



PIONEERS

THE
OLD SETTLER'S MEMORIAL
MONUMENT
ASS'N., INC.
PRESENTS
A LOOK INTO THE PAST



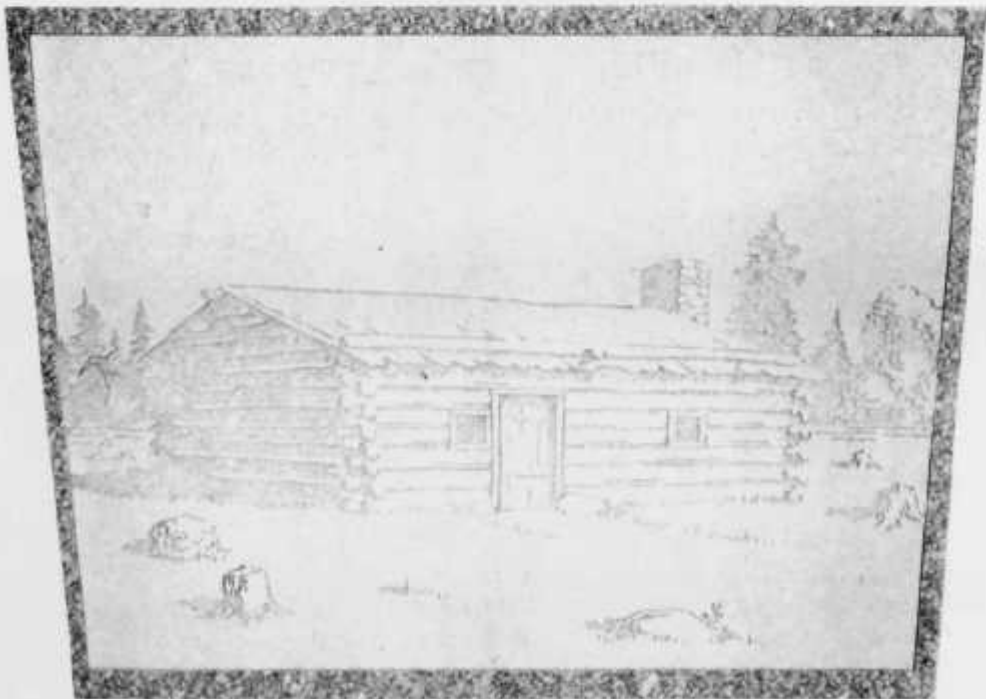
North Dakota State Library
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Dedication

To the sturdy, resourceful pioneers who came from all parts of the world, and transformed a raw prairie into thriving communities of productivity and hope.

"Where once slow creeping glaciers passed
Resistless o'er a frozen waste,
Deep rooted in virgin mould
The dower of centuries untold."

We gratefully dedicate this historical book.



FOREWORD

We have attempted to cover at least a small portion of the territory along both sides of the Red River, with brief biographies and pictures of early settlers.

At this late date we are sure that you will realize the utter impossibility of doing justice to the subject.

The pioneers came, settled, developed, and left the results of years of effort and determination. On the rich virgin soil of the great states of Minnesota and North Dakota they erected homes, schools, and churches. They built roads and bridges. They left a heritage to their descendants of which we can all be proud. This book will cover more than one hundred years, and if in reading it, the children of today and the children of tomorrow will better understand the area history, then our efforts will have not been in vain.



History of the old log cabin. This log cabin was built by and was the home of Ole O. Estenson, from 1871 the year it was built until 1880, when Mr. Estenson built a larger log house consisting of two rooms and an upstairs. The first one was 13 x 13 and stood on the Estenson farm until 1956 (Vineland Township, Polk County) when it was moved to the old "Frog Point" site on the Dakota side of the river. It is now the property of the Old Settlers Memorial Association. Here it stands as a memorial to the pioneers who built it.

THE RED RIVER OF THE NORTH

The Red River of the North has its beginning as a river at junction of the streams, Bois de Sioux and the Ottertail. This point is at Breckenridge, Minnesota, with Wahpeton, North Dakota on the west bank. The source of the river is, therefore, the source of the two streams mentioned. The Bois de Sioux has its beginning at Lake Traverse, Minnesota and the Ottertail rises at Elbow Lake, Minnesota.

Concerning the earliest navigation of the Red River, we know very little except that the early voyagers speak of the river and the canoe trade carried on by Indians who inhabited the area. In the journals of Lord Selkirk's settlement at lower Fort Garry may be found an account of the purchase of the Red River Colony of seed grain at Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. The grain was transported in Mackinaw boats down a tributary to the Mississippi, up the Mississippi to the Minnesota River and then up that river to its source at Lake Traverse.

While both the Minnesota River and the Red River have their sources in the same chain of lakes, yet, there never was, nor is there now any communication between the two, except in times when melting snow or rains produce a sufficient freshet to create a stream between the two.

The Selkirk settlement shipment of grain, after arriving at the source of the river, was hauled overland across the landlocked connection, thence by water down the Bois de Sioux to the Red River. The transportation of this grain was in 1820 and appears to be the first attempt of white men to use the Red River as a means of business communications. For the next thirty-seven years there is no record of any further attempts to commercially navigate the Red River.

John B. Davis of St. Paul owned a steamboat which he operated on the Mississippi north of St. Anthony Falls. This boat was called the "Freighter." In the spring of 1859 an attempt was made to run this boat up the Minnesota River, and at the portage, time the voyage to take advantage of the freshets usually due at that season of the year. Everything went as planned until the boat arrived at a point somewhat over halfway across the portage, when the man at the wheel mistook the waters in a deep coulee for the main channel and ran the boat up this false channel for a few rods where it grounded. C. B. Thiemens was master of the boat. A Welshman was left in charge of the boat and he remained there for four years without supplies except such as he could gather from the wild game of the neighborhood.

There are many conflicting reports as to who tried to put this boat into the Red River. George B. Winship, noted editor of the Grand Forks Herald, says "Captain Russell Blakely and others bought this steamer, "The

Freighter" at St. Paul, and took it up the Minnesota River."

The boat was afterwards sold by the sheriff and J. C. Burbank became the purchaser. The steamer was 125 feet long with a displacement of 200 tons.

The machinery of the "freighter" was also purchased by J. C. Burbank, and hauled overland to Georgetown on the Red River, where it was installed in a new steamer called "International." The machinery was hauled to Georgetown in the winter of 1860. The "International" hulk was completed in 1861 and launched in the spring of 1862. The new boat was longer than the "Freighter" (137 feet) but with less displacement (133 tons). The reason for this was that the new boat was built to skim over shallow water.

Burbank found that The Hudson Bay Company furnished most of the shipping both up and down the river, and to compete with this trust was a losing proposition. Accordingly, he sold the "International" to the Hudson Bay Company in 1864. The last trip made by this steamer under the ownership of Burbank was made in 1863 when Captain Barrett brought her up from Fort Garry.

This account of the "Freighter" converted into the "International" is not an account of the first steamboat to ply the waters of the Red River, but the "International" is mentioned at this point because the attempt to put the "Freighter" on the Red River was made in June 1858.

The first steamboat to actually steam through the waters of the Red River was the "Anson Northrup" and this boat accomplished this feat May 26, 1859. The "Selkirk" was built by James J. Hill, Alexander Griggs, and associates at McCauleyville in the winter of 1870-71. It was 110 feet long with a draft of 3 feet and a capacity of 120 tons. Here it will be noted that while the depth of the "International" was 5½ feet, this boat had a depth of 3 feet and navigated much more easily in shallow water.

The "Pioneer" was nothing more or less than the old "International" rebuilt in 1860.

In 1872 the Hudson's Bay and the Hill Griggs interests were merged into one company called the Red River Transportation Company. When this merger took place the new company had two boats, the "Pioneer" and the "Selkirk." The new concern then built the "Dakota" and the "Alpha" at Breckenridge, the first being built in the winter of 1871-72 and the latter in the winter of 1873-74. The same winter the company built the "Cheyenne" at Grand Forks.

After this merger, the freight rates were raised and the business men of Winnipeg resented this tightly organized monopoly. Having petitioned the Red River Transporta-



Steam boat—Selkirk. This steam boat hauled five barges, two of them can be seen, also grain spout leading up to river elevator, at Frog Point.

tion Company for lower rates with no satisfactory results, the business men decided to build their own line of steamboats. Accordingly, in 1875 two boats were built at Fargo. The "Minnesota" and the "Manitoba." After making two trips the "Minnesota" was rammed and sunk by a boat belonging to the Red River Transportation Co. (this was reported as an accident, but the circumstances are not altogether clear whether it actually was an accident). Becoming discouraged with their venture in transportation, the business men of Winnipeg sold the remaining boat, the "Manitoba" to the Hill, Hudson's Bay interests, and thus the first attempt to break up a monopoly in the Northwest, ended in failure.

The Grandin Brothers, large farm operators in the Red River Valley, built the "J. L. Grandin" at Fargo in 1878, and it was operated exclusively by the Grandin Brothers in transporting grain grown along the Red River to Moorhead, Minnesota. When the railroads put river navigation out of business, the "J. L. Grandin" was hauled up on the banks of the Red River and there

ended its days.

In addition, a number of other boats had short stays on the river: The "Pluck," built at Brainard and shipped to Fargo, in 1879-80; The "W. H. Alsop" built at Moorhead in 1881 and operated until 1886; The "Fram" which operated many years on the Red Lake River above Crookston, was knocked down, shipped overland, and rebuilt at Grand Forks in 1895.

All of these boats were doomed on the Red River just as river transportation on the Mississippi was doomed by the coming of the railroads.

While some of these historic boats struggled along in river transportation, and were in some instances dismantled and their machinery placed in other boats on different rivers, all came to the same end—the railroads had won the battle of transportation.

Actually the Transportation business on the Red River closed in 1886 as a successful business venture, and those that struggled along for the next ten years travelled on sentiment and not revenue.

FROG POINT

An old and tottering "general store" building in a farm yard on the Red River, 55 miles north of Fargo-Moorhead, is to be demolished.

When it is gone, the last remaining business structure of busy Frog Point, Dakota Territory, low-water head of navigation on the Red in frontier times, will have disappeared. A church and a school now serving as a township hall still remain.

Ninety-five or more years old, the little river port had its origin and development in the fur trade, the western gold rush, Red River navigation, stage coaching and homesteading. Its history is a typical frontier tale, sparkling with humor, pathos and romance.

Its false front defiant to the last, the old store stands on the farm of Alfred Torgerson, 12 miles east of Buxton, N.D. It is the survivor of a group which included a hotel, stagecoach stables, a blacksmith and wagon shop, two saloons, a second-story dance hall, a telegraph and express office, doctor's office and a number of warehouses used for storing furs, grain, and general merchandise.

One of the town's final ventures was a creamery which has long since disappeared.

Torgerson has allowed the old store to linger on the scene for sentimental reasons even though its delapidated appearance among new barns and sheds has disturbed him. He has decided to start the wrecking but yet he hesitates.

Even if the building is razed, Frog Point will not soon be forgotten. There is mention of it in a number of old records, including those of the Hudson's Bay Co. There are brief references in history books. Its name appears on old maps. A few old photographs are preserved.

STEAMBOAT ANCHOR GARNERED FROM RIVER

An even more solid relic of the town is a steamboat anchor garnered from the river at the foot of nearby Goose Rapids during a drought period. Torgerson is preserving it.

Heat-fused coins, rust-encrusted square-headed nails, and charred bits of wood found along the streets tell of fires that consumed some of Frog Point's buildings. A little distance north of the town may be seen traces of the stagecoach trail winding away towards Fort Garry, its northern terminal.

One place, where the wheels of the Concord coaches cut deeply into the sod, marks the site where a coach upset one spring day when water ran high in the creeks and gullies. A woman passenger was almost drowned. It was here too that a case of dynamite for the Canadian Pacific Railway fell off a wagon and gave the muleskinners a fright.

Then there is the plum tree, last of the thicket under which was found the body of the doctor's young son after the shooting incident, and in a nearby cemetery lies the remains of the Belmont giant.

In the outskirts of the town are the foundations of the riverside grain warehouse, and here and there may be seen marks on the trees telling of high water in the great flood of 1897.

And on the levee, during the spring and summer, frogs

croak as noisily as in the past, seeming to chant in perpetual chorus that Frog Point is not dead yet.

TOWN'S NAME LATER CHANGED TO BELMONT

Born with the name of Frog Point, the village later acquired another, Belmont.

Quaint tales are told of Frog Point's early beginnings. Many are willing to accept them as true. One story hints of visitors to the site as far back as the year 1362.

E. O. Estenson, a pioneer settler on the Minnesota side of the Red nearby, said that in 1871 he found a strange hatchet or battle axe at Frog Point. "It was lying near the bank under two feet of water," he said. "It resembled the old battle axes of the Vikings. It had a spear-shaped point on the outside, opposite the handle, and another at the top."

Stories like this are relished by those who have accepted the tale of the Runestone Vikings, who are said to have visited the Red River region in 1362.

Several stories have been told of the origin of the town's name.

One credits Capt. Samuel Painter, a salty steamboat skipper, with the naming. His craft was stranded on the Goose Rapids just above the townsite and he came ashore and was startled by a horde of croaking and jumping frogs.

He wrote the words "Frog Point" on a slab of wood and nailed it to a tree as a guide for steamboat pilots; the tale goes. The date is not given but it could have been in the spring of 1860 when Painter first came to the Red River as captain of the "Anson Northup."

But whatever the origin, the name Frog Point was printed on maps and in books, and written in letters and noted in records.

Charts used by steamboat pilots in those days bore the name. One dated in July, 1876, refers to "Frog Point Island, 139 miles from Moorhead" and "Frog Point, 140 miles." The distance was that involved in following the sinuous river bends.

The date of the change from Frog Point to Belmont is quite definite, being engrossed in the records of the Traill County register of deeds in the Hillsboro courthouse.

On June 29, 1880, Robert and David Ray, brothers, filed a plat of the new village of "Belmont" with the deeds register. They had purchased the site and buildings from the Hudson's Bay Co. The plat laid out a community of six blocks, divided by streets bearing the names of Main, Front, Worth, Broad, South and Pembina. George H. Tucker was the surveyor.

The name chosen honored Belle Mont, the attractive daughter of a Frog Point bartender, according to one story. This is denied by descendants of the Rays.

"I know that Robert Ray named it for an estate or town in Ireland or England," says Esther Ray, Seattle, Wash., a daughter of David Ray. "There was a storekeeper named Mandt with a wife named Emma. They had no children." One story has it that the store to be demolished in Frog Point is that of Mandt.

The post office department in Washington maintains the spelling of the town's name is Belmont, rather than



Belmont. The name was changed from Frog Point to Belmont Aug. 20, 1879, the department says.

A GRAND PLAN FOR TOWN SHOWN IN PLAT

Just what was the motivation and grand plan for this brave town platting and renaming venture is not clear.

The Great Northern Railway (then known as the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba), had definitely written off Frog Point and was laying its tracks some 12 miles to the west. The engineers didn't care much about placing rails close to the "unpredictable" Red River. The stage-line ceased operation Sept. 15 that year.

"There was great excitement and a considerable celebration when Frog Point ceased to exist and Belmont took its place," says a manuscript penned by Bessie Bredeson Deal on early days in the community. Her parents were early Frog Point area settlers.

"A big dinner was served," she wrote. "The higher-ups drank a toast to the future prosperity of the big little city of Belmont. The menu included raw oysters on the shell, baked ham, potatoes, baked beans, cold slaw, cheese, pickles, cakes, and pies.

In the same year that Belmont was platted, Belmont township was organized with Elling Ellingson as chairman, A. T. Sannes and Martin Thompson, supervisors; Joseph Thompson, clerk, and W. F. Ritchie, treasurer.

Settlers arriving in the late 70s regarded Frog Point as "a prosperous little town," written accounts say.

A story of the experiences of Johane Nessel Johnson, who came to the community early in 1879, says "Settlers were coming by the dozens and all stopped at the Frog Point hotel."

"There was great excitement when the steamboats docked," says this account. "Frog Point also was a stage-coach line relay point. Fresh horses would be harnessed and ready to go when the stage came in.

Miss Johnson obtained employment with the Robert Rays who operated the hotel and general store. The hotel served good big meals, all you could eat for 25 cents. Miss Johnson cooked and served the meals. She was assisted by a 'dining room girl.'

TOWN LAY AT FOOT OF TROUBLESOME RAPIDS

Ever since 1859 when the "Anson Northup" was constructed and launched as the first steamboat on the Red River, it was inevitable that Frog Point would play a role in the water transportation of the region. The town lay immediately at the downstream foot of the troublesome Goose Rapids, the bete noir of steamboat captains on the Red. From Frog Point on there was deep water to Fort Gary.

On its first commercial run to Fort Garry in the spring of 1859, the "Northup" was stranded on the Goose Rapids shoals and was dislodged only by construction of a temporary log and brush dam.

After spring freshets on the Red subsided, it was often problematical whether a boat would be able to pass the rocks and sandbars exposed for some 20 river miles from Caledonia to Frog Point.

The high water just dribbled away. Navigation depends on the rains and, as Capt. Painter once said, on how many people spat in the river.

A boat proceeding upstream toward Fargo-Moorhead with a cargo of northern furs often was compelled to

FOUR EARLY BUSINESS-MEN OF FROG POINT



toss its lines ashore and tie up at Frog Point to wait for a rise, or to send for mule trains to haul the valuable bales to the nearest railhead.

Similarly, a boat going downstream to Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, with London tea and other commodities for Britishers would alternately be forced to lay up at Caledonia, and sometimes at Georgetown, to wait for the wagons to make the Frog Point connection.

It was an irritating phase of Red River navigation, one as unpleasant as the hordes of mosquitoes which rose from the tall, wet grasses of the prairie and the foliage of the fringewoods.

It irked passengers as much as captains. On many an occasion they rode the stages or lumbering wagons, or walked the 40-odd miles from old Georgetown to Frog Point. Among those inconvenienced on one occasion was Catholic Bishop Thomas L. Grace of St. Paul.

The water level was unpredictable. The depths might change over night, or they might remain fairly constant over the entire navigation season from April to October, or indeed, for several years.

TOWN SAW ITSELF AS WORLDWIDE METROPOLIS METROPOLIS

How then could anyone invest heavily in the future of Frog Point as a commercial center and the head of navigation?

Incurable optimists with roseate visions might. Frog Point had them, and at times it actually was to boast a population, a business boom and a transportation in-

dustry that assumed major proportions.

Visitors writing to kin abroad told stories that led readers to believe the little river town was in some respects a new-world metropolis. Exaggerated tales of its gayety and wickedness were broadcast.

It is probable that Frog Point first was popular as a campsite and was used by early travelers but the first hint to the effect that Frog Point was to be "developed" was connected with the appearance on the scene in 1870 of a man named Walter J. S. Traill.

Only 24, he was a trusted chief clerk of the Hudson's Bay Co. who had been sent to take charge of that company's operations south of the border.

Traill came in with a cart train of furs from Saskatchewan in June, relieved another clerk and took charge of HBC's southern headquarters and freight transfer station at the river port of Georgetown.

Probably as part of a preconceived plan, he "took out" naturalization papers, built a squatter's shack on the site of Frog Point, and when the land office was opened at Pembina in December, is said to have filed his pre-emption claim. The latter is somewhat doubtful since the land probably was not surveyed until 1873, but it is fact he eventually got title to the property.

Traill also applied for the postmastership and was appointed March 6, 1872.

The land to which he got title was Lot 1 in Section 23, and lots 1, 2, 3 and the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 22, all in what is now called Belmont township.

RIVER BANK AT POINT FORMED NATURAL LEVEE

Why did Traill pre-empt at Frog Point? The HBC well knew from its 11 years acquaintance with steamboat transportation on the Red that the "Point" would supplant Georgetown as head of navigation for months at a time. It was a matter of weather cycles.

The Frog Point tract of course was to become the property of HBC, with Traill only the nominal owner. Eventually a deed was to convey the property to his employers.

Traill had chosen an ideal spot. The lower bank of the river at Frog Point was a natural levee, convenient for freight handling from wagon to steamboat and vice versa. On more than one occasion, the wagon-steamboat switch of freight had taken place here.

Traill transported a large shipment of HBC freight by wagon from Georgetown to Frog Point soon after his arrival. It was not until a year later, however, that Frog Point began to come into its own.

This was the year that the Northern Pacific Railway was approaching Red River with its rails, stimulating the first heavy flow of settlers into the region.

It was the year that a telegraph line was built along the river from Moorhead to Fort Garry, the year that stagecoaches began operating between the same points, and the year Frog Point was selected as a site for a stage station.

It also was the year that Hill, Griggs & Co., of St. Paul built at McCauleyville, 35 miles south of Fargo-

Moorhead, a new steamboat, the "Selkirk," and numerous flatboats, and entered into transport competition on the Red with the Hudson's Bay Co.

The latter company much earlier had acquired the only other steamboat on the stream at this period, and was comfortably enjoying its monopoly.

WAGON TRAIN CARRIED FREIGHT TO THE POINT

The year 1870 had been a dry year, 1871 was worse, and the river was unusually low. By the end of May the boats could not proceed south of Frog Point.

The HBC warehouse at Georgetown was bulging with freight destined for Fort Garry and north. Traill organized a wagon train and proceeded to Frog Point June 8 with a cargo for the "International."

Among the HBC teamsters was Robert Ray, who was to play a prominent role in Frog Point's future.

Hill, Griggs & Co. wagon trains were clanking along the same trail. Morris, Minn., at that period was the nearest railroad.

The "Selkirk," as well as the "International," lay alongside the Frog Point wharf.

This was the beginning of Frog Point's day of glory. With tumultuous ups and frightening downs it lasted well beyond the turn of the century.

In January of 1896, an unidentified writer turned out an article for "The Record," a historical monthly published in Fargo, which painted Frog Point in somewhat romanticized hues. The article has often been reprinted and probably gained credence because it was not challenged.

"Hundreds of teams engaged in freighting congregated here, and flatboatmen, hunters, trappers, and Indian traders held high carnival," the article said. "Here the steamboats received and discharged their cargoes.

"Indeed, Frog Point was then the metropolis of the Red River Valley and had an international reputation. In England it was presumed by some to be a city of broad avenues, tall spires and the hum of industry, only outranked by Liverpool on the one side and Fort Garry on the other.

"It was known that lords and ladies trod the decks of the steamers coming and going from its port; that the international boundary commission made Frog Point its starting point; that Riel's rebels, and Donahue and his followers on their way to capture Canada, had rested here, and through their frequent mention had added to its fame.

"To speak of Frog Point in England or Canada brought up pictures of marching armies, boundary police, and a great commercial mart for it was the head of navigation on the great Red River of the North, English lords or ladies on their first trip to Fort Garry would say, 'Beg your pardon, but where is the town?'"

FIRST RESIDENTS LEFT NOT A SINGLE DIARY

Frog Point's first inhabitants died without leaving a written history of their town for posterity. Not a single diary has been found.

Passing travelers and temporary residents, however, jotted down sparse notes and wrote letters. Pioneer

journalists occasionally stepped ashore from the gangplank of a steamboat or dropped off a coach. Steamboatmen and merchants kept records.

As a result, a sketchy but revealing outline of the town's history has been preserved.

One of the earliest recorded events occurred in November of 1870. This was the temporary freezing-in at Frog Point of seven flatboats loaded with general merchandise for Fort Garry. The boats were part of a fleet of 40, built and loaded at McCauleyville, Minn., across the Red River from Fort Abercrombie.

Capt. Alexander Griggs, one of the fleet's owners, and his assistant, Howard R. Vaughn, were of the opinion the boats would have to remain all winter under guard. They began checking their supplies, mostly whisky, "black" flour, sugar and black tea.

The weather changed before further plans were made and after a week of mild temperatures the ice broke and the boats were taken on to Grand Forks for the winter.

Among prominent Britishers who have told of visits to Frog Point are Maj. W. F. Butler, an Army officer from London. He had accompanied the captain of the steamboat "International" on a saddlehorse jaunt July 18, 1870, from Georgetown to Frog Point, beyond which the steamboat could not then pass.

"At last in the gloom I saw down in what appeared to be the bottom of a valley, a long white wooden building with lights showing through the windows," he wrote. "Riding quickly down this valley we reached, followed by hosts of winged pursuers, the edge of some water lying amidst tree-covered banks. The water was the Red River, and the white wooden building the steamboat "International."

All travelers were impressed by the appearance of the landscape at Frog Point, where the river channel lay deep in the valley with high bluffs.

Maj. Butler was assigned to an investigation of disorder in settlements along the Saskatchewan River and on his return in February, 1871, he left one of his Husky sledge dogs, named Cerf-Vola (Flying Deer) at Frog Point. He returned in September, 1872, to retrieve the animal.

"At the place known as the Point of Frogs, an old friend, Cerf-Vola, met me with many tokens of recognition," Butler wrote. He purchased two other dogs at Frog Point, named Pony and Spanker, and left with the three on a winter journey over the Canadian prairies and mountains to the west coast. His book, "The Wild North Land," tells of his adventures.

SPECULATORS SOUGHT RAIL CROSSING POINT

During the spring and summer of 1871 as Frog Point was gaining importance, speculators and prospective business and professional men were prowling along the Red River to see where the Northern Pacific Railway would cross the stream on its plunge west.

On this site they would stampede to put down their stakes. They did not know then that it would be at Moorhead-Fargo.

Walter J. S. Traill, the Hudson's Bay Co. representa-

tive south of the border, in letters to his kin in Canada, disclosed what was going on at Frog Point in June, 1871, several weeks before the rush to the Fargo-Moorhead site.

Writing from that place on the 16th, he said, "I am here shipping HBC freight and looking after the workmen building the warehouses (for the HBC), etc. I left Georgetown June 8 and do not expect to return for some weeks, perhaps months. All the transport business is being done at Frog Point, so I have made this my headquarters. We are getting nearer civilization. We have a stagecoach in from St. Cloud every second day, and a steamer from Ft. Garry every third day. The place is quite lively.

"We receive an average of 50 wagons of freight a day, and the other shipping company (probably Hill, Griggs & Co.) the same. We have 20 men at work and a station keeper and drivers for the stage company so Frog Point will soon be quite a place. I have very comfortable quarters."

During July of 1871, the river had fallen steadily and Frog Point was on the verge of succumbing in its infancy as a commercial port. Traill wrote dismally on Aug. 1, "I fear the boats won't be back. If so I must forward 700 tons of freight to Fort Garry by wagons."

Traill made a trip to Grand Forks to study the situation and inspected company property, writing Aug. 10 from Georgetown that, "Navigation is closed for the season."

It was shortly before this date that Frog Point was visited by some distinguished American journalists, who came overland from Georgetown in July to board the "Selkirk" for Fort Garry. The craft was unable to proceed farther south than Frog Point.

The visitors included Charles A. Dana of the New York Sun; J. C. Evans, New York World; E. C. Bow-

man, New York Herald; John A. Bross, Chicago Tribune, J. H. Harper of Harper's Bros., and Bayard Taylor, Boston.

They had come by stagecoach from Morris, Minn., to Georgetown, and in coaches and other vehicles to Frog Point. Taylor mentioned Frog Point in his account of the trip, writing, "We saw her (the Selkirk's) smokestacks rising far ahead in a deep bushy channel at Frog Point. Steam was up, and we headed for Fort Garry." "NICE LITTLE TOWN" EMERGING AT FORKS

On Sept. 3, Traill wrote that river conditions were improving, that the last steamboat of the season had left Frog Point, and that he would now ship out of Grand Forks, "where a nice little town is growing." Soon the situation changed again. There was nothing dependable about the Red River. One day the head of navigation might be Frog Point, the next Moorhead.

A newspaper was started in Moorhead July 6, 1872, and it commented at once that three steamboats, the "International," "Selkirk," and "Dakota" were then picking up large cargoes of northern freight in Moorhead.

A correspondent of the paper, discussing a trip on one of the boats, wrote July 13, 1872, of a visit to Frog Point. "It is pleasantly situated on a high bluff overlooking the Red River and is destined to be the St. Paul of the Red River, it being at the head of navigation for the largest class of boats during low water."

The Moorhead paper's "River News" column said that, "Owing to the low stage of water for the last few weeks, boats have been unable to reach this point (Moorhead), all freight being transferred with teams to Frog Point below Goose Rapids."

Rains came soon, however, and even the largest boats were again proceeding on their way to Moorhead. It was this unpredictability dominating navigation that



Crossing the Red River by boat at Frog Point.

made Frog Point's future uncertain.

On June 9, 1872, Traill reported, "I have a telegraph office at Georgetown and another at Frog Point, with a clerk at each." This was the line of the Northwestern Telegraph Co., running to Winnipeg, later absorbed by the Western Union.

On June 30, 1872, Traill wrote from Frog Point, "I am now acting in the double capacity of HBC agent and agent for Kittson's bonded transportation company. (This tends to substantiate a belief that the HBC was actual owner of the entire Red River steamboating business at this time. Norman W. Kittson was an HBC employee).

"I have to do all the receiving and shipping of freight, ticketing passengers through, &c., &c., besides having charge of Georgetown and this post. We now have a post office, daily mail, express office and first class hotel."

He explained in his letters, that he had no residence in Frog Point, "merely an office, and a bedroom in the (HBC) hotel which we rent to an American. We get good board for \$5 a week."

The American to whom the hotel was leased was A. H. (Howard) Morgan, a native of Guilford, Me. Morgan also acted as station keeper for the stage line. Another Frog Point employee of the HBC was Fred Beatty, who was assigned by Traill late in 1872 to handle "the steamboat business." Later Beatty was put "in charge" at Frog Point but eventually Traill dismissed him.

MOORHEAD LAYS CLAIM TO HEAD OF NAVIGATION

Moorhead at this time was in its infancy but it had already joined with Fargo in proclaiming itself "the head of navigation on Red River." (The N. P. Railway had finished its tracks into Moorhead, Dec. 30, 1871).

During the dry period it was necessary to build many shallow draft floatboats at Breckenridge and Fargo-Moorhead to get accumulated freight through to Fort Garry. (The St. Paul & Pacific Railway had reached Breckenridge in October, 1871).

In August of 1872, merchandise weighing 1,003,692 pounds was taken by wagon from Moorhead to Frog Point for loading on boats which could not pass the rapids.

Five heavy wagons loaded with tea en route from Moorhead for Fort Garry were stranded at Frog Point on Christmas Day in 1872. This was due to an epizootic disease which made many horses ill and stopped the stagecoaches temporarily.

There is a record of many teamsters and stage drivers seeking refuge at Frog Point during the blizzard of Jan. 7, 1873.

The transfer business at Frog Point stirred up Moorhead interests and by the winter of 1872-73 they had begun to exert pressure in Congress for navigation improvements on the stream.

The Moorhead newspaper, the Red River Star, led the fight for deep water.

SHIPPING CENTER HAD ASPECTS OF LUSTY

FRONTIER TOWN

Fred A. Bill, clerk on the steamboat "Dakota," was one of the few visitors to Frog Point who wrote his impressions of the little port on the Red River, north of Fargo-Moorhead.

On the maiden voyage of the "Dakota" down-stream in 1872 he kept notes. "There is a substantial warehouse and a commodious residence at Frog Point that is called the Morgan House as travelers are accommodated therein.

It is really a branch of the Hudson's Bay Co. at Georgetown, where Traill is in charge. Freight is brought to this place by team from Moorhead when low water prevents the boats going over the (Goose) rapids, the river being navigable to this point at practically any stage."

Walter J. S. Traill, chief clerk for HBC, had charge of that firm's enterprises south of the border along Red River and his headquarters were at Georgetown, 16 miles north of Fargo-Moorhead.

A. H. (Howard) Morgan, a native of Guilford, Me., had been engaged by Traill to manage the HBC hotel. He also kept the stage station for the Minnesota Stage Co., owned by Russell Blakeley and C. W. Carpenter.

The "Dakota" was built at Breckenridge, Minn., that year. Among other steamboats which became familiar to Frog Pointers were the "Alpha," built in 1873; "Cheyenne," 1874; "Manitoba" and "Minnesota," and "Swallow," 1875; "J. L. Grandin" and "William Robinson," 1878; "Pluck," 1879; and "H. W. Alsop," 1882.

There were also many named barges and a few other steamboats.

In addition to the Morgans there was another well known Frog Point resident, C. G. Getchell, a native of Philadelphia, who came in 1872 to be employed in a government survey of the township. He became associated with A. H. Morgan.

HOLDUP BY ARMED MEN AN EVENT OF TIMES

Among events at Frog Point was a holdup during the evening of Aug. 29, 1873. J. W. Gidley, the veteran stager and at the time a route superintendent for the Minnesota Stage Co., apparently was the only victim. Whether he was driving a stage or was on a saddle-horse has not been determined.

As he was approaching Frog Point he was stopped by two men, one armed with two revolvers, the other with a shotgun, which were pointed at his head. He had only 90 cents in his possession at the time and they took it.

Suspicion settled on Alex Griggly and C. M. Clarkson, whom a Moorhead newspaper referred to as "whiskey seekers." They may have fled the country since there is no reference in the paper to their arrest.

The American Express Co. was then operating in connection with the stage line on this route but most valuables appear to have been conveyed by steamboat.

GOOSE RAPIDS A MAJOR NAVIGATION

OBSTACLE

To follow the progress of Frog Point in those days it is necessary to review the struggle for deep water naviga-

tion on Red River, the competition between river communities, development of large scale wheat growing, the rush of immigration, and the steady encroachment of railroads.

"The persistent struggle of the steamers last fall to overcome the obstructions at Goose Rapids and elsewhere in their endeavor to reach the highest possible point on the river from which to take freight," said a Moorhear paper Jan. 2, 1873, "seconds the arguments and shows the feasibility and economy of water transportation over the railroad route.

"This is a matter of considerable moment to the entire valley and we are happy in stating that the efforts now being made to have Congress appropriate a sufficient amount to accomplish the purpose in hand are likely to result favorably."

The paper had been assured that the legislatures of Minnesota and Dakota Territory planned to memorialize Congress.

In the fall of 1873, government engineers were on the Red to open a survey of conditions on the tortuous stream between Moorhead and Frog Point. At that period, the steamboat line operating on the river, the Red River Transportation Co., was demonstrating its private resourcefulness at the rapids.

Under the leadership of Norman W. Kittson, the company built two wing dams and managed to pass its larg-

est boats over the rocks and bars but with considerable difficulty. The water was reported standing 30 inches over the shoals.

The wing dams, the engineers reported, were at "the worst places." "They raised the water satisfactorily but created such a velocity that it was necessary to use warping hawsers to pass the steamboats from the foot to the head of the rapids," said the report.

Remnants of ropes found in trees along the river, and chains and anchors found in the channel testify of the difficulties.

Nevertheless, the Moorhead newspaper boasted at the close of the 1873 season, that Fargo-Moorhead had enjoyed more than seven months of uninterrupted navigation, to the detriment of Frog Point's prospects.

The engineering party operated with a barge equipped with cabins and two small boats, the leaders being Capt. J. W. Wellman and C. F. Hollingsworth. It completed the survey from Moorhead to a point one mile north of Frog Point in 1873.

It wasn't until 1874 that the engineers released their findings and recommendations in detail. They suggested that \$212,308 be expended for channel clearance and a lock and dam. They suggested an initial \$40,000 for fallen tree and snag removal.

Prospects looked good for a while but when Congress adjourned in May, 1874, it was learned that "Red River



Picture of a school picnic taken in Belmont Township, summer of 1896.



Looking at Frog Point from the Northwest.

was left out in the cold." Eventually about \$125,000 in federal funds was expended for dredging but time and progress in the form of railroad tracks caused the abandonment of river work.

ICE JAMS OF EARLY WINTER TRAP STEAMERS

A steady procession of teams loaded with Fort Garry freight wheeled through Frog Point in the winter of 1873-74. Winter had come suddenly Nov. 1 and ice jams held the "Selkirk" at Moorhead with 100 tons, and another 500 tons was stranded in a Moorhead warehouse.

Winnie & Chase was given the teaming contract at \$4.70 per hundredweight, and employed 200 teams, completing the job in mid-January.

