

GOLDEN JUBILEE

1905 - 1955

UPHAM, NORTH DAKOTA

June 3 and 4, 1955

**THIS BOOKLET PREPARED AND PRESENTED
BY THE UPHAM COMMERCIAL CLUB.**

FORWARD

It is deemed advisable to make some explanation of the various phases encountered in the compiling of this book.

The sources of information were, in many instances, very meager. Some was obtained from old and somewhat hazy records, some was provided from memory by the pioneers themselves, some is just hearsay.

We are fully aware this book is far from complete. Historical data of many pioneers was not available. As a result, many are omitted, others are short and incomplete, but we feel the material in these sketches represent a true cross-section of the experiences encountered by all the early pioneers. We know, in most of these biographies, much of historical interest has been omitted. Also there are, no doubt, errors in the material itself. For all this we apologize.

Then too, because the composition of this book was undertaken by amateur journalists, there are bound to be errors in grammatical construction. These too, the reader must overlook.

Also, the historical committee wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped with the publication of this book. Especially, do we appreciate the assistance given us by the English and typing classes of our school. Without their help our task would have been extremely difficult.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the advertisers who, by their contributions, have made the publication of this book financially possible.

To all of you a sincere "Thank You".

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SOME HISTORICAL DATA UPHAM AREA

By William Freeman

Prior to 1880 much of the land in the territory now known as the Upham area was open range used for pasture by ranchers who had settled their headquarters along the Mouse River. There hay for winter feeding was abundant and a supply of water was easily available. The headquarters of these ranch outfits were quite imposing with the large rail corrals and the inevitable log houses which often were whitewashed inside and out.

When the earliest permanent settlers filed on their homesteads around 1885 they first settled along the river. First considerations were given to possibilities in livestock production and land along the river offered good opportunities.

Ranchers who were well established when the early settlers first made their appearance often gave work opportunities to the newcomers in hay making and in winter work, hauling feed supplies to the large cattle herds.

Of importance in the early years was the ranch of Lord Thursby which later came to be known as the Stevens Cattle Company holdings, for the labor opportunities which beginning farmers found there. This ranch, which was located northwest of Towner, is now a part of the refuge area but for over 50 years it was a busy and active cattle producing unit with its herd of cattle numbering in the thousands.

Other early day ranchers along the river east of Upham included Colonel Ely, Dick Towne, Andrew Nohle and others. Colonel Ely, a southern gentleman, built up the White House Ranch. For a long time he was a power in North Dakota politics. It was at his direction that the north boundary of McHenry carved out of Bottineau county the area embracing the productive meadow lands.

The Ely, Towne and Nohle ranches in turn were absorbed by the Stevens Cattle Company but all played an important role in the development of the country. It was on the Nohle ranch located about due east of Upham that the first permanent settlers found employment which supplanted their limited means at hand.

A later day ranch located north and west of Upham, while not as large as the older establishments, did contribute materially to the building of the country. These ranch holdings were owned by the LaPorte Cattle Company. It is within recent times that this cattle company was dissolved.

In the very early days, the immediate Upham area with its luxuriant short grass furnished feed for horse bands which numbered in the thousand head. The area then was known as the "Deep River Country." An early day horse ranch hand, who became a permanent settler and raised a fine family along the river, left a report in which he described one of the horse bands as "several hundred head of brood mares with thoroughbred stallions used as foundation sires". From stock such as produced on the open Upham prairies the early settlers could buy harness teams which were small and tough but full of bronco tricks.

The horse ranch hand referred to earlier, when completing his

work one fall found himself saddled down with too much camp gear to transport to his log home along the river, and in choosing what to discard he settled on his whiskey jug as the most expendable. He could make a return journey, or so he thought. A short distance from the camp site he selected a knoll and hid his jug by burying it deep underground. He did not make the return trip. On some knoll north and west of Upham there rests today an earthen jug and perhaps some whiskey still remains which has been waiting for 65 years for a horse ranch hand to take it home. Perhaps the jug has been uncovered and found. Who knows?

Many present-day Upham old timers saw their first Texas longhorn steers at the Dick Towne Ranch along the river north and east of Upham. The last herd of the famous longhorn cattle was in existence in early 1900, a few years before the birth of Upham town.

The Texas herds owned by ranchers furnished the foundation stock for nearly all of the cattle produced in the country. These cattle were improved by the introduction of purebred sires.

The settlers were first served by a post office known as Oakland located near the Stevens ranch. This post office was opened in 1890 or 1891. The postmaster was a Mr. Deming.

Ely Post Office and store was operated along the Mouse river south and east of Kramer by Fred Schroeder. This post office opened in 1892 and was in operation until Kramer was founded. The store building was moved to Kramer where it still stands.

Fred Melhoff operated a store and post office at the site of the Hillman bridge east of Upham. The post office was known as Wines and served for a period of years before Upham was built when the building was moved to Upham. Fred Melhoff was one of the early Upham merchants, later retiring to his farm west of town.

Meadow Post Office was started about 1899 and was located a short distance east of the site of the headquarters of the Lower Souris Refuge near Upham.

The Deep River store operated by Mr. Bucholz directly west of Upham was opened in 1897 to serve the settlers in that area. The store enjoyed good trade until Upham was built. Carl Anderson, a pioneer blacksmith, operated his shop directly across the road from the Bucholz store.

Supplies of all kinds for the new settlements were hauled by ox and horse teams from Willow City and Towner, the nearest stations on the railroad. Both places were boom towns, when the country was built. Later when the country grain production started, wheat and flax crops were hauled to Willow City, Denbigh or Riga. Most livestock shipments were made out of Willow City or Towner until the branch line from Towner was built.

The pioneer who built the log house, who broke up the prairies and started his herds and flocks, was a sturdy individual who relied upon his own resources. He had his two hands, his health and his courage; that was enough to start with. With faith in himself he built for his family and from a new and raw country he fashion-

ed opportunities for his descendants to enjoy. Those of us who are of the second or third generation have the pioneer to thank for the privileges which are ours today.

The writer is indebted to Rueben Kongsliie for notes on early postoffices.

HISTORY OF UPHAM

The Towner-Maxbass branch of the Great Northern Railroad was built during the spring of 1905. The townsite was purchased that spring by the Tallman Investment Company. The original townsite consisted of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 22 in Meadow Township and was part of the homesteads of Andrew Jurgenson and Even Haroldson.

A few of the early business places were Martin Swanson and Dr. Sarchets Drug store, The Farmers State Bank and the Nels Winter's Pool Hall. The material for the three buildings was hauled overland from Denbigh before the railroad was completed. Business places built later that year were: Bond Lumber Yard built by Silas Bond and his son, Walter. Carl Cox was their manager. John D. Gruber built the Gruber Lumber Yard and the Gruber Elevator. The third lumber yard was the Farmers' Lumber Company.

The first General Store was built by Nelson J. Kenyon. Another general store was built by T. W. Mott. Fred Mehlhoff also had a general Store. The Upham Mercantile Co. Store was built by L. C. and Carl Smette, John P. Hall and O. P. Hall.

Two banks were built the same year: the Upham State Bank by the Tallman Investment Co. with Chas. E. Fouts, cashier; and the Security State Bank with Tjosvold, cashier.

Other early business places were: Burke and Russell Hardware, Brock and Redmon Farm Machinery, Bill Howes and Carl Wenzel Farm Machinery, J. M. Vatsvog Farm Machinery and Joe Hinds Livery Barn.

The first Village Board of Upham was composed of the following members: O. P. Hall, Fred Mehlhoff, W. T. Dahl and J. H. McLaughlin, Clerk.

The first meeting of this board was a special meeting held September 25, 1908 at the office of the J. D. Gruber Company. All the above members were present and O. P. Hall was unanimously chosen as President of the board. On motion it was moved, seconded, and carried that the by laws and ordinances of the Village of Upham be ordered printed by the Upham Star and inserted in the ordinance book.

On October 6, 1908 another special meeting of the board was held. Jacob Nelson was made treasurer. W. F. Meyers was hired as Marshal at \$65.00 per month. E. J. Hulteberg was named Justice. It was decided that regular meetings be held on the first Tuesday of every month.

On December 1 of the same year W. F. Meyers resigned as Marshal. Peter Kongsliie was hired to take his place at \$10.00 per

month until further notice.

At the regular April meeting in 1909 it was decided that the salary of Peter Kongsli as Marshal be set at \$50.00 for the months of April, May, June, and July. The following officers qualified for office: Chas. Fouts as treasurer, L. C. Smette as assessor, W. T. Dahl, Fred Mehlhoff and O. P. Hall as trustees; J. H. McLaughlin held over as clerk.

At the regular November meeting in 1909 it was decided to purchase from the Northern Apparatus Co. of Minneapolis two chemical fire engines and one hook and ladder truck. This purchase amounted to \$850. A rural school house was moved in to be used as a fire Hall.

On April 10, 1910 the new Village board met. The members were: J. M. Vatsvog, chairman; Ludvig Bertsch and H. M. Erickson, trustees; J. H. McLaughlin holding over as clerk.

At a meeting on September 23, 1910, O. M. Anderson was appointed to fill vacancy of Chas. Fouts as treasurer.

At the regular meeting of July 8, 1910, it was decided to buy two jail cell blocks for which shipment was to be made at once.

For the year of 1912 a new board was elected. N. J. Kenyon was chairman; H. M. Erickson and J. M. Vatsvog were trustees; O. M. Anderson became clerk. It was during this year that the construction of sidewalks was started and three street gas lamps were installed.

The board for the year of 1913 was the same, but H. M. Erickson was made chairman; L. C. Smette, treasurer; Chas. McIntosh, Marshal; C. Smette, assessor and R. M. Russell, Justice. During this year the Standard Oil Company was granted permission to store gasoline in quantities.

In 1914 a new board was elected as follows: H. M. Erickson, chairman; trustees, W. H. Miller and O. S. Freeman. During this year a city well was dug.

At the election in 1915 a board as follows was elected; J. M. Vatsvog, chairman; H. M. Erickson and W. H. Miller, trustees; O. M. Anderson, clerk and assessor; L. C. Smette, treasurer; Tillman Smith, marshal; G. Swenson, pound master.

For the year 1916 a new village council was elected. W. H. Miller chairman; O. S. Freeman and J. Bertsch, trustees; O. M. Anderson, clerk; L. C. Smette, treasurer; G. A. Freeman, assessor; N. J. Kenyon, Justice; and George Swenson, marshal. In November W. H. Miller resigned. T. W. Mott replaced him.

The village board for the year 1917 was as follows: T. W. Mott, chairman; R. W. Kruger and Carl Smette, trustees; L. C. Smette, treasurer; G. A. Freeman, assessor; O. M. Anderson, clerk; N. J. Kenyon, Justice; P. P. Kongsli, marshal.

For the year 1918 the village board was made up of the following members: O. S. Freeman, chairman; trustees, B. Asmundson and Carl Smette. It was in August of this year that the flag pole was placed in center of street where main street crosses 3rd Ave.

The board was composed of the same members for the year 1919.

For the year 1920, R. W. Bennett was chairman of the board with Carl Smette and B. Asmundson as trustees; O. M. Anderson, clerk; and Roy Krueger, Marshal and Pond Master. A nine o'clock

curfew was to be enforced.

In the year 1921, the village contributed \$25.00 toward the marking of the Lake Metigoshe and Black Hills trail that was to go through Upham.

In the year 1924, negotiations were started to buy the Community Hall that was owned by local stockholders. Trustee members were: Carl Smette, chairman, B. Asmundson and R. W. Bennett; L. C. Smette, Treasurer; O. M. Anderson, clerk, assessor, and marshal. F. C. Grimes was appointed secretary and treasurer for the Community Hall with B. Asmundson as care taker. Rates were set for the use of the Hall, but no charges were to be made when used for public gatherings and political speeches. Movie projector and screen were installed with George Smette as operator at \$1.00 per week, to be paid out of Hall funds. Halvorson and Bertsch furnished the electric current for the Hall until the municipal light plant was installed in the last part of the year 1925.

In 1925, the board members were: Carl Smette, chairman, R. W. Bennett and B. Asmundson with I. L. Mott as clerk; A. J. Engelhart, treasurer; and O. M. Anderson, assessor. It was during the later part of this year that the machinery and lines for the public owned electric light system was installed. The light plant was located on Lot 3 of Block 4, original townsite of Upham. A 40 H. P. upright diesel Fairbanks-Morse engine was installed at a cost of \$6500. The lines were built by a Mr. Johnson of the General Electric of Grand Forks at a cost of \$3700. Theodore Haas was operator of the plant.

In 1926 the Community Hall was designated as the official voting place of the Village of Upham. Prior to this time, elections had been held in the Fire Hall located on S. E. corner of Main and Third Street. The board members were: Carl Smette, R. W. Bennett, and B. Asmundson with Henry M. Holte as clerk; O. M. Anderson treasurer and assessor.

Trustees elected in 1927 were: O. S. Freeman and A. J. Engelhart (Engelhart did not qualify); Clayton Goheen, treasurer; Henry M. Holte, Clerk; O. M. Anderson, assessor and marshal. O. M. Anderson did not qualify for marshal.

The Upham W.C.T.U. was given authority to plant trees and shrubs in the park as soon as the place was ready.

In 1928 the trustees were: O. S. Freeman, W. H. Miller (by appointment), Henry M. Holte, with O. M. Anderson clerk, and Clayton Goheen, treasurer.

In 1929 the trustees were: O. S. Freeman, W. H. Miller, and J. J. Lane, with Edeon Pederson, assessor; O. M. Anderson, clerk; G. A. Freeman, treasurer and justice of the peace, and N. J. Kenyon, marshal.

The municipal Light Plant was sold to the Otter Tail Power Co. and franchise given to them.

The trustees in 1931 were: W. H. Miller, A. Swanson, and Franklin Goodman appointed to fill the vacancy of J. J. Lane. I. L. Mott, was treasurer; Edeon Pederson, assessor; O. M. Anderson was clerk, but resigned and Henry M. Holte appointed to fill the vacancy.

For the year 1932 the trustees were: A. Swanson, Franklin Goodman, and O. M. Anderson. Henry M. Holte was clerk and N. J. Kenyon marshal. A. Swanson resigned in November and H. V. Kirkeby was appointed to serve in his place.

✓ In 1933 O. M. Anderson was president with Franklin Goodman and H. V. Kirkeby, trustees. Henry M. Holte was clerk; Morgan Erickson, treasurer; John H. Johnson, assessor, and N. J. Kenyon, marshal.

Two ordinances were passed. One for the legal sale of beer and the other for a volunteer fire department. This same year, 16 blocks were graveled, the work being done under the Government C. W. A. street graveling project.

The officers in 1934 were: Trustees-W. H. Miller, chairman, A. Swanson and Franklin Goodman. I. L. Mott, clerk; Edeon Pederson, assessor; Morgan Erickson, treasurer; and N. J. Kenyon, marshal.

In 1935 the trustees were: W. H. Miller, J. K. Swanson, J. G. Sigurdson. Clerk, I. L. Mott; treasurer, Morgan Erickson; assesor, Edeon Pederson; and L. F. Wilcox, marshal.

1936-The board members were: Trustees-O. M. Anderson, N. J. Kenyon, and J. K. Swanson; I. L. Mott, clerk; Morgan Erickson, treasurer; and L. F. Wilcox, marshal.

The following board was elected for 1937: Trustees-O. M. Anderson, chairman, J. K. Swanson, and Franklin Goodman. Bradley Kersten finished the term of O. M. Anderson. Wm. Breidfjord, marshal, and I. L. Mott, clerk.

1938-1939 — Reuben T. Kongsliie was elected in place of Franklin Goodman. I. L. Mott, clerk; N. J. Kenyon appointed justice of the peace for 1938 and Anna C. Vatsvag elected in 1939. John H. Johnson elected assessor in 1938 and Henry M. Holte assessor in 1939. Morgan Erickson, treasurer, 1938 and 1939. John M. Jacobson appointed marshal, 1939.

In 1940 The following qualifications were accepted: James B. Corum, trustee, 2 years; Morgan Erickson, treasurer; I. L. Mott, clerk; Henry M. Holte, assessor; John M. Jacobson, marshal.

At the April 1941 meeting of the trustees the following were elected: J. K. Swanson and Reuben T. Kongsliie, trustees for 2 years; I. L. Mott, clerk; Morgan Erickson, treasurer for 1 year; M. Haldorson, justice of the peace for 1 year; John M. Jacobson, marshal for 1 year, and Henry M. Holte, assessor for 1 year. During this administration the board made the first levy for a band. The fire hall was sold to the highest bidder - Arthur Kongsliie. This hall had been on lot 14 and 15, Block 11 of the original townsite of Upham. The fire fighting equipment was moved into the basement of the Community Hall. I. L. Mott, clerk, resigned at the April meeting and Henry M. Holte was the appointed clerk.

In 1942 the board was the same as in 1941. Those elected were Morgan Erickson, treasurer; Henry M. Holte, clerk; A. G. Kirkeby, assessor; Harry Rice, justice of the peace, and John M. Jacobson, marshal. A used truck was bought for the purpose of being used for a fire truck. Tank for the truck was purchased the same year. A Blackout Ordinance was passed Dec. 20, 1942.

The board members for 1943 were: James B. Corum, chairman,

J. K. Swanson and Reuben Kongsli. John C. Green, clerk; Bradley Kersten, treasurer; Henry M. Holte, assessor; justice of the peace, M. M. Haldorson; and Oscar Michals, marshal. A 35 MM movie machine was ordered for the Community Hall theater.

The 1944 trustees were: James Corum, chairman, J. K. Swanson and Reuben Kongsli. John C. Green, clerk; Bradley Kersten, treasurer; Rueben Jurgenson, marshal; M. M. Haldorson, justice of the peace. It was recorded in the clerk's minutes that the following buildings had been moved out during the year; Louis Bertsch residence; Karl Bauer residence; Lloyd Benjamin, residence; and Alma Bauer's Beauty Shop.

The following were elected March 20, 1945; J. K. Swanson, alderman; R. T. Kongsli, alderman; A. G. Kirkeby, clerk; Bradley Kersten, treasurer; J. M. Jacobson, marshal; Henry M. Holte, assessor; and M. M. Haldorson, justice of the peace. Lots 14 and 15, block 11 of the original townsite of Upham were sold to Emil Anderson. The land, 6 ft. by 6 ft., around the well, was reserved by the village.

The 1946 aldermen were: Reuben T. Kongsli, chairman, O. M. Anderson, and J. K. Swanson. A. G. Kirkeby, clerk; Bradley Kersten, treasurer; Henry M. Holte, assessor; John M. Jacobson, marshal; and Carl Schultz, justice of the peace.

The aldermen for 1947 were: Reuben Kongsli, chairman, O. M. Anderson and Egon Gessner. John Tonneson, clerk; Bradley Kersten, treasurer; John M. Jacobson, marshal; Henry M. Holte, assessor; and Carl Schultz, justice of the peace.

A petition was made to the village board that a special election be called to incorporate the village as a city under the Council form of government. The board set the date for election as of the 3rd day of June, 1947. There were 78 votes for the proposal and 54 against.

The last meeting of the aldermen as a village board was held August 5, 1947. All village business was taken care of at this meeting.

A Decision made to close Railroad Avenue from 3rd Ave. to William Street.

On August 5, 1947, the first meeting of the City Council was held with Reuben T. Kongsli as mayor and J. K. Swanson, Morgan Erickson, James B. Corum and Edwin Anderson as duly elected councilmen. Bradley Kersten was treasurer; Carl Schultz, police magistrate; Daniel Haffey, justice of the peace; John Tonneson acted as auditor until the September meeting when the council approved appointment of A. G. Kirkeby as auditor. Henry M. Holte was assessor and John M. Jacobson, chief of police.

Attorney Spaulding of Towner was designated as the city attorney.

The first reading of the new City Ordinance was Oct. 6, 1947. Street signs were erected in the fall of 1947.

The Upham Legion Post 269 recommended in 1948 that the Memorial Building fund be in charge of Meadow School District No. 29.

The new addition in northwest part of Upham was named Gessner addition.

The platted part of Upham was re-surveyed by E. C. Stee of Bismarck, N. Dak. Markers were placed at each block corner.

The City became a member of the League of Municipalities of North Dakota.

In 1949 a special election was held for the bonding of the city for the purpose of purchasing fire fighting equipment. The election carried for a \$5000 bond issue.

At the April 3, 1950 election, the following were elected: Reuben T. Kongsli, mayor for 4 years; Edwin Anderson, and O. C. Johnson, councilmen for 4 years; O. M. Anderson, treasurer, 2 years; Harley Knopfle, police magistrate, 2 years; Egon Gessner, justice of the peace, 2 years; J. A. Wik, was appointed chief of police; and Glen Brandt, auditor.

In 1950 the City adapted the North Dakota Old Age and Survivors Insurance Plan.

In 1951 a special election was held as to whether the city should grant only one liquor license and that license to be issued to a non-profit organization. The election carried.

J. A. Wik resigned as police chief. John H. Johnson served a short time, then John M. Jacobson was appointed for the balance of the term.

Oliver Vormestrand and Lester Becker filled the vacancy of Edwin Anderson and Morgan Erickson who resigned as members of the council. B. J. Bertsch was appointed assessor for 2 years and Glen Brandt, auditor for 2 years.

1952 election results were Walter H. Reinke and Emil E. Anderson, councilmen; John C. Green, treasurer; Egon Gessner, justice of the peace; Daniel Haffey, police magistrate. Holdover members of the council were O. C. Johnson and Lester Becker and Reuben Kongsli as mayor.

During this year, the council had 10 special street lamps installed on the main streets of the business section of Upham.

Arrangements were made with the Meadow School District No. 29 to go 50/50 on the cost of getting the State Water Commission to make survey of the water sources of the City of Upham.

1953 and 1954 council members were: Reuben T. Kongsli, mayor; Emil Anderson, Lester Becker, O. C. Johnson and Walter Reinke, councilmen. John M. Jacobson resigned as police chief. Glen Herman was temporarily appointed by the mayor. A new well was drilled near the north end of Fourth Street and a well house was built over it.

1954 and 1955. The new officers were: Mayor, Emil Anderson with Reuben T. Kongsli, Erling Lunde, George J. Jurgenson and Walter Reinke as councilmen. Charlie H. Decker, treasurer; Arthur Pfau, justice of the peace; Daniel Haffey, police magistrate; Elmer Wahl was appointed police chief and O. M. Anderson, assessor. Henry M. Holte remained as auditor.

In 1910 the village board appointed Dr. John Duncan as Health officer.

In 1911, a plank sidewalk was built from the center of Upham



Upham, N. D. - 1906

to the school grounds.

In 1918, a Service flag with 60 stars was ordered for the village.

G. A. Freeman served continuously from 1918 to 1938 as justice of the peace.

Mrs. A. J. Engelhart and Mrs. R. W. Bennett were appointed lady marshals with full power as the duly elected marshal of the time in 1925.

The park property was bought from E. J. Hultberg in 1925 by the Village of Upham and consisted of Block 4, first addition.

The Upham Improvement Association built the band stand and gave it to the City of Upham.

To the pioneers whose courage, faith and labors through the past fifty years make this "Golden Jubilee" possible, we dedicate this book.

MELANKTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

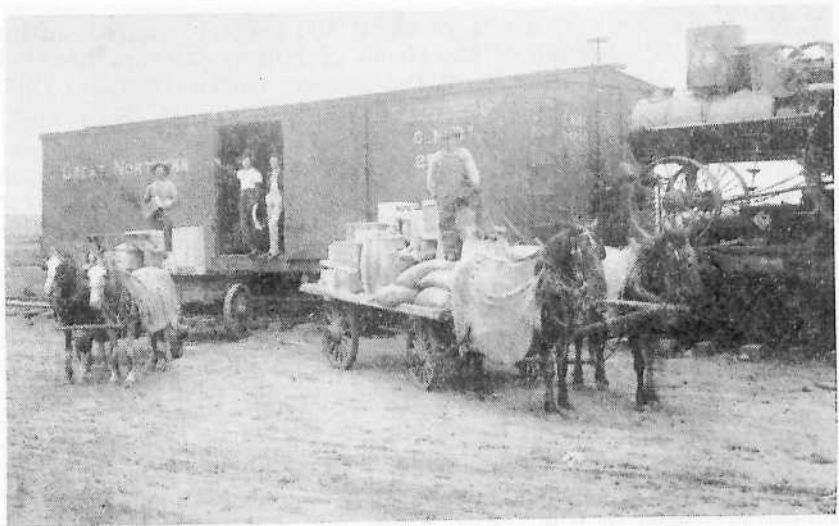
The Melankton Lutheran congregation was organized in the year of 1897.

The first worship gatherings were held in the larger homes, with the growth of the congregation it soon became necessary to provide more space and the group constructed a log cabin with outside dimensions of 18 feet by 30 feet at a location just east of the present location of the Freeman bridge. A year later this cabin was moved to a new location near the Einar Westford place and was used for community gatherings and church services for a period of seven years. As the congregation continued to grow it soon became evident that a larger building would be needed and in 1904 the congregation built a structure that was used for church services and community gatherings. This structure became commonly known as the Icelandic Hall and was erected on a tract of land donated by George Freeman just east of the Freeman bridge. In later years it was sold to the ladies aid of the Bloomfield Lutheran church at Upham and was moved to a new site in Upham.

