EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1880 – The first permanent settlers in the southwest were the John Renton and W. Urie families, who homesteaded in the area of present-day Deloraine.

– The first Land Office in the area was opened near the location of present-day Deloraine, under Land Agent G. F. Newcombe. Seventeen homesteads were taken in the area that year.

– William Cumpstone and his family became the first settlers in the area immediately south of present-day Boissevain, at 24-2-20.

– Harrison Bros. and Williams built a grist mill with stones imported from France and a saw mill, both powered by water wheels, on the shore of Long River at Wakopa. These mills commenced operations in the spring of 1880.

– William Weir became the first blacksmith at Wakopa, followed by Robert Tyler, who located four miles west.

– Coal of good quality was discovered about five miles west of Wakopa, and a small mining operation followed.

– The first Presbyterian services in the southwest were conducted in the LaRivière home at Wakopa by Rev. Jas. Robertson, Home Missions Secretary of the denomination.

– The first Anglican services in the area were conducted in the Brondgeest home in Waubeesh, between Boissevain and Deloraine, by Lord Strathallan the Earl of Perth, who was an Anglican Lay Reader.

❖ 1881 – The Province of Manitoba's western boundary was extended, taking in the area of present-day Boissevain, which was called Cherry Creek at that time.

– Cherry Creek was located within the original boundaries of the Rural Municipality of Turtle Mountain, No. 31.

– 328 homesteads were entered in the Turtle Mountain area. Settlers arrived in increasing numbers, many coming from poor, rocky farms in Ontario and some from England.

– William and James A Patterson homesteaded at 2-3-20, adjacent to the Cumpstone farm, now the location of the junction of Highway No. 10 and No. 3, near Boissevain.

– E. Nichol and Son operated the first store in the area at 12-2- 20, later moving the store to Boissevain.

– The first settlers moved into the Rowland district about eleven miles east and slightly north of Boissevain.

– The first Methodist services in the Rowland district were held in the Haight home, conducted by Rev. Pat Lawry.

– The first Methodist services in the Fairburn district, about five miles southeast of Boissevain, were held in the home of Samuel Oke.

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖　　1882 – The C.P.R. reached Brandon, giving a major impetus to the area. Previously, supplies had to be brought by cart from Emerson – over two hundred miles by road to make the round trip.

– John Macoun, M.A., F.L.S., Dominion Field Naturalist and Botanist, explorer and professor, published his book "Manitoba and the Great North-West", extolling the Turtle Mountain region and correcting earlier misinformation about the area and its potential.

– George Morton established a saw mill at Lake Max.

– James A. Patterson built the first grist mill in the neighbourhood at Waubeesh for Brondgeest and Hurt, but the mill was little if ever used.

– The first school in the Turtle Mountain region was built at Wakopa, then the area's business centre.

– Settlement began to move into the Minto district, about thirteen miles north of "Cherry Creek".

–The first Presbyterian services in the Minto district were held in the Alexander Scott home.

–The first Methodist services in the Minto area began.

– Presbyterian services and Sunday School commenced in the Burnside district, in the home of John Linklater.

❖　　1883 – On January 1st, municipal borders were reformed and Cherry Creek, (later Boissevain), was included in the RM of Deloraine, which took in Ranges 20, 21 and 22. Townships 1, 2, 3 and 4.

– Riverside Municipality was formed north of the RM of Deloraine. The RM of Turtle Mountain became a new division to the east, taking in Ranges 17, 18, and 19.

– The first Provincial Member for the area was Mr. J. P. Alexander of Wakopa, a Conservative.

– In July of 1883, further changes in municipal boundaries created the RM of Whitewater, but Cherry Creek remained within the RM of Deloraine.

– Crown School District was formed.

– The first school in Minto district was held in Heaslip's granary, and later, Riverside School was built to accommodate the pupils.

– In July of 1883, further changes in municipal boundaries created the RM of Whitewater, but Cherry Creek remained within the RM of Deloraine.

– A creamery was opened at Wakopa but soon failed when an epidemic of t.b. swept the local cattle.

– Rev. A. H. Cameron homesteaded near Cherry Creek and conducted Presbyterian services, performed marriages and aided people of all faiths, for some years.

