

Ripples through Time

The Albrecht family journey
from Germany, to Russia
and then Canada

By Debbie Pietrzykowski ~ August 8, 2015 ~ Norka Reunion, Edmonton, AB

This is the story of my Albrecht family as they moved around the world in search of a place to live, prosper, and raise their families. With hopes and dreams for the future, they left intolerable living conditions in their war-ravaged German lands for the promise of a better life in Russia.

Here is where my family story begins...

Martin Albrecht, my 5x great-grandfather, left Pferdsbach, Germany and answered the call of Catherine the Great inviting foreigners to come and settle colonies along the Volga River.



Map courtesy Google Maps

The oldest Albrecht ancestor I've found to date was my 5x great-grandfather Martin Albrecht. He was born in 1748 in the little village of Pferdsbach, Germany. The english translation of Pferdsbach is horse creek. Pferdsbach was located just northeast of Frankfurt, near present day Büdingen.



The last building to stand in Pferdsbach. History shows that in the mid-1800s one of our Albrecht ancestors was mayor of this tiny village... no doubt more research needs to be done on this interesting fact.



Photo courtesy Sven Teschke

The only remnant of Pfrerdsbach is a memorial stone dedicated to the people who once lived there. The closest villages today are Wolfe and Dudenrod. Martin decided at the young age of 18 to leave the bleak wartime conditions in Pferdsbach in search of a better life. He, along with many others, left the German lands in the 1760s during the exodus to Russia, although other Albrechts did remain in the village. Martin left from the port of Lübeck in Germany and arrived in Orienbaum, Russia (near St. Petersburg) on August 10, 1766 aboard the Russian Pink "Vologda" (pink is a type of ship) skippered by Lieutenant Sergey Bartenyev . After processing and travel, he finally arrived in Norka on August 15, 1767 (just over 1 year!!). Somewhere along the way he married Anna Margaretha Ulrich as she was included on the documents. After all, it was more than a year! Her family was also traveling on the same ship. It must have been a very exciting time for this young man and his new wife.

Life on the Russian Steppes



Dreams of owning their own land and living in a prosperous community had encouraged them as they made the long, arduous journey to their new home in the Russian Empire. However, their hopes were dashed upon arrival at what was to be their new settlement, when they learned that, contrary to what had been promised, very little had been prepared for their arrival. The area was mainly tall grass, shrubs, and scattered areas of deciduous trees. To their surprise, they saw indications that people had previously occupied the area.



Farm life was vastly different for the German settlers in Norka than today, not only in the amount of labour required to work the fields, but also in the layout of the farmland and villages. They lived in the village of Norka, but the land they farmed was outside of the village – much of it so far outside that it was a day's travel away. Therefore, at seeding and harvesting times, some of the farmers would have to load their wagons with seed, feed for the oxen or horses, and food for themselves and then travel to their fields. They would leave on Monday morning for the fields, work all week, then return home on Saturday night in time for church on Sunday morning.



Being devoutly religious people, the next priority in each colony after food and shelter was to construct a church. The church was usually built at the centre of each village and was the largest and most elaborate building in the colony. This is the Reformed church in Norka where my great grandfather Conrad was confirmed in 1888 by Rev. Staerkel. He also married his wife Elisabeth Derr in 1895 in this church. At the time of their marriage Elisabeth was a Weaver and Conrad a farmer.

Photo courtesy Janie & Hart Postlewaite

FREE FARMS FOR THE MILLION

DOMINION OF CANADA

RED-RIVER VALLEY
Saskatchewan, 1870-1880
THE GREAT FERTILE PLAINS
and British Columbia
Largest area settled - from 1870-1880
Very Mineral-Rich
with gold, silver, copper, iron
and other minerals, etc.
Immense Coal Fields
abundant supply of fuel for
Railway from coast to coast

CLIMATE THE
HEALTHIEST
IN THE WORLD.

5 Experimental Farms

FREE FARMS OF 160 ACRES
Given to every New Adult of 18 years and over, in the great Fertile Belt of
MANITOBA, CANADIAN NORTH-WEST AND BRITISH COLUMBIA
Deep soil, well watered, wooded, and situated in the most healthy marked by climate. Wheat averages 30 bushels to the acre, with fair farming
VAST COAL FIELDS AT CONVENIENT DISTANCES.
GRANTS FROM 100 TO 200 ACRES ARE OFFERED IN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA.
For full and full information, in brochure and map, apply to the Hon. Secy. of the Interior, Dept. of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada.
H. H. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,
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DOMINION LINE
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Between LIVERPOOL, BRISTOL and MONTREAL
IN SUMMER
HALIFAX and PORTLAND, MAINE, in Winter.
FROM ALL INFORMATION, APPLY TO
FLINN, MAIN & MONTGOMERY,
21 & 23 ABT. LIVERPOOL.

Later, as many of those promises were rescinded and living conditions in Russia became unbearable, their descendants, like their forefathers, made the difficult decision to start anew. This time their journey took them across the Atlantic Ocean to another foreign, sight-unseen land that beckoned them, avowing a prosperous life – Canada. This journey proved to be far more promising; however, even in this vast, fertile land of the free, they continued to endure many hardships as they courageously cultivated this new land and their new lives. In the late 1890s, likely after much prayer and contemplation, Conrad and Elisabeth decided to emigrate from Russia to Canada in search of a better life. Prior to leaving Norka, families sold their farms and any possessions they were unable to take with them. They received Holy Communion and a solemn farewell services was held.

This is a poster that was distributed to attract foreigners to come to Canada. The **Dominion Lands Act** was an 1872 [Canadian](#) law that aimed to encourage the settlement of the [Canadian Prairies](#), and to help prevent the area being claimed by the United States. In order to settle the area, Canada invited mass emigration by European and American pioneers, as well as settlers from eastern Canada. It offered ownership of 160 acres of land free (except for a small registration fee) to any man over 18 or any woman heading a household. They did not need to be British subjects, but had to live on the plot and improve it.

ПАРОХІАЛЬНОЕ СВИДѢТЕЛЬСТВО

отъ пастора *Горки* Еванг. *Редemptor*скаго прихода, изъ общества *Горки, Горка* за № *454*.

Имя, фамилія, званіе, чинъ или ремесло.	М ѣ с т о.	Годъ и день.	Имѣетъ ли супруга или супругу и когда всту- пилъ въ бракъ и если сей бракъ разрушенъ, то когда, смертью ли супруга или супруги, или разводомъ.	Когда поступилъ въ приходъ или не родился въ ономъ.	Познанія въ чте- ніи и въ законѣ Божіемъ, насколь- ко сіе извѣстно проповѣднику.	Конфирмованъ ли.		Когда въ послѣд- ній разъ приоб- щался Св. Таинъ.	Когда выбылъ изъ прихода, смертью или инымъ об- разомъ.	Особыя замѣтки.
	Рожденія и крещенія.	Когда?				Гдѣ?				
<i>Christine Albrecht</i> geb. <i>Blum</i> Hof- Konrad Albrecht Hof- Elisabeth Döve Hof- 1. Katharina 2. Georg 3. Hermann; born Reinhold y born Christina born Anna born	<i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> <i>Torke</i> 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*Since 1900 the German
Church in Norka has been
in communication with
the Russian Church.*

*16. Baptism
15*

№ *1*
Горка с. *24* *Februar* *1900* (дня *1* г. Сіе удостовѣряетъ sub fide pastorali)
ф. № *1*. *Angenommen: Reifer & Reifer* Пасторъ *Горка* прихода.

Before leaving Russia the Reformed church in Norka provided Conrad and Elisabeth with this parish certificate to present to their new church. It shows their names, dates of birth, confirmations, marriage, and date of their last communion.

Conrad & Elizabeth Albrecht came to Canada from Norka, Russia in 1900. They would have had to travel across Europe by train, then by boat to Canada, and then again by train to Strathcona, Alberta. They brought 2 children with them.



Conrad Albrecht travelled with his wife Elizabeth and there two young children, Henry and Katie and his mother Christina. Conrad's father passed away just four years earlier in 1896. We also know that Conrad had 2 sisters but I'm unsure as to how long they lived and if they had decided to stay behind.

