

MILESTONES



The R.M. of Pipestone's Significant Historical Themes and Events





A Project of the R.M. of Pipestone Economic Development Office

The Pipestone Economic Development Office would like to acknowledge
the support of Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism
in the development of this initiative,
through a grant from the Heritage Grants Program
and through ongoing guidance and support of the
Historic Resources Branch.

Pipestone Milestones

THE R.M. of Pipestone has a fascinating and important history. Beginning in the early 1880s, when the first settlers began trickling in, leading to our incorporation as a Municipality in 1884, and up to the present, we have been an industrious, productive and vibrant community.

This booklet will help anyone, residents and visitors alike, to appreciate the basic contours of our past. Sections on various themes, noting key events, dates and personalities, will enrich an exploration of our past, and bring to life our proud heritage – the rich and busy life that has defined us for more than a century.

The material has been drawn from the excellent local history books:

“Trails Along the Pipestone” (RM of Pipestone History Project, 1981) and “Pioneers of the Pipestone, Ellen G. Bulloch, 1929

The following essential historical themes contain this story:

- Community Context
- Community Development
- Canupawakpa
- Government Development
- Public Services

- Transportation
- Commercial Development
- Agriculture
- Spiritual Life
- Education
- Health Care
- Recreation
- Culture
- The Sinclair Icelandic Settlement

We trust that this booklet will inform and inspire, suggesting the rich pageant that has been our community’s story. We leave readers with this thought, which has inspired us as we developed this project.

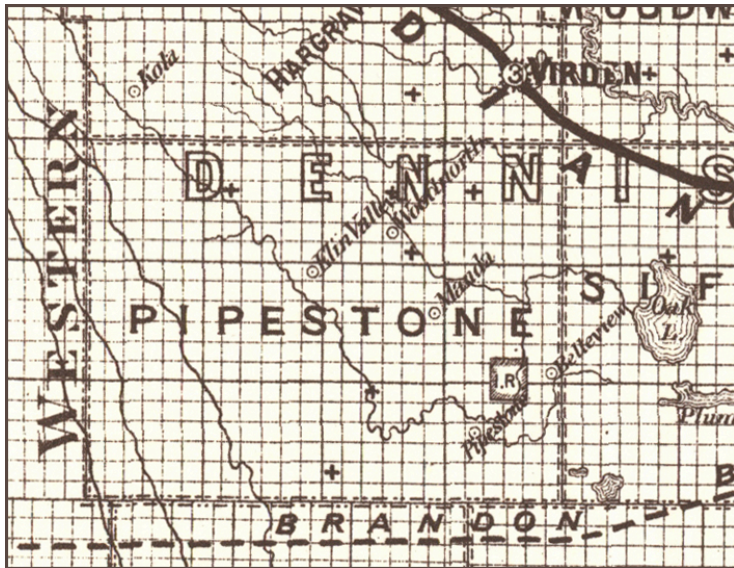
Life must be lived forward, but it can only be understood backward.

- Søren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher.

Pipestone Milestones

Community Context

1887



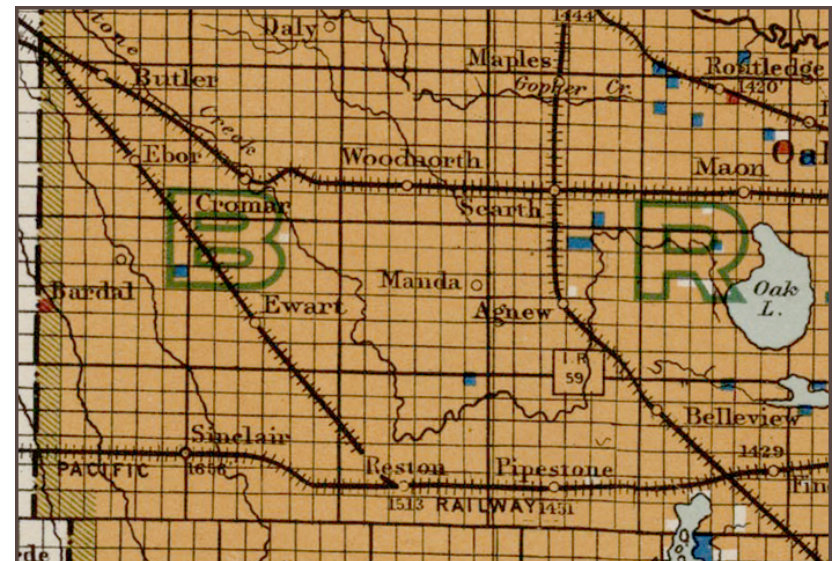
Until 1892, the R.M. of Pipestone was not serviced by a railway.