The steamboat company appears to have abandoned its wing dams in 1874, and during the usual summer low water period, held its larger steamers at Frog Point and employed vessels such as the "Alpha" and "Cheyenne" as lighters, shuttling between Fargo-Moorhead and the point.

"The 'International' is turning at the rapids with the freight and passengers of the 'Alpha' and 'Cheyenne,'" said the Moorhead newspaper, June 13. Other similar items were printed.

In September, Frog Point and Fargo-Moorhead were both shocked by bad news. The steamboat line had pulled off its boats between Moorhead and Grand Forks, having set up a new head of navigation at Crookston, Minn., on the Red Lake River, a tributary of the Red. The St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, building north out of Glyndon, Minn., had reached the Red Lake in 1872 and now became the railhead.

Fortunately for the affronted communities, the Red Lake River proved too shallow except for occasional use and the steamboat company returned in November to its old channel.

The uncertainty of the water level in Red River is indicated by the following 1874 newspaper reports:

June 13: River low. Boats unable to reach Moorhead.

June 20: Heavy rains. River up six inches. Smaller boats

reaching Moorhead.

July 11: Rain. River up 12 inches. "International" steams into Moorhead. (The 136-foot "International" was at this period the largest boat on the river).

Sept 15: Boats pulled off river.

The utility of a Red River steamboat was not to be judged by its length or breadth. Drawing long barges, each steamboat moved tonnages of great size. Nevertheless, the fluctuation of the river level stimulated a thriving flatboat building industry and the downstream movement of huge cargoes by this means.

CALEDONIA NAMED THE COUNTY SEAT

The year 1875 was in some respects disastrous for Frog Point. The Hudson's Bay Co., which operated a store and hotel in the town, began preparing to pull out of the United States. Caledonia, instead of Frog Point, was named county seat when Traill County was organized, causing some Frog Pointers to flock to the seat of government.

And in September, the St. Paul and Pacific Railway extended a branch from its Crookston line to Fisher's Landing on the Red Lake River, near what is now Fisher, Minn. This furnished a new deep-water head of navigation which cut off Frog Point except for local steamboat traffic.

The boats in the Manitoba traffic rarely came to Frog Point or Fargo-Moorhead thereafter. It was the end of an era. The steamboats "J. L. Grandin," "Pluck," and "H. W. Alsop" were to ply the upper waters for some years, however, handling chiefly grain, but also considerable general merchandise for the smaller river ports. It was chiefly a local service.

A. H. Morgan, being elected a county commissioner and becoming chairman, cleared out and went into the store business at Caledonia with Asa Sargeant. Robert Ray took over the Frog Point store, buying out the HBC. He also acquired the hotel.

In this period the wheat-growing possibilities of the area became known, however, and homesteaders began

pouring in. Frog Point became a trading center for pioneers in its immediate vicinity and business boomed again. It continued to be important as a stage line stopping place.

Stage travel, between Fargo-Moorhead and Winnipeg via Frog Point, became heavy and stages were running night and day. On Dec. 3, 1878, however, Canada and the U. S. were linked by steel rails. Grand Forks and Fargo were joined by the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba in 1880. The last north-south stages were operated Sept. 15, 1880.

Having taken over in Frog Point, Robert Ray asked for the postmastership and was appointed March 29, 1875. For some reason the post office was discontinued June 21, 1875. It was re-established June 4, 1877, with Ray again in charge.

NATIVE OF FROG POINT OFFERS REMINISCENCES

Dr. Robert H. Ray, Long Beach, Calif., reminiscing at the age of 82, remembers the humorous and bizarre incidents at Frog Point, where he was born April 22, 1875.

He was the son of Robert Ray, who in 1875 had acquired possession of the Hudson's Bay Co's hotel and store in Frog Point, and was one of the small river port's leading citizens for many years. The elder Ray married Caroline Tronnes, daughter of a homesteader on the Minnesota side of the Red River, and Robert H. Ray was their first child.

Writing from Long Beach, Dr. Ray recalled that "My father, Robert Ray, came to this country about 1868 and started working for the Hudson's Bay Co. He purchased the HBC trading post right after A. H. Morgan, who preceded him, left for Caledonia."

When interviewed in 1883 by a representative of Andreas' "Historical Atlas of Dakota," the elder Ray said he came to Dakota in 1870.

He said he drove teams hauling HBC goods along Red River and remained with the company three years. Thereafter he "started business in a saloon on the ice in the middle of the Red River."

This perhaps was an effort to avert trouble with the federal government after it was contended that part of Dakota was Indian land on which it was illegal to introduce liquor.

The following spring, Ray said, he engaged "in the general merchandise business in the HBC's old store room, now standing and one of the oldest structures in the county." In 1880, he said, he erected a large two story "store house." He was enjoying a trade of \$40,000 to \$60,000 a year, was a stock raiser, postmaster and agent for the "State Line Steamboat Co." he said.

At the time the elder Ray was interviewed, his father, also named Robert Ray, had died four years before in Londonderry, Ireland. His mother, Deborah Barnes, was still living in northern Ireland.

The Frog Point Robert Ray had been joined at Frog Point by two brothers: David, who arrived in 1877 and became his partner in plating Frog Point and changing the name to Belmont in 1880; and Hugh, who came from New Zealand and began farming near Belmont.

"I remember being vaccinated by Dr. W. P. Cleveland of Caledonia and of course I had a holy horror of the ordeal," recalled Dr. Ray. "I remember him as making the call in a buggy drawn by six Shetland ponies in pairs.

My father, when I was about nine, gave me a Confederate \$1 bill. I tried to buy a book with it.

As a very small boy I remember when they dammed up the river in the winter with poles and would catch sleighloads of fish which I believe they called dog-fish. Probably they dried them for summer use. (More likely the fish were goldeyes, then very numerous in the Red River, according to other old Frog Pointers)."

THE FARMERS ALLIANCE TAKES POLITICAL FRONT

Along in the early 90's, the Farmers Alliance movement was started on the Minnesota side of the river. One of our early characters decided to move over to Minnesota and get into politics. The first requisite of a politician at that time was a Prince Albert coat which he probably purchased at Fargo.

He started in making political talks and was invited to give the 4th of July address at a town near Crookston. A friend of mine heard it. He put his hand over his heart and started with:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I stand on this platform with my two feet. In 1775, the Britishers started taxing the poor people of this country without asking them if it was all right.

"The farmers were so mad they got out their muskets and pitchforks. They met the hated Redcoats on Bunker Hill and chased them down to the Atlantic ocean and the sea was red with British blood. Thanks to these brave and God-fearing farmers, we now have liberty in this glorious land of Minnesota and North Dakota."

About 1879, the Hudson's Bay Co. stage barn at Frog Point was burned with quite a few horses in it. As I remember it, it was not rebuilt. The first school I attended was a log house with split logs to sit on, around a log table, plus slates and slate pencils.

Miss Corry, from a pioneer family near Belmont, was our teacher. We always had about three-months sessions during the summer. About two years after, a school was built with an upper hall, where dances and gatherings were held, and at rare intervals church services.

The Scandinavians who came to the Frog Point community lost little time in establishing religion on that frontier. The Grue Lutheran congregation was formed in the Knute Rauk home March 17, 1879.

DANCES IN THOSE DAYS WERE LIVELY AFFAIRS

The dances were lively affairs. One fellow who wore moccasins and a beaded cap was troublesome. After getting "well organized" he would announce he could lick any man in the house. This started a free-for-all and those who were reasonably sober would have to take the girls home.

A few times we would have two steamboats at the landing. A small boy could always collect a wonderful lot of swear words from these steamboat captains. They must have gone to school for some Mississippi captain.

There was a farmer living near town who came into my father's store, and seeing some little butter plates, bought a lot of them, plus 20 pounds of prunes from Fresno, Calif., for a dollar.

At that time, when you had threshers it was somewhat of a social event and wives vied with one another putting on a sort of banquet. My father found out that he had the prunes served on the butter plates. These prunes were dried upon the pits.

This same farmer sent to Europe and paid the steerage passenger ticket for a young man and had him work this out on his farm. He kept him at this for over a year until he got wise and left. I talked with him years after and he was worth \$75,000 more or less.

It has always been interesting to me to see the transformation taking place in all these immigrants. I can remember some of them taking off their hats when I, only a small boy, met some of them. I thought I was something very important.

To them it was a new world that had apparently no laws or restrictions. The government was in a far away place in Washington and the same with the territorial government at Yankton. The national government was supported by the tariff and our local and state by a land tax which they disliked, about like our early ancestors.

This way of life led to a great degree of individualism all over this country of ours, and finally to strife in our domestic affairs and political parties. Meanwhile, the answer was always in our Constitution. No individual or group could infringe on the rights of the people as a whole."

OLD ACCOUNT BOOKS SHOW STORE OPERATIONS

Another son of Robert Ray, Charles Ray, also of Long Beach, visited the old Ray store building before it was



Gust Torgerson and friends fishing on the Red River at Frog Point.

torn down a few years ago. He came upon two account books of the store operated by his father.

Some of the items recorded in the books are purchases and sales of cord wood, butter, eggs, gun powder, shot and caps, men's suits, buffalo coats, calico, flour, ham, pork, canned goods, a hoop-skirt and a fiddle string. The dates were July 1875 to June 1883.

Ray purchased 100 cords of wood from the HBC in July, 1875, at \$2 per cord. He sent by steamboat to Grand Forks, in May, 1876, a shipment of 234 dozen eggs (22 cents per dozen) and 1,018 pounds butter (at 20 cents). He paid Carl Larsen \$1 a day for five days labor.

The date of the formation of the Belmont baseball club pictured at right is not known. The players, *BOTTOM ROW*, Alfred Haugen, Andrew Halvorson, Hildus Erickson, Simon Estenson, and Olaus Vettern. In the *BACK ROW* are Eddie Olson, Olaus Myrland, Gust Torgerson, and Peter Thompson.



Ray's buffalo coats ranged in price from \$9 to \$28. The purchasers included Christian Larson, William Carson and Hugh Ray, one of his brothers.

Calico and shirting sold for eight cents a yard; gingham, 12½ cents and sheeting, 20 cents. L. O. Myhre bought the fiddle string, for 25 cents. James Miller paid for the hoopskirt, \$1.

Supplies for this store came by steamboat in the summer and by wagon or sleigh in the winter.

Homesteaders began moving into the Frog Point area in considerable numbers about 1877.

Many settlers came from Iowa. Some rafted lumber from Moorhead for their homes. Typical of these were

G. B. Jacobson, Jacob Fevold, Berge B. Johnson and Ingvald Ingvaldsen, who came in 1878.

First they walked from Fargo to Frog Point to look over the land. They took claims about four miles to the west, then went to Moorhead to purchase lumber. They turned the lumber into a raft, on which they placed some earth in order to keep a fire for cooking purposes.

The downstream journey lasted four days during which the quartet dined on fried ham and fish caught in the river, washed down with coffee. The landmark at Frog Point for which they kept looking was the Hudson's Bay Co. hotel. Night or day, was a welcome haven.

BELMONT TOWNSHIP

In 1870, A. H. Morgan, came to Belmont, then known as Frog Point, as agent of the Hudson Bay Company, and established a trading post. In 1871 Robert Ray came as employe of the same Company.

The township was organized in 1880, with Elling Ellingson, chairman; A. T. Sannes and M. Thompson, supervisors; Joseph Thompson, clerk; W. F. Ritchie, Treas-

urer. This is the early record, however, we have information that there was a small log cabin built 10 years before the Hudson Bay Company built their trading post. When Carl Torgerson came in possession of this property, the log cabin was still standing. Later, Alfred Torgerson and Oscar Alstrom took it apart, on an inside log was carved 1860.



Walter J. S. Traill

Walter J. S. Traill.

On Monday morning, June 20, 1932, there passed away at Grand Forks, B.C. Canada, not only a pioneer of the Canadian west, but a pioneer of Traill County and Frog Point, N.D., now Belmont.

In 1866, when eighteen years old, Walter Traill entered the service of the Hudson Bay Company, as his brother, William Traill, had done several years before. In July of the above year, he rode north from St. Paul along the old cart trail, to Ft. Garry, in company with A. G. B. Bannatyne, who became Winnipeg's leading merchant and whose creaking train of laden carts passed on its slow journey down the valley of the Red River, Caledonia, Frog Point and north to Winnipeg. The next four years were spent in the Swan River District, then in charge of Chief Factor Robert Campbell, famous explorer of the Canadian North West. During the first year, his time was divided between the district headquarters, Ft. Pelly, on the Upper Assiniboine, and Ft. Qu'Appelle to the southwest un-

der Mr. Archibald McDonald. In the fall of 1867 he was assigned to Ft. Ellice to replace his brother. In 1870 the regime of the Hudson's Bay Company came to an end in Rupert's Land amid the disorder of the uprising of the French Halfbreeds under Louis Riel. Mr. Traill was given charge of a cart brigade laden with the winter furs from his district and, accompanied by fellow officers and Mrs. Robert Campbell and her two youngest children, conducted all safely to the United States, having eluded the guards sent out by Riel to intercept him. Mr. Traill was then appointed in charge of the Georgetown Hudson's Bay Post as an intermediary between the Company's agents at Ft. Garry and St. Paul. He supervised the transportation of freight and passengers between these points, which included Caledonia and Frog Point, taking personal charge of the Frog Point station in 1871, which had been established the year before with C. W. Morgan in charge. This was the same year that a telegraph line was built going north, on the west side of the Red River. This line was about 30 rods west of where the Old Settlers Memorial Monument now stands. Mr. Traill filed on land in section 22 in Belmont township, which included the land that is now being used by the Old Settlers Memorial Ass'n. for their annual Picnics. In 1875, when Traill County was organized, it was named after Walter Traill. In 1876 the Hudson Bay Company withdrew from the American side of the border. The next year Mr. Traill spent time on a furlough, it being his eleventh year in the Company's service. Some time later, Mr. Traill established a home at Pembina, North Dakota, and in 1881 he was married there to Mary E. Gilbert. They had one child who died in infancy.

During his lifetime the west of this continent had grown from a Wilderness of fur-posts connected by long-winding cart trails and Rivers, the home of the Redman, trader and buffalo, to a land of many railways, populous towns, and numerous farms; Steamboats, locomotives and aeroplanes in turn had superseded ox-carts, dog sleds and the river batteau of the swarthy voyager. "In my Father's House are many Mansions," and it

is not improbable that in one of these there now meet those kindred spirits who lived during the passing of "The Great Lone Land"—intrepid explorers, traders and homesteaders, all Empire Builders and lovers of the vast region they aided civilization to conquer.



Mr. Olaus J. Nesvig, son of Jacob and Bertha Nesvig, was born at Stavanger, Norway, March 28, 1870. He came to America with his parents and only sister, Anna, in 1887. They settled in the Buxton Community.

He and Randina Hong were married at Crookston, Minnesota, August 1, 1892. She was born in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, in 1870 and came to this country at 16 years of age.

O. J. and Randina Nesvig farmed in Belmont Township in Traill County until 1924. They moved to Climax, Minnesota in 1925, where he purchased the butcher shop. There they lived the remainder of their lives.

The Nesvigs were members of the Ringsaker Lutheran Church and Mr. Nesvig served many years on its church council and on the Belmont school board.

Eight children were born to them: Oscar, James, Victoria, Berto, Olga, Evelyn, George and Irvin.



Soren Erickson was born in Ness, Hedemarken, Norway, September 26, 1860. In 1884 he came to America, arriving at Hillsboro, North Dakota. After a number of years there, he moved to Belmont Township where he resided until his death.

In 1904 he was married to Miss Gunhild Lundeberg. Six children were born to this union. They were: Alvin, Stanley, Norman, Olaf, Valborg, and Mrs. Minnie Lovestrand.

Mr. Erickson for many years was interested in township and school affairs in Belmont Township. He died at the age of 84 years, March 31, 1934 and was buried April 3, 1934. Funeral services were held in the Ringsaker Lutheran Church and interment was made in the Ringsaker Cemetery. Pallbearers were his four sons, a nephew, and a son-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Torgerson

Carl Torgerson was born in Norway in 1854, and was married there before immigrating in 1875 to the United States. They settled in Pope County, near Glenwood, Minnesota. For two years Mr. Torgerson worked on a steam boat plying up and down the Red River, little thinking at that time that some day he would own the land where Frog Point was established. (This land is now owned by his son, Alfred.) Later he worked on a steam boat on the Missouri River which hauled provisions to the fort at Bismarck, North Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson lived a few years at Park River, North Dakota. They came to Traill County and Belmont Township sometime in 1894. He later bought the land in Belmont where he lived until his death, July 17, 1942. Mrs. Torgerson died at the farm in 1935. Both Mr. and Mrs. Torgerson were buried in the Ringsaker Lutheran Cemetery. Survivors were: two sons, Gust and Alfred; two daughters, Laura (Mrs. I. B. Ingwaldson) and Anna (Mrs. Arvid Finstrom).



Ole Vettern Family

Ole Vettern

Ole Vettern was born in Hallingdal, Norway in 1847. He was married to Margaret Viken on December 26, 1876. Mr. and Mrs. Vettern left Numedal, Norway, and came to Kenyon, Minnesota, Goodhue County in 1877. A year later they came to North Dakota Dakota Territory and took up a homestead near Belmont where Mr. Vettern lived until his death.

Mr. Vettern died on June 5, 1932 and was survived by his wife and ten children: Mrs. K. T. Peterson, Olous, Knute, Edwin, Louis, Milford, Mrs. P. J. Thompson, Mrs. R. Jelleberg, Mrs. A. Boreson, Mrs. Edward Olson.

He was a member of the Ringsaker Lutheran Church since the congregation was started and he was one of the earliest settlers in Belmont Township.



Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson came to America in 1878 and homesteaded on the NW ¼ Sec. 3 in Belmont Township. Mr. Johnson, it is told, did not live many years after coming to the Belmont area. The date of his death is unknown. Surviving Mr. Johnson were his wife and three daughters, Mrs. Andrew (Coya) Amundson, Mrs. Ole (Gena) Gulson, and a Mrs. Haug. Mrs. Johnson filed on an eighty acre tree claim in Section 4 and this is where the Andrew Amundson family made their home for a number of years. Mr. Johnson was called "Störe John" or "Big John."

Mrs. Johnson was married the second time to Andrew Kleppe. They had one daughter, Mrs. Clarence (Inga) Grove.

Oline Johnson Kleppe was born in 1849 and died in 1920. Andrew Kleppe was born in 1845 and died in 1935. The Kleppes were members of the Rosendahl Church and buried in the cemetery there.

Ole J. Rogeness

Ole J. Rogeness was born in Jelsa Omboe, Stavanger, Norway in 1857. He immigrated to America and landed in Quebec, Canada in 1882 and then he came to Illinois where he worked for a few months before he settled on the NE¼ 30-148-49 in Belmont Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory, the same year.

Mr. Rogeness was united in marriage to Miss Anna Berg in 1886. She was born in Haugesund, Jelmeland, Stavanger, Norway. There were nine children born to this union: John, Severin, Aletha, Anton, Berdines, Alice, Oscar, Arthur and Maurice.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Rogeness were members of the Nye Stavanger Church of Buxton, North Dakota of which Mr. Rogeness was a trustee.

Mr. Rogeness passed away January 1, 1935 and was buried in the East Immanuel Cemetery, Buxton, North Dakota and Mrs. Rogeness passed away in August, 1954 at the age of 94 years and was buried in the East Immanuel Cemetery.



Knute T. Peterson was born at St. Olaf, Iowa, April 13, 1866. He came to Belmont Township in 1898. On February 8, 1904, he was united in marriage to Mary Vetter of Belmont. To this union eight children were born: Theodore, Philip, Roy, Mrs. Gertrude Hyland, Mrs. Agnes O'Connor, Mrs. Luella Jones, Mrs. Helen Coffey, and a daughter, Eleanor, who died in infancy.

Mr. Peterson was active in public and community affairs. He served as township supervisor, and drainage commissioner from his district, and was also a director of the Traill County Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Co. He served many years on the Ringsaker Church Council.

He died at his home near Belmont on April 24, 1949. Funeral services were held April 29 at the Ringsaker Lutheran Church with burial in the church cemetery. He was eighty three years old at the time of his death. Mrs. Mary Peterson passed away in 1959.

Mr. & Mrs. Anton Kobbervig
Anton Kobbervig was born in Valdres, Norway, June 15, 1859, first coming to the state of Wisconsin and later to Traill County on March 1, 1883. He came by train to Buxton, North Dakota. By this time all land had been homesteaded so Mr. & Mrs. Kobbervig bought the south-west quarter of section 8 in Belmont Township. They lived on this land until they retired when they moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota. They lived in Grand Forks the rest of their lives. The following children were born to Mr. & Mrs. Kobbervig: Bertha, Oswald, Henry, Annie, Theodore, Minnie Gilbert, Albert, Oliva, Ida, Arthur, Alma, and Nettie.

Mr. Kobbervig died Feb. 14, 1926. Mrs. Kobbervig died Nov. 24, 1916.



Tobias H. Thompson was born on February 24, 1859 in Vernes, Northern Trondhjem, Norway. His parents were Hans and Antonetta Thompson. He was married at his home in Norway to Sigrid Kongshaug on June 24, 1881. Mr. Thompson came to America on the ship Buenos Ayres; this vessel was in the cattle trade between England and Australia. On this particular journey they were on the Atlantic Ocean for twenty three days, and in the drifting ice near New Foundland for several days, where, Mr. Thompson said, they were "froze in." There were 1200 emigrants, and a crew of 100 men. Food supplies became very low and during the last week their menu was soup and corn cake, which was served them twice a day. Many of the emigrants became ill and two of them died. Statistics showed there were 28,000 emigrants to America that year.

Mr. Thompson came to Belmont Township on May 17, 1882; his wife and daughter joined him the following August, 1882. Lumber was bought at Reynolds and a house was built. The family moved into the new home the day before Christmas, 1883.

During his life in Belmont Township, Mr. Thompson took an active part in public affairs. He served on the jury several times in the eighty's, when Caledonia was the County seat. He served in the State Legislature from 1903 to 1905, and was a candidate for this position again in 1906 but was defeated by seven votes. He was township assessor for forty-two years, secretary of the Belmont Total Abstinence Society for its existence, clerk of Modern Woodmen of America for thirty-five years, Justice of the Peace for forty years (performing two

marriage ceremonies while in that office). Mr. Thompson held office at different times on School, Church and Village boards. During World War I, he was active in several war organizations. Mr. Thompson bought grain for the East Grand Forks Transportation Co. in 1902 continuing with this company until 1907, when he was engaged in this business for McGuire and Atwood of Minneapolis. He stated that he bought from 85,000 to 120,000 bushels a year and filled the elevators with grain until the spring when the ice went out of the river. In 1912 the water in the Red River got so low that they could not get the wheat out until the spring of 1913. At this time the company sold out all three elevators on the Red River, and the steamboat traffic came to an end.

Mrs. Sigrid Thompson died in 1900. There were nine children by this marriage. Living are: Gilbert, Hilda, Ottelia, Magda, and Tracy; deceased are: Anna, Hilda, Henry and Arthur.

In 1902 Mr. Thompson married Julia Swenson. Twelve children were born to this union. They are: Selma, Clarence, Albert, Anna (deceased), Willard, Mabel, Lilah, Rudolph, Nanian, Adeline, Tilman and Ethel.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson continued to live on the farm in Belmont Township until their deaths. Tobias H. Thompson passed away November 4, 1949, at the age of 90 years. Funeral services were held in the Ringsaker Church at Belmont on Nov. 9, with interment in the church cemetery. Julia Thompson was born in Norway, Sept. 11, 1875. She died November 26, 1953. Burial was made in the Ringsaker Cemetery.



Mickeal Francis Madigan was born in Hamilton, Ont. Canada on April 10, 1854. He immigrated to the United States in the middle 70s and came to Traill County about 1878. There he met and married Miss Anna Marie Broderson at Grand Forks, N.D. in 1883. She was born in Hamburg, Germany on Feb. 1, 1861. Mr. Madigan never filed on land in Traill County, but in 1879 he opened up the first blacksmith shop in Frog Point which he ran until 1903 when he sold his shop and belongings and with his wife and family moved to Lansford, N.D. They filed on land there and made their home at Lansford the rest of their lives. They had the following children, Kathryn, Mark, Otto, Mary and Marcella. Mrs. Madigan passed away Feb. 28, 1940, and Mr. Madigan, Jan. 1st, 1945.



Hendrick Hendrickson came to Traill County in the late seventy's by team and wagon. Filed on the N.W. quarter of section 30 Belmont



Samson J. Nesvig was born in Stavanger, Norway, March 22, 1868, to Jacob and Bertha Nesvig. He was introduced to the life of the sea at an early age as his father was captain and owner of a ship. During the summer months the entire family, which consisted of Mr. Nesvig's parents, a brother, Olaus, and a sister, Anna, sailed to ports in various European countries. While on these seafaring journeys, Samson became a proficient cook—his recipe for fish soup has been used traditionally at the Christmas holidays by his family.

Mr. Nesvig came to the United States at seventeen years of age, followed by the rest of the family two years later, coming to Rushford, Minnesota, and then moving to Belmont Township where he owned and operated a farm until his death. Jacob Nesvig was cattle buyer, and a butcher, and also served as one of the early rural mail carriers. Samson Nesvig, in addition to his farming duties, was active in local and community affairs, serving for many years on the Belmont Township Board, Ringsaker Church Council, Traill County AAA, Director of the Farmers Union Elevator at Buxton, and as a charter member of the Buffalo Coulee Farmers Union Local.

Samson Nesvig married Lena Thompson and from this union two daughters were born, Beatha and Agnes. Mrs. Nesvig passed away while just a young mother. Mr. Nesvig married Ida Twenge, a native of Hatton, North Dakota, on June 21, 1910. Three children were born of this union: one son, Jerome, and two daughters, Irene and Barbar. Samson Nesvig passed away May 14, 1937.

Township. He was married to Miss Randi Hesgard. He died at Orfordville, Wis.



Jacob Nesvig



Asle Myhre came to Traill County in 1878. Homesteaded on the S.E. Quarter in Section 5 Belmont Twpt. Mr. and Mrs. Myhre had the following children: Olai, Selmer, Elmer, Arthur, Mensor, Bertha, Celia and Cora. They belonged to the Rosendal Church and are buried in that Church Cemetery.

Mrs. Ingeborg Hesgard was born at St. Ansgar, Iowa, on April 24, 1859, and grew to womanhood there. She was married to Knute N. Hesgard of Oxfordville, Wisconsin, in August, 1883. The couple came to Traill County and lived for a number of years in the Belmont area. In 1902 they moved to Buxton and the same year Mr. Hesgard died. Mrs. Hesgard continued to make her home in Buxton until nine years before her death, when she moved to the home for the aged at Grand Forks. She died here December 21, 1948. Funeral services were held in the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Buxton. She was a former member of the Grue Lutheran Church. The Hesgards had one daughter, Mrs. Nellie Hanson of Hatton, North Dakota.



Mr. Steen Sondreal

Mr. Steen Sondreal was born in Aal, Hallingdahl, Norway Jan. 23, 1853. Mr. Sondreal was married to Miss Kari Quammen, who also came from Hallingdahl, Norway. They were married in Norway in April, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Sondreal were the parents of 13 children, two of these children preceeded them in death. Mrs. Sondreal died in 1919. In addition to this family of 13 children, they adopted two children, Conrad, who died in 1916, and Herman.

Mr. Sondreal was crippled with rheumatism and left his farming interests to his sons. The last few years of his life he suffered from diabetes which led to his death. He usually spent the winters with his daughter Thea. However, the last few years, he resided in California, where he died on April 20, 1933, at the age of 80. Funeral services were held on April 29, 1933 at the Rosendahl Church. He was survived by the following sons and daughters: Arthur, Melvin, Ole, Selmer, Knut, Engebret, Carl, Mrs. Thea Halvorson, Margit, Christine and Mrs. Carrie Brown. He was buried in Rosendahl Cemetery.

Osmund Ramsfjeld was born in Stavanger, Norway, January 1, 1848, the son of Knute and Barbara Ramsfjeld. He grew to manhood in that locality and married Sohie Berg in 1873. His wife was born May 31, 1847, in Stavanger. In the year of his marriage he and his wife came to America and settled at Decorah, Iowa, where the two eldest children were born. In 1878 the family came by covered wagon and oxen to Belmont Township where Mr. Ramsfjeld filed on a homestead. A sod shanty was built, which was their first home in Dakota. Their nearest postoffice was Frog Point, now Belmont. Mrs. Ramsfjeld loved to fish, and would often walk three miles to the river and spend a few hours, bringing home enough fish for a few meals for

her family. After living on the homestead for four years, a log house was built with two rooms on the first floor, and an upstairs. Norwegian Lutheran Church services conducted in the homes of the pioneers occasionally were held in the Ramsfjeld home. After spending many years on the homestead in Belmont Township, Mr. Ramsfjeld sold the land, and with his wife and two youngest children took a trip to Norway where they spent a year. After returning to North Dakota they lived in Wells County for two years. From there they went to Alberta, Canada, and later to Big Fork, Montana, where he bought land. After selling this land to his youngest son, he returned to Buxton to reside. Mr. Ramsfjeld died in Buxton, April 22, 1922. A year later, 1923, Mrs. Ramsfjeld died at the home of a daughter in Wells County. They were the parents of eight children, namely, Mrs. Bertha Stonehum, Sam Knutson, Mrs. Jacobine Neimeier, Annie, Andrew, Knute, Severt, and Mrs. Andrew Lee.

Ole K. Rauk was born in Dane County, Wisconsin and from there he moved with his parents to St. Ansgar, Mitchell County, Iowa. In 1878, his family came to Traill County, North Dakota.

His wife, Mette, was born in Valdres, Norway and was a sister of Mrs. Anton Kobbervig. Mr. Rauk filed on the south-west quarter of section 15, Belmont Township. They had the following children: Clara, Marie, Ida, and Henry.

Mr. Rauk was a member of the school board and township board for a number of years. Mr. Rauk died in 1916. We have no information as to the year of death for Mrs. Rauk. They are both buried in the North Ringsaker Cemetery.

Martin Larson Holen was born in Salor, Norway, in 1830. In 1864 he immigrated to the United States, locating at Mitchel County, Iowa. His first wife, Karen, died at Ellis Island in 1864. In 1867, Mr. Holen married Oleanna Nesse Johnson, a native of Salor, Norway. On June 5, 1878, the family arrived in Traill County by covered wagon, and settled on the NE ¼ Sec. 5 in Belmont Township. The Holens were members of the Rosendahl Congregation. Children born to this union were: Marius, Josephine, Louise and Karen. Mr. Holen passed away in 1908.

Peter Gunderson was born at Stordalen, Norway, Feb. 18, 1865. He was married to Mrs. Gunderson in Norway and immigrated to the United States in 1884 and settled in Lindsburg, Kansas. They came to Belmont, North Dakota by oxen and covered wagon in 1889. He farmed and lived in the NW ¼ Sec 22 Rge 49 Twp. 148. He bought a farm in Minnewaukan Township, Devils Lake, N. Dak. in 1902. Three of their eight children were born in Belmont Township. They left here for the Devils Lake area in 1904, driving up with horses. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson in Minnewaukan Township, Devils Lake, N.D. They were members of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church. He was also an active member of township and school boards. He was township assessor for Minnewaukan for many years.

His wife, Maria, died at a Rochester, Minn. hospital, following surgery in 1926.

Mr. Gunderson passed away Feb. 20, 1955 at the age of 90 years. Mrs. Alma (Gunderson) Engen lives in Newhall, Calif., George in Spokane, Washington, Clarence and Mrs. Melba Olson at Devils Lake, Roy at Longville, Minn., Nellie Goodwill, Penn, N.D. Frank and Rudolph are deceased.



Stiner Severson was born Jan. 5, 1864, at Ness Hallingdahl, Norway. He arrived in Traill County in 1885 coming from Clayton County, Iowa. Stiner settled on the SW ¼ Sec. 3 in Belmont Township and farmed for many years with his brother, Sever. Mr. Severson owned and operated a "threshing rig" for many years.

Stiner's parents were Sever Halgrimson and Karri Persnoen, originally of Norway, who settled at Espeseth Elkader, Iowa. He had two brothers, Sever Halgrim, and Halvor, and four sisters, Betsy, Belle, Lena and Carrie.

Mr. Severson passed away in Jan., 1955. Funeral services were held at the Ringsaker Church with interment made in the church cemetery.

Ole Davis was born in Ulvick, Hardanger, Norway, in 1845. He came to the United States in 1861, locating at St. Ansgar, Iowa. He was married on May 17, 1871 to Miss Betsy Jordal of Hartland, Minnesota. Miss Jordal was a native of Sogn, Norway. Shortly after his marriage, he and his wife moved to Becker County, Minnesota, where he filed on a homestead on the shore of Davis Lake. After several years of crop losses due to grasshoppers, Mr. Davis sold the homestead and came to Traill County in the fall of 1878 and filed a pre-emption, and a tree claim. The pre-emption was located in S.E. ¼ Sec. 4 Belmont Twp., the tree claim was the N.E. ¼ Sec. 4 Erwin Twp. After filing he returned to Becker County, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1898, he brought his wife and son, John, to Dakota Territory. The trip was made by covered wagon and oxen. Besides the two yoke of oxen, cows and chickens were brought along on the trip. Mr. and Mrs. Davis lived on the farm in Belmont Township for many years,

then moved to the tree claim in Erwin Twp. They erected buildings on this land and lived there until about 1905, when they sold the land and moved to Buxton where they remained the rest of their lives. They were charter members of the United Lutheran Church built in Buxton in 1891. Mr. Davis served on the school board, church council, and on the Township board in Belmont Twp. Mr. Davis died in 1915, and Mrs. Davis passed away in 1934.

Christian Larson was born in Soler, Norway, about 1814. He was the son of Lars and Karen Hagen. He grew to manhood in that vicinity. He was married to Miss Karen Mikkelsen, born in Honefoss, Norway, in 1812.

They came to America in 1866. They made the trip in a sailship, and landed at Quebec, Canada. From here they went to Mitchell County, Iowa, and lived on a piece of land near St. Ansgar, Iowa. Mr. Larson worked in the town as a carpenter. They came to Dakota Territory by covered wagon and oxen in June, 1871.

Mr. Larson located on a claim in Belmont Township along the Red River, SW ¼ Section 3, and lot No 1, Section 10-148-49.

Mr. and Mrs. Larson were members of Ringsaker Lutheran Church. Christian Larson lived on the homestead until his death, July 1, 1900. Mrs. Larson died in 1908. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Larson.

Mr. Ole Thompson was born at Hof, Hallingdal, Norway in 1826. He immigrated to the United States in 1856, first stopping in Wisconsin and from there going to St. Ansgar, Mitchell County, Iowa. He came to Traill County in the spring of 1871 and homesteaded on a quarter of land in Section 10 in Belmont Township. After a trip to Iowa that same summer, he and Mr. & Mrs. Even Olson Myrl and came back by ox teams arriving at Frog Point on November 16, 1871.

He was married to Miss Ronvg Swenson, who had also come from Norway. In 1888, the family moved to Canada, and from there to Weston, Oregon in 1893, where they died some years later. They had the following children: Thomas, who moved to Upham, North Dakota; and Randine (Mrs. John Swenson) who lived at Bemidji, Minnesota; and Lena.



Martin Thompson was born in Varnes Sogne Parish Stjordalen, Nordre Trondheim, Norway, Feb. 1, 1862. He immigrated to the United States and landed at the Port of Detroit, Michigan, May, 1881. He came to Dakota Territory from Iowa by train in the spring of 1882. Martin applied for his first citizenship papers April 4, 1884, and became a citizen of the United States May 13, 1890.

He married Gurine Julseth, Nov. 28, 1891, at Hillsboro, N.D. Gurine was born Sept. 19, 1865, at Hegre, near Trondheim, Norway, of parents Sivert and Karen Julseth. She immigrated to the United States in 1887 to Iowa, where brothers John, Sivert and Halvor lived. They came to the United States several years earlier. Mrs. Thompson came to Dakota Territory in 1890. Martin Thompson bought a carload of horses in Iowa and Mrs. Thompson's brother Halvor, accompanied Martin to Dakota Territory both riding in the boxcar with the horses. Belmont Township was organized with Elling Ellingson chairman, A. T. Sannes and Martin Thompson, supervisors, Joseph Thompson, clerk, M. F. Ritchie, Treasurer. Martin Thompson was a charter member of the Ringsaker Lutheran Free Church organized in 1891.

