

I am sending your questionnaire which I have completed, I am adding a few more facts of my experience which may be of interest to you; first, I came to Prince Albert on the 10th of April 1892 from the Province of Quebec, at that time there was very little in Prince Albert, then, after having taking my homestead. I went to work for the "Hudson Bay" Co. and I worked for them the three first summers from 1892 to 1894 I was working on the boat on the north Saskatchewan river ~~was~~ were hauling freight from Edmonton to Lake Winnipeg, on our last trip in 1894 the river was getting low and about 20 miles East of P.A. at a place called "Cole falls" our boat run up against a stone, the boat was badly damaged and the water was pouring in, we tried to fill the gap with blankets ~~and~~ and everything we could find, but our boat went down till it touched the bottom it took about 3 weeks to take the boat back to Prince Albert for repairs, 1894 was the last year of long distance freighting on the north Sask. river.

I will also mention that I was at the sight where Saskatoon is to-day, this, I believe ^{was in} 1901 the year of the arrival of the "Bar" Colony, at that time there was not a store, or not a restaurant to get a meal, the station was a box car, I went through there with a bridge building "gang" as we were going to "Dundurn" to build 2 bridges,

I also well remember the Capture of a young Indian Called "Almighty voice" this Indian shot a policeman in the fall of 1895, he got away and was Captured in the spring of 1897, I was there when they Captured him, many shots were fired, they brought a Cannon to shoot in the bluff where he was hiding, there were two others with him, after a lot of shooting policemen and volunteers went in the bluff, the three were dead, also a policeman and a volunteer were killed during the fight,

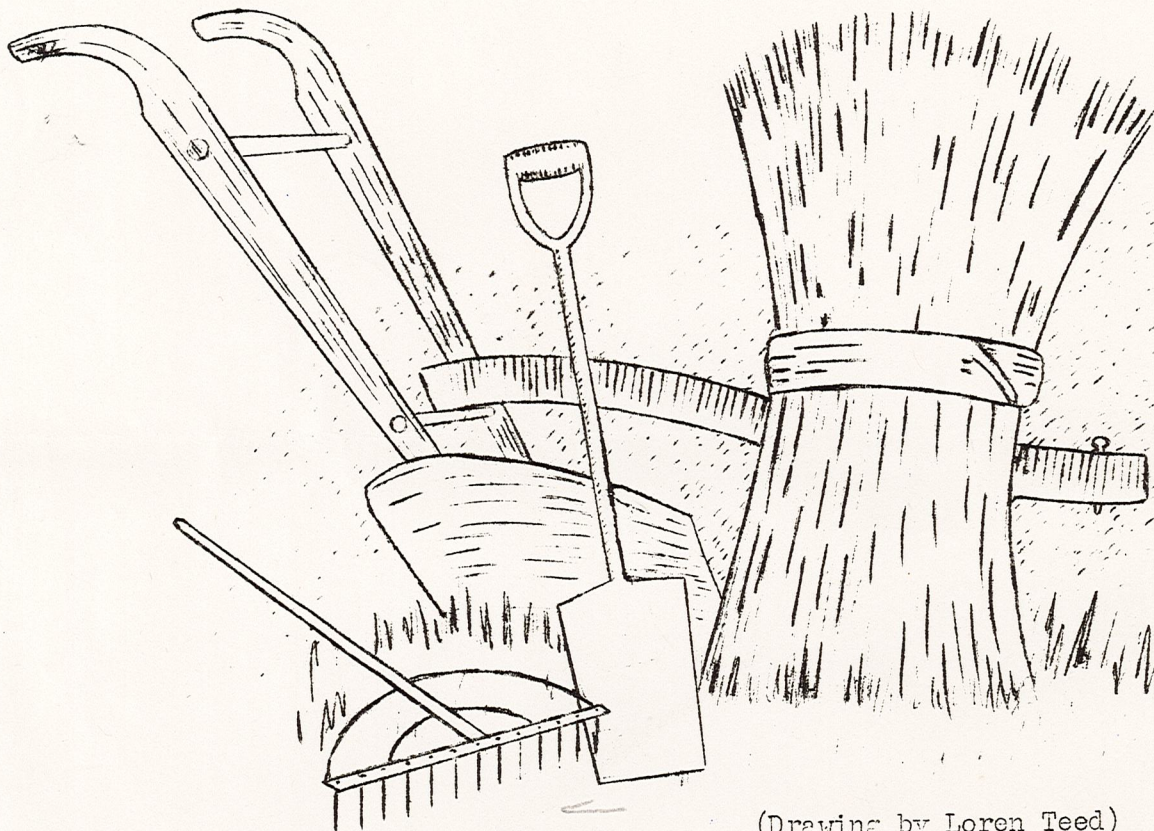
there are many other facts of the early days which I experienced, if you wish to write I will answer your questions, or if you wish to question me in person I will answer questions

Achille Godin
Hoey Sask

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES QUESTIONNAIRES.