The transcontinental CPR line passed through Virden to the north, and the proposed CPR Brandon Branch which was to pass south of the municipality wasn't yet begun. The locations on the map, Elm Valley, Manda, Woodnorth and Pipestone, were Post Offices rather than villages. The RM of Pipestone which was incorporated in 1884 would wait until

1892 for a rail connection, and until after 1905 for the additional lines that appear on the next map.

Villages began to appear after the arrival of the CPR Brandon Branch – which fortunately for Pipestone residents, was re-located slightly north of its original plan to serve the settlement that had taken place.

1915



Pipestone Milestones

Community Development

The R.M. of Pipestone is located along the Saskatchewan border south and west of the main transportation routes of the pre-settlement era. In the 1870's, agricultural settlement in Manitoba proceeded westward along these transportation routes. The land routes took pioneers along the Carleton Trail from Winnipeg towards Fort Ellice and by the Boundary Commission Trail from Emerson along the southern reaches of the province. River transportation allowed an alternate route along the Assiniboine. Thus places to the north, such as Birtle, and to the south at Deloraine, were established by 1880. The first settlers claimed land in what would become the RM of Pipestone in 1881, with 1882 seeing a burst of activity.

As settlers began claiming homesteads, identifiable communities appeared, generally a post office, and perhaps a school. These were not villages but may have had a store. The first notable example was the Lanark region, where the Bullochs, and others from Ontario formed a community that would later become Reston. Soon Elm Valley, Pipestone and Manda had post offices.

As early as 1883, school classes were organized, often held in private homes until school buildings could be built.

The creation of villages that define the municipality of today would have to wait until the arrival of the railway. It reached

Pipestone in December of 1892 and Reston soon after. Those two villages sprang quickly to life with a full range of services.

Throughout the municipality smaller service centres were established. The CPR was extended into Saskatchewan through Sinclair. A CN branch crossed the municipality parallel to the CPR and several kilometres to the south creating Scarth, Woodnorth, Cromer and Butler. The Reston-Wolesley line created Ewart and Ebor.

As the railway spurred the growth of these villages, the communities not along the rail lines also retained their identity with schools and, sometimes churches, as focal points. The Hillview, Bardal, Daybreak, and Prairie Rose Communities are examples.

Adapted from "Trails Along the Pipestone"

Pipestone Milestones

Canupawakpa Dakota Nation

“We are a proud nation whose history dates back to before the War of 1812, Confederation, and the birth of America. The Dakota have been crisscrossing the 49th Parallel for hundreds of years following the buffalo, elk, and deer to feed and clothe our people.”

<http://canupawakpa.com>

The Oak Lake Reserve near Pipestone Creek, is home to the the Canupawakpa Dakota band.

Around 1874-5, the Dakota people were granted a reserve one square mile in size on the southwest side of Oak Lake. An agreement to relocate was reached in 1877 and the reserve was relocated to its present site near a famous buffalo hunting ground.

“According to tribal folklore, our tribe received its name when an elder found a sacred native pipe while walking along Pipestone Creek. In Dakota, Canupa means pipe and wakpa means river. The two words together spell Canupawakpa, pronounced Chu-nup-a-wakpa.”

The first inhabitants were Wahpekuta Sioux, including the well-known warrior, Inkpaduta. Some had been in Manitoba since 1862, others had crossed our border after the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. Many of the residents of the Canupawakpa Dakota Nation are descendants of warriors who

fought in that decisive victory. Others descend from another group that were re-located around 1912 from a small reserve on Turtle Mountain.

While the Americans branded the Dakota people, “enemies of the state” the Canadian government came to look upon them as refugees. Today, the Canupawakpa Dakota still have no signed treaty with Canada. Historical evidence asserts that some Dakota did live permanently in what is now Canada prior to European contact.

The validity of the Dakota claim to land in Canada is supported as much by archaeological evidence as by oral tradition. Early Dakota left behind fragments of pottery in Canada which date back 800 years. These fragments indicate part of the territory occupied by Dakota long before the contact era.

Adapted from: <http://canupawakpa.com>

<http://vantagepoints.ca/stories/dakota-claim-canada/>



A Dakota Camp

Photo from the Manitoba Archives

Pipestone Milestones

Government Development

The public administration of the region was established with the incorporation in 1884 of the Rural Municipality of Pipestone. The first Reeve was John McKinnon. James Lothian and Edward Ball were among the councillors. The inaugural meeting of Pipestone Municipality was held at the home of Thomas Croft, on NE 36-8-27 in the Mayville District on Jan. 8, 1884. Arthur Parry Powers was the first Clerk.

