



# **Mennonite Memories of Pelee Island**

**Compiled and Edited by  
Anne Fast and Astrid Koop**

**Essex-Kent Mennonite Historical Association**

Introduction

To the Mennonite Heritage  
Centre, Leamington, with warm  
regards from Astrid Koop. 2011

# Mennonite Memories of Pelee Island 1925-1950

compiled and edited

by

Anne Fast

&

Astrid Koop

VOLUME EIGHT

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## Introduction

In spring of 1925, six Mennonite families arrived on Pelee Island, namely two Dick families, the Thiessens, the Driedgers and two Wiebe families. Their ancestors had come from Holland.

### Background

Following excerpt from *Mennonites in Early Modern Poland and Prussia*, Peter J. Klassen, 2009. *Because of religious persecution they moved from Holland to Poland where they lived for two hundred and fifty years. In the latter part of the eighteenth century, Poland was divided among Russia, Prussia and Austria. Most of the areas where the Mennonites now lived came under Prussian rule. When life became difficult there, they moved to Russia/Ukraine.*

When the Mennonite people in Ukraine were persecuted, some had the opportunity to come to Canada. And so it was that a group of these people came from Ukraine in 1924 and spent the fall and winter months in the Kitchener-Waterloo area of Ontario, Canada. Here they were lovingly hosted by the Old Order and Amish families.

The six families, named above, share-cropped the Pelee Island farms owned by George O. Cruikshank, an American from Ohio, USA. The first worship services took place in private homes where Rev. Johann Franz Dick, a young man who had been ordained in Ukraine, was pastor. Gerhard Thiessen led the choir consisting of 8-10 young people. The adults sat on benches and chairs, and the children sat on the floor. The families walked to worship services or travelled there by horse and wagon.

These Mennonite islanders were soon joined by Mennonite families and individuals from other parts of Canada. The Pelee congregation peaked at eighteen families in 1928. This number gradually dropped, and by 1949, all but three families had moved to the mainland.

Three Mennonite families purchased Island farms, namely Peter and Maria Fast, Ewald and Elizabeth Wiebe and John and Sigrid Wiebe. George Wiens and Nick and Agnes Wiens purchased homes at the North End.

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Gertie Anderson, Erna Barkovsky, Margaret Braun, Hazel Campbell, Elfreeda Derksen, Elizabeth Derksen, Agatha Dick, Jim Dick, Jake Dick, Helen Dick, Ken Dick, Lydia Dietrich, Edna Gardner, Elfrieda Driedger, Henry N. Driedger, Marianne Driedger, Rev. David Dyck, Lillian Dyck, Susan Epp, Hilda Enns, John Fast, Herb Feltz, Kim Gardner, Edna Gardner, Paul Gerrett, Mary Koop, Ginny Redekop, Paul Gossen, Larry Janzen, Erna Janzen, Helen Kolm, Hilda Konrad, Edgar Konrad, Martha Krestel, Walter Koop, Geraldine Marentette, Agatha Neufeld, Ana Neu, Linda Nykulaik, Peter Perk, Ginny Redekop, David Reimer, Ernie Rempel, Betty Schmidt, Hilde Sawatzky, Eleanore Sich, Ben Taves, Dr. Donald Taves, Ron Tiessen, Martha Thiessen, Harold Thiessen, Irene Thiessen, Donna Thiessen, Erik Toews, Kathy Wascher, Edgar Willms, Dr. Natasha Wiebe, Sigrid Wiebe, Marion Wiebe, Fred Wiebe, Gerhard Wiebe, Anne Wiens.

## **Mennonite People on Pelee Island 1925-1950**

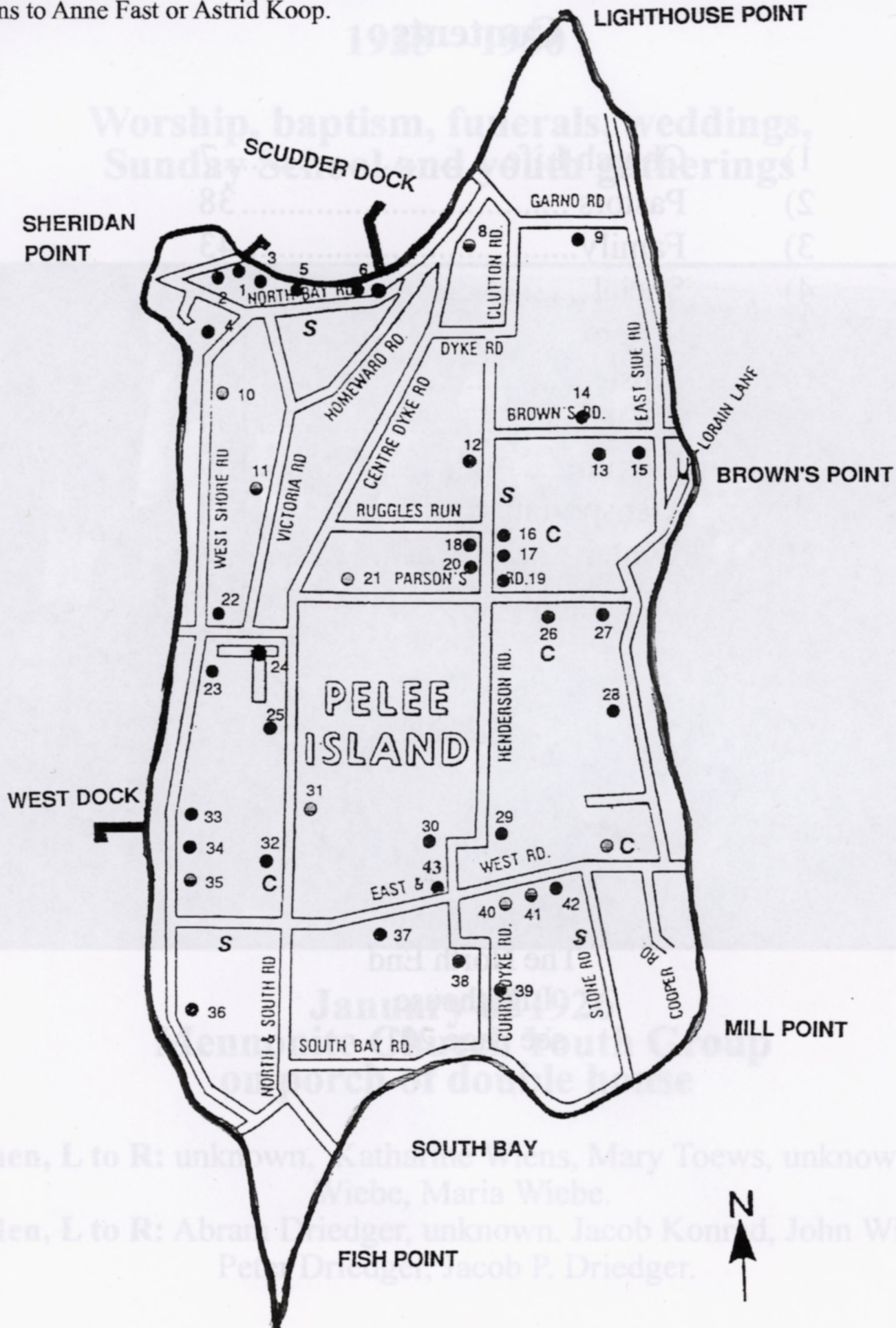
**Note:** Map on following page indicates one location only for each individual or family; most Mennonite families lived in several locations during their stay on the Island.

- 1) Jacob Toews family and Dietrich Bergman and J. Toews, Sr.
- 2) Paul Perk family
- 3) Protestant cemetery
- 4) John Driedger family (1990s)
- 5) George Wiens
- 6) Nick and Agnes Wiens
- 7) McCormick's Store and Scudder Post Office
- 8) Herman Reimer family
- 9) Gerhard Wiebe family
- 10) Ron Tiessen family (2010)
- 11) Rev. Abram Rempel family, Gerhard Neufeld family, Rev. Jacob Epp family, Rev. Jacob Driedger family, Peter Willms and Mrs. Anna Willms
- 12) Johann A. Wiebe family, Mrs. Katharina Friesen family, Rev. Gerhard Thiessen family and Henry Toews and Abe Wiens.
- 13) Rev. N.N. Driedger family
- 14) Abram Dick family
- 15) Henry Wiens Sr. family
- 16) George Pegg's Mission Hall
- 17) Mrs. Anna Wiebe family
- 18) Abram Driedger family
- 19) J. Regehr family
- 20) Rev. John Dick family, Jacob Konrad family, Abe Toews family, Jacob Steingart Sr. family
- 21) Peter A. Driedger family, Cornelius Toews family, Ben Fast family, Ewald Wiebe family and Gerhard Braun and Peter Thiessen and Eric Toews
- 22) Nick Redekop family, Abe Ginter family
- 23) Peter Konrad
- 24) Airport
- 25) Henry Cornies family
- 26) Bernhard Konrad family and Bernhard Fasts and Mrs. Suzannah Konrad, Johann Willms family, John Wiebe family, James J. Dick family (Mennonite Church Services)
- 27) David Reimer Sr, family
- 28) Mrs. Lisa Dick family
- 29) Gerhard Friesen family, Peter B. Fast family and Mrs. Maria Braun.
- 30) Isaac Klassen Jr. family and Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Klassen Sr., George and Hilda Konrad
- 31) Jaocb Gossen family
- 32) Jacob Willms family (Mennonite Church Services)
- 33) Rev. Johann F. Dick family, Gerhard Dick family, Peter Suderman family, Gerhard Martens family.
- 34) Heritage Centre
- 35) Pelee Island Post Office
- 36) Rev. Gerhard Thiessen family
- 37) Jacob Epp family
- 38) Jacob Dick family
- 39) Peter Friesen family

- 39) Peter Friesen family
- 40) Jacob Heinrichs Sr. family
- 41) Frank Schroeder with siblings
- 42) Dietrich Ginter family
- 43) Abe and Hilda Epp
- S schools

C buildings used for combined M.B. and U.M. Church services at various times.

**Note:** families are listed in the order they lived in the house. Please report all errors, omissions and additions to Anne Fast or Astrid Koop.



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**Cover Photo**  
The North End  
Lighthouse  
see page 201

# **Mennonite Church Life**

**on  
Pelee Island**

**1925 – 1950**

**Worship, baptism, funerals, weddings,  
Sunday School and youth gatherings**



**January of 1926  
Mennonite Church Youth Group  
on porch of double house**

**Women, L to R:** unknown, Katharine Wiens, Mary Toews, unknown, Anna Wiebe, Maria Wiebe.

**Men, L to R:** Abram Driedger, unknown, Jacob Konrad, John Wiebe, Peter Driedger, Jacob P. Driedger.





**1926**

**Mennonite youth gathering  
in Rieger's Bush on Henderson Road**

**Front L to R:** Sarah Wiebe, Agnes Dick, Mary Driedger, unknown, unknown, unknown. Katie Wiebe, Susie Schroeder, Agatha Driedger, Anna Wiebe.

**Back:** unknown, John Wiebe, Jacob Dick, unknown, Jake Wiebe, Peter P. Driedger, John G. Wiebe, unknown, Abram P. Driedger, Jacob P. Driedger.



Mrs. Dick, Mrs. Pegg, Mrs. Driedger.



**1931**

**L to R:** John Taves, Anna Wiebe, unknown, Tina Taves, Mary Konrad, Katie Driedger, Jacob Gossen, Mary Taves, Anna Taves.

**Note:** rain water barrel next to house. The soft rain water (well water was hard) was heated on the kitchen's wood-burning stove and used to do the weekly laundry.



## Baptism

1930s

Baptism of  
Mary Schroeder and  
Cornelius Toews.



## 1931 Baptism

L to R: Mary Toews, John C. Taves, Jacob B. Konrad, George J. Konrad,  
Abram J. Dick, Jacob Gossen.



### **1935 Baptism**

Rev. N.N. Driedger, Rev. Gerhard Thiessen, Ben Konrad,  
Rev. Jacob Driedger, Katie Driedger.



### **1941 Baptism**

Rev. Gerhard Thiessen, Hilda Thiessen  
Rev. N.N. Driedger



**1944  
Baptism**  
Betty Schroeder

Rev. N.N. Driedger, Rev. O.  
Rev. Jacob Driedger



**1944 Baptism**  
Rev. N.N. Driedger, Hilda Klassen,  
Helen Cornies, Betty Schroeder, Elizabeth Heinrichs, Jake Heinrichs,  
Rev. Isaac Klassen, John Wiebe.



**1944**  
**Isaac and Maria Klassen home on  
Henderson Rd.**

**Back, L to R:** Helen Klassen, Wanda Reimer, Anne Cornies,  
Ruby Epp holding baby Fred Wiebe,  
Hedy Wiebe, Anne Wiebe.

**Centre:** Elsie Klassen, Agnes Klassen, Astrid Gossen,  
Lydia Reimer.

**Front:** Gerhard Wiebe, John Reimer, Vern Reimer,  
Ed Klassen, Harry Klassen,  
Kurt Gossen, Walter Klassen.



**1944: Sunday School picnic at the Isaac Klassen home.**

**Back:** Teacher Herman Reimer, Elsie Klassen, John Reimer, Anne Cornies, Harry Klassen, Wanda Reimer

**Centre:** Astrid Gossen, Agnes Klassen, Lydia Reimer, Gerhard Wiebe.

**Front:** Vern Reimer, Kurt Gossen, Paul Gossen.



**1946 Sunday School**

John Reimer, Walter Klassen, Wanda Reimer, Anne Cornies, Verner Reimer, Kurt Gossen, Gerhard Wiebe, Astrid Gossen, Lydia Reimer, Frederick Wiebe, Diana Ginter.



## **Anglican Church Choir**

**East-West Road**

**George Wiens, Director**

**mid 1940s**

**Back L to R:** Mrs. Reece (wife of Dr. Reece) , Bill Humpage, George Wiens, Henry Cornies Jr., Charles McNeil.

**Centre:** Claire Stoltz, Dorothy Feltz, Sarah Krestel, Margaret Oare, John Sollman, Lewis Garno, Regina Krestel.

**Front:** Betty Feltz, Edgar Fleming, Edna Garno, Iris Ryersee, Charles Rinkel.





**1947**

**Summer Bible School at the Mission Hall**

**Back:** Orma Stoltz, Grandma Stoltz, Mrs. Hughs, unknown,  
Mrs.

McWinnie, Margaret Stoltz, Lena Garno, Mrs. Smith,  
Anna Humpage, Mr. Pegg.

**Centre:** Unknown, Walter Klassen, \_\_\_ Gardiner, John  
Reimer, Rosemary Girardin, Mary Bauhaus, Wanda Reimer,  
Katharine Humpage.

**Front:** Gerhard Wiebe, Vern Reimer, Glen Reh, unknown,  
Doreen Humpage, Pauline Humpage, Violet Bauhaus,  
unknown, Norma Stoltz, Katharine Bauhaus, Clarence  
Bauhaus, Lydia Reimer,  
Hazel Gardner, Joyce Gardner.

# **Mennonite Weddings on the Island 1925-1950**

**May 15, 1927**

Jacob P. Driedger and Agnes Dick  
Mission Hall  
Bishop J. H. Janzen



**May 18, 1930**

Jacob Dick and Anna Toews  
on the Toews farm  
Bishop J. H. Janzen

**May 8, 1932**

Neil Toews and Anna Dick  
on the Dick Farm  
Bishop Jacob H. Janzen



**1932**

Neil Toews and Anna Dick wedding day

**Women** L - R: Mary Konrad, Tina Enns, Mary Wiebe, unknown, bride Anna Dick, groom Neil Toews, Mary Dick, Anna Wiebe, unknown.  
**Men:** Jake Konrad, Abe Konrad, unknown Ewald Wiebe, Abe Toews, John Toews, Jake Gossen, Ben Konrad.



**May 22, 1932**

**Wedding**

**Frank Schroeder and Widow Katharina Klassen**

at the Mission Hall

Rev. N.N. Driedger officiated

**Back L to R :** Abram Taves, Jacob Gossen, John Konrad, Jacob B. Konrad, Ewald Wiebe, Abram B. Konrad, Jacob J. Konrad, John Taves

**Centre:** Henry Schroeder, Cornelius Konrad, George Wiens, Maria Wiebe, Abe Dick, George J. Konrad, Anna Toews, Cornelius Toews, Margaret Taves, Mary Toews, unknown, unknown.

**Front:** Anna Wiebe, Tina Toews, Susie Schroeder, bride and groom with daughter Betty Klassen, Mary Schroeder, Mary Konrad, unknown.



**May 22, 1932**

Frank Schroeder and Katharine  
(Steingart) Klassen  
with Katharina's daughter, Betty.

**1935  
Wedding**

Agnes Nageleisen  
and Nick Wiens





**October 22, 1935**

Jacob Gossen and Anna Wiebe  
Mission Hall  
Rev. Abram Rempel



**Aug.13 1936**

Henry Schroeder and Bertha  
Dobbins  
**Back** : Norma Hill, Cyril Ouellette



**June 23, 1940**

Abram Ginter and Katharine  
Heinrichs  
Mission Hall  
Rev. N.N. Driedger



**1940**  
**Ben Konrad and Susie Konrad**  
**engagement party**

**Back L-R:** George Wiebe, Henry Cornies,  
 Ben Konrad, Gerhard Thiessen, Peter Fast,  
 John Wiebe, Rev. Isaac Klassen, Katie  
 Thiessen, Anna Cornies, unknown, unknown,  
 unknown.

Peter Konrad, Abe Konrad.

**Centre:** Harold Thiessen, Susie & Ben  
 Konrad, Hilda Klassen, Helen Cornies,  
 Mrs. Gerhard Konrad, Agatha Wiebe,  
 Mary Fast, Abe Konrad.

**Front:** Anne Cornies, Elfrieda Thiessen, Elsie  
 Klassen.

**October 18, 1940**

Ben Konrad and Susie Konrad  
 Mission Hall  
 Rev. N. N. Driedger





**June 1, 1942**  
**Isaac Driedger and**  
**Tina Steingart**  
Rev. Isaac H.  
Tiessen  
Mission Hall  
Liz Heinrichs (white  
blouse) serving Sara  
Steingart sitting  
next to the  
Hartmann  
girls and Victor  
Ginter to the right.