No. 6

Pioneer Farming Experiences.



(Drawing by Loren Teed)

Please print name and address in capital letters.

Your full name ACHILLE Godin

Present Address HOEY Sask

Pioneer Address St. Louis Sask

Year you came to Saskatchewan 1892

(Throughout the questionnaire, "Saskatchewan" means the area which is now Saskatchewan)

PLEASE NOTE

This questionnaire is intended for persons who came to Saskatchewan before 1914, and most of the questions are about that early period, although in a few questions information for later years is asked for.

If you cannot answer a question, leave the space blank. We realize that any one person will not be able to answer all questions, so answer those that apply to your experience and that you can remember, and leave the others.

Use extra sheets of paper if there is not enough space on the questionnaire

Your co-operation in answering this questionnaire will be very much appreciated, and all questionnaires are preserved in the Saskatchewan Archives as part of the permanent record of our province.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Saskatchewan Archives Office,
University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES QUESTIONNAIRES.

No. 6

Pioneer Farming Experiences.

1. What led you to the particular district in which you settled?

because of being informed of this part
was good farming land

Through whom was information about it obtained?

through Mr. Louis Schmidt the land
agent in Prince Albert

What was the extent of this information and what alternatives did you consider?

I was informed that this part was good
land so, might be a good place to get a start,
a railroad was expected within a few years, which I
of course also considered

2. What was your previous experience in farming?

I had no previous experience in farming

If none, under what circumstances did you learn?

I learned by informations and by experience

3. Did you homestead? *yes*

If so, give description of the land (Township, range, distance from the railway).

I homesteaded n.e. qt. section 30 township 44 range 26
n. of 2nd, this was 30 miles from the railroad

When, where, and how did you file your homestead entry?

in april 1892 in Prince Albert, by giving \$10.00 for the
entry, and breaking 15 acres, and living on it

How much information did you have about the land when you filed your entry?

just the informations above mentioned

4. Did you obtain a pre-emption? *no,*

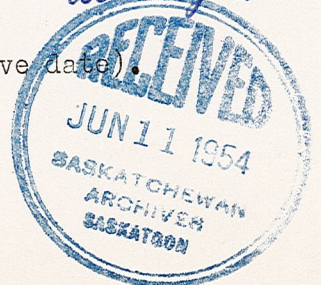
5. What other land did you purchase? *years later I bought $\frac{1}{2}$ section
near by*

6. Was any of it Hudson Bay Company land, C. P. R. land, or school land? *no,*

What was the purchase price per acre? *about \$15.00 an acre at an
average*

What was the largest amount you possessed at one time? (Give date).

$\frac{3}{4}$ section in 1918



7. Did you retain the original homestead?
If you moved, tell where and for what reasons. *No, I sold my homestead and moved to Duck Lake, being a Carpenter by trade I had work there, and also for the children who were getting of school age, as there was no school where I had my homestead*
8. You may not wish to answer questions about how you financed early farming operations. However, if you care to, answers to the following would be of general interest:
How did you finance your original purchase of land? *by making a small down payment, and the balance was arrange with crop payments*

How long was it before you had completely paid for your land?

about 5 years after purchase

Did you at any time mortgage your property or obtain loans? *yes,*

What interest rates did you pay? *7, 8, and 9 per cent*

9. What were your first buildings? (Give dates).

*I made my first buildings in april 1894
I built a house and a barn*

What material was used and where was it obtained?

*my first buildings were made of logs,
I hauled those logs from about 5 miles distance*

10. What type of farming did you engage in, originally and later? (Grain, livestock, mixed, etc.).

I first engaged in mixed farming, but later raised more grain and kept less stock

11. How many acres did you break the first year? *3 acres the 2nd yr. none the 3rd year 12*

The second? *none*

The third? *12*

Did you use oxen, horses, or steam power for breaking? *I never used oxens
I used horses*

12. What breaking crop did you grow? *wheat*

What other grains did you grow? *barley and oats*

13. What kinds and breeds of livestock did you raise? (Give dates at which you started each. If discontinued, when?).

*the first Cattle I raised were "Short horn Durem" in 1894
later, about 1918 I raised Holsteins mostly for some years,
then, as we opened the land for farming, I kept less stock
as there was much less grazing land*

14. If you used oxen, how many did you have?

I never used oxen

When and where did you obtain them?

nil

Did you have any memorable experiences with them? *11*

15. When did you first use horses for motive power?

Where did you obtain them?