Also on the boat was Conrad's Uncle Philip and his family. The family arrived in Halifax at Pier 2 after what would have been a very long and difficult voyage. The two families then boarded the train to begin the long journey across Canada to the Northwest Territories (known as present day Alberta which was recognized as a province in 1905.) Once arriving at Strathcona county they were met by Mr. Spady who took them to the Stony Plain area by horse and wagon. At that time this area was occupied by the Stony Indians who inhabited the area and all the land west of Edmonton and was unofficially referred to as the Stony Plains.

The roads were merely trails carved out by the Stony Indians and extreme difficulty was experienced crossing the swamp at Winterburn. The railway didn't reach that area until 1911, which was about 40 km or 25 miles from Strathcona.

**Emma Margaret
Albrecht**

1906 - 1982
b: 03 Jun 1906 in Stony Plain,
Alberta, Canada

Konrad Albrecht

1873 - 1931
b: 09 Apr 1873 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

Johannes Albrecht

1835 - 1896
b: 04 Jul 1835 in Norka, Balzer,
Saratov, Russia

Christine Marie Blüm

1834 - 1906
b: 06 Oct 1834 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

Anna Elizabeth Derr

1876 - 1941
b: 25 Aug 1876 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

Johannes Derr

1841 - 1889
b: 08 Dec 1841 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

**Anna Catharina Zielke
(Zilch)**

1842
b: 13 Apr 1842 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

George Albrecht

1811 - 1851
b: 1811

Elisabeth Giebelhaus

1811 -
b: 1811 in Norka, Balzer,
Saratov, Russia

Johann Georg Blüm

1791 - 1842
b: 27 Feb 1791 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

Christina Bartel

1794 - 1861
b: 30 Jul 1794 in Norka, Balzer,
Saratov, Russia

Johannes Derr

1809 - 1866
b: 11 Jun 1809 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

Margaretha Mueller

1814 - 1882
b: 22 Feb 1814 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

Johannes Albrecht

1788 - 1822
b: 1788 in Norka, Saratov,
Russia

Unknown

- 1834

Johann Martin Albrecht

1744 - 1816
b. 1744 in Pferdsbach, Germany
Anna Margaretha Ulrich

Johannes Giebelhaus

1779 - 1855
b: 13 Jan 1779

**Katharina Elisabeth
Weitzel**

1776 - 1858
b: 03 Aug 1776

**Johann Jakob
Giebelhaus**

Katharina Schleicher

Johannes Blüm

1745 - 1822
b: 1745 in Hutten (part of
Schluchtern, Hanau, Hesse,
Germany)

Anna Maria Repp

1751 -
b: 1751 in Isenburg, Darmstadt,
Hesse, Germany

Johannes Bartel

1761 - 1834
b: Abt. 1761 in Budingén,
Isenberg, Hesse, Germany

Christina Zieg

1768 -
b: Abt. 1768 in Messer, Balzer,
Saratov, Russia

Nicolaus Blüm

Repp

Margaretha

Johannes Bartel

Magdalena

Johann Martin Derr

1782 - 1833
b: 1782 in Norka, Balzer,
Saratov, Russia

Georg Fredrich Derr

Margaretha Piewir

Johannes Mueller

1790 - 1847
b: 1790 in Norka, Balzer,
Saratov, Russia

Catharina Schleuning

1788 - 1866
b: 17 Sep 1788 in Norka,
Balzer, Saratov, Russia

The previous slide shows the pedigree chart for my grandmother Emma Albrecht who was born in Stony Plain, Alberta, just a few miles West of Edmonton on the farm. As you can see there are many family names that will be familiar to all of you and who knows, we may even be distant cousins. T

his area was also known as the Glory Hills (by the European settlers) and was largely populated by German-Russians. Other family names that arrived from Russia are Webber, Feuerstein, Giebelhous, Schwindt, Jost, and Miller.

A, 1901.

Province North West Territories

District No. 202 Alberta

S. District No. _____

Polling sub-division } No. 96
Subdivision de votation }

{ in } 1st Spruce Grove

City, town, village, township or parish

Page 13

Nominal Return of Living Persons by
J. A. McIntosh

6. Enumerator,
1. Commissioner

Page 13

[illegible]

30		109	Albrecht Philip	M	Head	M	Nov 22	1850	50	▢
31		109	Albrecht Elizabeth	F	Wife	M	Jul 15	1862	38	▢
32		109	Albrecht Henry	M	Son	S	Mar 12	1888	13	▢
33		109	Albrecht Philip	M	Son	S	Jun 9	1889	11	▢
34		109	Albrecht Adam	M	Son	S	Jun 9	1900	1	▢
35		109	Albrecht Elizabeth	F	Daughter	S	Jun 9	1900	1	▢
36		109	Albrecht Christina	F	Grandmother	W	Oct 6	1834	76	▢
@ 37		109	Albrecht Konrad	M	Nephew	M	Apr 9	1873	27	▢
38		109	Albrecht Elizabeth	F	Nephew's wife	M	Aug 25	1876	24	▢
39		109	Albrecht Kathrine	F	Daughter	S	Oct 30	1890	10	▢
40		109	Albrecht George	M	Son	S	Sep 12	1896	4	▢

The 1901 census shows that Conrad and Elizabeth were living in the province of the Northwest Territories and the town of Spruce Grove with his Uncle Philip and his family. At that time Conrad was 27 and Elisabeth 24. They show Kathrine being born in 1890, this is a transcription error and should actually be 1899.



Conrad built a small "soddy," a simple house constructed with wood walls and a sod roof, similar to the one pictured above.

Photo courtesy Wikipedia.com

Elisabeth also worked on the farm helping with planting, threshing, stoking, and cleaning the barn. I'm sure that the day-to-day living was what imparted the lasting values of thrift, piety, determination, and hard work upon them – values they in turned passed on down to their children. With the arrival of two more children, John and Elizabeth, it became more apparent that the family needed their own land and a bigger house. The family moved just north of Stony Plain and built a soddy, a simply house with wood walls and a sod roof. Soon a log house was built to replace the soddy.

