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I have personal knowledge of conditions that existed between 1900 and 1948. The first hand stories are of early settlers, school and church workers, and men and women born and reared in the district. Eighty of these have been recorded. Including those not noted, the number would run over one hundred.

It must not be forgotten that there were English-speaking settlers in the north of Rockwood Municipality as early as 1873. They settled the prairie but did not enter the bush country to the north excepting for the purpose of getting, cord-wood, building logs and lumber.

There were pioneer trappers, traders and fishermen along the shores of Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis but no permanent settlements before this record begins.

Only three colonies were established in 1875 in this whole area. The Icelandic colony, the largest is well known and there are records of it mostly in the Icelandic language. The Jewish colonies at Camper and Narcisse are not so well known.

All other settlements just grew up as land was opened for homesteading. Some were directed by Dominion Government officials, but most of the newcomers came in 4. small groups; some came alone, located on a homestead they advised friends in Manitoba, North Dakota, Ontario, the British Isles or Europe to join them. An attempt is made to give a comprehensive picture, but in view of the diversity of races, the extended time over which the settlement was made and the 6. lack of documentary records, the task is not an easy one.