**August 4, 1942**  
Abram Steingart and Ann  
Hartmann  
Mission Hall  
Rev. Isaac H. Tiessen





**October 9, 1942**  
George Konrad and Hilda Thiessen  
Mission Hall  
Rev. N.N. Driedger



**October 19, 1943, Mission Hall**  
Peter Fast and Katharina Neufeld  
Rev. N. N. Driedger

Peter's daughters, Mary and Erna, pictured with the bridal couple.

**June 23, 1944**

Abram Epp and Hilda Klassen  
Mission Hall  
Rev. N. N. Driedger



**July 30, 1950**

John G. Wiebe and Sigrid Wagner  
Wiebe Home  
Rev. N.N. Driedger



**1934**

**Bernhard and Helena Konrad's 25th Wedding Anniversary**  
**Back, L to R:** unknown, unknown, Jacob Konrad, Maria Fast, Peter Fast, Ben Konrad, Henry Cornies, Abe Konrad, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Konrad, John Wiebe, unknown.  
**Front:** George Konrad beside his parents Bernhard and Helena.



**1936**

**25th wedding anniversary**

**Front:** Rev. Jacob N. and Maria Driedger with their mother.  
**Back:** L to R: Mrs. and Mr. Abram Dick, Mrs. and Mr. Abram Driedger, Mrs. and Mr. Cornies, Mrs. and Rev. N. N. Driedger.

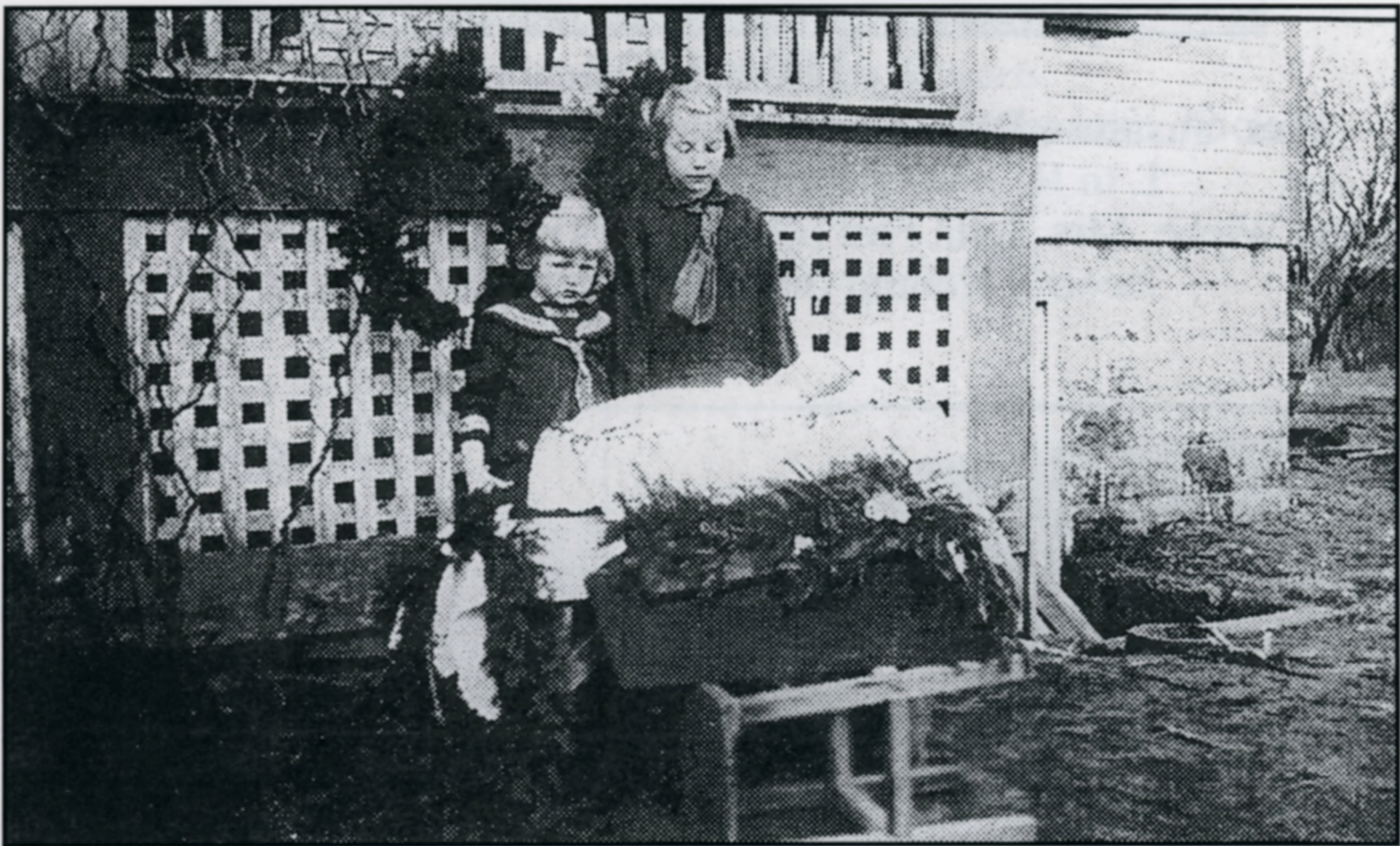
# Mennonite Deaths

1925 - 1950

## Katharina Friesen 1926 - 1926

Pelee Island's first Mennonite funeral.

Tina was born in New Hamburg, Ontario. She was the daughter of Gerhard and Maria Schmidt Friesen and died on Pelee of Dysentery (*Gelbe Ruhr*) at the age of four months. Her little white coffin was purchased at the McCormick store on Pelee.



## 1928-1928 Maria Dick

Maria died at the age of 18 days of "thrush", a fungus infection. Henry Wiens officiated at her funeral.

Here we see Kathe and Agatha Dick standing at the casket of their baby sister.



**1861-1935**

**Mrs. Susanna Dick Fast**, Grandmother of Abram B. Konrad  
**L to R:** John J. Fast, Henry & Anna Cornies,  
 Anna Wiebe, Mrs. John Fast (Greta Fast's mother from Port Rowan),  
 Jacob J. Konrad (father of Mrs. John Janzen).



**Katie Driedger**  
**1915-1936**

Daughter of Jacob N.  
 and Marie Driedger;  
 Katie died of a stroke  
 at the age of 21 years.

Katie's father Rev.  
 Jacob Driedger  
 officiated.

**L to R:** Abram Konrad,  
 Jacob Konrad, Ewald  
 Wiebe,  
 Abram Dick, Ben  
 Konrad, unknown.



## **The Jacob Driedger Family**

gathered at Katie's casket are

**Back, L-R:** John, Peter, Maria and Jacob, Jake, Nick.

**Front:** Henry and Abe



## **1926-1938 John Heinrichs**

Helen and Jacob Heinrichs at the funeral  
of their son John, who was 22.

He had been out on his bicycle and was  
hit by a drunk driver.

Jacob Dick built the casket and Liese  
Dick lined the inside.



**1866-1947**

**Aganetha Friesen Klassen**

**Front:** grandson Walter Klassen

**Back:** Mary Klassen, Peter Klassen

Rev. Isaac Klassen, husband of the deceased.

Rev. N. N. Driedger officiated. Mrs. Klassen was 81.



**Maria Dick**  
**1928 - 1928**

Daughter of Abram  
and Maria Driedger  
Dick, was born in New  
Hamburg, Ontario,  
and died at 18 days.



**Jacob Toews 1925 - 1929**

Son of Cornelius and Maria,  
died at four years.



**Maria Driedger 1930 - 1931**

Daughter of Jacob N. and Maria,  
died at the age of five months.





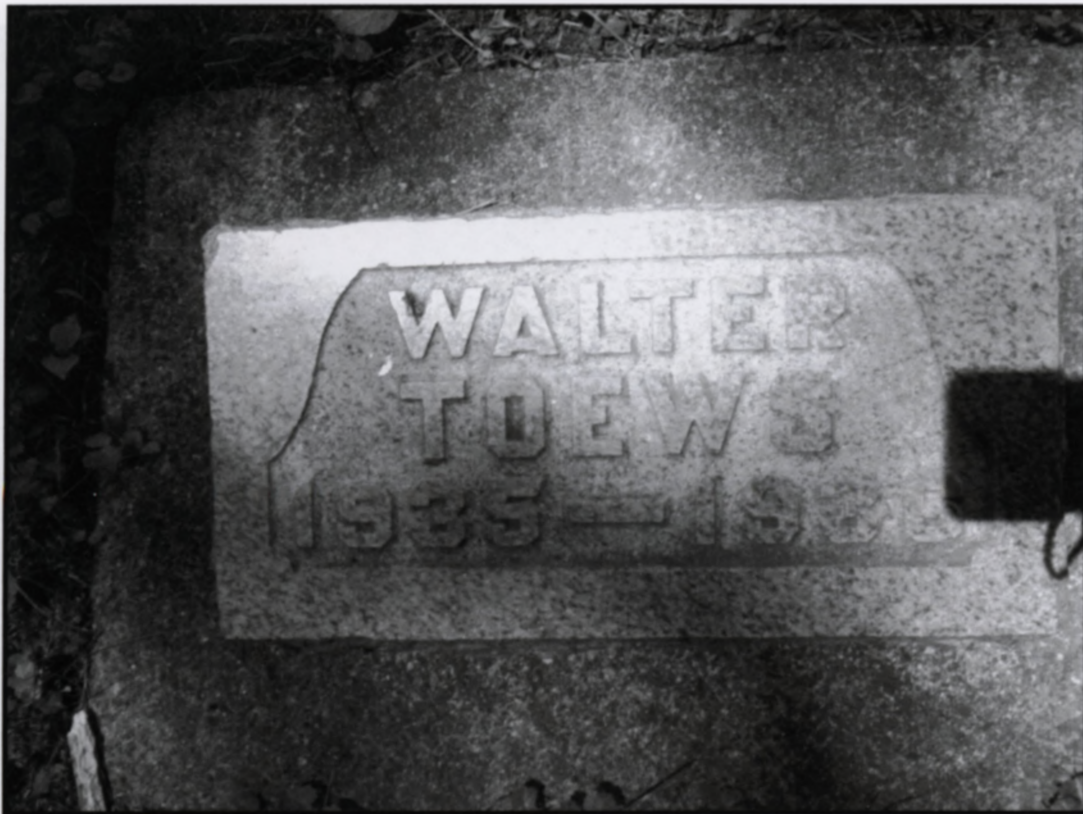
### **Wilhelm Schroeder 1904 - 1931**

Son of Heinrich and Maria Dirksen Schroeder. He was one of twelve siblings orphaned in Russia. When Wilhelm's appendix ruptured, Ewald Wiebe accompanied him on a special trip to Leamington hospital. Wilhelm died there the following day.



### **Susanna Fast 1862 - 1935**

Wife of Bernhard,  
died at 74 years.



**Walter Toews 1935 - 1936**

Son of Cornelius and Anna,  
died at 20 months.



**Katie Driedger 1915 - 1936**

Daughter of Jacob N. and Maria, was born in Ukraine:  
died at 21 years.



**John Heinrichs 1916 - 1938**

Son of Jacob and Anna



**Maria Fast 1898 - 1939**

Wife of Peter B. Fast, born in Ukraine, died at the age of 41 years.

## **Dietrich Ginter 1914 - 1939**

Son of Dietrich and Anna Riediger Ginter. Dietrich suffered from epilepsy and died of heart failure. He and his family farmed on the East and West Road. Rev. Gerhard Thiessen and Rev. Isaac Klassen spoke at his funeral.



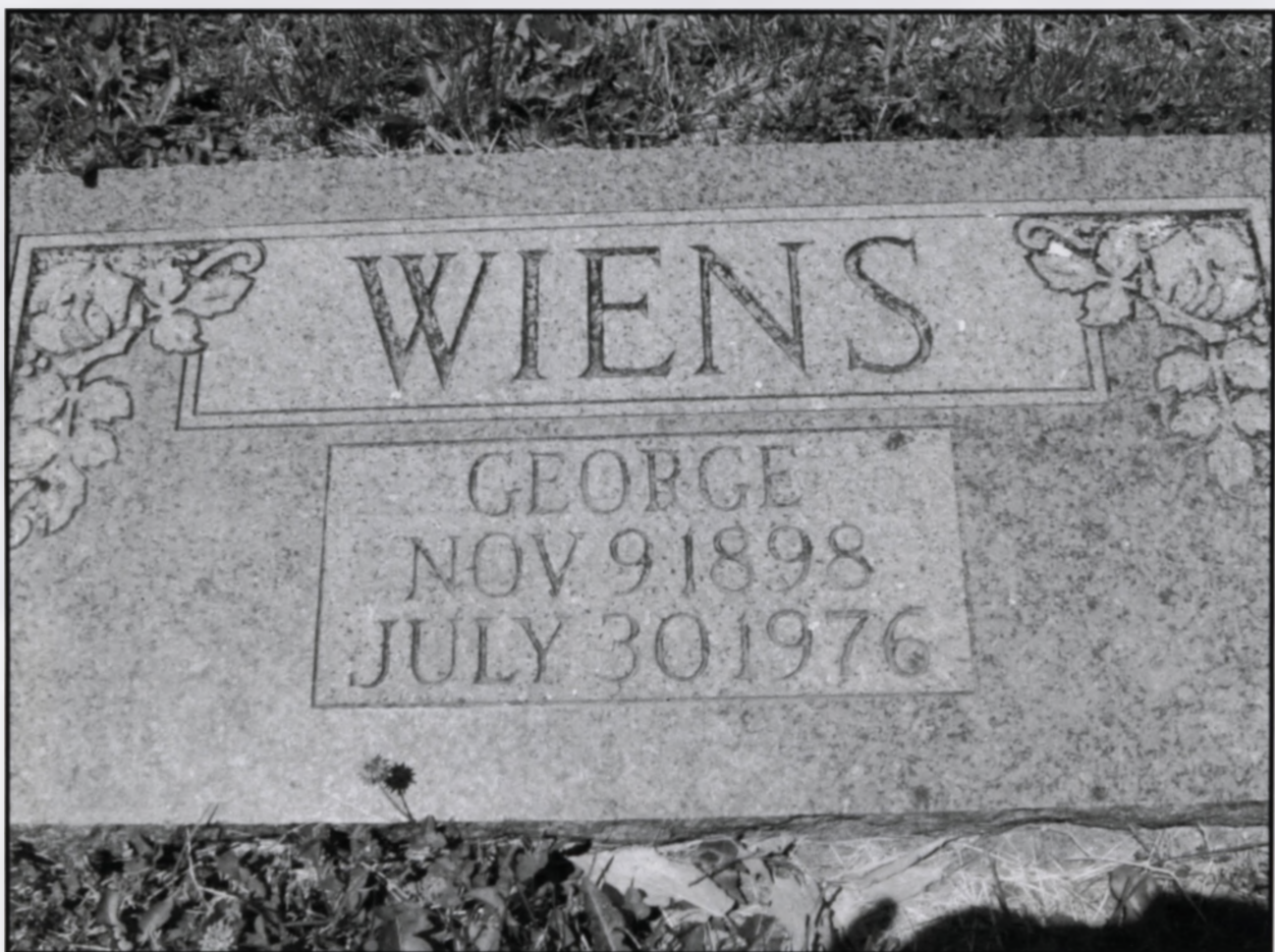
**Nicklas Wiens 1907 - 1944** born in Ukraine,  
died at the age of 37 years. His wife,  
**Agnes Nageleisen Wiens 1909 - 2002**  
died at 93 years.



**Aganetha Klassen 1886 - 1947**

born in Ukraine.

Wife of Isaac, died at 81 years.



**George Wiens 1898 - 1976**, born in Ukraine.  
Son of Heinrich and Elizabeth. George died at 78 years.



**Church Picnic  
at the Isaac and Maria Klassen home on  
Henderson Road South  
Sunday Afternoon, June 24, 1944**

Photo taken at Klassen barn.

**Front;** L to R: Walter Klassen, John Reimer, Harry Klassen, Gerhard Wiebe,

**Row 2:** Agnes Klassen, Helen Klassen, Astrid Gossen, Paul Gossen, Wanda Reimer, Lydia Reimer, Kurt Gossen, Verner Reimer.

**Row 3:** Elsie Klassen, Anne Cornies, Ruby Epp, Anne Wiebe, Herman Reimer, Hedy Wiebe,

**Row 4:** Rev. Isaac Klassen, Aganetha Klassen, Helen Steingart, Katharina Fast, Anna Cornies,

Elizabeth Wiebe holding son Frederick, Agatha Wiebe, Mary Klassen holding son Edgar, Helen Reimer.

**Row 5:** Mary Klassen, Katharina Epp, Sara Ginter, Mary Fast, Erna Fast, Elizabeth Heinrichs, Helen Cornies, Jacob Heinrichs, Peter Klassen.

**Row 6:** Hilda Epp, Abe Epp, Anna Gossen, Gerhard Wiebe, Peter Fast, Henry Cornies Jr; Henry Cornies Sr, Ewald Wiebe, John Wiebe, Siegfried Wiebe, Jacob Gossen.

# 1925 - 1950

## Mennonite Pastors on Pelee Island



1925-1932

Bishop Jacob H. Janzen and Mrs. Janzen.  
Bishop Janzen organized the Russian Mennonite immigrants into congregations, including the Pelee group, following their arrival in Ontario. The English language term Bishop was used in place of the German term *Aeltester*.



1925-1950

## The Mission Hall

George Pegg was a lay Pastor, school teacher and township treasurer. The

Pegg's invited the Mennonite immigrants to use their Mission Hall free of charge; Mennonite weddings and larger events were held there.

Many Mennonite men were smokers; Mr. Pegg objected to their habit of lighting up after church.



1925-1928

Rev. Johann F. & Katharina Dick.

Rev. Dick was the Pelee Mennonite's first pastor.

Katharina was a daughter of Peter B. and Maria Thiessen Unruh, and a niece of Rev. Gerhard Thiessen.

