

Samuel Gibeau general merchandise store in Lambert and his home. He was also the postmaster.

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP

Lambert Township was organized at a meeting held at the Francois Lambert home on January 28, 1882. The first officers elected were: Francois Lambert, Patrice Lamay and S. Vilain, judges, J. Lambert and Sylvin Bergevin, clerks.

The first birth recorded in Lambert Township was that of Armidas Boucher, son of Joe Boucher and Marie Paquin, who was born on March 10, 1882.

In 1910 there were sixteen buildings in the Lambert townsite built along the present highway 92. Following is a list of the buildings and what happened to each:

1. X. A. Lambert store, moved to Oklee in 1917.
2. Town Hall, first school building, still standing in the original location.
3. Hotel, torn down.
4. Home, owner unknown, torn down.
5. Joe Paquin home, torn down.
6. Alphonse Paquin home, moved to Oklee in 1917.
7. School, moved to Oklee in 1948.
8. J. Robidoux home, torn down.
9. M. Boisvert home, moved to Oklee in 1917.
10. Louis Doucet home, moved to Oklee in 1917.
11. Doucet store, moved to Oklee in 1910.
12. L. Falardeau store, moved to Oklee in 1910.
13. Anton Lambert home, still standing in original location.
14. Francis Lambert home, still standing in original location.
15. Rectory, moved to Oklee in 1917.
16. St. Francis Xavier Church, moved to Oklee in 1917.

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD

The present board of the Township of Lambert is as follows: Chairman, Melvin R.

Johnson, Jr.; Supervisors, Raymond Lesard and Michael Paquin; Clerk, Eleanor Sandeen; Treasurer, Ralph Berg.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Pierre B. Champagne, who very likely came from the Arch Diocese of St. Paul, was the first missionary priest to offer Mass for the early settlers of the Lambert Township area. The Masses were held about every two weeks from 1881 until 1884 in the home of Francois Lambert.

Under the leadership of Father Champagne a 40 x 20 foot mission chapel was erected on the NW quarter of section 15. The itinerant priest was housed in the home of Pierre Belland.

Land for the chapel, rectory and cemetery was donated by Pierre Belland and this cemetery was used until 1915 when land was then donated by Joseph Bergeron for that purpose and this cemetery is still used today.

It was Father Champagne who chose the name St. Francis Xavier for the mission in its earliest days.

The first recorded baptism in the church was administered by Father G. S. Dugan on June 17, 1884, to Thomas Juneau, son of Joseph Juneau and Delphine Belland.

From 1885 to 1890, Lambert was served by Fathers H. Mercil, Elie Theillon, Louis Feige and S. Arpin.

Under the direction of the first resident pastor, Father L. Guillaume (1890-1892), a larger church was built. However, the new church was completely demolished by a wind storm and church services were again held in the small mission chapel.

Father J. Archambault, appointed pastor in 1896, built the present church building in 1899. Almost two-thirds of its total cost

of \$3,800 was collected in Canada by Father Archambault and Francois Lambert.

The first Confirmation ceremony for a large group in the parish was held in 1888.

From 1901 to 1918, Fathers William Roy, Stanislaus Beaulieu and Arthur Beaulieu were the Pastors. In 1917, under Father Arthur Beaulieu, the parish at Lambert was divided into two sections. The east half, with about 80 families, became the new parish at Oklee; and the west half, comprising about 90 families, became the new parish at Brooks.

Now only the cemetery remains at Lambert, for the church and rectory were moved to their present site in Oklee in 1917.

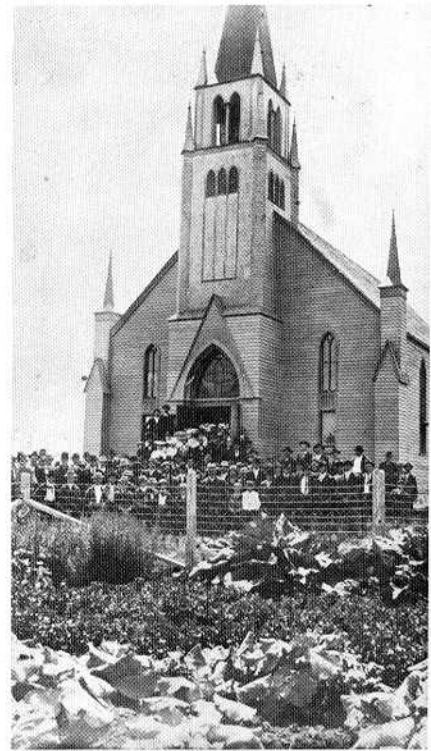
Many parishioners vividly recall that while the church was perched on wooden blocks prior to the construction of the cement foundation, a violent wind vibrated the building enough to ring the bell.