Martin Thompson purchased the home farm S.W. ¼ Sec. 20, Twp. 148, Range 49 from Carl Rauk, Apr. 10, 1889. NW ¼ Sec. 20, Range 49, Twp 148 he purchased from Gilbert Vikan April, 1899.

Mr. Thompson's parents, Hans and Antonette Thompson, his sister, Seri, his brothers, Tobias, wife, Sigri, and daughter, Anna, came to the United States and Dakota Territory in Aug., 1883. Martin Thompson passed away Jan. 13, 1908, and Mrs. Thompson passed away Mar. 9, 1945.

Eight children were born to this union. Four died in infancy. A son, Sigurd, passed away Mar., 1937, at the age of forty years. Survivors are three daughters, Mrs. Hannah Thoreson, Mayville, N.D., Mrs. Ida Wheeler, Oakland, Calif., and Mrs. Amanda Keller, Buxton, N.D.



Robert George Cooper was born in Orono, Ontario, Canada, November 19, 1854. He started working at an early age on the C.N.R., now the Canadian National Railroad. In 1876 he came to Grand Forks, N.D. He said at that time, "There were very few buildings there." In 1878 he came to Traill County, and filed on a homestead on the S.E. Quarter of Section 7, Belmont Township.

He was married to Miss Margret Rauk in 1881, (who was born March 16, 1862 at St. Ansgar, Iowa.). To this union were born the following children: Lottie, Frank, Maude, Edwin, Roy, Wilbur, Arlone, Robert, George, and Hazel. Mr. Cooper was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Reynolds, N.D., and the Independent Order of Foresters. Mr. Cooper died July 6, 1928, and Mrs. Cooper died June 27, 1956.



Hogen Gunderson was born at Stjordalen, Norway in 1862. He emigrated to St. Ansgar, Iowa, in 1883. He was married to Serianna Peterson in Osage, Iowa, Dec. 13, 1884. Mrs. Gunderson was also born in Stjordalen, Norway in 1856 of parents, Martha and John Morseth. They moved to McPherson, Kansas, and lived there until 1888. They came to Dakota Territory in 1888, driving up here with a team of mules. Mr. Gunderson applied for his first citi-

zenship papers in Osage, Iowa, and got his United States Citizenship papers May 13, 1890, mailed to him by O. P. Clark, Clerk of Traill County from Caledonia. They lived on a site opposite the Halvor Julseth farm. Mr. Gunderson was a carpenter by trade and built many of the farm buildings in this community. Many of these buildings are still in use. Their oldest daughter, Dinah, was born in Kansas, two children died in infancy and are buried here. Gustav, Selma, and Helga were born while the parents resided here. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson and family moved to Devils Lake, April 3, 1896, and bought a farm there. They moved to Devils Lake city in 1942. Mrs. Gunderson passed away Oct. 15, 1925, at the age of 69. Mr. Gunderson died Feb. 16, 1944, at the age of 82. Gustav Gunderson and daughter, Mrs. Helga Knutson, survive and live in Tacoma, Washington.



Lars K. Rauk was born April 15, 1855 at Rock Prairie, Wisconsin. From there his parents and family moved to St. Ansgar, Iowa, staying there a number of years. In 1878, they decided to go to the Red River Valley. Coming by railroad to Fishers Landing, Minn. and then by walking the rest of the way to Frog Point, N.D.

Mr. Rauk was married to Miss Telda Haugum, who came to this country from Kristiansund, Norway in 1874. To this union the following children were born: Knute, Arne, Mabel, Lottie and Carl. Mr. Rauk filed on the S.W. Quarter in section 9 Belmont Township. He farmed for a number of years and then sold out and moved to Reynolds, N.D. In 1897 he bought a hardware store in Shevlin, Minn. and moved there with his family. He died there in May, 1929. Mrs. Rauk died January 14, 1946. They are buried in the Clearwater Lutheran Cemetery at Shevlin, Minn.



Knute Sondrol was born in Halvingdahl, Norway in 1850. His parents were Engebret and Margaret Sondrol. He had nine brothers and sisters: Steen, Asle, Engebret, Margaret, Jorand, Anne, Bertha and Margaret.

Mr. Sondrol came to America with his cousin and during the voyage faced the danger of the boat sinking. They were sure they would never see America. He spent some time in Goodhue County in Minnesota before coming to North Dakota. He worked and lived for a time at the Knute Renslen home. After marrying Kari Renslen, who also came from Norway, they homesteaded in Grand Forks County. Their first home consisted of two rooms. Their next farm he bought from his uncle in Belmont township where he lived the rest of his life. They had ten children: Louise, Engebret, Mary, Anne, Engebret, Minnie, Oline, Helena, Ovidia and Ole. His wife died in 1933 and Mr. Sondrol died in 1934 at 84 years of age. They are both buried in Ringsaker cemetery.



Andrew Kleppe. He farmed in Section 3 Belmont, Twp. from 1880 until the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Kleppe are buried in the Rosendal Cemetery.



Harris Thompson



Christopher Thompson, a brother of Tobias H. Thompson, was born in Trondheim, Norway, June 21, 1832. He came to America in 1873, settling in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin. After some years he moved to St. Ansgar, Iowa. In 1880 he came to Traill County and filed on a tree claim in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 10 Belmont Township. He later changed his claim into a homestead. Mr. Thompson suffered from rheumatism for nine years and because of this spent the summer of 1885 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, seeking medical aid. He passed away April 10, 1894. Interment was made in the North Cemetery of the Ringsaker Congregation.

Hans and Antonette Thompson and a daughter, Seri, and a son, Hakon, came to America in 1883, coming to the home of their son, Christopher Thompson. Antonette passed away in the year of 1890, at the age of seventy years. Her husband, Hans Thompson, died in 1910, at the age of eighty-five. On June 1, 1891, Seri married Frans Freiholtz, who farmed the land until his death on May 10, 1912, at the age of forty-seven. Seri passed away August 16, 1932 at seventy-six years. Surviving is one daughter, Mrs. Anna Ertsgard, who resides on the farm, which eighty-four years ago was a tree claim.

Martin C. Vang came from St. Ansgar, Iowa, in 1879, and settled on the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 19, Belmont Township. About a year later he was

united in marriage with Signe Tweten, who came from Spring Grove, Minnesota. To this union the following children were born: Ida, George, Mrs. Stella Benson, Mrs. Daisy Carlilo, Mabel Teirney, Theodore Vang and Milford Vang.

Martin Vang died in 1915. His wife died five years earlier in 1910. They are buried in the Grue Cemetery.

Charles W. Morgan was born at Guilford, Maine, September 13, 1848 and grew to manhood at this town. He enlisted in the U.S. Army for Indian Service and served from 1867 to 1870. After his discharge in 1870 he came to the Dakota Territory.

Mr. Morgan was one of the County's first settlers, having been connected with the Hudson Bay Company Post at Frog Point.

After leaving the employ of Hudson Bay Company, Mr. Morgan went to Hillsboro, North Dakota and for a time he was Postmaster, Chief of Police and Captain of Co. L. He also served as a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1885 and 1886. He then moved to Anamia, Minnesota where he died on July 5, 1938. Survivors were two daughters; Mrs. L. S. Reed and Mrs. Erick Johnson. Interment was made in the cemetery at Milaco, Minnesota.

Bendick O. Rauk was born in Hallingdahl, Norway in 1836. He immigrated to America in 1858, coming directly to St. Ansgar, Iowa.

When President Lincoln called for volunteers at the start of the Civil War, Mr. Rauk volunteered for the Army of the West, under General Grant, and later he was under General Sherman on the famous Atlanta Campaign and subsequent March to the Sea. After the war he was mustered out of the Army and he visited with relatives in Wisconsin for some time. He then re-enlisted to fight Indians, which he did for the next three years. In 1878 he came to Traill County and filed on the south-east quarter of section 17, Belmont Township. He lived on this land for a number of years and then moved to Climax, Minnesota. His last years were spent in a Soldiers Home near St. Paul, Minnesota. He was buried at the Soldiers' Home Cemetery.

C. F. Getchell was born in Philadelphia, August 10, 1850. He came west when a very young man and from 1865 to 1869 he was engaged as a clerk in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1869 he went to Duluth, Minnesota and during the winter of 70-71 was engaged in running the Pony Express from Ottertail City to Brainard, Minnesota. In the later part of 1871 he was at the White Earth Reservation Indian Agency and in 1872, he came to Frog Point (now Belmont). At Belmont, he was employed in Public Surveys. In 1880 he moved to Hillsboro, North Dakota.



O. T. Olson was born October 6, 1854 in Mower County Minn. Mrs. Olson was born at Big Canoe, Iowa, January 9th, 1861. They lived at Halstad for a number of years.

In 1894 they moved to Belmont, N. Dak., where Mr. Olson was Village Blacksmith for the next 20 years. They belonged to the Ringsaker Lutheran Church at Belmont.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson had the following children: Lena; (Mrs. L. H. Olegard—Sheriden, Wyo.); Eddie Olson—Virginia, Minn.; Joseph A. Olson—Buxton, N. Dak.; and Ella (Mrs. K. L. Johnson—Kent, Wash.).

They moved to Douglas, N. Dak. in November, 1914 where Mr. Olson had a blacksmith and repair shop for several years. While in Douglas, they belonged to the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Mr. Olson died Nov. 14, 1943 at Minot, N. Dak. at the age of 89 years. Mrs. Olson preceeded him in death. She died October 16, 1938 at the age of 77 years.

Swen K. Knutson was born in Norway in 1858 and he came with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Knut Knutson, to Mitchell County, Iowa in 1861. The family was more than eleven weeks in crossing the ocean. Mr. Knutson came to Traill County, North Dakota in the spring of 1877.

He was married January 15, 1880 to Miss Jennie Rauk of St. Ansgar, Iowa. To this union were born the following children: Tom, Clarence, Edith, Cora, Stella, Blanch, and two other children that died in infancy. Mr. & Mrs. Knutson settled on the north-west quarter of section 19, Belmont Township. Besides farming, Mr. Knutson was in the merchandising business and Postmaster at Belmont, North Dakota, and for years was treasurer of the school district. He was also a member of the Legislature from his district.

Mrs. Knutson passed away in Oct., 1920, and Mr. Knutson in April, 1937.

Anulf Sannes was born in Nummedahl, Norway. He emigrated to the United States in 1887 and built a claim home in Township 148, Range 49 N.W. ¼ Sec. 28. Mr. Sannes served as township supervisor when Belmont Township was organized. He married Turi Haugen Dec. 12, 1890. She was born at Nummedahl, Norway and emigrated to the U.S. They were charter members of the Grue Church. They had three children. A son died in infancy; two daughters, Lena and Thea, grew to womanhood. Mr. Sannes listed his farm with a land agency and sold it in 1908. The family then moved to Fosston, Minn., March 1, 1909. Lena went to Williston, May, 1913 and married Mr. Christianson March 7, 1914.

Mr. Sannes passed away July 1, 1920. Mrs. Sannes and Thea moved to Williston after Mr. Sannes' death. Thea married Elmwood Adams of that city and resided there until her death May 11, 1961. Mrs. Sannes passed away Nov. 20, 1945.



Sever Severson will perhaps be remembered more than anything else, for his piety and Christian character. He was six feet tall and a man of strong physique, as well as character. His whole life with his family was centered in the church and the humble home in which they lived was always open to traveling evangelists and preachers of the early days.

His wife, Jorgine, who bore him four sons and seven daughters, was also active in the church and served in different offices in the women's work at Ringsaker. Her father, Eric Johnson, made his home with them besides Sever's brothers and sisters from Iowa (they came from time to time to spend the winters there). One brother, Steiner Severson, made his home also with the Severson's, besides the large family.

The 166 acre farm on which they lived was originally owned by Ole Rensland and was purchased for the sum of \$2000. The land was covered with brush and small trees and together with his brother, Steiner, they cleared most of it with a grub-ax. The log house which stood on the hill, was moved down into the woods and this was the humble home in which they reared all their children. Many springs they were inconvenienced by the flooding Red River and had to move to higher ground to their neighbors, the Brodersons.

One oft-repeated story of Mrs. Severson's determination and stamina was her four mile walk to attend Ladies Aid at Neavig's. At the time she had two daughters, Ella and Clara. She would push the baby carriage over the grassy prairie road, sometimes leading one and the other in the carriage.

Mr. Elling Ellingson was born in Numedal, Norway, and Mrs. Ellingson at Broadhead, Wisconsin. They came from Broadhead, Wisconsin, by team and wagon in 1878 or 1879. Settled on the S.W. Quarter of Section 28 Belmont Twpt.

Robert Ray came to North Dakota in 1870 and for a number of years he worked for the Hudson Bay Company, driving a team between stations along the Red River. Some time after that he started in business for himself, a saloon on the ice in the middle of the Red River. The following spring he engaged in a general merchandise business in the Hudson Bay Company's old store room. He was the first postmaster at Frog Point, and for eight years he was agent for the State Line Steamboat Company. On June 29, 1880, he platted the town known as Frog Point, now Belmont.

He was married February 1, 1877, to Miss Caroline Trenis of Polk City, Minnesota. To this union the following children were born: Robert, Jr., Maggie, and Charles Ray.

We have no information as to the dates of death of Mr. & Mrs. Ray.

Folke Danielson was born in Norway on Dec. 24, 1846, and came to Traill County from Walle Township in Grand Forks County in 1880. He married Mrs. Berget Anderson (Loiland), a widow with three children, in the town of Belmont on Aug. 9, 1880. Mrs. Danielson came to Traill County in 1876 and homesteaded in NW ¼ Sec. 7-148-49. Three children were born to this union, with all deceased but one, Ole Danielson, who was born Oct. 21, 1881. Ole is the present owner and operator of the farm. The Danielsons were former members of the Grue Congregation until their transfer to the Rosendahl Congregation.

Mr. Swen Ellingson was born in Hallingdahl, Buskerud Amt, Christiana Stift, Norway, December 5, 1851. Mr. Ellingson came to America in 1873 and first worked on a farm at St. Peter, Minnesota. He was also employed as a teacher in Norwegian schools during the winter months. He came to Belmont Township in the spring of 1878 and filed on a homestead there.

Mr. Ellingson was married in 1877 to Miss Liv Thompson, who died in 1879. Mr. Ellingson then married Miss Olivia Gaustad in 1881. Seven children were born to this union. They were: Julia, Elling, Selmer, Carl, Oscar, Lilly, and Ester. Mr. Ellingson established a business (General Merchandise) in Reynolds, North Dakota in 1881 and conducted the same until 1893 and in 1895 he established a furniture store there which he ran for a number of years.



Targie Gunlickson was born in Satersdalen, Norway, in the year 1854. His wife, Gonvor, was born in the same locality in the year 1849. They emigrated to Traill County, Dakota Territory, on June 14, 1879, with his mother and father and two brothers, Augund and Knute. They camped their first night in Traill County where the Belmont Church now stands. They were on their way to Grafton, N.D. to homestead but were told to go back to Belmont and buy some land. Later in 1881, Targie homesteaded at Kempton, N.D., but sold later and came back to Belmont and bought his farm. Mrs. Gunlickson passed away in 1933 and Targie died in 1938. They are interred in the Ringsaker Cemetery.

Halvor Klep emigrated to North Dakota in the 1870s. He homesteaded on the N.E. Quarter in Section 26 Belmont Twpt.



Mr. Halvor Julseth was born at Hegre, near Trondheim, Norway, 1866, & is a brother of Mrs. Martin Thompson. He emigrated to the United States in 1886 and came to Penold Post Office, Iowa, where a brother, John, lived. He came to Dakota Territory, riding in a carload of horses purchased by Martin Thompson. He worked for Martin Thompson for a few years and then purchased school land from the state of North Dakota in Twp. 148 Rge. 49 Sec. 16 S.E. ¼. He married Karen Running who was born in Grue, Salor, Norway in 1863. She emigrated to the United States in 1889. They adopted a baby, Hazel, in 1904. They purchased a home in Minneapolis and moved there in 1913. They sold the farm to Andrina Renslen who sold it to Elmer Sondrol.

Mr. Julseth passed away in 1918. Hazel married Ed Westland of Minneapolis. Mrs. Julseth passed away in 1933. Their daughter Hazel, died in 1952. Her husband passed away several years later, leaving a son.



Hans Erickson was born in Solar, Norway and immigrated to the United States in 1866. He made his home in Iowa and farmed in Lyle, Minnesota for two years.

Mr. Erickson was united in marriage to Miss Martha Haugen in 1873, at St. Ansgar, Iowa. She was born in Norway. The Erickson's came to North Dakota by team and covered wagon in 1878 and they were one of the earliest settlers in the Red River Valley. Mr. Erickson settled on the SW¼ of Section 7-148-49 in Belmont Township. His first home was a sod house. One child was born in the sod house and every time it rained, mother and child had to be under the table in order to stay dry; the table was covered with oil cloth.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were charter members of the Grue Lutheran Church. Mr. Erickson held offices as: township supervisor, school board, church trustee and director of the Farmers Elevator of Buxton, North Dakota.

Fifteen children were born to this marriage: Emil, Minda, Caroline, Hildus, Martin, Julius, Laura, Edward, Anna, Arthur, Clara, Alfred, Clifford, Hattie and Ralph.

Mrs. Erickson passed away in March, 1915 and was buried at the Grue Cemetery. Mr. Erickson passed away in September, 1932 and was also buried at the Grue Cemetery.

Jens Knudt Braaten was born in Ness, Hallingdahl, Norway and was married there to Miss Bergit Smette. They came to Traill County, 1883 and lived in Belmont Twp. for about twenty years. They had the following children: Gustave, Nels, Carl, Henry, Selmer, Calmer, John, Christ, Havlr, Mrs. Maria Johnson, Mrs. Sena Jurgenson, Mrs. Tena J. Anderson, Mrs. Bertina Rom, Mrs. Peter Peterson and Mrs. O. M. Anderson. When they sold their land and belongings, the family moved to Upham, N.D. where some of them still reside.



Knut Olson Rauk was born in Hallingdahl, Norway on February 12, 1825. He embarked for America in 1846, and on the journey from Norway to the United States, he and many other immigrants were delayed for six weeks at Havre, France. They had to carry their own provisions and at the end of six weeks, they were very low. However, they started out on a sailing vessel across the Atlantic Ocean, sadly short of rations for the long trip. The captain lost his bearings and had to put back to Havre, France, after being tumbled about on the ocean for eight weeks. The government of France took over, along with help from the French citizens who helped supply the provisions. Nine months after leaving Norway, they landed in New York City. It was some weeks before Mr. Rauk arrived at Rock Prairie, Wisconsin.

He was married there to Miss Mette Lien, who had immigrated from Norway in 1845. To this union were born the following children: Ole, Lars, Carl, Christian, Gumbjore, Jennie, and Marget. From Wisconsin, Mr. Rauk and family moved to St. Ansgar, Iowa, and in 1877, he, with one of his sons, came to North Dakota. They filed on the northeast quarter of section 17, Belmont Township. That summer and fall they cut logs for a house and built a raft at Fargo, North Dakota to float lumber for their house at Belmont. In the spring of 1878, the family moved to Traill County, first coming to Fishers Landing, Minnesota and from there walking to Frog Point.

Mr. Rauk was not only a farmer, but an expert blacksmith, having worked at that trade in Norway and also in Wisconsin for \$7.00 a month. When Mr. Rauk retired, he built a house at Belmont, North Dakota and they lived there the rest of their lives.

They were buried in the North Ringsaker Cemetery.

Ole Bredeson was born on November 16, 1855 in Grue Sogn, Solar, Norway. He came to Austin, Minnesota in 1875 and to Dakota Territory in June 1878. He homesteaded on the NW¼ of Section 11-148-49.

Mr. Bredeson was united in marriage to Johane Nasset Johnson on December 10, 1880. Mrs. Bredeson was born in Grue Sogn, Solar, Norway on December 14, 1850 and came to America in 1874.

Mr. and Mrs. Bredeson were members of the Grue Lutheran Church in Stavanger Township. They were the parents of four children: Anna, Laura, Bessie and Josephine.

In 1917, Mr. Bredeson retired from farming and moved to Reynolds, North Dakota.

Mr. Bredeson died on November 3, 1926, and was buried in the Grue Cemetery. Mrs. Bredeson died on March 2, 1928 and was buried in the Grue Cemetery.



Martin H. Broderson was born in Schleswig, Holstein, Denmark, on May 1, 1854. He received his early education there. He came to America when a young man. He went from New York, his port of entry, to St. Ansgar, Iowa, and lived in that vicinity for a few years. In the summer of 1878 he came to Dakota Territory to take a homestead. He tied on a claim, the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7-148-49, Belmont Township. He returned to St. Ansgar, Iowa, and there married Miss Cathrina M. Lorentson on September 28, 1878. Miss Lorentson was born in Denmark.

Shortly after their marriage, they left by train to Fargo, Dakota Territory and from there by team and wagon to Frog Point, now Belmont. Their first home was a sod shack. They were members of the Ringsaker Lutheran Church.

George Broderson, the only child, began his school life in a rural school in Belmont Township.

In later years, Mr. Broderson acquired another piece of land in the South half of Section 10, bordering the Red River. Mr. and Mrs. Broderson moved to this location and lived there until the time of their deaths. Mrs. Broderson died May 17, 1935, and Mr. Broderson died September 4, 1936.

Herman Rust was born in Hallingdal, Norway. He came to Traill County from St. Ansgar, Iowa. He homesteaded on the S.E. Quarter of Section 34 Belmont Township. Mr. Rust never married. After a number of years he sold his land and belongings and went back to Norway.

Amund Goldberg was born at St. Ansgar, Iowa. He came by train to Fishers Landing, Minn., then to Frog Point, Dak. Terr. in 1878 and homesteaded S.W. Quarter in Section 19 Belmont twp.

Kornelius Johnson, a brother of Bernt Johnson, was born in Salor, Norway, in 1851. It is not known definitely when he came to America, but it is believed that he came a few years prior to his brother, Bernt, being his senior by four years. His history is very closely connected with that of his brother. In 1893 they, with their families immigrated to Dakota in the same caravan. He settled in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18 in Belmont Twp. where he and his brother built a claim shanty large enough to accommodate both families. It was built on the quarter line dividing his land from that of his brother, the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ in the same section. This was their first Dakota home. These two brothers living as close neighbors had practically the same pioneer life, traded at the same markets, attended the same church, and their children were entered in the same school. Mr. Johnson lived on the homestead until he was of the age when he felt he should retire. He moved to Buxton where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives.

Mrs. Johson passed away on Nov. 8, 1929, at the age of 77 years. Mr. Johnson died in April, 1931. Five children were born to them and are: Emma, Julia, Anna, Martin and Julius.



Mr. and Mrs. August Breadson were born in Norway, & emigrated to the United States at an early age, coming to Traill County and Belmont Township in the early 1890's. He farmed in section 35 all his life. They had the following children: Brede, Nels, John, Mary and Anna. They belonged to the Ringsaker Church, and are buried in that church cemetery. Mr. Breadson was born May 25, 1858 and died Feb. 12, 1925.



Carl K. Rauk was born October 8, 1858 in Mitchell County, St. Ansgar, Iowa. In 1878 along with his parents, brothers and sisters, he decided to come to the Red River Valley.

They first came to Fishers Landing, Minnesota, by railroad and then walked to Frog Point, N. Dak. (now Belmont), where he filed on land. He was 6'6" tall, and in later years weighed 530 lbs. He was quite often referred to as the "giant of Belmont."

He used to like to tell this story, when he went to Grand Forks: There was a circus there that advertised the biggest man in the world. Carl went in and looked at him and then offered to bet \$500.00 that he outweighed him. "Well" the man said, "Maybe you do weigh more than I do, but I am better looking than you are."

Mr. Carl K. Rauk died October 8, 1893 on his thirty-fifth birthday.

Joseph Thompson's nationality was Irish. He came from Boston, Mass., & filed on the N.E. quarter in section 28, Belmont Township. He was Township clerk for a number of years. He also bought grain as well as farmed his homestead.

Orn Thorson (Nesvig) came to Traill County in 1879, by team and wagon. Settled on the S.E. Quarter in Section 30 Belmont Township. He was a member of the Hauge Stavanger Church, and was buried in that church cemetery.

Torger (Big Thompson) Thompson filed on the S.E. Quarter in Section 26, Belmont Township.

Hugh Ray and his wife were born in Ireland, & emigrated to the United States in the Seventys. He filed on the S.E. Quarter in section 21, Belmont township. He farmed for a number of years, then sold their belongings and moved back to Ireland.

Unne (Peterson) Burlog (widow of Andreas Burlog) was born Feb. 4, 1842 in Sogn, Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Burlog emigrated to the United States stopping first in St. Ansgar, Iowa where Mr. Burlog died.

In 1877, Mrs. Burlog and her children, Ole, Peter, Serina, Chrisina, Bertina and Andrew, came to Traill County by covered wagon where she homesteaded in Section 9, Belmont Township where they resided for 24 years. In 1901 Mrs. Burlog and her sons, Peter and Andrew, moved to Upham, No. Dak. in McHenry County, where they took up homesteads. Mrs. Burlog passed away at their home in Upham, No. Dak. on October 23, 1924. Ole, the oldest son, moved to Duluth, Minn. He died there leaving his wife and two children.

Peter was married to Lena Olson and were the parents of seven children. They moved to Canada.

Serina married Mr. Thorson and they also moved to Canada. To them two children were born. After Mr. Thorson's death, she married Mr. Dahlen. She was the last survivor in the Burlog family.

Christina was married to Orle Hostetter. They lived at Reynolds, N.D. for some time. They later moved to Montana.

Bertina died at the age of 25 years. Andrew married Miss Clara Severson of Belmont and were the parents of 7 children. Andrew died February 22, 1955. His wife still resides at Upham, No. Dak.



Christian Rauk was born March 15, 1858 at St. Ansgar, Mitchell County, Iowa. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Knut Rauk who immigrated from Hallingdal, Norway in the year of 1846. With his brothers & sisters he first came to Fishers Landing, Minn., in 1878. They crossed the river by boat and then walked to Frog Point, later called Belmont. Mr. Rauk filed on the south-east quarter of section 9, Belmont Township, and later taking up a tree claim on the south east quarter of section 8. He was married to Anna Applestad, who came from Norway. Mr. Rauk was

a blacksmith & thresherman. He owned one of the first threshing machines operated in Belmont township. He died in 1936, and was buried in the north Ringsaker Cemetery.

Bernt Johnson was born in Grue, Salor, Norway, March 28, 1855, and came to America in June, 1870 to the home of an uncle living in Mitchell County, Iowa. He worked on farms in that county for several years and was married on March 31, 1877, to Lena Larson at Northwood, Iowa. She was born December 29, 1858 in Grue, Salor, Norway. After farming a year in the vicinity of St. Ansgar, Iowa, he decided to go to Dakota Territory. In the summer of 1878 he and his brother, Kornelius, made a trip to Dakota to locate homesteads in Belmont Township. After filing, the two brothers returned to Iowa in October of that year, 1878. They left St. Ansgar, Iowa vicinity by covered wagons. After being six weeks on the trail, they arrived in Belmont Township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were charter members of the Grue Church, built in the early nineties. Bernt Johnson took an active interest in the affairs of his community. He was an organizer of the Grue Lutheran Church and held various offices on township and school boards, and for many years was a representative of the farmers of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Traill County. In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson moved to Buxton and bought a home, where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Johnson died in 1937, and Mr. Johnson passed away in 1940. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were: Julia, Ferdinand, Bennie, John, Mina, Mina, Ella, Oscar, and Lyda.



John Larson was born in Vestre Akey, Norway on January 6, 1855 and immigrated to the United States in the spring of 1872 at the age of seventeen years. He lived at Spring Grove, Minnesota until 1879 when he moved to the Dakota Territory.

He was married to Miss Lena Ostby on February 27, 1879. They had eight children, two of whom had preceeded him in death, Henry and Bennie Larson. The surviving children were: Duffy, Lewis, Otto, and Bennie, two daughters, Mrs. Cora Glassrud, and Mrs. Carl Gronberg.

When he retired from farming he moved to Climax, Minnesota, where he resided until his death. He died there October 30, 1930 with funeral services being held at the Climax Lutheran Church November 3, 1930 and at the Rosendahl Lutheran church with the Rev. Christianson and Rev. Peterson officiating. Interment was in the Rosendahl Church Cemetery.



A big tree.

The largest Cottonwood in the state of North Dakota grew at Frog Point on land that belonged to the late Marten Broderson (Two miles North of the Belmont park). This tree had grown with a very handsome head and was 24 feet and 7½ inches in circumference 12 inches from the ground. It was hollow 13 feet up. In the hollow space 15 people have stood. This tree blew down in the summer of 1899.

Some Items taken from an old day book Frog Point store. Now Belmont N.D. 1879 and 1880.

Salt pork—10 cents per lb.
K. oil—20 cents per gal.
Butter—12½ cents per lb.
Gun powder—25 cents per lb.
Gun caps—10 cents per box.
Eggs—10 cents per doz.
Seamless sacks—22 cents each.

Overalls pair 90 cents each.
Plug tobacco—70 cents per lb.
Flour—\$3.00 per 100 lb. sack.
Vinegar—50 cents per gal.
Broom—30 cents each.
Syrup \$1.00 per gal.
Fork handles—20 cents each.

Pocket knife—25 cents each.
Whip lash—15 cents each.
Candles—25 cents per lb.
Cord wood—\$2.50 per cord.
Crossing river by boat, 35 cents.
Shirt fronts—35 cents each.
Horse blankets—\$2.50 each.
Under shirts—80 cents each.
Drawers—80 cents each.
Buffalo coat—\$15.00 each.
Fresh fish—5 cents per lb.
Beef was taken in on store bills at from 7 to 9 cents per lb.
Wheat at—65 cents per bu.



Threshing west of Frog Point.



The first Red River bridge, after a heavy rain between Ellendale and Belmont.

CALEDONIA

Down the Red River about 45 miles north of Fargo, as the crow flies, lies Caledonia, N. D., a tiny town, the site of which has a written history dating back 164 years.

Almost as remarkable as its age is the fact that it is a community that has refused to die, although about everything that would tend to turn it into a ghost town has happened.

Once upon a time it was a county seat with a fine court-house, several hotels, a bank, newspaper, a number of business places and saloons and a population of 400 to 500.

It was a steamboat town, a stopping place for stagecoaches and the site of a Hudson's Bay Company flour and grist mill and store.

Today it has about 25 homes, its population is a bare 100 and its only business establishment is John McDonald's little general store and gasoline pump.

Its 85-year-old church has had a lock on its front door for 20 years.

How this came about is a story worth recounting because it pictures the drama of the big beginnings and the bluster of frontier times and the fading of hopes and dreams in the relentless turn of fortune's wheel.

To gather and weave the threads of the tale have been difficult. The men and women who were leaders and actors in Caledonia's stirring days have long since passed away.

They lie in the cemetery on the banks of the Goose; county officials, storekeepers, inn keepers, stagecoach drivers, ferry-boat men, millers, Hudson's Bay Co. employes, teamsters and their wives.

The names and dates on the tombstones do little but hint of Caledonia's fame.

In the days, bizarre events occurred in the town. Some were related to Caledonia's grim 11-year fight to retain the county seat. This struggle began after the Manitoba Railroad built its line and created Hillsboro, which was to steal Caledonia's thunder.

Then there was the episode of the wandering minstrel who swindled the entire population, the famous bank burglary, and other exciting episodes.

FUR TRADER VISITED SITE FIRST IN 1800

Alexander Henry, the fur trader, came to the site of Caledonia at 4 p.m. Nov. 10, 1800, and found, as he recorded in his journal, "the signs of 30 tents of last year, which our guide assured me was a Sioux camp.

We also saw poles on which they had stretched beaver skins, old broken horse travails (horse litters), some tent poles and plenty of horse dung."

That he was one of the first white men to arrive on the scene seems likely on the basis of available records.

That he was actually at the site of what is now known as Caledonia is unmistakable. In his journal he described landmarks about him which are still on hand.

These include the mouth of the Goose River, the Red River, the nearby mouth of the Sand Hill River and the mouth of the offshoot of the Wild Rice River of Minnesota, known now as the Marsh River.

Just how long Indians occupied the site is a mystery. It may have been many years before the fur trader came.

What the journal of Alexander Henry said about the Caledonia site is engaging because it contains a rare description of the Red River Valley of 164 years ago.

This was the period when John Adams was our president, when the Revolutionary War was still vivid in the memory of Americans and when George Washington had been dead less than a year.

It was a time when the Sioux and Chippewa warred to death along the Red River, and white men took their lives in their hands when they went abroad.

Into the valley earlier in the year Alexander Henry had come as a representative of the North West Company, an organization which relied strongly on whisky to get its share of beaver pelts.

He built his first trading post at the mouth of the Park River, in northwestern Walsh County, with the help of a crew of French-Indian assistants, settled down for trade with the Chippewa (he called them *Saulteurs*), and in November decided to explore his environs to the south.

Consulting with one of his aides, a man by the name of Charlo and an Indian who was to act as guide, he learned of the fear that gripped the valley.

They were to pass through *Grandes Fourches* (Grand Forks), the junction of the Red and Red Lake Rivers. There the Sioux customarily laid in wait to pounce on wandering Chippewa and whites.

With the promise that he would receive a half keg of liquor on their return, the Indian finally consented and the trio set out on horseback.

At *Grandes Fourches* they found "Sioux sign" but no Sioux. They kept close vigil but since no immediate danger seemed to threaten, Henry proposed extending the trip south to the Goose. The date was Nov. 9, 1800.

The guide was fearful and declined to go.

"I told him I was anxious to see Goose River as I wished to send my Indians there in the spring to hunt beaver," Henry wrote in his journal. "He started many objections.

However, I prevailed on him to accompany me on condition I would give him a treat of high wine on our return to this place, where I intended to leave the small keg en cache."

PART REACHES MOUTH OF THE GOOSE RIVER

The journal tells of their departure at daybreak the next morning, of following the course of the Red River, seeing many buffalo and red deer and passing the mouth of the Sand Hill River of Minnesota, which Henry referred to as "*Riviere aux Buttes de Sable*."

"At 4 o'clock," the journal continues, "we reached the entrance of Goose River or *Riviere aux Outardes*" (French for River of the Goose).

In 1800 this part of present North Dakota was in disputed ownership. It did not become part of the United States until the treaty of 1818 which fixed the boundary between the U.S. and British territory at the 49th par-



Sargents Saloon, Caledonia, N.D. in the late 1870 and 1880.

allel.

The area was not involved in the Louisiana Purchase of April 30, 1803.

"Here we stopped for the night—indeed, this was the extent of our journey to the south as nothing could induce our guide to cross Goose River. For we were near the enemy's land; we had seen several war camps during the day, and here we found a Sioux camp.

The Goose River water is fresh and the bed hard with stones, gravel and sand. Its course is very winding.

Beaver appear to be very numerous but we kept as quiet as possible, made no fire, fired no gun and held our horses always near us, while the Indian was continually on the lookout from the tops of the oaks.

We crossed Goose River here without any trouble and I climbed up one of the highest trees to have a view southward. The country appeared the same as we had passed through, open and level, with no woods to be seen excepting those on the Red and Goose Rivers.

The bed of the Red River is firm and frequently stony.

It is here about half as wide as at Pembina River but has plenty of water.

We passed an uncomfortable night. The air was cold and we made no fire for fear of being discovered. Every wolf or other animal that came near us we supposed was the enemy and we were in a state of alarm the whole night."

In his journal of the next day, Nov. 11, 1800, Henry's notations reveal his curiosity as to his whereabouts and a power of description not associated with the average fur trader of those times.

"Nov. 11. We took a farewell view of the country southward from the top of a large oak. The mirage was fine as the sun rose, and the prospect was delightful.

Goose River, on the right, wound over the plains to the west until it divided into several branches, which, soon after reaching the Hair Hills appeared like blue, serpentine stripes across the barren ground until lost to view.