Katharina's sister Luise and husband Gerhard Dyck also accompanied them to the Island.

**Note:** photo taken during the Dick's retirement years.





**1926 - 1927**

Rev. Jacob J. and Helena  
Epp



**1926 - 1932**

Rev. Abram and Margarethe Rempel



**1927 - 1930**

Rev. Nicolai N. and  
Katharina Driedger.

*The Pastor's  
Katharina*



**1929 - 1937**

Rev. Jacob N. and Maria  
Driedger.



**1933 - 1943**

Rev. Gerhard J. and  
Katharina Thiessen.



**1937 - 1945**

Rev. Isaac and  
Aganetha Klassen.

# Family Life on Pelee Island



**1927**

Rev. Jacob and Helene Epp  
with daughter Elsie enjoying a walk on the beach on a summer Sunday  
afternoon.

**Note:** The Mennonite people had everyday clothing and so-called Sunday  
(their very best) clothes. See Helene's black bow (head covering) worn by  
married women at that time.



**Annie**, the youngest daughter of Johann and Maria Wiebe.



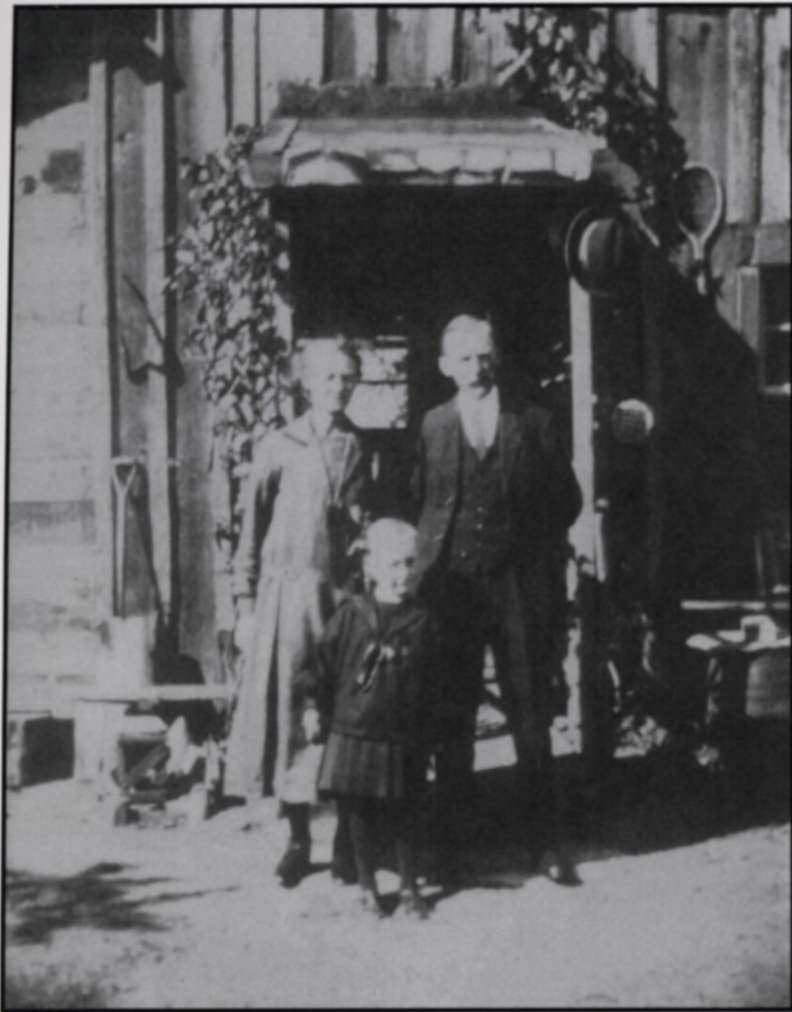
**1927**

**The Johann and Maria Wiebe Family**

**Back L-R:** Elizabeth, Katie, Abram, Mary and John.

**Front:** Sara, Henry, Maria Wiebe, Johann Wiebe with Annie, Jake Friesen (son of Maria's late husband Gerhard Friesen), Nick.

This photo was taken in the Rieger bush near their farm.



**1927**

Little Elsie with her parents  
Rev. Jacob and Helene Epp at  
the front entrance  
of their home on East- West  
Road.



**1927**

**The Kornelius and Maria Toews family**

**Back:** Henry, Mary, Cornelius C., Abe, John, Anna, Tina

**Front:** Margaret, mother Maria, Jacob, father Kornelius, Richard.



**1927**

**Back:** Johann Wiebe,  
John, Maria Wiebe, Sara,  
Jake Friesen, Katie.

**Centre:** Abram, Elizabeth,  
Mary.

**Front:** Nick, Henry.



## **Jacob Friesen**

Jake was the son of Maria  
Wiebe and her  
late husband, Gerhard  
Friesen.

1928



Rev. N.N. and  
Katharina Driedger  
at their home on  
Brown's Rd at  
Noah Garno's  
(Island Reeve)  
place.

**L to R:**  
Kathe, cousin  
Kathe Dick,  
Henry, baby Jacob,  
mother Katharina,  
Agatha, father  
Nicolai.



## **Bernhard & Susanna Fast**

parents of Peter Fast and Mrs.  
Helena Konrad.



**1928**

The Jacob & Agatha Konrad  
Family

**L-R:** Neil, Agatha, Abe,  
Mary, George & Jacob.

Their sons Jake & John were  
still in Russia because they  
were of military age.



**1929**

Henry and Anna Cornies, son Henry, daughter Helen and family friend  
Rudolph Rinkel lived in this house which later became the Trading Post.



**1929**  
 Henry and Anna  
 Cornies with  
 children  
 Henry Jr. and Helen  
 at their home in  
 which the Rev.  
 Dyck family had  
 lived earlier.



**A Sunday afternoon**

**Back:** Isaac Klassen, Maria Klassen, John Mantler, Hilda Klassen,  
 Mary Klassen, Peter Klassen.

**Front:** Walter Klassen, Mrs. Aganetha Klassen, Agnes Klassen, Isaac  
 Klassen Sr; Helen Klassen, Mrs. Susannah Konrad, Harry Klassen,  
 Elsie Klassen.



**1930  
Gerhard Wiebe  
Family**

L to R: Ewald, Mary,  
John, Anna,  
mother Anna Wiebe in  
front.

**The Schroeder Family**  
L to R: Betty, Lillian, Katharine,  
Frank and Mary with  
neighbour Mr. Steer standing to  
the right.





**1931**

Anna Dick holding baby Neal,  
their first child.

## **Siblings**

Maria and Ewald Wiebe.





**1932**

Mrs. Maria Braun with little granddaughter Mary on the Fast farm located at the South end of Henderson Road.



### **Siblings**

Fred, Anne and Hedy Wiebe,  
children of Gerhard and  
Agatha who came to Canada  
in 1933.



**1934**

Mary and sister Anna Wiebe came to Pelee with their mother Anna and brothers John and Ewald in 1925.



**At the Klassen home**

**Back:** Hilda Klassen, unknown, Susie Konrad, Ben Konrad, Peter Konrad, Maria Klassen, Isaac Klassen holding Agnes, Mary Klassen.

**Front:** Elsie Klassen, Mrs. Klassen, Rev. Isaac Klassen holding Walter Klassen, Mrs. Susanna Konrad with Harry Klassen.

**1934**

Anna Dick with children Louise  
and Neal.



1932



**1935**

Siblings Louise, Marion and Neal Dick  
sitting on their Arrow Racer wagon and clutching their  
beautiful toys.

**1935**

**Anna Cornies holding baby daughter Anne.**



**1935**

**Baby Anne Cornies is sitting on sister Helen's lap; their brother Henry is standing next to them.**





**1936**

Jake and Anna Gossen lived in the double house on Parsons Rd until 1937 when they had an opportunity to sharecrop the Thomas McKee farm on Centre Dyke Road.

**1937**

Rev. Gerhard Thiessen, daughter Hilda and Mrs. Katharina Thiessen. Their son Harold and daughter Elfrieda are standing in front.





**1937**

Friesen Sisters, daughters of Peter and Maria: Mary, Hilde, and Rita.  
Photo taken on Parsons Road where  
church services were held at that time.



**1937**

Harold and big brother George  
Thiessen.



**1938**

Jake and Anna Gossen  
holding baby Astrid on the Centre Dyke Road farm.

**1938**

The Gerhard and Katharina  
Thiessen family:

**Back L-R:** Katie, Mrs.Thiessen,  
George, Mr.Thiessen, Hilda.  
**Front:** Erika, Elfrieda, Harold,  
Agnes.



**The Isaac Klassen children**

**Back:** Hilda holding Helen  
**Front:** Agnes, Elsie and Harry at the Klassen home. Island  
quarry stone was used to build this house.

**Anna Toews,**  
who married Jacob Dick  
and **Njuta Dick,**  
who married Neil Toews.



**1939**

Little Peter Willms, shown with his mother, was the youngest child of Louise and Jacob Willms who lived on Centre Dyke Road.



**1939**

Siblings Herman Enns, Katharina Thiessen, Maria Friesen, John Enns.  
Herman, Maria and John are visiting the Thiessen family on Pelee.



**The Jacob Epp family**

Tina, children Ruby and Abe, and Jacob Epp



**1940**

Jacob and Lena  
Steingart  
standing beside their  
car.



**Mika (Maria) Neufeld  
Willms**

wife of Johann and mother of  
Katie. The family lived on  
Parsons Road  
where Church Services  
were held in the 1940s.



**1940**  
**The Jake Steingart Family**  
Children Mary, Helen, Jean, Henry, Jake  
Frank, Mother Lena, Father Jake, Sarah and Gerda.



**1940**  
Mary Wiebe & sister-in-law  
Agatha Peters Wiebe.



**1940**

Edgar Willms, son of Louise and  
Jacob Willms.

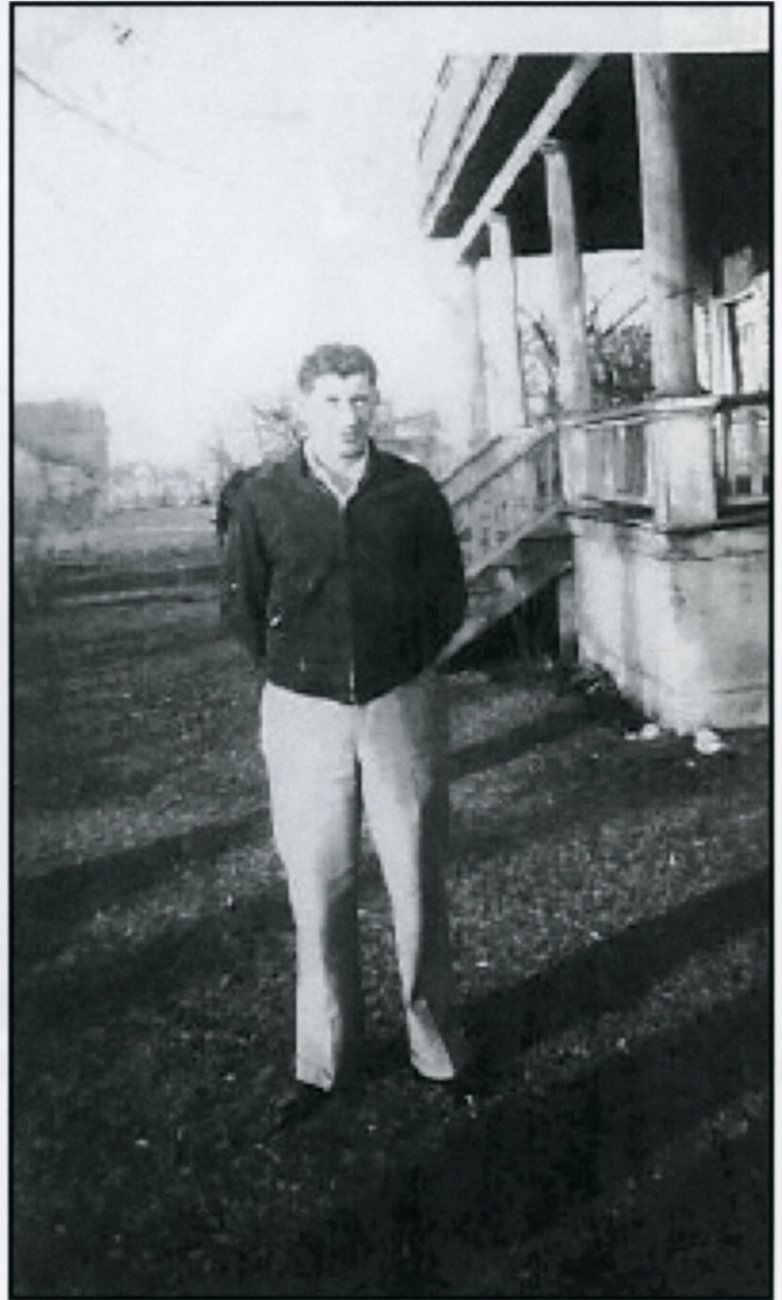


**1940**

Baby Helen Klassen is sitting  
on the lawn.  
The Klassens lived on the  
West Side.

## Erich Toews

Erich, shown on the Ewald and Elizabeth Wiebe farm, was known for his great strength. He worked for Ewald; his brother Henry worked for their Uncle Gerhard Thiessen.



## Early 1940s

The Jacob Willms family

**Back:** Magda, Edgar, Waldy

**Front:** Mrs. Willms with Peter, Eric, Fred.





**1940**

**L-R:** Dietrich and Katharina Ginter, Mr. & Mrs. David Ginter (who are visitors at the Ginter home on Henderson Road), Jake and Helen Heinrichs.

**1940**

Peter Fast with daughters  
Erna & Mary.  
Mrs. Maria Fast had died in  
1939 at 41 years, leaving Mr.  
Fast with their two children.





**May 22, 1940**

**Ewald Wiebe's 31st birthday**

Visitors at the Ewald and Elizabeth Wiebe house on Parsons Road;

**L to R:** Walter Klassen, Astrid Gossen, Anne Cornies, Ewald Wiebe holding babies Gerhard Wiebe and Kurt Gossen. In back are Anne, Fred and Hedy Wiebe.



**1940**

George Thiessen on his  
new bike.



**1941**

Frank & Katharine Schroeder  
children  
Henry, Rudy, Betty, Lillian and  
Mary  
when they lived at the North  
End, one mile from the store.



**1941**

The Gerhard and Katharina Thiessen family at their West Side Road home.  
**Front L to R:** Erika, Agnes, Harold, Frieda, Martha, baby Irene.  
**Back L to R:** George, Katie, Hilda, Mrs. Thiessen, Mr. Thiessen.



**1941**

Jacob and Louise Willms family

**Back:** Edgar, father Jacob. **Front:** Eric, Fred, mother Louise, and Peter.



**1942**

Siblings Harry, Helen and Agnes Klassen are posing on the fender and running board of their Chevrolet car.



**1942**

**Back:** Mother Maria, Hilda, father Isaac  
**Front:** Agnes, Harry, Elsie and Helen Klassen on the back yard of their West Side home.



**1942**

Little Peter Willms posing with a flock of chickens in their yard.  
Most children went barefoot during the summer months and  
needed to wash their feet at bedtime.



**1942**

The Jacob & Louise Willms family

**L-R:** Waldy, Magda, Louise, Jacob, Edgar, Peter, Eric and Fred Willms.

**1943**

Peter and Katharina Neufeld  
Fast.

Katharina's family members  
lived in the Kitchener-  
Waterloo area and were  
acquainted with most of the  
Islanders.







**1943**

Gossen Siblings: Astrid, Paul, Kurt,  
at the playhouse their Dad built for them.



**1944**

Edgar Klassen, son of Isaac and  
Maria, playing outside on a cold  
day.

**1944**

Jacob & Helen Steingart  
with daughter Gerda and  
little granddaughter.



**1944**

Paul Gossen is standing beside  
his Dad's 1941 Dodge car in the  
Henry Cornies driveway.



**1944**

Astrid Gossen, Anne Wiebe  
and Kurt Gossen at George and Agatha Wiebe's house.



**Sisters Erna and Mary  
Fast**

Erna taught at the South  
End School.

**1944**

Friends Betty Schroeder  
and Helen Cornies  
at the Schroeder home.



**Hilda Klassen**

Daughter of Isaac and Maria  
Klassen.

**1944**

Mother Kay Ginter, Liz  
Heinrichs holding her  
little niece Deanna and  
father Abe Ginter.  
The Ginters lived at the  
corner of the East and  
West Road and  
Henderson Road in the  
Piper house.



**1944**

Walter Klassen is giving Fred Wiebe a ride in the wheelbarrow.  
See Walter's initials on wheelbarrow.

**1945**

Abe and Hilda Epp  
with their daughter Eleanore.



**1945**

Schroeder siblings Henry,  
Susie,  
Frank and Mary at their  
home on the West Side  
Road.

Their brother Wilhelm  
died of a burst appendix in  
1931  
on Pelee Island.

**1945**

The Frank Schroeder Family:  
Mary, Susie, Betty and  
Frank, Lillian,  
Henry, Rudy, Mary,  
unknown.

They lived on the West Side  
where the  
Gerhard Thiessen family  
had lived earlier.



**1945**

Katharine and Frank Schroeder  
family  
Katharine holding Mary;  
Betty, Lillian & Henry standing  
in front.



**1945**

Lydia, John and Wanda Reimer posing on their 1932 Chevrolet.



**1946**

Paul, Kurt, baby Frieda and Astrid Gossen sitting on the running board of their car.





**1946**

**Back:** Lydia Reimer, Anne Cornies,  
Eleanore Epp, Mary Klassen,  
**Centre:** Vern Reimer, Wanda Reimer, Frieda Thiessen  
**Front:** John Reimer, Walter Klassen.



**1946**

Back yard of Jake Gossen family home on  
Centre Dyke Road.



**1946**

Anna, Jake Gossen holding baby  
Frieda,  
Astrid, Kurt and Paul.



**1946**

**Back:** Kurt Gossen, Astrid Gossen, Anne Wiebe, Hedy Wiebe  
**Front:** Fred Wiebe, Gerhard Wiebe.

**1940s**

Hedy Wiebe & Aunt  
Mary Wiebe  
**Front:** John Wiebe.