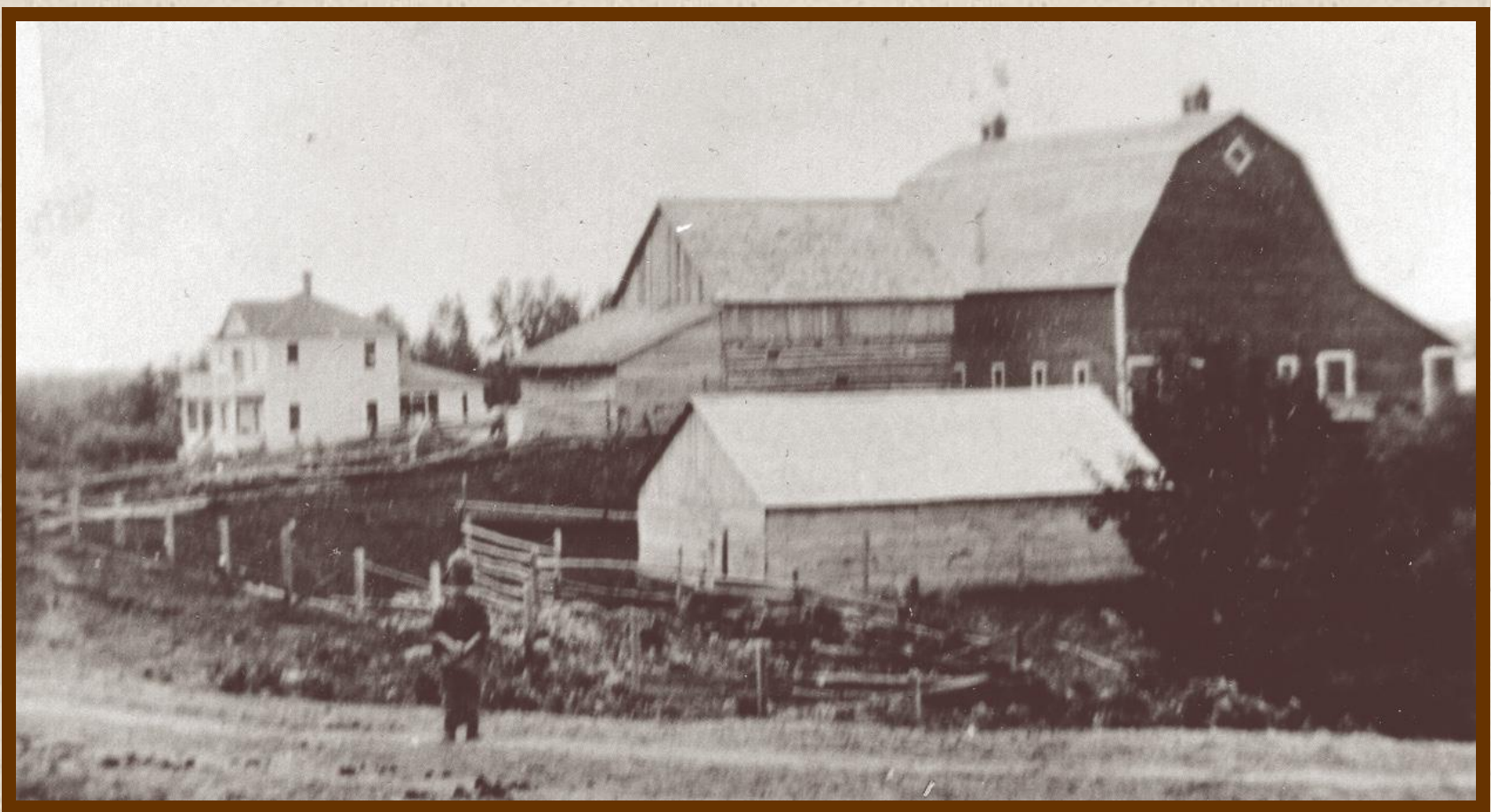
Conrad and Elisabeth's first home was a former chicken coop, possibly located four kms east of Stony Plain. I can imagine that this tiny house would be quite crowed and wouldn't be too comfortable with a family of 5. One of the stories passed on to me stated that when it rained, Christine, the newest baby, and the young children would all crawl under the kitchen table in an attempt to stay dry, while Elisabeth would put pots and pails out to catch some of the rain. Life must have been very difficult for them at the time with limited resources and several children. During the day Elisabeth went to work for people around the neighbourhood. One was a French-speaking lady, so there was the ever-present language barrier among groups of new immigrants. While Elisabeth worked to earn extra money, Christine looked after the growing family.



To make room for the ever-expanding family, in 1916, a large, wood framed, two-storey house was built to replace the log house the family lived in. The new house had a large kitchen, a parlour, and two bedrooms on the main floor. The parents slept in one bedroom and the other was called the cold room and was used for storage. There was a closed-in porch which housed the washstand, cream separator, firewood, pickle barrel, sauerkraut crock, and other frequently used items. Four bedrooms were on the second floor, and there was a veranda on the front of the house. Amenities we take for granted arrived very slowly over the next few decades. Member-owned telephone lines served a few people in the 1920s, but it wasn't until the 1940s and 50s that the service was more widespread. It cost \$150 in the 1930s to have a power pole with electrical service installed in a farmyard, a luxury many could not afford during the depression years. The Albrecht farm had power installed in 1948, but natural gas didn't arrive in the area until 1967–68.

They purchased a farm that was located on the 5th Meridian north of Stony Plain.





In the same year, a large barn was also built. The bill for the new house and barn was just over \$800.00. It looks to me in this picture that several additions have been added to the house and barn.

TABLEAU N° 1. POPULATION ET ANIMAUX DE LA FERME.

Approuvé par le Gouverneur Général en Conseil le 12ème jour de janvier, 1906.

Recensement de Manitoba
Saskatchewan et Alberta
1906.

PROVINCE Alberta DISTRICT Edmonton SOUS-DISTRICT No. 21

Date des entrées Janv. 25 1906.

Signé par Hermann Reintz Enumérateur.

Page 1

LINE.	No. of family in order of collation.	Name of each person in family.	POPULATION.						LOCATION.				LIVE STOCK.					LINE.
			Relation to head of family.	Sex.	Married, single, widowed or divorced.	Age.	Country or place of birth.	Year of immigra- tion to Canada.	Post office station in.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Meridian.	Horses, all ages.	Milk cows.	Other horned or meat cattle, all ages.	Swamp and lambs, all ages.	Pigs, all ages.
33	4	Albert Conrad	Head	M.	M.	32	Russia	1900	Spence Brown	24	50	1W5		7	18		15	33
34	"	Elisabeth	Wife	F.	M.	29	"	1900										34
35	"	Henrietta	Son	M.	S.	2	"	1900										35
36	"	John	"	M.	S.	5	"											36
37	"	Katie	Daughter	F.	S.	6	Russia	1900										37
38	"	Elisabeth	"	F.	S.	3	Alberta											38
39	"	Christina	"	F.	S.	2	"											39
40	"	Emma	"	F.	S.	2	"											40

A Patchwork of Hard Work and Sorrow, then Prosperity

The 1906 Census shows Conrad and Elisabeth along with their six children Henry, John, Katie, Elisabeth, Christina and Emma living just north of Stony. It also shows them having 7 milk cows, 18 other horned or meat cows and 13 pigs. Life on the prairies was filled with challenges and sorrow. One of these times was when Conrad purchased of a team of horses. The horses eventually died of swamp fever before they were paid for.



•In 1906 tragedy hit the family when Conrad's mother Christine passed away on Feb. 6, 1906 at the age of 71. One can only imagine how much Elisabeth must have missed her and all the assistance that she gave with the children. Only four months later, my grandmother Emma was born. The family continued to grow and two years later another son was born, his name was Conrad.



Hearts Knit Together in Prayer – the Albrecht family on their way to church.

In the late 1890s, the first German-Russians who had settled in the Glory Hills area build a small log church in their community. It was of the Reformed faith.

The Albrecht family attended this church when they first arrived.



*Hope Reformed Church still stands on the corner of the Fifth Meredian (Highway 779) and Highway 16.
We will be visiting it tomorrow.*