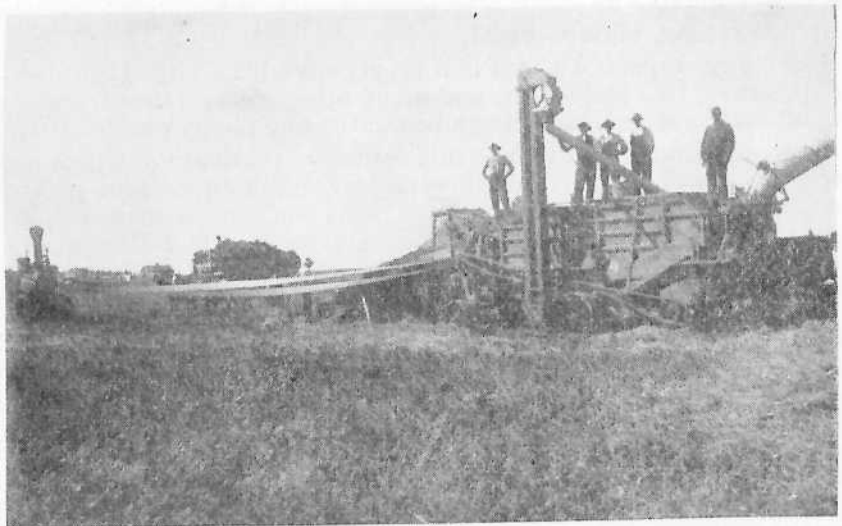
The congregation was organized and named by its first Pastor, Rev. Jonas Sigurdson. The first church council officers were: George Freeman, President; Jon Christianson, Secretary; Jon Goodman, Treasurer. The deacons were: Jacob Westford, Haldor Egilson, Jon Phillips and Einar Westford.

During the years of its existence the church has been served by the following pastors: Jonas Sigurdson, Frederick Halgrimson, K. K. Olafson, V. J. Eylands, E. H. Fafnis, George Amundson, Richard Torgerson and is presently being served by Rev. V. S. Dahle.

In the 1920's the congregation purchased the Methodist church in Upham. Following an extensive repair and renovating program the congregation was soon established in their new church which has continued to house the congregations worship services to the present date.



LOCAL DELIVERY - IN THE EARLY DAYS



Ingeman Smette's threshing rig

Editorial from the Upham Star Dated Dec. 17, 1915

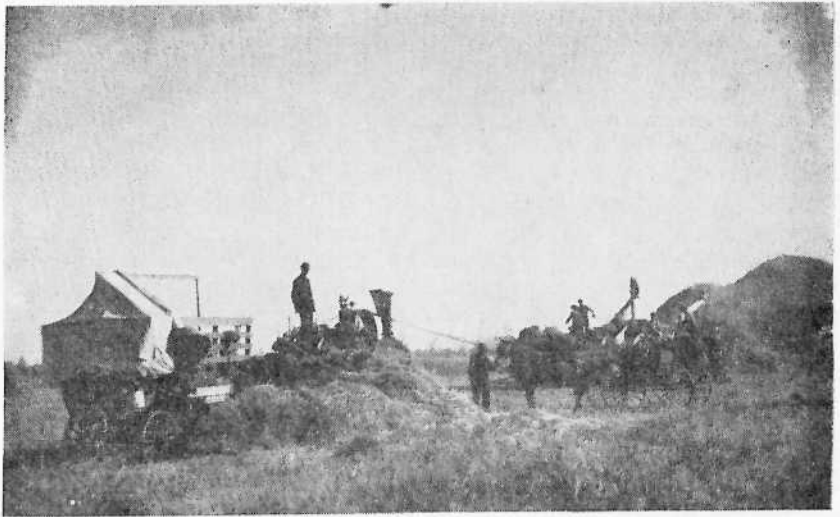
UPHAM, N. D.

Upham is a lively little city of about 400 people, situated on the Townner-Maxbass branch of the Great Northern railway. Located at the famed Mouse River Loop, it possesses rare advantages that must cause it to become in the near future one of the "big towns" of this favored region.

To properly understand its location it is necessary to know some thing of what the "Mouse River Loop" signifies. The Mouse River rises a hundred miles over the Canadian line, then flows in a southerly direction to Minot, 54 west of Upham, thence across the county of McHenry in an easterly direction to Townner where it flows northerly entering Canada about 50 miles east of its source, thus forming in this state, a loop in which is a greater part of this county, and including some of the finest farming sections in this mighty "State of Opportunity." Prominently located in this wonderful section is Upham only two miles from the river. This vast area so well watered by the Mouse River, has never known a complete crop failure, and the yield of all grain averages better than in many sections of this great state and it may be said that every kernel of wheat in this region grade No. 1 hard. No wonder so many of our farmers are getting automobiles and are in so many instances, living in homes having all the up to-date convenience that contribute so largely in making life more enjoyable, and many of our older settlers enjoying the salubrity of California's climate every winter, returning to their homes here in the early Spring to partake of the joy of living in the ozone region of this resourceful state. It requires no great stretch of imagination to see Upham strong, big and great.

In many respects Upham is a progressive little city with up-to-date stores, fine residences, and many other elements contributing to ultimate success, including a contented and happy people.

Already Upham is a great grain center, to take care of which often taxes the capacity of our six elevators. While this region is famous as a wheat producing country, many of our farmers are engaging more and more in diversified farming, and cattle raising, and the raising of hogs is receiving due attention. Alfalfa, in a large measure, is largely contributing to this end, as the growing of alfalfa here is a success and three and four crops are gathered every summer and fall. Dairy products are likewise receiving more and more attention from the farmers of this vicinity, and poultry raising is also an important element of the stream of wealth flowing into the pockets of our up-to-date farmers. Last year one farmer in this vicinity sold two ton of turkeys as one product of his farm, and the week before Thanksgiving, one of our enterprising dealers, J. M. Vatsvog, paid out \$5,000 for poultry bought of farmers of this vicinity, and one hundred cars of cattle were shipped from this station this fall. Were it necessary we might tell at lengths of the superior agricultural advantages of this vicinity, but suffice to say that the Mouse River Loop possesses rare advantages, and fortunate, indeed, is he who secures a farm in this



THRESHING SCENE
Geo. Swenson's Threshing



EARLY DAY FARMING OPERATIONS OF AL HERSCHLIP

highly productive region, before the era of higher farm values which era is just as certain as anything can be sure.

The educational advantages of Upham are assured for all time to come, for here is located a magnificent ten-room, brick school house three stories high, with all the modern improvements, and accessories that contribute to effectiveness in this work. At present five teachers are employed and splendid reports are gathered of the good work going so successfully forward. Ample provision is made for the future development and requirements of the district. The pupils of the school have high school advantages and its graduates are prepared for a college or university course.

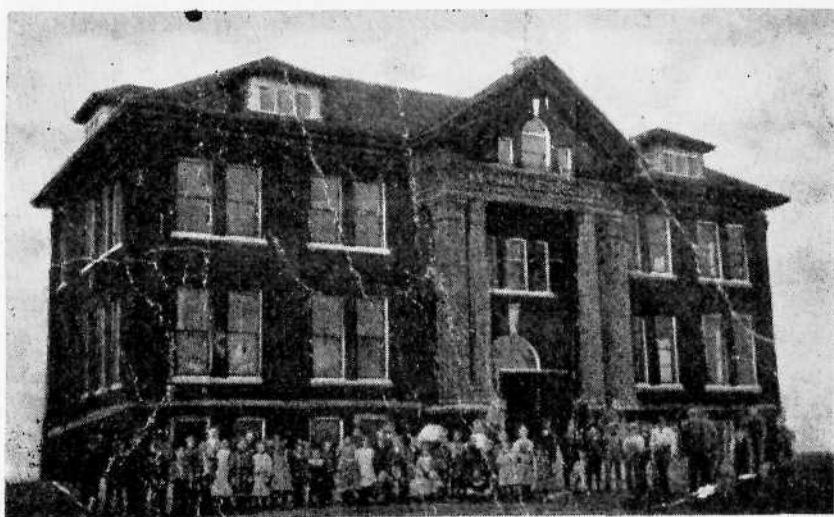
Upham has three churches having auxiliary societies for the better development of our people. Churches are a valuable asset to any town, and their growth and encouragement is a correct exponent of the moral standing of its people.

As previously stated the Mouse River is eastward from Upham about two miles. Along the banks of the river is a heavy growth of timber of all kinds, having shady nooks so delightful for picnic parties, while in the clear depths of the Mouse River the finny tribes are found in numbers affording sport and pleasure for the disciples of Isaac Walton.

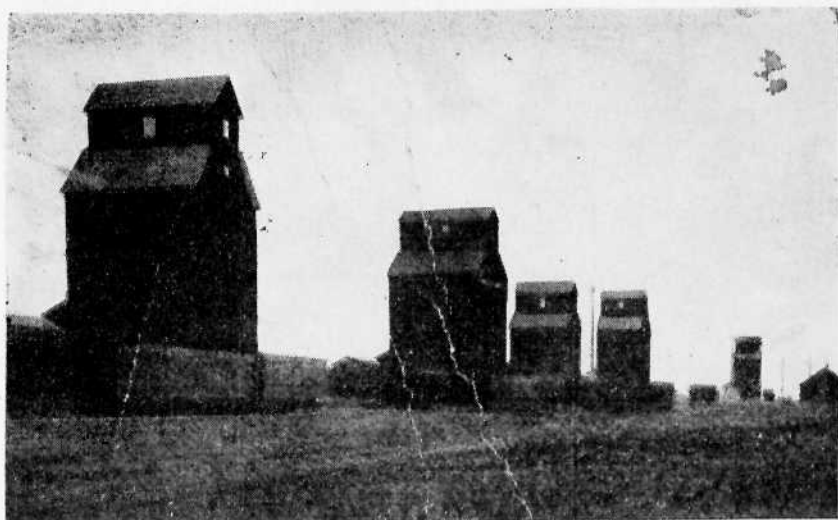
The face of the country about Upham is vastly different from many portions of this great state. The general feature of course, is the entrancing prairie, the wild portion of which, in the good old summer time, so far as the eye can see, is verdure covered, and flecked so numerously with wild roses and other prairie blossoms that bloom in wild abandon, while numerous groves are seen in every direction from Upham.

A comparatively short automobile distance from Upham, situated partly in Canada and partly in this State, is that gem of beautiful lakes where in decades ago the Indian erected his tepee upon its peaceful shores and fished and sported unmolested, in innocent glee. This lake may be described as a gem with a setting of emerald, surrounded as it is by a heavy growth of timber, yet unscarred by the woodsman's axe, and where the screech of the locomotive whistle has not scared away the "nyads of the forrest" as the white birch are so numerous in that enchanting region. The beaches of this lake are sandy, and the bathing and fishing are both enticing when the hot, sultry days are upon us. Many in Upham spend a season of rest and recuperation at this delightful resort.

Upham is a youngster—only ten years old, and notwithstanding the hard times that have prevailed in North Dakota, it has made progress and in the new and better era we are now entering, will advance with greater strides. With the advancement made in diversified farming and with the general advance made in the farm community adjacent and contributory to Upham, this little city of ours is going to make a record that will place Upham more prominently on the map of our great State. And to this end we advise a spirit of co-operation upon the part of our business men and our farmers. Encourage the top notch prices for everything our farmers have to sell. Let Upham made dollars be spent to build up



PUBLIC SCHOOL, UPHAM, N. D.



A ROW OF ELEVATORS, UPHAM, N. D.

and develop Upham. The custom, as the manner of some is, of patronizing Eastern Catalogue Houses, is not conducive to the building up of Upham. Every dollar taken out of home circulation is a dollar taken from financial life blood of the community. A dollar sent off to a catalog house is a dollar lost to this community—a dollar gone forever out of sight of the people of this region. Patronize our home merchants, for this is a positively sure way of building up Upham. The more permanent is the city built up, the greater increase in the farm lands contributory to Upham. This fact is so clear that it needs no demonstration.

The Upham Star is strong in the belief that Upham is to wonderfully advance and develop in the future, and to this end we promise to do what we can in the required co-operative spirit. The thing needed, in our humble opinion, is a strong pull, and a pull altogether in order to build up our splendid little city.

HISTORY OF EARL NERMÖE POST 269

AMERICAN LEGION

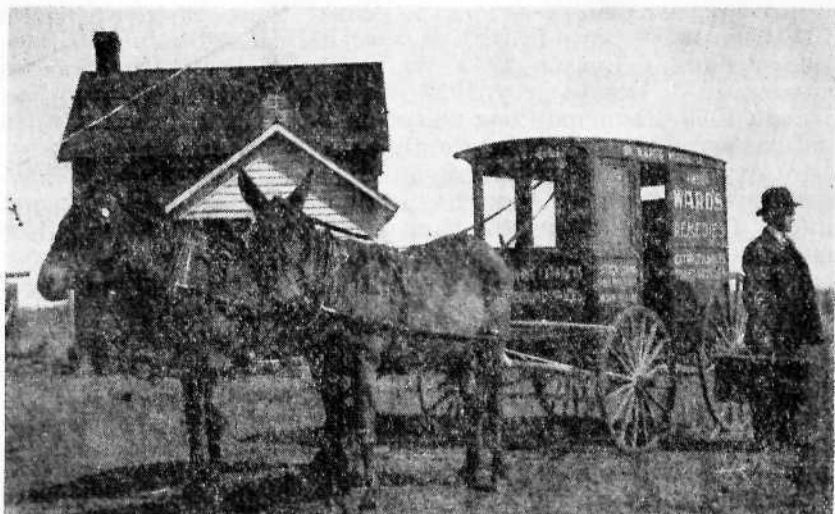
With the return in 1945 and 1946 of many veterans of World War II to the Upham area it became evident that this area could provide sufficient membership for a Veteran's organization. Early in April of 1946 the first organization meeting was held in the Upham Community Hall, with Rudolph Tableman, Sixth District Deputy of the American Legion, Department of North Dakota handling the organizational functions.

The first order of business for the newly organized Post was to decide upon a name, and a decision was made to name the Post in honor of Earl T. Nermoe, the son of a prominent pioneer family of the area, who was the first from the Upham community to give his life in service in World War II. Mr. Nermoe was serving in the United States Navy aboard the heavy Cruiser, West Virginia and was lost during the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

A temporary charter was granted on the date of May 18, 1946 and the Post's permanent charter was issued August 7, 1947.

Charter members of the Post were: Lars Melvin Lundervold, Raymond Long, Alvin Brandt, Arthur Resler, Henry Landis, M. C. Hammond, Sigurd Hillman, Allen A. Goodman, Robert Long, Chester E. Kongsli, James Long, John A. Lazier, Arthur Olson, Walter Boye, Leo J. Latendresse, Cordia John Henry, Joseph P. Rice, Fred F. Rice, Leifur Benediktson, Johannes C. Hillman, Mathew A. Orchard, John M. Jacobson, Benjamin Brandt, Harold Wolff, Johann H. Bell, John C. Green, John L. Becker, Robert Detamble, Leonard Kieffer, Edner F. Backman, Walter E. Hetland, Alf Norstegaard, Walter Brandt, Marvin Gartner, Ervin Brandt, Frederick Schepp and John McDonald.

John C. Green of Upham, North Dakota was elected as the first Commander of the newly organized Post and under his able direction the Post began its early life. Serving as Post Commander



EARLY DAY WARD'S MAN

Picture taken about 1905 by John Neuman



HEROES OF BY-GONE DAYS UPHAM BASE-BALL TEAM OF 1905

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Fred Johnson | 6. ? |
| 2. Ed Doherty | 7. Chase |
| 3. ? | 8. Delamere |
| 4. ? | 9. ? |
| 5. Claude Gant | |

during the past nine years and the year of their service are: John C. Green, 1946; Chester E. Kongsli, 1947; Cordia John Henry, 1948; Johann K. Benson, 1949; Walter H. Reinke, 1950; Johannes Hillman, 1951; Don V. Gray, 1952; Walter J. Boye, 1953; and Alvin Brandt, 1954. Raymond Long was named as Post Adjutant in 1946 and has served in that office continuously since that date.

In April 1947 the Post, feeling an urgent need for a home for its functions and with the thought in mind of the need of this community for a building large enough for various forms of recreation and amusement, decided to build such a building.

A building venture of the magnitude the Post had in mind required considerable imagination, and at that time it had very little to offer, other than spirit and enthusiasm. Under the leadership of Commander Chester E. Kongsli this spirit became infectious through-out the community. Funds were provided by building material and people of the Upham area donated their carpenter skills, and what had been a "Dream" in April, became a reality in the form of a quonset style forty by eighty foot building by July 1st of the same year. The newly erected Legion Hall was dedicated on July 12, 1947, and is now the home of a considerable amount of the community's recreation and entertainment.

During the past nine years the membership of the Post has grown steadily and it has become highly recognized for its community service.

Looking back over its few years of existence at Upham, this Post is cognizant of the fact that we are pioneers . . . not in years, but as the first Veterans organization to be chartered at Upham. It is proud and grateful for the opportunity to flourish and grow in this community and sees for itself in the future . . . a responsibility to carry out the heritage it has been endowed with by the indomitable Pioneers that created this community.

UPHAM FARMER'S ELEVATOR COMPANY

The oldest farmer owned and controlled business in Upham, the elevator was built in 1909. It was first established as a stock company and was recognized as a co-operative in 1916. Serving on the first board were George Freeman, President; T. T. Kongsli, Secretary-Treasurer; and the following directors; Ingeman Smette, C. A. Sorenson, J. E. Westford, B. T. Benson, and J. P. Ebersole. J. A. Wik was the first manager of the elevator, serving until he was elected as Sheriff of McHenry County. After serving two terms in the Sheriff's office, he returned to manage the elevator from 1924 until 1941. In 1942 a 40,000 annex was added to the old house, and in 1951 a new elevator was built with a capacity of 65,000 bushels. Completely modern and with the latest machinery the elevator is one of the finest in the northern part of the state.

The following have served as managers: J. A. Wik, Wm. Beltz, John Pehrson, Emil Torno, Daniel Haffey. The present manager is Edwin Anderson, who has served in this capacity since 1942.

The present board is made up of the following: Raymond Nat-

wick, President; Oliver Lunde, Secretary-Treasurer and the following directors; ; Sherman Welstad, J. E. Miller, Einar Einarson, William Mettler, Peter F. Hillman and T. T. Kongsliie, who serves as an honorary director.

T. T. Kongsliie served the board as Secretary for 33 years, following his retirement as Secretary he was named as a member of the Board of Directors and served until 1950, after retirement from the Board of Directors he was voted a lifetime honorary membership to that board.

Since its organization the Elevator Company has been doing business with the Atwood Larson Company at Minneapolis. This firm was very instrumental in organizing the Company forty six years ago.

In its forty six years of service to the community the elevator has earned a very favorable and enviable record of achievement.

McCABE BROS. ELEVATOR

A McCabe Bros. Elevator was first started in Upham in 1905. The first grain was bought in the fall of 1905.

Another elevator was bought and in 1943 the plant was rebuilt to more modern specifications. The present elevator is now fully equipped with cleaning and treating equipment.

There have been only two managers employed at the McCabe Company Elevator in Upham in the 50 years that the company has owned the elevator. Oscar Anderson started with the company in 1905 and was manager until he retired in July of 1944—39 years of faithful service. George Jurgenson took over the managership of the elevator on August 1, 1944, and is still serving as manager

THE DEEP RIVER DEVELOPMENT FARM

by William Freeman

Since the country was first opened to settlers, western North Dakota has often offered difficult farming conditions to the people who live on the prairies. True, more years of bountiful crops have been experienced locally than periods of crop failures, but drought has re-occurred frequently to threaten farm stability.

It is recognized that western North Dakota is an area of deficient rainfall. To provide for crop water needs during the critical growing periods, farming methods have been changed to conserve soil moisture supplies. While these conservation measures have been useful the danger to crops from insufficient water supplies still remains a serious problem for area farmers.

The Garrison Dam impounds large quantities of Missouri River water. The water resources behind the dam structures are sufficient to provide for the irrigation of extensive tracts of North Dakota farm land found by scientists as suitable irrigable soil.

The Souris area contains about 500,000 acres of land suited for

irrigation. Some of this land lies in the Upham territory.

The Deep River Development farm, which is located three miles west and one-half mile north of Upham, was established in 1952 to provide a place to study the effects of irrigation on crop production in the Souris River country. The farm serves as a field laboratory for agricultural research and provides an irrigation farm where the people of the area can observe the results of bringing added water to farmland.

The farm contains a total of 215 acres of which 142.3 acres are irrigated. A portion of the irrigated land is used by scientists of the North Dakota Agricultural College and the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to study crop varieties, fertilizers, water application and other problems affecting irrigated farms.

Operated as a private enterprise by a former dryland farmer, the irrigated farm is similar in soil characteristics to much of the land in the area. Leasing arrangements are similar to those employed in other sections where irrigated farms are open to tenant operation.

The soil textures on the Deep River farm range from sandy loams to clay loams. Drainage conditions are representative of the area.

Water is pumped from Deep River and piped to the high point on the farm 30 feet above the river. All fields are irrigated by the gravity method.

An eight-year crop rotation is followed. This includes one year of small grains as a companion crop to alfalfa, four years of alfalfa, one year of flax or other cash crop and one or more years of row crops completes the rotation.

Results obtained at the farm for the years 1953 and 1954 have been favorable but the production period is yet too short to definitely determine whether or not irrigation should be practised on a broad scale. It does appear that with a plentiful supply of good water available and with good irrigable land abundant in the area, it is but a matter of time until both resources are brought together.

Added moisture supplies in the form of irrigation water would materially increase agricultural production and remove the instability of operation which has offered difficulties in the past. Whether irrigation will pay out over the long period is the question still unanswered. The Deep River farm operations may answer this question in the future as studies are completed.

There are complete sets of buildings on the Deep River farm. A farmer and his family members live there. The farmstead is attractive and well ordered. The farm is an active unit. Agriculturally minded people interested in irrigation possibilities should visit the farm to see at first hand the result obtained from bringing water to the land.

MEADOW LODGE NO. 85

With the establishment of a community at Upham in 1905 several members of Masonic lodges took up residence in the new town and within a short time this group began consideration of the renewal of their lodge fellowship in their new home. Pioneers at heart, this group soon proceeded to organize their lodge at Upham.

The first communication from the Grand Lodge of North Dakota authorizing the organization of a lodge at Upham was read to the assembled group on the evening of October 9, 1907.

The first officers to serve were: Chas. E. Fouts, Worshipful Master; C. N. Cocks, Senior Wardens; Chas. I. Freeman, Junior Warden; R. M. Russell, Treasurer; Tillman Smith, Secretary; N. J. Kenyon, Senior Deacon, W. T. Dahl, Junior Deacon and J. A. Wik, Tyler.

The evening of the first communication of the newly organized lodge was devoted to accepting petitions for degrees, with the following making application for degrees in the lodge; Arthur Ostrander; Henry McDonald; Milford A. Corey; John Redmon; Thurston Ristengen; M. R. Swanson; John A. Duncan; and Herman M. Erickson.

Charter members were: Wm. Young; Chas. Fouts; Marvin Smith; Nelson J. Kenyon; Robert W. Russell; Grant LeMoine; Chas. I. Freeman; Tillman Smith; Wm. T. Dahl; Chas. E. Corey; Carlton N. Cocks; James H. McLaughlin; David M. McDonald; Sylvester P. Orpert; Walter R. Bond; John Boland; Leslie D. Russell; Philo Chase; Wm. L. Walton; Joseph Wik and Geo. R. Case.

The first transfer of degree work was received from Mouse River Lodge No. 43 at Towner on January 8, 1908, when that lodge asked that Meadow Lodge confer the Master Mason degree to candidates, George Freeman and Jacob Westford.

Of the charter members N. J. Kenyon of St. Paul, Minnesota and Philo Chase of Bottineau, North Dakota are the only two still living.

Masonic social life made a substantial contribution to the growth of the community. Visitations between the brethren of the area Masonic lodges were important and usually involved traveling considerable distances, many times under difficult conditions. Early records of the lodge show that on one occasion in 1908 forty visiting brethren were entertained from lodges at Towner, Granville, Glenburn and Bottineau. Many of these visitors traveled to Upham by horse and buggy in order that they might enjoy a few hours of social fellowship with their neighboring brethren.

In the years there have been periods of "High Fortunes" and "Adversity". There came a time when it was thought the lodge would be compelled to surrender its charter and the membership affiliate elsewhere. Economic conditions were difficult . . . the older members had passed on and many of the younger members had left the community. Suddenly when the lodge was at a low point a new generation moved in to take up the burdens the pioneers had carried for so many years and the institution began to flourish with a new life thus closing one chapter of history and opening another.