At the Gerhard and  
Agatha Wiebe home.



**1946**

Eleanore, first child of Abe and  
Hilda Epp.



**1946**

Herman Reimer Children

L to R: Werner, John, Lydia, Wanda

who lived on the North Bay Rd near the North End pump house.

**1947-1948**

John Fast standing beside his 1929 Plymouth with so-called suicide doors (the back doors opened to the front of the vehicle). John worked on the Ewald and Elizabeth Wiebe farm. The young men who came to work on Pelee all had family connections with the Mennonite Islanders.





## **Ben and Justina Fast**

Ben and Justa lived on the Island a short time when they worked for Ewald on the Wiebe farm.

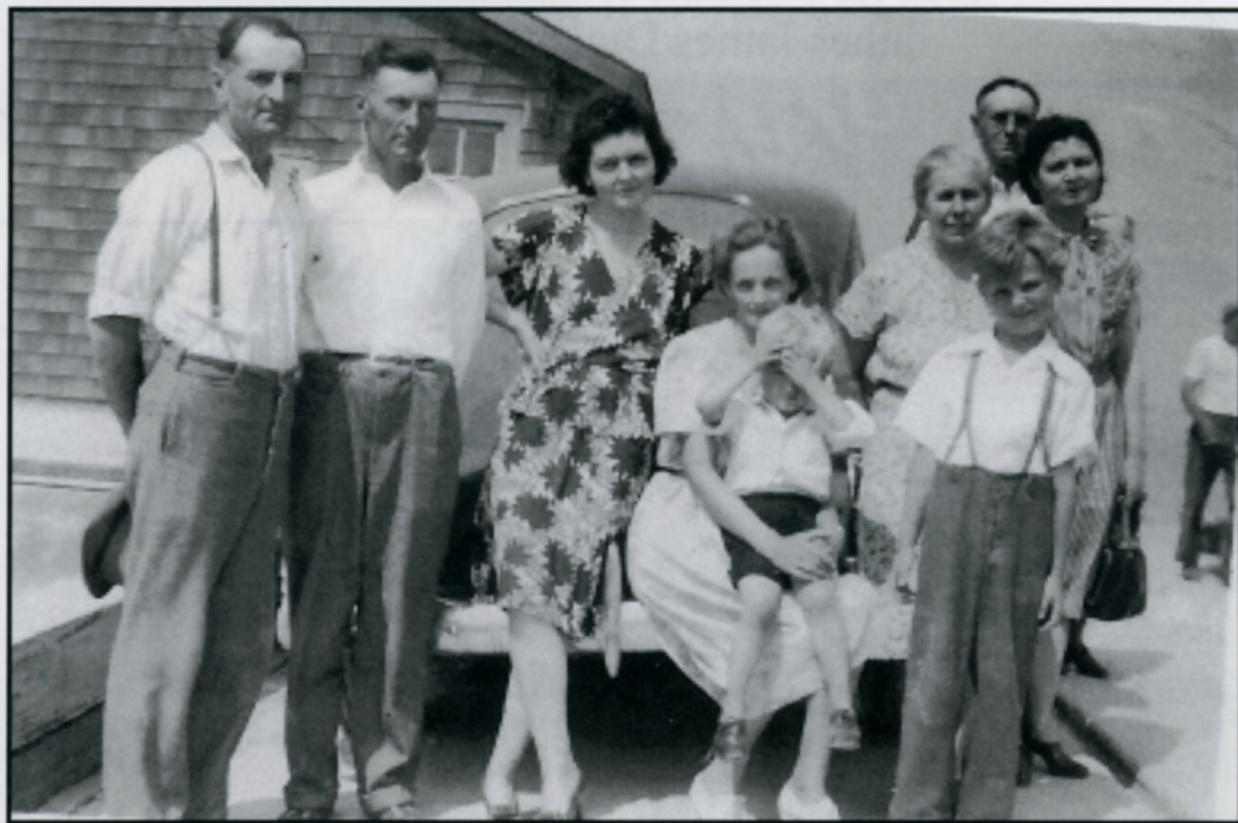


**1947**

Ruby Epp sitting on the fender of Abe Unger's, a guest from the mainland, car.



**The Epp family**  
Tina, Hilda, Abe, Ruby, and Jacob.



**1948**  
Ewald Wiebe, George Wiebe, Anna Gossen, Elizabeth Wiebe  
holding Fred,  
Agatha Wiebe, John Wiebe, Mary Wiebe,  
young Gerhard Wiebe standing in front.



**L to R: Gerhard Wiebe, Jim Dick,  
father James Dick, Ken Dick,  
Fred Wiebe in front.**



**1949**

**Johnny Wiebe sitting in a wagon in front of the  
Ewald Wiebe home on Parsons Road.**

Social Life  
on  
Island

1950

**Back L to R:** Gerhard Wiebe,  
Jim Dick  
Ken Dick  
**Front L to R:** Fred Wiebe &  
John Wiebe  
At the Ewald Wiebe house.



Johnny Wiebe playing with  
his dog.





# Social Life on Pelee Island



1927

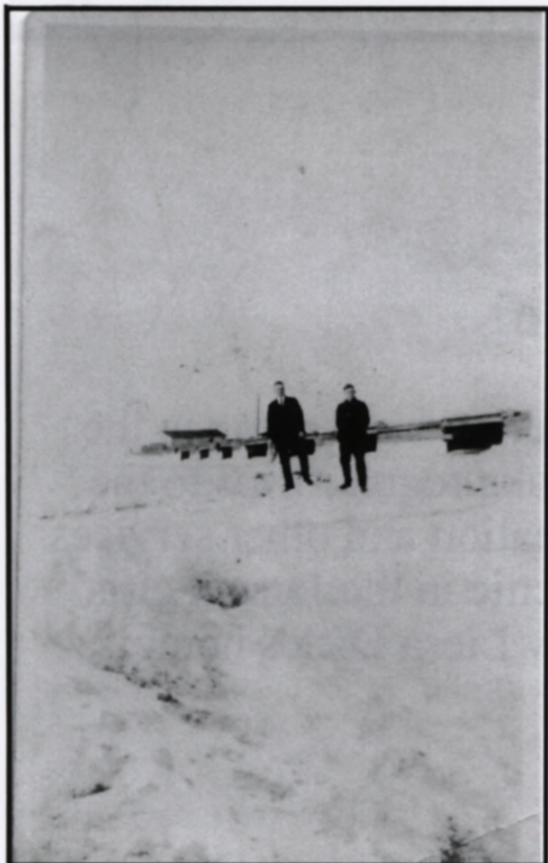
## East beach picnic

Bishop Jacob Janzen's daughters from Waterloo have come to the Island for a visit. Their father needed to make regular trips to the Island to conduct baptism, communion, ordination and other services. The Pelee congregation hosted a church picnic in the Janzen girls' honour on Pelee's East beach near Widow Liesa Dick's home.



**1927**

Mary, Peter and Louise Dick, children of Rev. Johann and Katharina Dick, are enjoying a summer Sunday afternoon on the West Side beach.



**1927**

Abram Toews and George Konrad are standing near the dock.



**1929**

**A Sunday afternoon in November on the  
Jacob Konrad farm.**

Lto R: Mrs. Jacob Driedger, Mrs. Toews, Mrs. Jacob Konrad,  
Mrs. Thiessen, Mrs. Dyck, Mrs. Bernhard Fast, Mrs. Cornies,  
Mrs. N. Driedger, Mrs. Henry Cornies, Mrs. Bernhard Konrad, Mrs.  
Abram Dyck, Mrs. Abram Driedger, Mrs. Henry Wiens, Mrs. Rempel.



**1929**

Shown here are the husbands of above women on the Jacob Konrad farm.  
An Essex car can be seen to the right.



**1930**

Young men gathered at double house on a Sunday afternoon .

**Back:** John Taves, unknown, Abe Konrad, John Konrad, Neil Taves, Ewald Wiebe, Abe Konrad

**Front:** Ben Konrad, unknown, George Wiens, Nick Wiens, unknown, unknown, Jake Gossen.



**1930**

Jacob B. Konrad, brother of Abe, Ben and George. Jacob died of tuberculosis on the mainland at an early age.

## Early 1930s

L to R: Helen Cornies,  
Henry Cornies, George  
B. Konrad at the  
Konrad home on  
Parsons Road.



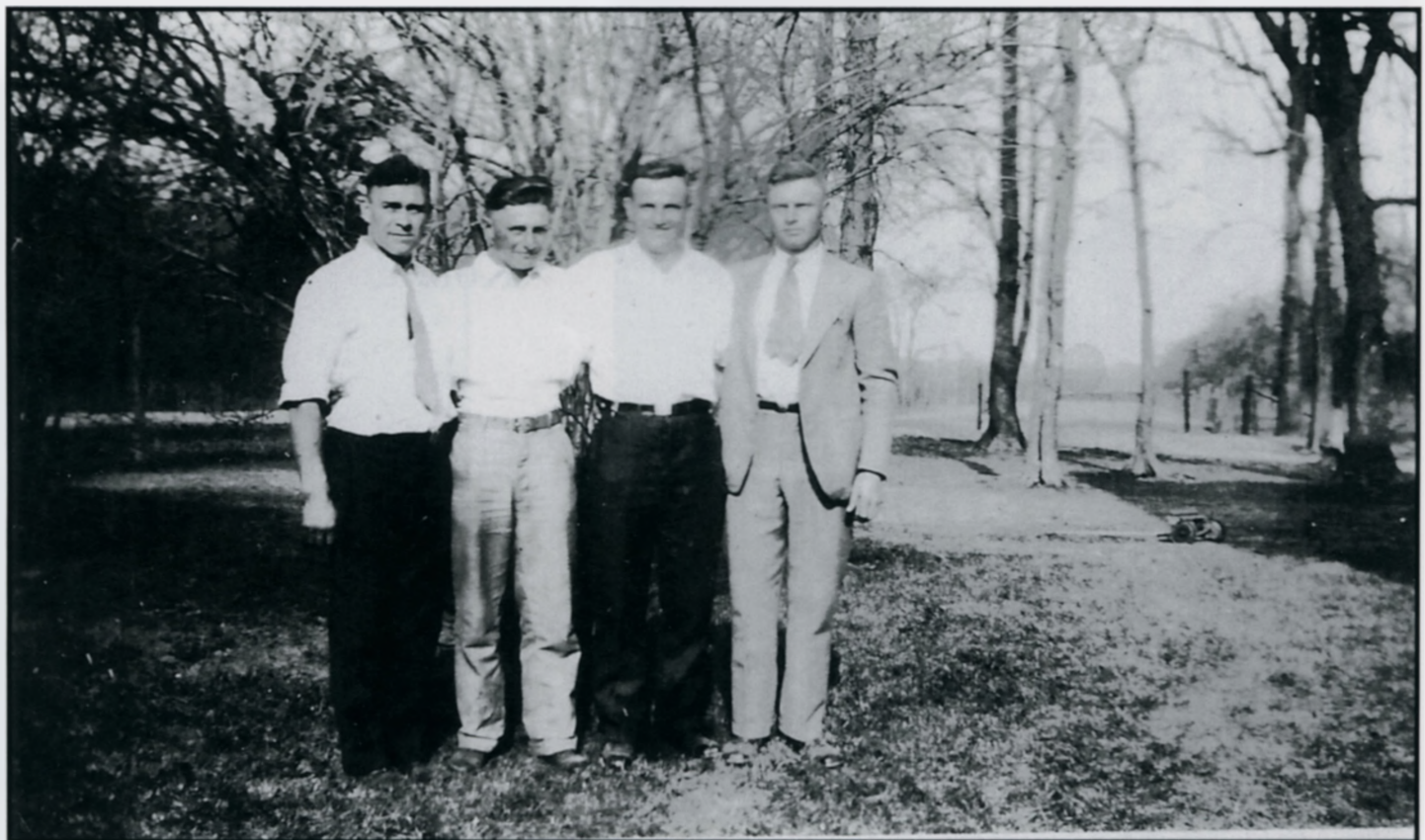
## 1930s

Friends John Taves, Abe  
Konrad, Henry Schroeder &  
Ewald Wiebe.



**1930s**

Ben Konrad, Ewald Wiebe, Jake Gossen and Nick Wiens sitting on a log at the beach on a Sunday afternoon.



**1930s**

Friends Nick Wiens, Abe Konrad, Jake Gossen and John Taves.

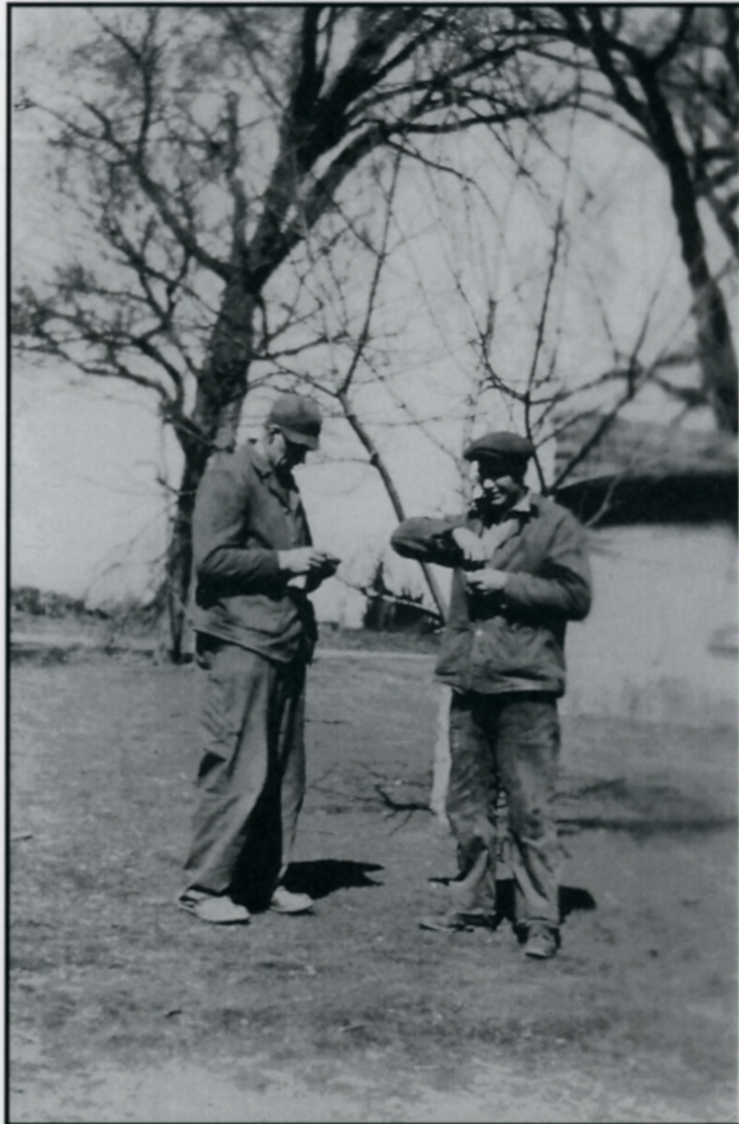


## 1930s

Jacob Gossen and his cousin Nick Wiens, standing beside Nick's Dodge car smoking cigarettes.

## Smoke break

Henry Cornies and Herman Reimer smoking. This practice was considered socially acceptable for men, but not women. Most men rolled their own cigarettes.





**1930**

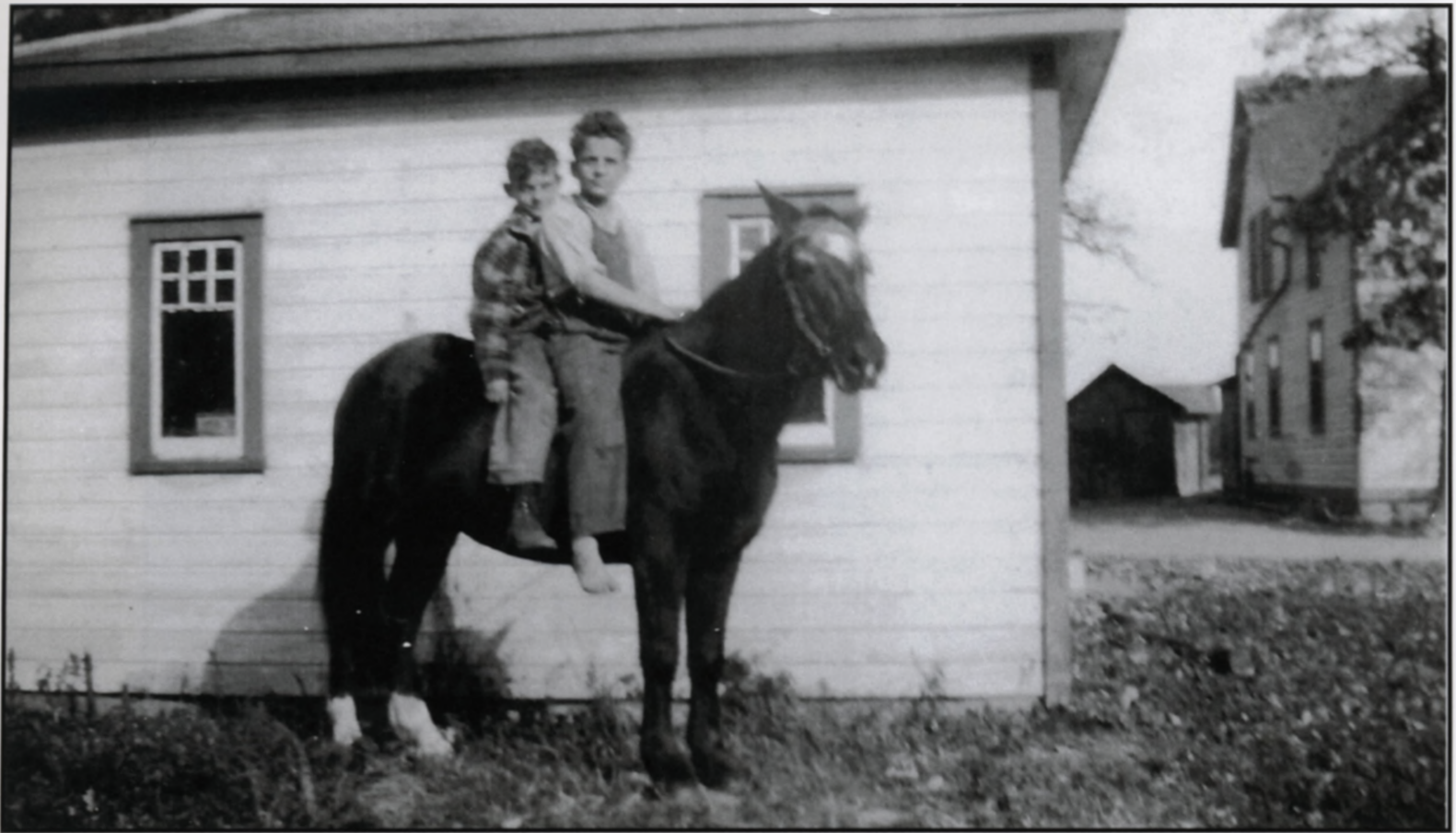
Jacob Dick and Anna Toews;  
engaged to be married.

