

Highway 23

Fairfax



In 1899, after the railway was built, a survey was made of the village of Fairfax and building lots were sold.

The first general store was built in 1900 was operated by Mr. J. L. Hettle, who also became postmaster and Justice of the Peace. Three grain companies were quick to build elevators.

Fairfax school was established in August 1902. It became the Fairfax consolidated school in 1913 when it merged with Crown, St. Luke, and Plainville schools.

Underhill



The A.E. Hill Store in 1916

The ghost community of Underhill took its name from Mr. John Underhill who arrived during the rush of settlement to this part of the prairies in the early 1880s.

Three elevators were swiftly erected with the arrival of the railway. Mr. A. E. Hill, who

operated a store in nearby Hartney, opened a general store in Underhill in 1897.

The first school in the area was called the Berber School and was constructed over a kilometre south of the village in 1886. In 1909 it was moved into the village where it stood until 1928. A new school was built on the same site and used until the district consolidated into the Souris Valley School Division.

The school building was always a social centre for the district. Activities such as amateur plays, Sunday School, card games and dances were held.

Passenger service to the Underhill station was discontinued in 1954. Soon the railway line was abandoned and rural schools were consolidated further, shifting the focus from the small community to the larger surrounding centres.

Argue

Argue was known as the "Trackend" for a year as it was the most westerly station on the Winnipeg-Cameron-Hartney Branch of the Canadian National Railway until 1900 when the line continued to Hartney and Virden.



The community was named after pioneer John Argue.