(The Hair Hills referred to by Henry are the upper beaches of ancient Lake Agassiz and the moraines laid down in prehistoric times, in which rise the western tributaries of the Red River.)

"On the left, Red River stretched southward through a level country as far as the eye could reach. On the east side appeared the level plain, through which Folle Avoine (Wild Rice) River ran, until the wood grew blue and was lost to sight, while its many sudden bends added to the beauty of the prospect.

In every direction, animals were seen, buffalo feeding on the plain and red deer in the edge of the wood or passing through the open spaces.

My guide was anxious to depart. At 8 o'clock we set out and without making halt to rest our horses we reached our camp at Grandes Fourches at sunset."

Having returned, Henry produced the high wine and the guide began enjoying his reward.

"He was soon intoxicated and brave as a lion," Henry recorded. "He said he was sorry he had seen no Sioux. He would have taken some scalps.

He offered to go as far as Otter Tail lake. He called the Sioux 'old women.' Finally he fell asleep."

NEXT REFERENCE TO SITE IN FALL OF 1825

The next historical reference to the Caledonia site is in a treaty signed by the Sioux and Chippewa at a peace conference in Prairie du Chien, Wis., in the fall of 1825.

In it they agreed to stop fighting and stipulated a line between "their countries," which made Goose River part of the boundary.

At this period the Sioux claimed all the territory as far north as Lake Superior, while the Chippewa said their land extended as far south as the Minnesota River. The treaty was a compromise.

The national government had asked Governor Cass of Michigan Territory and Governor Clark of Missouri Territory to call the conference. Violence in the Indian country had taken many lives, including those of some whites and had crippled the fur trade.

In the Red River Valley, a family by the name of Tilly, going from Pembina to Fort Snelling in 1824 was attacked near the site of Grand Forks by a band of Sioux, who killed all but two boys, who were carried in-

to captivity. This was an exceedingly brutal massacre.

A trader related the facts to the commandant at Fort Snelling and he sent a scouting party out in 1826 and rescued the captives.

Frontiersmen laughed at the treaty signing at Prairie du Chien. Governor Cass, replying to disdainful comment remarked, "Washington wanted it." Indian outrages continued long after.

The north boundary line as sketched in the treaty passed "through the middle of Otter Tail lake, thence on a direct line to Buffalo River at half way between its source and mouth, down the Buffalo River to the Red River and down the Red River to the mouth of Outard or Goose Creek."

Forty-five years elapsed after the treaty before the first actual white settlement took place at Goose River, as the community came to be known at first.

During that period occurred the great Sioux uprising of 1862, which took some 400 lives in Minnesota and Dakota Territory. During the same year President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act.

More time passed before the Sioux were finally tamed and before white men had begun to forget the gruesome events of 1862 and gather courage for home building in the Red River Valley.

The next mention of Goose River is related to the woes of the first steamboat on the Red River, the "Anson Northup," built in 1859.

Its first trip downstream in June of that year was made without difficulty, but its second, in August, when the water level had fallen, was filled with tribulation.

About Aug. 10, Capt. Edwin Bell in command, it became stranded on the shoals at the mouth of the Goose. Capt. Bell and Pilot Jesse Young set out in a skiff to survey the situation.

They first tried undercutting large boulders with improvised scrapers operated from the skiff. When the largest stones were lowered, a vain effort was made to move downstream by backing to throw water under the little stern-wheeler, and then quickly reversing.

Some of the cargo was carried ashore.

The "Anson Northup" made no progress, however, and finally Capt. Bell improvised a log and brush dam, and raised the water level. The boat then shot over with a minimum of scraping and found a clear channel.

Since the shoals extend downstream for some 20 miles from this point, the boat's troubles were not over but it reached Fort Garry without serious mishap Aug. 18, 1859.

A Scotch clergyman was aboard, probably one of the first parsons to ride a steamboat on Red River.

During the midst of the anxiety over the stranding, he called the crew and passengers aboard for prayer. Two of Winnipeg's pioneer families were among those on board.

There is no question that the air over the Red River was filled with profanity many a time in the Caledonia region in the 70s. It was the one bad spot for boats the entire length of the stream.

Many a barge and steamboat were stranded for periods ranging from minutes to months on the boulder-strewn bottom. At one time it was necessary to unload a barge weighted with rail for the Canadian Pacific.



Hugh McDonald, 90, Caledonia's oldest resident, recalls watching more than one steamboat in the process of "wiggling off" the rocks during the steamboating era.

The "Grandin," "Alsop," and "Pluck" are among the boats he remembers. Boats operating on Red River when he came included the "Cheyenne," "International," "Alpha" and "Dakota."

He recalls a government dredge boat operating in the Red River. This may have been the well known "Unser Fritz."

MAN KILLED TRYING TO BOARD STEAMER

The Red River Star, Moorhead paper, reported that on May 25, 1874, a man named Turner was accidentally killed as he was trying to board the "Cheyenne" at Goose River.

(The name "Goose River" was changed to Caledonia July 8, 1875, probably at the suggestion of Asa Sargent, a native of Caledonia county in Vermont.)

"He was a passenger on the 'Cheyenne,'" the Star reported. "As the boat stopped at Goose River to discharge freight, he went hunting. When he was returning aboard the boat, it was leaving the landing.

In his hurry to get aboard he threw his gun on the deck. In some manner the fowling piece was discharged and he was struck in the chest.

Dr. John Kurtz, of Moorehead was sent for but the patient died," the Star said.

In the same edition, the Star told of the "Cheyenne" and "Alpha" being stranded at the rapids and of the "International" turning about at that point after picking up the passengers and "short trip" freight of the two boats and taking them to Moorhead.

The water at this time was at one of its periodical low

stages.

The first settler to come to the mouth of the Goose and the one generally credited with being the first to establish a home in Traill County was George E. Weston, 38, a grocery store clerk from London, England.

He had come to this country while a youth and had served in various clerical capacities on the frontier and as a traveling supervisor of supplies carried by wagon trains to Fort Pierre, Fort Abercrombie, Fort Ransom, and other frontier posts.

At Fort Abercrombie in March of 1870 he built a barge, loaded it with provisions and supplies, floated down to the mouth of the Goose and staked out his claim.

He cut trees and built a cabin that spring, at a point approximately a mile east of Caledonia on the south bank of the Goose. Later in the year, he took employment for a time at the Hudson's Bay Co. station at Georgetown, 30 miles up river by stage.

His first employer was Walter J. S. Traill, a business agent-supervisor or chief clerk for HBC, who had arrived at Georgetown from Saskatchewan on May 13 of the same year. Traill engaged Weston as a temporary clerk.

When the county was created Jan. 12, 1875, it was named for Traill, who was referred to at the time as the first white land owner, although county records disclose he did not acquire a homestead until some time after Weston drove his stakes. Weston, however, was a "squatter," acquiring title later than Traill.

Traill was well-liked by the early settlers. The HBC under his management treated them in generous fashion in the matter of credit for supplies and in providing the

first threshing equipment. As a result both he and the company were held in high esteem.

A long time employe of HBC, Traill lived many years on the frontier.

The year he arrived, or the following year, he applied for U.S. naturalization, selected a homestead at Frog Point down river from Caledonia, and built a shack.

He then made arrangements for a government survey by assuming the cost personally, and got the first settler's land patent April 10, 1875.

Tradition at Caledonia is to the effect that Traill and Asa Sargeant followed Weston as residents, coming in 1871. Sargeant was a native of Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont, and also a clerk by trade.

Sargeant had come to the country in June of 1870, had worked on the Griggs fleet of Red River barges during the summer and been employed in a steamboat line warehouse in Pembina during the winter of 1870-71.

The HBC set up a provision and supply store at the Caledonia site in 1871 and is also credited with opening the "American House" hotel. Sargeant was placed in charge and continued in that capacity until 1875 when HBC left the country, abandoning its establishments at Georgetown and Frog Point at about the same time.

Sargeant hired the hotel land-lords and had general supervision over its operation.

WINNIPEG STAGE LINE INAUGURATED IN 1871

The stepping up of interest in Caledonia at this period was related to the extension of the stage coach line to Winnipeg, as Fort Garry became known.

The first stage arrived at the Manitoba capital, Sept. 11, 1871. The line had been extended through Caledonia to Frog Point that summer.

The stage company usually kept a station at every 15-mile point where horses were changed. It so happened that Caledonia was a logical site and it therefore gained immediate importance.

Beginning at Georgetown and extending north, the stage stations were at Quincy, Caledonia, Frog Point, Buffalo Coulee and Grand Forks, all roughly 15 miles apart.

Quincy was at the mouth of Elm River opposite present Hendrum, Minn. Frog Point is now shown on the map as Belmont, N. D.

The stage coaches were of the Concord type and were drawn by farm horses.

Later Caledonia was to become a station for two other staging outfits, the Fargo-Grand Forks line and the Hillsboro-Caledonia operation. The fare from Caledonia to Fargo was \$4.00.

A list of the noted northwest figures who stopped at Caledonia during staging days would be impressive.

It would include such men as James J. Hill, founder of the Great Northern Railroad (earlier known as the Manitoba), early governors of Manitoba, noblemen, famous hunters, distinguished clergy and noted frontiersmen.

The year 1871 was filled with glowing prospects for Caledonia. The Northwestern Telegraph Company (later absorbed by Western Union), set up its poles and strung wire through the town on its Moorhead-Winnipeg line, with the first message being transmitted Nov. 20, 1871.

But no telegraph station ever was established at Caledonia. This was one of several disappointments to the community.

Another event occurred about this time, however, which was to put Caledonia on the map.

H. A. Bruns, a Moorhead storekeeper, in the winter of 1871-72 set out with sleds for southern Minnesota and came back with 500 bushels of wheat, which he sold to the settlers in Traill and adjacent Dakota and Minnesota counties.

This was the beginning of the wheat growing industry in the Red River Valley. Coincidentally it made Caledonia a grain market, a steamboat site and a milling center. The HBC played an important role.

Tradition has it that the Canadian company not only brought in a horsepower threshing machine but also built the first water power mill on the Goose at Caledonia in about 1883. The mill had a long and colorful history which did not end until it ceased operation in about 1909.

The town during those days became the stopping place and an outfitting center for homesteaders, as well as a market place for grain, flour and feed. All along the Goose from its mouth upstream farms were established.

NEWSMAN FINDS GRAIN 'IN ENDLESS SEA'

A reporter of The Fargo Argus riding on the stage-coach to Grand Forks said, "The road passes through an endless sea of grain, just coming into the hands of the harvester and soon to be speeding on its way to the markets of the world."

"A New Englander might well say, what will be done with all this grain?" This was in 1880.

Randolph M. Probstfield, a prominent settler said the arrival of the HBC horsepower thresher at old Georgetown in 1874 induced him to plant 15 acres of wheat.

He reported he got 28 bushels to the acre and sold it at \$1.50 per bushel. Such yield and prices caused men to get out their pencils to figure out the probable returns from larger acreages.

The HBC was investing large sums in its American trade during this period in the 70s, even though the company apparently had no definite legal status on the American side of the border.

The HBC mill was on the Goose about two blocks south of the present center of Caledonia, and a mile from the mouth of the stream. Some of the piling of the mill dam still remains today.

Hugh McDonald, now known as the town's longest continuous resident, says the water in the Goose was much higher and swifter in those days.

At present there is but a trickle of water flowing by in the summer and fall because of dams upstream.

The building of the mill, the first in what was to become Traill county, quickly increased the importance of the town and settlers came in droves with their grain.

Tradition has it that after a grasshopper scourge the Manitoba government purchased 12,000 bushels of grain for seed in Caledonia in 1875.

Several grain warehouses were put up on the Red River at the Weston place, a mile northeast of the mill, and steamboats made it a stopping place and landing.

C. H. Graves of Duluth built the grain handling facilities and Weston became his commission agent. Weston also became the agent for the two steamboat companies, the Kittson line and the Merchants International line.

This gave travelers the choice of stage and boat in traveling to and from Caledonia and also provided double facilities for moving freight.

STAGECOACH MADE METROPOLIS OF TOWN ON THE GOOSE

The bounding of Caledonia on the Goose may be said to date from the opening of the stagecoach station and inauguration of service in the summer of 1871.

Almost overnight the scene at the junction of the Goose and Red changed from one of rustic pastoral simplicity to a new era of colorful commercial activity.

Fancy Concord coaches dashed into town morning and evening on their course between St. Paul and Winnipeg, bringing passengers, mail and express.

The Hudson's Bay Company moved in and built its provision and supply store and later its hotel, the "American House" and its water-powered flour mill.

With the establishment of transportation facilities, setting up of the store and hotel, and creation of a post office, the nucleus of the community that was to be had been formed.

Around it gathered entrepreneurs from distant points, flocking to the new site as bees descend on a clover field, seeking variously a new start, a fortune or merely a living.

Homesteaders began to find the town a place of supply as well as a market place for farm products.

Chester M. Clark, 26, a Vermonter, became the stage station keeper, assisted by a man named Way. They opened the first saloon. Later Caledonia streets were named Clark and Way in their honor.

Asa Sargent was given charge of the HBC enterprises and became known as one of the town's most substantial citizens.

James Paton taught the first school which was opened in the summer of 1872. The school itself is still in existence, incorporated now into the home of Angus McDonald, son of Hugh McDonald, who at 90 is the town's oldest resident.

The first voting that took place in Caledonia occurred in 1872 when the town was still known as Goose River. The residents voted on territorial delegates. The area was then Pembina County.

With the formation of Traill County in 1875, the town was given a tremendous boost on April 5 when it was named the county seat.



Caledonia Roller Mill.

Its possibilities were considered unlimited and men began to flock to the site.

The first county board meeting was held that year and in the following year the first courthouse was erected, only large enough to provide offices for the register of deeds and treasurer.

It was followed by the erection soon of a comparatively commodious courthouse. The furniture came from the Luger Company in Fargo.

Stage station keeper Clark was named the first sheriff and assessor.

One of the county board's early acts was to grant John Shely a charter to operate a ferry across Red River. For \$10 he got a 10-year franchise and had exclusive rights "for three miles."

Shely's brother, James, was associated with him in this enterprise. The town of Shelly, Minn., nearby was named in their honor.

Among the relics of this ferry operation still remaining at Caledonia are the metallic parts which held the ferry cable on the Dakota side, imbedded in the trunk of a tree.

A farmer nearby owns the anchor for a steamboat which he found in the Red River bottom during a low water period.

At the Godtfred Hageness farm adjoining the Dakota side of the ferry are an axle and wheels from one of the winch-operated cars used in loading grain on river barges and in unloading freight.

That the freight included large shipments of beer from Fargo-Moorhead breweries is indicated by records still in existence at Caledonia.

In pulling up stakes and withdrawing from Caledonia, Frog Point and Georgetown, HBC disposed of its interests to highest bidders.

The first Traill County tax list in 1875 indicated the company's property in the county to be worth \$16,700. It continued to hold its Grand Forks properties another year.

Many Caledonia area settlers were indebted to the company for provisions and supplies and since HBC apparently made no serious effort to collect, this was a land-fall for its debtors.

Peter Peterson, a settler of 1871, said, "The HBS trusted everybody for food and tools. The company didn't last very long here, for the U.S. government said it had no right to do business here because it was a Canadian concern.

The government said nobody had to pay the company what they owed and a lot of settlers didn't."

Hans Hanson, another 1871 arrival, told a similar story.

"When the wheat was raised, consisting of one or two little stacks on each farm ready to be threshed, the HBC offered to ship up a horsepower machine and do the threshing," he said.

"The settlers agreed to do this and later in the fall the HBC came with the thresher and brought sacks. The settlers hauled the wheat to Caledonia where they sold it and returned the sacks. In Caledonia the HBC loaded it on steamboats."

Peterson said he was "milking boss" for HBC at Cale-

donia and that he had charge of an HBC Red River ferry there about 1871.

Many of the early settlers regretted the departure of the Canadian firm. Their relations with the company left a pleasant memory, they said.

Asa Sargent, having completed four years as HBC storekeeper at Caledonia, bought out that establishment in partnership with A. H. Morgan, who had been the HBC storekeeper at Frog Point. Morgan had become the first chairman of the Traill County Commission.

He was also Caledonia's first postmaster.

VILLAGE FLOURISHED AS COUNTY SEAT

As a county seat, Caledonia became the rendezvous for enterprising businessmen, traveling salesmen, homesteaders and others.

A. A. Corliss opened a harness shop and Michael Madigan started a horseshoeing, carriage and wagon work business. A veterinarian, B. C. Taylor came on the scene. Patrick Kelly opened a livery stable.

Storekeepers included Lewis Olson, H. M. Little, J. P. Clark, A. W. Frendberg, and Charles Paulson. F. W. Ames opened a law office. Irce C. Miller opened a meat market.

Fred Puhler, who printed a newspaper in Ada, Minn., came and began publishing the Traill County Times.

One of the most welcome additions to the community was Dr. W. P. Cleveland, reputed distant kin of President Cleveland, who came out from Bowdoin College and was the first North Dakotan to get a state license.

'Doc' Cleveland was a community booster, back of every movement for Caledonia's betterment. Folks played croquet on his lawn. He also gained note as a lecturer in the area. His last years were spent in Fargo where he died in May, 1916.

During Caledonia's heyday it was visited from time to time by traveling show troupes, and numbers of "strangers." If a hotel keeper's visitor did not give his name, the hotel keeper wrote "stranger" on the register.

One winter day an energetic individual arrived and made arrangements for use of the town hall, then plastered the community with placards advertising a theatrical performance in glowing terms.

He seated himself in front of the hall and sold enough tickets to fill the building. His purse filled, he proceeded through the audience to the makeshift dressing room to get ready for his act.

After waiting about an hour for the curtain to rise, the audience grew restless. One of the patrons rose and went back stage to investigate.

He discovered a rear door open and a trail leading away in the snow. The theatrical man had taken off on skis.

By that time darkness lay deep in the valley and pursuit of the swindler was impossible. He made good his getaway and never was seen along the Goose again.

One of the relics of Caledonia in the early 80s survives in the register of the American House and Commercial hotels, now in the possession of T. T. Johnson, Shelly contractor, who came upon it in 1938 when razing a Caledonia building.

The building probably was one of the old hotels. Lum-

ber from it now forms part of the Leonard Hetland home in Shelly.

The register found represents the period when Henry Shuttleworth, a sprightly little Englishman was landlord.

He also was a justice of peace and some have seen in him a superficial likeness to the famed "Judge" Roy Bean of Langtry, Texas, who was known as "the law west of the Pecos."

DISTINGUISHED NAMES ON HOTEL REGISTER

Some of the entries on the register, such as "Jesse James, Missouri" on Aug. 3, 1881, and "James A. Garfield, Ohio" on Sept. 6, 1880, probably were written in as a hoax by the hotel clerk or some guest.

It was in 1876 that the James gang raided the bank in Northfield, Minn., and 1882 that Jesse was shot.

President Garfield was campaigning for the presidency at the time his name appeared on the Caledonia hotel register but it is extremely doubtful that he visited the little town.

Charles Gordon, a settler in the Caledonia area of 1871, told the story that he was once accosted by Jesse James, whom he said endeavored to recruit him for his gang. The story does not tell when and where this happened.

The hotel register contains the names of many distinguished men of frontier times, among them John D. Benton, Oliver Dairymple, Gen. J. W. Canfield, J. R. Hague and others.

Not only those who slept but also those who only dined, including horses as well as men, were logged on the register, with the hotel clerk often entering their names for them. Such notations as these were common:

J. A. Gilchrist from "Nowhere."

Two strangers and a horse.

Ole Fosse's guest and team.

Stranger from Fargo arrived by stage.

William A. Steele, a wanderer.

Charlie Morgan's hired man, supper.

Miss Omland, three musicians and F. M. Bish.

Horse jockey and three horses.

Wm. Comfort's three teams and men.

John Nenon, with stage co.

D. J. King, horse and sulky.

Emigrant and team.

Scrap Iron Bill, Moorhead.

Two strangers, five horses, Rockford, Pa.

Englishman, Grandin, horses.

Two Scandinavians, Mayville.

Norsky, Norway, dinner.

The visitors came from a score of states and some apparently were from Europe.

Landlord Shuttleworth on July 4, 1882, apparently entertained the Caledonia band at supper, their names being listed in his register, headed by "Dr. Cleveland, marshal of the day."

One "Thom. Babson" registered himself as "Chapin bare back rider of the world."

After the name of a man registered as "Jewellery pedler from Fargo" is a notation, "Dead beat by dam."

Shuttleworth suitably inscribed various holidays in the register, such as "St. Patrick's Day in the morning," and "A Happy New Year to All," and also recorded

vagaries of the weather and notations on floods, as follows:

Feb. 22, 1882: Celebration of birthday of George Washington.

March 20, 1882: Equinoctial storm . . . snowing like "L."

March 21, 1882: Manitoba blizzard and snowing like "L."

On Easter Sunday, April 9, 1882, Shuttleworth recorded that he was host to "All hands, 10 miles" and that the water in the Red and Goose Rivers was "as high as 1881."

April 16, 1882: Water commenced to fall. Twelve feet higher than 1873.

April 21, 1882: The first boat of the season, The Grandin, Fargo to Pembina . . . First day of court.

May 22, 1882: Frost two inches thick.

Nov. 30, 1882: Thanksgiving Day. Fine, with good sleighing.

Another hotel was the "Sundet," established by John Sundet in about 1877. M. B. Sullivan, a later owner changed the name to "Merchant's." Both hotels have long since been razed.

Those were lively times in Caledonia. The local paper reporter, "The young people in this vicinity tripped the light fantastic in Clark's hall Monday night . . ."

The Town hall is now fitted up with new and beautiful scenery and is indeed a credit to the town and its enterprising citizens. All is in readiness for the dramatic troupe, which, under the management of Dr. Cleveland, will surely be a success.

A local poet, Michael O'Flaherty, penned such stanzas as these:

If by thieves and doctors bled

Half your blood and cash has fled

Gather up your stove and bed

And settle on the Goose.

Take the girl whose many charms

Have won your heart, in willing arms,

And find your children future farms

By squatting on the Goose.

Though Adam took his wife's advice,

And got expelled from Paradise,

You'll find another just as nice

By squatting on the Goose.

Villagers got together and formed an Odd Fellows lodge, decorating and fitting out an ornate little hall on the second floor of a hardware store.

This hall can still be seen today with all its fixtures left intact like in pioneer times, though the lodge has been disbanded.

The hall is above John McDonald's general store, the former hardware shop. McDonald has seen to its preservation and occasionally escorts visitors up the stairs to show it. He also has preserved the lodge minutes.

In the hall is an old-fashioned organ and decorative kerosene hanging lamps.

STEAMBOAT TRAFFIC AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

Caledonia was alert to the steamboat traffic and there was no contemplating in those days that a time would come when it would lose its prominence as a river port.

"Send up the time cards of your old arks," wrote the editor of the Caledonia paper in an April issue. "Navi-

gation on the Red River will soon open and Times readers want to know about the running of the boats."

The opening of ferry service in the spring, vital to trade, also was noted, the paper reporting, "James Shely fastened the cables, put the helm down hard and danced his ferry across the foaming Red on Thursday last. The ferry at Halstad commenced running the same day."

On April 16, 1885, the paper said, "At this time just three years ago occurred the greatest flood this immediate section has known. The water rose to the third story of Clark's flouring mill, or to the level of the present bridge across Goose River."

Generally, Caledonia itself escaped high water, its altitude being higher than the immediate Red River area. But floods affected its business, as did storms and heavy snows.

The Traill County Times of Caledonia was a lively little sheet, breathing confidence, lauding the merits of Caledonia and shouting defiance at all brash communities which might then or later want to take the county seat away.

After Hillsboro got a railroad in 1880, the editor of the Times journeyed there on the stage and returned to pen the following in reference to what he saw in the new town:

"The Plummer House, modest hostelry though it is, is not without popularity and favor among those who find it necessary to tarry overnight or get a well-served meal while en route to Caledonia."

"We, as the metropolis, would pat our little sister on the head and bid her be good, and not cry for all the sweets. She has the stomach ache now, and any more might necessitate a purgative, which the Times would be loth to administer."

In 1878 Caledonia had bested Mayville in a county seat removal election. It was now fated to wage a new and desperate battle to retain the county capital honors.

An ingenious Caledonian, Dr. E. N. Falk, a former railroad doctor turned newspaperman, came up with a bright plan for beating Hillsboro.

Tradition has it that Dr. Falk and a committee of Caledonia cronies created an imaginary town, with platted streets, which they named Traill City, and which they declared would be located midway between the contesting communities.

Another version is to the effect that Mayville and Portland joined in the Traill City scheme, the plan being to locate the two between those two communities as a compromise to their individual desires. The hope was that the three towns eventually would become one.

When the election in 1883 was over it was discovered that 5,262 votes, far more than the county's population, had been cast and that fictitious Traill City received 2,011; Hillsboro 795 and Caledonia 450, and other communities six.

The ballots were tossed out and nothing developed until 1890 when the issue came on again at the November election.

Caledonians organized a fighting committee, called the "Tigers of the Jungle" by some wag of the day. The

committee hired a Col. W. C. Plummer, an orator known then as "one of three best political stump speakers in the U.S."

On the speaking platform he is said to have resembled the dignified and benign Henry Ward Beecher. His gray, uncropped hair, his frock coats and his persuasive tongue impressed his listeners but it was necessary for the committee to watch this bon vivant after the program was over.

When the votes were counted the results were Hillsboro, 1,291; Caledonia, 218; Mayville, 206; and Buxton, 114.

Tradition has it that the "Tigers of the Jungle" went armed thereafter and posted guards about the village in an effort to prevent removal of county records.

Having consulted with several firms of lawyers, the "Tigers" discovered a legal loophole and immediately went into court, attacking a recently enacted statute dealing with county seat removals as "special legislation" and unconstitutional.

Taylor Crum, a well known lawyer of those days was a member of the Tigers' staff.

Judge William B. McConnell ruled in favor of the Tigers but the newly elected county officials, who were defendants, took the case to the Supreme Court and obtained a reversal.

By the following year, Caledonia could see the handwriting on the wall and in March, in accordance with the supreme court decision, surrendered most but not all of the records and they were taken to Hillsboro. Some of them, incidentally, are said still missing.

The "Tigers of the Jungle" for some time threw a guard around the courthouse and jail to forestall removal of furniture and equipment. Some fear was expressed that the buildings themselves might be spirited away.

Finally most of the equipment found its way to Hillsboro and the furor eventually died down.

The Supreme Court in June, 1896, put a final approval on Hillsboro as the county seat, but Caledonia had begun fading long before. Many of its businessmen already were at "Hillsboro on the railroad."

In the meantime another rail line had flanked the town, the Manitoba branch from Moorhead to Halstad, steamboating had been wound up and stagecoaching was fading away.

In 1896 also, the Halstad railroad branch was extended to Crookston and just three miles east of Caledonia the town of Shelly was formed. It immediately became another commercial rival of the town on the Goose.

What usually happens to structures in a fort or a town when its heyday passes is their removal to farms, often to be converted into barns and machine sheds.

This is what happened to Caledonia buildings, including the town hall, which stood just north of the church and Dr. Cleveland's home.

As for the mill which gradually succumbed to the ravages of the Goose at flood and to highly advertised competition, much of its lumber was put in buildings now used in the village by Mr. and Mrs. Roald Braseth, brother of W. R. Braseth, vice president of Fargo National Bank.



Chester M. Clark's house in Caledonia, N.D., 1897, spring of the big flood.

The Caledonia Roller Flour Mills had a number proprietors over the years, among them the H.B.C., C. M. Clark, Asa Sargent, Edward Braseth, father of Roald, George Wiest, who sold out in 1893, and Edward Braseth's two brothers.

(In various documents, Asa Sargent's name has been spelled both Sargeant and Sargent, but the latter spelling appears to be the correct one.)

Its business accounted for revenues ranging from \$15,000 to \$19,000 annually. It had been converted to steam power as the years passed.

A tragedy in the mill was the death of Herman Bish, night miller. He was caught in the gears in the basement while greasing. It "took 13 men to turn him out," Hugh McDonald recalls.

BURGLARY OF BANK EXCITING OCCURRENCE

Another exciting event was the burglary of the Bank of Caledonia, an institution operated by J. H. Sarles, E. Y. Sarles and O. C. Sarles.

Old residents recall the burglar had concealed himself in the hardware store, connected structurally with the bank, and when the saloons finally closed and the streets

deserted in the early morning hours, got in and blew the door off the vault.

Escaping with about \$2,000 in currency and coin, he set off across the snow-covered prairie in the direction of Ada. The sheriff from Ada was notified and met him midway.

The story goes that the burglar drew his gun but the sheriff fired first and the shot was fatal. The funds were recovered.

Not a few men who drank in Caledonia saloons were found "frozen to death on the prairie" as coroner's findings testify. Eventually this aroused a strong antipathy to the drinking evil.

Caledonia saloon men renamed their establishments "Temperance Saloon," kept their wet goods under the candy and grocery counters, thrived for some years more but finally succumbed.

Traill county's Prohibition Party one year elected a full slate of county officers. It was the established third party in the county.

In the two-story county courthouse in Caledonia many stirring episodes occurred, sessions of grand juries, in-



Main street, Caledonia, N.D., the winter of the big snow, 1896 and 1897.

quests, trials and public meetings.

When the county seat was moved to Hillsboro, this structure was converted into a school and served that purpose until 1909 when it was destroyed by fire.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Having lost the county seat, Caledonians concentrated on making their village an educational center, and building a new school on the old site, formed the first consolidated school in the county.

The extent of the occupation with school affairs is disclosed in the fact that at one time seven busses were operated in bringing pupils to school.

RAILROAD BY-PASSES CALEDONIA

Caledonia, N. D., the rustic settlement on the banks the Goose River about 45 miles north of Fargo, lost its golden opportunity to continue as Traill County's county seat and leading city because one day in the 1870s a stranger in the community was treated brusquely.

The stranger was James J. Hill, the president of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba (later Great Northern) Railroad, who never forgot the slight.

The story is told by Nina Hermanna Morgan, Port Chicago, Calif., daughter of Peter Herbrandson, a friend and personal acquaintance of Hill and a leading Caledonia citizen for years. Her father related the details to her years ago.

Hill built railroads on both the east and west sides of Caledonia but never laid a rail into the town.

When new communities sprang up along his tracks nearby, isolated Caledonia lost its county seat, commercial advantages and most of its population.

"One cold, stormy winter evening," Mrs. Morgan says, "a fur-clad man driving a team of dogs stopped at the 'American House' in Caledonia and asked for food and shelter for himself and his team.

A nattily dressed clerk in the hotel said they had no room for the weary stranger and his 'dirty dogs,' though the man said he was able to pay, and pay well.

"The man got into his sleigh and drove on down the ice-covered bed of the Goose River and after several miles travel saw the light from a lamp in the cabin of a homesteader.

It was the home of a widow named Johnson and she kindly asked him in.

While he fed the dogs with frozen meat from her scanty store and sheltered them under a roof that was over her wood supply, she got him a good hot meal and steaming coffee.

Then she gave him her bed and crawled into the loft to sleep with the children.

The next day, before he departed, he paid her generously and ever after he remembered her with gifts of money.

The stranger was James J. Hill.

He was on a hurried trip from Winnipeg to Minneapolis, scouting out a line for his road from Fargo to Grand Forks.

He vowed then and there that as long as he lived his railroad should never be built to Caledonia.

The through line to Grand Forks was soon built via Hillsboro. Another line had earlier been built on the Minnesota side of the Red River to Warren, Minn., or thereabouts. (To reach the rails, Caledonians had to travel 10 miles in one direction, three in another.)

Although the Grand Forks-Fargo line might well have been built via Caledonia, James Hill never changed his mind. To this day, Caledonia has no railroad."

Caledonia lost out to Hillsboro in a county seat removal fight after the Fargo-Grand Forks railroad line was built.

Thereafter most of its businessmen moved either to Hillsboro or to Shelly, Minn., the nearest communities on Hill's railroad, and most of the town's business structures eventually were removed or demolished.

As the years passed, Caledonia concentrated on developing itself as a township educational center.

CALIFORNIAN REMEMBERS OLD DAYS IN

CALEDONIA

From California, Mrs. Morgan wrote nostalgically to The Fargo Forum of old days in Caledonia, where she last lived in 1916.

"My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Herbrandson, came to Dakota from Iowa in 1879 by covered wagon," she said.

"Mother drove the team of horses and father a team of mules, with two cows and a heifer reluctantly following or being pulled behind the wagons.

All of their household belongings were in the wagon, including most of the furniture and dishes we used when I was a child. My oldest sister, Emma, was about two at the time.

(On coming to Caledonia, they took a claim about three miles north and west of the little village. They pre-empted until they proved up."

Pre-emption is the act of buying something ahead of other persons, or the right to do so. In 1841, Congress established the right of pre-emption. Under this system, a person could simply file an application for land and move in.

Anyone who improved a piece of land and lived on it for six months could then buy it from the government for \$1.25 an acre, \$2.50 per acre if it was railroad land. This meant that the squatter had a right to buy his land ahead of anyone else.

The purpose of the plan was to make it easy for new settlers to become landowners. No one could get more than 160 acres. Persons who already owned as much as 320 acres could not get more by pre-emption.

The pre-emption system was abolished in 1891. Some 200 million acres passed from the government to private owners during the 50 years the system prevailed.

After Jan. 1, 1863, settlers could get 160 acres free under the newer homestead law, and another 160 acres under the tree claim law. In the latter case, the settler had to plant 10 acres to trees and keep them living at least eight years.)

"In the meantime my father, unaided, built our house in town. It still stands. As soon as the homestead was ours we moved to town. My parents lived there until they passed away, mother in 1918, father in 1931.

Soon after moving to Caledonia, father became interested in politics. There were many Norwegian settlers. Some could neither read nor write English.

Father read incessantly, memorized much of the Dakota code of Laws and acted as an adviser to immigrants and neighbors. He became a notary public.

For about 18 years he was postmaster as well as county commissioner. He also served as state representative for two or three terms, and later as state senator.

He was a staunch Republican. As children, we were wont to believe that Democrats were people to avoid. Near election time, things grew tense and expletives were colorful and uncomplimentary.

There were torchlight parades and hot debates. Even the children took sides, on the playgrounds. Then, after election, we were friends again.

One of Caledonia's most colorful characters, I remember, was known as Pete Casper, though that may not be the correct spelling of his last name.

He was called a 'Canuck.' Undoubtedly he was a half-breed, a French-Indian. He lived upstairs in the house next door.

Evidently Pete Casper was more or less of a gambler. When election time came around, with Harrison and Cleveland running, Pete offered to cook a dinner, a turkey dinner if the Republicans won, a mysterious dinner if they lost.

He had been a cook on the Red River steamboats.

Since most of the 'Tigers of the Jungles' were Republicans (I feel quite sure they were Republicans) they were to be the guests.

(The Tigers of the Jungle were militant Caledonia group leading the opposition to removal of the county seat.)

The day of the dinner the guests arrived rather dismayed at their loss. They were served a very excellent dinner. The meat was highly seasoned and Pete was praised for his cooking and questioned about the 'rabbit' which they had enjoyed.

After much questioning he finally told them that he had depleted the cat population considerably in order to feed them. Some rather sick and shame-faced Tigers went home in a hurry.

One cannot mention Caledonia in its halcyon days without speaking of our beloved teacher, Mrs. 'Charley' Peterson, and our fine Dr. Cleveland.

I wouldn't know how long Mrs. Peterson taught in our school but it was a great number of years, I know, for she taught the 4th and 5th reader room when I entered the primary. (More than 30 years, according to Mrs. John McDonald, a niece of Mrs. Peterson.)

She was a wonderful woman as well as an unusual teacher. She brought to us not only 'book learning' but also a strict code of ethics. You could not cheat and look her in the eye.

She didn't punish you. She just talked about the right thing to do and seemed to ferret out whatever was dishonest or unwholesome. We stood in awe of her, but we loved and respected her. A word of praise from her was manna for a hungry child.

I feel certain that every person who was her pupil was a finer character because of her influence.

Dr. Cleveland came from New England, Bowdoin College in Maine, as a young man. He always brought a gay cheerfulness that was real medicine to his patients.