**1930s**

Nick and Agnes Wiens who  
lived at the Island's North End.







**1930s**

Robert and Howard Stoltz on their horse behind the garage on the Stoltz Centre Dyke Road farm.



**Parsons Road double house**

on a Sunday afternoon.

L to R: Cornelius Toews, Abe Taves,  
Abe Konrad, Jake Gossen & George Konrad.



**1930**

Christmas at the Jacob & Anna Dick home

**L to R, back:** Mary Taves, Jacob Dick, Margaret Taves, Anna Dick, Anna Taves, Cornelius Taves, Abram Driedger, Jacob N. Driedger, Mr. Warkentin, Abe Taves.

**Centre:** Liesa Dick, Maria Driedger holding Henry, Richard Taves.

**Front:** Margaret Driedger, Abram Driedger, Nick Driedger.

**1930**

Abe Konrad and Jake Gossen.



**1931**

**L to R: John Wiebe, Maria Wiebe, Anna Wiebe with guests, at the Wiebe home on Henderson Road.**



**1931**

**Young people standing on Centre Dyke bridge.**

**L to R: John Wiebe, Anna Wiebe, Abram B Konrad, Mary Wiebe and Ewald Wiebe.**



**1932**

John Wiebe, Anna  
Wiebe, Ewald Wiebe and  
friend.



**1932**

**L-R:** Abe Konrad, Jake Gossen, Nick Wiens, Anna Wiebe, Maria Wiebe,  
eating watermelon on bridge near the West Side pump house.



**1932**  
**Butchering Day**  
**at the Konrad Home on Parsons Road**

**L to R:** Abram B. Konrad, Neil Konrad, Bernhard Konrad, Bernhard Fast, unknown, Henry Cornies, Bernhard Konrad Sr.

Butchering day was a social event for the Islanders. Friends and relatives arrived early to take part in the day's proceedings. The women worked in the kitchen to get the lunch and supper meals ready. The men helped butcher the animal and scald it in the cauldron. The intestines were turned, washed, filled with the ground meat and smoked for sausage.

**1933**

Peter Thiessen, a nephew of Gerhard Thiessen and cousin to Eric Toews. Eric and Peter had summer farm jobs on the Island.



**1933**

L to R: Abe J. Konrad, John C. Taves,  
George J. Konrad, Peter Driedger, Ben Konrad, Abe Dick,  
Ewald Wiebe, Henry Schroeder, John Wiebe.



### **The Flat Rock on East Beach**

A favourite gathering place for the Mennonite young people and mainland guests: George Konrad, Betty Flaming, Agatha Driedger, Nick J. Driedger, Peter Driedger, Jake Konrad and others.



**1936**

Agatha Driedger, Hilda Thiessen and Erna Fast wearing aprons; they are serving at Rev. Jacob and Maria Driedger's 25th wedding anniversary.

**1938**

Erich Toews, nephew of Gerhard Thiessen, standing on a rock with Ewald Wiebe



**1939 L to R:** John and Ramona Enns from Ann Arbor, Michigan; Peter and Marie Friesen from Leamington, Ontario; Herman and Margaret Enns from Buhler, Kansas; and Katharina Thiessen of Pelee, enjoying a summer visit with the Enns siblings at the Gerhard and Katharina Thiessen home.





**1939**

Socializing on the East Beach flat rock area which had many snakes.

L to R: Justa Braun, Elizabeth Braun, Mary Wiebe, Mary Taves,  
Katie Hildebrand.

In the background we see a 1939 Nash car.

**1939**

Siblings Mary and Peter  
Klassen





**Summer of 1940 near the Isaac Klassen home**

**L to R, Back:** Sara Steingart, Elizabeth Heinrichs, Katie Thiessen.  
**Front:** Helen Cornies, Hilda Klassen, Hilda Thiessen.

**1940s**

Ruby Epp and Virginia Bondy,  
a school teacher who  
boarded with the Epp  
family.





**1940s**

Anne Cornies and Frieda Thiessen at Thiessen's house on the West Side Road.

**1940**

Ruby Epp & Jean Bonnett,  
daughter of  
Fred Bonnett,  
the West Side store owner





**1940s**

Allan Reh, Henry Cornies Jr.  
and  
Bill Humpage.

**1940**

Astrid Gossen and  
neighbour Claire Stoltz.  
See corn shocks in Stoltz  
field.





## **Julius Stoltz** **1927 - 1944**

Julius and a group of friends had been out on the lake in Alan Reh's boat. They swam to shore and Julius had a stroke or heart attack and drowned as a result; he was 17.

## **The Rinkel Brothers**

**L to R:** David, who lived on the West Side, and Rudolph, who lived on Centre Dyke Road. They were fluent in the German language which helped the German-speaking Mennonite immigrants immensely during their first years in Canada.





**1940s**

Sarah Steingart and Vic Ginter posing in the neighbour's yard on a beautiful summer day.

**1940s**

Widows Anna Wiebe and Maria Braun, visiting at the Isaac Klassen home on a Sunday afternoon. Note: The older generation of Mennonite women wore "*Hauben*" (head coverings): large, black, flat ribbons.





**1940s**

Friends Bernice Gardner  
and Ruby Epp.

**1940s**

Vic Ginter and Abe  
Epp.  
The Epps lived on  
the East-West Road.





**1941**

It is a cold day in January; Walter and Harry Klassen are playing outside at the double house. Baby Gerhard Wiebe is waving from his high-chair.

**1942**

Wiebe home

**Back, L-R:**

Mary Klassen, Peter Klassen, Elizabeth Wiebe holding son Fred, Ewald Wiebe, Henry Cornies, Anna Cornies

**Front:** guests Mr. & Mrs. Lepp of Reesor, Ontario (parents of Mrs. Helen Reimer), Aganetha Klassen and Rev. Isaac Klassen, Helena and Bernhard Konrad from Leamington.





**1942**

Hilda Thiessen, Helen Cornies,  
Hilda Klassen,  
Katie Thiessen, Sara Steingart  
and friend.



**1942**

Helena Heinrichs at the  
back door of their  
Middle Island home.



**1942**

The Klassen home on the West Side

**L to R:** Rev. Gerhard Thiessen, Louise Willms, Peter Fast, Mary Klassen, Susanna Konrad, Henry and Anna Cornies, Hilda and George Konrad, Mary Klassen, Magda Willms, and little Peter Willms.



**1942**

Siblings Agnes, Harry and Helen Klassen sitting on the rain water barrel; Helen is holding her pet cat.



**1940s**

Oma and Opa Isaac Klassen sitting;  
Mary, Walter and Peter standing.



**1943**

Victor Ginter and Sara Steingart.

**1943**

Mainland girls visiting Pelee  
on a hot summer Sunday  
afternoon.

**Front:** Katie Warkentin,  
Betty Flaming, Margaret  
Driedger, Mary Fast.

**Back:** Annie Dick, Erna  
Fast, Margaret Cornies,  
Aggie Driedger, Aggie Dick,  
Katie Dick.

**Note:** The Warkentins,  
Driedgers and Dicks had  
once lived on the Island; the  
Fast family was still on the  
Island at this time.



**Eating apples near the dock**

Elizabeth Heinrichs, fourth from left, and mainland friends are  
enjoying a visit on Pelee.



1943

**L to R:** Bob, the family's dog, Anna Gossen with Paul on her lap, cousin Alice Neufeld from Kitchener, Astrid and Kurt Gossen on the Gossen yard.



Friends Betty Schroeder  
and Helen Cornies



**1943**

Ten Pelee Island Young People at the home of Isaac and Maria Klassen.

**L to R:** Erna Fast, Mary Fast, Elizabeth Heinrichs, Hilda Klassen, Abe Epp, Sarah Steingart, Victor Ginter, Helen Cornies, Henry Cornies and Jacob Heinrichs standing next to Jake's 1935 Dodge.



**1944**

Elizabeth Heinrichs and Betty Schroeder

**1944**

It is a winter afternoon. Elizabeth Heinrichs and dog Teddy are standing near their Middle Island home. The family's crank washing machine can be seen in back.



**1944**

**Four Friends**

**Back:** Hedy Wiebe, Ruby Epp  
**Front:** Helen Heinrichs, Anne Wiebe.



**1944**

Hilda Konrad, Mary Klassen  
and Erna Fast at the Klassen  
home.

**1944**

**L - R:** Anne Cornies, Helen Klassen,  
Agnes Klassen, Elsie Klassen and  
little Ed Klassen at the Cornies  
home on Centre Dyke Road.







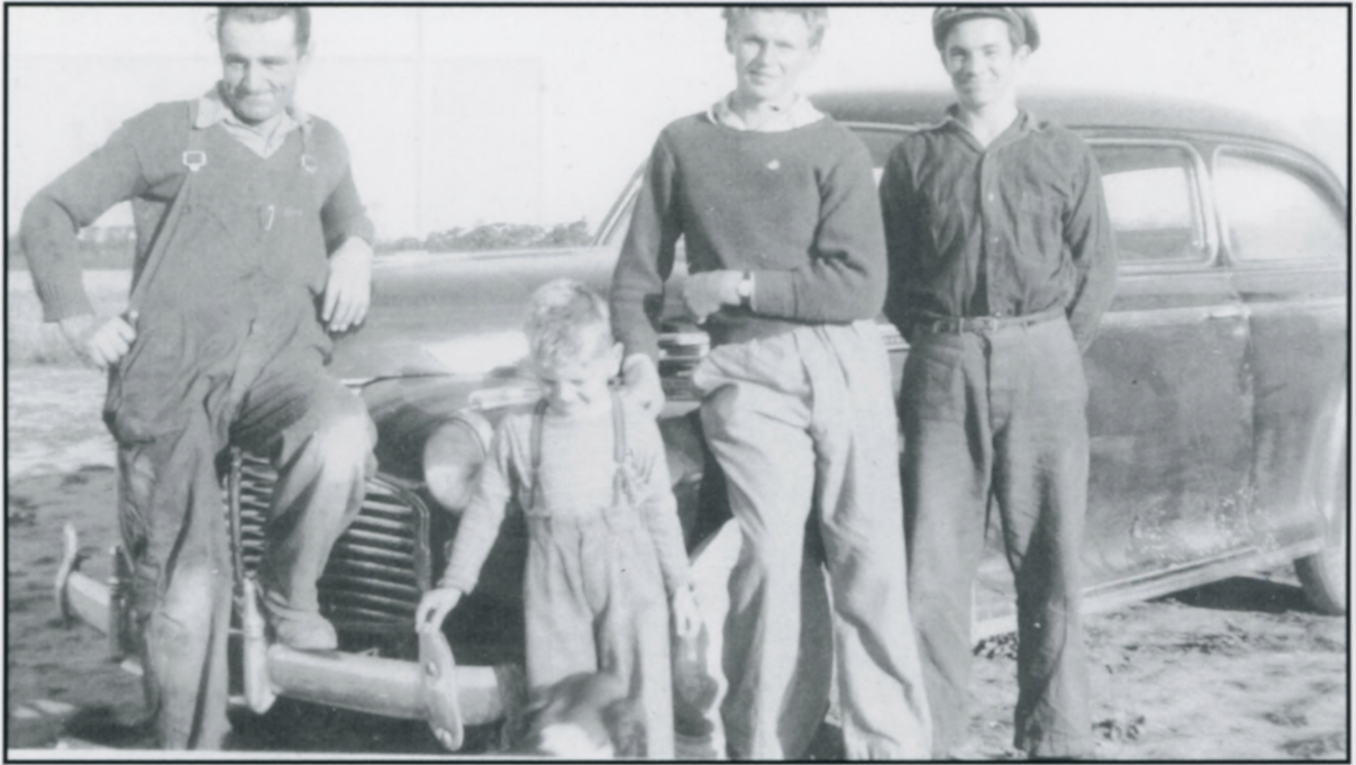
**1944**  
Helen and Elizabeth  
Heinrichs  
standing next to a  
1935 Dodge.



**1944**

Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard Konrad, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Fast, visitors Mr. and Mrs. Mantler (Mrs. Mantler was a sister to Isaac Klassen), Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cornies, Mr. and Mrs. George Wiebe, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Klassen, Rev. and Mrs. Isaac Klassen, Mrs. Braun, Mrs. Gerhard Konrad, Susie Konrad, Mary Klassen, Peter Klassen, Henry Cornies, Jr; Elsie, Agnes & Helen Klassen, Anne Cornies, Walter Klassen.

**Note:** part of the front row is missing.



**1944**

Ewald Wiebe, Gerhard Wiebe, Henry Cornies and friend Johnny Ferguson,  
standing beside a Pontiac car.



**1944**

**Back** L to R: Walter Klassen, John Reimer, Anne Cornies, Vern Reimer  
and Wanda Reimer

**Front:** Norma Stoltz, unknown, Lydia Reimer, Agnes Klassen, Helen  
Klassen at the Reimer home on Henderson Road.



**1945 A Big Treat!**

**Front:** Vern Reimer, Kurt Gossen, Paul Gossen

**Back:** Lydia Reimer, Hedy Wiebe, Astrid Gossen, John Reimer behind Astrid, Anne Cornies, Fred Wiebe behind Anne, Wanda Reimer, drinking coke in the Gossen back yard on a Sunday afternoon.



**1945**

Henry Cornies and Claire Stoltz  
at the East beach.



### **The 1940s**

Anne Cornies, Wanda Reimer, Lydia Reimer  
and little Fred Wiebe  
at the Ewald and Elizabeth Wiebe home.

### **1945**

Gerhard Wiebe with brother Fred  
and Vern Reimer





**1945**

**Back:** John Reimer, Henry Schroeder  
**Row 3:** Anne Cornies, Lillian Schroeder, Wanda Reimer  
**Row 2:** Mary Schroeder, Lydia Reimer  
**Front:** Rudy Schroeder and Vern Reimer  
 at the Schroeder home.

**1945**

Agnes Klassen, Lydia Reimer, Helen Klassen and Astrid Gossen on a Sunday afternoon.



**1946**

**Back:** Wanda Reimer, Ruby Lipp  
**Front:** Little Fred Waibe, Lydia Reimer holding her birthday cake  
 and Vern Reimer at the Schroeder home, standing beside a 1936 Chevrolet



**1945**

Henry Cornies Jr.  
His father was often referred  
to as "Big Henry"  
so they called Henry Jr.  
"Little Big Henry".



**1945**

Hedy Wiebe and Ruby Epp



**1946**

Siblings Vern, Wanda, Lydia and  
John Reimer  
children of Herman and Helen.



**1946**

**Back:** Wanda Reimer, Ruby Epp, Anne Cornies.  
**Front:** Little Fred Wiebe, Lydia holding her birthday cake,  
and Vern Reimer at the Ewald Wiebe home, standing beside a 1936  
Chevrolet.



**1946**

Hedy Wiebe, Grace Reh and Rosemary Girardin  
at the Reh home.



**1946**

Lily, Rudy, Henry and Mary  
Schroeder  
at their home near the lake, on  
the West Side.





**1946**

A Sunday afternoon visit at the Henry and Anna Cornies home on Centre Dyke Road. By this time, the Pelee Mennonite population had dwindled to about seven families.

**Front:** Jake Gossen, Dietrich Ginter, Peter Fast, Abe Ginter, Peter Klassen  
**Back:** John Wiebe, Ewald Wiebe, Herman Reimer.



**1946  
 Christmas Day**

Henry and Helen Cornies, Herman Reimer, Henry Cornies Jr., Helen & Anne Cornies,  
 Peter Klassen, Walter Klassen,  
 John, Wanda, Vern and Lydia Reimer,  
 at the Herman Reimer home.

## Henry Cornies' GMC



**Jake Gossen's Ford**

**Ewald Wiebe's GMC**



### **A Grand Occasion in Summer of 1946**

The Leamington youth group, with Youth leader Jacob C. Neufeld, arrived at the Pelee dock, dressed in their Sunday best. Here they were loaded on to Henry Cornies', Ewald Wiebe's and Jake Gossen's trucks and transported along the Island's dusty gravel roads. They were treated to a picnic lunch on the East Side.



### **1946 Leamington Youth Picnic**

After a tour of the Island, a picnic took place at the South End. Here we see Henry Cornies Sr. boiling coffee water. It had rained so hard during the night that Mr. Cornies needed to wear his boots!



**1946**

Kay Ginter, Mary Klassen, Mrs. Ginter, Betty Wiebe, Anna Gossen, Anna Cornies at the Cornies home on Centre Dyke Road.



**1946**

Lydia Reimer, Elsie Klassen, Anne Cornies and Wanda Reimer  
at the Reimer home on Henderson Road.



**1947**

Anne Cornies, Lydia Reimer,  
and Wanda Reimer  
sitting on the East Beach  
sand.



**1948**

Ewald Wiebe's front yard on Parsons Road

**Back L to R:** Tina Driedger, Betty Wiebe holding baby John, Ewald Wiebe, Miss Driedger, Anne Cornies, Wanda Reimer, Mrs. Driedger, Mrs. Reimer  
**Front:** Vern Reimer, George Driedger, Gerhard Wiebe, Lydia Reimer, Fred Wiebe.