I started to use horses in 1893, in St. Louis

What was the largest number of horses you kept? *17*

16. With what machinery did you start farming?

with a walking plow, harrows, and a small shoe drill

17. What was the first tractor you used and when?

the first Tractor I bought was a 'Fordson' which I bought in 1919, I used it mostly for work in the field

Was it used for belt power or for field power?

mostly for field work

If this was not the first tractor in your district, do you remember the first? Give details.

the first Tractor I remember in this district was a steam engine bought by a neighbor about 1912, he used this Tractor for breaking and threshing

18. To what extent did other members of the family assist in farming operations?

my sons helped me with farming until they were about 20 then they started on their own farm, my youngest son took over the farm

What was the first hired help you had?

a man with 3 horses for breaking

What wages were paid?

\$ 3.00 an acre

To what extent did you make use of hired help during your farming career?

for seeding when we worked with horses, and also for harvest

19. Do you recall examples of informal co-operative efforts in your district, such as neighbours working together, "bees", etc.?

yes, I recall of informal Co-operatives for instance, for building a house or a barn, we would get 5 or 6 neighbors working together

20. Did you follow the practice of summerfallowing to begin with? *no,*
If not, when did you begin? *about 1916*

21. What rotation of crops did you practise? *I usually took 2 or 3 crops of wheat from new land, then, I took one crop of wheat on summerfallow and for the second crop I usually seeded barley or oats*

22. Where did you obtain your original seed? *I bought my first seed wheat in St. Louis*

What was the variety? *red fife*

The price? *the price in those days was about 40¢ per bushel*

23. What was the earliest date of seeding you recall? (Give year). *15th. April 1912*

The latest? *May 20th, 1906*

What was the earliest date of harvesting you recall? *Cutting with binder Aug 9th.*

The latest? *Aug. 22nd*

24. What hazards or difficulties did you experience? You might give details such as dates, severity, damage, methods of control, with respect to the following: hail, frost, wind and dust, blizzards, floods, drought, prairie fires, rust, smut, grasshoppers, cutworms, sawflies, caterpillars, mosquitoes, hawks, gophers, coyotes.

as for difficulties with the crops in my first few years of farming, I had quite a few crops that were ~~troubled~~ touched with the frost, then it was not so bad, except in 1926 when it was badly frozen, all I got that year was feed wheat. as for hail, I was hailed out about $\frac{2}{3}$ of my crop in 1933 except for that year I did not have much damage by hail, as for wind and dust, the worst I remember was from 1930 to 1933 when we had a lot of strong winds and of course dust in the spring, this would last a few weeks but still I had fair crops. I never had trouble with floods, as for drought the worst I remember was 1919 and 1927 when we were almost all summer without rain, I had about 3 crops that had some damage with rust, about 16 years ago they had a few years that were rather dry and they had some damage with grasshoppers, the municipality got some sawdust mixed with poison for the farmers to spread in their fields, this was done for 2 or 3 summers, then they seemed to have pretty well disappeared, as for the rest I never had much trouble, some years ago we had more gophers than we have now, but I never had very much damage caused by them

25. What weeds were present in your district when you first arrived and which were most common?

When I first arrived there were no weeds as this was new land, but after about 15 years we started to get wild oats, stink weeds, and thistles and wild mustard in some spots

26. What new varieties of weeds appeared after you settled? (Give date of appearance if possible).

the first weeds I remember is wild oats, then, about 1920 we started to get stink weeds and thistles and also mustard in some spots

27. What method of harvesting and threshing grain did you first use?

my way of harvesting my first crops, I cut it with a binder, and hired a horse powered machine for threshing

How many men were required in these operations?

about 7 men

28. When did you first market grain, livestock, or other produce from your farm?

in 1895 about 150 bushels, and also a few Cattle that year

How did you haul grain to market? with horses

Was most of your grain hauled in the fall, or did you do winter hauling with team and sleigh?

I usually hauled in winter with team and sleigh

To what point?

Prince Albert

How far?

30 miles

What prices did you receive?

