western Manitoba in these early days. Farmers came from great distances to the store, bringing produce such as butter in large wax-lined wooden pails, eggs, chickens, turkeys, etc. to exchange for groceries, tobacco and clothing.

In 1892 the Lawlor family moved from the upstairs of their store building into their first house. Furniture for the house was brought by train from the Hudson's Bay Store in Winnipeg. China, cutlery and linen came from Halifax, along with the most valued possession, an organ, 'round which was held many a happy sing-song and choir practice. Love of reading brought to the home a fine library. In the living room was the old family bible, a stereoscope with numerous pictures, fancy brass and flower bedecked coal-oil lamps, and a Singer sewing machine, one of the first in the district and in constant use for over half a century.

In the kitchen was a large Majestic coal and wood stove where all the family cooking was done. On one side was a reservoir for hot water and on the other a

large reservoir where huge blocks of ice were melted for the family washing in winter. Ice was cut from the lake and sold at a dollar for a bob-sleigh load. A large cistern in the basement provided rain water in summer, running off the roof into eave-troughs and being piped down to the cistern. No one worried about fluoridation!

In the fall of the year the basement was filled with chopped wood, coal, home-grown vegetables, barrels of apples, shelves of homemade jams, jellies, fruit and pickles, and crocks of home-corned beef. The back kitchen stored supplies of frozen pork and beef. A one hundred and sixty foot well provided the family and several neighbors with good drinking water.

In pioneer days, buildings were heated with cordwood brought from Turtle Mountain by sleigh and burned in box stoves, with pipes going into the rooms. The pipes were extended in fancy shapes called drums to give more heat. Later furnaces were installed and coal brought in by train. Registers were set in the floors and made for warmer homes, with a continuous heat.

T. J. Lawlor took an active part in the Killarney Fair, which was third largest in the province and considered exceptionally good, and drew crowds from great distances. He belonged to Masonic, Foresters and Old Fellows Lodges, and took an active part in all town and community affairs, acting as mayor for two years.

About Card Games....

A Memory from J. C. Treleaven

There was no such thing as bridge or rummy in the early days, as cards in the eyes of many of the good old Scottish Presbyterians were "tools of the devil", but in later years some of us graduated from checkers and dominoes and croquinole to the games of Five Hundred, Euchre, and Whist. Incidentally, George Treleaven was at one time the champion checkers or drafts player in southern Manitoba.

A Gathering of Notables.....

This photo, taken in 1902, and given to the J.A.V. David Museum by Mrs. Finlay Young on March 1, 1920, puts a face to many of the names of Killarney's influential people in the town's early days.



Members of the Killarney Liberal Committee - 1902

First Row: Frank Squair, John T. Finlay, T.H. Buck, S.T. Kellaway.

Middle Row: George Winham, A.G. Hay, Robert Monteith, Finlay Young, A. Mc Queen, Jr., P J. Sherlock.

Back Row: J.H. Monteith, J. Percival, J.W. Smail, Dr. J.T. Whyte, T.J. Lawlor, Dr. A.B. Alexander, G.B. Monteith.