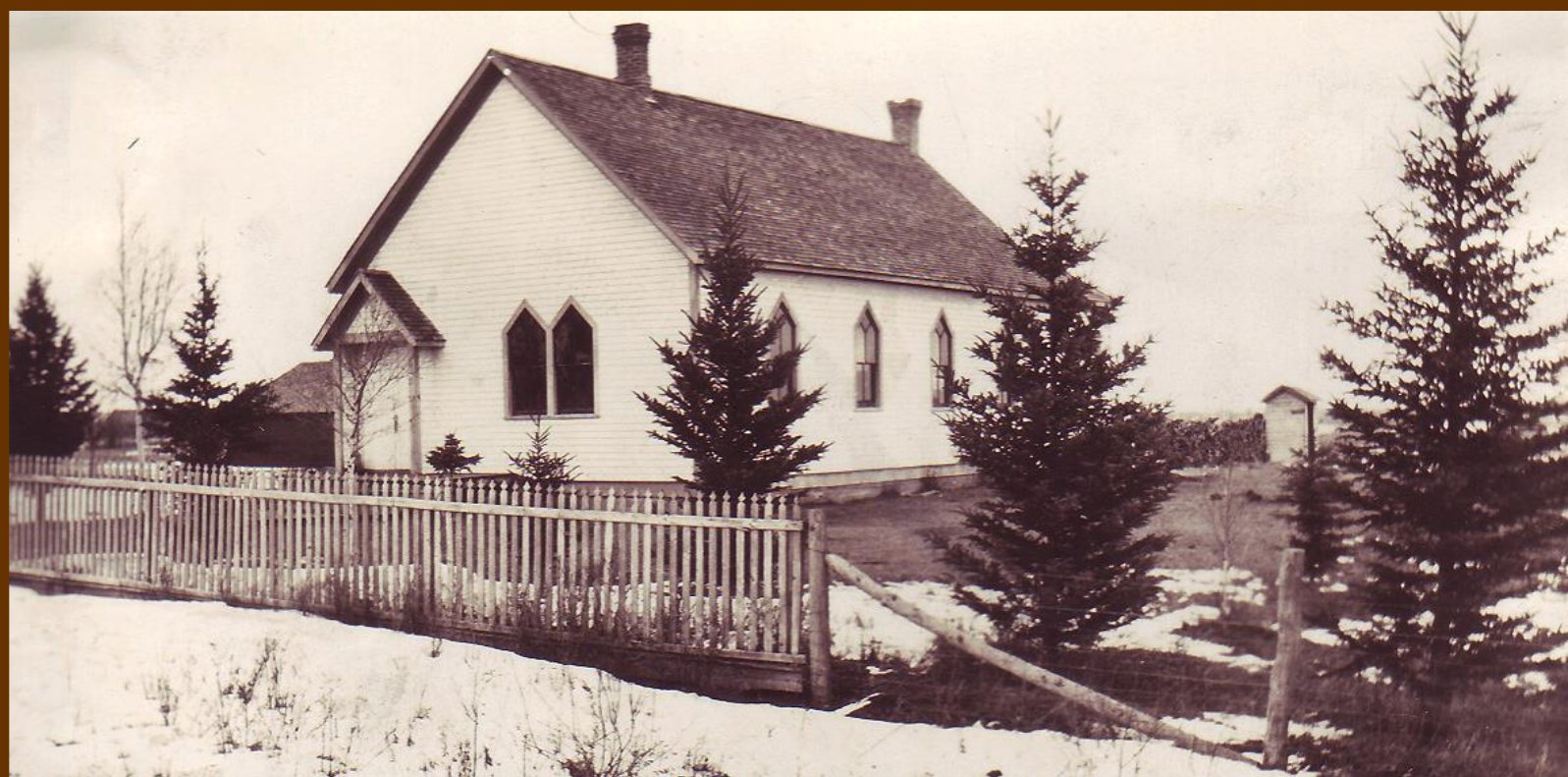
Photo by Debbie Pietrzykowski

The Hope Reformed Church was built in on land donated by Adam Giebelhaus and also has a cemetery where many of the Albrecht descendants are buried. As a little girl I came to this little church in the country for many a funeral. At one time it had beautiful rows of Spruce trees circling the church that my Great-Grandmother Elisabeth helped plant.



In 1909, more sadness fell upon the family with the death of two of the children. Conrad along with that of one of his older sisters Christine both died of the black measles, also known as rubella. How sad this must have been for Conrad and Elisabeth to lose 2 of their young children so close together. There was no money for headstones so the names were etched in a slab on cement.

Glory Hills Baptist Church



In 1907 Rev. Edward Wolfe, a Baptist minister, who preached at the Hope Reformed Church in earlier years, had decided to start a Baptist congregation after a rift developed over the sacrament of baptism. Services were held in homes and the schoolhouse until a Baptist church was built. Many members of the congregation of Hope Reformed Church, including Conrad and Elisabeth, left to join the Baptist Church. The church was later moved to land donated by the Jespersen family and in 1911 a larger church called Glory Hills Baptist Church was built. A cemetery was also located there which is where Conrad and Elisabeth along with many of their children have been laid to rest. In the summer the family went to church by horse and wagon and in the winter by horse and sleigh with children covered in blankets. When they got to church one Sunday, Conrad was talking with some friends while Elisabeth helped the children out of the sleigh. They thought they had forgotten a child at home until they found him snuggled under the blankets on the floor of the sleigh.

Photo by Emma Albrecht

The early years...



L-R:
Unkown,
Annie,
Reuben,
Henry,
Lawrence



Annie

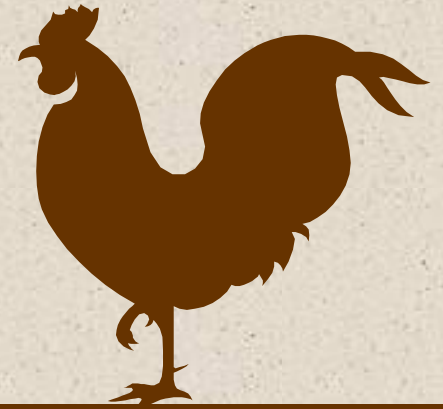
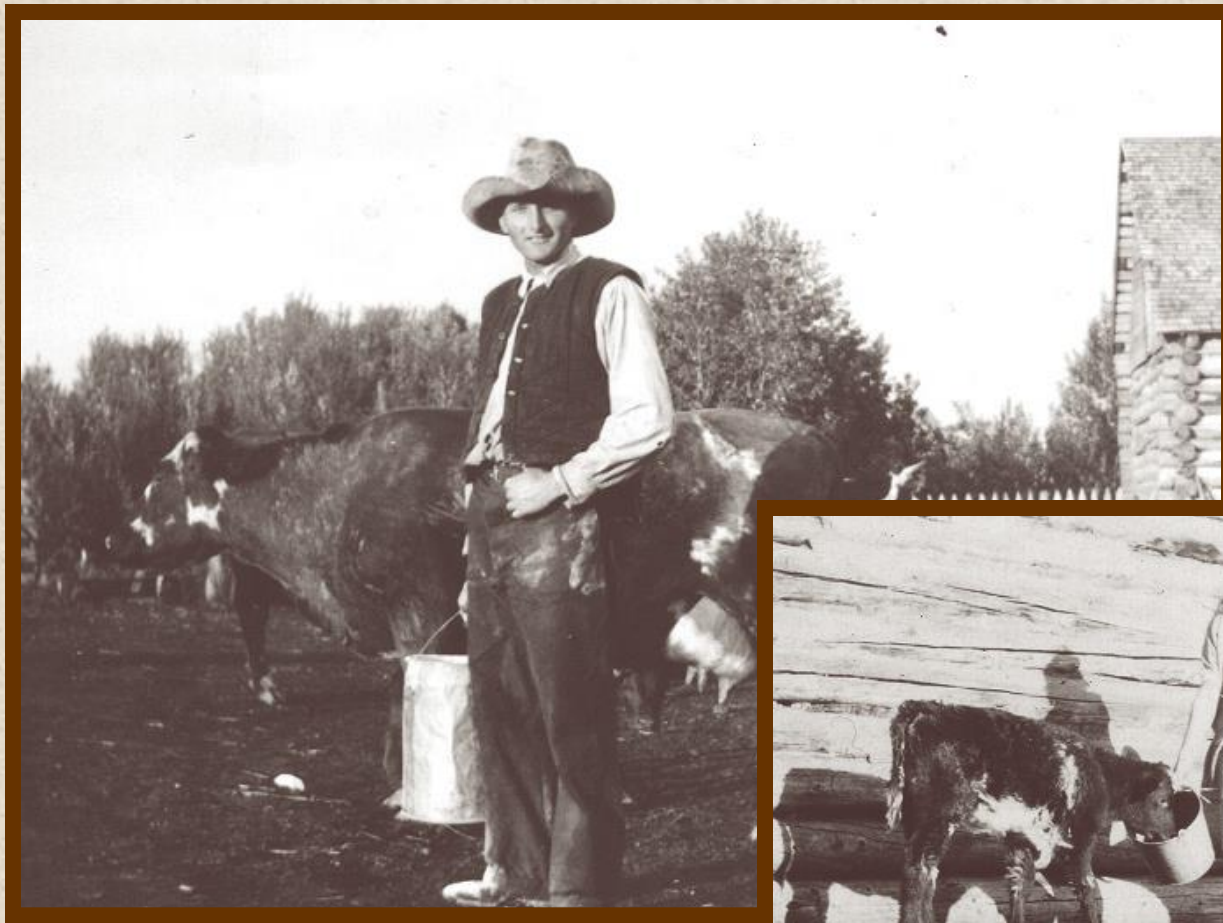


Conrad & Rueben

The early years...