**1948**

Ken Dick, Gerhard Wiebe, Astrid Gossen, Hedy Wiebe, Fred Wiebe, Kurt Gossen and Jim Dick.



### **The late 40s**

Nurse Helen Heck with Widow Anna Wiebe, at the Ewald and Elizabeth Wiebe home.



### **1949**

Gerhard Wiebe's first bike on his ninth birthday.

**L-R:** Ross Rieger, Ron Rieger, Ken Dick, Gerhard Wiebe, Jim Dick, Fred Wiebe,  
Garry Rieger on wagon.



**Summer of 1950  
at the Ewald and Elizabeth Wiebe home**

**Back L to R:** Ewald Wiebe, Jacob Dick, Ken Dick, Jim Dick,  
Mary Sievers (Elizabeth's sister), Ernst Reimer (hired man),  
Fritz Sievers.

**Front:** John Wiebe, Elizabeth Wiebe, Fred Wiebe.  
This 259 acre farm was owned by the Ewald and Elizabeth  
Wiebe family until 1961.

# Pelee Island Schools

## 1925-1950



**1927-1928**

### **Middle Island School on Henderson Road**

**Front, third from right: Peter Dyck, son of Rev. Johann and Katharina Dyck.**

**Centre, third from right: Mary Nageleisen**

**Back right: Teacher Mr. George Pegg, and Albert (Toby) Rieger,  
Katharina Dyck.**





**1927**

**Middle Island School on Henderson Road**

Mary Kaethler with Martens and Wiebe classmates on the teeter-totter.

**Note:** see outhouses at left back; old Eaton's catalogues were used in place of tissue in all Pelee schools until 1946.



**1929 - 1930**

**Middle Island School**

**Back left:** Richard Taves, George Konrad, Albert Rieger, Leonard McGinnis, Teacher Mr. Pegg and his wife, Lulu May, Margaret Taves, Katie Dick, Betty McNair, Elsie McGinnis.

**Front left:** Allen Reh, John Tomak, Margaret Stoltz, Hazel Stoltz, Dorothy Nageleisen, Verna McNair, Agatha Dick, Hilda Thiessen, Ellen Reh.



**1927 - 1928**

**Middle Island School**

**Back**

**L to R:**

George Konrad, Richard Taves, Albert Rieger, Leonard McInnis,  
Ethel Pegg, Margaret Taves, Betty Close, Hilda Thiessen.

**Front**

**L to R:**

Dorothy Nageleisen, Margaret Stoltz, Lula Close, Verna Close, Ethel  
Reh, Agatha Dick, unknown, Allan Reh, Elsie McInnis.



**1930s**

**SS # 3**

**South End School**

**Centre Row:** Hilda Klassen, second from front.

Erna Fast later taught at this school.



1931

## SS # 1 North End School

### Back:

John Ouellette, Jacob Driedger, Henry Wiens, Bob Harris, George Dobbins, Edgar Hoare, Fred Steer, Edna White, Margaret Bauhaus, Mary Young, Florence Walls, Marjorie Taylor, Agnes Wiens, Phyllis Hoare, James White, Sheila Harris, Stanley Carter, Peter Driedger, Cornelius Driedger.

### Centre:

Mahlon Hooper, standing between and in front of Edgar Hoare and Fred Steer, Howard Nye, Harold Walls, DeLore Ouellette, Victor Gough, Roy Rahm, Hugh Hooper, Nicholas Driedger, Rhea McCormick, Agnes Barnes.

### Front:

Ronald Gough, Nick Rempel, Ken Feltz, Mac Hooper, Zane Hooper - a preschooler, Laurence Walls, Evelyn Steer, Russel Wilson, Guy Hooper, John Driedger, D'Arcy Ouellette, Earl Watt, Madeline Rahm, Eleanor Watt, Dora Lucas, Agatha Driedger, Mary Rempel, Doris Steer.

**Note:** Grades 1 - 12 were taught at the North End School during this time.



**1937**

**SS#4**

**Middle Island School**

**Front L to R:** Edna Garno, Lewis Garno, Bill Humpage,  
Abram Driedger, Henry Cornies, George Thiessen, Byrd Reh,  
Lawrence Bauhaus, Rita Bauhaus.

**Row 2:** Pearl Reh, Irene Seguine, Katie Thiessen, Hazel  
Stoltz, Margaret Driedger,  
Audrey Seguine, Julius Stoltz, Martha Bauhaus.

**Row 3:** Hilda Thiessen, Agatha Driedger, George Konrad,  
Ethel Reh, Elsie McInnis, Dorothy Nageleisen, Margaret  
Stoltz, Allen Reh, Robert Bauhaus.



**SS#3  
South End School  
1937-1938**

**Front: L - R** Howard Gardner, Neil Dick, Bob Glenn.

**Centre:** Jean Glenn, Mary Friesen, Helen Heinrichs, Regina Krestel.

**Back:** Carl Ryerse, David Ginter, Leo Gardner.

Teacher Miss Webb;  
followed by Frederick Gould.



**SS#3  
South End School  
1937-1938**

**Back:** John Krestel, Magdalene Pollinger, Francis Gardner.

**Middle:** Hilde Friesen, Kathleen Gardner.

**Front:** Elizabeth Pollinger, who married Eugene Whelan.



**SS#1**

**North End School**

**1939 - 1940**

**Front, L to R:**

Henry Schroeder, Bill Adams, Mary Schroeder, Rosemary Girardin, Lily Schroeder.

**Centre:**

Jack Massey, Frank Swartz, Fred G. Wiebe, Carman Lidwell, Calvin Stewart, Glenn Pauley, Jack Adams.

**Back:**

Bruce Sword, Max White, Joyce Hooper, Annie Wiebe, Ruth Adams, Francis Adams, Iva Gough.



**1939 - 1940**

**S.S. # 2, West Side School**

**Back:** Herb Felz, Edgar Willms, Helen Cornies, Clarisse Skipper,  
George Thiessen, Henry Cornies,  
Hilda Klassen, Waldy Willms.

**3rd row:** Claire Stoltz, June Thompson, Joyce Rinkel, Audrey  
Botham, Ruth Rinkel, Catharine Stewart, Mary Stewart.

**2nd row:** Charles Rinkel, Fred Willms, Harold Thiessen, Eric Willms,  
Edgar Fleming.

**Front:** Agnes Thiessen, Erika Thiessen,  
Jean Bonnett, Elsie Klassen,  
Kathleen Elford, Dorothy Crawford.





**.1941 - 1942  
S.S # 2, West Side School**

**Back:** Ed Willms, Herb Feltz  
Bob Bonnet, June Thompson,  
Ruby Epp, Agnes Thiessen,  
Fred Willms, Dennis McCormick,  
Walter Sinclair, Eric Willms, Harold Thiessen  
Teacher: Miss Welsh.

**Centre:** Charles Rinkel, John Fleming, Georgina Piper, Elsie Klassen  
Anne Cornies, Don Crawford, Harry Klassen.

**Front:** Edgar Fleming, Milton Gow, John Sallmen, Donna Gow,  
Frieda Thiessen, Bob Botham,  
Gareth Davies, Max McCormick.



**North End School  
c.1942**

**Back:**

Teacher: Miss M. Storey, Fred G. Wiebe, Wyman Jakes, Richard Harris, Graham Kallo, Max White, Joyce Hooper, Frances Adams, Annie Wiebe, Audrey Feltz, Mary Stewart, Byrdie Hooper, Mrs. Campbell, Hedy Wiebe.

**Centre:**

Jack Adams, Henry Schroeder, Frank Swartz, Glenn Pauly, John Reimer, Clyde Hooper, Calvin Sweet, Bill Adams, Carmen Lidwell, Rosemary Girardin, Mary Schroeder.

**Front:**

Billy Quick, Lyle Hooper, Wanda Reimer, Patsy Ouellette, Patsy Adams, Sylvia Schroeder.

The North End School; the only school  
in use today.



**1944**

**S.S.#2**

### **West Side School**

**Back:** Mrs. Tibbets, Dennis McCormick, Ruby Epp, Edgar Fleming, Lily Schroeder, Teacher Mr. Badger, Charles Rinkel, Anne Cornies.

**Centre:** Max McCormick, Henry Schroeder, Mary Schroeder, John Sallman.

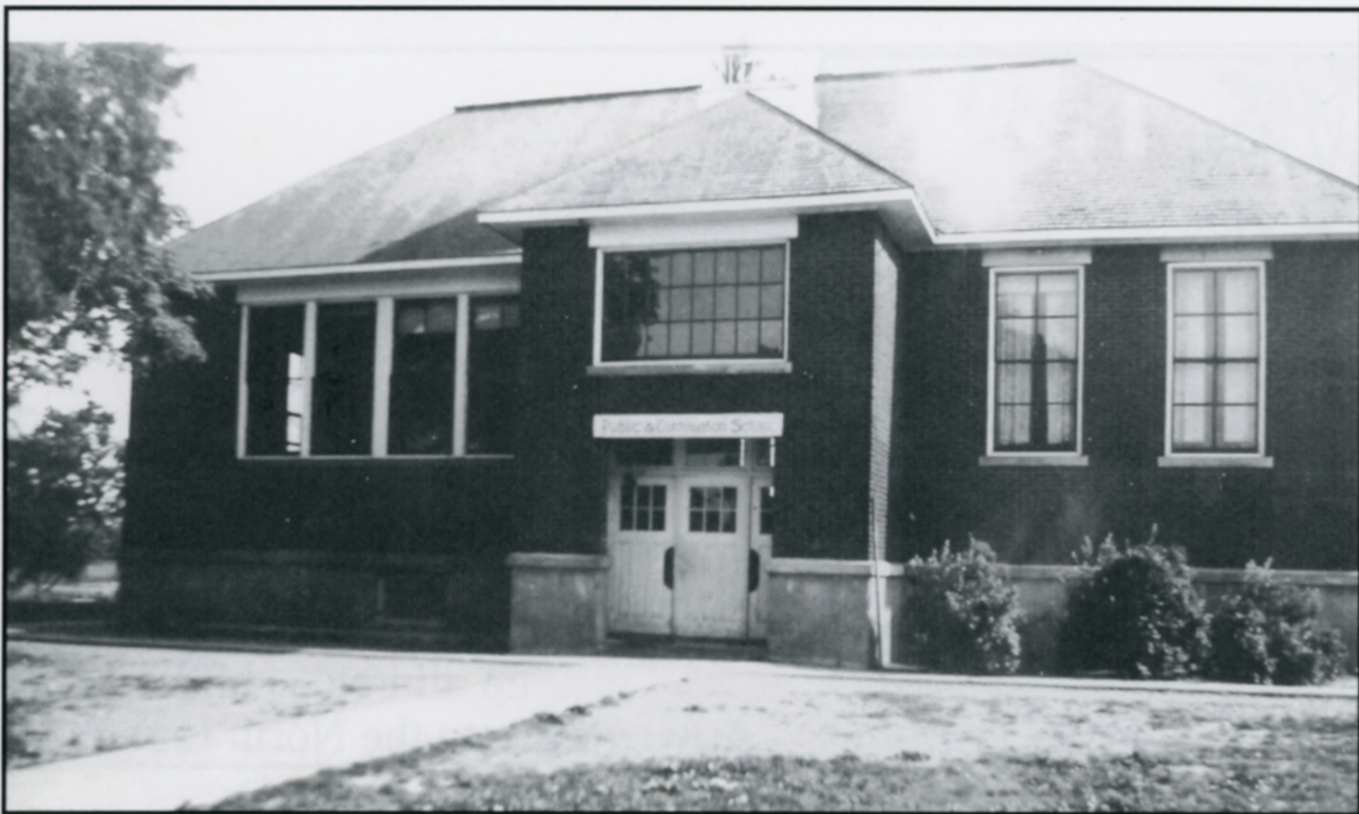
**Front:** Donna Gow, Milton Gow, Billy Quick, Betty Crawford, Bob Botham, Don Crawford.



**1946**  
**The North End School**

Back: second from left: Wanda Reimer; right: John Reimer

Centre front: Lydia Reimer  
Adam's home in background.



**The North End School; the only school  
in use today.**

## South End School

### SS#3

**Back:** Francis Ryерsee, Jim Wiper, Bob Glen.

**Centre:** Jean Glen, Iris Ryерsee, Mary Wiper, Bernice Gardner.

**Front:** Elsie Klassen, Hazel Glen, Pat Wiper, Betty DeBel.



### 1946

Kurt Gossen, Claire Stoltz and Astrid Gossen are waiting for the school bus. The four Pelee school districts have amalgamated; two buses pick up all Pelee children and take them to the North End School.



**1948**

Gerhard Wiebe is waiting for the school bus and little brother Fred is keeping him company. By 1947, many Island families had moved to the mainland. As a result, three of the four Island schools closed.



**1948**

The school bus has stopped to pick up Gerhard Wiebe; Spotty wants to come too!

# Mennonite Musicians on Pelee Island



## 1925-1926 Four Pelee Musicians

**L to R:** unknown, Jacob P. Driedger (violin), Abram P. Driedger (guitar), John J. Wiebe (guitar).



**Ben Konrad**  
playing his violin. Vocal and  
instrumental music was  
important to the Mennonite  
people.



### **The Konrad Brothers**

**L to R:** Abe Konrad on mandolin, George with harp, Ben with violin,  
Jake with guitar. Their father Bernhard had hand-crafted the harp  
during the winter months.





**1931**

A group of young people are singing at the Jacob Dick home.  
**L to R:** Tina Toews, Tina Dick, Henry Schroeder, Anna Wiebe, Maria Wiebe, Jacob Gossen, Anna Toews, Jake Konrad; Nick Wiens is accompanying the group on his accordian.

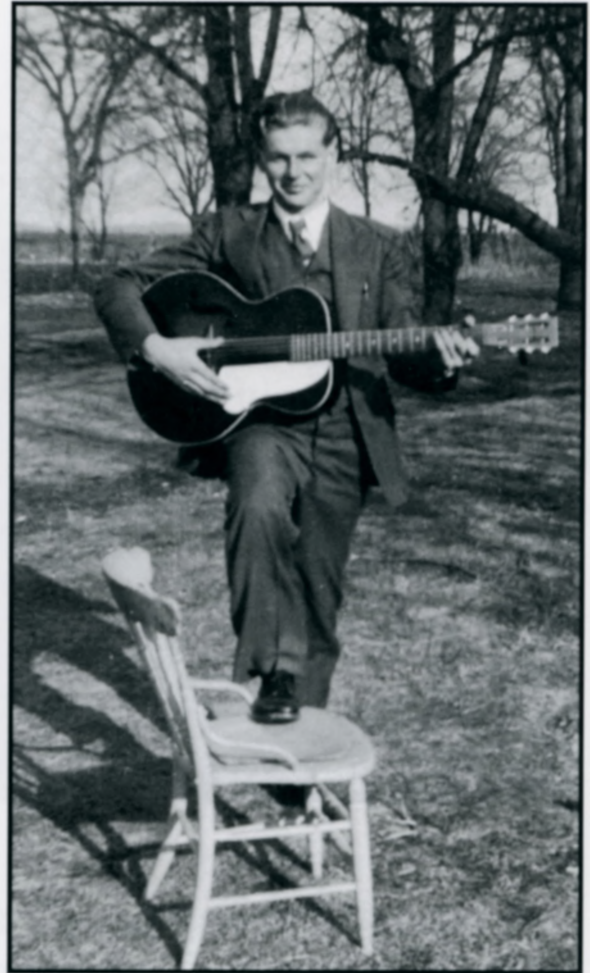


**1941**

Jake Heinrichs  
playing his guitar.

**1941**

Henry Cornies Jr. playing guitar.



**1943**

Helen Cornies, Ernie Penner from St. Catharines playing guitar, and Liz Heinrichs at Cornies home.

# The Pelee Hunt



## The Annual Two Day Pheasant Hunt

**Front left:** Jacob Epp, Helen Heinrichs, Mrs. Epp & Ruby Epp. At the back we see three hunters sitting on the pick-up truck.

The first Pelee Pheasant hunt took place in 1932. All four schools closed during the hunt.



**1933**

Abram B. Konrad  
with his new hunting gun  
at their home on Parsons  
Road.



**The Annual Pheasant Hunt**

Jacob Epp and daughter Ruby  
holding pheasants and one rabbit at their home on the East-  
West Road.



## 1943 Pheasant Hunt Ginter home photo

The two day hunts brought in much-needed cash for the Island families. The hunters were provided with food and lodging by the Islanders. Here we see hostesses Kay and Liz Heinrichs sitting to the left of the hunters with their dog Provost. Standing to the left are Abe and Vic Ginter.

During the early 1930s, the hunters each paid their hosts \$1.50 per day, which included meals and lodging. Most Pelee hunters came from the USA and brought their own dogs.



## **W Pheasant Display**

Gerhard Wiebe is talking to the pheasant hunters; brother Fred is sitting in front.



## **Fishing**

George Wiens, second from right, with three friends, displaying their catch.



**1944**

Neighbours Frank Steingart and Jake Heinrichs  
on Henderson Road farm,  
displaying their catch in front of the 1932 Chevrolet.



### **Rabbit Hunt**

Brothers Nick and George Wiens, second and third from  
left, hunting rabbits with their friends.

# Farming on Pelee



**1927**

John A. and Maria Wiebe farmed on Henderson Road. It is early spring and the tobacco has been seeded in the tobacco beds shown here. The soil was mixed with beach sand which made the seeds germinate more evenly. The white cotton cover protected the plants from frost.





**1928**

David Reimer, Senior, working with horses on the Island. Tractors were not used in the early years.



**David Reimer, Senior**, working the land for spring planting.



**1927**

Spudding tobacco on Jacob Epp farm  
on East - West Road.



**1927**

Jacob J. Epp on wagon loading tobacco.  
Little Elsie and Rev. Abram Rempel are helping.



Brothers-in-law **Jacob Dick and Neil Toews** watering the tobacco seedlings.



**1928**

Gerhard Thiessen  
watering the tobacco plants.  
Burley tobacco had been grown on  
the Island since 1890  
when Mr. Scudder donated burley  
tobacco seeds to the farmers.