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1883 – Rev. George Aitkins homesteaded north of Cherry Creek and took over the Anglican services from Earl of Perth, serving until 1886.

– The first district Sports Day was held at W. Smith's farm, at 17-2 -20.

❖ 1884 – Settlement was developing rapidly northward of Cherry Creek, toward Brandon, as well as to the northeast and northwest.

– Schools were being built throughout the region. In 1884, Deloraine, Hazeldean, Margaret, Mountainside and Pinkham School District were formed.

❖ 1885 – In late December, the Pembina Mountain Branch of the C.P.R. was completed from Winnipeg west to Cherry Cree, and the first train arrived. The line was first called the Manitoba South Western Colonization Railway, and it sparked immediate development at Cherry Creek.

– Cherry Creek town site was located on the homesteads of Robert Cook and Thomas Johnson, who sold lots to an influx of newcomers.

– Geroge Morton, an enterprising pioneer farmer-businessman, for whom the RM of Morton is named, moved a small house from Wassewa to the town site, some weeks before the first train arrived – the first "new' building at the place. He opened a boarding house in this building. Soon he built and operated a store, and he also supplied the first lumber to the town from his saw mill at Lake Max. Then, he built one of the first grain storage warehouses in the town site.

– The first general store at Cherry Creek town site was operated by Mr. and Mrs. E. Nichol, in a building which stood until recent years.

– The first school in the immediate vicinity of Cherry Creek was small, one-room, frame building erected in Nimitaw, one mile west of the town site. Robert Fletcher of Deloraine was the first teacher.

– Schools continued to be built in the surrounding area. Greenfield, Langvale, Otter and Primrose Schools were opened in 1885.

– Post Offices then serving Cherry Creel were located at Sheppardville, (3-5-20), and Nimitaw, (34-3-20).

– Some Boissevain area men answered the call to join the 90th Rifles at Winnipeg, to put down the Rebellion, at salaries of 50¢ per day. Most remained at home, concerned for the safety of their families, since local Indians had been quite aroused by Riel's actions.

❖ 1886 – Cherry Creek was renamed Boissevain, in honour of Adolf Boissevain, a financier whose firm introduced the shares of the C.P.R. to the European stock markets.

– Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald visited Boissevain, during an inspection trip on the new railway.

– The C.P.R. railroad was extended to Deloraine.

– Among many others, a doctor, a lawyer, a druggist, a hardware merchant, a blacksmith and a harness maker all moved to Boissevain in a group from Rapid City, to take advantage of the rail connection.

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1886 – Grove School District was formed in the area.

  – Construction of the Presbyterian Church in Boissevain was begun, services having been held previously in homes, in fields and even in a boxcar.

  – The first Methodist services in Boissevain were held.

  – Some Boissevain area men answered the call to join the 90th Rifles at Winnipeg, to put down the Rebellion, at salaries of 50¢ per day. Most remained at home, concerned for the safety of their families, since local Indians had been quite aroused by Riel's actions.

❖ 1887 – The main street of Boissevain was graded for the first time, at a cost of $800.00.

  – The Ryan House Hotel was built in Boissevain.

  – Bayview, Bedford, Brown Lea, Rowland, Royal and Thirlstane Schools were built in the area.

  – The Presbyterian Church building was completed.

  – The first Methodist Church building and parsonage were erected on Johnson Street.

  – The Anglican Parish of Boissevain was established.

  – The "Gold Jubilee" community picnic was held at Musgrove's Grove, (14-3-20), south of Boissevain.

❖ 1888 – The Ryan House Hotel burned down and a new Ryan House was built at once to replace it.

  – George Morton built the first grain elevator, store and boarding house at Whitewater, about eight miles east of Boissevain. He also opened a post office.

  – The first school in Boissevain was begun in the Masonic Hall, taught by W. T. Musgrove.

  – Caranton School District was established at S28-3-20, using the former Nimitaw School building which was hauled to the new site.

  – Richview School was built, just south of Boissevain, on land donated by William Patterson. The school continued in use until 1967, and the building still stands.

  – Fairburn and Mountainside Schools were built.

