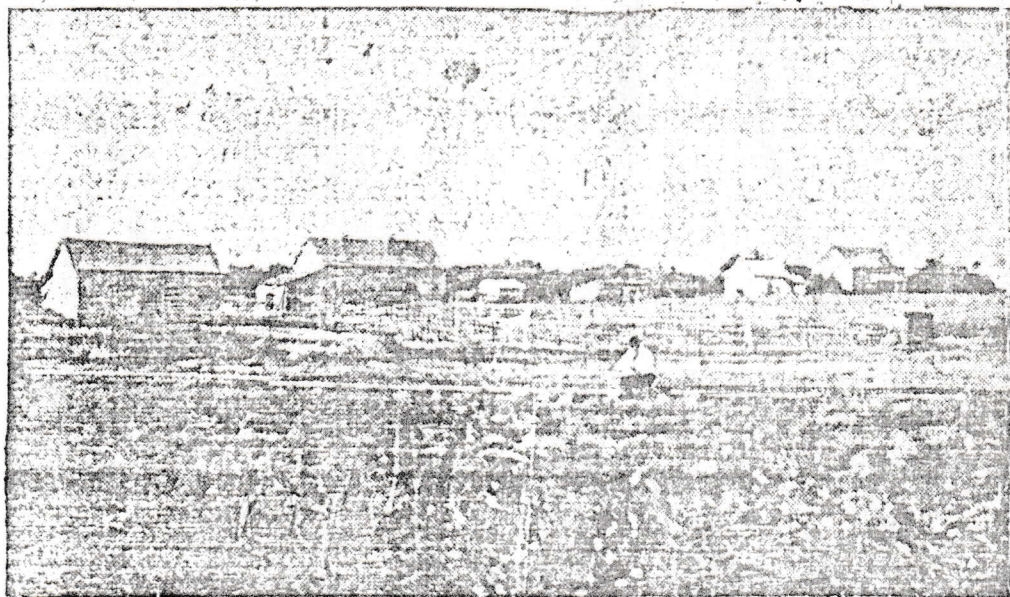


Northland Page

The Daily Herald, Prince Albert, Monday, Jan. 21, 1952—5



Original Homestead of P.M. Marsollier

The first Marsollier home was made of logs and is pictured above. It is the small white house, second from the left. The picture was taken in 1918 after the railway was built, cutting Mr. Marsollier's land in half. (Correspondent Photo)

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Old-Timer Tells Story Of Founding Of Village

BY MRS. H. BAUDAIS

Herald Correspondent

DOMREMY — "You want a place called Domremy, after Joan of Arc's village in France? We will establish it now."

A handkerchief was taken from a pocket, placed on a branch broken from a tree and planted in the ground near the surveyor's post.

That is how Domremy, Saskatchewan, 35 miles south of Prince Albert was established in the year 1895.

The founders of the village were Achille Godin and Pierre Marie Marsollier. Today 57 years later Mr. Marsollier recalls the events of that day.

Born In France

He was born in Thourie Ile et Vilaine, France, July 27, 1875. He came to Canada in 1895, sailing from Boulogne Sur Mer aboard the "Veedan" a Dutch steamship.

With him was his father Pierre Marsollier, Auguste Joubert, the Blondeau family, P. M. Agaesse Pierre Rabut, the Anses, the Courteaus and the Revoyes.

They docked at New York, their post entry into Canada, being Prescott, Ont., with Domremy as their destination.

"Booklets sent to France to encourage immigration depicted Domremy as a well settled community," Mr. Marsollier said. "But arriving at Duck Lake, we

left for St. Louis, only to find there was no such place as Domremy."

First Church Built

He settled for some time with the Baribeau brothers who had arrived from Quebec province. He explained the situation to Mr. Godin, who sympathized with Mr. Marsollier and asked "You want a place called Domremy."

"The first church and school were built at this spot some years later," Mr. Marsollier said. "I took up a homestead northwest of the village in 1895.

At first oxen were used for farming then small horses, he explained. The first wheat was hauled to Duck Lake in 1900 a total of 28 miles to receive 28

cents a bushel.

Hauled Grain

"In 1904 when the first elevator was built in Prince Albert, 35 miles away, we hauled the grain there for 40 cents a bushel. L. Bradshaw was the agent," the old-timer said.

Grain hauling was a community affair, he said. Several farmers would bag their grain, take it to market, each in their own turn. At Fenton, a point of hauling, all grain was put in the same car, regardless of grades. But in Wakaw, another point of hauling, each farmer had his own boxcar, he explained.

In April, 1901, he married Marie Joseph Agaesse, who had arrived in Canada with the Baudais family in 1900. There were six children, Anna (Mrs. T. Rajotte) Wainwright, Alta.; Maria (Mrs. G. Baribeau) Lloyd-minster; Therese (Mrs. R. Hamelin), Windsor, Ont.; Pierre and Paul of Flin Flon and Joseph at home. Mr. Marsollier died in 1929.

Moved to Village

In 1936 he moved to the village, but continued to travel to the farm daily, winter or summer. Many times he has been seen walking the tracks for the 2½ miles to his farm.

He has witnessed the moving of the village to its present site, when the railway was built. Throughout the years he has watched the progress of the community as more citizens arrived from France, to make their homes in the thriving community.



One of Domremy's Founders

In 1895 Achille Godin and P. M. Marsollier (above) founded the village of Domremy, which today stands only two miles from the

original place they "spotted." The village was moved when the railway was built.

(Correspondent Photo)



Forty-fifth