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HERMAN BETHKE

Herman Bethke was born in Fall Creek, Wisconsin. He worked as a laborer and moved to Upham in 1900 to homestead. Herman married Susan Rubert on November 25, 1907. His two children, Ervin and Harvey Bethke, are active farmers near Upham. He belongs to the St. John's Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, near Upham.

When Herman first came to this community there were no bridges across the rivers so they had to cross by ferry or drive across with horses. He filed on his claim in 1899 and built a claim shack. He went to Wisconsin for the winter the first year and returned here in the spring of 1900. The neighbors lived far apart and there weren't any roads. He recalled once when he had to stay at a neighbor's house three days because of a blizzard. At this time the closest town was Granville. The post office was six miles away. Four years after the railroads were built Russel and Deep were the closest towns.

HOWARD BEARD

Mr. Beard was born in Maryland and came to Upham in 1900. He is a homesteader in Layton township and served as an assessor there for 16 years. Mr. Beard worked on the Linberger ranch north of Towner until 1905 when he began farming on his own. He never married but has maintained his own household. He is 79 years old and still lives on his old homestead. Mr. Beard is a member of the Lutheran church.

MAGNUS M. HALLDORSON

Magnus Halldorson was born in Iceland. He came to Upham in the year 1900. It was in this year that he married Miss Bertha Johnson. They had eight children of which seven are living. They are Hilda (Mrs. W. T. Failton), Guatemala City, c/o U. N. Fruit Co.; Arne Halldorson, Arden, North Carolina; Polly (Mrs. R. T. Meddaugh), 1903 S. Girard, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Burke Halldorson, 47 12th St. S.W., Huron, South Dakota; Harold Holldorson, 4134 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota; Carolyn (Mrs. Ira H. Hubbard), c/o Research Dept. CBCR, Galfito Costa Rica; Olive (Mrs. V. E. Scott), Tegrecigalpa, c/o Tela R. R. Co.

JOHN P. KEISTER

John Keister came to North Dakota in the spring of 1898. He worked at Devils Lake the first year and came to Towner in 1899 where he worked at the Gurmeliush Ranch before filing on his homestead. In 1912 he married Tina Day. They had one child, William J. who now lives at Harrisburg, Virginia. They are members of the Methodist church.

REINHOLD ERDMAN

Mr. Reinhold Erdman was born March 8, 1874, in Germany. He received his elementary education and was also confirmed in the Lutheran faith while he was still in Germany.

Mr. Erdman came to America at the age of 18, leaving behind his parents, who came later. Mr. Erdman moved to North Dakota in the fall of 1892 and settled near Willow City in what is known as Willow Creek. There he hauled bundles to the threshing machine with an oxen team for Gust Getzlaff. For him it was a common occurrence to see Indians camping along the Mouse River, where they trapped muskrats for food.

Reinhold Erdman and Adolfinia were joined in wedlock on January 22, 1902, and in February of the same year they moved to a shack he had constructed near Bantry. Shortly after they moved into the shack there was a severe storm. This shack had no plaster or shingles and the roof leaked. This house was heated by a cook stove and a pot bellied stove. It was in this humble abode that Wanda was born. Near the house they had a well from which they drew water with a rope and pail. Ereta was also born there while they lived at Bantry. They lived at Bantry for five years, but a new house was built after two years.

In 1905 when they were surveying for the Great Northern Railroad, Mrs. Erdman boarded the surveyers for a time. As they progressed, they found a new place to stay. She served them their breakfast and evening meal and they slept upstairs in the new house. She received \$75.00 for this for which she purchased a bureau (an old fashioned dresser) and a small square table which is still in use in the household.

The Erdman family moved to Upham October 24, 1907, and have been on the same place ever since. This farm is located two miles west and two miles south of Upham.

Reinhold had 80 acres of timber along the Mouse River, near the Stevens Ranch. It was about 22 miles from Upham, and during the winter he would haul poles home for fuel and fence posts. He would start out one day with two horses and a bob-sled and cut the trees; then he would stay with his mother who lived near there, and the next day would load his poles and start for home.

They attended the Bethlehem Lutheran Church nine miles west of Upham. This trip in summer was made in early years with a surrey buggy and a team of good trotters. In the winter it was made with the bob-sled if the entire family went.

Upham was the hometown of the entire Erdman family. It was here that all the children received their education; going to and from school by bus.

There were seven children born to the Erdman family; five of which are still living. They are: Wanda (Mrs. Edward Podoll), Upham; Ereta (Mrs. Harvey Hartman), Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Lorenz Erdman, Upham; Alma (Mrs. H. A. Niewoehner), Russell, N. Dak., and Rubin Erdman, Upham.

Mr. Erdman served as a township officer from 1935 to 1938 in Meadow Township.

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WILLIAM H. MILLER

William H. Miller was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States at an early age. He came to the Upham community in 1906, where he established the first licensed barber shop in the community, operating his shop the first year in the building south of the present location of today's shop, he immediately arranged for the construction of a modern shop. In 1907 he moved into his new location.

He married Elizabeth Labet on May 22, 1909 and they have two sons: Elbert of Grand Forks, North Dakota and Warren, who makes his home at Vallejo, California.

In 1916 he sold the barber shop and moved to his farm five miles southwest of Upham. Returning to Upham in 1926 he operated the barber shop and a pool hall and lunch room in an adjoining building until selling out his business to Albert Bauer in 1927. After disposing of his business interests he and Mrs. Miller took a vacation trip to Germany during the summer of 1928.

Always active in community affairs he served as a member of the school board in Layton township for six years (1918-1924) and was a member of the Upham Village Board for sixteen years.

He was a very active member of Meadow Lodge No. 85, A. F. & A. M. and still retains his membership at Upham, although he has made his home in California for many years. In lodge circles he was favorably and well known for his ability to deliver impromptu speeches and to handle the master of ceremonies office at dinners and banquets.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller have made their home at Long Beach, California for the last fifteen years, and while they have been away from the community these years, they have always maintained a close contact with their old home community through correspondence and visiting with friends.

MRS. WALTER GOODMAN

Margaret Benson was born at Upham in 1896. She married Walter Goodman on August 28, 1915. They farmed in the township of Bantry. Alex Goodman, Livermore, California; George E. Goodman, San Francisco; Anna Marie Stephen, Bismarck; Dr. Edward H. Goodman, Rolla, N. Dak., and John P. Goodman, Bantry, are the five children. They belong to the Melankton Lutheran Church in Upham.

Her comments on the early day history of this community is, "In the early 19th century, the Mouse River territory was a barren wilderness. Around the year 1900 a few pioneers settled along the meadow and the prairie. One of the first settlers to take refuge on the prairie was Theodore Bendickson."

"Along with his son, Barney, they raised up a sod shack to house their large family. Also a mere structure from poles and straw for their cattle. This home was situated a mile and a half from the city of Upham, which is celebrating it's 50th anniversary."

ANDREW A. BURLOG.

Andrew Burlog was born at St. Anskar, Iowa. He arrived at Upham in 1898 and homesteaded. He is still farming near Upham.

Andrew was married on June 20, 1906 to Clara Severson. Of their seven children six are living. Alice Wold, Box 99, Deerfield, Illinois; George Burlog, 719 N. 3rd St., Grand Forks, N. Dak.; Luther Burlog, Orland Burlog and Harriet Burlog of Upham, and Bernice Halvorson, Palermo, N. Dak.

Andrew Burlog served as township officer for Meadow Township for 15 years. He belongs to the Bloomfield Lutheran Church.

MR. AND MRS. G. B. JOHNSON

Gudbjartur Johnson was born in Iceland. His father, Jon Post, homesteaded on what is now the Gottlieb Brandt farm near Kramer. The nearest town at that time was Willow City and travel was by oxen team.

Mr. Johnson came to Upham in 1900. He married Gudrun Olafsdottir. They homesteaded and were members of the Lutheran Church. Five of their six children are living, namely: Justice Nels G. Johnson, Bismarck, N. Dak.; Attorney Einar Johnson, Lakota, N. Dak.; Lilja, wife of Rev. V. J. Eylands, Winnipeg, Man.; Dr. O. W. Johnson, Rugby, N. Dak. and Dr. C. G. Johnson, Rugby, N. Dak.

A son, John, was lost during the flu epidemic following World War I.

MRS. JOHANNA MOEN

Mrs. Moen came to Upham in 1892. She is the widow of Mr. E. H. Moen. Six of their seven children are still living. They are: Reuben and Orris of Upham, N. Dak.; Esther, Mrs. Richard Oium, Towner; Judith, Mrs. Edwin Moen, Upham, N. Dak.; Erna, Mrs. Raemer Garnant, Bantry, N. D.; and Selma, Mrs. John Johnson, Minot, N. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Moen are homesteaders and belong to the Deep Lutheran Free church.

CHARLES M. BAILEY

Mr. Charles M. Bailey was born in Missouri. He was married to Miss Ida B. Maupin on February 15, 1895. They came to Upham in 1902 where Mr. Bailey homesteaded and was engaged in farming. They shipped their cattle and other property up from Marshall, Missouri in that same year.

Charles served both as a township and school officer in Little Deep township. He served two or three terms in each capacity during the thirties.

Two children were born to the Baileys, both of them living. They are Emmet Bailey of Granville and Mrs. J. E. Miller, (Lydia) of Upham, North Dakota.

The Baileys belonged to and attended the Baptist church.

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Congratulations

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on your 50th Anniversary

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UPHAM REFORMED CHURCH

The Upham Reformed Church was organized on April 14th, 1907 under the name, "Peace Reformed Church." The first church building was erected in the previous year. This, however, was not the actual beginning of the congregation. For a number of years before the people were financially able to build a house of worship, they gathered in various private homes for divine services.

Already in the year 1896 we find people of German extraction and of the Reformed faith coming to this community and settling in the vicinity of Upham. Originally all of them hailed from Russia, but had not come here directly. Coming to this country they first settled in the vicinity of Menno and Eureka, So. Dak. and even as far north as Wishek, No. Dak. Without doubt, here they would have remained and established their permanent homes had it not been for unavoidable reverses. They experienced a number of years of drought, extreme heat and total crop failures. These adversities induced many to move on and look for better localities. Those of the Reformed faith moving northward and settling in this community were the following: Fred Brandt; Gottlieb Brandt; Jacob Brandt; Simon Hase; Ludwig Bertsch; Jacob Bertsch; Fred Mehlhaf; Fred Marzoff; Karl Serr; Fred Schnabel; George Vogel. These are the charter members of the Peace Reformed Congregation. It will be of interest to mention that three of them are still with us and are yet quite active in church affairs, namely: Fred and Gottlieb Brandt and Jacob Bertsch. Also the wives of Fred Schnabel, Jacob Brandt and Karl Serr are still among the living and members of the congregation.

In course of time it became necessary to make certain alterations and improvements on the church property to provide more room. However, the growth of the congregation was slow, due to the many vacancies, inadequate service during the vacancies and failure to introduce the Engl. Language in services at the proper time. In the year 1949 extensive alterations and improvements were made on the parsonage. The following year, because of the growing membership, the congregation decided upon a new church to provide more seating capacity. The new building was erected a little north of the old location.

During the pastorate of Rev. F. F. Ott, arrangements were made to have the Kassel Reformed congregation at Lincoln Valley, N. D., serviced in connection with this charge. This arrangement proved to be satisfactory to all concerned and is still observed.

From its organization till the present time, the congregation was served by the following pastors: Rev. C. T. Nuss from Oct. 1908 till April 1911. Rev. H. Helming from April 1912 till July 1912. Rev. J. M. Bauer from July 1913 till March 1922. Rev. Albert Halter-Leuz from July 1923 to Oct. 1930. Rev. F. Friedrichsmeier from Jan. 1931 till fall of 1933. Rev. Friedrich F. Ott from Oct. 1934 to Oct. 1939. Rev. John Grabow from July 1940 till August 1942. Rev. K. Krueger from Oct. 1949 till _____

Congratulations Upham
on your
50th Anniversary



Meadow Lodge No. 85,
A. F. & A. M.
Upham, North Dakota

MRS. EMMA OLSON

Mrs. Emma Olson was born in Ontario, Canada. She came to Upham in 1900 as a homesteader. She was also a teacher.

She was married on November 29, 1905. They have no children.

Her husband preceded her in death and she is now retired and is residing in Upham.

JOHN MOEN

John Moen was born in Hillsboro, North Dakota. As a homesteader he moved to Upham in 1902.

In 1909 he married Olga Evensen. They have six children, all of whom have survived. They are: Mrs. Thor Jensen (Clarice), Henry, Elmo, Mrs. Lloyd Smith (Doris), Ernest, and Mrs. Kenneth Belmare (Jeanette).

He is a member of the Deep River Lutheran Free Church.

NORRIS MARSH

Norris Marsh, one of the early pioneers of the Upham community, coming to the community while a young man from his parental home at Viroqua, Wisconsin in the year 1900, he homesteaded in Pratt township about twelve miles west of Upham. On the date of June 26, 1904 he married Alma Ball. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh had seven children, six whom still survive, they are: Lester of Upham; Alice (Mrs. Huber Berg) Springfield, Ore.; Irene (Mrs. Curtis Stevenson), Velva, N. Dak.; Blanche (Mrs. Carl Pedigo), Tacoma, Wash.; Izetta (Mrs. Harvey Bethke), Upham; and Everett of Upham.

Mr. Marsh served as a member of the Pratt township board and the Pratt School Board. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh were members of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Eckman, N. Dak.

Following his retirement from the farm in 1946, he made his home at Upham until his death in 1947.

Mrs. Marsh continues to make her home at Upham.

GEORGE RICE, SR.

George Rice, Sr. married Ida Newbua on October 3, 1902 and to this union twelve children were born.

The eight surviving children are: George F. Rice, Jr., Upham, N. Dak.; Eddie H. Rice, Upham; Archie Rice, Hector, Minnesota; Lawrence Rice, Jamestown, N. Dak.; Mrs. Edna Miller, Deering, N. Dak.; Mrs. Wm. Torno, Upham, N. Dak.; Mrs. Alice King, Oakland, California, and Mrs. Mildred Skyburg of Desmith, South Dakota.

In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. Rice moved to the Upham area from Minnesota and he was engaged in farming for many years until his retirement about ten years ago. He now makes his home at Upham.

J. K.'s Store

J. K. Swanson, Prop.

Phone 14 Upham, N. D.

Congratulations Upham!

* * *

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Congratulations on your
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JOHN PIETZ

John Pietz was born in Russia and immigrated to this country while a very young man. He arrived at Upham in 1900, where he homesteaded about five miles west of Upham.

On January 6, 1905 he married Mary Staus and to this union seven children were born, six of whom still survive.

Mr. Pietz is a member of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church at Upham.

Mr. Pietz reports that the first Spring snow break-up he experienced in North Dakota was one he will always remember. Water became so high around his house it became necessary for him to move into the hayloft of his barn.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM BERT SHOEMAKER

Bert Shoemaker was born in Middletown, Iowa. He married Emma Halvorson May 19, 1909. She worked in the Bantry Post Office before their marriage. Mr. Shoemaker homesteaded in Layton Twp. in 1907. He served on the township board for 12 years. Mrs. Shoemaker served as school treasurer for 20 years. They belong to the Bloomfield Lutheran Church.

In 1902, with a number of other immigrants, they came as far as Granville. His father came by train to help build a shack. They went back to Iowa to return in 1907.

In the early days the chief forms of entertainment were dances, card parties, and debating contests all held in the homes.

HERMAN M. ERICKSON

Herman M. Erickson was born in Norway. He was married in 1903 to Hilda M. Dahl. They had four children, one of whom survives. He is Harley Erickson of Glasgow, Montana. His wife died December 21, 1938. He married Elin G. Rasmussen of Grand Forks, N. Dak. in 1945. Before coming to Upham he homesteaded near Mohall, N. Dak. in 1905. He came to Upham in 1906. When arriving he started out as cashier of the Security State Bank of Upham. He continued there for thirteen years.

He founded the Upham Community Hall, Upham Creamery, and the Upham Telephone Company.

Subsequent to his departure from Upham, he was a Field Representative and Land Appraiser for the Bank of North Dakota for thirteen years; Land and Loan appraiser for Federal Land Bank of St. Paul for two years; Land Negotiator for the U. S. Biological Survey for two years. Other activities included farming; and he has served as Public Administrator for Ward County the last fifteen years.

He is a member of the First Lutheran Church.

Congratulations to Upham

Asmunder S. Benson

Attorney at Law

**118-5th Street W.
Bottineau, North Dakota**

MR. AND MRS. HERMAN FREDRICKSON

Mr. Fredrickson was born in Sweden and arrived at Upham in 1905. He worked as a laborer for \$35.00 a month which was considered good wages during the busy summer season and during the winter months for board and room. In 1909 he purchased a farm in Little Deep Twp. In 1912 he married Alta Harmon. To their union five children were born: Floyd, Upham; Fred, Voltaire; Charles, Deering; Chester, Velva, and Mrs. Chester Peterson (Esther), Granville.

Mr. Fredrickson served on the school board for 17 years. They are members of the Lutheran church.

Mr. Fredrickson was an iron worker by trade so naturally was the blacksmith for his area for many years.

MR. AND MRS. PETER PEHRSON

Mr. Pehrson, a native of Sweden, came to Upham in 1903 where he later homesteaded. He married Helen Kroschal in 1917.

To anyone interested in the early history and hardships experienced by the pioneers Mr. Pehrson is an authentic and reliable source. He has witnessed many changes in the last 52 years since his westward migration from Devils Lake in 1904 driving a four-horse team pulling a lumber wagon. Their first night was spent at Leeds, N. Dak. It took three days to reach their homestead. He relates how they slept under the mattresses to keep from blowing away.

MRS. ALLETA WAHL

Mrs. Alleta Wahl was born in Norway. She came to the United States when she was fifteen years of age. In 1896 she married Mr. Stenhjiem at Davenport, N. Dak. They had two children. They are Arnold and Mrs. Myrtle Morud. Mr. Stenhjiem died while still at Davenport, N. Dak. She and her children then moved to Upham where they homesteaded. The first time she saw Upham they were just starting to build on the townsite.

In 1903 they had a severe snow storm in September and all of their calves froze to death and the flax crops were all lost.

In 1905 she married Mr. Wahl. They had three children. They are Elmer, Gunda Halley, and Adolf.

Reverend Tagen came to visit them as often as he had services in a nearby school house. Their house was a stop over for Reverend Tagen. Though they had only one bed, they had an extra spring which served as the extra bed when guests arrived. This also took care of the minister.

Mrs. Wahl is a member of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church.

She is still residing on her old homestead in Deep River township.

MRS. IDA HERSCHLIP

Mrs. Ida Herschlip was born in Minnesota and came to Pratt Twp., McHenry County in 1912. The farm she still resides on, was bought at that time from H. F. Niewoehner. She remembers experiencing a bad blizzard in October, the month they moved to their new home, which was rather discouraging for new-comers. For some reason, they had a hard time raising corn, barley, and vegetables the first few years they were in North Dakota. The grain didn't seem to sprout and although Mrs. Herschlip is tops when it comes to gardening, she says she could not make cabbage grow. However, those conditions did not last many years.

Although Mrs. Herschlip was not one of the earliest settlers in McHenry County, she is able to tell quite a bit about early days in Pratt Twp. The Henry Herschlips, her late husband's parents, came about 1900. They had a team of oxen which they used for plowing. They were slow and sometimes not so sure, for if they decided to take off for a near-by slough of water, nothing could stop them. At times they would wade out to the middle and there they would stand, much to the disgust of the fellow trying to get his plowing done. In those early years, the territory was one big expanse of prairie, and the cattle had to be herded until some fences could be made.

As early as 1899, the missionary began work among the early settlers west of what is now Upham. It was the Rev. Ferdinand W. Potratz who, during those pioneer days of the horse and buggy, gathered together the scattered homesteaders and gave them Spiritual guidance and inspiration. He worked among the people of that section of McHenry County during 1899-1900. The Rev. A. Rubbert, still known to many in this territory, took over in the fall of 1900 and in 1902, the Charter for the Bethlehem Lutheran Church was drawn up. This church is located yet today nine miles west of Upham and celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1952.

Pratt Twp., where the Herschlips settled, is in the northwest corner of McHenry County, with its eastern boundary nine miles west of Upham. The first school in the township was held in "Grandfather" Herschlip's house. That house was built in 1901, and is the only house built at that time that is still standing yet today.

The first mail service began in 1901 when W. H. Pratt hauled the mail from Granville making three trips a week. Until 1903 all supplies were hauled from either Granville or Minot. In 1903, the Great Northern branch from Granville to Sherwood was built and Glenburn became a town in 1905. The Maxbass branch was built that same year and Upham got on the map. That is the nearest town now for the Herschlips.

The most sever winter was 1906-07 when the snow came the 15th of November and stayed until May. By that time fuel had become rather scarce. The flu epidemic of 1918 was severe and there were grasshoppers in 1919 and 1920, but no real hardships came along until the drought years in the '30s. Old records showed that the farmers got 11c a bushel for rye, around 30c for dur-

um and 29c for barley. Eggs were as low as 9c and 10c a dozen and Mrs. Herschlip recalls she got \$1.75 for an eight-gallon can of cream at that time.

Mrs. Herschlip has had seven children; six of whom are living. They are: Harold Urban, deceased; Clarence Urban, Minot; Walter Urban, Chula Vista, Calif.; Mrs. Stanley Kitzman (Genevieve), Eckman; Mrs. Victor Matehs (Evelyn), Eckman; Mrs. Clarence Adams (Blanche), Kirkland, Washington, and Orville Herschlip, Upham.

W. F. ZIMMERMAN

W. F. Zimmerman was born in Wisconsin in 1873, coming to Upham in 1904. He homesteaded on a farm near Upham.

He served as treasurer for the Deep River Township board for many years. He also served other offices of the Township.

Mr. Zimmerman in his pre-homestead days gathered buffalo bones throughout this area and sold them at Willow City which had been established several years prior to Upham.

Mrs. Zimmerman (Ida Buckholz) rode a bicycle from her homestead west of Upham to Willow City where she was employed. This is how they eventually met and married in 1904.

In 1917 Mr. Zimmerman retired and moved to Minot. His farm is now occupied by his grandson, Vernon Pfau.

He is a charter member of the Bethlehem Lutheran church in Deep River.

JOHN A. JOERN

John A. Joern was born in Wisconsin. He came to Upham in 1903. His occupation was farming, but he did not homestead. On January 1, 1907, he married Martha Rubbert. They had five children, all of which are living.

Mr. Joern had worked in Upham previously, in 1900, before he came to Bottineau county with his parents. His father filed claim on the homestead where John is now living. John made many long trips to Granville with grain.

In 1905, the spring came early, and the Joern men finished with their seeding in due time, so John was able to work on the railway, which ran from the Soo crossing to Deep River. On the 21st of May, there was a snowstorm, which brought plenty of water. John quit his job at the railroad and started braking the "good old sod".

In the first part of July the railroad was completed up to Deep River, and by the fall of 1905, they were able to haul their grain to the Deep River Elevators.

Mr. Joern served on the Tacoma school and township board for 24 years, from 1923 to 1935.

John belongs to the St. John's Lutheran Church.

The children are: Elmer Joern, Texas; Mrs. Ted Miller, Bottineau; Mrs. Ray Wittmayer, Parshall; Mrs. Orville Nordquist, Parshall, and Norman Joern, Upham.



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*Reddy Kilowatt is on hand
to help Upham Celebrate
the 50th Anniversary*

Otter Tail Power Co.

HENRY F. NIEWOEHNER

Henry F. Niewoehner was born in Kentucky and came to the Upham vicinity in 1901. Before coming to North Dakota he taught school in Minnesota for four years, beginning at the age of 18 years. So, the first year in North Dakota, Mr. Niewoehner spent in teaching in the Willow Creek territory. At that time school was held in three-month terms, one in the spring and one in the fall, and he taught two of those terms the first year at \$35 a month.

The following year he homesteaded in what is now Grilley Twp. in McHenry County, where he still resides.

In 1903 he married Ida A. Zimmerman of Willow Creek. To this union six children were born, all of whom live around the immediate community. They are: Mrs. Arthur Hall (Ida), Upham; Mrs. Leroy Hall (Freda), Russell; Henry A. Niewoehner, Jr., Russell; Bernard Niewoehner, Upham; Walter Niewoehner, Upham, and Arthur Niewoehner, Deering.

Mrs. Niewoehner, too, can relate some interesting stories of early days. She came to Willow Creek with her parents from Wisconsin in 1888. At that time, some Indians still lived on the prairies. She recalls how she used to help pick buffalo bones where the present site of Upham now stands. This they learned from the Indians. It served as a means of making money that first year when the gophers took their crop. These bones were sold for \$4 a ton and were shipped from Willow City where the railroad had been built in 1887.

Mr. Niewoehner likes to reminisce about the good old days and chuckles over many an experience, but thinks he would like to forget some of the blizzards; one especially in which he was caught while coming home from Willow Creek one evening. He spent that night with some people living near the Freeman bridge. They had other hazardous experiences when they used to ford across flooded creeks and rivers, sometimes with their families.