40¢ per. bushel

29. Was the flat warehouse ever used for loading grain in your district? (Give dates).

no, this was not used in this district

In what year was the first grain elevator constructed in your district? 1914

By what company? I do not remember, what Company as these have changed names

30. What variations do you recall in prices for your produce? the highest?
the lowest?

there has been many variations in the price of our produce during the war of 1914 to 1918 wheat went up to about \$2.50 per bushel and down to about 35¢ per bushel in 1930 to 35

31. Did you engage in ranching? *yes*

If so, give details as to kind and number of cattle in the early years of the ranch, number of men employed, brands, etc.

yes, I engaged in with a brother-in-law, the Cattle we had, was about 200 heads which we were keeping on shares, we did the work ourselves, except for a few weeks help in the fall to put up hay

32. What was done by you or others in your district to improve crops and livestock by procuring registered seed, purebred livestock, etc.?

to get good seed I bought a few bushels of registered wheat and seeded it on breaking or good summer-fallow and this was good seed grain for 4 or 5 years, and for Cattle I bought stock from purebred, when it was possible to improve my herd

33. Did you participate in any exhibitions or fairs? *yes*

Indicate the nature of your exhibits and the prizes won.

one horse 2 Cattle and 1 pig, I got first prize for my horse, and also prizes for my Cattle and pig the prize were given in money, this is many years ago and I do not remember exactly the amount I received but those days the prizes were small

34. What agricultural organizations did you join? Tell when and for how long.

no, I did not join any agricultural organization

35. Did you raise poultry? *yes*

Was this for household use or for market?

mostly for household use

When did you first buy chicks from hatcheries?

I never bought chicks from the hatcheries

36. When did you commence gardening? *in 1893*

What garden crops were then grown?

different kind of vegetables like Carrots, onions radish, lettuce etc.

Where were seeds obtained? *in the stores in Prince Albert*

What were some of the varieties planted? *Radish, Carrots, onions, Lettuce, etc.,*

37. Did you have native trees about your farmstead? *yes*

When did you first plant trees, if any? *about 1922*

What kinds? *Russian poplars, spruce and Caraganas and maples*

Are they still living, or did they die out after a period of time? *the russians poplars are almost all gone that is like dried out, but the other kinds are doing fairly well*

If so, any special cause?

38. When did you fence any significant part of your land? *in 1895*

What was your reason for so doing? *to save the crop, as cattle at that time were running loose*

What type of fencing was used? *I made my first fence with poles but later I used wire*

39. Did you ever attempt to irrigate gardens or crops? *no,*

To what extent? (Give dates).

no

40. How was milk kept and cream saved? *to keep milk and cream during warm weather we used to put it in milk can and put it down a well with rope, a few years later some of us got ice house*

When did you get a cream separator? *in 1914*

What kind of churn did you use?

a wooden churn

What quantities of butter were made? *we made butter about for our own use, later when the train went through we shipped cream for a few years*

41. Were butter and eggs sold for cash or taken in trade by local merchants?

I sold very little butter, but what I sold and also the eggs I sold I usually traded them with our local merchants

42. Did you keep bees, or do you remember anyone else keeping bees in your district? *no, I never kept bees, the first I remember to keep bees*
How were they originally procured and at what date? *'is a neighbor about 4 miles away*
this was in 1914 but I do not know where
he got them

43. Do you recall members of the North West Mounted Police calling at your farm to see how you were getting along? Give any details about the frequency of these visits, names of policemen, dates.

yes, I remember quite a few members of the N.W. mounted police, we would see some of them about every 2 weeks, they were travelling on horseback, I remember Captain Huot, Cpt. Gagon and Cpt. Begin and many other I could name in 1892 when I came here these policemen were travelling through this part

44. Was there ever an extra large or "bonanza" farm in your district? *no*

If so, what was its size and who was the owner?

nil

When was it established and what was the reason for its breaking up, if it no longer exists?

nil

45. Whom do you consider to have been the outstanding pioneer farmers of your district? Give some reasons for your choice, such as the earliest, most successful, most helpful to newcomers, contributing most to the public life and development of the community.

when I first came in this district there were very few people there was Mr. Peter Garson a couple miles north, he had a small farm and keeping some cattle, and there was also 4 brothers living a few miles west each had there own place these boys had their father with them their name was "Hoey" these people were all very helpful and sure have done their part to the development of this community

46. If you have had interesting experiences in connection with early farming which have not been touched upon by the above questions, would you add them to your completed questionnaire?

in the spring of 1906 I was not in the district just at this time, as I was away working on government bridges, but I remember it was an exceptional early spring. ~~but~~ one farmer a couple miles from my place seeded wheat in march, however, ~~he~~ had snow and a cold spell later and he had to re-seed his land, and while I travelled I seen a farmer ~~there~~ who seeded in february that same year, well, we all thought spring had come for good in that same month of february 1906 I saw prairie fires which is certainly a rare thing for this part of the country