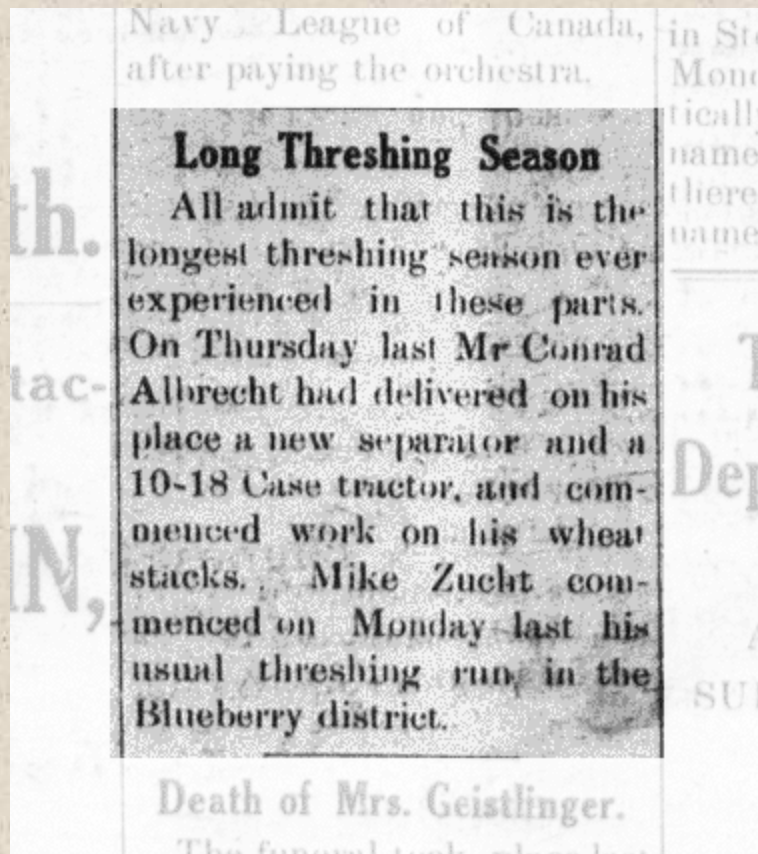


Conrad and Elisabeth had a big family with 12 surviving children, 7 boys and 5 girls. That was a lot of mouths to feed and children to clothe.

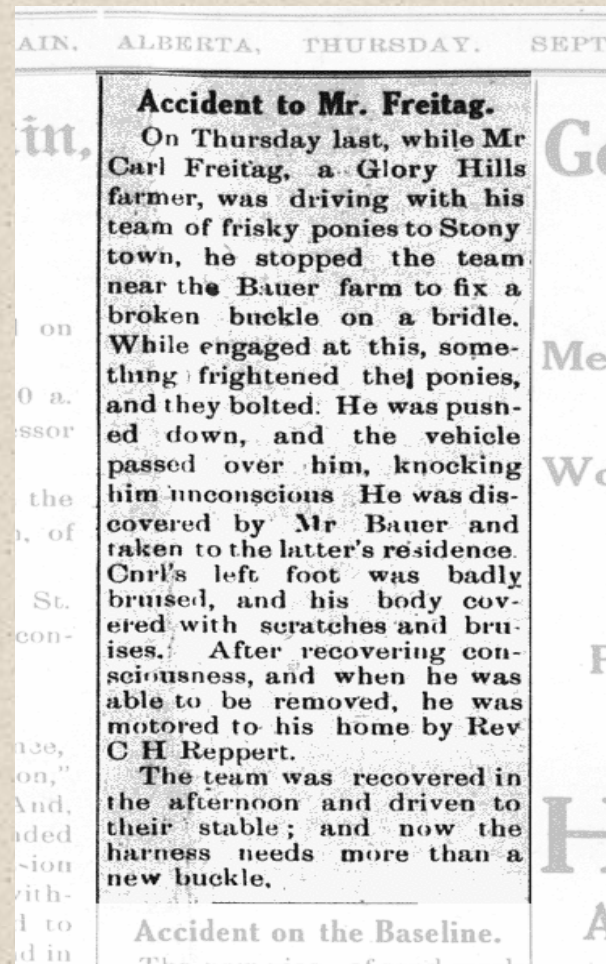


On the farm the chores are never
ending. Adam & Emma
feeding the cows.

On the farm there was no electricity or indoor plumbing. Farming was hard work, with long days and little money. Work and play revolved around the seasons. Every member of the family had chores -- milking cows, harnessing horses, gathering eggs, cleaning the outhouse, washing clothes, and more.



Stony Plain Sun, November 8, 1923



Stony Plain Sun, November 8, 1923

According to the newspaper clipping on the left it looks like 1923 was a good year for crops. It tells about Conrad receiving a new separator and 10-18 Case tractor and then commencing work on his wheat stacks. The clipping on the right tells about Carl Freitag and an accident he had with his ponies. Carl is the husband to Katie. These clippings are from Peel's Prairie Provinces, an online database of Provincial Newspapers. The clippings really give us a good sense of what life was like in the early days.

DR. R. M. OATWAY
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
 Residence and Office, opp. G. T. P.
 Station. Phone 11.

DR. R. A. WALTON,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
 Office over Kelly's Store. Phone 1
 Residence, 34 St. West.

DR. W. SCOTT HAMILTON
 Dental Surgeon,
 400 Taylor Bldg., Edmonton.
 Phone: Office 6314, Home 82117.
 At Stony Plain every Thursday.

M. MAX MECKLENBURG
 OPTICIAN,
 Hodge Bldg., Edmonton. Phone 1300.
 8 doors north of Taylor Block.
 Spectacles, the best at lowest prices.
 Special sale on Saturdays.

LOST. \$50 in Dominion Express
 Co. checks. Reward on return to
 A. J. Shand, phone 1615 Stony
 Plain.

LOST. Two year-old Sorel Mare,
 white strip down face, 2 white
 hind legs half way up to hock, no
 brand. Reward on return to C.
 Albrecht, Stony Plain. 56

FOR SALE. Improved farm, 320
 acres, 5 1/2 miles from Stony Plain,
 1 1/2 miles from Rosenthal school;
 145 acres under cultivation, 115
 in crop; balance can be cultivated;
 the above may be purchased with
 or without crop and equipment.
 C. W. McKenna, Phone 909, Stony
 Plain. 57-58

Zilliox & Kast,
 Harness and Farm
 Implements.

Bring Your Hogs
 —TO—
Meredith Bros.,
EVERY DAY IN THE
WEEK.
 PHONE FIVE ONE.

STOP AT
Spruce Grove Hotel
 Good Rooms. Good Meals.
 Fully Licensed.
JOE D. MILLER, Manager

FARMERS'
MEAT MARKET.
 FRESH AND CURED MEATS
 POULTRY IN SEASON.
 CASH PAID FOR HOGS, CATTLE,
 CALVES, HIDES AND
 POULTRY.
 PHONE SEVEN

GUS ZUCHT.
 SEE ME FOR
INSURANCE !
 Life, Fire, Hail, Automobile.
R. B. BROOKS, Stony Plain.

Fischer Restaurant,
 Opposite Royal Hotel.
 ALL WHITE HELP.
 GOOD MEALS AT REA-
 SONABLE PRICES.
 SOFT DRINKS.
Albert Fischer, Prop.

LOUIE FUHR,
 AGENT FOR

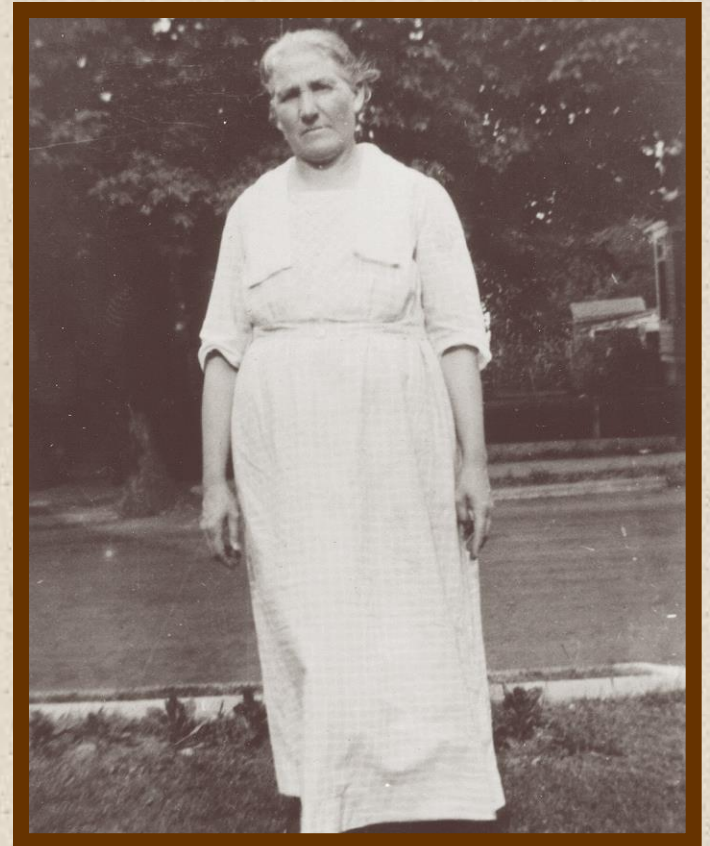
John Deere
Farm Implements.
 Drills Discs
 Plows Harrows
 Binders Engines
 Wagons Mowers

LOST- Two year-old Sorel Mare, white
 strip down face, 2 white hind legs half-
 way up to hock to brand. Reward on
 return to C. Albrecht, Stony Plain.