Henry F. Niewoehner has been very active all through the last 50 years serving in various offices. He was the first justice of the peace when Grilley township was organized in 1904. For approximately 20 years, he was a member of the Grilley school board. Between the years of 1931-1937, Mr. Niewoehner served four terms in the State Legislature from McHenry County. Even though he was a Non-Partisan League member, which was in the minority at the time, he was given the honor of serving on the Committee of State Affairs, which in turn, had much to do with building our present capital in Bismarck.

Mr. Niewoehner is a charter member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located nine miles west of Upham. There he served as chairman of the congregation for 40 years. In 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Niewoehner celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with all their children present.

Congratulations to Upham on

Its 50th Anniversary

Pride Dairy Products

O. C. Johnson — Local Representative

Bottineau Co-operative Creamery

Bottineau, North Dakota

“Our 25th Year”

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Bottineau, N. Dak.

SAM MICKELSON

Sam Mickelson was born in Norway in 1882. In 1891, he, along with one brother and three sisters, came to Hillsboro, N. Dak. with his mother; the father having come the year before to establish a home. After living there for 10 years, the family moved to Lakota, in Nelson County. While moving, Sam can recall how he and his father got lost in a dense fog and had to spend the night on the prairie, only to discover the next morning that they were only a mile from the farm.

At 16, Sam went to Cummings, N. Dak. to work for the Tebergs and there he met his future wife, Jennie Teberg. They were married at Portland, N. Dak. Nov. 25, 1903. They moved to McCanna in the spring of 1904 where they farmed for 3½ years.

In 1906 they, and their one child, moved to the Upham vicinity and settled 11 miles west of town. All of their farming equipment was shipped by rail to Upham. At the time they arrived in Upham, a full blizzard was raging, which lasted a week, so the livestock was taken care of in the local livery stable until the storm abated and they could get their belongings out to their farm.

During their first years here, the Mickelsons got their mail from the Buchholz store located about 8½ miles west of Upham. The mail was brought there from Russell on the Soo Line. This store was often a gathering place for the neighbors in those days.

In Upham at the time, the Smette Bros. had a store where Bertsch-Wilhelm are now. Mickelsons remember that the Smettes were good to the early settlers by letting them have groceries which were paid for in the fall.

Fish and wild strawberries were principle foods in those days. The fish were easily gotten from Little Deep River, about a mile away. The strawberries were picked either in the meadows along the river or else farther north in the "sand-dips". Although these foods often got monotonous, they nevertheless were a good substantial diet.

Dr. Craise and Dr. Duncun were in Upham practicing at the time the Mickelsons came to the vicinity. Dr. Craise always was and still is their family physician. Many times Dr. Craise was called out in the neighborhood on account of sickness, and he was always a welcome sight coming with his horse and buggy at such times.

Although there were many hardships and troubles for the early settlers, they were a rugged lot and helped one another. Fuel was often a worry during the cold winter months, and at times they often burned flax straw in their Round Oak heaters. The Mickelsons rented land for several years, and finally in 1924 they bought a farm of their own, located 10 miles west of Upham. Here they still live.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Mickelson had five children, all of whom are living. They are: Mrs. Alton Eliason (Edith), Buxton, N. Dak.; Theodore B. Mickelson, Upham, N. Dak.; Mrs. Clarence Potter (Alida), Souris, N. Dak.; Mrs. Edwin Brandt (Edna), Upham, N. Dak., and Mrs. Albert Thorenson (Genevieve), Newburg, N. Dak.

Sam Mickelson served as treasurer of the Pratt School District

for approximately 15 years, between 1930-1945. Mr. and Mrs. Mickelson are charter members of the Trinity Lutheran church at Eckman, N. Dak.

In 1953, the Mickelsons celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with all their children present.

HISTORY OF PRATT TOWNSHIP

(Written about 1938)

The history of Pratt township has proved rather interesting since beginning the study of it. Although there are not many records available, what there is helps to make up an interesting history of the state and county.

Pratt township is located in the northwest corner of McHenry county. It is quite level except along the Deep river which cuts through the northeast corner of the township and the sand dips, in the northern part also. Some of this part of the township has been designated as game reserve and native trees and bushes now grow on it. Most all homes have good windbreaks around them, although some of them have been severely damaged in the past few years of drought. Some of the groves have been replanted recently.

In the last few years the continued drought and high winds have brought another change in our land, by blowing away the fertile soil, down to rock bottom, leaving a bleak desert or bare wilderness. On such lands we find many relics of Indian tribes, such as spear heads, arrowheads, and stone hammers.

Two trails crossed this township in early days, one from Devils Lake to Canada, the other leading to Minot. They crossed where Dan Conner's shack still stands.

The first settler here was W. H. Pratt who built the first house on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29 in 1900.

Reason for settling was to establish homes of their own. Many of the old pioneers are still with us. Some have remarked, "The country looked good to us."

The first child was born John Maiers to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Maiers, but this was not on record.

The first school was held in Henry Herschlip's house. Miss Goldie Thomas was the teacher.

The first school house was built on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 29. It was known as the Bower school, named after the owner of the land. The first teacher was Mrs. McCannell. The first school board consisted of Dr. H. Hamilton, Jerry Butts, and James Reid.

The only church was the Catholic church built in 1904 on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -9. Alfred Murphy was owner of this land. The Priest was Father Andrieux of Bottineau. The church was moved to Eckman and was later sold to be used for a house. Later, Protestant services were held in the Pratt Hall, with Rev. Gable, then of Glenburn, conducting services. The town hall was built in 1904 by the local chapter of the Modern Woodmen, and was used as a township hall. A few terms of winter school were held there in 1906

and 1908. Years later it was sold to Mr. Fred Peglow of Glenburn to be used as a store. In 1928 the present town hall was built.

The first mail service began in 1901. W. H. Pratt built the Pratt store and postoffice and also hauled the mail from Granville, making three trips a week. Until 1903 all supplies were hauled from either Granville or Minot, except such as could be gotten at the Pratt store.

In 1903 the Great Northern branch from Granville to Sherwood was built, then Glenburn became a town in 1905. The Maxbass branch was built, and Upham got on the map. This is our nearest town now and is twelve miles away.

The township was organized in 1902 and named Pratt, in honor of the first settler. The first township board consisted of F. E. McDirmid, clerk; D. H. Hamilton, president; L. J. Marsh and J. Reid, directors.

The first telephone line was built in 1905 by H. M. Brown and M. A. Corey.

The Henry Herslip house was built in 1901 and is the only house built at that date that is still standing.

Deep river is the only stream of any size in the township. A dam across the river north of the Hans Welstad farm was built by the P.W.A. Five miles of good highway connecting us with Upham, Deering, Glenburn, and Minot were also built.

The most severe winter was in 1906-07 when the snow came on the 15th day of November and stayed until May. By that time fuel had become rather scarce.

The flu epidemic of 1918 was severe. We have had drought and grasshoppers in 1919 and 1920, but no real hardships until the last eight years.

A prairie fire in 1901 was very serious. The fire started somewhere in the vicinity of where Maxbass now stands, and swept to Granville before it could be checked.

Of course, there were no floods, except the high waters of 1902, when it was impossible to cross the Deep river for about two weeks. Now one can walk through in most places without getting one's shoes wet.

We have three different mail routes now. One from Upham giving us three miles in this township, Russell, six miles and Eckman seven miles of mail service.

The school house in which I am writing this entry, is located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 26. School has been kept since 1908 or 1909.

In summing up these incidents we find that the history of our township is quite interesting.

Bibliography

Oscar Johnson, Eckman, farmer, filed in 1900.

N. S. Marsh, Russell, farmer, filed in 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Herschlip, Upham, farmers, came to this vicinity 1912.

Matt Roebuck, Eckman, retired farmer, filed in 1900.

Congratulations from

The Tavern

Bob — Nora
Kramer, N. Dak.

Congratulations to Upham
on your 50th Anniversary

Albert Pfau

Pfau's
Repair Shop
Upham, N. Dak.

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INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

District Office, Minot, North Dakota

T. T. KONGSLIE

T. T. Kongsлие came to North Dakota, from Watson, Minnesota, in Lacque Parle County, where he was born. He was sixteen when he arrived in North Dakota. He came here by a stock train car as far as Grand Harbor, although he was not sure where he was at. He walked until he came to people near there whom he knew, from back home. His folks came this far also by covered wagon.

They farmed there that year, that place later becoming the home of an older brother, Simon Kongsлие.

That fall or in the year of 1890 they came up here to approximately 4½ miles northwest of where Upham is now to put up hay for cattle which they drove up from Grand Harbor. This was their old homestead.

In the year of July 6th, 1903, he married Anna Skaaden. They had six children of which five are living. They are: Reuben, Arthur, and Alfred all of Upham, Mrs. Lester Moen (Clarice) of Minot, and Chester of Tula Lake, California. Mrs. Kongsлие was born in Norway.

Towner and Willow City were the nearest towns. A trip to either of the towns with horses required three days.

They had no church here, but Rev. Rossing sometimes came up from the Barton area on bicycle to hold services at various homes. This was by the Lutheran Free Church, of which they still belong. For entertainment they would visit after church and Sunday school, and lunch was served.

Doctor Duncan was the first resident doctor, later on Doctor Love from Towner and Doctor Andrews from Willow City.

Mr. Kongsлие served as a School Officer in Meadow Township and also served as Assessor in Meadow Township from 1905 to 1949 with exception of one or two years.

He also was an officer on the board for the Farmers Elevator Co. in Upham for many years.

Mr. Kongsлие claims farming to be his occupation, though he is now retired and resides in Upham.

JOHN ASMUNDSON

Mr. John Asmundson was born in Iceland and arrived at Upham in 1898 where he worked as a cowboy on the Stevens ranch before he homesteaded. He was married to Katheren Johnson in 1899. To this union five children were born and all five are still living. They are: Freda of Jamestown, Julius, John, Mundie, and Margaret of Upham.

Mr. and Mrs. Asmundson belong to the Melankton Lutheran Church.

Of his early day experiences, Mr. Asmundson said: "I was lost in a snow storm and walked in circles all night long until mid-forenoon where the storm subsided. Another time, when Mundie was born, I went for a neighbor lady to act as midwife, also during a severe storm. I had her tied to me to keep from getting separated and during the walk she lost her overshoe. Everything turned out fine."

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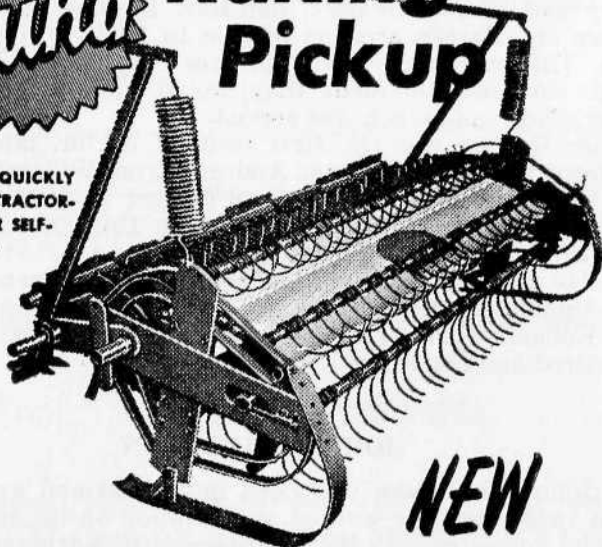
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WILLIAM BOLLINGER

William Bollinger was born on a farm near Plymouth, Indiana, Marshall County, January 25, 1872. He filed a claim on October 16, 1899 for land one mile west of where Upham is now located. After five years he sold out, then moved four miles south of where Upham is located. That was before the railroad came in. He hauled grain to Towner, Granville, Willow City and Denbigh. He lived on this farm three years, then traded it for a farm located three miles northwest of Bantry. He lived there until he quit farming.

When the Farmers Elevator was built in Bantry he was treasurer of it for the first two years. Then other business called him and he resigned.

He lived in North Dakota 43 years, then moved to Saudy, Oregon, Box 167 Saudy Ave. He still has interests in North Dakota, and he comes back every fall to look after it.

On March 23, 1902 he married Sarah Kyle. They had four children and all are still living. They are: George M. Bollinger, 756 Jefferson St., Gary, Indiana; Grace Dilling, 778 Tennessee St., Gary, Indiana; Boyd Bollinger, 5914 Saugrnu St., Chicago, Illinois, and Verne S. Bollinger, 532 Georgia St., Gary, Indiana.

BERTHA M. HAGEN

Bertha Molstad Hagen was born in Norway. In 1893 she married Anton P. Hagen. In the year 1897 they arrived at Upham, where they homesteaded. Mrs. Hagen belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

They have 10 children all of whom are living except a daughter, Agnes Eide of La Glace, Norway. She died April 11, 1955.

The living are: Melvin, Herbert, Arvada, and Morris all of Valhalla, Norway. Then there is Leo of Wildwood, T. M. of La Glace, Doris (Mrs. E. Weber) of Olds, Lilly (Mrs. R. C. Jones) of Vancouver, B. C. and Julia (Mrs. W. A. Johnson) of Blyth. These towns are in Norway.

Her husband, Anton P. Hagen, died in 1944.

ED K. JOHNSON

Ed Johnson was born in Kansas but moved to Upham in 1902. He homesteaded here.

On February 13, 1907, Ed married Emma Fast. Both of their children are living, Effie A. Bailey at Granville and Carl L. Johnson at Bantry.

Ed Johnson served as a school board officer in Gilmore Township from 1911 to 1945, a period of 34 years. He belongs to the Evangelical Church.

Ed is now selling insurance for the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

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GISLIE E. BENIDIKTSON

Gislie Benidiktson was born at Gimli, Manitoba, Canada. He came to Upham in 1901 and homesteaded in the Mouse River Township east of Upham. He engaged in raising cattle and farming. In 1908 Gislie married Gudrum Johnson. They had seven children, five of them still living. They are Leifier, Runa from Upham; Ruby, Julia from Portland, Oregon, and Olive from Stuart, Florida. Gislie is a member of the Melankton Lutheran church.

Mr. Benidiktson came along with Freeman Hanneson by wagon, their destination being Hungry Point. This was one of the first Icelander settlements in these parts. The first winter Gislie and his wife lived with George Goodman, known in early days as Indian Ford. The Goodman Gravel Pit is located in the lower Souris Refuge. Gislie worked for George Freeman until he homesteaded in Mouse River Township. In 1935 he sold his land to the Federal Government for Lower Souris Refuge and moved to Meadow Township south of Upham.

Gislie told stories about shopping for groceries in Willow City. They hauled their grain to Denbigh. The first car he had was a Model T which he bought from Dahl Crum of Bantry in 1917. He paid \$450 for the car.

Mr. Benidiktson's favorite sports were baseball and hunting.

Gislie Benidiktson died in 1954. His wife, Gudrum Johnson, died in 1935.

PAUL HOLEN

Paul Holen was born in Norway. He came to Upham in 1899 as a farmer where he homesteaded. He made two trips with horse and lumber wagon between here and South Dakota, peddling dry goods.

He had six children of which four are living: John and Oluf of Upham; Ragna, Mrs. A. T. Neuman, Minneapolis; Carrie, Mrs. George Johnson, Britton, South Dakota. Hans and Krist have been dead for some time.

Paul died in 1933.

ALBERT ROALKVAN

Albert Roalkvan was born in Norway in 1873. He arrived at Upham in 1899 and homesteaded.

In 1907 Albert was married to Karre Nelson. They now have five children: Ruth, a nurse in Fargo, N. Dak.; Leonard and Elmer, farmers near Upham; Mrs. Alma Jurgenson, Towner, and Mrs. Robert Eidness.

Albert Roalkvan served as a township officer for the Deep River Township between 1940-1950 for a period of six years. He is also a member of a Lutheran Church.

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MRS. WILLIAM MARQUARDT

Mrs. William Marquardt, known in this community as Mrs. Christ Reiner, was born in Scotland, South Dakota, as Martha Wruck. She was married on January 8, 1905, to Christ Reiner and came to Upham for a number of years.

They had five children and three are still living. They are: Albert Reiner, 838 Balmoral Street, Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Fred Moore (Juanita), 48 East Ave. N., Hamilton, Ontario, Canada; William K. Reiner, 410 Jasmine Ave., Stranravig, California.

While in Upham, Mrs. Marquardt belonged to the Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Marquardt said of the early history of Upham: "At the time I lived in Upham, it was a very nice, friendly thriving town. It was also a good business town. I am very glad that Upham has prospered through the years, and I am surely looking forward to Upham's Golden Jubilee Celebration."

HANS WELSTAD

Hans Welstad was born in Norway. He arrived in Upham in the year of 1902. He married Mable Brown on February 28, 1914. They have four children, all of whom are living. They are Ilene of Minot, Roy of Williston, Harold and Lloyd of Upham, and Sherman of Eckman, N. D.

As an occupation Hans claims farming to be it. He also homesteaded.

He served as a Township or School Officer at Pratt Township.

Hans and his wife belong to the St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

Hans rode a bicycle to Minot to see a doctor. This journey took him seven hours. He also rode a bicycle to buy groceries at Buchalt's store nine miles west of Upham.

There was a severe snowstorm September 12, 1903. They had to leave the crops for two weeks before they could finish the harvest.

JACOB JURGENSON

Jacob Jurgenson was born in Mt. Hareb, Wisconsin. He came to Upham in 1900 to homestead, and began farming.

On July 22, 1904 he married Sena Braaten. Of their five children, three are living. They are Reuben, who lives at Portland, Oregon; George, at Upham, and Ruth Varty, at Douglas, N. Dak.

Jacob dug some wells in the early days and one year, 1905, all the plowing was done in February. He also had one of the first threshing machines.

Mr. Jurgenson remembers a cold 4th of July that was held at Molstads. It was so cold the men had to wear overcoats to keep warm.

Mr. Jurgenson belongs to the Bloomfield Lutheran church.

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MRS. J. S. NATWICK

Mrs. J. S. Natwick was born at Ada, Minnesota on November 22, 1875, of Swedish immigrant parents, Ole and Johanna Peterson.

In 1900 she came to North Dakota, near what is now known as the town of Upham and filed on a homestead. Later that year she went back to Minnesota and married John S. Natwick of Ada. They shipped the lumber for their first barn, their farm implements, a few household items and a few cows and work horses they owned, to Dakota in what was called an immigrant car. John drove his team of driving horses hitched to a buggy all the way from Ada to the homestead in Dakota in three days.

Their closest town in those days was Denbigh. Here they did all their trading and received their mail. They usually made the trip by wagon or buggy.

They were very fortunate to have good neighbors. They helped each other in times of need.

John and Hannah had four children: Myrtle, Ray, Ernest and Herbert, all born at home. There were no such things as hospitals around here at that time. A kind neighbor lady would come and give such aid as was necessary. Doctors were many miles distant.

At first there were no churches. A traveling minister would come every few weeks to hold services and baptize the babies and perform marriages, staying at each neighbor's house in turn.

But time marches on—improvements came with the years, telephones, railroad, radio, new farming gadgets, etc.

In 1913 they moved to Upham, purchased the hotel and ran it for a few years. They finally moved back to the farm and stayed there until John's death. Hannah lived alone for a few years but now spends most of the time with her daughter, Mrs. A. C. Rankin, who lives at Roseglen, N. Dak. She comes back to her old home once in awhile for short visits with friends and family.

She attends the Lutheran church in Roseglen.

ARVADA C. RANKIN

Arvada Rankin was born in Devils Lake, N. Dak. He came to the Deep River county, west of Upham, as a boy.

Then in 1906 he moved to his mother's homestead, west of Upham, where he attended school until the spring of 1910. Then several years after this he was engaged in farming until he started running the pool room in Upham. He did this till 1917 when he joined the service for two years. After he returned he worked for Nortz Lumber and drove mail for the south route. In 1936 he left Upham. At the present he is living at Roseglen, N. Dak.

Arvada was married to Myrtle Natwick on June 27, 1922 and they have four children: Irene, Mrs. R. F. Bundy, 600 North Vine St., Santa Maria, California; Arvada Rankin, 9102 Canford St., Rivera, California; Patricia (Mrs. Gayland Thompson), Towner, N. Dak., and Myrna (Mrs. Gordon Evenson), Parshall, N. Dak.

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MR. AND MRS. SOREN B. FAA

Soren B. Faa was born on February 13, 1873, in Stavenger, Norway, where he grew to manhood.

After coming to America in 1891 he lived in Winona county in the Southern part of Minnesota for five years. Then he decided to come to the Mouse River loop to visit his father and step-mother, Mr. and Mrs. Borre Faa, who had homesteaded about three miles north of what is now Upham.

He arrived in 1896 after dark in mid-winter so he wasn't able to see what this country looked like. Upon looking out over the bare tree-less prairies the following morning he stated that he had never seen such a God-forsaken country and if he could possibly have got a ride back to Towner he would have left for Minnesota at once; but he had to stay so he decided to file on a homestead nearby.

On March 17, 1903 Mr. Faa married Emma Kongsli. Mr. and Mrs. Faa had three children. All three are living near or in Upham. They are: Ruth, Mrs. Bjarne Skar; Thelma, Mrs. Henry Moen; and Berry who is now living on his father's homestead.

Mrs. Faa was born on April 16, 1880, on a farm near Montividio, Minnesota. She came to the Upham community in 1890 with her parents via covered wagon.

Their first school was located a short distance southeast from the Lower Souris Headquarters site. The school house was an old barn that had been remodeled. Later, a new school house was built and served the purpose until 1906 when the Upham school was built. The old school house was moved to Upham and at the present houses the Standard Service Station.

Before Upham existed the nearest towns were Towner and Willow City. The first post office was Eli, located across the Mouse River, northeast from the present site of Upham.

Mr. Faa was on the Township board for Meadow Township for 14 years from 1922 to 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. Faa were members of the Deep River Lutheran Free Church where Mr. Faa was a charter and trustee for 25 years.

Mrs. Faa died in 1925 and Mr. Faa in 1928.

OLE J. VORMESTRAND

Ole J. Vormestrand was born in Norway.

In 1900 Mr. Vormestrand married Inger Guggedale and in 1902 he came to the vicinity of Upham. He homesteaded and became a farmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Vormestrand had four children of which three are living. They are John and Oliver of Upham and Karine (Mrs. Orville Cole) from Towner.

Mr. Vormestrand was a member of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church.

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JOHN FREEMAN

John Freeman was born on the George Freeman farm northeast of Upham. His father was County Commissioner when the first Freeman Bridge was built over the Mouse River. His parents were early pioneers in the community.

On December 27, 1919, he married Gudrun Thordarson. They had four children of whom all are living. They are: Mrs. Dorothy Skagen of Topeka, Kansas; Mrs. Esther King of Birmingham, Alabama; Mrs. Lillian Lee of San Bernardino, California and Mrs. Alice Phillips of Memphis, Tennessee.

His early occupations were farming and stockraising but he did not homestead. Mr. Freeman served as a township clerk for the Mouse River Township for six year. He also served as School District Treasurer in the Elm Grove School for six years.

Mr. Freeman belongs to the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Fargo.

John Freeman now resides in Williston.

ALEX ALMQUIST

Alex Almquist was born in Sweden. In 1898 he came to the Upham community to homestead. He started farming this rich soil to make a living.

On September 8, 1903 he married Carrie Tvedt. They had three children. They are J. O. Almquist, Upham; Mrs. V. M. Tyson, Russel, and Mrs. Ray Salaba, Rock Lake.

Mr. Almquist served as a township officer for 16 years. He served in Deep River Township

VINCENT MURPHY

In 1906 Vincent A. Murphy came to Upham where he homesteaded in the Little Deep Township. There he was occupied in farming.

On the 16th day of September in 1908, Mr. Murphy and Genevieve Costella were married. Vincent Murphy was born near Rochester, Minnesota and Mrs. Murphy was born at Minto, N. Dak. Four children were born to them. They are: Bertram, who now lives in Salem, Oregon; Kenneth, who now lives in Quincy, Washington; Mrs. Keith Morris, who lives in Dallas, Oregon, and Mrs. Casper Durham from Ontario, Oregon.

The Murphy's belong to the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Murphy served as a township officer for Little Deep, from 1911 through 1913. Mrs. Murphy was a school teacher.

During their residence in Little Deep township, in 1907 the bank holiday took place. A disastrous hail storm of 1911 left them almost broke. In the year 1924 the grasshoppers took over the crops and left nothing for the harvest.

Mr. Murphy recalled one time when he hauled 62-pounds durham wheat into Oscar Anderson and sold it for 24c per bushel. Which he ended with 'It's all just water over the dam!'

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Upham, North Dakota

MR. AND MRS. JACOB E. WESTFORD

Mr. Jacob E. Westford came to the vicinity of Upham from Iceland in 1892. In 1911 he married Jessie McIntosh.

Mr. and Mrs. Westford had four children. John, of the Westford Funeral Home, Kris works for Safeway, and Paul, who is manager of the Washington State Farm Co-operative Plant are all of Bellingham, Washington. Gordon is now living at Upham.