  – The first Anglican services in Boissevain were conducted by Rev. Charles Wood, in the dining room of the Ryan House Hotel.

  – All Saints Turtle Mountain Anglican Church was built ten miles southwest of Boissevain, at SW6-3-20.

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1889 – The Brandon – Souris Line of the C.P.R. was completed.

   – The site of Ninga village was surveyed. Ninga is about eight miles east of Boissevain.

   – A severe fire destroyed an entire block of buildings on Boissevain South Railway Street, between Cook and Stephen Streets. Reconstruction promptly followed.

   – The Commercial Bank was built in Boissevain. The little fieldstone building is still in use today.

   – The Boissevain Flour Mill was founded by Preston and McDay, later sold to C. J. Hurt and J.A. McKay.

   – A two-classroom, frame, school building was erected in Boissevain.

   – Wassewa School District was formed.

   – Methodist services began at Ninga.

   – Construction of the stone Anglican Church at Boissevain was begun by contractor Wm. Lambert on property donated by Caleb Ryan.

❖ 1890 – This year, Boissevain village was said to have consisted of about fifteen residences north of the C.P.R. tracks and about twenty-five south of the tracks. There were two lawyers and a doctor in the town. Commercial establishments in Boissevain included four genera stores, one of which had a dress-making department; a furniture store, combined with an undertaker's parlour; a fancy goods store; a cobbler's shop; a hardware store; a tailor; a druggist; a baker; a post office; a photographer; two hotels; a boarding house; a livery barn; a blacksmith; a barber; a jeweller; a restaurant; a flour mill; two lumber yards; implement dealers; a machine shop, and more than half a dozen grain elevators standing along the railway tracks.

   – St. Matthews Anglican Church in Boissevain was completed and dedicated.

   – The Baptist Church was built in Boissevain.

   – The first church building in Ninga was erected by the Baptists.

   – The Presbyterian Church at Burnside was built.

❖ 1891 – Municipal Boundaries were again reformed and Boissevain became Ward Four of the new RM of Morton.

   – The Union Bank took over the Commercial Bank in Boissevain.

   – Wapaha School District was organized.

❖ 1892 – A severe prairie fire, started by a spark from a steam threshing machine, swept over a large area southwest of Boissevain. The town was saved by hastily ploughed firebreaks. Prairie fires were an ever-present danger, sometimes caused by sparks from C.P.R. locomotives.

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1893 – The large, stone-walled, Methodist Church (now United) was built in Boissevain.

– Wood Lake School was built.

❖ 1894 – Construction of the stone-walled Queen's Hotel in Boissevain was begun.

– The two-and-a-half storey, stone-walled, Central School was built in Boissevain.

– Desfor School was built, at SE22-2-20.

❖ 1895 – Boissevain was the largest primary wheat market in Manitoba. Approximately 1,000,000 bushels of grain were hauled to market at Boissevain in 1895.

– The Turtle Mountain forests were created a Timber Reserve by the Dominion Government.

– Petersburgh School at Whitewater was built.

– Brock School was built at SW19-2-23.

– With the coming of the railway to communities farther north, the old centre of Wakopa was abandoned by businesses. The mills closed and buildings were taken down or moved away to other locations.

❖ 1896 – Population of the twelve townships of the RM of Morton, including Boissevain, was estimated as 2,500 people. 51,000 acres were under cultivation in the RM of Morton.

– Population of Boissevain was "nearly 1,000 persons."

– The seven grain elevators in Boissevain village handled over 800,000 bushels of wheat in 1896.

– The twenty-two member Boissevain Brass Band was considered the best in Manitoba, and took first award in a musical competition in Winnipeg against more than thirty other bands.

– The Turtle Mountain forests were swept by a fire which did great damage.

❖ 1897 – Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated.

– Boissevain Flour Mill had an elevator capacity of 35,000 bushels and was manufacturing 175 bags of flour per day under three brand names – "Turtle Mountain", "Good Luck" and "Strong Bakers" – which were marketed chiefly in Ontario.

– The Boissevain Trotting Association was building a new half-mile track near the village.

– The Heather Curling Club in Boissevain completed a new 38' x 160' building, housing two sheets of ice.

❖ 1898 – Boissevain was incorporated as a Village.