Here is an ad placed in the
 Stony Plain Sun on July 2,
 1925. It must have been
 quite a challenge to ensure
 all of the fencing was kept
 in good shape to protect
 livestock and prevent them
 from 'exploring' other
 areas. The grass just might
 have been greener on the
 other side. We don't know
 if the horse was ever found
 and the reward paid out.



The children usually walked to school, rain or shine, and spent summers helping in the fields. Farm families looked forward to the fun of school programs, trips to town, church gatherings, and other social events. This photo is taken at the Glory Hills School when my Grandma is about 10 years old. I'm guessing the picture is from about 1916.



It was said by one local resident that Elizabeth was one of the hardest working women in the community... and we have the pictures to prove it.

Although the family did not have a lot of money or material possessions, they also never went hungry. Elisabeth was known for her generous hospitality and plentiful meals, including her homemade noodles and pies. I have carried on the tradition of making homemade noodles and my family looks forward to them on special holidays. They are enjoyed with turkey and all the fixings.

The early years...



The Palmer triplets from
Portland



Back: Aunt Emma Derr (from Portland),
Sara, Emma, Annie, Reuben, Front: Clarence,
Lizzy, Adam pulling wagon

The Albrecht home was always open to friends and family with Elisabeth frequently and cheerfully setting extra places at the dinner table. During the summer some of Elisabeth's brothers and sisters and their families visited from Portland, Oregon. At other times, the family would give shelter to wanderers looking for a place to spend the night.



With help from neighbors, farm families brought in the harvest, battled fires, coped with accidents and illness, and weathered natural disasters such as snowstorms, hail and drought.



Reuben, Adam, Conrad, Mark Hansen



Harvest Time on the Farm

Fall was a time of harvest and preparation for the cold winter months. Families picked and stored apples and potatoes and canned other garden vegetables for winter meals. Crabapples canned in syrup and seasoned with cloves is a fond memory from my childhood. In late fall, farmers repaired barns, hog houses, and chicken houses, patching holes and cracks to keep out the winter weather. Farmers usually butchered a hog or cow in November to provide meat for the family through the winter. Whatever didn't get done would have to wait until spring.



Wedding Bells



will ring...



and ring...

and ring!

In the 1920's the children began to get married. The preparations for these celebrations were endless – steers to butcher, chickens to pluck, pies to bake – and all without electricity or modern conveniences.



John & Olga ~ 1928

Elizabeth & George ~ 1928

A common wedding reception tradition back then was known as charivari – an informal, noisy serenade to the newlyweds. Although pots and pans were often used as noisemakers, a local tradition was for friends of the groom to gather where the wedding reception was being held and use a large hammer to strike a saw blade, making a thunderous din, while whooping and hollering, until the bride came outside. The friends would be given coffee, dessert, and a bit of money to buy beer, and then they would leave to have a party of their own.



Katy & Karl Freitag ~ 1927



Henry & Lily ~ 1928

The years of 1927 and 1928 were busy years for Conrad and Elisabeth. Four of the Albrecht children (Katie, Henry, John, and Elisabeth) were married. Money was tight so the brides often wore the same wedding dresses or veils. I have pictures of all the 12 Albrecht weddings, quite a treasure to have.

Stony Plain Sun, Nov. 10, 1932



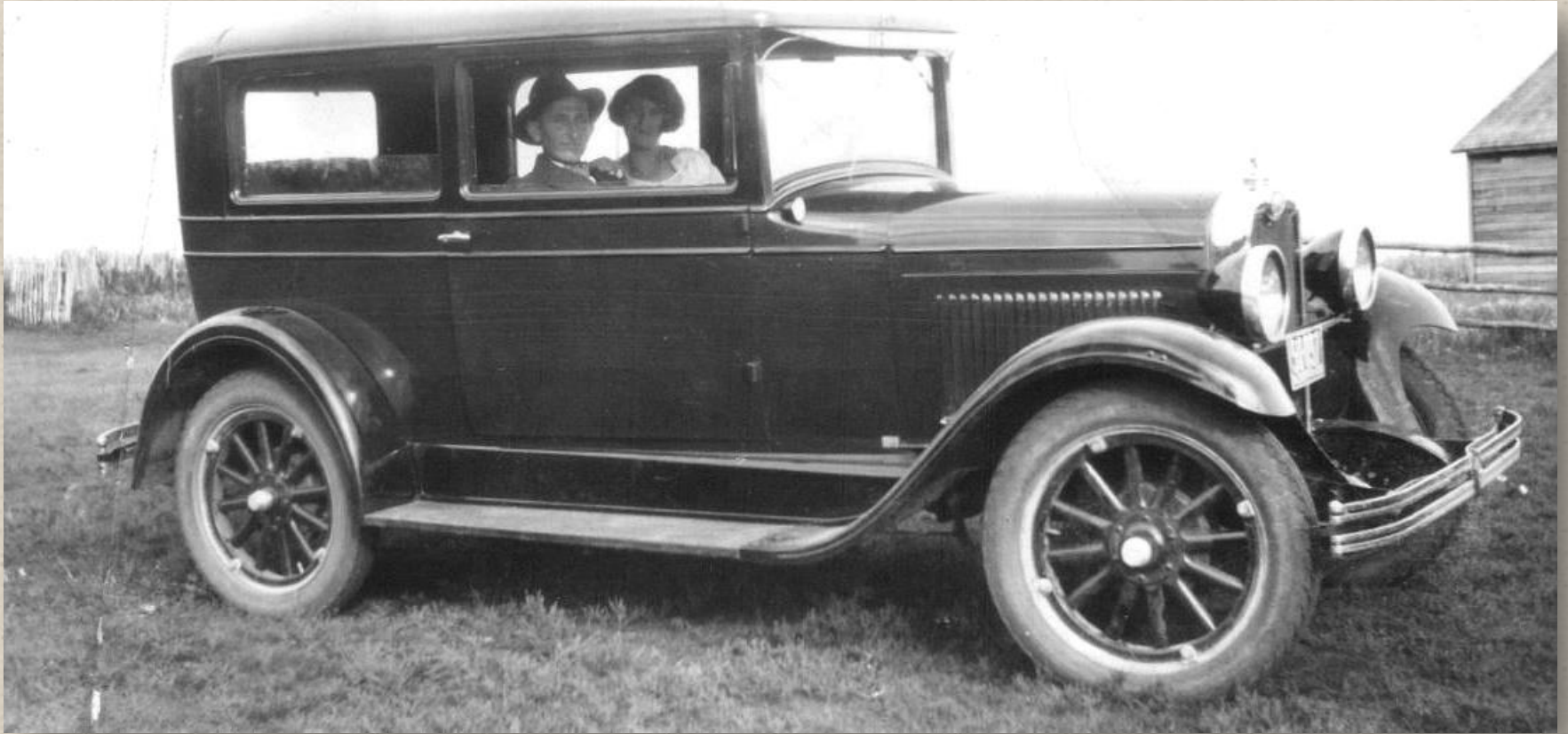
A wedding was a big event in a small town. This newspaper article ran in the Stony Plain Sun, November 10, 1932. It covers the highlights from my Grandma and Grampa's wedding, Mark and Emma Hansen, and details everything from the music, dresses, flowers and attendants. It also says that the happy couple will make their home on the farm of the groom in the Onoway district.

