

NOTES ON THE POST OFFICES OF
HEDNESFORD AND EDENWOLD, SASKATCHEWAN

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Hednesford and *Edenwold* were established as post offices, approximately 35 km (22 miles) northeast of Regina at the end of the 19th century.

George P. Wilson, postmaster at *Hednesford* in 1905, replied to James White's letter, indicating that their first postmaster, Thomas Barton, used the name of his farm when the post office first opened in 1887. This name in turn was taken from a village in Staffordshire, England. At this time Mr. Barton had the postal facilities in his home on section

28, township 19, range 17.¹ From 1892 the running of the post office passed through the hands of Bertha Barton and John Harrison, and then to various members of the Wilson family who had homesteaded on section 10, township 20, range 17. In 1907 this post office facility moved to the home of Karl Mang, nephew of Philip Mang, Sr., at that time postmaster of the *Edenwold* post office in the township to the south. As one of the few new immigrants able to speak English, Karl was also awarded

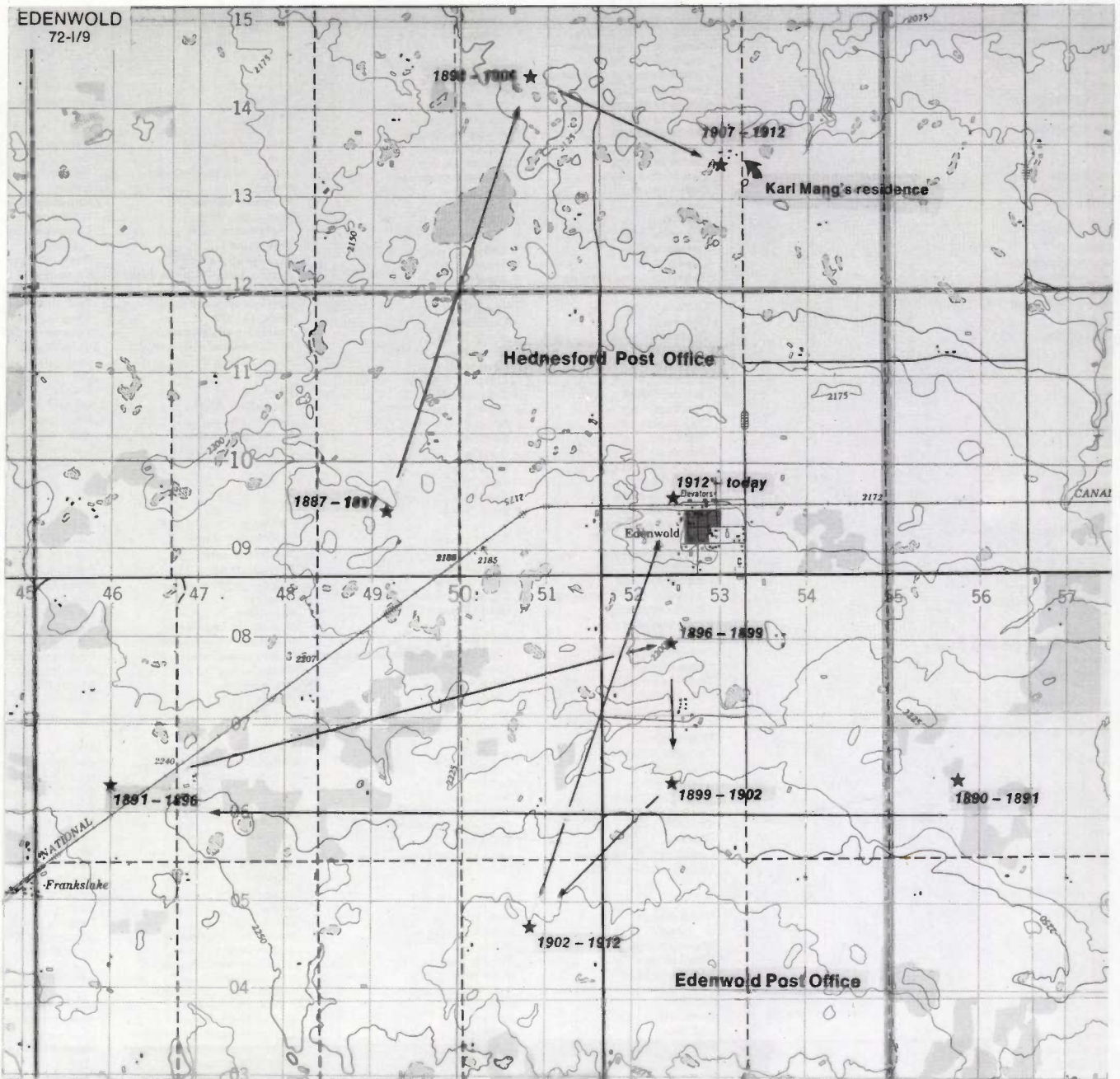
1 The assistance of D.S. Arthur, Secretary of the Saskatchewan Geographic Names Board, in verifying the homesteading records in Regina is gratefully acknowledged.

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Pioneers of *Edenwold*, Saskatchewan are portrayed in front of Karl Mang's house, built in 1898. From 1907-1912 this doubled as the *Hednesford* post office, with Karl Mang as postmaster. His uncle, Philip Mang, Sr. (standing on far right) came to Canada from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1885, and acted as postmaster for the nearby community of *Edenwold* between 1902 and 1912.

Source: Public Archives Canada C-13556



The general vicinity of Edenwold, indicating the section, township and range on which were located the post offices of Hednesford (1887-1912) and Edenwold (1890-today).

the contract for serving the country post offices of New Ontario, Arat, Edenwold and Hednesford, by transporting the mail every Friday evening from Balgonie, 17 km (11 miles) to the south on the Canadian Pacific Railway line.

Edenwold post office was opened in 1890 at the farm of Gustave Michaelis (18-19-16-W2), who after less than a year's service was succeeded by members of the Richardson, Hoyer and Bredt families. No reply to James White's 1905 letter was received from the postmaster. According to E.T. Russell's *What's in a name?*, Edenwold was named by its German-speaking first settlers: the Mangs, Frombachs, Kochs and Bredts. Impressed by the trees and wild fruit growing locally, they named their district "Edenwald" - "Eden" for the Garden of Eden and "wald", the German for forest. The original "a" in the word had already been changed to an "o" in the post office listing for 1890. After a succession of postmasters for Edenwold, Philip Mang, Sr. took over the post office in 1902. He had come to Canada from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1885 and had homesteaded within section 10, township 19, range 17,

The running of both the Edenwold and Hednesford post offices stayed with the Mang family until 1912. At this time rural mail delivery had become a reality and the Melville-Regina branch of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (now the CNR) had been constructed, with a stop at Edenwold. The two post offices at this time were united. "Hednesford" was no longer used in postal records and no official designation of the name is found in the records of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names. Edenwold, on the other hand, developed a nucleus close to the railway. The post office was opened in Frank Koch's general store, and is still active today, although it is now located in a new building erected in 1976.

Between 1944 and 1958 Karl Mang again took on the role of postmaster, this time for Edenwold. Several descendants of the original Mang immigrants still live in the area, and in fact, Karl's daughter, Sylvia Hack, is today postmistress for the community.