– The Northern Pacific Railway, (later C.N.R.), was extended west from Belmont, (northeast of Boissevain), to Fairfax, (about 16 miles west of Boissevain).

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1898 – The first school in Ninga began.

– The Whitewater Football Team wins the Manitoba championship.

❖ 1899 – The first village meeting began in Boissevain. The first Mayor was J. S. Reekie; Councillors were Schaffner, Hurt, Baine and Graves; Secretary-Treasurer was R. A. Musgrove.

– St. John's Anglican Church was built at Horton, (about eight miles south from Boissevain), and continued in service until 1965.

❖ 1900 – The first gasoline street lights were installed in Boissevain.

– A third storey was added to the Queen's Hotel.

❖ 1901 – The Dominion Census listed the population of Boissevain as 898 people.

– Tenders were called for Boissevain's first sidewalks.

– Bluevale School was built at SE8-3-20 and Luther School at SW22-4-23.

❖ 1902 – The Mayor was empowered to purchase a uniform and handcuffs for the use of Constable J.B. Young, who was succeeding E. Allen.

– A new school was built at Brown Lea.

❖ 1903 – Council granted W. J. King permission to erect poles for an electric lighting system in Boissevain.

– The first gravelling contract for Boissevain streets was let.

– Caranton School burned down and a new school built.

– Lake Max School was built at SE12-2-21.

– The Presbyterian Church at Minto was built.

–St. John's Anglican Church was built at Elgin.

❖ 1904 – Boissevain Council passes a by-law to have a local company take over electric lighting and telephone systems.

– In the early 1900s, W. Barker operated thriving brickworks, employing up to forty men, at NW17-3-21, just north of Whitewater.

– The Presbyterian Church at Whitewater was built.

– The Presbyterian Church at Ninga was completed.

– Construction began on the Anglican Church in Ninga, which was consecrated the following year.

❖ 1905 – The Boissevain Land Titles Office was built at a cost of $12,000, and is still in use.

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1905 – Turtle Mountain Milling Co. takes over the local electric lighting plant, and supplies 16 candle-power street lights at 70¢ each per month.

– Tenders called for cement sidewalks in Boissevain.

❖ 1906 – Boissevain was incorporated as a Town.

– An engineering study of a possible water and sewage system was undertaken, in Boissevain.

– The two-and-a-half storey, brick construction, Boissevain School was erected, which served for more than sixty years.

–Turtle Mountain Forest Reserve was created by the Federal government.

– Flossie school was built.

❖ 1907 – Boissevain Council made its first grant to the Boissevain Agricultural Society, of $75.00.

❖ 1908 – Boissevain Council established a debt of $15,000.00 to develop an electric lighting system for the town.

– Winnipeg Auto Club staged the first multi-car run to Boissevain.

– The first gasoline tank was set up in Boissevain.

–Marsden School District was formed.

– Wassewa School was closed until 1915.

– Wapaha School burned down. A new school was completed the following year.

❖ 1909 – The Methodist Church at Desford was built .

– St. Mark's Anglican Church at Desford was built, and served until 1959.

❖ 1910 – Boissevain Town Hall was erected, financed by a $12,000.00 debenture.

– Cement sidewalks were laid in Boissevain, financed by a $5,000.00 debenture.

❖ 1911 – The Dominion Census showed the population of Boissevain to be 918 people.

– Automobiles were taxed for the first time - $7.00 for a touring car and $5.00 for runabouts.

– Royal School was relocated to SW14-4-20.

❖ 1912 – Boissevain Council requested the Provincial government to conduct an engineering study of a proposed waterworks system for the town. Long desired, such a system was not realized until the mid 1950s.

– An experimental, consolidated school district was established among Mountainside, Whitewater and Strathallan School Districts, but discontinued in 1915.

EARLY HISTORY OF BOISSEVAIN AND DISTRICT

❖ 1913 – C.P.R. built a line to the north shore of Whitewater Lake and the C.N.R. built a line to Mountainside, causing a rapid decline in the village of Whitewater which lay between these two points.

❖ 1914 – World War I began. The region lost many of its best young men and was deprived of a great many more, for a period of the war years.