minis- an ad-	born ; W. M. Washburn and Geo Herbert.	from
y) the ntirely which will be	Hansen--Albrecht. Glory Hills Baptist Church was the scene of an interesting ceremony on Thurs afternoon Nov. 3rd, when Emma, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Con- rad Albrecht, became the bride of Markus Hansen. Rev. Fred W Benke performed the ceres- mony. Miss Irene Jespersen played the wedding march. The bride was beautifully gowned in a white laced flat crepe dress and carried a bouquet of pink and white carnations. She was attended by her sister Annie, who look- ed charming in a cream flat crepe dress ; and by Miss Marie Hartum, who was dressed in a pink flat crepe dress.	out o after Sides good Cat dema Sente one o on Fr five p The ends M know Royal Sat Bu at Th
trass. ce on f Mrs d wife ceased ervice s Ref astor, inter- urch	The groom was attended by Mr Wm Sass and Mr Wm Albrecht, brother to the bride. After the service a number of relatives and friends were entertained at the home of the bride where a delicious wed- ding supper was served. The evening was spent with short speeches, songs and music.	NOVEM 11--Re 11--Be De 11--Be W 11--D H 11--D 12 -M 12 -U Pi 16--Te La 18--W 26--Cl U
nourn band John Wil- one	The many presents given to the young couple show in what high esteem they were held.	DECEM 1--T 16--Co
on. g for to be next, Mr. G ne re- mises to at- se to ment	The happy couple intend making their home on the farm of the groom in Onoway district. We wish them God's blessing and much happiness. —F. W. B.	Ger ba held day at Serv next S Unit Sunda
been gates Gar- those forta- at the	Duffield Doings.	
wnlee lence		



The Wedding Limousine

This picture is of the wedding of Henry and Lily, they were married on March 6th, 1928. As you can see there is still a lot of snow on the ground so a sleigh pulled by horses was the only choice of transportation to get them to the church and back. If you've ever lived through a spring snowstorm in Alberta you know it's not a lot of fun!



The first motorized Fords were introduced in Alberta around 1911. The children and their farms were doing well and it wasn't long before Henry, the oldest bought his first car. At that time they must have thought "what luxury" to be driving in a motorized vehicle.

Conrad's Funeral ~ April 25, 1931



A very sad day ~ the girls stayed awake all night sewing black arm bands for everyone

ALBRECHT, Elizabeth

MANIFEST

Part of

Date

Serial No.

Family name

Given name

Accompanied by

Albrecht, Elizabeth + Sarah
Chick Rubin-Claunce-Adam-William

C.T.V. No.

Place and date of issue

Section and subdivision

Quota country charged

R.P. No.

Place of birth (town, country, etc.)

Act of 1924

Age

Yrs.

Sex

Mar.

Occupation

P.V. No.

Read

Language or exemption

Place

Nationality

Last permanent residence (town, country, etc.)

Write

Name and address of nearest relative or friend to country whence alien came

Ever to U.S. From

Where

Passage paid by

Destination, and name and complete address of relative or friend to join there

Money shown

Ever arrested and deported, or excluded from admission

Purpose in coming and time remaining

Head tax shown

Height

Complexion

Hair

Eyes

Distinguishing marks

Seaport and date of landing, and name of steamship

Can. Im. identification card No.

Recorded by

Previously examined at

Date

Previous disposition

Present disposition, P.

Arrived by

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form 545.

14-2100

In Oct, 1938 Elisabeth made the long journey to Portland to visit her sister Margaret Pfenning with 5 of her children. It must have been quite the trip as she was already 62 years old.



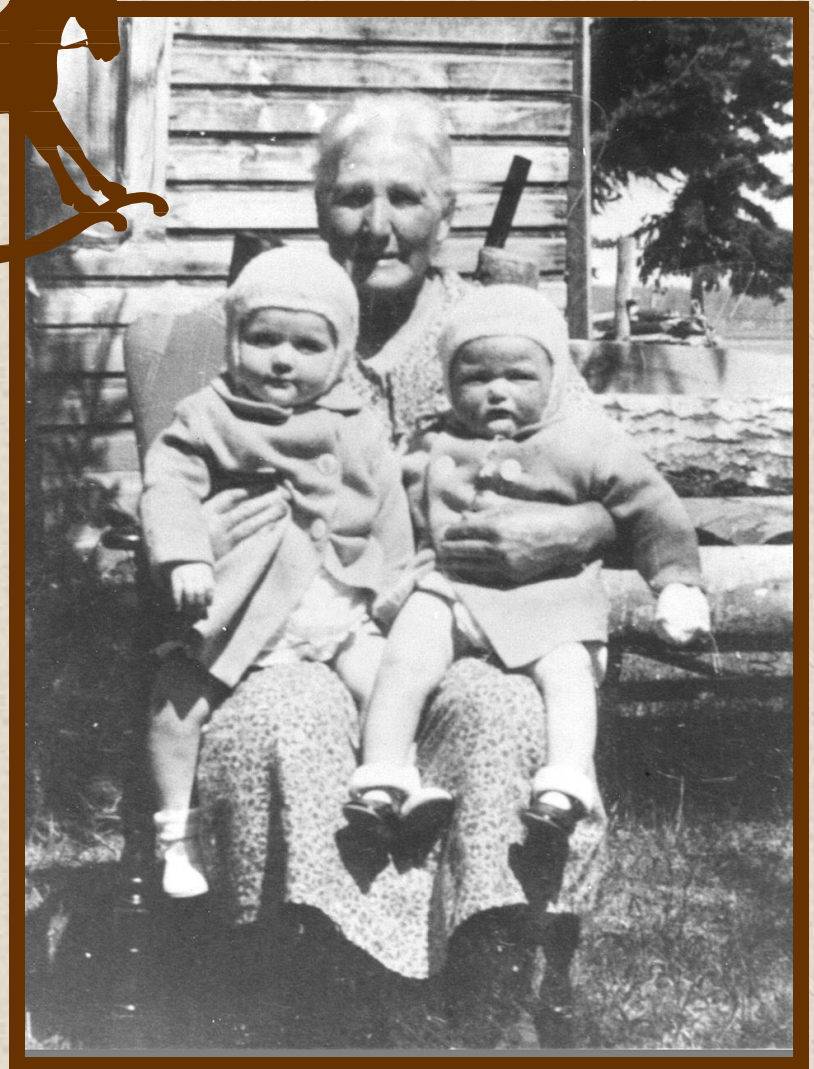
These are Elisabeth's brothers and sisters. Back Left to Right is Emma Derr, Catherine Jorge and John. Front is George, Margaret Pfenning and Adam.

Grandkids keep hearts young



Elizabeth with Emma, Eleanor & Mark Hansen

Elisabeth carried on with the help and support of her children. She also got to enjoy many grandchildren, there would be 32 in all!



Elizabeth with grandchildren
Gerald and Geraldine Sass

Grandkids keep hearts young



One can only imagine how busy the Albrecht home could get when all the children would come home for a visit or holiday. It must have been great fun growing up in such a large family with so many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.



Oral & Wallace Albrecht



Cousins by the dozens!

This little guy in the front is my dad, who is now 78 years young.



From early on the Albrecht's loved to get together. Many summers were spent at Alberta Beach enjoying swimming, games and picnics with fried chicken, cucumber salad with fresh farm cream and lots of desserts. Meringues and Angel food cake was baked from the whites of the eggs left over after noodle making.

Christmas Celebration at the Hansen's



When my grandparents moved off the farm into Edmonton and my grandfather took a job at the railroad he said it was the happiest day of his life. They bought a little house in north Edmonton and he was so happy to leave the hardships of farm life behind and earn a steady income. My grandmother loved entertaining and enjoyed having family get-togethers and throwing dinner parties. Soon the family outgrew gathering in the homes and Christmas parties were held at the local community league, Prince Charles.



Hearts Knit Together



The most treasured heirlooms are the sweet memories of our family.



