

Snyder Family History

From "Reflections of Radisson"

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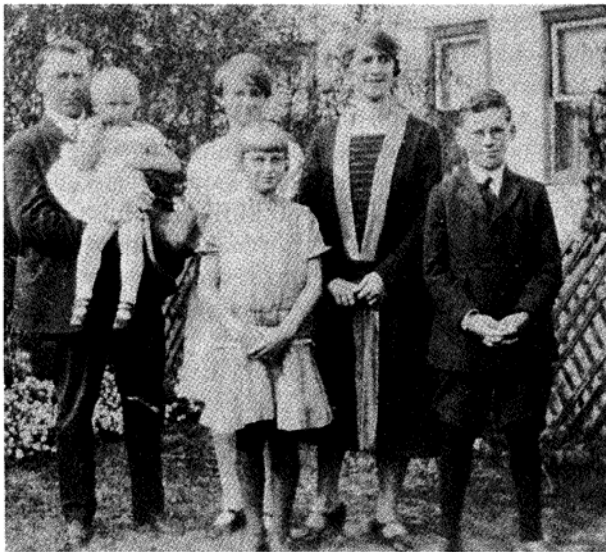
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The Family History of the Snyder Brothers, Norman and Levi by Phyllis (Snyder) Pippin

Norman Snyder came to Radisson in the year 1907, to take his place as the village blacksmith. He had spent the two years previous to this at his trade in Vernon, B.C. Norman grew up in Huron County, Ontario. He was the eldest of a family of eight children.



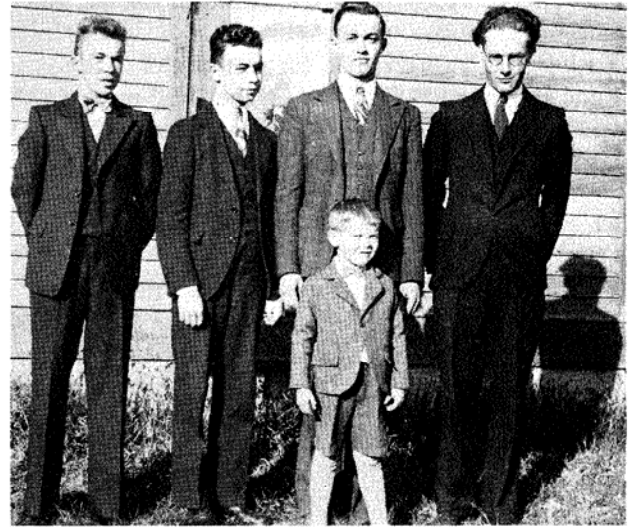
Snyder Family Gathering. Back Row: George Henderson, Grandpa and Grandma Lobb. Center Row: Jack Henderson, Minnie Snyder, Aunt Joy Lobb, Cliff Henderson, Elizabeth Snyder, Elsie Henderson, Levi Snyder. Front Row: Luella, Phyllis, Lurena, Laurence, Lloyd.



Norman Snyder Family. Back Row, L to R: Norman holding Ruth, Luella, Minnie. Front Row: Phyllis, Lloyd.

Levi, a younger brother, came during the early years in Radisson to join him in partnership in this venture.

In the year 1911 Norman brought his bride, Minnie Lobb (also from Huron County, and the eldest in the Lobb family of ten children) to this prairie town. Minnie and Norman had five children: Luella, Lloyd and Phyllis (twins), Everett (who died at age four),



Snyder Boys. Back Row, L to R: Earl, Mervyn, Laurence, Lloyd. Front Row: Clifford.

and Ruth. When the children were small Minnie's sister Elsie came from the east to lend a hand. She later married George Henderson. They settled on a farm south-west of town for some time, before moving back to the east.

Levi married an eastern girl, Elizabeth Wein. They had four boys: Lawrence, Mervyn, Earl and Clifford; and two girls: Lurena and Fay.

The Snyder families lived side by side on Goodrich Street, catty corner from the old MacDougall Hall. With the Zimmerman children next door and the Weedens and Cookmans across the street, things were usually humming in that corner of the world!