The first acts of local governments were generally to provide for an array of services.

It is assumed that all the meetings until 1898 were held at the Croft home. In 1898 the council met in Reston for the first time. From 1898 until 1909 meetings were held at various places throughout the municipality, including Pipestone, Sinclair, the Croft home, and Reston. After that year all meetings were held in Reston.

The by-laws indicate that in the early days it was the duty of every farmer to provide statutory labor on the roads (trails?) abutting their lands. Up until 1888, three days of labor a year with team, plough or scraper was required. This was increased to four days in 1889.

To see that this work was carried out in a satisfactory manner was the task of "Pathmasters". The number appointed each year varied, in 1886 the number appointed was 31.

The statutory labor requirement was abolished in 1901 to be replaced by taxation.

In 1917 the site for the present municipal office in Reston was purchased for the sum of \$100.00. A. H. Busby, a Reston contractor was awarded the construction contract. The cost of the building was \$6,713.60. The first meeting in the new structure was on March 6th, 1918.

It continues to serve today.

Adapted from "Trails Along the Pipestone"



Pipestone Milestones

Public Services

Postal Services

Communities incorporate to provide a structure within which those public services which are best provided by local governments can be tailored to suit the needs of the citizens.

One service already in place was the postal service, managed then, as it is now, by the Federal Government. Settlers in a new region, when population warranted, applied for a Post Office. These are often at first operated out of private residences or small rural general stores.

The first post office was in the home of pioneer James Lothian. The first mail with the Pipestone stamp went out on January 7, 1884. Other post offices soon opened as settlers arrived; Elm Valley to the west, Manda to the north can be found on early maps.

Post offices were later established in villages as the railway crossed the municipality.

Telephone Services

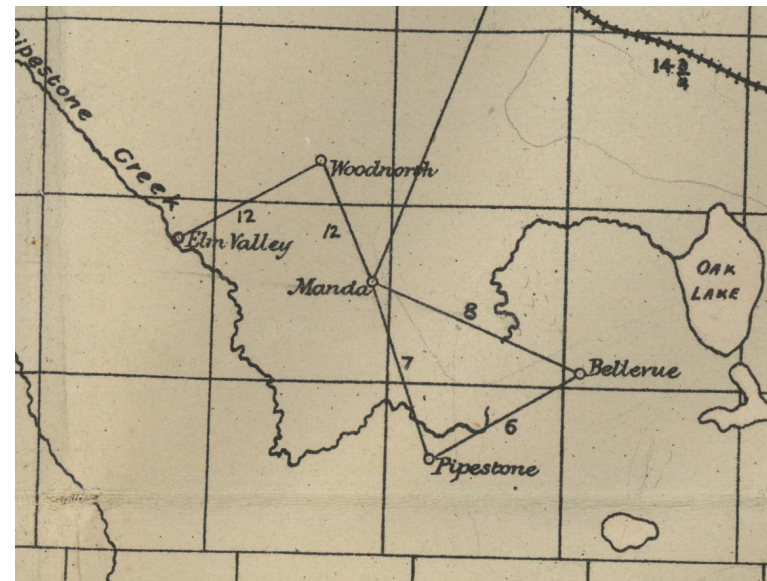
Rural communities were eager to improve services in communication and transportation as technology supplied the means. The telephone was one example. It was a service nearly

everyone wanted but there was often dispute about how to provide it.

In 1908 council decided to proceed with the construction of a Telephone System and \$30,000.00 in debentures were issued to cover construction costs. As early as 1910 there were long distance lines connecting both Virden and Melita with Pipestone.

Over the years there were many operators at the exchange at Reston, Pipestone and Sinclair,

Adapted from "Trails Along the Pipestone"



1884 Postal Routes

Newspaper

Brothers Frank and Arthur Manning, both school teachers, established the Reston Recorder in 1905.

At Eastertime, the Mannings made a visit to Reston and within twenty-four hours, property was purchased and plans made to erect an office and home.

On July 13, the printing plant was unpacked and work was started on getting out the first edition. The first issue was dated July 25, 1905, and it was in the post office the next day. It was an eight page edition with four pages of home print and four pages of boiler plate.

The next year, Arthur Manning returned to his teaching profession and became principal of Reston School. Frank Manning carried on as editor until his death in 1945.

In the first edition of the Recorder which reached only 500 subscribers and cost \$1.50 a year, Frank Manning wrote: " We will strive to keep the columns of the Recorder free from pertinent personalities, giving the public a clean newsy sheet numbering among the best of local newspapers in the west. " The Recorder still lives up to this.