He often drove from 10 to 15 miles on his calls in the bitterest winter weather with his shaggy little Shetland ponies.

He truly laid down his life for his neighbors. (Dr. Cleveland was 68 when he died in Fargo in May, 1916.)

Two other characters meant a great deal in the uplift of the level of life for the children in Caledonia.

They were Mrs. Alvin (Nancy) Briggs and Miss Emily Beaver.

I was a very small child when the Congregational Church, which was torn down 20 or 25 years ago, was built. There was no Sunday school in the Lutheran Church, which was built several years later.

The Congregational Church had a very fine Sunday school, with Mrs. Asa Sargeant or Joseph Clark as superintendents, while Mrs. Briggs had charge of the primary department.

What a wise teacher she was. She brought out the lessons of the New Testament as well as the Old so vividly that I still remember the morals they taught.

Of course sin was really sin in those days, undisguised by modern adjectives or glossed over by misrepresentation.

If there was a sense of fear instilled for wrongdoing, there was also given to us the knowledge of a heavenly Father and the closeness of His love.

Miss Emily Beaver was my first day school teacher. She had in her primary room not only little children, but some 10 to 12 year olds, boys who worked on the farm

and came only two or three months during the winter.

How indebted we ought to be to the courageous educated people who were the leaders of our day."

"The commissioners of Traill County have contracted with W. J. Bodkin of Moorhead to build a bridge across the Goose River at Caledonia," said the Red River Star, Moorhead newspaper one day late in 1876.

W. J. Bodkin was well known in the valley as a bridge builder, having constructed many of the spans that made it possible for stagecoaches to speed along the route between Moorhead and Winnipeg.

The bridge at Caledonia was one of the first important public undertakings at that place and Bodkin with a large crew of men soon departed by wagon for the site. His contract called for two spans, the other to be laid over the Elm River at another location.

In those days bridge contractors brought provisions and cooks, for their workmen were fed on the scene. Eating houses were not plentiful and those that existed were not prepared for a force as large as Bodkin's.

Bodkin had many "boarders" but he was forced to feed some he had not expected.

"A few nights since," reported the Star Oct. 7, 1876, "a score of bears entered the camp of W. J. Bodkin on Goose River, where he is constructing a bridge.

The bears drove the men out and devoured a barrel of pork and a half barrel of sugar. They were as familiar as the Northfield robbers but not quite so bloodthirsty. Fortunately for the bears, the men had no arms."

Bears were common and often numerous in the Red and Sheyenne River valleys in frontier times. On one occasion a bear invaded Fargo-Moorhead after the two communities were well settled.

In the spring of 1882, Caledonia experienced its greatest flood, tradition says. Old residents said "Four feet of snow fell in a continuous storm about the middle of March, and warm weather followed, the sun melting the entire fall in little more than a day."

The Red River and its tributaries were reported to have risen as much as "20 feet in a day" and as the result of an ice jam near Grand Forks, the Red was several miles wide in some places.

"Dr. and Mrs. W. P. Cleveland celebrated the 10th anniversary of their wedding on Jan. 5 . . . Everything is quiet along the Potomac (Goose) River. Cause: Prohibition. (Traill County had voted dry under the local option act of 1887.



Alfred Munter plow rig . . . 12-16" bottoms.

THE TIGERS OF THE JUNGLE

To determine whether or not the famous Tigers of the Jungle of Caledonia, who were so aggressively active in the days of the old county seat fights, were a "bunch of crooks" as has been charged and also denied or at least questioned, one must analyze the situation, according to oldtimers.

Fred L. Goodman, a long and prominent resident of Hillsboro, frankly termed the Tigers, a bunch of crooks, but he was referring to them collectively and to their activities in connection with the county seat wars. Others said responsibilities for "Skulduggery" can be laid at the door of only a few.

The picture of the Tigers of the Jungle shows the following men: Dr. E. N. Falk, H. M. Shuttleworth, Peter Herbrandson, Col. W. C. Plummer, A. A. Corliss, Pat Kelly, John Little, John Anderson, John Breneman, Joe P. Clark, Dr. W. P. Cleveland, T. H. Lee and Louis Lohn.

A. A. Corliss was a harness maker; Patrick Kelly, farmer, livery-man and Caledonia-Hillsboro stage line operator; John Little, storekeeper, and one-time chairman of the county Democratic Central Committee; John Anderson, county treasurer and assistant cashier of the bank; John Breneman, farmer; Joseph P. Clark, hardware-man and banker; Dr. W. P. Cleveland, physician; T. H. Lee, sheriff; Louis Lohn, county Register of Deeds; Dr. E. N. Falk, county Auditor, newspaper publisher and physician; Henry A. Shuttleworth, hotel keeper and Justice of the Peace; Peter Herbrandson, Postmaster; and W. C. Plummer, political orator and editor of the Traill County Times.

Now it seemed to the consensus of old timers that Dr. Falk was the greatest villain of the group in the eyes of Hillsboroites. He also appears to have been very much persona non grata in Mayville for it was the Mayville edition of the early 80's as well as a Hillsboro scribe of the same period who charged that Falk had given orders to "shoot down all westenders." It is probable, of course, that "outside of these faults" Doc Falk was a good scout.

There were some who said that Peter Herbrandson was by no means a rascal; that he was a fine gentleman and that he represented his constituents ably in the legislature. However that may be, there were others who ranked him with the worst of the Tigers. Anyway, he was tarred with the same brush.

We have not been able to find much about Mr. Shuttleworth, although we understand he was a fairly conservative easterner, who could not harm a soul, except that he might possibly "push someone around" a little in the heat of a county seat fight. Then there was A. A. Corliss. His widow, who lived at Caledonia, said that he was a gentleman and a lawabiding citizen, and that should let him out.

Pat Kelly, of course, was a good citizen. Dean Kennedy, one-time County Superintendent of Schools and superintendent of the Hillsboro city school, said that Mr. Kelly was very sensible and pacific and did not even quarrel.

John Little, John Anderson, and John Breneman—the three Johns—do not appear to have been outstandingly aggressive or danger-outs. Joe P. Clark, and Dr. W. P. Cleveland, were leaders and it is said of them that they "never gave quarter in early day county seat fights." This probably was true also of T. H. Lee and Louis Lohn.

We have reserved Colonel Plummer for the last because we think his record as editor and orator in the conflicts proves that the pen and the tongue are mightier than the fist and shove of force in such cases.

We conceded that Colonel Plummer disregarded ethics in his written and spoken charges and claims and we believe that the rest of the Tigers who aided and abetted him in this were guilty of unethical conduct, to say the least. But we fairly believe that an impartial court with all the evidence before it today, would not find any of the Tigers guilty of anything more serious than disorderly conduct if anything, and we are inclined to believe it would not be anything.

Files of county papers indicate that both sides or all the many sides—sometimes six—were guilty of libel as it is understood today. But it was not libel then, or rather no one sought legal redress in such cases.

So while the "Tigers of the Jungle" may have been a "bunch of crooks" in the eyes of their opponents, particularly those in Hillsboro, Mayville, we must remember that the term did not mean as much in those hectic days as it would now. The time may come, in fact, that the Tigers will be remembered as heroes in the county, even be descendants of their bitterest foes.



CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP

Mr. George E. Weston was born in London, England on the twentieth day of November, 1832. Mr. Weston commenced life for himself when he was ten years old by clerking in a grocery store in London for a number of years. He then immigrated to America, landing in New York, where he hired out to a merchant in Albany and then in Buffalo, New York. After working and traveling in many different states and cities he went to Sioux City, Iowa where he stayed until the winter of 1860. He then went to DEVILS Lake in charge of supplies for a company. He had 36 wagons of provision and did an extensive amount of trade with the Indians. In March he returned to Ft. Abercrombie, where he built a boat and after stocking it with provisions, sailed down the Red River where he took up a claim at the mouth of the Goose River. He was recognized as the first settler in what later became Trail County. His nearest neighbor at this time was 35 miles away. At one time Mr. Weston took charge of the Hudson Bay Store at Georgetown. In 1873 the lust for adventure hit him again and he joined a surveying party going to the Yellowstone Park. This party had an escort of 800 soldiers. They had a number of engagements with Indians in Sitting Bull's Country and at one time he went up the Missouri River and purchased 800 buffalo hides and on his return was attacked by Indians.

Mr. Weston was married twice, first in 1858 to Miss Hanna Hawks. This union was blessed with three children: Frederick, Edward, and William. Mrs. Weston died in Sept., 1864. On Jan. 3, 1883, he was married to Miss Elizabeth McDonald, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Peter McDonald, natives of Scotland. Mr. George Weston died March, 1903 at Mine Center, Ontario, Canada.

In 1877, Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard Bye moved to Caledonia, North Dakota. In 1878 they moved onto their homestead in Caledonia Township in the part that is now known as Herberg Township. They resided here for 32 years and in 1910 they moved to Halstad, Minnesota.

Mrs. Bye died in her home at Halstad, Minnesota, November 5, 1931. Burial was made in the Caledonia Cemetery, as was her husband. We have no information as to the date of his death.

Mrs. Ida Butterfield (Ida May Corliss), was born in Suncook, New Hampshire on August 10, 1867. She came with her parents to Caledonia, Dakota Territory in September, 1879 and she received her education there in the common schools and spent nearly her entire life in that community. In 1893, she was united in marriage to M. B. Sullivan. In 1911, she married E. A. Butterfield, who passed away about 12 years before her death.

Mrs. Butterfield was a member of the Congregational Church in Caledonia. She died at Montevideo and her remains were brought back to Caledonia for services and burial. She was survived by a son, Miles, at Montevideo, Minnesota. Two sons, Harry and Roy Sullivan passed away when they were very young.

Alvin Briggs was born in Aunson, Maine, August 7, 1844 and grew to manhood there. On June 17, 1871 he was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Marsh Pinkham. Two children were born to this union, Jennie May, and Alton Alvin.

In 1883 he came to Dakota and located at Caledonia, North Dakota. Mr. Briggs died October 2, 1926 at Fargo, North Dakota. The funeral was held at the Congregational Church with interment in the Caledonia Church Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, a son, Alvin and a daughter, Mrs. A. D. Hall.

He took an active interest in public affairs and he was appointed Deputy Sheriff before the county seat was moved to Hillsboro, North Dakota. He also served as Justice of Peace for a number of years.

Dr. Erick Falk came to Caledonia, North Dakota in the year of 1878 and took up a practice in medicine and later entered into politics and served as County Auditor for Traill County a number of years. Later, he embarked into the newspaper business and printed the Traill County Times at Caledonia. Following the removal of the county seat to Hillsboro, he moved to Hillsboro with his publishing business and continued publishing the Times. He remained in Hillsboro until 1905 when he disposed of his newspaper and moved to Bagley, Minnesota.

He died at the Old Soldiers home in Minneapolis, Minnesota March 9, 1925. He was a veteran of the Civil War. He had also spent several years at Stoughton, Wisconsin, where he was buried.

Erick T. John was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, December 10, 1841 and immigrated to America in 1866 locating on a farm in Coon Valley, Wisconsin. From there he moved to Fargo, North Dakota in 1875 and in 1876 he moved to Caledonia, North Dakota, where he opened the first hardware store in Traill County. He did a thriving business supplying stoves and other equipment to settlers. Mr. John once had a shipment of seven carloads of stoves, which he freighted from Ada, Minnesota, the nearest town with a railroad. It is said that he sold three carloads of these stoves in a single day. His store building was the old John McDonald Store in Caledonia.

Mr. John was married in 1866 to Miss Marie Olson. He died at Northwood, North Dakota on February 26, 1916 and was buried in the Aal Lutheran Cemetery west of Hillsboro, North Dakota. He was survived by his brothers and sisters.

Peter Herbranson was born in Norway, August 9, 1847. He immigrated to the United States in 1864 and settled in Clayton County, Iowa where he was employed at farming and lumbering until 1876. He then went to Ottertail County, Minn., and soon afterwards visited the Red River Valley and took a pre-emption claim near Caledonia, North Dakota and engaged in buying and shipping stock.

He was married to Miss Carrie Nelson in 1873. They had six children: Mrs. Hartvig Floberg, Mrs. Zat Zam, Mrs. C. Morgon, Mrs. Leo Appleman, Harry, and James Herbranson. He died at his farm home and the funeral was held on Jan. 15, 1930 at the age of 82 years. Interment was made in the Caledonia Cemetery. Rev. Skunes of Halstad, Minnesota, conducted the services and six of his old friends from the pioneer days were the pallbearers. They were: Chas. Peterson, Hugh McDonald, Joseph Anderson, John Vennes, Paul Jacobson and Matt Johnson. Mr. Herbranson served Traill County in the lower House of the Legislature in the sessions of 1890-1895. He also served as a senator in the sessions of 1903, and 1905.

He was also Postmaster at Caledonia for more than 20 years and county commissioner, first elected in 1878 and served continuously for 18 years and then after a few years was elected again.

He was the last of the "11 Tigers of the Jungle." More about this group can be found elsewhere.

Mr. Asa Sargent was born in Peacanam, Caledonia County, Vermont, August 5, 1844, and was the fourth child in a family of six children born to Elijah and Sylvia (Watts) Sargent.

In the spring of 1872 he was employed by the Hudson Bay Company working in the store at Georgetown and soon after was established in a store at Caledonia, North Dakota. In association with C. M. Clark, he rented the Caledonia flour mill in 1876 and later purchased the plant. This mill was erected in 1872 and was the second mill built in North Dakota. The frame of the structure was of oak from native timber. The mill was sold some years after but was re-purchased by Mr Sargent and Mr. Edward Braseth and they were running the mill in 1900. It was a one hundred barrel capacity mill and was run by steam and water power combined.

Mr. Sargent was married in 1879 to Miss Amanda Houghton, who came to North Dakota in 1876. Six children were born to this couple, they were: Vic, Charles, Helen, Martha, Ray, and Niel. Mr. Sargent was elected to the territorial legislature in 1876 which met at Yankton, now in South Dakota. He was judge and county treasurer. In the fall of 1886 he was elected county register of deeds and served three terms in this capacity.

We have no information as to the date of Mr. Sargent's death.

Porter J. Elliott was born September 10, 1852, at Ellsworth, N. H., the son of Jotham P. and Clarinda Elliott. He came to Caledonia, North Dakota, in 1875, by steamboat, and filed a claim in Caledonia Township. During the time it took to prove up the claim, Mr. Elliott worked for Chet Clark in Caledonia, and then went into business for himself. He established a photograph gallery and took "tin types," many of which are still in possession of the older inhabitants of Caledonia.

When he had broken sod and built a house on his claim, Porter walked to Fargo to establish his claim. On February 12, 1878, he married Anna Turner at Black Earth, Wisconsin. Seven children were born to this union: Dr. John Elliott, Jay, Willard, Harry, Mrs. George Johnson, Mrs. Eva Topping and Lloyd Elliott.

Mr. Elliott later sold his farm in Caledonia Township and moved to Hillsboro, North Dakota, where he lived for a number of years. After leaving Hillsboro the family went to Laferia, Texas, where Mr. Elliott died at the home of his son, Lloyd, on March 2, 1949.



Edward Braseth was born in Trondheim, Norway, May 31, 1858. He came to Caledonia in 1877. Later on he was joined by two brothers, John and Ole, also a sister, Mrs. A. T. Larson.

He was first employed by Asa Sargent in the Caledonia Flour Mill, later on as a partner and then sole owner. This mill played an important role in the early days of the Red River Valley. Farmers from a big area would bring their wheat to be ground into flour. Teamsters employed by the mill would haul flour to area towns as far east as Ada and south of Fargo.

On January 25, 1902 he was married to Sophia Rognlie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peder Rognlie of Caledonia.

Their children are Philip H. of Alexandria, Minnesota, Mrs. G. Alfred Carlson (Roma) of Portland, North Dakota, Willford of Fargo and Ronald of Caledonia.

Mr. Braseth passed away May 15, 1928 and Mrs. Braseth on May 19, 1950.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Olson, farmer and one of the earliest settlers, Section 28, Township 146, Range 49, P.O., Caledonia was the son of John and Mary Olson, natives of Sweden. They came to America in 1862, settling in Scott County, Minnesota. They came to Dakota Territory May 2, 1871 and settled on the south bank of the Goose River, two and one half miles west of Caledonia, North Dakota, then the county seat of Traill County.

There were six children: Ole, went to Florida; Lewis, the subject of this biography; Mrs. C. M. Clark of Caledonia; Sophia, wife of Arthur Edmonds; David, and Matilda. The father died May 18, 1879. Mr. Lewis Olson was born in Sweden in 1845 and came with his parents to America in 1862 and Dakota Territory in 1871. In the fall of 1880 he married Miss Annie Anderson, daughter of Lewis Anderson.

Mrs. C. E. Peterson was born on February 14, 1856 and devoted her life to teaching. She was a sister of W. A. Kelly of Hillsboro, North Dakota.

With 48 years spent in the school room and teaching her 49th term, Mrs. Peterson was believed to have been the oldest teacher in North Dakota, in point of experience. In addition to this record, Mrs. Peterson was principal of the Caledonia schools in 1900, when that school became, what is believed to be, the first consolidated school in North Dakota.

During the last term she taught, Mrs. Peterson was teaching her third generation, a pupil in her room being the grandson of a pupil of hers when she taught in Wisconsin.

Her teaching experience included the following: 8 years in Wisconsin, 29 years in Caledonia, three years at Hillsboro, and nine years at Hunter.

Sixty five of her pupils were teaching in North Dakota, and one was a state senator, in Wisconsin. One of her mottoes was that there was a great deal of good in every boy or girl.

Mrs. Peterson died on February 29, 1924 at Hunter, North Dakota. She was survived by her husband and one son, C. E. Peterson, of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

William A. Kelly was born in Racine County, Wisconsin on March 10, 1861 and was educated in the public schools of that county. He taught school there from September, 1879 to June, 1880. In 1880-81 he taught at Norway, Wisconsin and the following year at Beaver Falls, Renville County, Minnesota. He came to Dakota Territory, North Dakota in 1882 and settled at Caledonia in Traill County, then the county seat of Traill County.

He served as Deputy Register of Deeds from June, 1882 to December, 1885. From January, 1885 to December, 1887, he served as Deputy County Treasurer. In 1887 he was elected County Superintendent of Schools for two years. In 1905 he secured a position with the United States Treasury Department in Washington D. C., where he remained until he returned to Hillsboro, North Dakota in 1917.

Mr. Kelly was married in 1889 to Miss Lizzie Cleveland and was the father of one son, Clarence D., and one daughter, Alice.

Mr. Kelly died at his home in Hillsboro on April 26, 1924. Funeral services were held at the Catholic Church in Hillsboro and interment was made in Riverside Cemetery at Hillsboro. Mrs. Kelly died at the age of 70.



BERGER SWALSTAD was born July 19, 1848 in Rendalen, Osterdalen, Norway. He passed away on December 5, 1931. He came to America in 1871, coming to Renville, Minnesota, where he worked until coming to the Red River Valley in 1873. He also worked on a steamboat for about three years. He lived in the Caledonia area until moving to the land North of Caledonia in the spring of 1879. He married Johanna Jahr in May, 1878 in Fargo, North Dakota. They were blessed with five children: Theodore, Hart, Ida (Mrs. O. C. Kaldor), Clara (Mrs. O. M. Kaldor), and Jennie (Mrs. Art Wallinder).

Christ Nygaard was born in Christiania, Norway, September 8, 1858. About the age of sixteen years, he came to this country and made his home in Iowa for a number of years. Mr. Nygaard was married twice, his second wife being Inga Anderson of Halstad, Minnesota who died in 1933. He was the father of nine children, four of whom had preceded him in death, these were: Mary, Nels, Alfred, and Julia. He died July 21, 1941. Funeral services were held at the Caledonia Church July 25, 1941. Interment was made in the Caledonia Church Cemetery. Survivors were: Ole, Carl, Emil, Ingvald, and Mrs. G. Moen of Caledonia, North Dakota.

Lewis Lohn was born September 25, 1857, near Garden Prairie, Boone County, Illinois. Coming with his parents to Wisconsin and a short time later to St. Ansgar, Iowa. He was 21 years old when he decided to go out into the world for himself, and came to the Red River Valley. He first homesteaded near Caledonia, North Dakota. It was while he lived at Caledonia that he married Miss Francis A. Houghton of Caledonia, this was January 15, 1885.

They later moved to Fosston, Minnesota. His first wife died August 10, 1895 leaving in the care of their father, five young boys. He later married Miss Gertrude Houghlaling who survived him. Mr. Lohn died December 21, 1927 at his home in Fosston, Minnesota.

August Frenberg was born in Sweden, November 2, 1856. He came to America in 1870 and settled at what was then Chippewa Falls (now Terrace), Pope County, Minnesota. In the early seventys he came to North Dakota with his parents and settled on the banks of the Goose River, 3½ miles west of Caledonia. Later he took up a homestead near his parents, which he still possessed at the time of his death.

On March 17, 1884 he was united in marriage to Miss Augusta Anderson. To this union were born two children, one son, Ira C., and one daughter, Fanny Reinetto, (Mrs. John Burr).

For a short time he engaged in general merchandise business at Caledonia, North Dakota and operated his farm until 1913 when he leased his land and moved to Hillsboro, North Dakota. He died June 2, 1922, and was buried in the Riverside Cemetery.

Mrs. K. W. Johnson, whose maiden name was Martha Amundson, was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, August 21, 1845. She lived for some time in Wisconsin before moving with her parents to Freeborn County, Minnesota. Here she was married on January 31, 1863 to Knute Johnson, a civil war veteran. After the war, she and her husband moved to Northwood, Iowa, where they lived for a number of years. They came to Caledonia, North Dakota in 1879 settling on a farm near the Red River. The entire trip from Northwood, Iowa was made in a covered wagon. Mrs. Johnson died at her home in Caledonia, North Dakota, on December 8, 1931 at the age of 86 years. Funeral services were held in the Caledonia Lutheran Church, December 10, 1931 and burial was made in the church cemetery. She was survived by six children: Joseph, Oliver, Matt, Mrs. James Wislon, Rosa, and Gilman.

Dr. W. P. Cleveland was a pioneer resident of Caledonia, North Dakota where he practiced medicine from 1879 to 1901, when he moved to Fargo, North Dakota, where he resided until his death. Dr. Cleveland was born in Madison, Somerset County, Maine, August 10, 1848 and was a lineal descendant of the same family from which President Grover Cleveland sprang. Graduating in medicine June 4, 1879, he spent nine months in the General Hospital at Portland, Maine, acquiring an invaluable experience. At this time he was the best educated physician in North Dakota. In September of 1879 he came to Caledonia, North Dakota. He held the first license (#1) granted to a physician to practice medicine in North Dakota. He was a member of the Odd Fellows Fraternity of the Caledonia Lodge. This was the first established in North Dakota.

Dr. Cleveland was married at Anson, Somerset County, Maine, Jan-

uary 5, 1878, to Miss Sarah G. Pinkham. The Doctor and Mrs. Cleveland were the parents of one son; Willie Elmore Cleveland, born May 8, 1881. Mrs. Cleveland died at Fargo, North Dakota on July 25, 1916. Both Dr. and Mrs. Cleveland are buried in the Caledonia Cemetery.



JORGEN VENNES was born in Trondhjem, Norway on January 10, 1834. His wife Anne Martha was also born in Trondheim, Norway on May 15, 1834. Jorgen was a carpenter, built houses and sailboats for fishing and merchant vessels. He came to Chicago in 1880 where there was much building going on after Chicago's big fire. He worked there two years, when he returned to Norway. Then in 1891 he again came to America, accompanied by two of his daughters. In 1892 his wife together with the other children came to America and lived in Caledonia, North Dakota.

Andrew J. Anderson was born in Sweden and came to America in 1879, settling at Caledonia. Later he moved to a farm west of Buxton, which remained his home until 1919, when he went to Buxton to live. He died at his home there in December, 1943. Funeral services were held in the Nye Stavanger Church of which Mr. Anderson had been a member for many years. He died at the age of eighty-three years. He was survived by four daughters—Mrs. Anna Tronson, Amanda and Jennie Anderson, and Mrs. Minnie Knudsvig.

August N. Felskov was born in Denmark, May 1, 1869, his parents being Christian and Christine Felskov. He came to America in 1889 settling at Hudson, Wisconsin, and in 1892 came to Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Mr. Felskov was well known throughout Trail County as a distributor of the Watkins Products, having distributed that line for forty years. He called on hundreds of farmers in this area until his retirement. He resided in Hillsboro until January 9, 1940, when he went to the county farm near Caledonia, North Dakota. He died on his birthday in 1949 at the age of eighty years. He was survived by two brothers in Denmark and two nieces, Ida T. Bleke and Mrs. Knute Thompson.

Funeral services were held at the county farm with interment being made in the county farm cemetery.

Irvin J. Elliott was born November 8, 1850 in Ellsworth, New Hampshire. In 1860 the family moved to Black Earth, Wisconsin where he grew to manhood. He was married to Miss Mary Turner in 1877 and in 1883, together with his wife and three sons, moved to Traill County, North Dakota. Mrs. Elliott died in December of 1916. After his wife's death he lived with his son Frank and later with another son, Charles at Valley City, North Dakota. He died March 23, 1941 at Valley City. Funeral services were held at Caledonia, North Dakota. Survivors were his three sons; Charles, Frank, and John Elliott.



JOHN VENNES was born May 8, 1862 at Vaeran, Trondheim, Norway. His wife, Hannah Jorstad, was born in Yttre Oien, Norway, near Trondheim on June 25, 1869. He came to America together with his wife and two oldest children, Harold and Jennie, also his mother, two brothers and two sisters. His father Jorgen Vennes had preceded him here. He came by boat, then by rail and settled on $S\frac{1}{2}$ of $N\frac{1}{4}$ Quarter in Section 26, Township 146, Range 49.

Mr. and Mrs. Vennes first lived in a log cabin about three miles south of Caledonia on the banks of the Red River. There were seven children, namely Harold, Jennie (Mrs. Anua Gunlikson), Nannie (Mrs. Selmer Sondreal), Albert, Therise (Mrs. Carl Opgrand), Signa (Mrs. Clarence Bergene), and Mabel (Mrs. Sig Svendsen). Mr. and Mrs. Vennes attended school in Norway, & learned the English language after coming to America. Names of John's sisters and brothers were Severin, born April 18, 1864; Bertine (Mrs. Peter Vigen) born January 17, 1867; Julia (Mrs. S. Braaten) born March 21, 1870; Iverine (Mrs. Ole Kittleson) born June 5, 1872; Marie (Mrs. Joseph Hesby) born Sept. 25, 1874; Anton, born March 17, 1877.

Mr. Vennes built a new home in 1912 where he lived until his retirement. He was township supervisor, board of education and church official, & also was Superintendent of the County Farm from 1900 to 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Vennes were members of the Caledonia Lutheran Church.

Morgen E. Morgan was born in Wales, British Isles, June 20, 1855. He was one of the early settlers of Caledonia Township. Mr. Morgan was married to Miss Mathilda Olson in March of 1889. Six children were born to this union: Ernest, Walter, Mrs. Martin Strand, Tracy, Charles and Mrs. Fred Hauser.

Mr. Morgan died at his home in Caledonia Township May 13, 1935. Interment was made in the cemetery at Caledonia, North Dakota.

Peder Olie Fritchoff Swenson was born April 1, 1863, in Karmoen, Norway. He was the son of Sven Matias Olson, and Helen Pederson.

Swenson spent his youth sailing, being a seaman and cook. In 1887 he came to Traill County and worked two years for Peder Smith of Caledonia. Two years later he married Emma Smith at the Peder Smith farm, and the couple made their home for thirty-three years on a farm east of Nielsville, Minnesota. In 1922 they moved to Caledonia, where they had since resided. He was among the earliest settlers of that area. The Swensons celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1940. Mr. Swenson died at the age of eighty years on April 10, 1943, with funeral services being held on April 13 in the Salem Church. Interment was made in the Church cemetery.

The Swensons were the parents of thirteen children, of whom eleven were living at the time of their father's death. Surviving him were: Mrs. Swenson, five sons—Martin, Edwin, Philip, Willie, and Davis, and daughters—Mrs. Hilda Nygard, Mrs. Lottie Jacobson, Mrs. Lillian Nordgren, Mrs. Elvina Eidum, Wilma and Laverne. There were nineteen grandchildren.

Mrs. Anna Kaupang was born at Hardanger, Norway, September 18, 1873. She died at the age of 75 years on March 2, 1949, at a hospital at Crookston, Minnesota. Funeral services were held at Shelly Lutheran Church, with burial at the Caledonia, North Dakota, cemetery. She had been a resident of Caledonia for sixty years. She was survived by two sons and three daughters: Selmer, Norman, Louise, Mrs. Sigurd Moen, and Mrs. John Jassund.

Philip Kuhn was born at Stone Creek, Ohio, March 23, 1885. The family moved to Goodhue County, Minnesota in 1866 where he grew to adulthood. He immigrated to Traill County in 1878, taking a homestead near Caledonia where he resided until his death, having lived there for 55 years.

He was married to Miss Emma Kuhlman April 4, 1893 and to this union were born six children. The eldest Daughter preceeded him in death by sixteen years. The surviving children were Ida, Mrs. Julius Henka, Mrs. Chas. Hausman, Aaron, and Benjamin. Mrs. Kuhn preceeded him in death by thirty years.

Mr. Kuhn died at his home October 23, 1928. Funeral services were held October 26, 1928 at his home with interment in the family plot on the home farm.

Mr. Hugh McDonald was born in Upper Charles, New Brunswick, Canada on July 12, 1862. At the age of seventeen, Hugh, with his parents, moved to Missouri where the family desired to seek a homestead. On arriving they heard of the glowing opportunities and fruitful lands of the Red River Valley and two years later moved to Caledonia, North Dakota. They made the trip by train to Moorhead, Minn., and by oxen to Caledonia, filing on a claim south of the village. In 1882 he married Miss Elizabeth Irwin and to this union 14 children were born, 11 of whom survived him at his death, 2 children having died in infancy and one, Ella, having passed away at the age of twenty-one years. Mr. McDonald moved to the village of Caledonia in 1951.

Mr. McDonald died on September 8, 1958 with funeral services on September 11. Interment was made in the Caledonia Cemetery. He was survived by two brothers, Angus and John; 8 sons, Harry, John, Irwin, Donald, Russell, Francis, Theodore, and Angus; 3 daughters, Mrs. Ethel Rudred, Mrs. Faith Fisher, and Mrs. Hazel Vellue; 20 grandchildren, 44 great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild.

Arthur Willard Edmonds was born in Bedford, Canada, August 26, 1856. In the spring of 1877 he came to Traill County and secured a half section of government land near Caledonia, North Dakota. He kept adding until at one time he had 2,000 acres of land. He disposed of his farm in 1909 and moved to Voeur D' Alene, Idaho, where the family resided until his death. Besides his wife, he left three sons, Tracey, Charles, and Oscar; and three daughters, Evelyn, Mrs. J. K. Henry and Mrs. Edith Hawkins. A sister, Mrs. Evans Keys, also survived him. Mr. Edmonds died April 27, 1919 at his home in Idaho. Interment was made in the Forest Cemetery.

Mrs. Anna Larson, born Anna Dale in Norway, October 8, 1865, came to America with her parents in 1866. In 1884 she married John S. Anderson, who was treasurer of Traill County when the county seat was located at Caledonia. Two children were born to this union, Josephine and E. A. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson died in 1894, and the widow married Hans Larson of Caledonia the following year. Two sons were born to this union, Franklin and Ray Larson. Mrs. Larson resided in Caledonia until a few years before her death, when she moved to Arthur, North Dakota. She died April 28, 1944. Funeral services were held at Caledonia May 4, with burial in the Caledonia Cemetery.

Albert Corliss, with a brother, came to Caledonia, North Dakota in 1879 and filed on a homestead. In the fall of that same year, Mrs. Corliss with her two small girls, set out to join her husband. She made the trip by train going by way of Montreal, Canada, Chicago and Minneapolis and after spending four days and three nights on the train she arrived at Fargo, North Dakota, September 14, 1879. From Fargo they took the stage, the driver changing horses at Quincy, a small town on the Red River in Traill County (now a ghost town). When she arrived in Caledonia, she found her husband had taken rooms over a large building known as the Clark Building. Mr. Corliss had a harness shop in the front and the living quarters were in the rear.

Mr. Corliss died in April of 1927. Mrs. Corliss died November 13, 1940 at the age of 90 years. They were both buried in the Caledonia Church Cemetery.

Allan Hutchison was born in Scotland, October 24, 1844, going first to Belville, Canada in 1874. In 1875 he was married to Miss Agness McLatchie, who had also come from Scotland about the same year. To this union, ten children were born, one boy dying at seven months. The others were: Mrs. A. S. Haun, David B., William J., Allan E., Agnes E., Mrs. Fred Beard, Jr., John, Walter, and Donald.

Mrs. Hutchison died October 16, 1898 and two years later Mr. Hutchison married again to Mrs. C. D. Fulton of Caledonia, North Dakota. She passed away February 24, 1916. Mr. Hutchison died March 6, 1922 at Fargo, North Dakota. Funeral services were held March 11, 1922 and interment was made in the Caledonia Cemetery.



Paul M. Jacobson was born in Mosvigen, Trondhjem, Norway, March 11, 1866, and of Norwegian descent.

He arrived in Traill County in 1886, by train and horse drawn vehicle.

Mr. Jacobson came first to an uncle, Peter A. Oien, and uncle of his mother, at Shelly, Minn., in Norman County.

He came to America alone, and in 1886 he sent for his parents and family of six. He bought ten acres near Halstad, Minn., and built a home for them.

In 1898 he settled on Sec. 23 S½ Township 146 Range 49.

Mr. Jacobson married to Christine Nelson, June 25, 1894. His wife came from Mosvigen, Trondhjem, Norway in 1870. She first came to Fillmore County in Minn. and in 1879 came to the Shelly, Minn. community, in a covered wagon, on the Pembina Trail.

Children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson were Josephine—Jan. 17, 1899, Christine—Nov. 15, 1901, Thelma—Nov. 4, 1904, Palmer—Nov. 20, 1907, Philip—Aug. 18, 1910.

They were members of the Caledonia Lutheran Church at Caledonia, N. Dak., and later members of the Shelly Marsh River Church at Shelly, Minn.

The Caledonia Church was built in Caledonia, N. Dak., in 1878.

Mr. Jacobson attended school in Caledonia, N. Dak. He held office as trustee of the Caledonia Church, worked in the Caledonia Flour Mill for 8 years prior to his farming career, which he operated for 37 years, and for a short time owned and operated a Feed Store in Halstad, Minn.

He died Jan. 8, 1943, and his wife Christine died Feb. 16, 1953. They are both buried in the Shelly Marsh River Cemetery at Shelly, Minn.

Mr. Jacobson's father, Jacob Liaunet was born in Norway, came to America and settled in Halstad, Minn. He was a common laborer. His mother, Ragna Liaunet, was also born in Norway. Her occupation, housewife.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kounovsky were married September 2, 1893, in Chicago, Illinois, and came to Traill County two weeks later, settling first near Cummings. Later they moved to

a farm near Caledonia, and in 1944 moved to a farm in the Hillsboro area.

After the death of his wife in the early 1950's, Mr. Kounovsky retired from farming and moved into Hillsboro to reside. The children from this union are: George Kounovsky, Mrs. Walter Engel, and Raymond Kounovsky of Hillsboro, and Edwin P. of Bismarck.

The couple observed their fifty-first wedding anniversary on September 2, 1944. Since this time Raymond and Mrs. Walter Engel have passed away.

Engebriet Fingarson was born in Hallingdal, Chrisiana, Norway, October 14, 1848 and in 1870 he came to the United States and stopped with his uncle in the state of Iowa. On June 14, 1880, he arrived on his homestead, which he had secured on a visit in 1879.

He was married in 1875 to Miss Genel Erickson and they lived on Section 30 in Caledonia Township. We have no information as to the time of their deaths.

Lewis Munter was born in Sweden in 1853, and came to the United States in 1864. His parents came two years earlier, and settled in Pope County, Minn. Mr. Munter stayed with his parents until the spring of 1876 when he came to Traill County, N.D. He settled on a quarter of land near Caledonia, N.D.