Due to ill health, Levi was unable to carry on in his partnership after the latter thirties. He died in the year 1945. Levi was a quiet, thoughtful man. He was a man of many talents and skills — music, a specialty. He was an excellent taxidermist, and a born naturalist. (I can remember Sundays when my uncle took us for walks in Weeden's pasture to observe and learn about the wonders of nature.)

The Levi Snyder girls now live in London, Ontario. Fay McMannus has three children. Lurena Howes has no family. Both girls are now widowed. Elizabeth, too, spent her last years in London and died there in 1980 at the age of 90.

Three of the boys worked in merchandising in various parts of Canada. Lawrence lives in Kelowna, British Columbia, and has four children. Earl has two children and lives in Porthome. Clifford died in Edmonton in 1965. Mervyn, an accomplished musician, resides in Clear Water, Florida.

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The Blacksmith Shop was a very vital part of this farming community — embers glowing and anvils ringing! With the changing times, the business grew and changed too — machine work, wood work, electrical work — all these activities were added. In the 'engine room' was 'Old Bessie', who provided the source of energy for the establishment. This electrical power was extended out into the community for quite some time before the power lines came through our town. Even after that 'Bessie' stood by, ready to be of service in times of power failure.

I can remember many an evening trip in our old Model T out into the country with my father when he went to fix some farm machinery or do some wiring. He used to sing as we drove along, to keep himself wide awake after a long busy day in his shop.

Norman and Minnie were active members in the community — in the cultural development, in social activities, and particularly in the various church activities (Methodist and United) — church organization, ladies groups, mission band, youth groups including summer camps at Meeting Lake. And they were choir members throughout their entire stay in the community. Minnie was the choir leader for many, many years. A church organ was dedicated to her memory in later years. Minnie was also an active and dedicated member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Music held a special place in all our lives. I can remember when a music teacher used to come from Saskatoon on Saturdays, and teach lessons in our living room. (We got our lessons free for the use of our piano.)

Our home was always open to friends, relatives and acquaintances. Parties were one of my mother's specialties! (They were often quite unique.) She loved to plan and to entertain!

Charlie and Pearl Cox, who lived one mile west of town, were like family, and 'Auntie Pearl' seemed like a semi-permanent fixture in our kitchen, chatting with us as we did our work.

Another person, Mae Clark, the town dress-maker, was a part of the pattern of our lives. It was tradition that she come to our place on Good Friday, and put her talents to work on an Easter creation for some lucky member of the family. On the same day my mother was always busy making 'hundreds' of hot cross buns for us, and all the neighbours. Were they good! M-m-! And the aroma! (We still carry on this tradition to some degree.)

The three Snyder girls grew up to be: nurse (Luella), school teacher (Phyllis) and secretary (Ruth). These were the three choices of those days. In the difficult years of the thirties Luella went to nurse in Ingersoll, Ontario. Lloyd, following his father's interests, apprenticed as a tool and die maker. He too found work in the east, in Woodstock, just eight miles from Ingersoll. Here he met and married Jean Page. He continued in his field of work until retirement. (Lloyd died in November, 1979.)

Phyllis's husband, Con Pippin, came to Radisson for a short time (1940-41) to help Norman in the shop. Then the Pippins followed the others to the east, to Woodstock, where Con worked as a machinist along with Lloyd. (Con died in 1966.) Phyllis, now a retired school teacher, Luella and her husband Herb Stephens, now retired, and Lloyd's wife Jean, all live in Woodstock.

Ruth and her banker-husband, Bill Atkinson, lived at Hudson Bay and Saskatoon for five years before moving to the east. They now live in Kitchener, Ontario.

After the family brood grew up and moved away, Minnie and Norman kept in touch with young people, utilizing their empty rooms by providing a home-away-from-home for teachers and high school students — Evan LaPine, Alan ?, Helen Nelson, Emma Francis, Marjorie Currie, Jean Kent — to name some.

In the year 1951 Minnie and Norman sold their business to Mr. Heyman Froom, packed up and followed their family to Ontario. That was a great reunion! A little home was built in Woodstock in the year 1952, a haven for their retirement. Minnie lived to enjoy it scarcely two years. She died in June 1954 (age 68). Norman gallantly carried on, independently caring for himself and his home until his death in the year 1965 at age 83.