Fire Protection

Fire protection in the early days was a bucket brigade organized on a casual basis. It was not until 1926 that a volunteer brigade received a fire engine. It was an Everready purchased at a cost of \$708.75. This machine had a small water tank mounted on a steel-rimmed, two wheel cart.

Police

The RCMP arrived in the early thirties and, before that time, there was usually a local law enforcement officer though sometimes, it seems it was necessary to call in a constable from Virden or Melita.

There is little mention of crime in the first years but before long the need for some sort of police presence was felt. In one episode in 1915 the famous Pinkerton Detective Agency came to town to solve a robbery. The most exciting times were just prior to 1920 when the bootleggers were making runs between Manitoba and Saskatchewan and down into the States.

In 1921, a provincial policeman, Constable Garrock from Melita was procured. It seems he no sooner got to town than he had to take two forgers off a freight bound for Souris. He took them to the town lockup, which was a room in the fire hall.

Adapted from "Trails Along the Pipestone"

Pipestone Milestones

Transportation

In the pioneer days of the Reston "Settlement" the necessities of life were brought from Virden, often by ox cart.

The Railway

When the railroad came in 1892, it was a lifeline. By 1910, the region was well served by rail. The CPR pushed westward from Souris reaching Reston in 1893 and Sinclair in 1898. This connected the municipality to Brandon and Winnipeg. A CNR line was extended northwest from Hartney, through the eastern edge of Pipestone RM and on northwards to Virden. The Reston – Wolseley Branch, begun in 1906, running northwest from Reston, connected with the CPR's main trans-Canadian line and created the villages of Ewart and Ebor. A CN line originating in Brandon crossed the northern part of the municipality in 1907 creating the villages of Scarth, Woodnorth, Cromer and Butler.

The Station

The first railroad station was a freight car set down at a point nearly opposite Main Street. The first agent was Cleland Jones who came in to town on one of the work trains. The first passenger train came in to Reston on Dec. 2, 1892.

A proper station was built on the same site during the following season.



Photo from "Trails Along the Pipestone"

Reston – A Railway Town

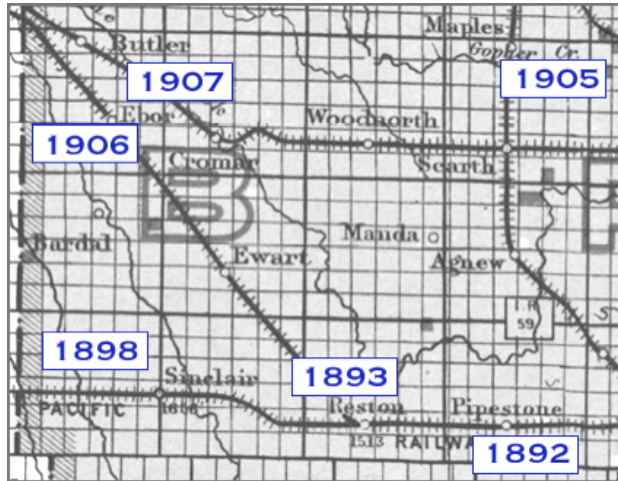
In 1908, the CPR completed the branch line to Wolseley. And Reston became a railroad town of importance. It enjoyed this prestige until 1961 when the Wolseley line closed. Along with the influx of workmen and crews, the coming of both lines brought prosperity and excitement. The large gangs of workers brought business to the town. Many of the Wolseley line crew and maintenance men settled in the town and contributed to its social and economic progress.

"For many years there were three passenger trains daily. In, 1918, the C.P .R. east bound arrived at 13:50 and the west bound at 15:45. The Wolseley arrived at 13:35 and left at 16:05. It took passengers only once a day. There were no Sunday trains."

"Up until the 1940's there were two passenger trains six days a week. Each passenger train had a small mail car, two express cars, and sometimes three coaches. When the train came in from the east at 5:30 p.m., there were often twenty or more people at the station to meet the train. There was also the

Reston- Wolseley mixed train every other day and lots of freight trains. As many as 18 trains a day came through Reston. There was a station agent. He had a helper and there was also a night operator at the station. "

"Trails Along the Pipestone"



As rail lines crossed the municipality new patterns of commerce and travel appeared.

Horses were the other major form of transportation for many years, and each side of the Main Street in towns was lined with hitching rails. The age of the horse was marked for extinction when the first automobile arrived in town, but in rural areas, especially in winter the dependable horse still had its role to play for some time.

While the car was fast, it took rural municipalities some time to develop and maintain a system of dependable roads.

Good Roads

The need for good roads became more apparent as motor cars became more common and in 1913 council at the January meeting passed a motion to submit to the ratepayers the question of participating in the Good Roads Plan of the provincial government. As the years went by, more and more money was put into the good roads program, the peak being reached in 1916 when a by-law was passed authorizing the building of 120 miles of road at an estimated cost of \$300,000.00.