When Mr. Westford came to Upham he homesteaded and became a rancher. He served on the Meadow Township board for many years, was county commissioner for 10 years, and was in the state legislature for two terms.

Mr. Westford was one of the organizers of the Upham Farmers Elevator.

As one of the early riders for the old Stevens ranch he claims that he had a herd of cattle on the present site of Minot, when there were only two small buildings in existence.

Mr. Westford was one of the original large land owners in the county. He died on January 12, 1952.

Jessie M. Westford was the only nurse in the Upham community for years. She superintended Dr. Duncan's hospital in what is known as the old Jim Vatsvog home. Ed Podolls live there now.

Mrs. Westford delivered practically all the children in the community as long as she was here and administered to the sick and dying for years. People would call and come and take her away in the night and sometimes her family didn't know for a day or two to whose home she went.

During the terrible flu siege following World War I both Mr. and Mrs. Westford drove from farm to farm taking care of whole families stricken with that deadly disease. Mr. Westford would feed the stock while Mrs. Westford cared for the ill, then they would drive on to the next farm.

Mrs. Westford was the only trained pioneer nurse in our wonderful community.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Westford belonged to the Melankton Lutheran Church at Upham.

JOHN MILLER

Mr. Miller was born in Rochester, New York and came to Upham in 1907. On December 12, 1890 he married Augusta Pliesies. Seven of their nine children are living. They are: Sophia (Mrs. Ray Carpenter), Ocean Park, California; George, Eugene, Oregon; Gustie (Mrs. Joe Jurgenson), Ocean Park, California; Esther (Mrs. Chester Peterson), Detroit, Michigan; Ted, Bottineu, North Dakota; Arthur, Deering, North Dakota and Arleen (Mrs. George Jurgenson), Upham, North Dakota.

Mr. Miller homesteaded in Deep River Township. They belong to the Lutheran church.

Mr. Miller was a farmer. His first car was a two-cylinder Ford purchased from Jim Vatsvog in 1910. One time when cranking it, it kicked and knocked out all his front teeth

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JOHN NEUMAN

John Neuman was born in Viola, Minnesota. He came to Upham in 1900, and homesteaded. On June 14, 1903, he married Helen Juhnke. Out of three children born to this union, two remain living,

Mr. Neuman served on both township and the school boards in Pratt township. He served on the school board from 1914 to 1916, 1926 to 1928, and was the assessor for fifteen years.

He belongs to the Bethlehem Lutheran church at Deep River.

The remaining children are: Lula Neuman, Valley City, N. D.; Mrs. Wilfrid Desilets, Minot, N. Dakota. Clarence Neuman, (died in 1928).

MR. AND MRS. JOHN T. SKAR

Mr. John T. Skar was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway on June 10, 1870.

In 1902 Mr. Skar homesteaded northwest of Upham in Tacoma township, Bottineau County.

He did his farming with three oxen. The nearest grain elevator was Granville so when he hauled grain he used the three oxen and the first day they made it as far as what they call the Midway House, which is located in the vicinity of the Big Sky Ranch, and stayed over night. The next day they made it to Granville and back to the Midway House to stay over night again. On the third day he reached home. During the Gold Rush in Alaska Mr. Skar entered in it and spent three years there.

On April 11, 1909 he married Anna Kaldor from Hillsboro, North Dakota. She was born on July 23, 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Skar had 5 children all of which are still living. They are Bjarne from Upham; Rolf from Bakersfield, California; Jordis, Mrs. Russill McClenhan from Gardena, California; Maurice from Bottineau, North Dakota; and Alf from Tocama, Washington.

Mr. Skar was a member of both the school and Tacoma township boards. He was also a charter member of the Deep River Lutheran Free church, to which both Mr. and Mrs. Skar belong. He served as secretary of that church from 1909 to 1933.

Mr. Skar died on May 3, 1950 at his home in Bottineau, North Dakota.

Mrs. Skar lives in Upham.

AUGUST PODOLL

August Podoll was born in Germany. In 1904 he moved to Upham on a farm in the Wisconsin township.

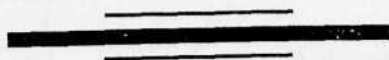
In March of 1873, August was married to Ernestine Redetzke. They had eight children, one is living; he is Edward Podoll of Upham.

He belongs to the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Podoll has served as a school officer.

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SAMUEL OLAF SAMPSON

Mr. Sampson was born at Pleasant Valley, Wisconsin. One of the early pioneers of the community he arrived at the location of his homestead about four miles west of the town site of Upham in 1899. On April 25, 1917 he married Inga Thorud and they have four children. The children are: Mrs. William Schell, (Agnes); Mrs. Melvin Schell, (Evelyn); Samuel Sampson all of Upham and Chantelear Sampson of Bantry, N. Dak.

Always active in community affairs, Mr. Sampson served as a township supervisor in Deep River township, two four year terms as County Commissioner of McHenry County and two terms as Sheriff of McHenry County.

A man of great mechanical skill he introduced the use of steam engines in the territory for use in plowing and jobs involving heavy pulls. He owned the first steam engine in the area and used it in pulling a sixteen bottom sod breaking plow.

HANS GULBRANSON

Hans Gulbranson was born in Norway and arrived in the Upham community at an early age. He married Mattie Austin on Sept. 29, 1912 and to this union seven children were born. The six surviving children are: Arvade, Lester, Orville all of Upham; Norman of Deering, Vernon of Saginaw, Mich., and Mrs. C. M. Haldorson, (Florence) of Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Gulbranson farmed northwest of Upham for many years, was Manager of the Upham Livestock Shipping Association and a buyer of livestock. Following his retirement from the farm, he operated a butcher shop at Upham for several years.

He was a member of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church at Upham.

A congenial and friendly man, he was favorably known throughout a large area.

Mr. Gulbranson passed away a number of years ago. His widow Mattie Gulbranson still makes her home at Upham.

GEORGE B. GARNANT

George B. Garnant was born in Iowa. He came to McHenry County and homesteaded in 1899 - before Upham was in existence. Mr. Garnant was a farmer when he came to this community and always remained a farmer. He held an office in Layton township at one time.

On August 20, 1912, he married Emma M. Roemer. To this union 2 children were born; one surviving. He is Roemer Garnant, Bantry.

After many years of farming, Mr. and Mrs. Garnant retired from the farm and established their residence in Upham. However, after the death of his wife, he moved back to his farm, which is now operated by his son.

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STEFAN S. EINARSON

Mr. Stefan Einarson was a farmer who homesteaded in the meadow east of Upham. It is now part of the refuge. Later, he farmed near Bantry where he lived until he moved to Upham.

Stefan was a self-educated man, master of the Icelandic language, and gifted as an extemporaneous speaker. He was very popular as master of ceremonies at social gatherings. In the early days, it was not unusual for him to be called on to take the place of a minister. Mr. Einarson was a great leader in church and community affairs. He was foremost in helping establish and maintain a public library. Stefan was also a member of the church council for many years. Mr. Einarson was instrumental in starting a Sunday School and was one of its first teachers.

He revived the Temperance Union and was its leader. He worked hard for a good cause and many were his followers. Later, this society presented him with a gold watch with an inscription of thanks to him for his work. At present this watch is owned by Einar Einarson, Jr.

Mr. Einarson served on the school board for many years in Elm Grove township and a few years in Meadow after moving to Upham. He urged young people to go to institutions of higher learning and displayed an active interest in their future.

Stefan gave freely of his time and energy in helping others. His home was always open to one and all at any time.

No church or Luther League Convention was complete without a speech by Stefan Einarson. Stefan was a proud man when he was twice successful in bringing the Icelandic Church Convention to Upham.

Stefan was one of a group of men who selected and bought the church which is now our present Melankton church here at Upham.

Stefan Einarson married Elizabeth Christianson November 8, 1894. There were ten children born to this family. Of these, six are still living. They are as follows: Einar Einarson, Upham; Joseph Einarson, Bantry; H. J. Einarson, Edinburg; Mrs. Russel Morrison, Bathgate; Mrs. J. O. Almquist, Upham; Mrs. Charles Nikazy, 8445, 1st Ave. S., Seattle, Washington.

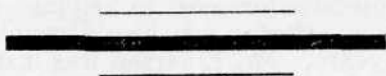
SIGURDUR ARNASON

Mr. Sigurdur Arnason was born at Akra, N. Dak. and moved to Upham in 1901. Mr. Arnason married Sigurdur Freeman the same year. There were 10 children born to this union. They are as follows: Jona, Gudrun, Ragnhiedur, Freeman, Kristin, Fjola, Unnur, Lilja, Olafur and William.

Sigurdur homesteaded near Upham and was a member of the Melankton Lutheran Church.

Mr. Arnason stated, "We worked hard bringing up our large family. The years we spent there at Upham were not good, as the soil is very light for grain raising. The people of that community are very friendly. We had many good friends, which I did miss very much after moving away from there."

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ADAM SHROYER

In 1896, Mr. Shroyer was married to the former Ella Fredrick, deceased. Three children were born to them with one surviving, Arthur, who now lives on the homestead. Arthur was four years old when he came to Upham with his parents. Mr. Shroyer belongs to the Methodist church.

Mr. Adam Shroyer arrived in Upham in 1899 and homesteaded in Meadow township. He was born in Loden county, Ohio where he was a gardner prior to coming to North Dakota.

Mr. Shroyer and his family lived in a sod house with a sod roof. After the first rain, he lost no time going to town to buy shingles as it rained into the house. The sod house was comfortable until the mice gnawed holes through the sod which made the house quite chilly. In the winter, their home was often covered with snow and Adam had to shovel the snow away from the windows. They kept their house warm for three years by burning flax straw in a flax straw burner.

MRS. C. B. OLSON

Mrs. C. B. Olson, the former Emma Buchholz, was born in Rochester, Minnesota and came to Deep River in 1902 where she homesteaded in Little Deep Township. She served for six years as school treasurer and township treasurer of Little Deep township. She was married to Mr. Olson, deceased, December 1, 1904. Mrs. Olson clerked in a store at Deep River for her father, A. J. Buchholz. She is affiliated with the Lutheran church.

Most of the farm threshing was done with steam engines. C. B. Olson had one of the first gas engines.

Six of the nine children survive: Mrs. Esther B. Johnson, Upham; O. Harold Olson, Upham; L. Wallace Olson, Upham; Mrs. Edna C. Hebel, Los Angeles, California; Stuart Olson, Minot; Mrs. Viola L. Larson, Minot, N. Dak.

BERT C. BELL

Bert was born in Otter Tail County, Minnesota, arriving at Upham in 1904 where he homesteaded. He served as township officer from 1915 to 1920 of Poplar Grove township. After coming to Upham, he farmed in this township and also worked for the Stevens Cattle Co. Mr. Bell worked as a steam threshing machine operator. He operated a steam engine for four months, building the first Upham to Willow City road across the meadow, east of Upham, what is now the Lower Souris Refuge.

Bert Bell was married to Helga Swanson March 23, 1911. The Bells had eight children and five are living, namely: Mrs. John Lazier (Margaret), Minot, N. Dak.; Mrs. Robert Kenny (Alice), Towner, N. Dak.; Mrs. Lloyd Knutson (Alva), Velva, N. Dak.; Mrs. Martin Kitzman (Lois), Willow City, N. Dak.; and Joe of Upham. Mr. and Mrs. Bell lost one boy, John, in World War II.

The Bells belong to the Melankton Lutheran Church.

MR. AND MRS. BJORN ASMUNDSON

Mr. Asmundson was born in Iceland in 1874. He came to Upham in 1897 and Dec. 12, 1901 was married to Annie Benson. Their family of ten children are all living: Mrs. Ann Dopp, Seattle, Washington; Dr. L. Asmundson, Enumclaw, Washington; Mr. T. B. Asmundson, Bellingham, Washington; Mrs. Mary Steel, Seattle, Washington; Mr. E. S. Asmundson, Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Lily Gannon, Seattle, Washington; Mr. Stanley Asmundson, Alderwood Manor, Washington; Mrs. Bertha Polley, Seattle, Washington; Mr. Mathew Asmundson, Walla Walla, Washington; Miss Viola Asmundson, Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Asmundson (Barney) worked on cattle ranches until 1902. He homesteaded in 1899, 5 miles south of Upham in Layton township. He farmed from 1902 until 1915 when he moved to Upham and opened a shoe and harness shop. He continued in that business until 1931 when they moved to the West Coast.

Mr. Asmundson served on the Upham Village Board for 11 years. They belong to the Melankton Lutheran church.

JORGEN M. VATSVOG

Mr. Jorgen M. Vatsvog, commonly referred to as Jim, was born in Hallingdal, Norway, and came over to the United States, finally settling in the Upham area in 1895. He arrived here in April of '95 and filed the spring of '96 on a homestead located on the land that is now part of the Lower Souris Refuge. He built a homestead shack and otherwise proved up the land, then returned to Buxton, N. Dak. where his marriage to Louise Sondral took place on April 14, 1898.

Mr. Vatsvog was engaged in general farming as well as being agent in this territory for early homesteaders who came here to file on land. Some of the families that lived with the Vatsvogs until their claim shacks were ready for occupancy were: Ole Jacobson, Jeus Melhiem, Evan Haraldson and Ole Vormestrand. The lumber for the homesteaders' shacks was hauled from Towner, N. Dak. with Mr. Vatsvog's horses and equipment. During this time, they rowed a boat to get mail and supplies from what was then known as "Eele Postoffice", a farm place situated south and east from what is now Geodeon Brandt's farm near Kramer, N. Dak.

In 1904 Mr. Vatsvog built an implement office in Upham, now owned by John Green. There he started in business and commuted from his farm daily with horse and buggy. During this time he was also building their new home in Upham. In January of 1905 they moved into their newly built and decorated home and also continued farming operations.

Mrs. Vatsvog operated the first hospital in Upham and was able to accomodate nine patients. She did all the washing and cooked for the staff and patients. The physicians were Dr. Duncan and Dr. McPherson. Mrs. Jessie Raymond Westford was the nurse. "Many an operation was charted on my white tablecloth, by these physicians, as they planned their medical course of action," says

Mrs. Vatsvog.

Mr. Vatsvog was president of the first school board in Upham, also serving in that capacity in the rural school. The first teachers in the rural school were Mr. Rafferty, principal; Mary Ida Torr and Miss Melander. Jim Howard was janitor. The rural school was located about a mile east from Mrs. Anna Johnson's home.

Nine children were born to the Vatsvogs. Three have died and six are still living: Mrs. Lloyd N. Lilly, 3512 Columbia Ave., Flint 7, Michigan; Mrs. Mathew Orchard of Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Anna Johnson and Mrs. Selmer Braaten, both of Upham. The boys are John Vatsvog of Minot and Maurice Vatsvog of Seattle, Washington.

The Vatsvogs belonged to and attended the Bloomfield Lutheran Church of Upham.

OLE MICKELSON

Mr. Ole Mickelson was born in Norway. He arrived in the Upham community in 1913. Although he did not homestead, he was engaged in farming. He was married to Bertha Laabs on November 25, 1915.

Mr. Mickelson served in the capacity of school officer for 15 years in Deep River township. He served as a Deep River township officer for five years also.

There were six children born to the Mickelsons, and all are living. They are: Irvine, Lloyd, and Dalton Mickelson and Delores Becker of Upham, Loraine Mogard of Deering and Ione Glinz of Westhope, North Dakota.

The Mickelsons belonged to and attended the Deep River Free Church.

EDMUND LATENDRESSE

Ed Latendresse was born in Canada and came to Upham in 1896. He homesteaded in Meadow township. He served as a school officer in Meadow township from 1896 to 1906. In 1903 he married Cordelia Prudhom. Orville, Fabiola, Maurice, and Albert from Upham; Mable and Leo from Granville; and Lena at Riverton, Wyoming are the seven children of 14 still living. Ed belongs to the Catholic Church in Bottineau.

Ed came from the west and arrived in Towner on Christmas day, 1891 with \$150 in his summer savings. He made his home on his homestead and worked for some ranch owners on the river in the winter months.

He filed for his homestead in 1895 and started in the livestock business. From a sod house to a log house, then a claim house to the present day house that was built in 1913. The first barn was built in 1908, but burned in 1950. The farm granary was built in 1904, but is still in good condition.

Ed's comments of the country when he first arrived here were, "When I settled here the country looked very wild, no roads, no trees to break the wind. The winters were much longer."

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MR. AND MRS. STEFAN JOHNSON

Early pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson came to the area in 1891, fourteen years before the town of Upham was founded. His wife was Holmfrithur Hjaltalyn and they were married in January 18-89. The Johnson's had a family of five children. The four surviving children are: Anne Johnson and Mrs. Lara Thompson of Rockville Centre, New York; Mrs. Sigrithur Freeman of Morris, Minnesota and Lynn Johnson of Clemmons, North Carolina.

Traveling in two covered wagons they journeyed from Pembina County to the site of their new home east of the present townsite of Upham. Driving a small herd of cattle ahead of their wagons, the journey required eleven days. In the party were; Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, their infant daughter Sigrithur (Mrs. O. S. Freeman), Jacob Westford (who was sixteen years of age at the time and Gisli and Anna Johnson. Their only milk supply for the long journey was furnished by Skjalda (the cow), who complicated the journey by getting lost. After some delay she was found and the journey resumed. Two Icelandic families had preceded the Johnsons to the site of their new home, they were Helgi Goodman and Abrahamson. They stayed with Helgi Goodman while preparing their sod homes for occupancy. Their trials were many and difficult. The first home they occupied was often exposed to flooding of the Mouse river and on many occasions they were forced to flee to higher ground and would make their temporary home with friends until the water subsided. Later they moved to a location on the North bank of Mouse River where they spent most of their years.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were members of the Melankton Lutheran Church.

GUSTAVE ERICKSON

Gustave Erickson was born in Sweden. Although it is not known when he came to America, we do know he arrived at the future Upham vicinity in 1892. He was married in 1893. Times were hard in those days. The nearest town was 30 miles away, and their house was made of sod. The winters were very severe and often times the Ericksons had only straw and buffalo "chips" to burn. What hardships they put up with then to raise their small children!

Mr. Erickson and his wife, Teckla, homesteaded a few miles north of Upham in Meadow township where they farmed until they moved to the state of Washington about the year 1923.

The Ericksons had 4 sons, two surviving. They are: Ted Erickson, Mt. Vernon, Washington; Frank Erickson, Kodiak, Alaska.

They lost one boy at the age of 3 months. Mrs. Erickson died in February, 1929. Mr. Erickson passed away in February, 1952 and one son, Gilmore, died in September, 1953.

The Ericksons were Lutherans.

A fitting tribute to these early pioneers is given by their son, Ted, who says: "I shall always praise my folks for their hard work in order to build up their homestead and provide for their children and for being a Real American Family."

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community in which to
live, we wish to say,
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shall ever strive to be
worthy of our heritage."
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GERHARD GESSNER

Gerhard Gessner was born in Fallcreek, Wisconsin. In 1899, he came to Upham and moved on a farm in the Tacoma township. Gerhard came along with his folks, four brothers and two sisters. They were the second group of immigrants to move west of the Mouse river. There, their home served for many years as a lodging place for new settlers and a place for worship before the St. John Lutheran church was constructed.

In March 23, 1910, he married Olga Febes. They had eight children. Six of them are still living. They are as follows: Bernard Gessner, Upham, Maurica Gessner, Upham, Martin Gessner, Upham, Harold Gessner, Upham, Lorrain Gessner, Minot, and Egon Gessner, Tioga.

Gerhard served as a school officer from 1932 to 1945. He also belonged to the St. John Lutheran church.

FRED B. McCABE

Fred McCabe was born in Wisconsin. He came to Upham in 1904 and was occupied as a farmer in the Little Deep township.

On December 19, 1908, Fred McCabe and Ida Kitzman were married. They had eight children of which seven are still living, they are as follows: Sadie Livingston who lives at Palson, Montana; Irene Olson, from Minneapolis, Minn.; Lorene Helvey from Robinsdale, Minn.; Myra Farr from Minneapolis, Minn.; Chester McCabe from Granville, N. Dak.; Ruby Boutilier also from Granville; and Arlene McCabe who resides at St. Paul, Minn.

Fred served as a township officer during the period between 1910 - 1920.

The McCabes belonged to the Lutheran church.

FRED MARKS

Fred Marks was born in Russia and arrived at Upham in 1902. He entered farming as an occupation. In 1908 he married Ida Ritter. Of seven children born, six are still living: Chester, Minot; Raymond and Elmer, St. Paul, Minnesota; Arthur and Alvin, Kramer, N. Dak., and Harold, Bottineau. They belong to the St. John's Lutheran Church. Fred has never served as a township or school officer.

EDWARD R. PODOLL

Edward Podoll was born in Wisconsin. He came to Upham in 1904 and started farming.

He was married to Wanda Erdman on June 25, 1922. They had two children. Owen of Upham and Mrs. Earl Johnson of Bantry.

He served eight years as a school officer of Layton Township.

When he first came to this part of the country he settled near Granville. There had been a bad snow storm and he immediately moved into a vacant house known as the Jim Ever farm.

Mr. Podoll belongs to the Lutheran Church.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD SERVING THE UPHAM AREA

The history of St. John's Lutheran Congregation (Deep) 11 miles northwest of Upham, and of Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation (Deep River) 10 miles west of Upham, North Dakota, really begins in the closing years of the 19th century when the Rev. F. W. Potratz, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Willow Creek, began conducting services in the homes of the early pioneer settlers of this area. Pastor Potratz ministered unto the spiritual needs of these Lutheran pioneers of Deep and Deep River from 1898 to 1900.

The next missionary to serve these people was the Rev. A. Rubbert of Kramer. Under his able leadership St. John's congregation was formally organized on December 8, 1901. Following are some of the names of the first members of this congregation: Fred Gessner Sr., Emil Luedke, Herman Ehlke, Gustav Gessner, Rudolph Vogler, Ferdinand Ehlke, Edward Luedtke, Wm. Friedrich, Wm. Zabel, Gustav Block, Charles Shong, Carl Rubbert, Fred Zabel, Wm. Moldenhauer, and John Hammer.

Bethlehem congregation was organized in the spring of 1902 with the following families either as charter members or joining the congregation within the first few years of its experience - The Bergs, Bolls, Buchholzes, Finkes, Fuhrers, Junkes, Niewoehners, Neumans, Rosenaus, Schwarts, Steffens, Tornos, Wenzels, Zimmermanns, and Zurchers.

Subsequently these two rural churches were served by the following pastors: Rev. Fred Wessler 1905 - 1907; Rev. Martin Kretschmar 1907 - 1910; Rev. Julius Timian 1911 - 1918; Rev. William H. Gierke 1918 - 1938; Rev. Walter Leininger 1938 - 1944; Rev. George Gesell 1944 - 1949; and the present pastor, Arnold L. Lueker, since April 1950.

The parsonage was for many years located at St. John's church, then for five years in the village of Russell. In 1949 a modern, ranch type parsonage was constructed in the town of Upham.

In November, 1950 a number of families from both Bethlehem and St. John's congregations, who lived in and near Upham, organized the now Trinity Lutheran Church in Upham. The charter members of this congregation were: Reinhold Erdman, Lorenz Erdman, Rubin Erdman, Edward Podoll, Owen Podoll, George Rice Jr., Theodore Miller, Walter Torno, Egon Gessner, John Amon, Emil Anderson, Roy Rubbert, and Bradley Kersten.

The parish is now known as the Upham Lutheran Parish and consists of Bethlehem, St. John's and Trinity congregations. All three congregations hold membership in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, and are dedicated to the task of bringing the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many blood bought souls, and we pray that the God of all grace may continue to be with us as He was with our fathers and awaken in us the same love and desire for Him and His word which they possessed. For His Word is the power unto Salvation to everyone that believeth.

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LUCY SORENSON

Mrs. Lucy Sorenson was born in Pleasant Valley, Wisconsin. In 1903 she married Charley Sorenson. The next year she and her husband arrived at Granville, N. Dak., with a three month old baby girl. They traveled twenty miles to their homestead near Upham.

Mr. Sorenson was clerk for thirteen years and he served offices on the town board.

One child, Zelma Harrison was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sorenson. Zelma now lives in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Mrs. Sorenson belongs to the Lutheran church.

GREEMER ARNASON

Greemer Arnason was born in Iceland in 1897. When he moved to Upham he started a combination of farming and stock-raising as his livelihood.

On November 14, 1906, Greemer married Dora Sigurdson. They had five children of which three are living: Bernice (Mrs. Herman E. Kuandt), Hazelton; Sarah (Mrs. Joe Hillman), Concrete; Sophie (Mrs. Joe Einarson), Bantry.

When they moved to Upham they made their home one and three-quarters miles east of Upham where they lived for many years.

Mrs. Arnason (Dora Sigurdson) was born at Eyford. She came to Mouse River in 1903. This is where she met and eventually married Mr. Arnason.

He belonged to Melankton Lutheran Church.

