

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES QUESTIONNAIRES.

No. 8



(Drawing by McGregor Hone).

Please print name and address in capital letters.

Your full name (MRS) LILA McDERMID POPE

Present address BORDEN SASK. HALCYONIA S.D.

Year of arrival in Saskatchewan 1904

Age at that time 10

Pioneer Address LOVELL P.O. N.W.T. Borden

At what other places did you live in Saskatchewan prior to 1914? SASKATOON  
("Saskatchewan" means the area which is now Saskatchewan). REGINA at school

PLEASE NOTE

This questionnaire is intended for persons who came to Saskatchewan before 1914, although information for later years may be included.

If you cannot answer a question, skip it. We realize that any one person will not be able to answer all questions.

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

Your co-operation in answering this questionnaire is greatly appreciated. All questionnaires are preserved in the Saskatchewan Archives.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

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



Pioneer Health.

I. Services of a Doctor

1. How far were you from the nearest doctor at first? 50 mls. (SASKATOON)

2. Was there one closer as time went by? (Explain the circumstances) Yes.

C. N. R. came through in 1905 - very rough - regular trains (or irregular).  
in 1906 villages were begun & named. Before were known as numbered sidings  
an American Dr. came to LANGHAM.

3. What was your opinion of the competence of the pioneer doctor in your district? (a good physician? a good surgeon? Explain why.)

We had many changes good & bad doctors. One lost a patient in our district through an over dose of morphine (we were thought). Some 1 or 2 were drug addicts clever but unreliable. Others were tip-top. Among these were Dr. Davidson for many years Deputy Min. of Health Regina.

4. Was it customary to go to the same (or family) doctor in all situations, or did it depend on the nature of the illness?

We were unlucky about a "family" doctor. A very serious complaint led us to Dr. E. R. PETERSON, SASKATOON or Dr. VALENS who were never known to refuse patients. Any illnesses possible to be treated at home were certainly nursed at home.

5. Was the doctor consulted at his office or called to your home? (Explain the circumstances).

In cases of child birth or accident. The Dr. came to the home.  
Otherwise patients called at his office (or his home).

6. What conditions were usually treated without reference to a doctor, and which were of a nature that led to consultation?

Operations required city attention as a rule though some doctors would operate whenever emergency required.

7. Do you recall how much you paid for doctors' calls or services?

\$ 25 for minor operations (requiring chloroform in early days)  
\$ 35 for child birth (1921)

What did this amount to annually for yourself? for your family?

We were very healthy in early days. Not much of anything.  
(If you have preserved accounts for medical services, would you supply a record of payments for specific illnesses, operations, etc.?)

Did costs ever deter you from consulting a doctor?

Oh, yes. Everyone delayed until absolutely unavoidable.

Were farm products or other services exchanged for treatment received? Give examples.

Yes, I believe so, in some cases - especially when cottage hospitals were first opened in Borden and Redburn.



II. Hospital Services

8. Where was your nearest hospital? RADISSON. How far away was this? 15 mls.

Who organized it and how was it supported?

NURSE MARY BOOTH R.N. (North England), a splendidly trained nurse

I think she tried to make it go on patients' payments (very difficult).

How many beds did it have?

five, I believe

How large was its staff?

Myself and daughter or another girl

Did you feel that patients received good care in it?

Yes, excellent.

9. For what illnesses did members of your family enter hospital?

My mother operated on in Saskatoon (too difficult later in Rochester successfully)

10. Do you recall how much was charged for hospitalization on these occasions?

✓

11. For what illnesses were members of your family confined to bed at home?

mother - pleurisy, stomach flu,  
father - lumbago (3 weeks) - recovered completely  
mother using many repeated applications of hot packs

12. Did other members of the family look after the sick person?

Yes.

Was there a registered nurse or other person in the district who assisted on these occasions?

Yes. MARY BOOTH, R.N. our district angel. - She would come to the home leaving her own 2 children in her husband's care. She was quite as good as most doctors & more cheerful, very competent. She could make a rough room surgically clean in 15 minutes.

13. In the case of contagious diseases, were sick members isolated from the rest of the family?

How was this carried out?

Oh, yes - by removing the sick one and nurse to an empty granary in summer - in winter perforce together

14. Were children born at home or did the mother go to hospital?

At home in early days (no hospital, of course)

If the mother remained at home, was there a doctor, midwife, nurse, or another woman who assisted and which was preferred?

Our district folk were mainly accustomed to good care & sought it here whenever available though even a 15 ml. drive to the nearest hospital Radisson in 1916 with a woman in labor during heavy rain is far from a pleasurable experience

III. Home Remedies.

15. What home remedies did you use for various illnesses? (Specify illnesses and the treatment given).

16. How did you learn of these remedies? (Specify the remedy and state if it was handed down in the family, recommended by a neighbour, etc.) Were any remedies acquired from the Indians or from people of a particular national background? (Use back of page or extra sheets if necessary)

The remedies we used were proven ones handed down by our Scottish grandmother and used freely in her role of pioneer daughter and wife in the heavily treed "hard-wood" district of Western Ontario. Their great enemy was pneumonia. For a preventive they and we used hot woolen compresses, wrung dry and scalding soft water applied at intervals of five minutes for at least 20 minutes. Also mustard

17. What patent medicines were customarily used in your family and for what conditions?

Later on we liked and used freely a red mustard ointment <sup>one</sup> of Watkins' preparations. We believed in good milk and good nutrition - not in patent medicines or cough cures

18. What serious accidents (burns, sprains, fractures, etc.) were experienced by members of your family and what treatment was given?