Until the World War II era, roads were often impassable in winter, and cars were often parked in favour of various horse-drawn vehicles for the coldest months. Even in summer the horse drawn vehicle had the advantage of not requiring a graded road.

Adapted from "Trails Along the Pipestone"



Photo from "Images of Prairie Towns"

Pipestone Milestones

Commercial Development

Reston

Reston in the spring of 1893, consisted of five shacks: A boxcar station, Campbell's General Store, Busby's Lumber Yard, and two boarding houses.

The first freight delivered when the railroad line was opened was a car of lumber to William Busby.

The first merchant was James Campbell who put a building on the east side of Main Street during the fall and he used it as a store and a dwelling combined.



Photo from "Images of Prairie Towns"

G.S. Munroe

In the spring of 1893, Mr. Wilcox, a pioneer merchant of Virden established a branch store in the new village of Reston and put a young man named G. S. Munro in charge. Mr. Munro managed the business for some time and then bought out Mr. Wilcox. A two story store that still stands was built in 1902 of local field stone with red granite sections cut from one rock. The stonework was done by William Albert Pierce.



West Side of Main Street in 1912.

Pipestone

In the 1890's the Village of Pipestone experienced the same growth spurt as Reston. Between 1892-1918 its commercial district featured a hardware store, two general stores, a livery barn, the Northern Crown Bank, a Bake Shop, a Flour & Feed Store, a Hotel and a Boarding House, two implement dealerships, a Barber Shop & Pool Room, blacksmith shop, and a bowling alley.



In 1905, a three-storey cement block hotel was built at the corner of Main St. and Railway Avenue. At that time, it was named the Arlington House.

Sinclair

Although it never rivaled Reston or Pipestone as a commercial centre, the Village of Sinclair offered most essential services to the surrounding area in its early days. Two general stores, a blacksmith shop, a café, and a livery barn were available in the era around 1900.



One of Sinclair's busy stores.

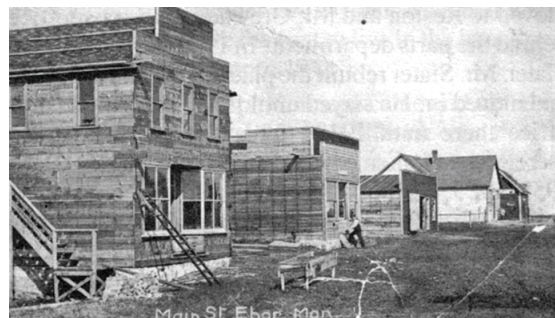
The first Implement Shop was built by Tom Rintoul. The upper floor was used as a warehouse for slow-moving parts etc., and as a general storage for those in the community who wished to

store unused furniture or for goods held while they established homes elsewhere.

Smaller Villages

The smaller centres in the RM of Pipestone developed commercial enterprises as the local need dictated. Each community provided the necessities and each was unique. Cromer was home to Ted Walker, early pioneer, and noted blacksmith and implement dealer. It also at one time featured two ice cream parlours. In Ebor, Issac Haywood built a store, in 1906 on a corner of what was "Main Street". C.J. Craig operated several businesses, including a general store and machinery sales. Ewart had a large general store operated by John A. Smith. For a very short time Scarth once had two general stores.

In 1906 B.M. Hart, established the first Woodnorth Store in a boxcar. In 1910 he acquired a store building and Post Office. Soon a hardware store and blacksmith shop were operating.



Ebor Main Street, 1910. L to R: Craig Building, Implement Shop, Livery Barn, Store, Ritchie Barn.

Pipestone Milestones

Agriculture

Pipestone-Albert Agricultural Society and Reston Fair

The roots of Pipestone-Albert Agricultural Society and the Reston Fair go back to June 21, 1907 when a public meeting was called for the purpose of organizing the society and electing officers. The large gathering of forty-six men and four women was addressed by Mr. A. J. Hand, B.S.A. who spoke on "Improvement of Stock." Mr. W. R. Stevenson, who inspected shelterbelts in the district also spoke and his topic was, "An Ideal Farmer's Home."

The fair planned for that summer had to be called off after a severe storm damaged crops. The first Reston Fair was held on August 4, 1908.

The following report on early fairs comes from the pages of the Recorder:

"Early in the summer of the first fair, a race track was built and a grandstand erected. There was much interest in the horseracing and the animals of John McMurchy and Colin Campbell were among the winners. Baseball was an attraction and records say that it held the interest of the people until darkness made play hazardous.