HALLGRIMUR JOHNSON

Hillgrimur Johnson was born in Iceland. On 1891 he married Thuridive Johnson. They arrived at Upham in 1905.

Mr. Johnson was a homesteader. His occupation was farming. He and his wife belonged to the Melankton Lutheran church.

They had eight children, three are yet living. They are: Christine (Mrs. Ben Swearson), Bantry; John, Minot, and Girle, Issaqua, Washington.

Mr. Johnson died in 1913. In 1917 Mrs. Johnson moved to Upham with her children. Since 1949 Mrs. Johnson has been living at the Old Folk's Home in Mountain, N. Dak.

ARNE MOEN

Arne Moen was born in Freeborn County, Minnesota and arrived at Upham in 1903 where he homesteaded and engaged in farming. He served as township officer of Tacoma township, 1906-1907. Mr. Moen was married to Norma Boysen, deceased in 1897. Two children surviving are: Mrs. Susanna Lowder, Kansas City and Helen (Mrs. Luke Pister), Salt Lake City, Utah. Arne is a member of the Deep Lutheran Free Church.

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Sincerely,
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JENS BRAATEN

Jens Braaten was born in Norway. He was married to Birgit Smette, December 4, 1872. In 1898, they arrived in Upham where they homesteaded.

There were fourteen children in the Braaten family, seven are surviving: Halvor, Congress, Sask., Canada, Henry, Lynden, Wash., Calmer, Selmer, Mrs. J. R. Jurgenson (Sena), Mrs. O. M. Anderson (Tena), Upham and Christ of Buford, N. Dak.

Mr. and Mrs. Braaten came to Towner on the train from Belmont N. Dak., coming to Upham where they built their claim shack. They returned to Belmont to put in the crop and in the fall moved back to Upham with their cattle, machinery and horses. When they came to Towner, they tied the horses to the lumber wagon and came to their claim. Nearing the claim, they noticed that the shack was gone. It had blown into the coulee. With the help of good neighbors, the shack was soon put up again. They started to break the land with a sulky plow and a team of horses and oxen.

In the spring of 1902 the crop of flax he seeded froze so they had to reseed. Ingeman Smette and Jens drove to Towner to get seed and when they got there it was gone. They drove with horses to Granville, no luck their either, so then they drove to Velva and finally got ten bushels from farmers there. They started for home the next day.

One spring Jens and Birgit drove to Towner with a light wagon and horses. After doing their shopping they started back home, but decided to visit with some friends from Norway, namely, Ole Andersons, northwest of Towner. They spent the night and the next morning the ground was white with snow and it was storming, but they had to get home as the children were alone. Borrowing a sleigh from Ole, they set out for home, becoming lost in the storm and not knowing where they were. After driving a long time, they came to a haystack, dug themselves into the hay and went to sleep. The next morning they discovered that they were sleeping in their own haystack, a half mile away from home.

SIGURD SWANSON

Sigurd Swanson was born in Iceland. He was married to Margaret Swanson who was also born there.

The Swansons came to Upham in 1898. They lived on their homestead until 1902, then going to Canada and returning four years later. They farmed east of Upham, until 1916, when they moved to Upham to make their home.

There are four of the six children surviving: J. K. Swanson, Upham, N. Dak., Mrs. B. K. Bjornson (Anne), Fargo, N. Dak., Asmundur, Blaine, Washington, and Mrs. Bert Bell (Helga), Upham, N. Dak.

Mr. Swanson passed away in 1934 and Mrs. Swanson is now making her home at the Old Folks Home at Mountain, N. Dak. Swansons belong to the Melankton Lutheran Church.

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LOUIS TORNO

Louis Torno was born in South Russia on January 14, 1878. He was 20 years old when he moved to the little settlement of Upham. He married Christiana Pietz on October 23, 1899. They had 10 children, seven of which are still living.

The family lived in a sod house at first, and among the things on the homestead were two cows, horses, wheat, flax and oats. The sod was broken with a walking plow.

Mr. Torno served as a school officer in the Deep River township for 12 years during the 1920's.

The family attends the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Minot.

The first shops started in Upham, Mr. Torno recalls, are: Robert Brock's machine shop, Walter Bond's lumber yard, Simon Hauz's butcher shop, Nels Winner's billard hall, Benson's livery stable, T. W. Mott's store, Bill Young's farmers bank, Pete Inger's hotel, Kent—depot agent, and Torgerson's Security bank.

For recreation, Mr. Torno recalls dances at Icelander's Hall.

Church was held at private homes, and Wenzel's home was where the Torno's first attended church. Reverend Botrotz was the pastor.

The mail was carried by Mr. Vatsvog, three times a week, on horseback.

The names of the children are: Gust, Lodi, California; Walter, Upham; Mrs. John Jungling (Milda), Max; Mrs. Leo Bilyeu (Hertha), Seattle; Alfonse, San Carlos, California; Harold, Minot, N. Dak. and Mrs. Ray Knop (Lola), Olathe, Kansas.

ANNETTE AND GEORGE KONGSLIE

Annette and George Kongsli were born at Watson, Minnesota. They arrived in the Upham community in November, 1890 with their parents and seven brothers and sisters. They homesteaded on a farm along the Deep River about six miles northwest of Upham. At the time the Kongsli family came to this community, the land had not been surveyed and so they had to wait several years before they could file on land.

The family came from Minnesota in a covered wagon taking with them all their belongings and even cattle. The trip took them more than a month. For five years they lived in a two-room sod house.

One time during the dry years, Annette and her father planted potatoes in the dry river bottom. They had a good crop, but one night it started to rain and water covered the river bottom. Annette and her father then had to dig potatoes in the water. By evening, they had a nice pile on the river bank and decided to haul them home the next day. They were up early that morning only to discover that their potatoes were gone. They found out that a couple cows had eaten them and the family did not have potatoes to eat that winter.

Annette and George are unmarried and are now residing in Upham, having moved from their farm a few years ago. They belong to the Lutheran Free Church.

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O. S. LUNDERVOLD

Ole Lundervold was born in Norway in 1901 and lived in Minnesota, four years before coming to Upham in 1905.

Ole worked around Upham as a farm laborer the first two years, and lived in Devils Lake about one year. The next year he came back to Upham and worked on farms. Later he ran the Upham Dray line for one year. In 1907 he homesteaded, but did not start farming for himself until 1915. He lived in a sod house the first year. Mr. Lundervold drove the school bus to Upham for nine years. During the years he farmed with horses, he made all his own harnesses and did harness repairing for the neighbors.

On November 27, 1924, he married Agnes Aarhus. They have three children, namely: Henry at Home; Samuel at Billings, Montana. Sophie (Mrs. Oliver Johnson) Grand Forks, N. Dak.

MARTHA KNUDSVIG

Gudmund Knudsvig homesteaded six miles south of Upham in 1902. He was married to Martha Thorson in 1906 at Crookston, Minnesota. They moved to the farm the same spring where he lived until the time of his death in 1943. Mr. Knudsvig served on township and school boards for a number of years.

There were four children in the Knudsvig family, three survive: Mrs. Ernest Olstead (Myrtle), 7509 Mary Ave. N. W., Seattle, Wash., Johannes, Upham, N. Dak., and George, 517-13th St. N. W., Minot, N. Dak.

Mrs. Knudsvig is a member of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church. She makes her home on the farm with a son, Johannes.

LUDWIG BERTSCH

Ludwig Bertsch arrived in Upham in 1898, coming here from Freeman, S. Dak. In the same year, he married Magdalena Schnabel. They had two children, both surviving, Herbert, and Mrs. Halvor Halvorson (Martha) of Minot, N. Dak.

The Bertschs lived on their homestead from 1899 until the fall of 1908. Their homestead was a stop over place for many of the settlers who came later. Many times when Ludwig Bertsch had gone to Granville, Towner or Willow City, with grain and to get supplies, Mrs. Bertsch had to go to the nearest neighbors (Simon Haas) to sleep for the house would be full of men staying overnight, who were on their way to fine homesteads.

Mr. Bertsch operated a steam Threshing machine from 1908 to 1927. He was one of the first auto owners and dealer, being in the auto business with Henry Pfau. In later years in the auto business under the firm know as Halvorson and Bertsch.

Mrs. Bertsch passed away, October, 1941 and Mr. Bertsch passed away, December, 1943. They are buried in a cemetery on their homestead. They were charter members of the Reformed Church.

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CARL SMETTE

Carl Smette was born in Buxton, N. Dak. He arrived at the Upham vicinity in 1899. On November 14, 1904, Mr. Smette married Sena Lund. They have three children living: George, Minot; Adeline (Mrs. Harold Lervick), Kramer, and Charlotte (Mrs. Merrill Hammond), Upham.

One day in 1899, Mr. Smette and his two brothers, Ingamon and Christ, rode bicycles from Upham to Towner. One bicycle broke down so they had to stay overnight with Bergen Magnason.

In 1900, Carl and his brother, Christ, were caught in a snow storm going from Towner to Upham. They stopped at Arnie Arneson's for a while. After leaving Arnie's place they soon became lost. They rode for an hour, then the snow let up and they found they had gone in a circle and were right back at Arnie's where they had started from.

In 1903, on going home from a date with his future wife, Mr. Smette became lost in a rain storm. He couldn't see except when it would lightning. He followed a flax field and ended up at Tom Olson's shack. He slept that night on the floor.

Mr. Smette was a homesteader, and farmed the greater part of his life. He was also a store clerk.

In 1905, Mr. Smette started building the Mercantile Store. The only place to sleep was in the livery barn, owned by Joe Hintz. Mr. Smette ate at Wittinger's restaurant, located north of the present day Standard Station. A few friendly Indians went through here.

Mr. Smette served six years in the township, eight years in the city of Upham, and six years as mayor.

Mr. and Mrs. Smette belong to the Bloomfield Lutheran church. They are residing in Minot, N. Dak. at the present time.

CHARLES RUBBERT

Charles Rubbert (now dead) was born in Minnesota. He arrived in Upham in 1901 and homesteaded. He married Augusta Heins. They had seven children, six of which remain living.

Mr. Rubbert belonged to the St. John's Lutheran church at Upham.

The remaining children are: Albert Rubbert, Upham; Edgar Rubbert, Upham; Marie Doering, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; Martha Joern, Upham; Susan Bethke, Upham, and Tillie Wagner, Minot, N. Dak.

SELMER HAROLDSON

Mr. Haroldson arrived at Upham in 1900. He was born in Iowa. He was not a homesteader, but he practiced farming as an occupation. In 1928 he married Polly Schmoll. His three children, Donald, Jeanette, and Betty are still living. He belongs to the Lutheran Church. He has never served as a township or school officer.

At the time his father served on the school board, he started school here in Upham. Upham public school was the first school He attended. His father's homestead is now on the townsite of Upham.

WALTER G. HILLMAN

Walter G. Hillman pioneer stockraiser and farmer was born at Skagafjardar svsla, Iceland. He married Gudrun Magnusson on June 14, 1896 and eight children were born to this union, seven children still survive and reside in North Dakota. The surviving children are: Mrs. L. G. Benson, Milton, N. Dak.; Mrs. Einar Einarson, Upham, John and Leo of Mountain, N. Dak.; Joe of Concrete, N. Dak.; Mrs. Freeman Hannesson, Bottineau, North Dakota and Mrs. Percy Morrison living at Cavalier, N. Dak.

Mr. Hillman arrived in this community in 1907 taking up a homestead five miles east of Upham. His farm home was located on the south bank of the Mouse river in one of nature's beauty spots.

He served for many years as a member of the Elm Grove school board and as a township supervisor. A member of the Icelandic Melankton Lutheran Church he was very prominent in promoting its growth in the community.

In 1935 his family home was sold to the U. S. Government under a land purchase program that had been set-up to make way for the establishment of the Lower Souris Wildlife Refuge. It was with great sorrow Mr. Hillman surrendered a beautiful home and prosperous well improved farm.

A man of deep convictions he still believes that the values of the Refuge will never offset or compensate for the sorrows and heartaches suffered by many of the pioneer families that had to dispose of their holding within the boundaries of the refuge.

STEINUN HILLMAN (John P. Hillman)

John Hillman came to Upham in the Year 1900 from Nova Scotia. He was married to Steinun Hannesson, December 12, 1901. She was born in Iceland.

When they first moved out to the homestead in the spring of 1902, they moved their household possessions from George Goodman's place, across the flooded meadow, on the raft or Ferry-"Lukka". Special precautions being taken with Mrs. Hillman's prized possession-a sewing machine.

Mrs. Hillman did the washing and cooking for some of the men that worked on building the railroad in 1905.

The Hillman's had nine children, six are surviving. They are: Mrs. W. K. Ginther (Helga), Minneapolis, Minn., Peter F., John G., Sigurd, Chris and Una of Bantry, N. Dak.

Mrs. Hillman is a member of the Melankton Lutheran Church.

CHRISTIAN TORNO

Christian Torno was born in Odessa, Russia in 1871. On October 15, 1896 he married Louise Pfeiffer. They arrived in the Upham vicinity in 1899 and homesteaded on a farm in Deep River township. For twelve years, between 1923 and 1935, he served as a township officer.

Mr. and Mrs. Torno had 12 children; 10 of whom are living. They

are: Mrs. Louise Erickson, Detroit Lakes, Minn.; Mrs. Bertha Engel, Fosston, Minn.; Mrs. Ida McGee, Bagley, Minn.; Mrs. Martha Erickson, Everett, Washington; Otto Torno, Deer Lodge, Montana; William Torno, Upham; Mrs. Albertine Pfau, Upham; Mrs. Ernestine Rice, Upham; Hermann Torno, Upham; Wilhelmina Torno, Upham.

The Tornos were members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 9 miles west of Upham. Christian Torno died in 1950 and his wife died the following year.

OLE JACOBSON

Ole Jacobson was born in Norway. In 1894, he was married to the former Mary Reno. They were the parents of nine children, six are surviving. They are: John M. Jacobson, Upham, N. Dak.; Martin E. Jacobson, 1439 Cherry Ave., San Jose, California; Mrs. E. S. Haas (Myrtie), 3921 Thomas No., Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mrs. Chris Knopfle (Ruby), Willow City, N. Dak.; Bennie C. Jacobson, Upham, N. Dak., and Mrs. Paul Swallow, (Emma), % Green Acres, Missoula, Montana.

In 1899, Mr. Jacobson came to Upham where he homesteaded on a farm. Many of the early settlers in the locality drove wagons and teams to the Bottineau Flour mill with wheat to be ground and returned with a winter supply of flour. Wood for fuel was chopped and hauled from the Mouse River east of Upham. During the winter, this was done with sleighs and teams.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jacobson were charter members of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church, and Mrs. Jacobson a charter member of the Ladies Aid Society.

OSCAR M. ANDERSON

Oscar M. Anderson arrived in Upham, September 2, 1905 and worked as a grain buyer for the McCabe Brothers Elevator, from 1905 until 1946 when he resigned as elevator manager. Oscar worked for 41 continuous years for the same elevator firm and same location. For the Village of Upham, he served as Trustee, Chairman, Clerk, Assessor, Treasurer and Marshall. He also served as clerk of Meadow School District. For the City of Upham, Oscar served as Assessor and Treasurer.

Oscar was born in Walsh County, N. Dak. On August 5, 1906, he was married to Tena J. Braaten. They had four children, with three surviving, namely: Evalynn, (Mrs. Victor Hagen) Williston, N. Dak.; Rose, (Mrs. C. W. Becker) 524 W. Malvern, Fullerton, California. Frances, (Mrs. F. U. Smith) Park River, N. Dak.

The elevator office in which he worked for forty-one years is now used as a hobby shop at his home, where he keeps his large collection of relics.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the only couple in Upham, who have not changed residence since the town was organized.

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HENRY PFAU

Henry Pfau was born in Russia on January 21, 1877. In 1898 he came to North Dakota. In October he filed a claim for homestead. In 1899 he settled there and built a mud house which he lived in for one year, then he built a small frame house.

On January 1, 1902, Henry Pfau and Rosina Brandt were united in marriage.

After their marriage they built part of the house at its present site. They lived there for 45 years.

They had five children, four of which are still living. They are: Edwin, Oscar, Albert all of Upham, and Reinhold of Wishek, N. Dak.

During the time Henry lived near Upham he served in many offices for the township and the school.

The Pfaus belonged to the St. Paul Lutheran church of Minot, N. Dak.

Henry recalled one time when he went to a school board meeting during a snow storm in 1920. The storm became so severe that he locked the door and refused to let anyone go home until the next day.

He also recalled one time when they lived in a sod shack on the edge of a river and one morning when they awoke there was six inches of water covering the floor.

Henry and Louis Bertsch operated the first auto agency in Upham. They sold Overland cars.

In 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Pfau retired and moved to Minot. Albert, their son, has resided on the farm since.

On November 10, 1943, Mrs. Pfau died.

OLAUS PEDERSON

Olaus Pederson was born in Hjelmcland, Norway. He married Clara Bjorge on December 22, 1900. In that same year Olaus filed a claim on a homestead.

In the spring of 1901 Mr. Pederson and his wife moved onto their claim. They hauled their lumber, with which they built their claim shack, and their furniture by team and lumber wagon from Towner. Towner was 35 miles away and at that time the closest town. Mr. Pederson became a farmer.

The Pederson's had two children. Anna (Mrs. Olaf Holen), Upham, is still living. Ingvald, their son, died in 1951.

Mr. Pederson died February 7, 1949 at the age of 74.

DAN H. BURKE

Dan H. Burke was born at Johnston, arriving in Upham in 1903 and operated a hardware store. He was married to Pearl McArton in 1910. They had one child, Eleanor of New York. Mr. Burke belonged to the Presbyterian church. He passed away in 1947.

SVEIN PETERSON

Svein Peterson a pioneer merchant and farmer first arrived at Upham in 1902, where he homesteaded and operated a general store at Upham for a number of years.

He married Jona Goodman July 28, 1925 and they have three children: Attorney Kermit S. Peterson of Minot, N. Dak.; Anna K. Peterson, San Francisco, California and Margaret G. Peterson, Bottineau, N. Dak.

Mr. Peterson is a member of the First Lutheran Church at Bottineau. In more recent years he has been in business at Bottineau, where he now resides.

JOHN ADOLPH JOHNSON

John Adolph Johnson was born January 16, 1874 at Bjorkjoin, Langserud Varmland, Sweden. At the age of eight, his father died. As he was the only boy in the family of six children, he had to start to work very young to help his mother support his five sisters. Although they lived on a small farm, they were also near the timberland, so he often earned extra money by working in the sawmills.

It was compulsory in Sweden for all eighteen year old boys to go into the army for four years. But, instead of becoming an army man, in 1892, when he became eighteen, John Johnson came to America. He first lived in Pennsylvania with a sister who had come a few years before. There he worked in the coal mines. Although he never received high wages, he managed to save enough money to send back to his mother from time to time.

After a time he left Pennsylvania and went to Twin Valley, Minn., where he lived with an aunt and uncle. There he got a job as mail carrier on the rural route out of Twin Valley. During the summers he delivered mail with a horse and buggy and in the winter he would use a team and sleigh.

In the year 1898, he came to McHenry County and homesteaded on a quarter of land three miles northwest of the present site of Bantry. At that time neither Upham nor Bantry were in existence so all his grain he would haul to Willow City or Denbigh and a trip would take two or three days with a team. Many a time he had to depend on his horses to get him home during a snow storm.

Mr. Johnson broke up a lot of his land to seed flax and wheat. Grain prices were high at that time, so he was fortunate to save enough money to take a trip back to his homeland to visit his mother in the fall of 1909. The following spring he returned to America to put in his crop.

In May of 1910, Ellen Anderson, also a native of Sweden, came to America. She was to stay with a sister in Towner, but the sister died two weeks before Ellen's arrival. So, Ellen was amongst strangers and was unable to speak English. However, a family by the name of Larson was kind to her and took her in. She then met John Johnson and they were married October 22, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson farmed through the hard times of the '30's and had one crop failure after another. There were a number of

years when they had only Russian thistles to feed and bed their livestock. At one time they got about 5c a dozen for eggs and cream was worth 15c or 16c a pound. A cow brought as little as \$20.00.

Mr. Johnson served on the Bantry school board for 6 years, from 1930 to 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson belonged to the Bloomfield Lutheran church of Upham where all their children were confirmed.

They raised a family of eight children, seven of them still living. They are: George Johnson, Minot; Mrs. Ben Amon (Agda), Upham; Mrs. Charles Huseman (Elsie) Washington; Mrs. Ole Goodman (Verna) Bantry; Mrs. Finley Nielson (Ellen) Greybull, Wyoming; Mrs. Wm. Swearson (Agnes) Towner; William Johnson, Bantry. Their eldest son, Carl John, was killed in the Korean War on Sept. 22, 1950 at the age of 41 years.

John Johnson passed away April 8, 1942 at his farm home. He was 68 years old. Mrs. Johnson and her youngest son, William, still live on the family farm.

JAMES DOUD

Mr. James Doud was born in Wisconsin, arriving in Upham in 1899 where he homesteaded. Mr. Doud was also a carpenter.

In 1903, he was married to Mabel Rankin. They had ten children and nine are surviving. They are: Mrs. Bernice Laughlin, 4045 W. 58th St., Chicago, 29, Illinois; Mrs. Ben Johnson, 4045 W. 58th St., Chicago, Ill; Arvada Doud, White Swan, Washington; Aubrey Doud, 10635 15th S. W., Seattle, 66, Washington; Duane Doud, White Swan, Washington; Mrs. W. G. Crauch, 7817 E. End Ave., Chicago 49, Ill; Mrs. Jack Renick, 6139 S. Neenak, Chicago 38, Ill.; Mr. Jack Doud, 10635 15th S. W., Seattle 66, Washington; Mrs. C. D. Butters, White Swan, Washington, box 433.

Mr. Doud served as a township officer of Deep River township.

GEORGE GOODMAN

George Goodman, one of the early pioneers in the Upham area, was born in Iceland. George came to the Mouse River Valley in 1887. His home was located along the Mouse or Souris River where the Indians crossed in their migratory travels to and from the Turtle Mountains area.

George was united in marriage to Anna Phillips in January of 1890. To this union were born fourteen children. Three children died in infancy. Walter, the oldest child, passed away in December of 1954. The surviving children are Steve, Alex, Barthi, Oliver and Kris of Bantry, North Dakota, Mrs. William Hahn, Minot, Mrs. Nolan Anderson, Phoenix, Arizona, Mrs. Arnold Haugerud, Bottineau, N. Dak., Mrs. Nobel Wedar, Maxbass, N. Dak. and Mrs. Ellen Reed of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER DAYS

by Mrs. R. T. Wanberg

Rev. T. E. Thomesen, reminiscing about his work in the 1900's related "The Ladies Aid met in the early days on the Saturday before the Sunday when service was scheduled, so that the pastor could be present. I arrived on Saturday as early as possible, and was guest at the home where the Ladies Aid was to be entertained. The rule seemed to be that whoever invited the Ladies Aid must also accept the pastor. Once in awhile it was hinted that another day of the week would be more convenient for the ladies to have Ladies Aid, but this suggestion was always cast aside with the remark: 'We do our Saturday work on Friday, then we have vacation days both Saturday and Sunday.' They always met up well for Ladies Aid meetings. The mothers came with their babies in their blanket rolls, and placed the precious rolls of humanity here, there, and everywhere—it has always been a marvel to me that each mother eventually recovered her very own bundle, and that no exchanges ever took place."

Rev. T. E. Thomesen tells of the hardships of traveling to meet his appointments in the early days as follows:

"In fording through high water in the spring, the water often would come into the buggy, high as that was. I had to make long detours in order to avoid sloughs. One spring I recall, and far into the summer, I had to make a detour of 30 miles, driving towards Towner where I could get my team of horses and buggy over on a ferry.

One spring the flood arrived on Sunday while I was driving. When I had come east far enough to survey the Mouse River bottomland, all I could see was water. My team was used to a little of everything, so they bravely and briskly started to wade through it. The water was not only deep but there was also a strong current, and underneath, slippery ice. Unfortunately one horse had lost a shoe, which added to the problem. Finally we made it across, thinking every minute our last for both horses and driver. When we reached the other side, we were at the point of exhaustion. The Lord helped—He always did. I can earnestly say that I prayed many a prayer on that stretch of road through the years."

In the melting pot of America's languages, it is an interesting diversion to discover this notation under date of 1915 in otherwise strictly Norwegian notes and records of meetings in a Secretary's book of Bloomfield Ladies Aid; it is the ruling regarding serving.

"Den some vil have lefse, kan have hvis de vil—de som har lefse har bare en slags smorbrod. Den some ikke har lefse, har lov til at have to slags smorbrod (hvis de vil) et slags kage og 'doughnuts' eller 'cookies' of 'pickles' eller 'salad.' Dem some overtrader denne lov maa betale 50c." (We should refrain from translating, as we fear some of the flavor would be lost on the reader, but by this notation, we can easily see that the Norwegian language could no longer hold its own with English wording. We will translate for the benefit of the reader, but the humor

is lost in translation.)