Hotel at Lambert built by Xavier Lambert.



Early Catholic church in Lambert



St. Francis Xavier Church built in 1899

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP POST OFFICE

The first Lambert post office was established in 1887 and located in the Sylvin Gergevin Store. In April, 1891, Samuel Gibeau was appointed postmaster and the post office was moved to his store where it remained until 1899 when it was relocated in the Louis Doucet store. In 1910 the post office was moved to Oklee when Mr. Doucet moved his store there and it continued to be called the Lambert Post Office until September of 1914 when it was changed to the Oklee Post Office.

LAMBERT TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

The first school in Lambert Township was built on the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 10.

School District 76 was organized in March of 1882 and was made up of all of Lambert Township which at that time was part of Polk County. The first teacher was Miss Agne Monpetit who later married Xavier Bergeron.

Among the first pupils were: Edward Paquin, Urgell Lambert, Xavier Juneau, Olive Juneau, Mary Louise Lambert, Arthur Belland, Francis Belland, Joe Lambert, Adolore Shank, Gedeon Shank, Alphonse Lambert and Virginia Lambert.

The first school building is the same building presently being used as a town hall. The next school building was built in 1904 and was used until June of 1947 when the school district was consolidated with the Oklee School. Other schools later organized in the township were Bucktown, District 9, Turgeon School and Boisvert School.

1910 LAMBERT TOWNSHIP CENSUS

In 1910 Ole N. Skomedahl was in charge of taking the census for Lambert Township. There were 93 different families then

and the population of the township was 533. Following is a list of some of the early settlers and where they came from:

Onezime Asselin, wife Permelia. From Canada.

Cleophas Asselin, wife Elzima. From Canada.

Charley Boisvert. From Canada in 1882.

Michael Boisvert, wife Avina, farmers. From Canada in 1882.

Zelia Martin Bachand, hotel keeper. From Canada in 1879.

Antonio Bachand, wife Vitaline. Born in Minnesota.

Joe Belland. Sold agricultural equipment.

Peter Boucher, wife Louise, farmers.

Joe Boucher, wife Marie, farmers. From Canada.

Fortuna Bourque, wife Jenny Bottineau. From Canada.

Urgelle Bergeron, wife Mary, farmers. From Canada.

Joseph Beaudoin, wife Virginia, farmers. From Canada in 1882.

George Charest, wife Otevine, farmers. From Canada in 1881.

Horace Corbeil, wife Minde. From Michigan.

Gideon Dessellier, wife Malvina, farmers. From Canada in 1887.

Louis Doucet, wife Mary, hotel and retail merchant. From Canada in 1865.

Louis Falardeau, dry goods merchant. From Canada in 1875.

Henry Falardeau, born in Minnesota.

Phillip Gibeau, wife Elmire, owned blacksmith shop. From Indiana.

William Hart. Minnesota.

Louis Hince, wife Mary. From Canada.

Ermenegile Hince, wife Adeline. From Canada.

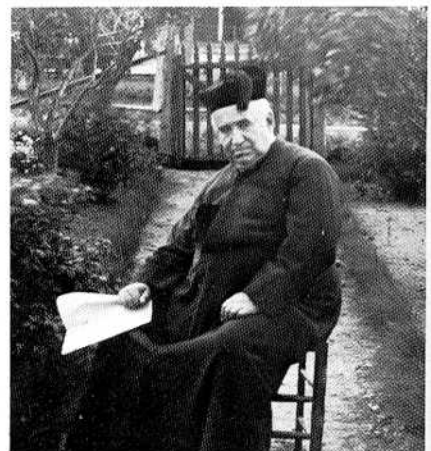
Adolore Hince, wife Angelina, farmers. From Canada in 1880.

Goust Lambert, wife Adeline.

Alphonse Lambert, wife Ciseri, farmers. From Canada in 1881.