**George Thiessen**

son of Rev. Thiessen, taking a load of corn to the corn cribs  
on their West Side farm.



**Gerhard Thiessen**

pulling weeds in the tobacco beds.



**1930**

Jake Gossen (centre) came from Ukraine to Pelee in 1930. The Stoltz family hired him as a farm worker that summer. Jake is standing in the Stoltz tobacco field on Centre Dyke Road with the Stoltz boys Robert (left) and Howard (right).



**1932**

Planting tobacco.



Suckering tobacco on a hot summer day.



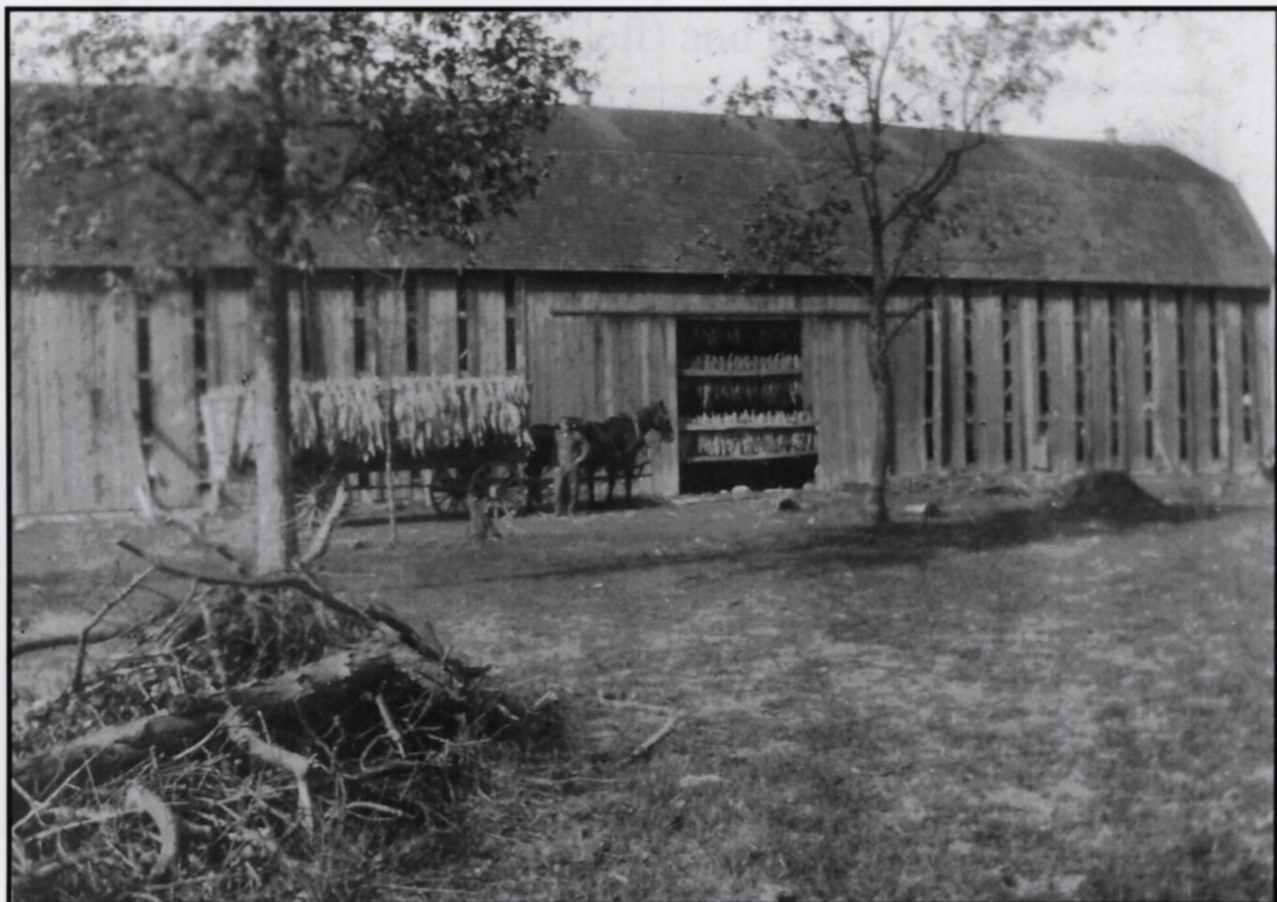
**1934**

Bernhard B. Konrad  
spudding tobacco.



**1934**

Loading tobacco: Bernhard Konrad to the right;  
Bernhard Fast to the left; Abram B. Konrad on wagon.



**1934**

Abram B. Konrad with a load of tobacco  
at the large tobacco barn on Parsons Road.



**1935 Planting tobacco**  
Rev. Gerhard Thiessen driving;  
Children Hilda and George on the planter.



**George Konrad loading tobacco to hang in  
Henry Rahm's barn on Middle Island.**

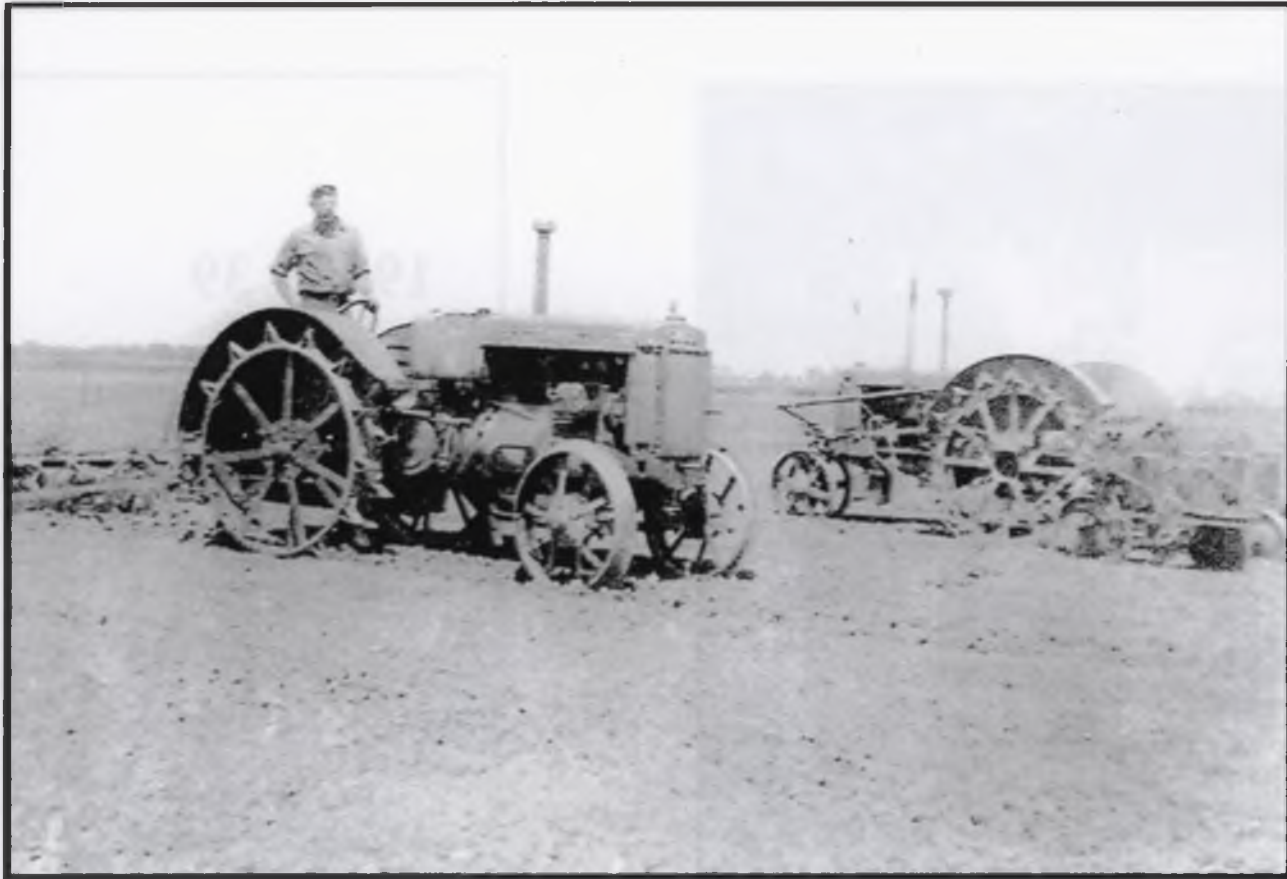




**Henry Cornies Sr.** standing to the right beside the tractor and binder.



**1938**  
**Jacob Epp** on John Deere tractor hauling a load of tobacco to the barn.



**1938**

Jake Gossen is working the land for planting.  
Steel-wheeled tractors were still used in the late 1930s.



**1938**

Some of the Island's Mennonite farmers are growing corn; here Jake Gossen is planting his corn crop.



**1938 - 39**

Peter and Abe Konrad are renovating a house. Peter Konrad also worked for Ewald Wiebe on the farm.

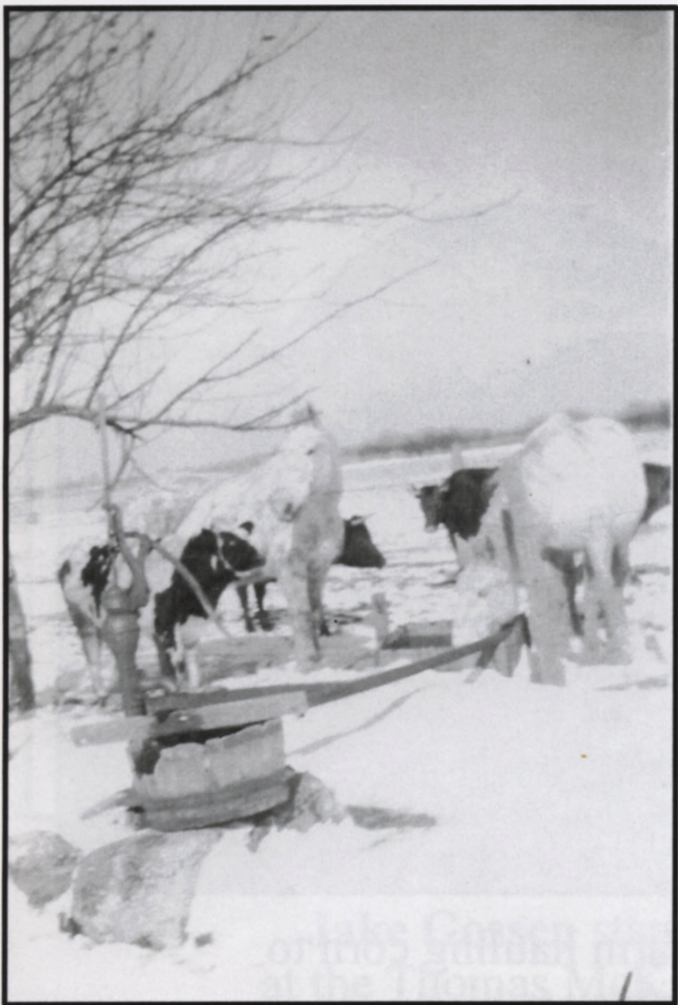
**Gerhard Thiessen**  
hoeing the vegetable garden on their farm.





**1940s**

Katherina Fast and Anna Gossen checking the corn crop.



**The Henry Cornies farm** had a well with good drinking water. Here we see the Cornies cattle at the well.

**Note:** Many wells on the Island produced water unsuitable for drinking. As a result, a weekly visit to the lake was necessary. Here several barrels were filled and stored in the farm's shed.



**Jake Gossen** harvesting his 1938 corn crop. The tractor is pulling a one-row corn picker.



**Don Nast** is working on the Gossen farm hauling corn to the corn crib for storage.



**1942**

The land is being worked up with a one-way disk. The soil is very dry; rocks are placed on the disk. Don Nast on tractor and Astrid Gossen standing beside the disk.



**Jake Gossen** standing next to his Case tractor at the Thomas McKee farm on Centre Dyke Road.



**1943**

A visitor has stopped by; time for a break in the tobacco field.



**Don Nast** cultivating corn on the Centre Dyke Road farm. Don lived with the Gossen family when he worked on Pelee.



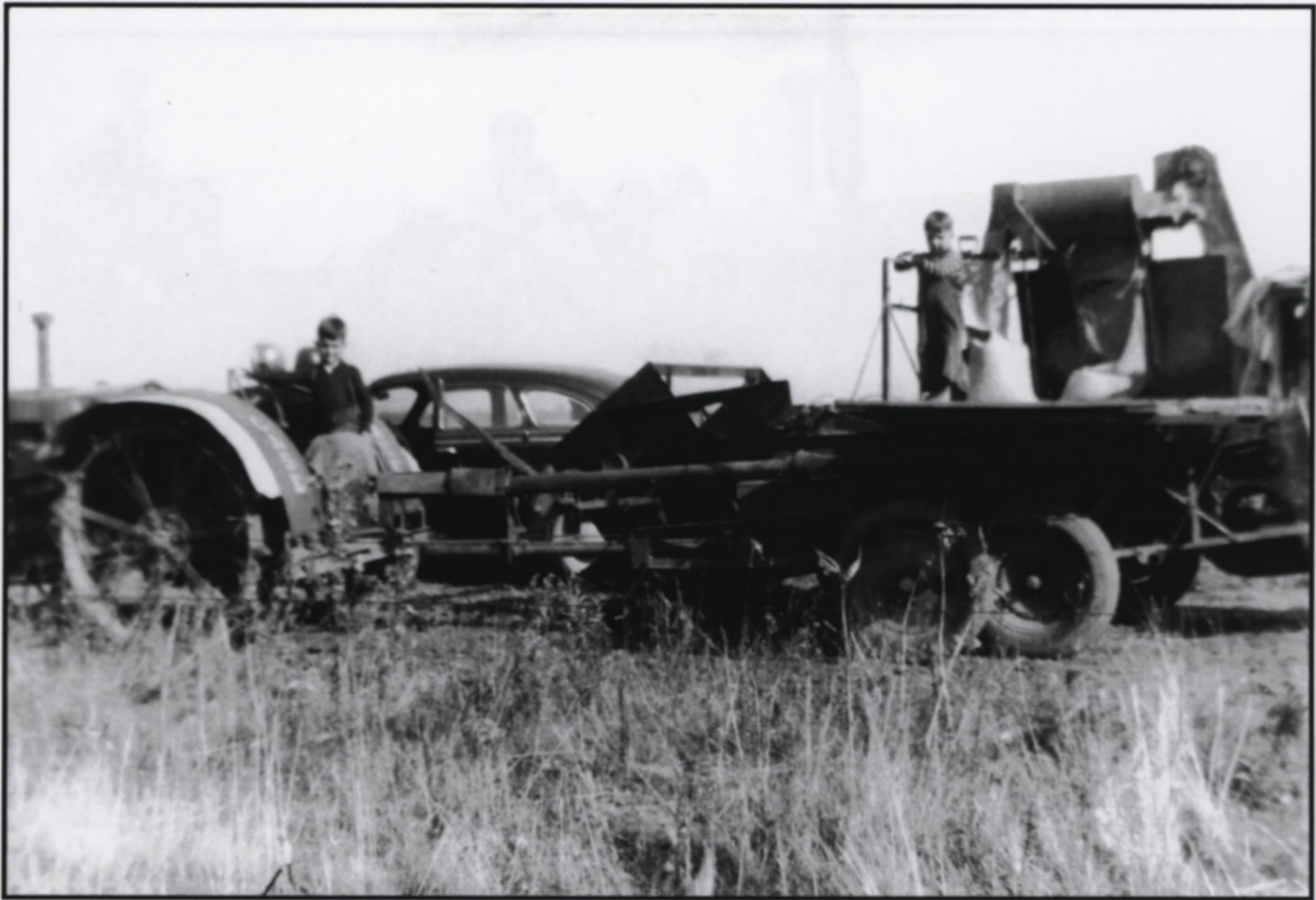
**1944**

Jacob Gossen and David Reimer Jr., combining soya beans.



**Mary Fast**  
is driving the  
tractor; her father  
Peter Fast can be  
seen on the combine.





**1945**

Kurt (left) and Paul (right) are playing on the Gossen farm equipment.



**Paul Rieger**

is getting ready to blast a large stone on his farm.



**1940s**

Much of the Island's land lies below lake level. Tiling the farmland is a necessity. Here **Henry (Bunny) Hayes**, to the right, is operating **Noah Garno's** tiling machine.



**Helen Cornies**, daughter of Henry Sr., is posing with **Bill**, the family's horse.



Helen's brother, **Henry Cornies Jr.**, with horse Bill.



Farmers are lined up on the **North dock at harvest time.** The grain elevator can be seen to the right, behind the freighter.

# Transportation on Pelee Island



**c. 1925**

First aircraft landing on Pelee Island.

The group includes 16-year old Ewald Wiebe, Pius Nageleisen standing next to propeller, Minnie Nageleisen under propeller, second woman from right is Mrs. Stoltz, then Orma Stoltz, Mr. Pegg, John Wiebe.



**1926**

The Rev. Jacob Epp and Rev. Abram Rempel families are going to the Worship Service at the Rev. Gerhard Thiessen home on Henderson Road on a summer Sunday morning.



**1927**

Loading grain at the North dock. Rev. Johann Dick and Johann A. Wiebe with sons are emptying bags into the ship's hold. These bags needed to be stored on the farm or in the dock's building until the grain boat's arrival. See pile of coal on dock.



**1929**

Henry Schroeder in his sparkling clean Dodge car



**1930**

Jacob Gossen at his first Canadian work place, the Henry Stoltz farm, located on Centre Dyke Road.  
He paid \$25.00 for his new bike from the Eaton's Store.



### 1930s

Jake Gossen, Ben Konrad, Abe Konrad  
and Henry Schroeder near Parsons Road.  
Bicycles were the main mode of transportation during the  
Mennonite's first years on the Island.



**A Thiessen guest** from Chicago, namely Emmy Willms  
Thiessen, two children, and Gerhard Thiessen, are sitting on the  
running board of Thiessen's Star car.