"Those who wish to have lefse can have it, if they wish—those that have lefse have one kind of bread (or sandwich). Those that do not have lefse, have permission to have two kinds of bread (sandwich) (if they wish), one kind of cake and 'doughnuts' or 'cookies' and 'pickles' or 'salad.' Those who break this ruling must pay 50c."

Many years ago, there was to be a Christmas tree Festival near Upham, but a Christmas tree must have a few decorations and surprises for the children.

Mrs. Enoch Mower (Faa) together with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Enger, started from Upham to make the trip to Towner, over 35 miles by team, for the Christmas tree supplies. Snow covered the ground, it was cold, and to make matters worse, on the way home in the late afternoon, a blizzard came up, the snow blew in their faces, and covered the road tracks. The two women wanted to choose the river road for the trip home, but Mr. Enger chose the prairie road, relying more on the guidance and good sense of his team than in following the road. After an apparently aimless wandering, they eventually reached a prairie shack, intending to spend the night there, only to find it padlocked. Nothing to be done except to forge ahead through the storm. They started out again, when in a short time they realized that they should be facing northwest with the wind at their backs. Now the wind blew in their faces, and they came face to face with the realization that their horses had lost the trail, and they were at the mercy of a North Dakota blizzard. The sun went down, it became darker, the horses refused to face the biting wind. Mr. Enger got down from the sleigh, and tried to lead the horses, all the time searching underfoot for the hard road through the sandhills. From afar appeared a light, and with joy in their hearts, they finally reached a shack four or five miles southeast of Upham. It so happened that they had reached the home of this Swedish Lutheran family, Mr. and Mrs. Edeon Peterson. Their tiny new daughter, Edith, had arrived there that morning, and on account of the new little one to care for, and the raging blizzard outside, they had placed a lamp in the window at Mrs. Peterson's insistence, as Mr. Peterson had gone for help and must be guided home. It was this light that led the wanderers to shelter. They had found the road through the sandhills where Mr. Peterson had been hauling wood, about 5 p.m. and finally reached the Peterson home at 10 p.m. It was also an answer to prayer, as Mr. Peterson had not yet returned, and their presence and assistance in the home was very welcome. The home was located near what is today the Julian Simmons farm.

WEDDING REMINISCENCES

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Braaten took place in a little schoolhouse, in a downpour of rain. The roof leaked so badly that it was rather hard on the bride's veil and bridal crown, and also

for the pastor to not reveal his great sense of humor.

When Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson were married (theirs was the first wedding in the new church) the church was in use but not nearly completed. The people sat on planks, just the first rough floor was in, and building material lay about. Mr. Anderson grew more and more nervous as he eyed the gathering crowd—from a knothole in the unfinished unplastered sacristy wall.

THOMAS O. THOMPSON

Thomas O. Thompson one of the area early pioneers was born on June 24, 1874 and passed away on March 13, 1939.

He arrived at the Upham community in 1900 where he established a homestead in Little Deep township. In 1902 he married Julia Arnason and nine children were born to this union: Mrs. Oscar Pfau, (Adeline) and Maynard of Upham; Alvin and Mrs. Gilbert Mueller, (Mabel) of Granville, N. Dak.; Arne of Tunbridge, N. D.; and Leonard of Upham are the six surviving children.

Mrs. Thompson was born on February 11, 1882, at Buxton, North Dakota and made her home on the family homestead until passing away on January 24, 1953.

Their first home was a sod house in which they lived for nine years after locating in the Upham community. Their mail supply and trading point was the Deep River store and Granville until after Upham was established in 1905. He hauled his grain to Granville and the round trip involved traveling 36 miles by team and wagon.

Mr. Thompson has told of his coming to Upham community on one occasion, arriving at Towner, North Dakota by train he and Andrew Burlog of Upham made the journey from Towner to Upham by bicycle. One man would ride the bicycle for a distance while the other walked, taking turns riding the two men accomplished the trip to Upham during the night and over a bare trail across the prairie.

His youngest son Maynard is now living on the farm he homesteaded and the farm has carried the family name for fifty five years. Maynard was born July 15, 1917 and on December 29, 1938 he married Lila Kitzman. They have three children: Maynard Jr. Myron and Di Ann.

FRED M. RICE

Fred M. Rice was born in Minnesota. In 1902 he was married to Mary Cheer in Hector, Minnesota.

Mrs. Rice was born in Germany and came to this country at the age of eight years.

In 1904 Mr. Rice moved to the Upham community where he homesteaded. He has been engaged in several occupations besides farming. He was a house mover, a well driller and owned and operated a steam threshing machine. Mr. Rice and Al Gaulke owned one of the first well drilling machine in this area and drilled many of the first wells in this community.

Mr. Rice served as a township officer in Deep River township for several years. He is a member of the Lutheran church. In the 1930's, because of the drought, he went to Montana where he farmed for three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Rice had nine children all of whom are living. Harry, Mrs. John Jacobson, Frank, Mrs. Calmer Braaten, Mrs. Oliver Vormestrand, all of Upham, N. Dak., Theodore of Denbigh, Henry of Granville, Joe and Hackwood of Bantry, N. D.

Mrs. Rice passed away in 1952. Mr. Rice is now living with his children and at the age of eighty-six years is still active.

FRANK BERG

Frank Berg was born at Bloomer, Wisconsin on June 3, 1878. On November 22, 1899 he married Mary Neuman. The first year after they were married, the Bergs lived at Willow City. In 1900 they moved to Pratt township where they homesteaded. For five years the family lived in a sod house where the two sons were born.

The Bergs, like other early homesteaders, found those early days quite a struggle. They traveled by wagon to Granville for groceries and often had to ford streams or battle snow storms. One neighbor, Pete Hanson, used a wheelbarrow to go to Granville after groceries. Frank Berg traveled a few times to Willow City on a bicycle and back for medicine or other articles.

Mr. Berg served approximately 10 years as a Pratt township officer. The Bergs were members of the Bethlehem Lutheran church in Deep River township.

Mr. and Mrs. Berg had six children; all of whom are living. They are: Mrs. Mina Berg, Lake Stevens, Washington; Mrs. Sophia Miller, Eugene, Oregon; Hubert Berg, Springfield, Oregon; Wilbert Berg, Prosser, Washington; Mrs. Leona Olson, Everett, Washington; Mrs. Leila Carlson, Snohomish, Washington. Frank Berg died April 24, 1954.

TJOSTOL KONGSLIE

Tjostol Kongsli was born in Norway in August of 1836 and his wife, Ronnaug Aasmundsted was born in Norway April 4, 1844. They were married in Norway in 1871 and shortly after their marriage they immigrated from Norway to Coon Prairie, Wisconsin leaving Coon Prairie one year later, they moved to Lac Qui Parle county in Minnesota making the trip in a covered wagon drawn by ox team. They made their home in Minnesota until 1890 when they moved to Bottineau county, again making the long journey with an oxen drawn covered wagon. They establishel their home in what is now Tacoma township, homesteading on land located about four and one half miles northwest of the present Upham townsite.

The Kongsli's had eleven children and six still survive. The surviving children are: Thorwald, George, Mrs. Johanna Moen and Annette of Upham; Christian of Vantage, Sask., Canada and Olaf of Auburn, California.

MRS. THOMAS CHRISTENSEN (A brief history of a Pioneer)

When Mrs. Thos. Christensen (then Katie Rothgarn) arrived in the Willow City area of North Dakota in 1887 from Rochester, Minnesota, she could not complain that the advance advertising was exaggerated. The preliminary buildup, as told her, described the county almost precisely - howling blizzards, bitter cold, endless prairie, dotted here and there with claim shacks and sod shanties. The farewell committee, however, had omitted mentioning one item - the spirit of neighborliness which prevailed, and without which the little band of settlers on the "Willow Creek" would most certainly have collapsed.

Mrs. Christensen traveled by train as far as Rugby, but this was the end of the line. When her father arrived the year before he found that the railroad ended at Devils Lake. Her brothers before that made the trip from the Red River Valley by ox cart with their second-hand possessions. As there were only a few trails across the prairie, they used the sun as a guide by day, and if they were obliged to travel at night, the North Star served quite well. Toward the end of the journey, however, when the trails became fainter, they became almost hopelessly lost. Finally, one of them spotted the remains of a rocking chair which some earlier traveler considered as expendable when his ox team began to tire. They related afterward that the sight of this chair gave them more hope and courage than can be imagined, as they could then pick up the trail which brought them to their destination. It might be mentioned in passing that what is left of this chair is being carefully preserved as a pioneer relic.

A stage coach ran from Rugby to Bottineau with a stop at Willow City. Rugby at that time consisted of some three houses. Mrs. Christensen's description of Willow City was delightfully short and exact - a two-room log house with a thatched straw roof.

As was the custom in those early days, every young lady was expected to choose one or more professions, and Mrs. Christensen chose cooking and sewing. She became particularly proficient in both, and in the pioneer days put both to good use. Many an evening she spent in sewing dresses for the women of the neighborhood, and her cooking ability fed many a threshing crew. These early-day crews frequently contained over thirty men each. It was sometimes necessary to transport an entire dinner for such a crew a distance of several miles by horse and buggy when the threshing outfit was too far from home to make a return for the noon meal convenient.

The cooking, of course, was done on a wood-burning stove. When she was past 80 years of age, she culminated her cooking career by learning to operate a modern electric range.

In the latter 1890's the farmers began building houses and barns, recruiting the labor from the young men of the community. Obtaining sufficient help was not particularly difficult, as every time a building was completed, the occasion was properly and efficiently celebrated by a neighborhood housewarming or barnwarming. The young, then as now, were decidedly adept as com-

memorating such happy occasions - to the everlasting consternation and surprise of their elders.

Mrs. Christensen related many times that in the early days a young man desiring to attend a party in style frequently found it necessary to be a master diplomat - he would walk to a neighbor to borrow a horse, ride the horse to another neighbor to borrow his buggy, then round up the young ladies of the community and proceed to the party. The party concluded, the process was reversed; the young fellow usually arriving home in broad daylight.

Mr. Christensen at that time was working as a hired hand in the Willow City community but in 1900 homesteaded west of Upham in Little Deep Township. His farming operations began with 160 acres, a claim shack, a sod barn, a span of bronchos, several items of second-hand machinery, purchased "on time" and a buggy. The buggy, by the way, was brand new as no second-hand ones were available. Although an excellent teamster, he soon tired of the unpredictable personalities of Bronchos and as soon as possible began buying and raising a heavier type of horse, finally owning some five span of well-matched Percheron and Clydesdale.

The nearest "trading center" was the town of Granville, eighteen miles distant. Mr. Christensen took pleasure in recalling the adventures of these early-day trips and particularly mentioned the times when he and others were forced by storms to remain overnight in town, depending upon the generosity of some merchant in allowing them to bed down man and team in his stable.

Mrs. Christensen arrived in Little Deep Township by horse and the above mentioned buggy after her marriage in 1905 about the time Upham was founded. This buggy, incidentally, is still in existence, and the Broncho that usually drew it remained alive until the middle 1920's. At about this time Mr. Christensen rounded out his driving career with the purchase of a six-cylinder Buick, his pride and joy, he having first owned one of the early "Overlands".

The early-day merchants of Upham were well aware of the needs and desires of the pioneers, and the farmers of this community soon chose to trade there. The livery stable was, of course, the prime requirement and one of these was located west across the street from what is now Holte's Exchange (if memory serves correctly). A stout hitching rack was to be found back of the Telephone Exchange, but even this, upon occasion, was reduced to kindling when some young colts decided to use their own heads.

The Little Deep community has experienced many changes commensurate with modern progress, but its independent spirit has always remained. Mrs. Christensen still resides on the original homestead and is as vitally interested in the procession of events at the age of 88 years as her condition will permit.

JACOB BERTSCH

Jacob Bertsch was born in Freeman, S. Dak., and in 1903 was united in marriage to Sophia Handel (deceased). The same year they came to Upham where they homesteaded. Mr. Bertsch served

as a township officer of Meadow township. He is a member of Peace Reform church.

There were six children and all survive, namely: Emanuel, Walla Walla, Wash., Ben, Worland, Wyo., Andrew, Kramer, N. Dak., Leah (Mrs. Everett Marsh), Bill and Thomas of Upham.

He homesteaded in Deep and like all the other pioneers he had to haul his grain to Granville and Willow City, the nearest towns in the early days. The only means of travel were by horses or by foot.

IVER AUSTIN

Iver Austin was born in Norway. He came to America and settled in Minnesota. He was married to Karen Ronglin who was also a native of Norway. To this union eleven children were born, six of whom are living. Mrs. Hans Gulbranson (Mattie) and Mrs. John Holen (Ida) of Upham, N. Dak., Mrs. John Paulson (Anna), Appleton, Minn., Mrs. John Skaaden (Augusta) of Grafton, N. Dak., Mrs. Hans Holen (Mary) Minneapolis, Minn. and Chris Austin of Battle Mountain, So. Dak.

In 1900 Mr. Austin moved to Meadow township where he established a homestead. He belonged to the Bloomfield Congregation and was on the first board of deacons when the Congregation was organized. He laid the corner stone for the present Bloomfield Lutheran Church.

Mr. Austin lived on his homestead until shortly after his wife passed away. Then he went to Grafton, N. Dak. to live with a sister. He lived there until his death in 1926.

LARS CHRISTIAN SORENSEN

Lars Christian Sorensen was born in Denmark, June 11, 1869. He came to America in 1889. He worked in lumber camps in Wisconsin for a few years and filed on a claim at Iron River, Wisconsin where he lived until 1897. From there he went to the Red River Valley, North Dakota, and worked on farms there for two years, after which he came to McHenry county and filed on a homestead in Pratt township in 1899. He operated the farm until ill health forced him to retire.

Sorensen was married to Theresa Cassidy on October 20, 1902. To this union the following children were born: Clarence Sorensen, Tacoma, Washington; Charles Sorensen, Tacoma, Washington; Clifford Sorensen, Minot, N. Dak.; Cecil Sorensen, Glenburn, N. Dak.; Chester Sorensen, Billings, Montana; Clayton Sorensen, Puyallup, Washington; Sylvia Warren, Tacoma, Washington.

Their oldest daughter, Sophie (Mrs. Clarence Norsby), died March 3, 1944.

Mr. Sorensen was of the Lutheran faith. He died July 12, 1941 at the age of 72. He passed away in Towner where he lived for two years after his retirement. Mrs. Sorensen lives at the present time at Tacoma, Washington.

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FRED BRANDT

Fred Brandt was born in Russia. He came to America and lived in Eureka, South Dakota where he operated a butcher shop. In 1887 he was married to Roseina Bertsch and to this union fifteen children were born, 14 of whom are living. Andrew, John, Fred F., Reynold, Nathaniel, Gideon, Ephraim and Mrs. Henry Adams all of Kramer, N. Dak., Emanuel of Souris, N. Dak., Mrs. William Mettler and Theodore of Upham, N. Dak., Mrs. F. F. Wittmayer of Willow City, N. Dak., Mrs. Christ Zorn of Bottineau, N. Dak. and Otto of Minot, N. Dak.

Mr. Brandt arrived in the Upham community in the year of 1896 and at that time established a homestead. His nearest town was Willow City and to that small town he traveled by team to buy groceries and other needed supplies. In the Spring of 1900 when he and a neighbor were on such a trip, flood water raised over the road and they were unable to get home by team. They returned to Willow City where they left the team and went by train to Omeeme, where they were fortunate in getting a ride home with a neighbor. It was two weeks before they could get their team home.

Mr. and Mrs. Brandt were members of The Peace Reformed Church. They were both lovers of flowers and had a yard full of flowers both at their farm home and later at their home in Upham. These flowers attracted many passerbys and their yard was one of the beauty spots of Upham.

In 1943 Mr. Brandt retired from farming and moved into town where he lived until the death of his wife in 1949. He is now 87 years old and is still active. At present he is living with his daughter, Mrs. Henry Adams of Kramer.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BLOOMFIELD CONGREGATION, UPHAM, N. D.

In the year 1900, a number of Norwegian Lutheran families settled about twenty miles west of Willow City. Rev. T. E. Thomesen, living near Willow City, then had a missionary pastorate extending throughout the Turtle Mountain territory as far as St. John, east to Ox Creek, and the Willow City territory. Upon request from Mr. Andrew Lunseth, Rev. Thomesen arranged a meeting with these settlers. On October 31, 1900, Bloomfield Congregation was organized at the home of John Johnson. It is said that Augustin Lundervold made the motion to name the new organization BLOOMFIELD CONGREGATION after the congregation by that name in Ostrander, Minnesota, from which place many of the settlers had come. Rev. T. E. Thomesen became Bloomfield Congregation's first pastor.

The officers of the newly organized congregation were: Trustees: Lars Lundervold, John Meland, Tjostel Kongslie. Deacons: Iver Austin, Andrew Jurgenson, Andrew Lunseth. Secretary: Ole Jacobson. Treasurer: Jacob Jurgenson.

At the beginning of 1901, the congregation consisted of 68 souls, 33 confirmed, 18 voting members. The year 1901 also saw the or-

ganization of a Young Peoples Society, the forerunner of the present Luther League.

The charter members of Bloomfield Congregation are: Andrew Lunseth Family, Andrew Jurgenson Family, Jacob Jurgenson, Sr., Iver Austin Family, Even Haraldson Family, Ole Jacobson Family, Ole J. Reno, John Meland Family, John Birkeland Family, Augustin Lundervold, Abraham Tvedten.

Other early pioneer members joining the congregation later were Jacob R. Jurgenson, Lars Lundervold (Nov. 17, 1900), Tjostel Kongsli and Henry Jurgenson (January 26, 1901), Anton P. Hagen, C. J. Moldstad, John J. Molstad (November 18, 1901), John Johnson (February 23, 1902), Jens Braaten (November 12, 1906).

Bloomfield Ladies Aid was organized December 14, 1901, at the home of Mrs. Even Haraldson. As early as July 2, 1902, we find the Ladies Aid discussing plans for building a church. Plans were made but actual work did not begin before the spring of 1905, on account of scarcity of money. At that time, Rev. T. E. Thomesen was serving at a salary of \$100 per year.

The year 1906 saw the church being built, and the people rejoiced at having a church once more in their midst in their new community. A great deal of credit goes to Rev. Thomesen and the committee for the carefully planned and well built church and its beautiful oak furnishings.

It is said that when the venerable old Jacob Jurgenson found that the cemetery, his donation, was accepted by the congregation and that the church would be visible from his homestead on the hill, he wept for joy and said: "Now the church spire will at last be visible to all my children."

The first service was held in the new church June 10, 1906; and the first marriage in the new church took place August 5, 1906 when Tina Braaten became the bride of Oscar Anderson.

In the fall of 1904, the first religious school was held. 1904 will be remembered as a tragic year for the settlement, when a typhoid epidemic raged, and a little later, a severe siege of influenza. There were many new graves on the hillside overlooking Upham that year.

November 18, 1917, at the annual meeting, Rev. T. E. Thomesen, after a most faithful shepherding of seventeen years, resigned as pastor of Bloomfield Congregation. Arrangements were then made to affiliate the congregations of Bloomfield at Upham, Zion at Towner, and Trinity at Berwick, into one pastorate. A call was extended to Rev. R. T. Wanberg, who was installed at Bloomfield Church by District President August 24, 1919.

October 5, 1919, the Sunday School was organized with Mr. H. M. Holte as Superintendent. Religious school in the summers had been carried on since 1904. Since 1929 adult confirmation classes have been carried on continuously.

1931 saw the organization of a Lutheran Brotherhood, that has been active in assisting with various church projects and needs, such as beautifying church property, improving and taking care of the cemetery, and in promoting Boy Scout work. In 1954 Bloomfield Congregation bought a new addition of land for the cemetery, and added new fence and double gates. The men of the church have

been giving much of their time, under the supervision of Mr. Oliver Vormestrand, to beautifying the cemetery.

June 7, 1942 was a day set apart and a day never to be forgotten by the congregation when it could with pride and joy send out two sons into the service of the Holy Ministry, ordaining Lowell and Carlyle Holte, sons of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Holte. June 4, 1950, Vernon Holte, the third and last son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Holte was ordained into the Holy Ministry. Thus our faithful workers throughout the years, Mr. and Mrs. Holte, have given their all to their church, their time, their talents, and their sons. Lowell is today in Home Mission work in the state of Washington, Carlyle has been Association Director of the International Luther League, and Vernon is a Navy Chaplain.

1940 saw the Upham community emerging from the depression years of 1930-40, which was a very difficult time for church and community alike. December 1941 to August 1945 marked World War II. There is one gold star on the service flag to the memory of Ernest Burlog.

In 1939 the Icelandic Hall, then on the meadow at the other side of the Mouse River, was moved to a place beside Bloomfield Church and made into a Parish Hall. The moving took place under tribulations, and the men have often related with hearty laughs how the hall went through the ice on the river and had to be pulled out with great effort.

The year 1955 sees but one charter member of the congregation remaining, Mrs. George Swenson, Hibbing, Minnesota. Younger members have taken their places and are now carrying on the work. With the help of very active auxiliary organizations, The Ladies Aid, Luther League, and Sunday School, Lutheran Brotherhood, and Church Council, Bloomfield Congregation has grown through the years into a fine, active congregation that is a pride to any community.

In 1950 the church interior was remodeled and Nuwood Walls and ceiling installed. A new heating system (oil) and other improvements were added, under the supervision of Mr. H. V. Kirkeby, who gave all his time generously to this work. John Becker has also given many years of very faithful service as officer, and beautifying and caring for the church.

1955 sees thirty six years of service in Bloomfield Congregation for Rev. R. T. Wanberg. It also sees a very crowded Sunday School, a Parish Hall long since outgrown, and the necessity of plans for building and expansion. Bloomfield Church has served Upham Community well throughout the years, and, by the grace of God, will continue to hold its place in the future religious life of the community.

DR. RAY STEVEN LONG

Ray S. Long was born at Brandon, Ohio on October 20, 1885. In 1895 his parents moved to their new home at Lake City, Iowa, where he received his elementary and high school education. Following graduation from high school he enrolled in the school of

Pharmacy at Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa and was graduated in 1907 with a Ph. G. Degree. After graduation he married Margaret Grylls of Des Moines, Iowa and they came to Brinsmade, North Dakota where he established a drug store.

There are five children in the Long family; James, Bill and Ray at Upham; Robert of Lancaster, California and Mrs. Eric Lawson, (Olive) who resides at LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

In 1912 he decided to re-enter college and study Veterinary medicine. Selling his business at Brinsmade he and his wife and two small children moved to Fort Collins, Colorado where he enrolled in the school of Veterinary Science and Medicine of the Colorado Agriculture College. Graduating with a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1916 he moved his family to Upham that same year and established a general practice.

Dr. Long was the first Veterinarian to establish a general practice in the area. The only Veterinarian in a very large territory the demands made upon him were great. Roads were poor and all winter travel had to be accomplished with horses.

With his general practice at Upham he also served as an Inspector with the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry and worked in close co-operation with the North Dakota State Livestock Sanitary Board. In 1918 he was appointed as a member of the North Dakota Livestock Sanitary Board and served a four year term.

Always an ardent sportsman he loved to devote his spare time to hunting and fishing. While hunting has become too arduous a pastime for him, much of his spare time is still devoted to fishing.

Since retiring from active practice Dr. and Mrs. Long have made their home at Tampa, Florida.

ROBERT W. HELVEY

Robert W. Helvey came to Upham from Virginia in the year 1905 where he homesteaded in Little Deep township and was engaged in farming. He served as township Treasurer and Justice of Peace of the same township.

In 1906, he was married to Bessie Charlesworth. They had five children, all surviving, namely: George Helvey, 4034 Welcome Ave., Robbinsdale, Minn.; Virginia Worden, 4035 W. Broadway, Robbinsdale, Minn.; Vesta Zabel, 3837 W. Broadway, Robbinsdale, Minn.; Verdell Ofsthun, 5309 Fairview Ave., Robbinsdale, Minn. Vanghn Helvey, 3515 Pierce St. N. E., Minneapolis, Minn. The Helveys belong to the Methodist church.

Mr. Helvey passed away. January 1, 1938 at Hopkins, Minn., where he was operating a filling station.

Barn dances in new barns and ball games were the main events in the amusement field in the early days. Mr. Helvey was interested in organizing ball clubs in Little Deep township. He loved to hunt and there was an abundance of ducks, geese and prairie chickens in the many coulees at that time.

Mrs. Helvey makes her home at Robbinsdale, Minn.

MY PARENTS WERE EARLY SETTLERS

By William Freeman

One of the earliest permanent settlers in the Mouse River valley north and east of Upham was my grandfather, Helgi Gudmundson (Goodman). He first visited the area in the fall of 1886 seeking new land. Accompanying him in his search were his son, John Goodman, and my father, George Freeman. Both of the latter were young single men anxious to find opportunities for livestock farming. When the three reached the river near where the Freeman bridge now stands they found what they had been seeking - hayland on one side and good upland grass on the other side of the river. There was timber for the erection of buildings and for fuel and plenty of water and shelter for stock in the tree belts growing along the stream. Here was land for homestead entry. Except for ranchers who kept large herds of cattle on government owned land, there were no others to occupy the area.