Joseph Lambert, wife Mary. From Canada in 1882.

Xavier Lambert, wife Josephine, dry goods



Father William Roy who served the Lambert church from 1901 to 1912.

store. From Canada in 1881.
Anton Lambert, wife Matulde. From Canada in 1881.

Armidas Lambert, wife Blanche, sold agricultural equipment. From Canada in 1881.

William Langlois, wife Adeline. Agricultural equipment. From Canada.

Joseph Falardeau. From Canada.

Isidore Lefeive, wife Adline, farmers. From Canada.

Abraham LaCoursiere, wife Vitaline, farmers. From Canada in 1884.

Joseph LeBlanche, retail merchant, dry goods. From Canada in 1883.

Fred Lessard, wife Lucy, farmers. From Canada in 1898.

Edward Lessard, wife Valeria, farmers. From Canada in 1899.

Peter Hince, wife Rosilda. From Canada: Casper LaJambe, wife Adeline, farmers. From Canada in 1887.

Joe Marsonette, wife Ensell, agricultural equipment. From New York.

L. E. Nelson, wife Amelia from Germany. From Denmark.



The old cheese factory in Bucktown, Lambert township in 1891. Some people in the photo are Antoine Lambert, John Paquin, Armidas Lambert, Peter Boucher, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers (operators) Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bergeron, Henry Rodman, Mr. Asselin, George Charest, Gust Deymonaz, Abraham La Coursiere, Joe Belland, Hughes Dery, Sr., Frank Fournier and Ole Quinlag family.



LAMBERT

(Reprinted from a 1902 Gazette Article)

Town 150, Range 41, is called Lambert after one of its first settlers, Francois Lambert who still resides there.

About eighty per cent of the population are French and the congregation of the large Catholic Church there is almost entirely composed of that nationality. In the village of Lambert besides the many residences, are four stores, a hotel, blacksmith shop and post office. Louis Doucet is postmaster and they have a daily mail to and from Red Lake Falls.

The Lambert Cheese Factory is situated in a small settlement called Bucktown, two and one half miles southeast of Lambert post office. The factory was built by a stock company organized in 1888. They operated the factory about three months, then sold it to Mr. Marchand. He made cheese there two seasons. Ovide Moreau then purchased it and controlled it about three months, selling it in August 1895, to Ralph Rogers who still owns it.

The amount of milk has varied from 1500 lbs. to 4700 lbs. a day. The past season the average has been 1800 lbs. and the price paid about 70 cents per cwt. Alex Bergeron, D. Berthiaume, Simon Boucher, Geo. Charest, Adelard Boucher, Geo. Charest, Adelard Boucher, Edward Paquin, Jos. Falardeau, Simon Bernier and others have averaged about \$35.00 a month from the sale of their milk during the factory season.

Rudolph Warberg has recently purchased fifteen cows and expects to be a patron of the factory another season.

Simon Boucher and Jos. Bergeron have erected handsome residences during the past summer, and think cows are a safe investment and pay good interest on the money invested.

Most of the farmers have two thirds of their land under cultivation, and wheat yields from twenty to twenty-five bushels an acre. Cattle thrive on the short prairie grass and hay is very cheap winter feed. The farmers find a good market for their products in Red Lake Falls.



The two family home built by Zepherin Lambert and his son, Francois, in 1881 so that the dwellings were situated on both homesteads fulfilling the requisite for buildings on homesteaded property.

Mathias Nash, wife Kate from Vermont. Irish descent.
Torge Torgerson, Minnesota. Wife Gunda from Norway.
Louis Toulouse, wife Clara. From Minnesota.
Abraham Paquin, wife Marie, farmers. From Canada in 1883.
Joseph Paquin. From Canada in 1881.
Alphonse Paquin, wife Virginia, owned a saloon. From Canada.
William T. Roy, Priest. From Canada in 1872.

Edward Paquin, wife Anna, agricultural equipment. From Canada in 1881.
Joseph Robideaux, wife Rhodena, farmers. From Canada in 1910.
Simeon Bernier, wife Celina. From Canada.
Edward Erickson, wife Ida. From Minnesota.
A. F. Turgeon, wife Rosana, sell agricultural equipment. From Canada.
Rene Varin, wife Georgiana. From Canada.