On January 31, 1941, the family experienced more sorrow when Elisabeth, at the age of 64, passed away in her sleep from a heart attack. After a two-day visitation at the family home, her funeral service was held at the Glory Hills Baptist church; it was conducted in both German and English as the use of English was becoming more common. When Emma heard the news of her mother's death she loaded everyone in the sleigh and travelled the coyote highway so she could be by her mother's side. The coyote highway was an expression used when you didn't use the roads and went through the fields and over the frozen lakes. My dad remembers his dad taking her hand and patting it and saying "poor Grandma". Leonard Jespersen, a friend of Elisabeth's son-in-law Mark Hansen, dug her grave next to Conrad's by shovel through five feet of frozen ground as there was no money to buy coal to burn to thaw the ground. I can't imagine how long that must have taken and hopefully he had help!

All grown up...



As the children all needed the appropriate black clothing for the funeral, Katie volunteered to go to Stony Plain to get the necessary black fabric. The family wasn't able to pay for the material, so one of the merchants was kind enough to give it to them. Despite their grief, the older girls sewed through the night making new dresses for all the girls and black arm bands for the boys. This family photo was taken sometime after Elisabeth's passing.



Passing the torch . . . from generation to generation

With Conrad and Elisabeth both deceased, Clarence, their youngest son, took over the family farm. Clarence married Viola Lienau in 1943, and they raised their family in the home Clarence grew up in, until it burned down in 1956. (The barn, however, stood until 2010.) By 1945, all of Conrad and Elisabeth's children were married and making their way in the world.



Fortunately for us, our ancestors had the foresight to leave Russia in 1900 to start their lives anew in Canada. We are thankful for their perseverance and determination to better their lives so that we can enjoy our lives today in this wonderful country.

When someone you love becomes a memory,
the memory becomes a treasure.

Family celebrates century living in Canada

Submitted by
the Albrecht Family

Recently 175 descendants of Conrad and Elizabeth Albrecht met to celebrate 100 years of the family living in Canada.

The reunion was held in Muir Lake Hall, which is just north of the homestead where the family lived on after their arrival in Canada.

The Albrecht family were German people who were living in Norka, Russia. In the 17th century, Catherine the Great had invited German families to come to Russia to develop an agricultural community. The German people lived in small communities and retained their German language and customs.

By 1899, life was very difficult for the Albrecht family in Norka. Several families lived together in a small house. The farmland was also shared by several families. There was also a threat of political unrest in Russia.

At this time, Conrad received news from a Mr. Weber who had immigrated to Canada, the eldest of



From left to right are Nora Albrecht, Pauline Albrecht, Marcus Hansen, Sara Henkel, Dora Albrecht, Berna Albrecht and Viola Tangen, all members of the Albrecht family.

Strathcona in April. They were met by Mr. Spady who brought them by horse and sleigh to Stony Plain.

The Albrecht family's first home was a chicken coop which the two women cleaned and scrubbed. Later in the spring, the family moved to a "soddy". The roof leaked when it rained so Grandma Christine and the small children would sit under the table to keep dry.

Eventually, the family moved to their home place which was located three-

owner of the farm.

Over the years, the family grew. In all, Conrad and Elizabeth had 15 children. Three died as small children.

The children attended Glory Hills School and the family attended the Glory Hills Baptist Church. The 12 children all lived in Alberta, most in the Stony Plain and Edmonton area.

In August, the descendants of Conrad and Elizabeth met to celebrate the 100 years of living in Canada. Sadly, only one of

the 12 children is still with us. Sara Henkel is the youngest child of Conrad and Elizabeth. She now lives in the George Hennig Place.

As well, six spouses of the original children attended the reunion. These included Marcus Hansen, who at 92 years was the most senior member at the reunion. Nora Albrecht, Dora Albrecht, Pauline Albrecht, Berna Albrecht and Viola Tangen were also in attendance.

The weekend events

included a tour of the original homestead and cemeteries where several family members are laid to rest. In the late afternoon, a group picture was taken, and was followed by a barbecue.

During the evening celebration, a skit depicted the history of the family in Canada during the first 50 years.

Then a large anniversary cake bearing 100 candles was brought in. A family member who was born in each decade of the century was chosen to

blow out the candles.

The family member also represented one of the 12 children of Conrad and Elizabeth.

The evening ended with a slide show of old family photographs. Sara Henkel and Nora Albrecht described each slide and added humorous incidents about the taking of some of the pictures.

Sunday morning started with a pancake breakfast hosted by Nora Albrecht and her family. The highlight of the breakfast was the homemade sausage made by Nora's sons, Ken and Roger.

Following breakfast, the family joined together in worship. The service included many of the old hymns that the family sang in the Glory Hills Church.

Beverly Abma conducted the service, John and Cheryl Dirks led the music, and Pastor Wallace Albrecht brought the message of "celebrating the family."

The reunion came to a close with a potluck lunch.

In the year 2000, the Albrecht's celebrated 100 years in Canada with a family reunion that attracted 175 descendants. It was held at the Muir Lake Hall in Stony Plain, which is just north of the homestead where Conrad and Elisabeth enjoyed many years. In this picture there is only one child still living, Sara Henkel, the other 6 are spouses of the original children.





These are 27 of the 34 grandchildren of Elisabeth and Conrad attended the reunion... pretty impressive. Each of 12 families wore a different colour ribbons so you could see who descended from which brother or sister.

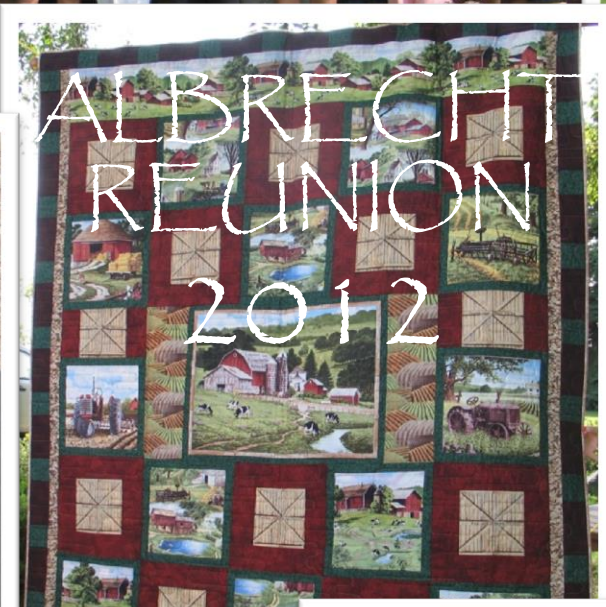


The reunion included tours to the original homestead and both cemeteries where several family members are laid to rest.



ALBRECHT REUNION 2007

The Glory Hills area that first attracted our ancestors was recently designated by the province of Alberta as an environmentally significant area. In 2010, 110 acres in this area was donated to a land trust to conserve the unique nature of the area, ensuring future generations will be able to enjoy its beauty.



Our last reunion in 2012 was held in Camrose at the home of Ruby and Enos Albrecht. We enjoyed a silent and live auction, games for the children, display of antiques and memorabilia belonging to family members, a family chart that everyone could update, and lots of visiting and catching up. One of the silent auction items were small bags of homemade noodles that ended up going for \$50.00 per bag. I believe the homemade quilt brought in around \$1,000.00.



21015 Dedication Service



In June of this year the family gathered again to hold a Dedication Service. Proper memorial stones were purchased with money raised from the 2012 reunion for Conrad's mother Christine and the two infant children Christina and Conrad that passed in the early 1900s.





Marilyn Doige lead the Dedication Service and did a wonderful job remembering Gramma Albrecht and the two children that lost their lives all too soon.



These are the two headstones that we purchased from the proceeds of our last family reunion. It's a great way to honour our ancestors and ensure that their memory will not be forgotten.



We live as long as we are remembered...



Fortunately for us, our ancestors had the foresight to leave Russia in 1900 to start their lives anew in Canada. From the humble beginnings in Norka to their new home in Stony Plain, Conrad and Elisabeth will never know the impact that they left in their community and on our family. Not many families are so fortunate to have such a deep sense of connection.

Thank You