During late fall that year (1886) the two younger men returned to the Red River settlement to prepare for the spring activities when they would move into new surroundings. Grandfather Helgi remained in the valley where he had secured winter employment a short distance up the river at the Andrew Nohle ranch. He would save his pay to use in the establishment of a new home. His family would come from the settlement in the spring.

On April 16, 1887, my father and John Goodman returned to the valley, bringing my mother who was then a young woman with them. She was to help my grandfather in preparing the new home for the Goodman family. My grandmother Helga and her three sons would reach the area that summer.

Located about three-fourth of a mile due west from the Freeman bridge, the home was built of logs and the settlement of the area was under way.

After a year of living in the pioneer settlement with my grandparents, my parents were married, June 26, 1888, at Mountain, North Dakota.

My folks started their married life under very modest financial circumstances. Years later my Dad reported that at the time of his wedding he had in his possession a five dollar gold piece and a half dollar coin. The smaller coin was considered of insufficient value to reward the minister for his work. Dad kept the 50 cent piece but the preacher received the gold coin.

Through the purchase of a relinquishment, my parents became the owners of the land adjacent to the present Freeman bridge in Mouse River township. At that time the first of the three bridges which were erected on the site was still twenty years in the future and the organization of the township was to await many more years.

Both Dad and Mother were born in Iceland, my father in 1865 and my mother in 1872. Nine years old when he first came to the United States, my father had little formal schooling but he had read widely and was self taught. He was quite skillful with figures for a self educated man.

Mother was ten years old when she reached the United States.

Like so many of the children of the early immigrants she attended school only long enough to be taught how to read English. She was well instructed in the Icelandic language by Grandmother Helga who taught her at home.

With so little formal education, I often wondered at the remarkable fund of information my parents acquired through their own studies.

Life on the Freeman farm in the early days was typical of the whole area. The buildings were rough hewn of logs, chinked and whitewashed. The house was small and crowded and there was a complete absence of labor saving equipment. The work in the home was done by hand. There was no washing machine, cream separator, cooling equipment, pressure cooker or canner. The housewife served as mother, nurse, doctor, cook and housekeeper and worked outside in garden and farmyard as needed. My mother was a strong woman who did her work with energy.

The few head of cattle my father was able to get together through purchase failed in bringing sufficient returns to support the new home. To supplement the farm income he worked for neighboring ranchers and each fall returned to the Red River valley for the harvest season. But soon the herd grew in size and productiveness, requiring more of his time.

To mark his cattle a brand design was adopted and its use was authorized by the clerk of the McHenry County Court on April 24, 1896. The certificate is in possession of the family. The S-S brand on the right side of cattle soon became a familiar sign in the territory.

During the 90's my father served for a period of years as an assessor covering a wide area in the northeastern part of the county. Driving through the area by cart or riding horseback, he built up a wide acquaintanceship in the outlying districts. In 1900 he was elected as a county commissioner. He held office until January 6, 1905. One of the prized mementos of his service as a county commissioner is a copy of a resolution passed by the county board at the January 1905 meeting when he and A. E. Walley, another pioneer day commissioner, retired from active duties and were honored for their contributions to the early progress of the county. In 1909 he served as a member of the state legislature. This duty completed his public service except for work as a member of the school board and as one of several drainage commissioners acting for McHenry county.

My mother, Gudbjorg Freeman, was active in community organizations and served tirelessly in the work affecting the Lutheran Church program which was organized in the formative days of her community. Hers has been a selfless life of service to her family, to her immediate community, to her church and to the very many people who came to her home which was always open.

At this writing, May 1955, Mother is well and active of mind. Dad passed on in March 1947.

The Freeman family is a large one. Of eleven children born, eight are living. Two children died while young Victor Valtyr born November 27, 1906, died in 1942. He was a Forester by training. The living children include Sigrid Lilja, Mrs. Asmundur Benson; Elisa-

beth Helga, Mrs. Thorleifur Thorleifson; Ellen May, Mrs. Eigill Fafnis; William and Carl, all of Bottineau; John of Williston, and Mable Emily and Esther Bjorg, Mrs. Lewis Madsen, both of Fargo.

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE SWENSON

Mrs. George Swenson (Bertina Lundervold) was married to John Birkeland, February 15, 1898. They came to Upham from Montana about a year later and homesteaded on a farm two miles southeast of Upham. Two children were born to this couple with one surviving: Mrs. George Hardin (Julia) 1813 Kentucky, Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

As far as Mrs. Swenson knows, she was the only woman who dug a basement after the house was built. She did this when she and her baby were home alone, John having gone with John Phillips to Rugby to buy cattle. They left early in the morning and she went to work. It was not an easy task, but she kept shoveling dirt all day. The next morning, she was up early and started to dig some more. At four o'clock that afternoon, her basement was finished.

Mrs. Swenson was a good example of a pioneer woman, never afraid of work of any kind. For many years she hauled the school bus, horses being the means of travel. She could also handle a team of eight horses without any difficulty. It was Mrs. Swenson's job to sharpen fence posts when they fenced in a pasture on the homestead. It took 100 posts. While at work, some men drove by in an old wagon, and called out, "Hurrah for the Pioneer Woman".

After the death of Mrs. Swenson's first husband she married George Swenson in 1905, in Minnesota, coming back to Upham in 1906. They continued to live on the farm until about 1933 when they went to Hibbing, Minnesota where they bought a small farm. After leaving Upham, they came back several times to work and farm. They are now living on their farm in Minnesota.

The Swensons are members of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church, Mrs. Swenson being the only living charter member of the church.

CHAS. SERR

Chas. Serr was born in South Dakota. In 1896 he was married and in 1906 he and his wife, Kathrina, arrived in Upham. Although they did not homestead, they were early day farmers in the Upham vicinity. Mr. Serr held township offices for 4 years about the year 1916. His township was Meadow.

Mr. and Mrs. Serr had six children, four of whom are still living. They are: Leona Wittmeyer, Bottineau; Lydia Wittmeyer, Bottineau; Robert Serr, Minot; Chester Serr, Upham.

The Serrs belonged to the Peace Reform church at Upham.

After their retirement from active farming, Mr. and Mrs. Serr established their home on a small tract of land adjoining the city of Upham where Mr. Serr could raise chickens and have a garden to pass the time. Seemingly, it was difficult for these pioneers to remain idle. Since Mr. Serr passed away in 1953, Mrs. Serr has made her home with her children.

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* * *

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SVEINN E. WESTFORD

Svein E. Westford was born in Iceland December 4, 1874. In 1892 he arrived at Upham and during his early years was employed at the Mike Krupp Ranch east of Upham.

On April 16, 1901 he was united in marriage to Helga Benson (deceased Dec. 24, 1954) who was also born in Iceland, but came to America as an infant.

He homesteaded northwest of Upham in Bottineau County, but later bought land east of Upham along the Mouse River where he raised cattle until 1936.

He served as school officer from 1907 to 1936, a total of 29 years, in Elm Grove School District in what is now Mouse River Township. He was a member of the Melankton Lutheran Church of Upham.

There were fourteen children, eleven now survive; Mrs. David Turnipseed (Christine), 615 Washington St., Newton, Ill.; Mrs. John P. Hillman (Pauline), Mountain, N. Dak.; Victor Westford, 3331 E. Marion, Seattle, Washington; Mrs. Oliver Lunde (Ellen), Upham, N. Dak.; Einar Westford, Newport, Penn.; Oscar Westford, 11308 5th N.E., Seattle, Washington; Grimes Westford, 456 Van Buren Ave., Oakland, California; Fred Westford, 17010 Via Margarita, San Lorenzo, California; John Westford, 2605 Alabama St., Bellingham, Washington; Swain Westford, 2015 James St. Bellingham, Wash.; Mrs. John Cairns (Lillian), 743 N. 77, Seattle, Washington.

In 1936 the Government purchased his land as part of the Lower Souris Refuge. At that time the family moved to Blaine, Washington, where they lived until 1947, at which time they moved to Bellingham, Washington, where he resides at the present time.

JOHN ZURCHER

John Zurcher was born near Berne, Switzerland in the Lower Alps. There he lived with his family on a dairy farm until his father died. Soon after, John came to America with his mother and five sisters to join his oldest sister who was already in this country. They first settled on a farm at Jackson, Minn., where they lived for five years. They then moved to Ulen, Minn. where they farmed four more years.

In 1901, John moved to McHenry County and filed on a home stead in what is now Pratt township. The following year, thirteen emigrant cars from Ulen, Minn. arrived at Granville and all filed on land in the same township. Granville, about 30 miles away, was their nearest shipping point then.

John returned to Switzerland in 1904 to visit his brother, Christ. On his way back to North Dakota, he stopped at Monroe, Wisconsin to visit his older sister. While there he met Ida Rindlisbacher, who also was a native of Berne, Switzerland. John had a crop to put in back in Pratt township so he returned to his home, but when fall again came, he went back to Wisconsin. He and Ida were married

there on February 28, 1905.

Many times John became lonesome for his native land. To be sure, North Dakota with its severe winters, hard work, and prairies were much different than Switzerland. One of the main reasons for his discontent was the lack of running water. In Switzerland there are springs everywhere and every home has an ample supply of cold running water. However, fate has a way of stepping in now and then. A hardware salesman persuaded John to install a large pressure tank and pump just to see if running water could be installed in a North Dakota home. The experiment was a success and the Zurcher home had running water as early as 1906. In 1916, the Zurchers installed an electric lighting system and by 1926 their home was completely modernized.

John Zurcher was always and still is active in school, government, and community affairs. For 12 years he served offices in Pratt township. He was county commissioner, a director of the Farmers Elevator, and a member of the board of supervisors of the Soil Conservation district. He also served two terms as representative from the 34th legislative district. John also is the oldest director of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. of Rugby, having served in that capacity for 38 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Zurcher had nine children, all of whom are living. They are: Elmer Zurcher, Upham; Paul Zurcher, Upham; John H. Zurcher, Jr., Eckman; Art Zurcher, Tunbridge; Mrs. Carl Randall ((Anna), Towner; Mrs. Dwight Rothchild (Margaret), Rugby; Mrs. Ervin Bethke (Leona), Upham; Mrs. Rudy Luscher (Esther), West Linn, Oregon; Mrs. John L. Meyers (Ida), Portland, Oregon.

The Zurchers retired from the farm and moved to Towner in the fall of 1948. However, they still manage to keep busy with their varied interests and hobbies. Perhaps few people know it, but those who have heard him, will agree that John is adept at yodeling. It is an art he learned while a child in Switzerland.

Mr. and Mrs. Zurcher are members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located 9 miles west of Upham. There, last February, they celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with all nine of their children present.

John Zurcher had this to say about the Upham community: "I lived nearly a half century in the Upham vicinity. They are a high class of people and I enjoyed every minute while living amongst them."

JON J. GOODMAN

Jon J. Goodman was one of the very earliest pioneers to establish his home in what is now the Upham community. Born in Iceland he came to the United States with his parents in September 1881, making their home at Elk Rapids, Michigan for three and one half years. In 1884 they moved to Akra, North Dakota where they made their home for the next three years. Unable to establish a homestead at Akra, the family decided to push westward, leaving Akra in November of 1886 in the company of Helgi Gudmundson,

George Freeman, and Lauraus Freeman, the party pushed westward until they reached the Turtle Mountains, at that point a decision was made to move further south until they reached the Mouse River, where they decided to homestead.

The men in the party built sod houses and to provide a cash income they worked for a time for the Stevens cattle Company, one of the largest ranches located on the Mouse River. For their work they received \$10.00 per month. After establishing his homestead Mr. Goodman devoted his energy to raising cattle and sheep.

In 1895 he married Ingibjorg Hjalmarson and ten children were born to this union. The eight surviving children are: Mrs. William Swearson, (Mattie) of Towner, North Dakota; Mrs. Fay Tribby, (Christine) of White Water, Montana; Mrs. Emil Torno, (Yona) Towner, North Dakota; Mrs. Chester Buri, (Frederica) Balfour, North Dakota; Sakie of Balfour, North Dakota and Swain, Mundie and Hjalmar all of Upham.

Mr. Goodman made his home east of Upham until 1936 when the U. S. government purchased his homestead property for inclusion in the Lower Souris Wildlife Refuge. Following the sale of his farm he purchased a farm near Upham, where he made his home until passing away in 1943.

In the early days the nearest town was Willow City, which was sixteen miles from his home. Their mail service was provided from the Ely store located East of the present site of Kramer, North Dakota. His early trading was done at the Fred Mehlhaff store, which was located about three miles from Mr. Goodmans home. This building was later moved to Upham and now houses the Jacobson store at its new location.

MR. and MRS. T. W. MOTT

Thomas W. Mott was born in the state of New York. He married Josephine Syverson in the year 1897. Four children were born to this couple; Irving L. Mott, Inglewood, California; Mrs. Edith Hill, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Myrtle Kraabel, Decatur, Illinois, and Luther L. Mott, Hawthorne, California.

Mr. Mott homesteaded near Deering, N. Dak. and arrived in Upham in 1905. He built the building now occupied by Reinke's Food Market. It was erected in October, 1905. He remained in business from 1905 until 1932, handling a complete line of dry goods, groceries, crockery, boots, shoes and harnesses. In later years, the store was one of general merchandise, without hardware and harness. In August 1932, he sold the store to his son, Irving, who continued in the general merchandise business until 1943.

He served four years as a school officer of Meadow School District.

In those early days there were no accommodations for traveling salesmen, so Mrs. Mott used to make up several beds in the uncompleted portion of the store, to rent out. Every night the rooms were filled with salesmen, until 1907, when the Pinkerton or "Blue Front" hotel, was built.

Mr. T. W. Mott passed away, 1941 and Mrs. Mott in 1953. They were members of the Methodist Church.

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MRS. CARL E. ANDERSON and CARL ANDERSON

Carl E. Anderson homesteaded in Deep River township in the year 1898, about ten miles west of Upham. Here he operated the first blacksmith shop in the vicinity of Upham.

Mrs. Anderson was born in Denmark and arrived in Upham in March 1905. She was united in marriage to Carl Anderson the same year.

There were six children in the Anderson family and five survive: Clarence Anderson, Russell, N. Dak., Emil Anderson, Upham, N. Dak., Mrs. Ray Charley (Alice), Barnesville, Minn., Mrs. Augie Nielson, (Eleanor), Bismarck, N. Dak., Lawrence Anderson, Upham, N. Dak.

JACOB BRANDT

Jacob Brandt was married to Rose Faul in 1890, arriving in Upham in 1901. They had twelve children, all of whom are surviving, namely: Henry, Edwin, Leonard, Herman, Billy, Vernon, Glen, Ole all of Upham; Mrs. Sig Torgerson (Irene), Rugby, N. Dak.; Mrs. Al. Torgerson (Erenestine), Rugby, N. Dak.; Ada Smette, Upham, N. Dak., and Mrs. Art Grondahl (Amanda), Upham, N. Dak.

Mr. Brandt and Adam Knopfle operated the dray line in 1907. After selling the business, he worked in a butcher shop until 1912 when he bought a farm three and half miles west of Upham.

Mrs. Brandt is now making her home in Upham. She is a member of the German Reform Church.

MRS. ANNA SKAR

Mrs. Anna Skar, who was Anna Kaldar before marriage, was born in Hillsboro, North Dakota. In 1902 she hauled grain to Granville with oxen (three). The first day she made it to what was called Midway House. The next day she made it to Granville and back to Midway House. On the third day she reached home. They were the only ones in the neighborhood who farmed with oxen.

In 1909 she arrived at Upham. She was also married in 1909. She has five children, all of whom are living. They are, Bjarne, Ralf, Mrs. Russel McClenshan (Jardis), Maurice, and Alf. She is a member of the Deep River Lutheran Free Church.

Since her retirement she has been residing in Upham.

MRS. ANNE LUNDE AND LARS O. LUNDE

Lars O. Lunde was born in Norway in 1878. At the age of 19 years, he arrived in America and worked on farms at Buxton, N. Dak.

In 1889, Lunde came to Upham and homesteaded on a farm which was his home at the time of his death. This farm is two miles south of Upham.

When Mr. Lunde came to his homestead, his Immigrant car was

shipped to Granville which was the nearest town at that time. The trip to Upham was made with horses and wagon. When crossing the creek, the wagon box had to be tied to the wagon in order to keep it from floating down stream. The horses would swim across pulling the wagon.

Mr. Lunde was married to Anne Lundervold in Minnesota in 1905. She was born in Fillmore County, Minnesota and arrived in Upham a few years before her marriage.

The Lundes encountered the usual experiences of early settlers through joy and sorrow, through good years, drought and grasshopper years. Living in a frame house on their homestead, wood was used for heating the home. This was chopped and hauled from the Mouse River. The grain in the early days was hauled to Denbigh, returning with the family's supply of groceries. This trip took them two days.

The surviving children are: Alma, 1624 Boren Ave., Seattle, Washington, Mrs. Albert Holm (Bertina), Rugby, N. Dak., Mrs. A. G. Kirkeby (Adeline), McIntosh, Minnesota; Oliver, Upham, N. Dak., Mrs. Morgan Erickson (Laura), Upham, N. Dak. and Mrs. Ira Smith (Alice), 461 Morning Canyon Rd., Corona Del Mar, California. One daughter, Gena, a student nurse, passed away in 1928.

Mr. Lunde served as a township officer of Meadow township from 1924 to 1944. He gave twenty-six years of service as an officer of the Bloomfield Congregation. In January of 1944, he passed away.

Mrs. Lunde is a member of the Bloomfield Lutheran Church and has served fifty years in the Ladies Aid.

The original house on the homestead is now remodeled into a modern home where Mrs. Lunde spends the summer months. Her only son, Oliver and his family also have their home on the homestead.

MR. and MRS. JOHN AMON

Mr. John Amon was born in Romania, August 22, 1871 and Mrs. Amon (Christina Bauer) was born in Grasliebental, June 2, 1872. They were married in 1891 and arrived in America in October 1900.

The first winter in America was spent in Eureka, S. Dak. where Mr. Amon did carpenter work. He had worked in his native land four years, without pay, to learn the carpenter trade.

In the fall of 1901, they homesteaded on a quarter of land, seventeen miles southwest of Anamoose, N. Dak. Because of lack of money to purchase seed or machinery, he rented his land and did carpenter work a few years. He drove to Anamoose on Monday with horse and buggy, returning on Saturday. He received 25c an hour and his board and room. They lived in a two room sod house, which was heated by burning flax straw. There wasn't any money to buy fuel.

Mr. Amon's brother, Fred, broke up 5 acres on his own land for him and seeded flax and a few potatoes. They received 16 bushels to the acre of flax and sold it at 90c a bushel. The Amons then

bought a milk cow for \$40.00.

In 1904, they moved to a farm eight miles southwest of Upham, where they lived until the fall of 1934 when they moved to Upham.

On May 28, 1939, John Amon passed away and Mrs. Amon passed away, July 20, 1942.

The Amons had ten children:

John Amon, Rugby, N. Dak.; Fred Amon, Maxbass, N. Dak.; Frieda (Mrs. Ben Thom), Minot, N. Dak.; Tillie (Mrs. Ray Sharky), Towner, N. Dak.; Hulda, (Mrs. Robert Schnabel), Upham, N. Dak.; Chris Amon, Upham, N. Dak.; Bennie Amon, Upham, N. Dak.; Herman Amon, Towner, N. Dak.; Otto Amon, Towner, N. Dak.

Walter Amon lost his life in a drowning accident near Upham in July 1950.

WM. AHNER

Wm. Ahner came to North Dakota, from Philadelphia, Penn., in the year 1900. Prior to his coming, he served three years in troop D. 8th U. S. Cavalry.

Mr. Ahner homesteaded west of Upham in Deep River township where they are still living.

In 1900, in order to obtain a loan of only \$100.00, one team of horses, wagon, harness and two cows were mortgaged. The note bore 12% interest.

One day in the spring of 1905, a man stopped at the Ahner farm and inquired about "the place they are going to build that town." He was told that it was five miles east and the man proceeded on his way with a team of mules. It turned out that this person was Walter Bond, a lumber dealer. Next time Mr. Ahner went to town, there was a shack, the first building on the townsite and the beginning of the Bond Lumber Co. in Upham.

Mr. Ahner lived on his claim during the summer months, but prior to his marriage, he would go to Chicago to work during the winter. In this manner, he managed to pay his grocer.

In the year of 1909, he married Paula Pfau, they have six children all surviving. They are: Alice Wahl, Upham, N. Dak.; Myrna Wahl, Upham, N. Dak.; Roy Ahner, Detroit, Michigan. Ethel Peterson, Seattle, Washington. Marian Ellege, Dallas, Texas. Thomas Ahner, Minot, N. Dak.

He served twenty-two years as township clerk and twenty years as School Clerk in Deep River township.

INGEMAN SMETTE

In June 1898, Ingeman Smette left Buxton, N. Dak. with his brother Christ, John Braaten, Carl Braaten and Hans Gulbranson. They came with a team of horses and wagon looking for land. First they went to Devils Lake, Knox and Cando, but did not locate any land there, so they went to Towner, the County seat, and

found out that land could be homesteaded at Deep River. They had to go back to Devils Lake to file on the land. Ingeman came back that same fall to build his shack which was 8 by 12 by 6. He made the same trip four times with horses. It took seven days one way.

Ingeman married Marthine Knudsvig, March 9, 1901 and moved to Upham to make their home. They stayed with Jens Braaten's a few days until they got settled in their shack. In 1902, they decided to build a house. The lumber was hauled from Towner. His wife and baby went along. On the way back, they lost the burr of the front wheel and Ingerman walked back two miles, but couldn't find it. Then he had his wife drive the horses and he walked along the side of the wagon and watched so the wheel did not come off.

Mr. Smette helped to organize Meadow Township in 1902, together with Barney Benson, T. T. Kongsli, John Ebersole and Willis Ebersole.

The Smettes had eight children with seven surviving: Henry on the homestead, Clarence, Upham, N. Dak.; (Tomina), Mrs. Clayton Goheen, Mrs. Bud Demsey (Myrtle), California; Mrs. Don Heseltine, (Julia), Mrs. Sandy Twitchell (Lois), California and Oscar of Deering. Melvin passed away in 1950.

In 1951, the Smette's celebrated their Golden Wedding and they are now making their home in Upham.

WILLIAM W. HALL

William Hall was born in Buffalo, New York. He married Carrie Beech, July 28, 1899. They had four children, all of whom survive. They are: Lee Hall, Russell, N. Dak.; Arthur Hall, Upham, N. Dak.; Mrs. Arleen Morgan, Crary, and Mrs. Aletha Joern, Lakota, N. Dak.

Mr. Hall came to Upham in 1900 from Larimore where he had farmed for a number of years. He went through all the usual hardships of the early settlers — fording streams, building claim shack and breaking the sod. Granville was the nearest town. He filed on land in Pratt Township and later moved to Russell. An experience which nearly cost his life was getting lost in a blizzard, neighbors set a straw pile afire and he found his way home.

He served twelve years as a school officer in Tacoma township. During that time a new gymnasium was built.

The Halls are members of the English Lutheran Church at Eckman, N. Dak.

MR. and MRS. B. T. BENSON

Sveinbjorn (Barney) Benson was born in Iceland in 1875. In the year 1883 he emigrated to the United States with his parents, Thordur and Maria Benidiktson and family. They settled in Akra, North Dakota where they lived until 1894 when with other Icelanders of that community they moved to the Mouse River valley driving oxen and covered wagons. As Thordur Benidiktson (later changed to Benson) had used his homestead rights in the Red River valley

he could not file here. His oldest son, Barney, being of age filed a homestead one and one half miles straight east of Upham on the west edge of the Mouse River valley. Here he made his home engaging in farming and stockraising.

In 1908 Barney married Gudbjorg Davidson, the daughter of one of the pioneer families. She arrived in this area in 1892, a child of six, making the trip from Pembina County by ox team and covered wagon. Her parents homesteaded on the north edge of the Mouse River valley in the northeast corner of Meadow township.

Mr. and Mrs. Benson had a family of nine children. The eight surviving children are: Mrs. Byerg Sawyer, Associate Extension Agent of Bottineau County; Mrs. C. E. (Adelaide) Thompson, Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. Mary B. Nichol, a teacher in the Garrison, North Dakota public school. Mrs. F. C. (Sigrid) Ott, Wiesbaden, Germany; A. S. Benson, States Attorney of Bottineau County; Mrs. Alfred (Evangeline) Schultz, Bismarck, North Dakota and J. K. Benson and H. S. Benson, both of Upham.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Benson were active and diligent workers of Melankton Lutheran Church. Mr. Benson was a member of Meadow Lodge No. 85, A. F. & A. M. He served as a member of the Meadow School District Board for over twenty years and as a township officer for a number of terms. He was also a pioneer member and longtime supporter of the local Upham Farmers Elevator.

Mr. Benson passed away in 1944. His widow has continued to make her home at Upham, in the community that she came to sixty two years ago.

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