**1930 - 1931**

George Wiens posing next to his 1928 Model A Coupe



**Nick Wiens** standing next to his  
Dodge Coupe on a winter day.





## The late 1930s

Pilot Harry Honey  
preparing to leave the  
Island.



1938

The *Patricia McQueen* docked at Pelee



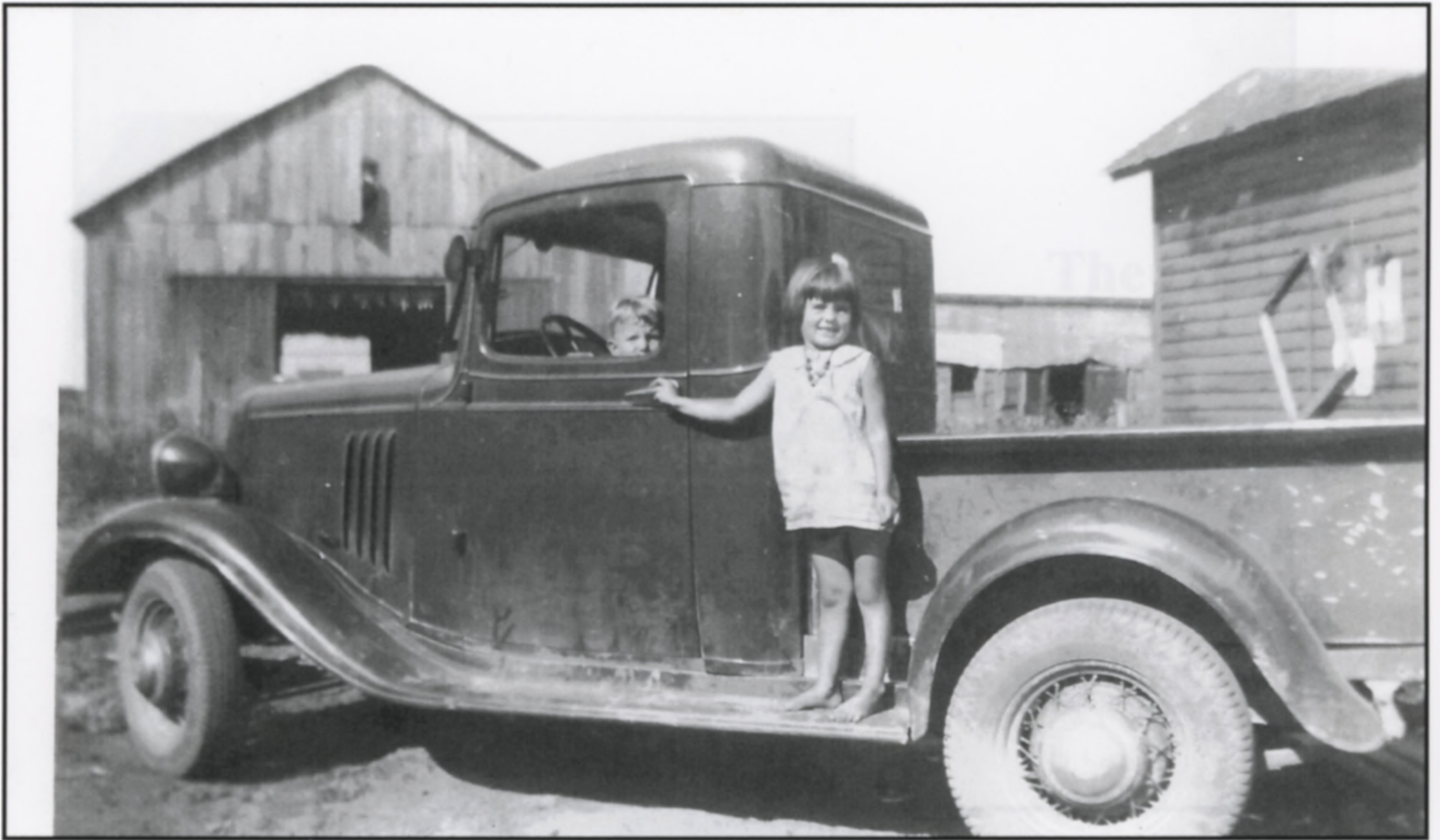
**1940s**

Abe and Hilda Epp standing next to Pelee plane at airport on Centre Dyke Road.



**1940s**

Helen Cornies posing in the cockpit of the Pelee airplane.



**1944**

Kurt in the driver's seat of Gossen's pickup; sister Astrid on running board.  
Gossen farm, Centre Dyke Rd.



**Pelee Island Mail Plane**



**1947**  
The *SS Pelee* heading home.



**1914-1947**  
Captain Sheats standing next to the *SS Pelee*, built in Collingwood in 1913, which sailed to Pelee Island, Kingsville and Sandusky. Sheats was Captain of this ship for 33 years.

# The Winter Months on Pelee



## Winter in the 1930s

Nick Wiens is washing his car with lake water on the North End beach, near his home, on a winter afternoon. Later many people used the East Side's flat rock area to wash their vehicles.



### **1930s**

A young man is harnessing a horse to haul ice blocks to the shed. The blocks were stacked in layers with straw to separate them, and used in the Islanders ice-boxes during the summer months.



### **Cutting ice**

A group of men preparing to cut lake ice. The Island's ice houses were located at the North End and the South End.



**David Reimer Sr.,**  
(centre), hauling  
ice blocks for the  
North End ice  
house.



## **Ice Storage**

There was no electricity on the Island until the late 1940s; ice storage was a necessity for summer use. Here the horses are hauling ice blocks.



**1930**

Jake Gossen standing on  
Centre Dyke bridge  
shortly after his arrival in  
Canada.

**1938**

Hilda Epp is standing on a snow  
bank during the winter of the big  
storm.







**1939**

It is winter; Robert Stoltz and George Wiens are hauling barrels filled with lake water. Saturday was bath day. Before bath time, the water was heated in a boiler on the wood-burning stove. Most families were large.

The youngest child got to bathe first; the oldest child was last.



**Katie Thiessen** is sitting on an ice pile following a winter storm.



**1939:** The McKee farm share-cropped by Jake Gossen had a corn crib, barn and a building used as a machine shop.



**1941**

Vic Ginter and Jake Heinrichs  
enjoying a Sunday afternoon in winter.



**Gerhard Thiessen** is hauling lake water for home use during the winter months. Numerous Island wells produced bad tasting water. Many years later these same wells were dug deeper, and produced good quality water as a result.



**1941**  
Astrid and Kurt Gossen  
in their front yard with a big snow man.



**1941**  
George Konrad standing on a pile of ice on the lake near the  
Isaac Klassen home.



**Loading beach sand to repair a muddy Island driveway:  
Abe Konrad and George Wiens. Note: the horse is wearing Abe's hat.**

**Abram Toews  
and George Konrad**





### Ice skating

Jake Konrad, George Wiens,  
and Abe Konrad are enjoying  
a skate on the lake.

### 1941

Neighbour Claire Stoltz on  
the Gossen yard on a winter  
afternoon with Anna,  
Astrid and Kurt Gossen.





**1944**

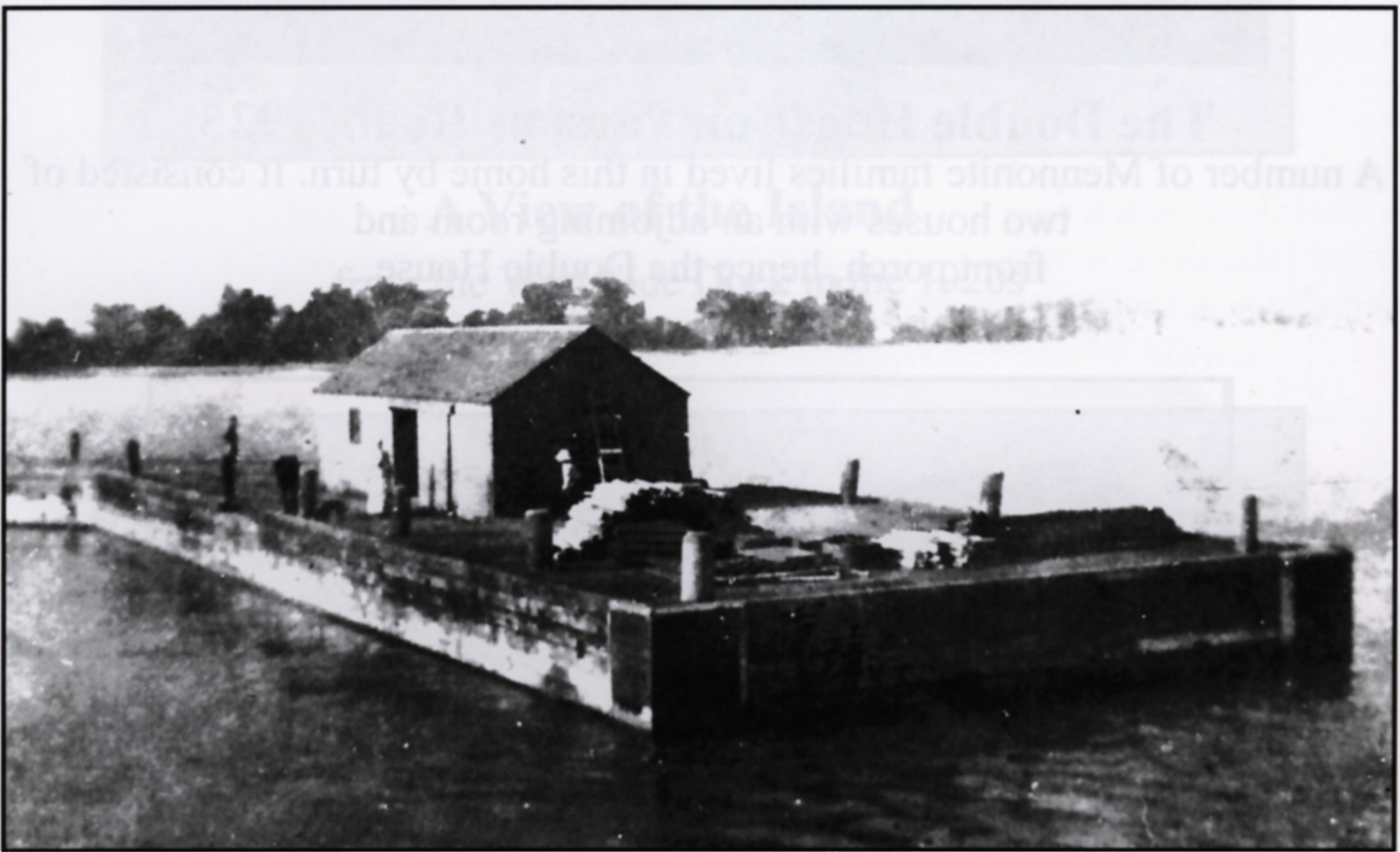
Erna Fast is waiting  
for  
a ride to school  
with the Anglican  
Church pastor.

**1946**

Brothers Kurt and Paul  
Gossen have dressed  
their snowman.



# Pelee Island Landmarks



## **The North Dock as it appeared in Spring of 1925**

Six Russian Mennonite families, a total of 38 individuals,  
arrived on Pelee Island in Spring of 1925.





### **The Double House on Parsons Road, 1925**

A number of Mennonite families lived in this home by turn. It consisted of two houses with an adjoining room and front porch, hence the Double House.



### **Rev. Jacob Epp family home in 1927**

This house was owned by Charlie Parsons and located on Parsons Road. Here we see daughter Elsie with her parents.



**A View of the Island**  
from the West Side Dock in the 1920s



**The Lighthouse**  
on the North-East corner of the Island  
page 201



## **The North End Lighthouse**

The East Side beach was a favourite summer Sunday afternoon gathering place for the Islanders. A walk to the North End lighthouse often took place before spreading tablecloths on the sand and enjoying a delicious *Faspa* together!

Ewald Wiebe renovated this lighthouse during the 1940s.



## **Lighthouse**

This lighthouse, located near the shipping channel north of the Island, provided George Wiens with a workplace during World War II.



## **The Rev. Johann F. Dick home**

The Dick family moved here from their East Side home in the late 1920s. It eventually became the Trading Post.



A back view of the Dick home which was located on the West Side Road near the West Dock. Dick family members can be seen to the right.



## **The Thiessen/Schroeder Home**

The Rev. Thiessen family,  
followed by the Henry  
Schroeder family, lived in  
this house on the West  
Side, south of the East-  
West Road.

A winter view of the home  
appears below.





### **1925 home of Anna Wiebe and family**

Anna Wiebe and her children lived on this Cruikshank farm.



Ed Long purchased this  
log home on the  
Island's north end in  
1941.

It was previously  
owned by a Sower  
family from England.



### **The Mission Hall**

George and Lulu May Pegg lived in the back of this building; Mr. Pegg was a pastor and East Side School teacher. The Pegg's allowed the Mennonites to use this Hall free of charge.



### **The Anglican Church**

This church is located on the East-West Road.



## 1930s

George Wiens, the Island's Club House caretaker, constructed this lawn mower using an old motorcycle motor.



**The Pelee Club House** located on the Island's North-West corner. Over the years, five American Presidents stayed here during the annual pheasant hunt.





## **The Pelee Hotel**

Anna Wiebe worked here in the early 1930s. During that time, Mr. Kahn, an Island visitor who had Russian connections, arranged to have Anna's brother Gerhard and his family come to Canada in 1933. This building was destroyed by fire in the 1950s.



## **Pelee Island Town Hall**

Movies were shown here in the mid-forties. Some Mennonite parents had second thoughts about allowing their children to go to a movie theatre. Ticket prices were .42 cents for adults and .13 cents for children.



## **McCormick's Grocery Store, North End**

Nick and Agnes Wiens worked in this store.



## **Mr. Quick's Filling Station**

at Scudder, the  
North End



## **Vin Villa**

### **The Pelee Island Winery at the North End**

The Jacob Taves and Dietrich Bergman families lived in homes near this winery from 1935 to 1936. Ben Taves attended the North End School. His brother John was born on the Island in summer of 1936. Jacob Taves worked in Dr. Hillier's grape and tobacco fields.



The Island Winery had an upper and lower basement.



**Blasting  
limestone at  
Pelee Island  
Quarry.**



**Crushing limestone in the quarry.**



## **Pelee Island Quarry**

The quarry rocks were used for shoreline protection. Island quarry stones were also used to build the Welland Canal.



**The Island's canals were deepened in 1938.**



### **Canal pumping station**

Stations are needed to pump the water from the canals into the lake.



### **Centre Dyke Canal**

Pelee is a little Holland; canals and pumping stations are needed to drain the Island's low-lying land.



### **Storm of 1938**

This photo shows a destroyed Island barn after the storm.



**Five Island barns were destroyed by the storm.**

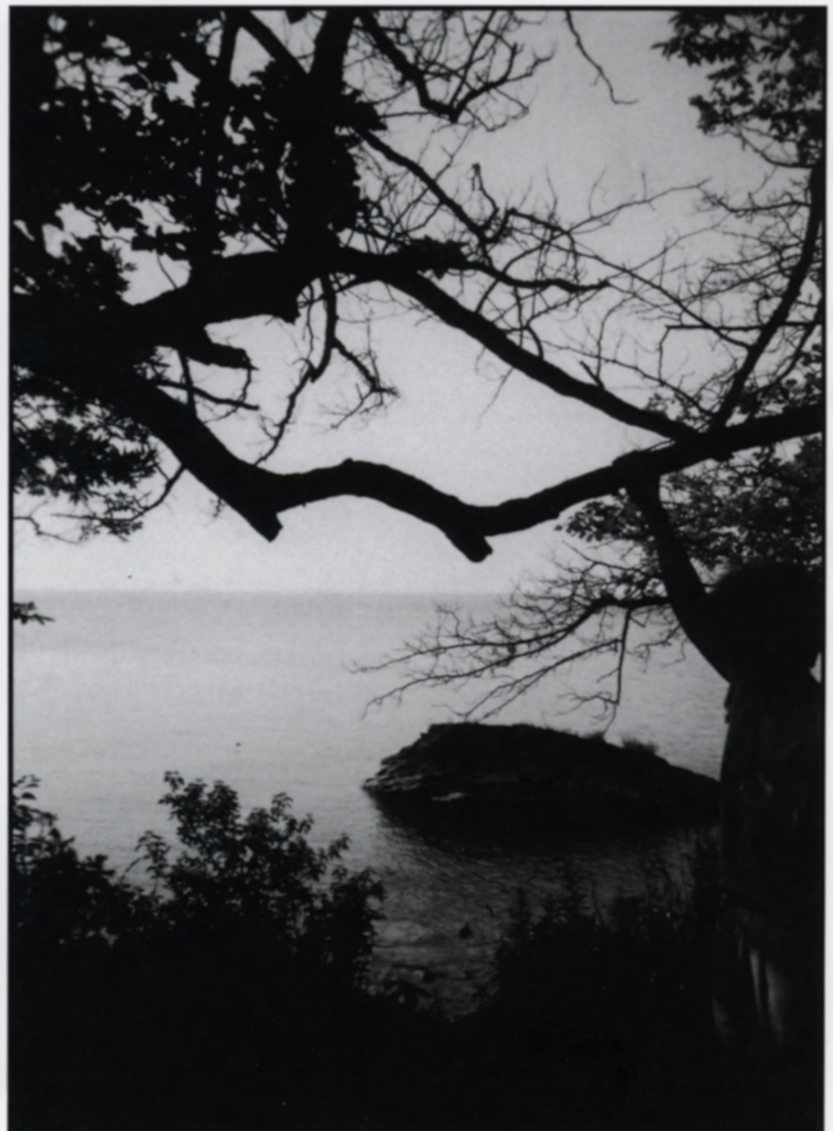


## 1938 Storm

Many trees were pulled up by their roots. Here we see Peter Klassen to the far left.

## Hulda's Rock

This rock is named for a lovely Erie princess named Hulda, who lived on the Island many years ago.







**1930 - 1940**

The Steamer Pelee at the West Dock, Pelee Island



**The West Dock**



**West Front Road**  
as it appeared in the 1920s.



**West Shore  
Road**  
This road follows  
the Island's West  
Side from Sheridan  
Point in the North to  
Fish Point on the  
South End.