Con and Phyllis Pippin raised five children, Luella and Herb Stephens four, Lloyd and Jean Snyder two, Ruth and Bill Atkinson three. At present our clan totals 48, including 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

We are very proud of our parents and their accomplishments. They were people of great integrity and faith. Even in the worst of times they never were down. To them, **all** things were possible with God's guidance and our cheerful effort! Hopefully we can carry on some of their indomitable spirit.

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Saskatchewan Power and Gas submitted by Kay Brunsch

Before there was any source of electricity in the village of Radisson, Mr. Joe Zimmerman had a power plant in his hotel to supply electricity.

In 1907 Norman and Levi Snyder came to Radisson and set up a blacksmith shop on Lots 31 and 32, Block 1, known as the Radisson Iron Works. They were also machinists and electricians. On January 1, 1913, Norman Snyder addressed the council on lighting matters and on April 15 petitioned the council by letter stating his intention to supply the town with power.

Mayor A. N. Boyd and several councillors formed a light committee to look into the matter of street lighting and on September 16 read a report on the proposed idea of securing electricity for the residents of Radisson, by the Radisson Iron Works, which council accepted.

In November a trunk line was erected temporarily. In 1917 an agreement was made to supply street lighting only.

On July 4, 1918, Bylaw #70 was passed to grant to the Radisson Iron Works a special franchise and on August 23 entered into a ten-year agreement with the Town of Radisson to supply electricity to everyone.

Council asked that during the month when the moon gave sufficient light no street lighting be used.

In the engine room was "Old Bessie" which provided the source of energy for the establishment.

Rates were set as follows:

Street lighting — 16¢ per kw-h or a minimum of \$10.00.

Domestic purposes — 18¢ per kw-h or a minimum of \$1.00.

Commercial purposes — 12¢ per kw-h or a minimum of \$1.00. All meters were tested and sealed by the hired government official. Rental of meters was 25¢ a month. Meters were read monthly.

Many times the residents complained of the noise and exhaust of the engine.

By November 1917 the trunk line was extended to the mill. This electric power was extended out into the community for some time before the power lines came through. Mr. Snyder was in the business of selling Delco Light plants run on kerosene. He often travelled with his Model T Ford late at night installing the necessary equipment. By 1918 a few 200 Watt street lights appeared. Few people had electrical appliances.

On November 24, 1919, Mr. Snyder gave notice that he could no longer supply the electric power and would only do so until September 30, 1920.

The town quickly purchased Lot 29, Block 1, from B. S. Read at a cost of \$125.00 (where the Senior Center is today). Charles Boates was hired to construct the electric light and power plant at a cost of \$2,255.00. Mr. Johnson was hired to dynamite a large hole to place the large tank for fuel. Local help were hired to help put up the building.

Necessary equipment such as switchboard, generators, and a 25 horse powered Bessemer gas engine were bought from the Saskatoon General Electric Co. and installed. David E. Crabb was hired as engineer at a cost of \$200.00. He was also insured against accident. The town also insured the power plant and fire hall for 75% of their value.

Electric light debentures were sold on an 8% basis. Bylaw #98 was passed regulating electric light connections. Ted and Johnny Crabb helped their father with the work. A police cell was also built inside the power house. A cot and three blankets were purchased.

In January 1923 the cost of street lighting was \$122.75. A telephone was installed in the Fire Hall and was also a necessity for the power plant.

Electric light bills had to be paid at the time of reading or five days thereafter, otherwise electricity was cut off. On April 6, 1923, the power plant was moved over and the underground tank was covered with cement. The town purchased a wagon with a tank on it at a cost of \$80.00. Fuel oil was bought from the Imperial Oil by the tank car at a cost of \$961.51.

It wasn't until 1924 that the building was finally completed. The store room of the power plant was converted into a Police court room.

In 1924 it was necessary to buy another engine. The big engine then ran till twelve at night and then the small engine took over when consumption of power was low. As more street lights were added and more household appliances used, the power plant often ran into problems. "Old Bessie" was often relied upon to take over.