A highlight, reflecting the purpose of the event, was the selection of agricultural displays.

"There were poultry, vegetables, grain, and fodder but the big attraction was the butter made by local housewives and hundreds of pounds were annually on display. There was great rivalry in cooking, preserving, curing meats, fancy work, and sewing. Church ladies had a booth on the grounds to serve meals. "

Besides the above-mentioned exhibits, there were sheep, natural history entries, and schoolwork. One class was domestic manufacture and this included such articles as a boudoir dressing cap, and corset covers."

(Trails Along the Pipestone)



Harvest Time on the Bulloch Farm, 1906.

Pipestone Milestones

Spiritual Life

Like all pioneer communities in Western Canada, the settlers of the Pipestone area, once they had provided food and shelter, set up places and worship.



Pipestone United Church

Rev. Dr. James Robertson supervised the first Organizational Meeting for the Presbyterian Congregation on Aug. 31, 1884 in the McKinnon barn loft with about 50 people present.

The first Presbyterian Church Service was held in the summer of 1902 in the store granary on the E. Wright Sr. farm. The student minister was Mr. Todd. In the winter the service was held in the house. The districts of Springvale, Laggan, and Scarth made up the Mission field known as Springvale. This field covered a large area, and when the students made their rounds visiting, they rode bicycles.

The construction of churches had to wait until the arrival of the railway signalled the beginning of villages.

The first church built in the RM of Pipestone still occupies its corner lot in the Village of Pipestone. The Pipestone Union Church built in 1893 initially served a Presbyterian Congregation but was also used by Methodists.

Reston

In Reston the Methodists built a church in 1902 while the Presbyterians, who had been using the school for services, also built the church that served today as Reston United.



Reston Presbyterian Church

Saint John's Anglican Church was erected after 1903. The congregation was probably first served only as a summer mission. On 1905 a Baptist Church was built.

The former Saint Peter's Church from (built in 1914 and closed in 1936) was given to the Reston congregation to be used as a parish hall.

In 1917 Reston Presbyterian became Reston Union Church and the Methodist Church was closed. It was not until 1925 that union of the churches all across Canada was achieved.

Sinclair



Sinclair Presbyterian Church - built in 1909

Previous to 1904, services were conducted by the Reston minister, Rev. McAlister. Rev. Stephens from Reston continued to hold services in the Sinclair School and the Icelandic Hall from 1904 to 1908, when connections were severed and Sinclair, Crescent and Broomhill were formed into a Mission Field.

Woodnorth

Woodnorth Methodist Church built in Woodnorth in 1910

Cromer



Cromer Methodist Church, now Cromer United, a Designated Heritage Site, built in 1911

In 1915 Anglican Church called St. Peter's was located just south of Cromer. The Anglican Church manse was located in town. The church closed around 1936 and the building itself was moved to Reston in the early 1960's.