He was married in 1879 to Miss Matilda Anderson, who was born in Sweden in 1855, and came to this country in 1878. They had three children, Amanda, Helen and Victor. We have no information as to when they died.

Robert Stanley, Traill County pioneer, was born in Forks, Somerset County, Maine, December 3, 1848. His father, George Stanley, was a native of Ireland and his mother, Sylvia Stanley, came of New England stock. She was a native of Maine.

Mr. Stanley made his first trip into Dakota territory in the summer of 1870. Being then a young man of twenty-two, he had a desire to see a country that was in the making. He came out from Sauk Centre, Minnesota, as a teamster with a government train of 35 wagons, each drawn by six mules, freighting lumber to Pembina, where a fort was being built.

In 1875 he filed on a piece of land in Caledonia township, it being the E½ SE 1-4, Section 30. The post office was Goose River at that time, later changed to Caledonia.

He built a shack of pine lumber, measuring about 14x16. He differed from his neighbors by having a shack with shingled roof.

BINGHAM TOWNSHIP



Bingham Township was organized Nov. 16, 1909, from the south two tiers of sections, Belmont Township, and the north four tiers of Caledonia Township. Charlie Gorden was elected chairman; Burre Burreson and Ed Olsen supervisors, Henry Gorden, clerk, Ole Peterson Treas., and Alfred Munter, assessor.

ALONZO L. BINGHAM—was born in Vermont—June 10, 1850. His nationality was German and English. He arrived in Traill County during the Summer in the year 1879. He came on train to Fargo, then by ox-team from Saginaw, Michigan. His wife and one daughter came with him. His wife's maiden name was Olla S. Skinner, and they were married in the year 1874. Nine children were born to this couple of which six are living. Alonzo went to school in Saginaw, Michigan. He belonged to the Methodist Church and for a few years they had services in the school building and also in the town hall in Caledonia. His father was a Methodist Minister, also born in Vermont. His mother was born in Vermont and her nationality was German, her name was Sarah Bean. When he first came to Bingham Township, he settled on the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 28—Township 147 Range 49. He had four brothers—Jake, Ed, Alongo, John and one sister Ella.

Bingham Township was named after him.

He was the first County Commissioner of Traill County, and school Director for many years, was also very active in the Methodist Church. He farmed in Bingham Township, also in Mayville, North Dakota.

He passed away at Caledonia, North Dakota on November 23rd, 1912.

Nute O. Brokke was born October 1, 1870 at Hesper, Iowa and at the age of 7 years, with his parents, brothers, and sisters came to Traill County. He was married to Miss Sarah Nomeland, who was born May, 1867 at Casper, Iowa. To this union were born the following children: Orion, Bessie, John, Carl, Thelma, Arnt, Alice, and Gladys. Mr. Brokke died at his farm home, April 10, 1929 and Mrs. Brokke died in a Crookston hospital December 19, 1944. Funeral services were held December 23, 1944 at the Ringsaker Lutheran Church. Both Mr. & Mrs. Brokke were buried in the Ringsaker Cemetery.



IVER THOMPSON was born in the year 1851. He and his wife Marie Thompson and their three children, **ANTON ANDREW** and **PETRA** were born in Honnefoss, Norway. They came to Reynolds, North Dakota, where Iver worked as Section Boss for the Great Northern Railway Company for a few years. Leaving Reynolds, they moved to Bingham Township and were among the early settlers. He was left alone with the three small children in 1846 as his wife Marie passed away very suddenly.

A few years later, Iver re-married to Margit Sondreal. They were blessed with six children—namely—Annie, Theodore, Engebret, Knut, Myrtle and Alyce. Margit was born in Hallingdal, Norway on August 9, 1856. Margit spun yarn and did a lot of knitting for the family and was often called to help her neighbors during sickness and birth of babies.

During these pioneer days, there was good fishing in the Red River. IVER, together with neighbors, would enjoy going to the ferry and spend afternoons, also evenings fishing, bringing home fresh fish for their families.

MARGIT passed away December 15, 1904.

IVER passed away June 17, 1906. His son **ANTON** and wife **BESSIE** took over the farm after Iver's death. Anton passed away November 24, 1963.



William Carson was born in the county of Andrin, Ireland, December 23, 1859. He came to the United States at the age of 18 years and worked at Little York, Illinois for two years. In 1879, at the age of 20 years he came to Traill County and worked on Robert Ray's farm in Belmont Township. He later became the foreman on the Griswold farm.

Mr. Carson was married to Miss Rachel McFadden who had also come from Ireland. To this marriage four children were born. Mr. Carson bought the northeast quarter of section 6 of what is now called Bingham Township. Mrs. Carson died in 1894. A few years later Mr. Carson was married to Miss Mary McFadden, a sister of his first wife. Four children were born to this union. For a number of years he was county commissioner. In 1935, he retired from farming and moved to Buxton, North Dakota where he lived until his death October 22, 1936. The eight children born to Mr. Carson were all living at the time of his death. They were: Mrs. Ellen B. Larson, Mrs. Mary Larson, Mrs. Elizabeth Gunlikson, William, Thomas, Mrs. Margaret Anderson, Mrs. Anna Anderson and Ethel Carson.



Thormod Wegge was born May 26, 1872, in Saude, Norway. He immigrated to America in the 1890's and worked as a farm laborer until 1899, when he went back to Norway. Here he married Marie Johannesson of Stavanger. The following year they immigrated to America and settled on a farm in Bingham township where they resided until their death. Mr. Wegge died May 4, 1924, and Mrs. Wegge died August 9, 1962. Funeral services for both were held in Salem Lutheran Church, of which they were charter members. Interment was in the Salem Cemetery.

Ten children were born to this union. Sigurd, John, Leonard, Ovey, Thorwald, Edwin, Mrs. Harry (Theresa) Silver, Mrs. Henry (Ruth) Ranten, Olaf, and Roy.



Mrs. Borre Borreson was born in Norway on May 10, 1844, came to this country in 1878, and with her husband homesteaded in Bingham Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory, North Dakota. She was one of the early settlers of Bingham Township and lived on a farm in that community for 59 years. She was a member of the Highland Church near Cummings, North Dakota.

Mrs. Borreson died on July 25, 1937 and was laid to rest in the Highland Church Cemetery. There were two children surviving her: Bernt, on the farm, and Mrs. Ellie Hettervig.



Mr. K. O. Brokke was born May 28, 1863 in Hesper, Iowa, and came to Traill County a number of years later, settling in Bingham Township. He was married April 13, 1883 to Miss Gertie Nomland, residing in Bingham Township until their deaths.

In addition to serving as county commissioner for 12 years, Mr. Brokke was a member of the Belmont school board and a charter member of the Ringsaker Lutheran Church.

Funeral services were held at the Ringsaker Lutheran Church on May 1, 1940. He was survived by his wife and eleven children: Ole, Jorgen, Guy, Mrs. Ernest (Josie) Gilbertson, Mrs. Henry (Betsy) Hanson, Mrs. J. E. (Emma) Estenson, Tillie Hedde, Mrs. Marcus (Grace) Aas, Clarence, Mrs. Alvin (Leona) Olson, and Mrs. Edwin (Della) Strommen.

Mrs. Gertie Brokke died in November, 1947.

Lars H. Gordon was born at Valdre, Hedemarken, Norway, July 28, 1847. In 1860 he immigrated to the United States along with his parents, brothers, and sisters and settled near La Crosse, Wisconsin. Later, together with his father, he served in the Civil War. Later he took up a homestead on the Marsh River and later yet, filed on a homestead in Bingham Township, Traill County, North Dakota. In 1887 he moved with his family to Caledonia, North Dakota and later to Hillsboro, North Dakota. About 1911 he bought a farm six miles south of Shevlin, Minnesota where he lived until his death December 16, 1922.

He was survived by his wife, two sons, and four daughters. One son, Lawrence, died several years before his father, and another son, Raymond, died of wounds received in France during World War I. Mr. Gordon was buried in the Shevlin Cemetery.



Samuel S. Wegge was born in Saude, Norway, Dec. 10, 1864. He worked for a while in Ill., coming to Traill County in 1887 and he bought a farm in Bingham Township, Section 15, where he farmed all his life.

He married Tonnie Haugen on August 11, 1896, in Hillsboro, N. Dak. She was born in Nore, Numedal, Norway, October 17, 1872, and came to America when she was 20 years old. (Her mother and five children had come to America earlier). To this union seven children were born: Selmer; Clara (Mrs. Rev. L. Dordal); Lucy (Mrs. Olaf M. Gronaas); Tommy (who passed away at the age of forty years in April, 1943); Bordin; Tillie (Mrs. Selmer Hoff); and Roy (who died the day after birth).

They were members and also charter members of the Salem Lutheran Church. Mr. Wegge farmed until his death Jan. 11, 1924. Mrs. Wegge lived on the farm until her death May 6, 1953. The farm is now owned by the youngest son, Bordin.

Iver Moen was born December 26, 1856 at Togen in Osterdalen, Norway. At the age of 20 years he immigrated to Jackson, Minnesota, later moving to Caledonia, North Dakota where he lived for a number of years.

On December 20, 1890, he was united in marriage to Miss Ann Ulstad. They resided on a farm in Bingham Township until his death. Funeral services for Mr. Moen were held on October 23, 1930 at the Salem Lutheran Church. Mr. Moen died at the age of 74 years. He was survived by three daughters and two sons; Mrs. John Rogness, Mrs. John Sorenson, Ida Moen, Iver Moen Jr., and Peter Moen.



THOR B. HAUGSTAD emigrated to America in 1877. He filed and settled on a homestead the same year, on the South-east quarter of Section 22 in Bingham Township, which was at that time Dakota Territory. He was born in Gol, Hallingdal, Norway on February 25th, 1849. He was married to Guri Olsdatter Renslen, April 13, 1877 in Gol Church, Hallingdal, Norway. They came to America the same year. They rode the stage-coach from Moorhead to Ole Renslen's place. He built a 12 x 16 foot log cabin the same year and added a lean to later. Their children were Bernt, Gina, Anna and Oldaus. His wife Guri died Jan. 28, 1886.

He bought a team of oxen in 1879, with which he broke up the land. Transportation was slow in those days, at times he walked to Caledonia and Frog Point for supplies. He built a frame house in 1889.

He married Anne Sondrol on March 19, 1889. She was born in Hol, Hallingdal, Norway and came to America in 1886. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated at the time. Their children are: Engebret, Mina, and Albert. Mina passed away in 1919.

Thor B. Haugstad passed away Feb. 11, 1919. His wife, Anne, lived with her son Albert and family from the time of her husband's death until she passed away on June 17, 1944.

Andreas Berg, who settled in Bingham Township in 1882, was born in Hedemarken, Norway, September 25, 1883. He died at Fergus Falls, Minnesota on August 28, 1930 and was 76 years and 11 months of age at his death. He farmed in Bingham Township for many years prior to moving to Nielsville, Minnesota where he spent his last 18 years.



Knut Renslen was born at Gol, Hallingdal, Norway in 1848. He was married to Miss Kari Olsegaard in 1876, who also came from Gol, Hallingdal. They first arrived in Moorhead and then to Traill County by stage coach to Frog Point. Later they settled on the northwest quarter of Section 14 in Bingham Township.

To this marriage the following children were born: Olaf, Annie, Nels, Sophia, Henry, Olaus and Gilbert. They built their home as soon as possible after arriving in this country. A log cabin 16 by 18 feet, a roomy house in those days.

Mr. Renslen died in 1926. Mrs. Renslen died on April 11, 1939 at the age of 91 years.



Alfred Munter was born December 16, 1865 at Terrace, Minnesota and was married to Miss Jessie Mae Hall. Shortly after their marriage the couple came to Traill County and lived in Bingham Township until their deaths. Mrs. Munter died November 8, 1942.

Mr. Munter died at the age of 80 years on August 16, 1945. Funeral services were held at the Salem Lutheran Church with interment in the church cemetery. Survivors were six children: Mrs. Rudy Voight, Mrs. George Duden, Carl, George, John, and Otto Munter.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Nettum was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, January 6, 1859 and came to the United States at about twenty years of age. She was married to Ole J. Nettum of Bingham Township on November 23, 1884. They lived there until their retirement in 1912 at which time they moved to Crookston, Minnesota. Mr. Nettum died in January, 1935. She passed away September 13, 1939 after living in Crookston for 27 years. She was survived by a son; Martin Nettum, two daughters Mrs. Wm. R. Austin and Mrs. H. M. Feninte of Crookston. Her oldest daughter, Mrs. E. H. Bjorge, died in 1921.



Ole M. Berg was born January 25, 1859 at Ringsaker, Hademarken, Norway. Mr. Berg arrived in Traill County in May of 1881 and settled in Bingham Township. He was married to Miss Elisa Hanson, July 16, 1882 and to this union were born three children, Bergete, (Mrs. Martin Barsvold) Kjestic, and Martin Berg. Mr. Berg farmed for many years and when he retired, he turned the farm over to his son, Martin. Mrs. Berg died July 24, 1932 and Mr. Berg died May 16, 1948. Funeral services were held at the Salem Lutheran Church with burial in the church cemetery.

Ole P. Peterson was born in Sweden in 1858 and immigrated to America with his parents who settled in Nicolet County, Minnesota. Later, he came to the Red River Valley where he settled on a farm which was to be his home for the next forty-nine years.

He was married to Miss Clara Knutson of Buxton, North Dakota. He died in the city of Hillsboro, North Dakota on September 18, 1928.

Funeral services were held at the Salem Lutheran Church with interment in the church cemetery. He was survived by two sons; Alfred and Carlos.



In the spring of April, 1868, Harold Monson with his father and mother, Mons and Marie Olson left Christiania, Norway to make their home in the U.S. From Chicago, they went by train to Boscobel, Wisconsin, where they lived until 1885, moving to Grafton, N. Dakota.

On Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Monson married Ingeborg Olson (1885). After living two years in Walsh County, Mr. Monson and his young bride decided to homestead in the vicinity of Fosston, Minnesota.

Finding it hard to raise a family in Minn., Mr. Monson again turned his eyes to Dakota. After spending a year with relatives near Niesville, they came to Caledonia Township, Traill Co., in 1893. Mr. Monson purchased a quarter of school land in what is now Bingham Township. Salem Church was formed in this community later. Mr. Monson was one of the first trustees and Mrs. Monson was the treasurer of the Ladies Aid when the church was built.

Mr. and Mrs. Monson moved to the village of Caledonia in 1919 and turned the management of their farm over to a son. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in Nov., 1937. They are the parents of twelve children. The names of the children are: Alma, Mrs. Magna Kolden, Hilbert, Andrew, Clara, Clarence, Mrs. Mabel Rudrud, Mrs. Selma Dustrud, Palmer, William, Alvin, & Tillie.

Mr. Monson (92) passed away in 1953 and Mrs. Monson (91) died in 1957.

Anton Thompson was born in Norway, September 22, 1877. He came to this country at the age of 12 years along with his parents, a brother, and a sister.

He was married to Miss Bessie Sonderal in 1900, from this union six children were born; Mable, Raymond, Maurice, Albert, Alta (Mrs. Harry Brokke) and Joyce (Mrs. Irvin Erickson).

Mr. Thompson died at the age of 86 years with funeral services being held November 25, 1963 at the Salem Lutheran Church in Bingham Township.



August Gunlikson was born in Saterdalen, Norway and, at the age of eight years, immigrated with his parents to the United States settling at Decorah, Iowa. After eight years they moved to North Dakota, settling in Bingham Township, which remained Mr. Gunlikson's home until his death at the age of 84 years on November 18, 1946. Funeral services were held at the Highland Lutheran Church with interment in the church cemetery. His wife and daughter, Thea, preceded him in death.

He was married to Thone Brokke April 23, 1882 and to this union 14 children were born. Survivors were: Betsy, Anun, Inga McKee, Ordean, Agness Hettervig, Melvin & Gerald, Oscar, Tillie Arneson, Gena Hettervig, Ole, Carl and Mable Balke. They had 47 grandchildren, and 26 great grandchildren.



Halvor O. Brokke was born near Decorah, Iowa, June 12, 1870. In 1901, at the age of 8 years, he moved along with his parents, brothers, and sisters to Bingham Township to homestead. He was married to Miss Nora Grande of Nielsville, Minnesota. He died at the age of 74 years in April 11, 1945. Funeral services were held at the Highland Lutheran Church with interment in the church cemetery. Survivors were his wife and seven sons; Obert, Palmer, Clarence, Julian, Lynn, Harry and Orville Brokke, two daughters, Mrs. Maurice Thompson, and Mrs. Conrad Sundeen.



Charles L. Gordon was born near Storhammar, Ringsaker, Hedemarken, Norway on March 15, 1849. The entire family emigrated from Norway early in May of 1860, Charles was then a boy of 11 years. They crossed the Atlantic in a sailing vessel and reached Quebec, Canada in July after having spent six weeks and two days at sea. Eleven years were spent in the vicinity of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

On May 17, 1871, Mr. Gordon, with his parents and eleven other members of his family, left Long Coolie, near La Crosse, Wisconsin by a yoke of oxen and a team of horses for the Dakota Territory, settling in Bingham Township in 1895.

Mr. Gordon was married to Miss Karen Klomseth in Becker County, Minnesota. Mr. & Mrs. Gordon were the parents of thirteen children, six of their children died in infancy and a daughter, Mrs. Fred Pearson, Sr., died at the age of 28 years. Children who survived were: Henry, Clarence, Bennett, Hulda, and Charles. Mrs. Gordon died June 6, 1932.



Ole Olson Renslen and a friend sailed from Norway to the United States in 1869. They made the trip in a 56 foot sail boat just the 2 of them. It took them 6 weeks to make the trip. They landed in New York.

Ole went to Iowa to an uncle named Rust. He worked there till he had saved enough money to make the trip to North Dakota. He traveled in a covered wagon pulled by oxen. When he arrived here he left his wagon unattended and some men stole it. He lost all his supplies plus \$50.00. He borrowed a wagon and horses and followed the men to the Canadian border but missed them by 24 hours. He lived in a wagon until he got his cabin built.

Ole first settled on what is now the Edwin Palm farm but changed shortly after to what became his homestead.

Ole met his wife, Kari Anersdatter Bakkene, when she came to work for him. She was 17 when she and her half brother, Iver, came to this country. They were married in 1882. He was a God fearing and hard working man, a good provider and kind father, husband and neighbor.



PETER CHRISTOPHER SMITH was born in Stavanger, Norway on October 17, 1844. When he was seventeen years old, he left Norway on a ship, was cook on board for two years and then landed in America. He

went to Spring Grove, Minnesota, where he met Maren Scrina Valtinson, who later became his wife in the year of 1872. He and his bride came to Traill County and settled on a quarter of land by the Red River, five miles north-east of Caledonia, North Dakota. Their first home was a dug-out in the side of the Red River hill. During the winter there was a real blizzard and snow packed the entrance of their home and in order to get out, he had to shovel snow, early in the morning. The following year he built three log buildings—house, barn and granary on land he bought. This land is the land south of where Bagge's live. He also had some land he called the tree-claim, which he sold to the Bagges.

Peter and Maren were blessed with seven children, namely—Emma Katrina 1873, Peter Christopher, Jr. 1874, Valtine 1876, William Julius 1878, Valtin Egedius 1880, Petra Helena 1883 and a baby that died at birth. During these years they were members of the St. Petri Church in Nielsville, Minnesota. His wife Maren passed away in 1889.

Few years passed and he met Martha Charlotte Ike of Dalton, Minnesota, Ottertail County, whom he married and to this union seven daughters were born: Mrs. Arthur Chandler, Mrs. Hartvig Dahl, Mrs. Norman Rosevold, Miss Dorothy Smith, Mrs. Ole Amundson, Mrs. Arnold Sandness and Mrs. Martha Englund.



Edward E. Olson was born on March 14, 1860, in Iowa County, Wisconsin. He was of American-Scandinavian descent. At the age of fourteen, he left home to find work. Working his way across the country, he came to Traill County, North Dakota, in 1880 and settled on the NW quarter in Section 30, Township of Bingham, and Range 49.

On June 19, 1886, he was married to Maria Johnson. Miss Johnson was born on October 5, 1886 in Grans Prestegjeld, Norway. In 1874, she came to the United States with some

friends; the Johnsrud's. Moving across the United States, they settled in Spring Grove, Minnesota.

Through this union in marriage they had thirteen children—Inga, Emma, Ben, John, Clara, Edwin, Mabel, Helen, Carl, Stella, Tillie, Marion, & Lester.

During the time that they spent in North Dakota, Mr. Olson was a member of the town board, was a farmer, and a member of the Highland Lutheran Church.

Edward Olson died of a stroke on May 8, 1931 at the age of seventy-one and his wife, Maria, died on January 13, 1939, at the age of seventy-two.

Arne K. Arneson was born in Hallingdal, Norway, March 7, 1843. He immigrated to the United States in 1870, first stopping in Iowa for some time. He was married to Miss Bergit Brokke in 1870. She was born in Saterdallen, Norway on Dec. 31, 1849. In 1883 Mr. and Mrs. purchased the S.E. quarter in Section 4, Bingham Township. They had the following children: Knute, Gurina, Bertha, Ella, Julia, Ole, Arne, Annie, Karine and Gertie.

Mrs. Arneson passed away July 6, 1911, and Mr. Arneson on March 6, 1917.



Even Olson Myrland was born in Hol. Hallingdal, Norway, October 24, 1846. He was married to Miss Bergette J. Eggen on June 2, 1870. She was also born in Hol. Hallingdal, Norway on July 23, 1851, and on June 7, 1870 they immigrated to the United States. They first resided in the town of Primrose, Dane County, Wisconsin until the fall of 1871. On November 16, 1871 they arrived at Frog Point.

Mr. & Mrs. Myrland had the following children; Olaus Arnt, who died at six years of age; Bertha Oline (Mrs. E. Onstad); Jolanna Bertine (Mrs. A. Spokely); Nellie (Mrs. Alex Spokely); Agata Jorgina (Mrs. S. Severson); Alaus, John Bernhard, Lewis Gilmore, and Edwin Bertinus. There was another child, Helen Alvina, who died when a very small child.

Mrs. Myrland died Sept. 12, 1912. Mr. Myrland died in November of 1924.

STAVANGER TOWNSHIP



Lars K. Olson was born at Kromshagen, Norway on May 3, 1850. He immigrated to the United States in 1872 and from New York moved on to Chicago, Illinois. From there he later went to Iowa where he worked as a laborer and farm hand near Ossian, Iowa.

By hard work and frugality he acquired a team of horses and wagon and trekked on to the west by covered wagon. He arrived in Dakota Territory at Frog Point in May 1878. Later he filed on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26-148-50 and there made his home.

After building one of the first frame homes on the prairie he married Miss Kari Halvorson in 1879. She was also of Norwegian birth. In 1883 Kari Olson died and was buried in the old Grue Church Cemetery. They had no children. In 1885, Mr. Olson made a trip to Stavanger, Norway and returned with Martha Ostrom from Sovde, Norway. They were married on arrival in Traill County by Rev. Braaten, a pioneer Lutheran minister of Grand Forks County. Thirteen children were born to this marriage, four of whom died in infancy. Those reaching maturity were: Bertha, Clara, Olida, Laura, Hattie, Minnie, Ole, Mancur and Charlotte.

The Norwegian pioneers were strong proponents of education. Mr. Olson's home became one of the first class rooms in the community. Christian Odegard, a neighbor, cut a swath across the prairie as a guiding path to the home so that the children would not become lost in the tall grass.

Mr. Olson died on December 18, 1908 and was buried in the Grue Cemetery. He was one of the organizers of the Grue Church in 1879. He had been for a time a church trustee.



Ingaol Ingvalson was born October 30, 1856 in Hallingdahl, Norway. When he was two years old his mother died and two years later his father remarried. In 1866, the family immigrated to the United States setting near Hartland, Minnesota, where Mr. Ingvalson lived until he came of age.

Hearing of the advantages offered in North Dakota, he decided to go there and, in 1878, along with three companions, Berge Johnson, Guttorm Jacobson and Jacob Fevold, traveled to Fargo, North Dakota by train. From there they floated down the Red River by raft, landing at Frog Point (Belmont) and it is said that he was the first settler to file on land in what is now called Stavanger Township.

In 1882, he was united in marriage to Anna Thompson of Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. They were the parents of five children, all of them surviving, except Melvin, who died in 1922.

Mr. Ingvalson died July 23, 1936 and funeral services were held in the Grue Lutheran Church with interment in the church cemetery. Survivors were: Eline, Ellef, Arthur, and Ida (Mrs. Young).

Thor Hovet was born on November 18, 1845 in Satersdalen, Norway. He came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory in June, 1878 and settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13-148-50. He came by covered wagon from Iowa.

Mr. Hovet was married to Ingeborg Nomland also of Satersdalen, Norway. There were five children born to this union: Ole, John, Betsy, Tilda and Theodore. They were members of the Hyllestad Lutheran Church.

Mr. Thor Hovet passed away in 1928 and is interred in the Hyllestad Cemetery.

Knudt Hovet was born in Satersdalen, Norway on July 29, 1848 and came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory in June 1878. He settled on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23-148-50. Mr. Hovet was a member of the Hyllestad Lutheran Church of Stavanger Township. He passed away on August 28, 1916 and is buried in the Hyllestad Cemetery.



Rasmus Riveland was born in Stavanger, Norway, August 13, 1852, and came to America in 1874, locating at Story City, Iowa, where he lived for four years. In the spring of 1878 he left Story City by covered wagon and mules, coming directly to east Buxton Township (now Stavanger Township), where he located a claim. In the summer of 1879 Mr. Riveland made a trip to Norway. On his return trip that year he was accompanied by his intended wife, Miss Caroline Mosness. She was born in Stavanger, Norway, April 8, 1856. Miss Mosness remained in Story City, Iowa, until in 1880 when she came to Dakota by train to Fargo and making the rest of the trip on a steamboat to Caledonia where Mr. Riveland met her. They were married here. The Riveland family were charter members of the Hauge Lutheran Church. After retiring from farming, Mr. Riveland bought a house in Buxton where they moved to in 1921. They spent the remainder of their lives here.

Mrs. Riveland died in December, 1930 and Mr. Riveland survived her a few months, passing on in March, 1931. There were eight children from this union: two daughters, Mrs. Ole Peterson, and Beatrice; six sons, Olai, Oliver, Rector, Manley, Andrew and Cornell.



John I. Lerom was born in Sogn, Norway, June 14, 1854. In 1861 he came with his parents, Iver and Barbara Lerom, to America. The family went to Whitewater, Wisconsin, where they lived for several years, then moved to Mitchell County, Iowa, and lived on some rented land near St. Ansgar.

In 1877, Mr. Lerom married Miss Jennie Grogard at St. Ansgar, Iowa. In the spring of 1878, he came to Dakota Territory by covered wagon. Mrs. Lerom and daughter joined him the following summer, coming by train to Fargo, North Dakota.

When Mr. Lerom arrived in Traill County, Dakota, he had only his team of horses, a wagon and a cow, and was \$400 in debt. He located his claim in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26-148-50, Stavanger Township. He built a dugout, 16 x 16 feet, for his first home in Dakota. Frog Point was their first post office and the first grain crop was hauled to Fargo, North Dakota.

The Lerom family were early members of the Grue Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Lerom died on May 7, 1901. Mr. Lerom was married the second time to Mrs. Annie Sorlie in January 1913.

Mr. Lerom died at his farm home on December 13, 1934. Mr. Lerom's children, all by his first wife were: Ida, Elmer, Inger, John, Hattie, Bertha, George and Oscar.

Peter J. Haug was born in Hjelmland, Norway on February 27, 1832. He came to America and to Traill County, Dakota Territory and arrived at Fisher Minnesota by train. From there he traveled by wagon to Buxton, Dakota Territory in 1879 and he settled on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17-148-50.

He was united in marriage to Anna Hagelle in January of 1882. There were eight children born to this union: Nora, Henry, Josephine, Lena, Emma, Minnie, Laurinda and Johannes.

Mr. and Mrs. Haug were members of the Nye Stavanger Lutheran Church of Buxton, North Dakota. Mr. Haug received most of his education in Norway and one year in Iowa. He built his first house near a slough and found that mosquitoes were both large and plentiful. He later moved the house to another part of the farm where he built a larger home. The original house is still standing and was used for many years for storing wood and coal.

Mr. Haug passed away in March, 1924 and was buried near Buxton, North Dakota.



Asbjorn Jacobson was born in Bjorn, Finna Prestegeld, Norway on July 3, 1833. At the age of fourteen, Mr. Jacobson went to sea and was a fisherman for a few years. In 1872, he emigrated to America and was united in marriage to Serie Brieland at West Union, Iowa. In 1873, Mr. Jacobson homesteaded north of Fort Dodge, Iowa where he lived for six years. In 1879, together with several other parties, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson and their two small children, Kristine and Berge, set out for Dakota Territory. The trip was made with oxen and took about eight weeks. They homesteaded eight miles north of Mayville, Dakota Territory where they lived in a dugout the first year. In 1882, he moved his family to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory and settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 21-148-50, which he bought from Dr. Falk of Caledonia, Dakota Territory.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson: Bertha Kristine, Berge, Berge Johan, Gina, Jacob Olai, Martin Johan and Lena.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson were members of the Buxton Lutheran Church, Buxton, North Dakota. Mr. Jacobson passed away on June 30, 1924 and is buried in East Buxton Cemetery.



Christian L. Odegard was born in Grue, Solor, Norway on January 7, 1847. At the age of 22, he immigrated to America and landed in New York in the spring of 1869. From New York, he went to Beloit, Wisconsin where he worked as a farm hand for about four years. From Beloit, he moved to Lyle, Minnesota, where he worked as a farm laborer for two years. Later he moved to Saint Ansgar, Iowa to take up the occupation of farming.

In September 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Karen Erickson of Mitchell County, Iowa.

Mr. Odegard came to Traill County, Dakota Territory in May 1878 and located on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25-148-50. He returned to Saint Ansgar, Iowa the same fall, then in the company of eight other families traveling in covered wagons, he immigrated back to his homestead and built a dugout in the banks of the Buffalo Coulee where he, with his family, lived for three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Odegard were members of the Grue Lutheran Church. Ten children were born to the Odegards: Louis, Eddie, Clara, Carl, Emil, Anna, Oliver, Oscar, Della and Mable.

In 1911 Mr. and Mrs. Odegard moved to Buxton, North Dakota, where they resided until their respective deaths.

Mr. Odegard passed away February 5, 1929.

Mrs. Odegard passed away June 24, 1915.

Sjur Brekke was born in Numedalen, Norway in 1833. He came to Bentr Township, Grand Forks County, Dakota Territory from Clinton, Wisconsin on April 12, 1879. His wife and five children came with him. He settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30-149-49.

Mr. Brekke was married to Christy Kvenstugu. Five children were born to this union: Gunhild, Caroline, Gunder, Betsy and Henry. Mr. and Mrs. Brekke were members of the Rosendahl Lutheran Church of Bentr Township.

Mr. Brekke passed away in 1889 and is buried in the North Ringsaker Cemetery. Mrs. Brekke passed away on December 19, 1991 and is interred in the St. Olaf Cemetery.



Brede A. Haugen was born in Solør, Norway on November 14, 1823. His wife, Anne Marie Sjørbotten, was born on July 10, 1825 and passed away on June 1, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Haugen were the parents of four sons: Ole, Axel, Arne and Nels.

Mr. Haugen came to America and to Worth County, Iowa in 1876 and in 1878, he and two sons came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory and homesteaded the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1-148-50. His son, Nels, and his wife, lived there with him until Nels passed away. From then on Mr. Haugen made his home with his sons Ole and Axel.

Mr. Haugen passed away on January 6, 1909 and is interred in the Grue Cemetery, Stavanger Township.

Knut Nomland was born in Hyllestad, Walle, Setesdalen, Norway on October 16, 1852. He came to America with his parents and three brothers in 1861 and settled in Winneshiek County, Iowa and subsequently in Fillmore County, Minnesota, where his education was completed. On June 16, 1878, he, in the company of his parents, came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory and settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15-148-50.

In the fall of 1880, Mr. Nomland was elected to the Territorial Legislature and he was County Treasurer of Traill County from 1887 to 1891. In 1892, he was elected State Treasurer for two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Nomland were the parents of four children: Julian, Kemper, Harold and Reuben. They were members of the Grue Lutheran Church.

Mr. Nomland died on February 10, 1922 and Mrs. Nomland passed away on June 26, 1940. They are buried in the Grue Church Cemetery.

John Broe was born near Ossian, Iowa, October 29, 1865. He came to Dakota Territory with his parents in 1879 and settled on a homestead in Stavanger Township, near the Hjeltestad Church of which Mr. Broe was a charter member. He served as its secretary for a number of years. Later Mr. Broe bought a farm near Buxton where he resided until his death. He died November 6, 1944, in a Grand Forks hospital.

In 1897 Mr. Broe married Gertrude Mahle, who preceeded him in death. Funeral services were held on November 9, at the Nye Stavanger Church at Buxton for Mr. Broe. He was seventy-nine years old at his death. Survivors were two sons, Julius and Melvin, three daughters, Mrs. Troy Marony, Mrs. Henry Brend, and Agnes Broe.



Styrk A. Kvitne was born in Voss, Norway, January 1, 1854. He came to America in 1875, the port of entry was New York City. From New York he went to Decorah, Iowa and worked as a farm hand. In February, 1878, he came to Fargo, Dakota Territory. In October, 1879, he came to Traill County, Dakota, locating in the eastern part of Buxton Township. Here he was married to Miss Bertha Ramsfeld on November 15, 1879. Two children were born to this marriage: Adolph and Anna Josephine. Both died in infancy.

Mr. Kvitne bought the right to land located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Kvitne were members of the Hauge Synod Lutheran Church of Buxton. Mrs. Kvitne died in 1884. Mr. Kvitne was married the second time to Miss Olinia Klementson on November 12, 1887. Children born to them were: Albert Carl, Olida, Bertel, Gertie, Sammie, and Mable.

After living on the homestead twelve years, Mr. Kvitne sold the farm and bought a half section of land in Ervin Township, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 6.

Mrs. Kvitne died on the farm in 1933.



John Sandvig was born in Kvindherred, Hardanger, Bergen, Norway on January 12, 1847 and came to America in 1869. He moved from Clinton County, Iowa by wagon and oxen and arrived in Grand Forks County, Bentrut Township, Dakota Territory in 1879 and settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 31-149-49.

Mr. Sandvig was married to Barbro Rotneim in 1875. She was born in Norway and came to America in 1869. Four children were born to this union: Martha, Peter, Christine and Tilfred.

Mr. and Mrs. Sandvig were charter members of the Rosendal Lutheran Church, Bentrut Township, and later were members of Grue Lutheran Church of Stavanger Township. Mr. Sandvig held various offices and was a member of the church building committee and the first call committee of the Rosendal Church.

Mr. Sandvig was married the second time to Bertha (Solberg) Haugen in 1901. She was born in Grue, Solor Norway and came to America in 1880. Two children were born to this marriage: Josephine and Sophia.

Mr. Sandvig passed away on June 30, 1927 and was interred in the Grue Cemetery. Mrs. Sandvig passed away on February 16, 1935 and was buried in the Grue Cemetery.

Ole Jore was born in Valla Saetersdalen, Norway in 1834. He came to the United States as a young man, going to Fillmore County, Minnesota.

He was married here about 1871 to Miss Groe Hovet. She was born in Hilstad, Saetersdalen, Norway. In June 1878, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Jore, with their four children, came to Dakota Territory, making the trip with covered wagon and oxen. Ole Jore located his claim on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14-148-50.

Mr. and Mrs. Jore were members of Hyllestad Lutheran Church, located in Stavanger Township.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jore: Osmund, Ole, Daniel, Thor, Knute and Ingeborg Jore.

Mr. Jore died in 1911 and Mrs. Jore passed away in 1930.



Borre Mikkelsen was born on February 17, 1864 at Lille Have, Furness, Hedemarken, Norway and came to Traill County, Dakota Territory on June 6, 1888.

He was united in marriage to Miss Pauline Pederson on December 29, 1893. She came from Iowa with her parents as pioneers to Traill County, Dakota Territory in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Mikkelsen were the parents of seven children: Hilda, Bertha, Louis, Herman, Melvin, Ruth and Haakon.

