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Issues divided Edenthal

• by J. C. Fehr

Heading east along the Post Road (PR 243) through Edenburg we come to Edenthal, one of the smallest districts in the R.M. of Rhineland.

It was settled about the same year, 1880, but not as a village.

Here the pioneers settled on their individual homesteads, about one half a mile apart, approximately fifteen families in all.

In the early years they had a private school, probably located on SW 8-1-1E. The public school district no. 756 was established on May 16, 1893, the school site being on SE

7-1-1E.

The split within the Bergthaler Church in 1889, when the Sommerfelder Church was born, caused some friction within this community.

The establishment of the public school in 1893 caused the district to be divided into two factions. They were known as the "Privata", those belonging to the private school and the "Districta", those belonging to the public school. They had very little or no communication with each other.

The schools operated side by side until after World War I when the private school was

closed around 1919-1920.

The public school operated until 1953 when it amalgamated with Edenburg. The school was moved to Gretna and the teacherage was moved to Edenburg.

As the farmers retired they sold their land to farmers from outside of the district. they did not live on this land, so eventually the farmsteads were broken up and cleared away. This process has gone on over many years so that today there are only three or four farmsteads left in this district of Edenthal, settled over 100 years ago.



Seen in this winter scene are newlyweds David and Mary Wall, about 1923, starting off life together on an Edenthal farm.