Rural Churches

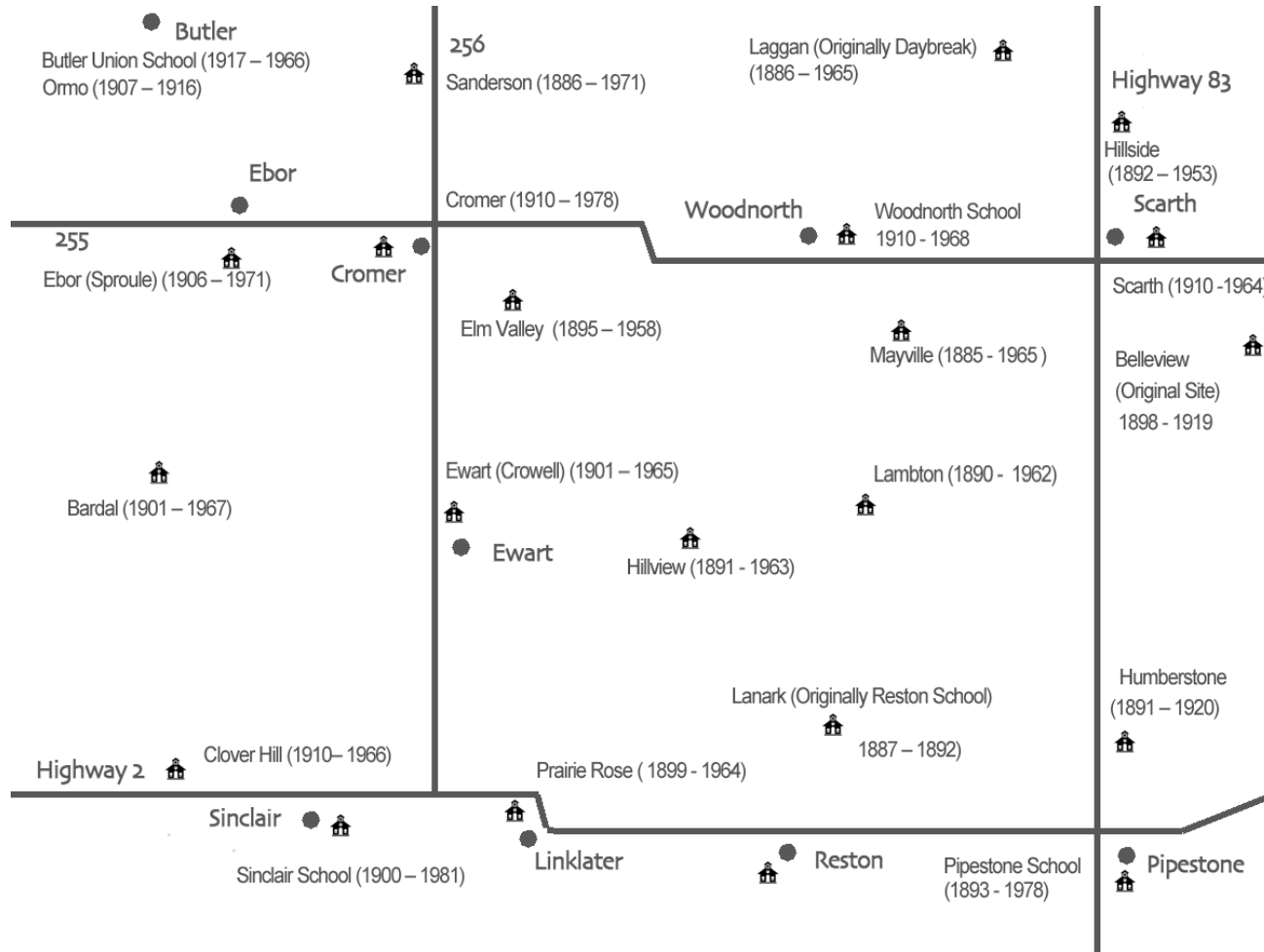
In 1912 Hillview United Church was built near Hillview School. It closed in 1969.



In 1902 Daybreak Presbyterian Church was opened and it operated until 1962.

Pipestone Milestones

Education



Pipestone Milestones

Health Care

Medical Care in pioneer times relied on home remedies and largely untrained Nurses and Midwives. Karolina Johannson, who was born in Iceland served as a midwife and offered other medical help to her neighbours.

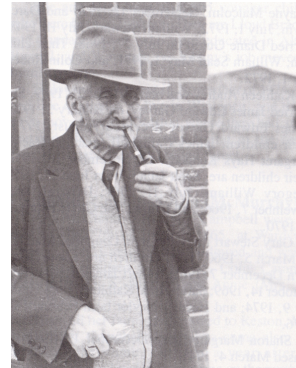
Mrs. George Fairlie also served her community informally as a nurse, as did Anne Matthews, who acted as both midwife and coroner. She would line the coffins in her home where her son Albert constructed them. Local historian, Mrs. Bulloch writes of Mrs. Fairlie and Mrs. Ann Matthews: *“with skill born of their many experiences, and their unfailing attitude of helpfulness they came into homes and provided a real blessing; many times they were sent for in cases of illness and they never failed to respond to the call.”*

Until about 1900, the closest doctor would have been in Virden. As villages grew having a local doctor was an option.

In Reston the first doctor was Dr. Chapman.

Dr. Chapman, came to the village in 1901. He had been a bridge builder and a lumberjack in the east before studying medicine. After graduating in 1899 at the age of thirty-six, and practising for a short time, he decided to go west to British Columbia. On the way he stopped off to visit a cousin at Reston. His medical services were in such demand that he never left the town.

Doctor Alva Burton Chapman



Dr. Chapman retired from practice officially in 1938 but his advice was often sought by patients and other doctors even when he was in his nineties. He was often found in his office in the drugstore during the 1940's and 1950's.

Pipestone had a resident doctor for some 60 years. The first doctor in the district was Doctor White who was here for a short length of time and was followed by Dr. Baird. He practiced for possibly ten years or more. Doctor Banting and Doctor Ross each practiced for a short time. Dr. Cairns came in 1915, purchased the Drug Store and practice of Dr. Ross, and served his entire career in Pipestone.

Sinclair also had a doctor in the early days. Dr. Large was the first, followed by Dr. Young who served from 1910 – 1918.