Mr. Mikkelsen was a member of Grue Church and held various church offices in that congregation. His childhood schooling was in Norway and he attended a business college in Grand Forks, North Dakota the first years he was in this country. He was a carpenter by trade from Norway and did carpenter work until he purchased a farm in Stavanger Township in 1897. Here he resided the rest of his life.

Mr. Mikkelsen died on February 4, 1944 and was buried in the Grue Cemetery.

Andrew J. Anderson was born in Vennersborg, Sweden on October 13, 1860. In 1879 he came to America, landing in New York.

He took the train to Fargo, Dakota Territory and then by team and wagon to Caledonia, Traill County.

In 1882, he filed on a pre-emption in Buxton Township, the NW 1/4 of Section 32.

In June 1887, he was married to Miss Amanda Anderson who came to Traill County in 1880. Two children were born to this marriage: Anna and Amanda.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were members of the North Prairie Lutheran Church, located southwest of Buxton. Mrs. Anderson died in 1890. Mr. Anderson was married for the second time to Miss Marie Engine. She was born in Hallingdale, Norway on September 6, 1858. She came to America in 1883. Four children were born to them: Amanda, Jennie, Minnie and Gilbert. Mr. Anderson's second wife died on February 6, 1933.

Iver Camrud was born in Valdres, Norway, June 10, 1853. He was the son of Iver and Marit Camrud.

Mr. Camrud came to America in 1869, landing at Quebec, Canada. He went to Dekorah, Iowa and there worked as a farm hand for \$10 a month. In the spring of 1879, he came to Dakota Territory, Traill County, East Buxton Township. He filed on the NW 1/4 of Section 21, East Buxton Township, now Stavanger Township.

In 1883, he married Miss Sigrud Tildem. No children were born to this marriage. Mrs. Camrud died in 1886.

In 1887, he was married the second time to Miss Ida Camrud of Pope County, Minnesota. Four children were born to them: Richard, Joseph, Edwin and Martin Camrud. Mrs. Camrud passed away in 1900.

The Camruds were members of the Hauge Lutheran Church of Buxton.



Johannes O. Hauge was born in Hjelmeland, Stavanger, Norway, May 11, 1868, and came to the U.S. when twenty years old. He married Christena Bertha Jacobson May 11, 1898. Marking their Golden Wedding Anniversary the couple was honored on May 23, 1948. Six children were born to them of whom four are still living at the time of the Anniversary. They were Mrs. Clarence Moen, Mrs. Sam Kvitne, Sverre, and Chester Hauge. Two sons, Ole and Arthur, preceded their father in death.

Christena Bertha Jacobson was born May 11, 1873, at Fort Dodge, Iowa. In the spring of 1879, she came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Asbjorn Jacobson, to Dakota Territory. The trip from Fort Dodge was made by covered wagon and took six weeks. Mrs. Hauge, with her parents, settled on a homestead north of Mayville, N. Dak. Christena passed away April 9, 1960. She is buried in the West Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Johannes O. Hauge passed away July 29, 1955. He is buried in the West Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery.



Mr. Amund Botton was born in Hoff, Solor, Norway on October 24, 1865. He came to Quebec by ship and then went by train to what is now Traill County, No. Dak. and settled on the NW 1/4 of section 1-148-50 in Stavanger Township in May, 1889.

Mr. Botton was united in marriage to Miss Emilie Arneson on May 4, 1893. She also came from Vaaler, Hoff, Norway to America in 1889. Six children were born to this couple: Five daughters, Nellie, Hilda, Esther, Agnes, and Evelyn, and one son, Emil.

Mr. Botton attended the Hovet school in Stavanger Township and was an active member of the Grue Lutheran Church which was built in 1891 in Stavanger Township. He held different offices there.

He was a farmer and was active and interested in farming all his life. He was almost 90 years old when he died on July 11, 1955. He was buried in the Grue Cemetery.

Charles Berg was born in Christiana, Norway, March 22, 1837. He emigrated to the United States, coming to Buxton, Dakota Territory in 1881, the same year that the railroad was built from Hillsboro to Grand Forks, Dakota Territory. He was married to Miss Oline Lindberg, December 26, 1882 at Grand Forks. Mrs. Berg was born in Elverum, Norway, October 8, 1857. To this union were born the following children: Carl; Anna (Mrs. Arthur Bales); Olga (Mrs. Joseph Olson); Helena (Mrs. S. N. Lommen); Clara; Ervin; and Arthur. Clara and Arthur died during the diphtheria epidemic in 1890.

Mr. Berg was the Pioneer druggist of Buxton and was active in the drug business for 34 years. He was a member of the Buxton Cornet Band. Mr. and Mrs. Berg were charter members of the United Lutheran Church and both were active in community affairs.

Mr. Berg died February 12, 1915 and Mrs. Berg passed away April 14, 1917.



Nels B. Haugen was born in Grue, Solor, Norway on November 6, 1866. He came to Traill County, Stavanger Township, Dakota Territory in 1878 along with his father and two brothers and settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1-148-50.

Mr. Haugen was married to Bertha S. Solberg, who was born in Grue, Solor, Norway and came to America in 1880. There were no children born to this union. They were members of the Grue Lutheran Church in Stavanger Township.

Mr. Haugen passed away on December 10, 1899 and is interred in Grue Cemetery in Stavanger Township.

Mr. Seaver was born in Boone County, Illinois, October 5, 1857 and was the third of thirteen children born to Knute and Thora (Hjordal) Seaver. The family name was originally Quarme, but Mr. Seaver's father adopted the Christian name of his father as a surname. His father was a "Forty-Niner" in California.

Mr. Seaver was married in 1885 to Miss Hannah Hanson, a native of Winneshiek County, Iowa. Mrs. Seaver attended the Normal School of Ceder Falls and became one of the pioneer educators of Traill County. Two sons were born to Mr. & Mrs. Seaver, Herbert K., and William Arthur.

Mr. Seaver died September 7, 1927 at the age of 69 years, 11 months, and 2 days. Mrs. Seaver died May 16, 1951 at the age of 92 years, 2 months, and 9 days having been born in Norway, March 7, 1859. Mr. Seaver was appointed deputy sheriff and served eight years in this capacity, and was elected Sheriff of Traill County, North Dakota in the fall of 1892.

Oscar J. Sorlie was born in Hartland, Minnesota, on November 4, 1865. He was the son of Iver J. and Maren Sorlie. Mr. Sorlie grew up in Hartland, Minnesota. He came to Dakota in May 1886, and to Buxton, North Dakota in 1900. He established a store business there in 1897.

He was married in 1899 to Miss Blanche Esterly at Washington, D. C.

In 1899 he bought a half section of land in Stavanger Township, Traill County. His buildings were located east of Buxton in Section 30-148-50. Later he added one section in Buxton Township to his estate.

In 1907 he was elected to the legislature and served during the sessions of 1907-1909, 1911 and 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Sorlie were the parents of five children: Katherine, Helen, Mars Marion Wilnor, Oscar J. and George Esterly.



Ole Davis was born in Norway on January 13, 1845. He first settled in Becker County, Minnesota and married Miss Betsy Jordahl in the early 1870's. She was born on August 14, 1847 and came to America in 1857. Mr. and Mrs. Davis and their only child, son John Anton, came to Traill County by oxen in 1879 and settled on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-147-49.

Mr. Davis was a shrewd business man and a successful farmer. He acquired considerable land and became moderately well to do.

Mr. Davis passed away on June 14, 1915 and his wife followed him in death on September 24, 1932.



Broder Broderson was born in Sehst Tondes Schlesvig, Denmark on November 3, 1850. He came to America on a cattle boat. He moved to Chicago, Illinois on February 2, 1871 and from there he went to California where he stayed four years before coming to Traill County, Dakota Territory in 1879.

He was married to Miss Marie Buck on October 2, 1880. She was born in North Schlesvig Holstein, Denmark on July 22, 1843, and came to America to St. Ansgar, Iowa and then to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory where she homesteaded on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-148-50.

Mr. and Mrs. Broderson were members of the Grue Lutheran Church of Stavanger Township. Two children were born to this union: Kathrina and George.

Mr. Broderson passed away on February 9, 1911 and Mrs. Broderson passed away on May 23, 1920. They were interred in the Grue Cemetery.



Arne B. Haugen was born in Grue, Solor, Norway on January 20, 1863. At the age of thirteen, he came to America with his father and brothers and he came to Dakota Territory in 1878.

Mr. Haugen was a carpenter by trade, and he bought and owned land in Belmont Township. He never married but made his home with his brother Axel and family. After an illness of several years, Mr. Haugen passed away on April 18, 1924 and was interred beside his father in Grue Cemetery. He was a member of the Grue Lutheran Church east of Buxton.



Ole Roinstead was born in Walle, Norway in 1847 and came to America in 1878. He came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory in 1880 and filed on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11-148-50.

Mr. and Mrs. Roinstead were married in Walle, Norway in the year of 1867. There were six children born to this union: Birgit, Valborg, Jorund, Ingeborg, Thors, and Paul. Mr. and Mrs. Roinstead were members of the Grue Lutheran Church in Stavanger Township.

Mr. Roinstead passed away in 1903 and Mrs. Roinstead passed away in 1919.

Peter Nelson Cole was born on a farm at Kalsrud, NordreAurdal, Valdres, Norway, on August 6, 1847. In 1869 he sailed for America and came to Madison, Wisconsin, where he stayed until 1873 then going to Austin, Minnesota. On February 17, 1877 he was united in marriage to Anna Hanson of Austin. Mr. & Mrs. Cole had nine children, two died at an early age, and Mrs. Cole passed away December 17, 1920.

In 1879 the family started for North Dakota with a wagon and a team of horses arriving at Caledonia, North Dakota (then the county seat) two weeks later.

They took a homestead in Stavanger Township where they lived up to seven years preceding his death, when he disposed of his land and moved to Buxton, North Dakota. He died at the age of 83 years, 11 months, and 17 days, July 24, 1930. He was survived by 4 sons and three daughters; Ole, Henry, John, and Nels Cole, Mrs. E. W. Smith, Mable Cole, and Mrs. O. A. Kobbervig plus 14 grandchildren.



George A. Broderson was born on October 6, 1856 at Sehet, Tondes Schlesvig, Holstein, Denmark of Danish and German descent. He worked in St. Ansgar, Iowa for three years, then went to California to work in Quick Silver Mines. He arrived in Traill County, Dakota Territory in March, 1879 and settled on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-148-50 in Stavanger Township.

Mr. Broderson married Miss Anna Lorentzen on August 16, 1879. Children born to them were: Annie, Martin, Carl, Christina.

Mr. and Mrs. Broderson were members of Grue Lutheran Church. Mrs. Broderson died on January 10, 1892 and was the first to be interred in Grue Cemetery. Mr. Broderson died on November 15, 1929.

Gutorm B. Jacobson was born in Stavanger, Norway on February 7, 1850. He came to America and to Ossian, Iowa in 1872, where he worked as a farm hand for five years.

In the spring of 1878, he came by train to Moorhead, Minnesota and then walked the rest of the way to Frog Point, Dakota Territory. Mr. Jacobson filed an application for the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25-148-50. This was the first land on record in either Buxton or Stavanger Township to be filed as a homestead. Mr. Jacobson and a few others floated their building materials down the Red River by raft from Moorhead, Minnesota to Frog Point, Dakota Territory.

In about 1883, Mr. Jacobson was united in marriage to Miss Ragnild Christine Clauson, from Waterloo Ridge, Iowa. To this union, seven children were born: Josephine, Clara, Nora, Georgine, Olga, Arthur and Melvin.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson were members of the Grue Lutheran Church east of Buxton, North Dakota. Mr. Jacobson passed away in Buxton on December 14, 1931 and Mrs. Jacobson died on December 18, 1928. They are buried in the Grue Cemetery.

Peter P. Ashiem was born in Hjelmland, Norway, on March 7, 1849. He came to America in 1871, going directly to Ossain, Iowa, where a sister of his had located.

He then made a trip to Norway and came back in the spring of 1875. On the same boat with him on the return trip were Miss Martha Knutsvig, his fiancée.

In the fall of 1870, Mr. Ashiem and Martha Knutsvig were married. He bought a farm near Ossian and lived there five years.

They came to Buxton Township, Traill County in 1880. Mr. Ashiem filed on a homestead, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, 148-51, West Buxton Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashiem were charter members of the Hauge Lutheran Synod Church (Ny Stavanger).

After some years, Mr. Ashiem bought a quarter of railroad land, the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, in West Buxton Township.

Mrs. Ashiem passed away in March, 1927. Mr. Ashiem died on October 8, 1939.

They were parents of ten children: Peter, John, Caroline, Goodman, Martin, Ole, Melina, Clara, and Ellen.



John Jensen Snurom was born on September 30, 1860 in Follabo Annex to O. Gausdal. He came to America on June 5, 1879 and went directly to New Hope, Wisconsin, where he stayed for three years. He later went to Holt, Minnesota where he farmed for a short time. In 1886, he married Ragnild Stengelsson, who was born in Alton, Norway on October 1, 1865. She came to Calumet, Michigan in 1882 and one year later she moved to St. Hilaire, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Jensen came with their three children to Traill County, North Dakota by wagon and oxen in 1890 and settled in Stavanger Township $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-148-50.

Born to this union were: Edwin, Bert, Jean, Hilda, Arnold, Victor, Wilbur, Lillian, Philip, Alice and Estelle.

They were members of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Mrs. Jensen passed away on January 13, 1951. The interment was at St. Olaf Cemetery.



John L. Odegard was born in Grue, Solor, Norway on January 2, 1850. In 1872, he came to America, landed in New York and went to Lyle, Minnesota, where his sister, Mrs. Bernt Hedemark, was residing. In 1878 he came to Traill County, Dakota Territory and filed a homestead claim on land in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24-148-50 in Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory.

Mr. Odegard was married at Saint Ansgar, Iowa. Eight children were born to this union: Laura, Annie, Jennie, Louise, Helen, Oliver, George and John. Mr. and Mrs. John Odegard were members of the Grue Lutheran.

Mr. Odegard passed away on July 26, 1924 and Mrs. Odegard passed away on April 30, 1893. They are interred in the Grue Cemetery in Stavanger Township.



Ole P. Tweden was born in Hjelmeland, Stavanger, Norway on May 16, 1851 and came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory in May 1878. He came from Ossian, Iowa. After he came here he settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24-148-50.

Mr. Tweden was united in marriage to Serine Holmen, born in Stavanger, Norway. Seven children were born to this union: Eli, Martha, Peder, Syver, Selmer, Olaus and Serena. Mr. Tweden had two sons by a second marriage: Adolph and Sigval.

Mr. Tweden was a member of the Hyllestad Lutheran Church. He passed away on March 20, 1933 and is interred at Watford City, North Dakota.



John Oveson was born to Ove and Ranghild Skaaran in Hjelmeland, Stavanger, Norway on July 14, 1859. Mr. Oveson came to Traill County in the spring of 1879 and homesteaded on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 26-148-51. He was married to Miss Enger Riveland on July 4, 1885. She was born in Aardahl, Stavanger, Norway, and came to De Forest, Illinois in 1880. She moved to Minneapolis in 1881. No children were born to this union but Mr. and Mrs. Oveson adopted two children, Even and Anna Berg Stensland.

Mr. Oveson sold his homestead in 1890 and bought the north half of Section 19-148-50 and owned it until his death.

Mr. and Mrs. Oveson were members of the Ny Stavanger, now Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Buxton; North Dakota. Mr. Oveson was a member of the 9 and 10 session of the House of Representatives in 1905 and 1907 and he was Traill County Commissioner and Township Supervisor.

Mr. Oveson passed away on April 14, 1923 and Mrs. Oveson passed away on April 4, 1940. They are both buried in the East Emmanuel Cemetery.

Among the many interesting characters who were residents of the Buxton community in the early days, was George J. Longfellow. Besides being one of the outstanding citizens of his community, he bore the distinction of being second cousin to the Poet, Henry W. Longfellow. George J. Longfellow was born on Aug. 19, 1848, at Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, where he worked in his father's paper mill. In the spring of 1879, George W. Phelps, an official of the Northern Pacific Railway Co. asked Mr. Longfellow to accompany him to Jamestown, Dakota Territory, all expenses being paid by Mr. Phelps. He was favorably impressed with the country and so filed on a homestead in Traill County, east Buxton Township. On April 7, 1881, he married Miss Annie Rein at Buxton. Miss Rein, a native of Racine, Wisconsin, came to the Buxton community in 1880 to live with

her sister, Mrs. Schumaker. Mr. Longfellow was one of the organizers of Buxton Township.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Longfellow: Wilbur, Grace, and Edith.



Ole O. Foss was born in Norway, June 21, 1856. He immigrated to the United States first stopping in the state of Iowa, where he worked for some time, earning enough money so that he and Knut Lilliboe could buy a team of horses and a wagon together. They came to Traill County, No. Dak., in 1879. Mr. Foss settled on the NW Quarter in section 17, Stavanger Township. He was married to Ellen Ashiems, July 30, 1881. Mrs. Foss was born in Norway, November 3, 1861. She also stopped for a short time in Iowa, coming here in 1880 and in 1881 to Traill County. To this marriage were born the following children: Ole; Caroline (Mrs. Tom Bjelland); Clara (Mrs. John Lee); Peter; Ellen (who died in infancy); Annie (Mrs. Nate Peterson); Onel; Emma, (Mrs. Matt Lee); Ellen (Mrs. John Odegard); Adolph & Rachel (Mrs. Wilbert Shall).

Mr. Foss died November 30, 1929 and Mrs. Foss died March 2, 1928. Interment was in the east Immanuel Cemetery.

Christian Johnson was born in Norway. He came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory in June 1878 and settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1-148-50. He was a member of the Grue Lutheran Church. Mr. Johnson passed away on November 6, 1921 and is interred in the Grue Cemetery.



Gabriel Gunderson was born on March 4, 1851 in Funlingsland, Norway. He came from Winneshiek County, Iowa to Traill County, Dakota Territory by covered wagon and horses, in May 1878. He settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ in Section 23-148-50 in Stavanger Township.

Mr. Gunderson was united in marriage to Bertha Olson on December 8, 1896. Mrs. Gunderson was born in Stavanger, Norway in 1876.

Mr. Gunderson was a member of the Hauge Synod Church in Buxton, North Dakota.

The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson: Gunder, Ellen, Ole, Karina, Olida, Gustav, George, Lavina, Theoline and Arnold.

Mr. Gunderson passed away on June 16, 1904 and was buried in the Immanuel Cemetery in Stavanger Township, North Dakota.



Sever Hagelie was born on February 17, 1855 at Ossian, Iowa. Sever Hagelie came to Traill County, Dakota Territory in 1879, and settled in Stavanger Township on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 20-148-50. He married Lena Pederson on March 29, 1883. She also came from Ossian, Iowa. Children born to this union were: Laura, Henry, Henry Oliver, Alfred, Ardin Milla and Ruth.

Mr. and Mrs. Hagelie were members of Nye Stavanger Church. Mr. Hagelie passed away on March 24, 1948 and interment was in East Stavanger Cemetery.



Axel B. Haugen was born in Grue Solor, Norway on September 9, 1859. He came to Mitchell County, Iowa from Norway in 1876 with his father and two brothers. Mr. Haugen came to Dakota Territory in June 1880 and walked most of the way from Iowa. He bought and settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-148-50 in Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory.

Mr. Haugen was married to Miss Maren Sjobotten on December 8, 1888. She was born in Hoff Solor, Norway on September 18, 1861 and immigrated to America and came to Kindred, Dakota Territory in 1886.

Mr. and Mrs. Haugen were members of the Grue Lutheran Church in Stavanger Township. The following children were born to them: Mina, Nora, Borghild, Ethel and Arthur.

He sold his farm in 1911 and moved to Reynolds, North Dakota and resided there until his death on July 19, 1932. He was buried in the Grue Cemetery. Mrs. Haugen passed away on October 19, 1930.

Ole Lee was born in Norway and came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory in June, 1878. He settled on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1-148-50. After farming a number of years, he sold his land and moved to Mentor, Minnesota.

Louis Rice homesteaded in Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory in 1879 on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 7-148-50. He was married to Tolena Johnson. Mr. Rice farmed here for twelve years and sold his farm to Knut Lilleboe and moved to Rolette County, North Dakota.

Budd Reeve was born at La Porte, Indiana on February 26, 1842. He came to Minneapolis, Minnesota, in July, 1868. Here he met Harriet Eliza Tanner, whom he married on December 14, 1869. Mrs. Reeve had come to Minneapolis in 1865.

According to information given by a son, Budd Reeve, Jr., his father, Budd Reeve, Sr., at one time owned the site of the Old Union Depot at Minneapolis. He sold the property to James J. Hill in 1880, and was given an option on Section 25-148-51, Traill County, Dakota, for a townsite, in the transaction. Mr. Reeve came out to Traill County and later viewing the location, went back to Minneapolis well satisfied.

The prospects for a growing town were pleasing and he formed the Buxton Townsite Company of which Thomas J. Buxton was President, and he, Mr. Reeve, was general manager.

Mr. and Mrs. Reeve and three children left Minneapolis in August, 1880 for their new home in Dakota.

Mr. Reeve settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section, 25, West Buxton Township in 1880.

Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Reeve: Louise Tanner, Edward, and Budd Reeve, Jr. Mrs. Reeve died September 23, 1927 and Mr. Reeve died April 5, 1933. Mr. Budd Reeve was a member of the Episcopal Church.

Sven S. Hauge was born in Hjeleland, Stavanger, Norway, January 31, 1845. On June 5, 1872, he married Bertha Kelene. They were blessed with nine children, eight of which were born in Norway. In 1891 they emigrated to America and came to Buxton, North Dakota, where they lived for five years. He and his family then moved to his farm two mile south of Buxton which he had just purchased. They resided here for about twelve years.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Hauge made a trip to Norway but returned the following year and settled down in Buxton, where they made their home up to the time of Mr. Hauge's death. Mr. Hauge was an active member of the Nye Stavanger Church, and served as an elder for many years. He was a well respected citizen by all who knew him.

Mr. Hauge died May 28, 1929. He was survived by his wife, and nine children and thirty grandchildren. The children were: Sven, John, Nels, Mrs. William Breneman, Mrs. Gert Hanson, Mrs. Knute Swenson, Mrs. I. M. Cornelius, Mrs. Clarence Swenson, and Osmond Hauge.

Funeral services were held May 30, 1929, from the Nye Stavanger Church, with Rev. J. N. Johnson officiating. Interment was made in the church cemetery.



Knut Lilleboe was born in Stavanger, Norway on January 21, 1854. Mr. Lilleboe and Ole Foss came to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory from Ossian, Iowa in 1879 and settled on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18-148-50. Mr. Lilleboe and Mr. Foss each bought a horse and made the trip by horse and wagon.

Mr. Lilleboe was united in marriage to Bertha Hauge of Ossian, Iowa. There were thirteen children born to this union: Sam Olai, Molly, Sam, Tillie, Martha, Ordin, Bertina, Karina, Cornell, Bennie, Mabel, Cora and Casper.

Mr. and Mrs. Lilleboe were members of the Nye Stavanger Church of Buxton, North Dakota.

Mr. Lilleboe passed away in January of 1927 and is buried in the East Stavanger Cemetery, Buxton, North Dakota.

Halvor A. Nash was born in Vinje, Telemarken, Norway, October 3, 1842 and came to the United States at the age of twenty, first landing at Clayton Junction, Missouri and later traveling to Wisconsin.

On April 1, 1870, he married Miss Margrett Nelson of Clayton County, Iowa and operated a farm there until his departure for Traill County, North Dakota. In the spring of 1878 he filed on a claim in Caledonia township and in the winter of 1878-79 he served as deputy register of deeds, going back to his farm in the spring to work his land.

Mr. Nash died at the age of ninety-three years on May 16, 1936 at his home south-east of Buxton, North Dakota. He was buried in the Highland Church Cemetery. Survivors were five children: Mrs. Ben O. Johnson (Margart); Mrs. Ed Struxness (Julia); Theodore; Herbert; and Nels Nash.



Hans Pederson was born on May 6, 1846 in Hoff, Solor, Norway to Peder and Johanna Haakenson. Mr. Pederson was united in marriage, in Norway, to Maren Louise Hanson on September 22, 1857. She was born in Skedsmoe, Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Pederson, and Mr. Pederson's mother, came by covered wagon to Traill County, Dakota Territory on October 15, 1878 from Mitchel County, Iowa. He homesteaded on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13-148-50 in Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory.

Mr. and Mrs. Pederson were the parents of five children: Arne, Johana, Annie, Ella and Henry.

Mr. Pederson was a member of the Grue Lutheran Church and was a charter member.

Mr. Pederson died on October 26, 1917 and was buried in the Grue Church Cemetery.



Christopher Hagelie was born to Halvor and Liva Hatletvedt Hagelie in Ossian, Iowa on January 12, 1857. He was married to Martha Asheim on March 12, 1880 at Ossian, Iowa. The first summer they lived in Sever Hagelie's summer kitchen. In the spring of 1892, he and his wife and four children came to Traill County,

North Dakota by train and settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17-148-50. On January 7, 1902, Mr. Hagelie purchased the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18-148-50 from George J. and Annie Longfellow.

Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hagelie: Helmer, Clara, Gilbert, Cora, Ben, Liva, Martha, Albert, Agnes and Rueben.

Mr. and Mrs. Hagelie were members of the Nye Stavanger Church of Buxton, North Dakota.

Mr. Hagelie died on February 24, 1925 and was buried in the East Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery of Buxton, North Dakota.



Ole B. Breiland was born in Hjel-meland, Norway. In the summer of 1878 he came from Ossian, Iowa to Stavanger Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory and settled on SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 22, 148-50. He was accompanied by his first wife, Liva, and Rasmuss Riveland. They traveled by mule team and covered wagon. There were two children born to Ole and Liva Breiland, Lena and Berge. Mrs. Breiland died a few years later. Mr. Breiland later married his second wife, Serina. Children born to them were; Leonard, Selma, Olena and Laura. Later, his wife Serina died. Later, Mr. Breiland again remarried, to Serina's sister, Olena. To this marriage were born the children: Norris, Lars, Ole, Selmer, Arthur, Melvin, Seymour, Oscar, Leo and Sylvia.

Mr. Breiland attended school in Norway.

Mr. Breiland passed away on March 6, 1931. Mrs. Breiland passed away May 26, 1950. Interment was held at the Immanuel Cemetery, Buxton, North Dakota.



Lars P. Haugen was born in Grue, Solor, Norway on June 2, 1864. He came by train to Traill County, Dakota Territory from Iowa in the spring of 1881 and settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2-148-50 in Stavanger Township.

Mr. Haugen was united in marriage to Eli Sjobotten, born in Hoff, Solor, Norway.

Mr. Haugen was a member of Grue Lutheran Church, east of Buxton, North Dakota.

There were nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Haugen: Nettie, Mable, Lottie, Alma, Myrtle, Esther, Lillian, Roy and Leonard.

Mr. Haugen died on March 3, 1944 and was buried in the Grue Cemetery east of Buxton, North Dakota.

Severt Sorenson was born near Tronjeim, Norway, September 8, 1843. He immigrated to the United States, arriving in New York, August 15, 1865 and traveling to Allamakee County, Iowa. In the spring of 1878 he came to Belmont Township and entered claim to the south-west quarter of section 2 as a tree claim, later this was part of Stavanger Township.

Mr. Sorenson was married to Miss Matilda Davis in 1874. Eight children were born to this union: Annie (Mrs. A. Sorley); Samuel; Henry; Maria; Minnie; Martin; and Otto. Mr. Sorenson died in 1898 at the age of forty-six.

EARLY HISTORY—BUXTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Stories of the early pioneers of East Buxton Township show that before school buildings could be erected, school was held in homes. It is stated that it was generally held at the home of Halvor Nash, as he had the largest house in that locality. Mr. Nash's home was located in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 34, 148-50.

Mrs. M. Beltz of Buxton, a daughter of E. F. Combs who pioneered in East Buxton Township, was a pupil in this school. She states that the teacher was paid by the parents. Mr. Nash paid his share by furnishing board and room for the teacher. Her teacher in this school was a Mr. C. Blicherfeldt. There was no school room furniture. The apparatus consisted of a blackboard and a chart for the beginners. Books and writing material were furnished by the parents. The children were assembled around a long table for study. This is the only school held in the homes that we are able to get any data on.

Teachers' Reports in the office of the County Superintendent show that in 1884 and 1885, school was held in the Nash home, with Chr. Blicherfeldt as teacher. This school, according to reports, was No. 52.

Other early rural teachers were B. E. Ingwaldson, J. S. Halland, Lizzie Davis, K. J. Nomland and Mary Rogers.

Early records of the school clerk are missing and it is not possible to give much information on the first school established in Buxton village. Records in the County Su-

perintendent's office show that Miss Ida Lanterman taught school in Buxton in 1883. Mrs. J. Lerom of Buxton states that Miss Lanterman was the first teacher in the Buxton school, and this is undoubtedly the year that the first school house was built.

The Teachers' Reports show that Minnie Higgins taught in 1885, and Cora Peters in 1888. A Nills Flaten followed. Miss Beatrice Johnstone, now in the Department of Correspondence Study at the University and a well known educator, taught in the Buxton schools in 1891, '92, and '93.

The first school building was a two-story frame building, located in the northwest corner of Block 10, Buxton Original Townsite. For a number of years the lower part was used for a schoolroom and the upper floor for a hall. About 1892 (exact year cannot be ascertained) a second department was added and the upstairs was used as school-room.

In 1896 this school building and lots were sold to the IOOF Lodge. A new two-story brick building was erected that year on Block 7, Buxton Original Townsite.

As the years went on and the school steadily grew, conditions became crowded and this building was inadequate. In 1918 an addition was built to the west end of the building, about the same size as the original building, giving ample room for class work and other activities.

ERVIN TOWNSHIP



Marit and Christopher Tronson, of Eidsvold, Norway, emigrated to America in 1868, accompanied by their young son, Ole, settling first in Spring Grove, Minnesota. In 1878 Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Tronson, their children Ole and Maren (Mrs. Hans Halvorsen), and several neighbors came to Ervin Township by oxen drawn covered wagons. They settled on Sec. 14, N.W. ¼. Others traveling in the caravan with the Tronson family were Elias, George and Ole Lilleberg.

In 1885 Ole Tronson was united in marriage with Karen Pederson of Caledonia. To this union twelve children were born: Magnus, Albert, Bertha, Clara, Harry, Arne, Roy, Alice, William, Ruby, Marcus, and Eva. In 1855 Ole Tronson bought the N.E. ¼ Sec. 14 of Ervin Township for only \$1.25 per acre.

Christopher Tronson and his wife were charter members of the Highland Lutheran Church. Their son, Ole, became a member in 1885. Mrs. Ole Tronson passed away Nov. 4, 1930, followed by Mr. Tronson's death April 28, 1934. They are both buried in the Highland Cemetery.



Berger M. Johnson was born in Solar, Hammerstift, Norway, June 7, 1851. Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Lena Olson, a native of Norway, who was reared in Filmore County, Minnesota, in 1877.

In 1878, they traveled overland with a team of horses and wagon and arrived at Caledonia, North Dakota in the latter part of May, 1878 with ninety-seven dollars cash. They settled on Section 26, Ervin Township and he was their first township clerk. They had an adopted son named Martin M. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson died January 7, 1925 at the age of 73 years and 7 months. He was buried in the Highland Church Cemetery.



Halvor Smette was born in Hallingdal, Norway, in October, 1845, and came to America (year not known) and settled in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, where he married Randi Finneseth on June 24, 1870. She was born in Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, November 28, 1852. Mr. Smette came by covered wagon to Traill County in 1878, while Mrs. Smette and two children came by train to Fargo. He filed on a homestead in Sec. 2 in Erwin Twp.

The Smette family were early members of Highland Lutheran Church in Ervin Township, and later became members of St. Olaf Lutheran in Eldorado Township where they retained their membership. Mr. Smette died in 1925. Mrs. Smette died June 21, 1936 and is buried with her husband in St. Olaf Cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Smette were the parents of fourteen children: Christ, Ingman, Carl, Theodore, Ingeman, Randel, Lars, Otto, Sina, Ida, Matilda, Bertha, Elida, and Gurina.

Nils C. Smith was born in Ness, Hallingdoh, Norway on January 17, 1857 and came to the United States on April 15, 1873.

Mr. Smith was married to Live Finneseth on May 28, 1882. Six children were born to them: Mrs. Lawrence Johnson, Mrs. Carl Peterson, Mrs. Paul Paulson, Mrs. Theo. Kobbervig and Christ Smith. One daughter, Mrs. George Johnson, died on November 24, 1922.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Highland Church near Cummings, North Dakota. He took up a homestead in Ervin Township, Traill

County, Dakota Territory in 1878 and made his home there until his death on March 19, 1932. Mrs. Smith passed away on February 20, 1920.

Tollef L. Finneseth was born on May 19, 1854 in the state of Wisconsin. At the early age of two weeks, he, together with his parents, moved to Fountain, Minnesota. The small town



of Fountain became the childhood home of Tollef until his reaching the age of Twenty-four.

In 1878 young Tollef journeyed along the pioneer trails with a small caravan of neighbors to the North Dakota Territory. In this territory he proceeded to set up a new homestead.

In 1883 he took as his bride, Anna Marie Guldranson. To this union ten children were born: Lars, Louise, Gemina, Inga, Alma, Thilda, Minnie, Ole, Clarence, and Adolph. Tollef's son, Clarence, is to this day farming his claim.

Tollef L. Finneseth was among the first of the Norwegian-Americans to settle in what is now our state of North Dakota, and was a charter member of the Highland Lutheran Church.

Mr. Finneseth passed away on April 30, 1936. His wife, Anna Marie, preceded him in death on April 18, 1925. The interment of this pioneer couple is at Highland Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Even Colbjornson was born January 5, 1841 at Rengenke, Norway. He was united in marriage in 1870 to Miss Christine Oldsdatter and with his wife and two children immigrated to the United States in 1873, settling first in Wisconsin and from there to Freeborn County, Minnesota. In 1879 they came to Traill County and homesteaded in Ervin Township where they resided until their deaths. Mr. Colbjornson died on December 2, 1921. Survivors were his wife, and six children: Christ Evans, Ole Evans, Robert Evans, Mrs. J. A. Lilleberg, Mrs. Harry Johnson, and Carl Evans. Burial was made in the Highland Cemetery east of Cummings, North Dakota.



Elias Lilleberg, son of John Lilleberre, was born August 18, 1839 in Trondhjem, Norway. He came to America in 1870, resided at Lanesboro, Minnesota, and married Inger Margaret Thronson on June 15, 1875.

In 1878, with his family and two brothers, Jergen and Ole, he moved to Ervin Township of Traill County in North Dakota. He settled on the SW 1/4 of Section 14-147-50.

Mr. & Mrs. Elias Lilleberg had five children. They were: Claus Julius, Marcus Kalvert, Ellen Mathilda, Martha Louise, and Clara Olivia.

Mrs. Lilleberg passed away January 19, 1906 and Mr. Lilleberg passed away October 2, 1920.



Hans Halverson was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, January 17, 1860, and came to the U.S. at the age of 20 years. For some time he lived near Caledonia, North Dakota and about 1905 moved to Ervin Township.

He was married to Miss Mary Tronson. Mrs. Halverson died May 20, 1934, and Mr. Halverson died May 20, 1941. Funeral services for both were held at the Highland Church with interment in the church cemetery.

Twelve children were born to this union: Mrs. F. B. (Ida) Gardner, Mrs. George (Hilda) Riley, Mrs. Martin (Agnes) Nettum, Mrs. Arne (Josie) Tronson, Helmer, Mrs. James (Eldine) Kieley, Mrs. John (Clara) Olson, Olga, Mrs. Lloyd (Martha) Melhus, Mrs. Verne (Tina) Neville, and Mrs. Ovey (Laura) Wegge. A daughter, Lillian, died in infancy.