My husband was an accident victim, aged 32, after beginning farming here - most serious was the fractured leg put in splints by local doctor, months later plated by Dr. Petersen with wooden screw-nails - these caused plenty of bother & eventually 13 yrs. later was skillfully removed by Dr. Croll, Jr. & the leg is still sound.

19. What was done about securing such aids for the handicapped as crutches, wheel chairs, etc.?

We could get crutches for my husband & a new wheel-chair for my father when suffering from paralyzed side.

20. Do you recall home remedies being used in circumstances other than for specific illnesses (e.g., spring tonics?). Elaborate.

We did not use spring tonics but I recall an Irish Catholic family using molasses & sulphur mixed.

plaster were used effectively. The former were very effective for wroup, colds with sudden alarmingly hoarse, cough etc. also for sprains. For sprains and strains they used white emulsion of liniment which I would judge contained turpentine

21. Did you have a "doctor book"? *Yes*. To what extent was it used to diagnose illnesses?

*It was very useful.*

Consulted for remedies?

*Yes*

IV. Public Health Problems

22. Were members of your family vaccinated or inoculated against contagious diseases? (State diseases and dates).

*Vaccinated for small pox.  
& inoculated later for diphtheria*

Was this done by the family doctor at his suggestion or at the family's request, or was there a definite campaign carried on in the district with arrangements made for immunization of the children and/or adults at one time?

*Our council people here are very progressive & we early had the Dr. come to the local school house to vaccinate & inoculate children*

23. Do you recall epidemics in your district in which quarantine was enforced? Upon whose orders was this carried out? (Give details of the epidemic)

*We had little illness for many years here  
But at times folk stayed in when stricken  
by any communicable disease  
except "colds"  
& I certainly wish they had to stay home  
with those*

24. Was there ever an outbreak of typhoid fever in your community? (Describe). What was considered to be the source of infection and what steps were taken to remedy the situation?

*In Radisson town there was typhoid —  
the milk supply.*

25. Was it ever found necessary to close your local school because of an epidemic? (Specify the occasion).

*Only for Spanish flu 1918*

26. Were there occasions when children with mild contagious diseases such as measles, chicken pox, etc. continued at school because of their prevalence in the district?

Possibly.

27. Do you recall any infectious eye diseases in the district (pink eye, trachoma?)

We have had pink eye here not in our family

In the "Old" Mennonite district to the N.W. by the river there was trachoma. Among what groups did these occur? What treatment was given and what steps were taken to prevent their spread?

Provincial inspection for trachoma. Mennonites were notoriously careless regarding infection, thinking it the "Lord's will." They are very different now. (the younger ones).

28. Were there any cases of tuberculosis in your district, or was it ever contracted by a member of your family?

There was T.B. of the bone in two families north of up. Two children were operated on in Chicago & I believe cured.

What treatment was undertaken and was this prescribed by a doctor?

I remember one of Count Sherburne's sons removing some infected bone from a suffering child as he was passing through. We thought that very courageous.

Was the patient sent to hospital?

There was no hospital then.

Do you recall steps being taken in your community in keeping with the movement for sanatoria in the province (i.e., informal discussions, public meetings, petitions, visiting speakers?)

Our Women's Grain Growers under my mother Mrs. McFermid's leadership - supported every idea for better health services.

#### V. Dental Services

29. How far was it to the nearest dentist? 50 miles
30. How often did you see him? Only when absolutely necessary
31. What dental conditions led to your seeing him (fillings, extractions)?  
Tooth Ache
32. Was it customary to have fillings?  
Yes.
33. Were there instances when simple extractions were carried out at home?  
Yes.

by whom?

mother

34. What was charged for the various dental services?

Did costs deter you from visiting a dentist?

*At times*

VI. General

35. What personal (or non-communicable) diseases seemed to be most frequent in your district in the pioneer period?

What communicable diseases?

What accidents?

*falling off horses  
or under buggy wheels*

36. In connection with any of these diseases do you recall a feeling of helplessness on your part and of others in face of the lack of facilities for treatment?

*No, people at once acted & sought best care available.*

What did you think should be done about the situation?

37. What steps were taken in your community towards an improvement of the situation - public meetings, enforcing quarantine, immunization, municipal doctor, union hospital? (Give details).

*A. Cottage hospital in Radisson - Nurse Booth  
" " " Borden - Nurse C  
Mrs. Newham*

*B. Municipal Doctors*

*Municipal Hospital in Borden  
enlarged & recently enlarged again*

38. Add any personal experiences, recollections or observations related to this topic which have not been touched in the questionnaire. (Use back of page or extra sheets if necessary).

*We feel that our Municipal doctors and hospital service is very fine. But we doubt if an agricultural economy can long sustain such heavy taxes both for that and for the Larger School Unit. We think everyone able should be charged say \$1 per day as an acknowledgment of amount needed for each patient. We believe the University Hospital will be a great added boon to Health Services.*

*This hospital here was when first enlarged equipped and arranged by my eldest daughter MARY BOYD & N. Macpherson & St. Michaels Toronto who later had charge of an operating theatre in St. Mary's Hospital Rochester by special arrangement also teaching the technique there.*