Reston Hospital opened in 1951

Source: *Trails Along the Pipestone*

Pipestone Milestones

Recreation

Reston Memorial Park

In the aftermath of World War I Reston's citizens decided to commemorate those who served by creating Reston Memorial Park. A site was purchased in 1921. Under the supervision of Alf Archer the grounds were prepared and trees were planted. A war memorial cast of Italian marble, topped by the figure of a Canadian soldier was unveiled by Sir James Aikens, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, on June 30, 1922.



Reston's Memorial Park – where a plaque pays tribute to Mr. Archer.

Making Your Own Fun

Long before the advent of automobiles, radios, telephones,

moving pictures, and television, those seeking entertainment had to depend on their own ingenuity.

There was boating on the river in summer. Tennis was popular as well as baseball and soccer. Winter sports and entertainment included skating, hockey and curling on the river. The first skates were known as "spring" skates, which clamped over the edges of the soles of an ordinary pair of boots. Hockey sticks were fashioned out of saplings a couple of inches in diameter and with a convenient knob or curve at the root end.

Organized Sports

With the advent of more formal sports leagues there was no shortage of nominees for the "Hall of Fame".



The Ebor Tigers football team won a regional championship in 1908.

Pipestone Milestones

Culture

Chautauqua

Each summer, from about 1917 to the early 1930's the Chautauqua came to town.

The word Chautauqua originated with the town of Chautauqua on Lake Chautauqua, in New York State. Muriel Elsie (nee Bulloch), was an advance agent for Chautauqua and has written a description of what it was all about.

"Canadian Chautauqua" had a summer and a fall circuit. The summer one was a six-day series which took place in tents provided by the organization and the fall series was four days and was presented in local halls or theatres. The tents were shipped in a day or two prior to programs commencing and were accompanied by a boy, a university student usually, who was experienced in setting up the tent and stage.

The program consisted of music, lectures, and plays and brought entertainment to many towns that had no other entertainment except what was arranged locally. After the series ended, it was my job to re-sign the town for the following season. Sometimes at the end of a season, or at the beginning before programs started, we would go into towns that had not previously had Chautauqua and sign them up for

the following season."



Memorial Hall

The Reston Memorial Hall was built to honor the memory of those who had given their lives in the two world wars. The project came under discussion soon after the end of World War Two and an organization was set up to look into the possibility of a memorial building.

Pipestone Mutual Improvement Association

The Pipestone Mutual Improvement Society was organized in January of 1886. The society met once a month in various homes. Programs consisted of debates and offerings by local talent. A concert was put on each fall in the schoolhouse. The first library in the settlement, organized by the Association, and was kept at the Bulloch house.

Pipestone Milestones

The Sinclair Icelandic Settlement

In 1876 a group of some 1200 Icelanders arrived in Manitoba, direct from Iceland. Some swelled the population of early Winnipeg and many settled along the west shores of Lake Winnipeg between Gimli and Hecla Island. By 1880 some were pushing westward into unsettled country to carve out homes and find land more suited to farming.

The Sinclair Settlement, also known as "the Laufas (Leafy Ridge) settlement, began in 1892. By 1893 fourteen had built homes and many more had made homestead entries. In 1896, a total of 627 acres had been broken.

It seems to have largely been populated from the Argyle settlement, which in turn had evolved from the Gimli settlement in the 1880's between Glenboro and Baldur. It seems that overpopulation of the Argyle settlement was one reason for westward movement of Icelanders from there or from other points.

They built their own hall. It was about one and one-half miles west of Sinclair and was used for dances, entertainment and also for church services.

The Bardal District

It seems that people by the name of Johnson had gone to live north of Sinclair and apparently there were other people of the same name. Therefore, the one family took the home of Bardal

and that was where the name of the Bardal school originated.

The Johannesons

The story of Einer and Gudrun Johanneson offers a glimpse of the times. They left their comfortable home on the island of Iceland on whose volcanic terrain the sun never sets in summer.

They did in fact come to seek the sun, for they had a daughter of nine years who suffered from osteomyelitis and the attending physician advised that she be taken away to America, "where the sun shines at least most of the time. Here, she will not improve. "

They left in 1883, in a cattle boat. For six weeks this ship floundered through the gales and furious seas. They settled at Gimli, on the edge of Lake Winnipeg where fish abounded and their sponsors felt this food would enable them to at least survive.

But there was the promise of a homestead farther west that tempted them to move again. Here the first years were ones of hardship and endless toil. They built a house of the earth itself, lined the walls with white cloth and lived here in warm, if primitive comfort.

Like most people of Icelandic origin, they could trace their ancestry to the Vikings that settled in Iceland in 874. They passed on to their children an abiding love for literature and poetry, teaching them to read and write the Icelandic language before they entered public school.