Mr. Martin Johnson was born in Oslo, Norway, June 1, 1855 and in 1875 immigrated to America settling at New Albion, Iowa. He made his home in Iowa for three years prior to coming to the Dakota Territory. He then homesteaded in Ervin Township in 1878.

Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Gulbrandson June 14, 1883. He died May 6, 1939, and interment in the Highland Church Cemetery. Survivors were: Josie, Mrs. Alma Holmberg, Henry, Alfred, Anna, Mrs. Alfred Jahnke, Mrs. Harry Hausmann, and Martin Johnson.



Oluf Aune was born in Salor, Norway, May 30, 1852, and came to America in 1876 locating at Lanesboro, Minnesota. In 1878, he moved to Polk City, Minnesota, and started a blacksmith shop. This inland town, now extinct, was located not far from the present site of Neilsville, Minnesota. In 1879 he filed on a homestead in Sec. 4 Ervin Twp. Some time later he returned to Polk City and was married there to Anna Sovig of Lanesboro, Minnesota, on Dec. 23, 1881. He lived in Polk City until 1883 when he went to Buxton and opened a blacksmith shop. The Aune family lived in Buxton until 1890, when they moved to the homestead. They were members of the United Lutheran Church of Buxton. Mr. Aune died in 1932 and Mrs. Aune passed away in 1935.

There were eight children in the Aune family; four daughters, Hannah, Caroline, Helen and Alice; four sons; Simon, Martin, Alfred, and Oliver.



Mr. Ole J. Lilleberg was born January 8, 1849 at Overhalden, Preslegjeld, Thronhjem, Norway. At the age of twenty-one he came to America, arriving at Lanesboro, Minnesota in 1870. While there he was united in marriage to Miss Ragnild Sandvik. Shortly after, he started out in a prairie schooner for North Dakota and in 1878 filed on a homestead in Ervin Township. Mrs. Lilleberg died in 1887.

They had two children, Emelia and John A. Lilleberg. Several years later he was united in marriage with Mrs. Karen Berdahl. Besides his wife he was survived by two sons, John A. and Rudolph Lilleberg and three step-children, Carl Berdahl, Mrs. Ole M. Johnson, and Martin Berdahl.



George Strand Lilleberg was born in Overhalden, Thronhjem, Norway, April 25, 1841. He died September 16, 1926 at the age of 85 years.

He came to the United States in June, 1866 and resided for a number of years in or near Lanesboro, Minnesota. On June 27, 1872 he was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Olson. In the spring of 1878, he came to Dakota Territory and took up a homestead in Ervin Township. He resided there until 1915, when he retired and moved to Cummings, North Dakota.

He was survived by his wife, four daughters and two sons; John H., Arthur I., Minnie K., Mrs. Robert Evans, Mrs. Albert Waslien, Mrs. Melvin Waslien. One son, Fred, died in infancy.

BENTRU TOWNSHIP

Bentru Township was organized Jan. 5, 1880, with George O. Gunderson, chairman; and Ole T. Sollum, Andrew J. Gilstad, supervisors; Tellef Grunderson, clerk;

Erik Anderson; Treasurer; Halver Hanson, and Ole T. Sollum, constables; Sven Quammen, overseer of roads; and Tellef Grunderson, Assessor.



Halvor Bentru was born Jan. 29, 1842, in Norway. Anna Maria Bentru, also of Norway, was born June 14, 1849. The couple were married at Osage, Iowa, August 22, 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Bentru located on a farm on the SE ¼ Sec. 24 in Bentru Township. Four children were born to this marriage: Andrew, Rachel, Hans and Severin. Mr. Bentru passed away at 45 years of age Sept. 20, 1877 and Mrs. Bentru died at the age of 78 years; Jan. 15, 1927. Burial took place in the family lot in the Rosendahl cemetery.

were members of the Sand Hill Church, Climax, Minnesota. Mr. Dokken passed away in 1888, and Mrs. Dokken died in 1926.



Sven S. Quammen was born in Hol Hallingdal, Norway, on April 1, 1850. He was married April 10, 1872, to Miss Ingeborg Larsgaard in the Hol Church, Hallingdal. She was born Oct. 1, 1845. They emigrated to the United States the same day they were married. They lived four years at New Sweden, Nicollet County, Minn., one year at Lake Park, Becker County, Minn. In 1877 they came to Grand Forks County and homesteaded in Sec. 28 in Bentru Township. To this union were born the following children: Engebret, Edward, Inger, Emma, Ole, who died at the age of seven years, Christine, Selmer, Ole, who died at sixty years, and Lars, born Jan. 10, 1885 and who died Dec. 1, 1959. Lars Quammen was a Trustee of the Old Settlers Memorial Association for many years. All the children of this family are now dead.

The Quammins were members of the Rosendahl Congregation and donated land for the church and the cemetery. Mr. Quammen died April 11, 1902, age 57 years and Mrs. Quammen passed away on Dec. 29, 1920 at 70 years. Burial was made in the Rosendahl Cemetery.



Amund and Andrine Erickson, both from Solor, Norway, were born in 1839 and 1852, respectively. They arrived in America in 1878 and settled on a homestead in Bentru Township, Sec. 29, where they engaged in farming. Seven children were born from this union and were: Edward, Oliver, Erick, Arne, Nels, Anton, Lawrence and Helmer. Mr. and Mrs. Erickson were members of the Rosendahl church. Mrs. Erickson died April 1, 1901, and her husband passed away in Sept. 1921.



Ole and Guro Dokken of Hal Hallingdahl, Norway, were born on April 3, 1848, and in 1843 (month not known). They arrived from Norway in 1873 and began their farming operations on the SE ¼ Sec. 34 of Bentru Township. Mr. and Mrs. Dokken were blessed with four children: Emma, Inga, Theodore and Oline. They

Knut Lageson was born in Saterdal, Norway in 1832 and his wife, Anna, in 1840. We have no information as to when they emigrated to the United States but they first came to Houson, County, Minnesota. In 1874, they, along with Aslak Torkelson, came to Grand Forks County. They homesteaded on Section 9 Bentru Township.

On the way over the Atlantic they had an infant boy who died two days after his birth and was buried at sea. Other children born to Mr. and Mrs. Lageson were: Amund, Louis, Sam, Ole, Knut and Anna. They belonged to the Rosendahl Church and are buried in that Church cemetery. Mr. Lageson died in 1904 and Mrs. Lageson in 1922.



Ole Loing was born in Hal Hallingdahl, Norway, on April 7, 1854. Ragnild Kvammen, also of Hal Hallingdahl, was born Feb. 9, 1853. They were married in Norway June 15, 1877, and came to Grand Forks, N.D. on May 7, 1878.

Mr. and Mrs. Loing homesteaded in Bentrut township where they farmed for the rest of their lives. Mr. Loing helped organize the Rosendahl Congregation of which they were lifelong members.

Thirteen children were born from this union and are: Kari, Bergit, Hannah, Ole, Christine, Carl, Bernt, Selmer, Oliver, Bernt, Clarence, Syver and Elmer.

Mr. Loing passed away Jan. 21, 1931, and Mrs. Loing died on April 17, 1929.



Sven O. Myhre, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Knutson, settled in Houston County, Minnesota in 1850, having removed from Rock County, Iowa, where he had gone in 1848. He was among the first to make a home in that locality. Sven O. Myhre was born in Iowa in 1850, and in 1878 he came to Dakota Territory, locating on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 34 in Bentrut township. Mr. Myhre came to Dakota alone but was soon followed by two brothers, Lars and Asle. He married Anna Erickson and they were the parents of three children: Arthur, Orin and Jennet. Mr. Myhre died in 1910 and Mrs. Myhre passed away in 1946. They are both buried in St. Olaf cemetery.



Halvor Hanson, born Jan. 12, 1836, in Tveitsud, Norway, and Anne Volden, born May 25, 1837, of Valdres, Norway, were married in Iowa in 1868. They arrived in Dakota Territory in June, 1871 by covered wagon from Mitchell County, Iowa, homesteading in Sec. 27 of Bentrut Township. There were twenty-four families in this caravan, each family seeking a homestead. A particular method was used in their journey. After traveling three days, camp was made and the pioneers rested. During this time, three "light rigs" were sent in different directions seeking feasible sites, while the rest of the people waited, rested and made repairs. This was repeated until a favorable location was chosen.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson were the parents of five children: Mrs. Sena Andvig, Mrs. Hannah Gulseth, Hans, Nels, and Olaves.

Mr. Hanson passed away at the age of 63 years on March 14, 1899, and his wife died May 14, 1905. Burial was made in the Rosendahl Cemetery.

Torben Olson Berkeland was born in Satersdalen, Norway, Feb. 29, 1836. He was married there and then emigrated to the United States, locating first in Fillmore County, Minnesota. From there they made the trip by covered wagon to Grand Forks County, arriving July 4, 1876. They settled on the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 5, Bentrut Township where they lived the rest of their lives. They were members of the Walle Lutheran Church. To the Berkelands were born the following children: Gunder, Ole Sr., Thomas, Ole Jr., Gunstirn, John, Berget, Gro, Anna, Gunhild, and Joren. Mr. Berkeland died Feb. 29, 1896 and Mrs. Berkeland passed away May 30, 1899. They are buried in the East Walle Cemetery.



Knut K. Hegland was born February 22, 1849 in Bygland, Satersdal, Norway. He emigrated to the United States in 1872, stopping first in Glenwood, Minnesota and later coming to Grand Forks County. He was married to Miss Signe Olson, who was born in Ose, Satersdal, Norway on December 3, 1848. She arrived in Fisher, Minnesota in the spring of 1872. They were married in the Bygland Church, Polk County, Minnesota April 13, 1877, by Pastor Solstad. At this time they homesteaded in Bentrut Township (section 21) where they built their first log cabin. To them were born the following children: Knutel, Asbjor, Ole, Ole, Margit (Mrs. Lars Quammen). Mr. Hegland died December 17, 1926 at age 77. Mrs. Hegland passed away July 25, 1939 at age 90. They were both buried in the Rosendahl Church Cemetery in Bentrut Township.

Arne Erickson was born in Grue Solor, Norway, April 27, 1833. He was married to Johanna Erickson in Norway in the spring of 1858. She was born in Grue Solor, Norway, May 19, 1835. He came to the U.S. by steamboat in 1866 and settled in Mona, Iowa. Mrs. Erickson, four children and Mr. Erickson's mother came to the U.S. by sailboat in 1867, a voyage taking three months. They came to Kindred, Cass County, by covered wagon in 1881, and remained there one year. They came to Reynolds in 1882 and settled in Bentrut Township, Grand Forks County, where they homesteaded and farmed for many years.

They were parents of nine children: Martin, Ella, Lona, Annie, Ole, Erick, Amund, Jennie, and Charlie. One of the sons was the Rev. Erick A. Erickson. All are now deceased.

Mr. Erickson's mother, Eli, was born in Norway in 1810 and died at the farm place in 1902, and is buried in Rosendahl Cemetery. She is the first person, who has come from Norway to be buried in that cemetery.

They were members of St. Olaf Lutheran Church. Mrs. Erickson died Nov. 3, 1918, and Mr. Erickson in November 5, 1925. They are buried in St. Olaf Cemetery.



Hallingdahl, Norway was the birthplace of Ole T. Sollom who was born Dec. 29, 1847. Kari Sollom was born Sept. 15, 1855, at Soign, Norway. Mr. Sollom came to America in 1859. On March 18, 1878, he and Mrs. Sollom were married at Spring Grove, Minnesota. They left this vicinity in the spring of 1878 by covered wagon and went to the NW ¼ Sec. 17 in Bentrú township where they farmed. Thirteen children were born and were: Julius, Gustav, Gunhild, Annié, Emma, Alfred, Louise, Alma, Tilda, Lars, Bella, Helen and Clara.

Mr. and Mrs. Sollom were members of the Rosendahl church. Mr. Sollom passed away Sept. 14, 1941. His wife preceded him in death on July 13, 1933.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwart Hanson were born in Norway. Mr. Hanson was born April 16, 1842, and Mrs. Hanson's birthdate was November 13, 1838. Their marriage took place in Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson and five children arrived in Bentrú Township July 4, 1876, by covered wagon from Fillmore County, Minnesota. Twenty wagons left Fillmore County at this time with six going on to Walle and Bentrú townships where the six families settled. The trip took five weeks with the crossing of the Red River made at Abercrombie, N.D. The cattle and oxen were driven through the water as no other crossing was available. All of these pioneers lived in their covered wagons until sod and log houses were erected.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson: Lars, Karoline, Moren, Ole, Emma, and Hans.

Mrs. Hanson passed away Jan. 6, 1920 at 81 years of age and Mr. Hanson died also at 81 years on Oct. 17, 1923.



Eric Larsgard was born in the year 1862 in Hollingdahl, Norway. He arrived in America in 1881. Mr. Larsgard will be remembered mainly as a storekeeper. He also served as postmaster and a peddler. While peddling his wares, Mr. Larsgard resorted to the use of a wheel barrow for the transporting of his products. Thus he evaded the cost of a license as wheel barrows did not require this tax.

During his lifetime as a storekeeper in Bentrú township, Mr. Larsgard was robbed three times. The third robbery resulted in an assault which caused his death. Mr. Larsgard passed away in 1934 and was buried in the Rosendahl Cemetery.

Ole Arneson Tofslie was born in Tellemarken, Norway September 21, 1847 and his wife February 12, 1842. They were married in Norway and emigrated to the United States by sailing vessel from Christianguard, Norway in 1877. The trip across the Atlantic Ocean took six weeks. They homesteaded in Bentrú Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Tofslie had the following children: Gunhild, Jennie, Betsy, Arthur, Annie, Andrew, and Carrie. They belonged to the Rosendahl Church and are buried in that church cemetery. Mr. Tofslie died December 31, 1903 and Mrs. Tofslie March 11, 1907.

Henry Brekke was born in Clinton, Wisconsin on November 10, 1878. He came with his parents, three sisters and one brother to Bentrú Township, Grand Forks County, Dakota Territory on April 12, 1879. Mr. Brekke was united in marriage to Mina Peterson. The following children were born to this union: Pearl, Clarice, Mildred, Evelyn and Glen. Mr. and Mrs. Brekke are members of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

Gjert Gunderson was born Nov. 15, 1831, at Sogne, Norway. His wife, Borghild Halvorsdatter of Hollingdahl, Norway, was born July 26, 1841.

Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson, who were married in St. Ansgar, Iowa in 1864, came to Bentrú Township sometime in the year of 1877 from Freeborn County, Minnesota. They homesteaded on Sec. 21.

Twelve children were born to this union and are: Andrew, Martin Gustav, Louis, Henry, Karoline Mathilde, Gunder, Gustav, Alma Gustine, Bernard, Gustav, Edward, and Maria Pauline.

Mr. Gunderson passed away in 1894 and his wife, Borghild, died in 1888. They are both buried in the North Ringsake Cemetery in Belmont Township.

Knute Tollefson was born in Bygland, Fjord, Norway, on March 18, 1862. He came to America when he was twenty-two years old, in 1884, to a sister in Belmont township. He married Gunil Grundeyson in August, 1894. Miss Grundeyson was born in Satersdalen, Norway, in 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Tollefson rented land at first and later bought the NW ¼ Sec. 8 in Bentrú township. Mr. and Mrs. Tollefson were the parents of five children: Josie, Tom, Ingebor Olson, Ruth Nelson and Mrs. Emma Spitzer. The family was a member of the East Walle Church, Thompson, N. D.

Knut Halvorson Holto was born in Satersdalen, Norway, March 30, 1851, emigrating to the United States, coming first to Hesper, Iowa. He was married to Miss Tone Rystad, who was also born in Norway. In 1878 they came to Dakota Territory, homesteading in Americus Township. Later they moved to Bentrú Township and settled in Section 16. To this couple were born the following: Maggie, Torbjin, Jorund, Halvor, Tarjus, Ole, John and Gunder.

Bernt Ellingson was born in Hol Hallingdal, Norway, February 5, 1859. He came to the U.S. in 1880, first to Spring Grove, Minnesota, and shortly thereafter to Grand Forks County. He farmed in Bentrú Township until his retirement in the fall of 1930. He was married to Ella Erickson, December 7, 1881. She was born in Grue Solar, Norway, Sept. 22, 1858. Mr. and Mrs. Ellingson were parents of eleven children: Edward, Arne, Julius, Gina, Alf, Emmett, Oscar, Willie, Esther, Sella, and Victor. Four are now deceased.

The family were members of St. Olaf Lutheran Church.

They moved to Reynolds, No. Dak. in 1931. Mr. Ellingson passed away Dec. 2, 1932; Mrs. Ellingson died August 6, 1941. They are buried in St. Olaf cemetery near Reynolds, North Dakota.



Peter Bye was born in Roros, Norway, Sept. 2, 1843. Bergit Hefte of Goll, Norway, was born May 2, 1837. The marriage of this couple took place July 1, 1862, in Spring Grove, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Bye moved to North Dakota and located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32 in Bentrut township in May 14, 1878 where they farmed. The Byes were among the organizers of the Rosendahl Church. Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Bye: four sons; Olaf, Anton, Andrew, and Theodore and two daughters, Nellie and Inger. Peter Bye died at the age of 79 years on Sept. 28, 1922, and Mrs. Bye passed away Feb. 14, 1920, at the age of 83 years.

Amund Lovedhal was born in Bygland Setersdal, Norway, June 27, 1854. His wife Gunhild was born November 12, 1858. They emigrated to the United States in 1877 and settled in Sec. 5-149-49 of Bentrut Township, pursuing the occupation of a farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Lovedhal were the parents of five children: Sigrid, Thore, Signe, Marget and Anni. Mr. Lovedhal passed away Sept. 17, 1942, and his wife died on May 10, 1902. Interment took place in the Bygland Cemetery in Minnesota.

Evind Tofslie was born Feb. 22, 1842, at Telemarken, Norway. His wife, Guro, was born Dec. 26, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Tofslie emigrated to the United States in 1875 and homesteaded in Bentrut Township, Sec. 17. Children born to this union were: Gunhild, Jorund, Even, Jr., Andrea and Gunvor. Mr. Tofslie passed away in Aug., 1916.

Rev. Ole H. Aaberg was born in Sognal, Bergen, Norway, on Oct. 13, 1844. In 1865 he emigrated with his parents to America and located in Sec. 7 in Bentrut Township. He married Thea Evenson in 1879. One child was born to this union and it died in infancy. Rev. Aaberg led an active life. He served as pastor at Alexandria, Minnesota, and Devils Lake, N.D. He served the East Walle Congregation for six years. Rev. Aaberg was the founder of the Aaberg Academy and held the position of President of the School for the Deaf at Devils Lake for one year.

Thorvald Trydahl was born in Norway, March 24, 1853. Gunvor Nesland was born April 3, 1854, also in Norway. The couple was married in March 1880. The family left Norway in June, 1893 and arrived at Thompson, N.D., July 5. The summer and fall was spent at farm work near Reynolds. That fall a log house was built west of the Bygland Post Office in Polk County, Minnesota. In 1895 a house was bought and moved to Wig Post Office near the ferry owned by Nels Egeland. Mr. Trydahl then began blacksmith work which he continued until 1911.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Trydahl: Targie, Mikkel, Bergit, Olaf, and George. Mr. Trydahl passed away in 1936 and Mrs. Trydahl died in 1940. Interment was made in the Bygland Cemetery.

Ingebret Sondrol was born in Hal Hallingdahl, Norway in 1824. Margit, his wife, was also born there in 1827. Their children were: Marget Thompson, Bertha Rui, Anna Haugstad, Jorund Hall, Lois Iverson, Ingebret Jr., Steen, Knut and Asle. Ingebret and Margit Sondrol came to America in 1879. By this time all the land along the Buffalo Coulee was taken. Steen, his son, the year before had squatted on a quarter of land in Section 20, with the intention of having it for a tree claim. He turned this over to his father to homestead. They farmed this land a few years and later sold it to their youngest son, Asle. They continued staying with this son the remainder of their lives. Ingebret died August 15, 1898 and his wife Margit passed away Nov. 29, 1910. The Sondrols were charter members of the Rosendahl Congregation and were interred in that cemetery.



Sakris A. Berg was born in Synfjord, Norway on June 8, 1855. He came with his widowed Mother to America in 1862. They came to Wisconsin, then moved to Steel County, Minnesota, where Mr. Berg was married to Martha Thompson in 1878. Martha Thompson was born in Sogn, Norway on January 6, 1855. In 1889, they came to Walsh County, Dakota Territory. In 1890, they came to Bentrut Township, Grand Forks County and settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18-149-49.

Mr. and Mrs. Berg were charter members of the Rosendahl Lutheran Church. There were eight children born to this union: Christine, Tilda, Tilda Marie, Alfred, C. Benjamin, Sam and Cora.

Mrs. Berg passed away on March 17, 1919. Mr. Berg passed away on February 19, 1934. The interment was in Rosendahl Cemetery.

Ljot Grundeyson Austa was born in Satersdal, Norway, in 1840. His wife, Ragnhild, was born in this area on June 18, 1843. Mr. and Mrs. Grundeyson and two children came to America, first to Bygland Township, Polk County, Minnesota, in 1877, and then in 1878 he moved to North Dakota where he homesteaded in Bentrut Township—SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8-148-49.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Grundeyson and were: Ingabor, Gunhild, Grundey, Tarkel and Ljot.

Mr. Grundeyson passed away in 1882. Mrs. Grundeyson died on April 8, 1900.

Aamund K. Flaatt was born Jan. 31, 1863, in Evje, Norway, to parents Kittel Aaneson Flaatt and Helga Norby Flaatt. Mr. Flaatt emigrated to America in 1884 settling on Sec. 6-49-149 in Bentrut Township. He married Thora Torkelson in 1888 who passed away in 1901. Mr. Flaatt married Anne Ode of Evje, Norway in 1915. Children born were: Aslag, Berget, Randy, Helen, Kittel, Emma, and Charles.

Mr. and Mrs. Flaatt were members of the East Walle Lutheran Church. Mr. Flaatt passed away in Sept., 1934.



Herbjoen Alfson was born in Norway, Dec. 26, 1821, and his wife, Kari, was also born in Norway on April 6, 1822. Five children were born to this union: John, Knute, Hans, Alf, and Halvor. The entire family came to America June 2, 1878, by sailboat. It took seven weeks to cross the ocean. They arrived at Spring Grove, Minnesota, and came to North Dakota by covered wagon, driving their livestock. All of the boys, except two, were old enough to file on land when they arrived.

Mrs. Alfson died March 6, 1901. Mr. Alfson passed away July 11, 1916. Burial was made in the Rosendahl Cemetery.



Willas Wilson, born in Stavanger, Norway, Oct. 29, 1859, spent his boyhood there, coming to America in June, 1882. He married Elize Johanson who was born in Salor, Norway, May 20, 1857. Miss Johanson came to America in 1879 going first to Blair, Wisconsin, and from there to the Red River Valley in 1881. Their children were: Bethuel, John, Thomas, William, Agnes, Lilly, Florence, Minnie and Raymond. Mr. Wilson bought a quarter of land in Section 31, Bentrut Township. They were members of the Rosendahl Lutheran Church.

Willas Wilson died May 22, 1935, and his wife, Elize, passed away June 26, 1939. Interment was made in the Rosendahl Cemetery.

Aslak Torkelson was born in Satersdalen, Norway, Feb. 16, 1837, and his wife, Bergit, was born in April, 1839. They homesteaded in Bentrut Twp. Sec. 14, arriving in 1874. Children of this union were: Ingeborg, Mrs. Ole Danielson, Tore, Mrs. Arnold Flaot, Anne, Torkel, Tojus and Rannie. The Torkelsons were members of the East Walle Church. Besides their farming interests the Torkelsons also operated a store which became a trading center of the community of Walle and Bentrut Townships. Mr. Torkelson operated a "general store" in the broad sense of the word.

Mr. Torkelson died June 20, 1918, and his wife passed away Oct. 24, 1917.

Ole R. Norbo was born in Satersdalen, Norway, in the 1860. His wife, Jorund, also of this same locality, was born in 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Norbo emigrated to the United States in the early 1880's, settling on 40 acres of land in Sec. 7 in Bentrut Township. Mr. Norbo was a carpenter by trade. He is credited with the building of the Walle Church, and of the East Walle Church steeple.

Mr. and Mrs. Norby resided in Bentrut Township until a few years before their deaths. Mr. Norbo died in March, 1943, and his wife passed away in Jan. 1944. Burial was made in the East Walle Cemetery.



Ole A. Nelson was born Jan. 23, 1858, in Norway. Josephine Nelson was born Aug. 15, 1860, also in Norway, and came to this country in 1866

with their parents when they were eight and six years old respectively. Mr. Nelson's family settled in Rio, Wisconsin, while Mrs. Nelson's family settled in Yellow Medicine County in Minnesota. Their marriage took place in Rio, Wisconsin, in 1884.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole A. Nelson and Mr. Nelson's two brothers, Andrew and Charley, together with the Sever Berg family, left Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, in the year 1889 in covered wagons, carrying their personal belongings and headed West. They first went to Walsh County and filed on land in the Fairdale area. They resided in sod houses for more than a year. The drouth and other hardships and news of land available in Bentrut Township interested the families in moving on.

They arrived in Grand Forks, July 22, 1890, bought their land and came out to the farm in Bentrut Township at sundown. The next day some of the men stayed home and began getting a fence ready for the livestock, while another drove into Grand Forks and purchased enough lumber to build a shack which took only three days to erect. Later a sod house was built which was lived in for the next two years. At the end of this time a one and a half story frame house was ready to move into.

Children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were: Andrew, Mary, Jeanette, Oline, Bertine, Annie, Olander, Nora, Roy John, Martin and Alfred.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were members of the Rosendahl Congregation. Mr. Nelson passed away in 1934, and Mrs. Nelson died May 25, 1947. They are both buried in the Rosendahl Cemetery.

Gunder Torbjenson arrived in Dakota Territory July 4, 1876, from Iowa or Wisconsin, making the trip with a number of others in a covered wagon. He married Anne Mae Heistad, who was born in Norway on May 8, 1862. For a short time they lived in Walle Township, and then moved to Bentrut Twp. settling on land in Sec. 7. The following children were born from this union: Torbjen, Osof, Omund, Sr., Omund Jr., Bessie, Randy, Gertie, and Torbjor, and one child who died in infancy.

Mr. Torbjenson died in Jan., 1945 and Mrs. Torbjenson passed away May 5, 1928.

AMERICUS TOWNSHIP

Americus Township was organized May 31, 1880. The following officers were elected: P. C. Peterson—Chairman, D. T. Rige—Supervisor, W. W. Race—Supervisor, H. A. Fladeland—Clerk, W. Willett—Treas., Steen Hofto—Assessor, W. W. Race—Justice of Peace, Marchal N. Race—Constable.



Marius Anderson was born on May 26, 1841, in Ulsaker, Norway. He came to Grand Forks Co. from Fillmore Co., Minnesota in 1878, in a covered wagon, accompanied by his wife, Ingebaar, (who was also born in Ulsaker, Norway), sons Anthon and Charl, and neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hegg.

He filed a homestead claim on the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -15-149-50, now Americus Township.

They were parents of: Anthon, Charl, Hohlan, Peder, Hans, Mary, Betsy, Ida, Anna, and Thina.

They were members of Walle Luth. Church. He passed away April 29, 1926, and is buried in the Walle Cemetery.

John Frette was born in Stavanger, Norway. He came to Grand Forks County in 1878, and homesteaded on land in section 3, Americus Township. Mr. Frette made three trips back to Norway, and on his third trip there was married. To this union the following children were born, Sarah, Sere, Tom, John and Gust. Gust lives on the old Homestead. The first house Mr. Frette built was a one room log house. It burned down during a prairie fire and the second one was built of lumber, and it blew over three different times, and each time Mr. Frette was inside the house. The third house was a large log house, in this house the family grew up in. In 1907 he built a fourth house, which is still standing. Mr. Frette died May 18, 1912. He was buried in the Walle Church Cemetery.

Lars L. Berg was born in Bergelira, near Sander Station Sondere Norway, January 26, 1859. He came to America in 1880 and first landed at Clinton Junction, Wisc., where he remained one year. He came to the Reynolds Community in 1881. He purchased the S $\frac{1}{4}$ -25-149-50. His parents, Lars Larson and Andria Berg Bergelia, came to America later and lived for some time with their son, Lars, on his farm.

On October 26, 1889, Mr. Berg was married to Emilie Christianson, by Pastor L. Brooten. She was born in They were the parents of fourteen children. Surviving children are: Della, Melvin, Lloyd, Stella, Esther, and Ruby. They were engaged in farming as their vocation until 1903 when they moved to Reynolds, N. Dak. There Mr. Berg had the City Dray Line, and was the first Standard Oil Bulk Agent.

Kongavinger, Norway, Sept. 2, 1865.

Mr. Lars Berg was a charter member of the St. Olaf Evangelical Church, later transferred to the Zion Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Berg died June 12, 1931, and Mr. Berg died August 21, 1945. They are buried in Americus Cemetery.



Christopher Peterson was born Feb. 13, 1815, in Odalen, Norway. His wife, Dorthea, was born Dec. 22, 1825, also in Odalen, Norway. Together with their sons, Mence, Amos, and Ole, they came from Clinton Junction, Wisconsin in a covered wagon to Grand Forks Co., Dak. Territ. in 1880. Three other sons, Peter, Christian, and August, had come to this area two years earlier. Their first home was on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -24-149-50, where they farmed for several years.

They were members of St. Olaf Luth. Church. Mr. Peterson died Dec. 10, 1904, and Mrs. Peterson died Dec. 29, 1904. They are buried in St. Olaf Cemetery near Reynolds, No. Dak.



Marius S. Gjelsness was born April 4, 1859, in Southern Odalen, Norway. In 1877 he came to his uncle and aunt, Christopher Petersons, in Clinton Junction, Wisc. They had paid for his tickets which amounted to \$50. He worked at various jobs, including building the railroad west from Grand Forks. There was no more free land left, but with money saved and a loan, he purchased a quarter of land.

In 1887 he married Caroline Olsen, who was born in Norway and had come to the U.S. in 1885.

They were parents of: Mabel, Fred, Helen, Rudolph, Ruth, and Morris.

They were members of St. Olafs Luth. Church and active in its affairs. Mr. Gjelsness died Jan. 17, 1943, and is buried in St. Olaf Cemetery.

August C. Peterson was born Feb. 8, 1855, in Odalen, Norway. In 1878 with his brothers Peter and Christian, he came by covered wagon to Grand Forks Co. from Clinton Junction, Wisc., crossing the river south of Fargo.

He filed a homestead claim on the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -35-149-50, where he and brother Christian, who had filed a claim on the adjoining quarter section, built and shared a homestead shack which went across the section line. He also filed on a tree claim on the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -35-149-50.

He married Mrs. Marie Alfson, (maiden name, Wong). She was born at St. Ansgar, Iowa. They were parents of: Irvin, Blanche, Clifford, Montford, Orpha, and August.

Mr. Peterson operated the farm until his death, Dec. 6, 1904. Mrs. Peterson passed away Feb. 2, 1938. They are buried in St. Olaf Cemetery. They were members of St. Olaf Luth. Church and active in its affairs.



Ole T. Hegg was born Feb. 8, 1843, in Ulsaker, Norway. In 1868 he was married to Kristine Andrews. She was also born in Norway in 1842.

They came to the U. S. and first settled in Fillmore Co., Minn. In 1878 four families in four covered wagons, left Fillmore Co. and came to Grand Forks Co. where Mr. Hegg filed a homestead claim on the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -10-149-50. He operated this farm until retirement.

Children born to them were: Anna, Rigine, Olaf, Theodore, Julia, Andrew, Thina, Emma, Kristian, Elvin. Thina, now Mrs. Edward Erickson, is still living. They also had one adopted daughter, Inga.

They were members of Walle Luth. Church. Mrs. Hegg died in 1918, and Mr. Hegg in 1927. They are buried in the Walle Cemetery.

Nels J. Brathovde was born June 12, 1854, in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway. He came to Stevens Point, Wisc., with his parents in 1857. In 1878 they came to Fargo by train. Mr. Brathovde filed a homestead claim on the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -23-149-50, Americus twship.

He married Maria Bergen of Iola, Wisc., April 11, 1881. Born to this family were: James, Clara, Arnold, Myron, William, and Esther. Mrs. Brathovde died during the typhoid fever epidemic in 1894. Later he married Jennie Bergen and were parents of one daughter, Evangeline.

They were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church, active in community affairs. Mr. Brathovde was a board member of St. Olaf's Church, the school and township board. He operated the farm until his death June 21, 1911.

Mence C. Peterson was born in Odalen, Norway, Aug. 20, 1858. He came to Grand Forks Co. with his parents and brothers, Amos and Ole, by covered wagon from Clinton Junction, Wisc., in 1880. His first home was a sod shanty on S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 19-149-50.

He married Anna Hegg on February 22, 1888. She was born July 20, 1858. They were parents of the following children: Marie, Ella, Oscar, Myrthle, Alma, Willma, Archie, and Gladys.

They were members of Rosendahl Church. Mr. Peterson died July 15, 1947, and Mrs. Peterson died Feb. 6, 1946. They are buried in the church cemetery.



Andrias Sander was born Feb. 12, 1861, in Kongsvinger, Odalen, Norway, and came to Grand Forks Co. in April, 1882.

He returned to Norway and in March, 1886 married Mathilde Enger, also from Odalen, Norway. They came back to Grand Forks Co. the same year. A brother, Lars Sander, also from Odalen, Norway, came back with them.

In the fall of 1886 they purchased eighty acres of the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -25-149-50. In the small house of three rooms the three daughters were born: Carolina, Mathia, and Agnes. He operated the farm until 1906, when they moved to Reynolds, No. Dak., and started a boarding house, and later was custodian of the Reynolds School.

They were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church, later transferring to Zion Luth. Church of Reynolds.

Mr. Sander died June 26, 1929. Mrs. Sander is also deceased and they are buried in Americus Cemetery, near Reynolds, No. Dak.

Leif Johnson was born in Evje, Norway, on June 8, 1855. He was married there to Miss Gro Torbenson who was born in Berkland, Norway, Aug. 10, 1859. They emigrated to the United States arriving in Fillmore County, Minn. July 4, 1876. In 1879 they came to Americus Township, Grand Forks County, by team and covered wagon, and Homesteaded on the N.E. quarter in Section 11. The following children were born to

them: John, Torben, Marie, Carrie, Bessie, Gunhild, John and Julia.

Mr. Johnson died Aug. 20, 1897, and Mrs. Johnson May 31, 1898. They were members of the East Walle Church, and are buried in that Church Cemetery.



Arne P. Haugen was born in Grue, Solor, Norway on June 7, 1845. He and his brother, Ole, came to America in 1868 and then to St. Ansgar, Iowa. In 1878, he came to Belmont Township, Traill County, Dakota Territory and homesteaded on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29-148-49.

Mr. Haugen was united in marriage to Alette Holt in 1873 at St. Ansgar, Iowa. There were five sons born to this union: Peter, Emil, Martin, Carl and Arthur.

Mr. and Mrs. Haugen were members of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church of Americus Township, Grand Forks County. They lived here in Belmont Township in a sod shanty until 1883 and then moved to Americus Township.

Mr. Haugen was a member of the North Dakota Constitutional Convention in 1899. He was closely identified with that reform movement which succeeded in placing a section in the constitution of the new state, forbidding traffic in intoxicating liquors. He was a member of the first and second sessions of the legislature and a member at the time of his death, at which time he had been elected unanimously.

Mr. Haugen served almost a quarter of a century on the school board and president of the Grand Forks County Mutual Insurance Company.

To compensate and honor Mr. Haugen for his work in the temperance movement, the organization presented him with a monument which stands at his grave and which bears this inscription:

Arne P. Haugen
Født 7 de Juni 1845,
døde 12 de Januar 1908
Principfast St of staerk
Gjorde du stort Dagvaerk
Hvil i Fred, Vi samles igjen
Naar Dagen gryr i Himmelen

Snare Salmonson Tweten, a Norwegian farmer, married and already in his fifties, emigrated from Bykle Setisdal and made a new life for himself and his family in America. In 1878 he arrived at Fisher's Landing. With his wife, Ingeborg, and six children, Margite, Gunvor, Solomon, Steen, Gunder and Ole, he settled in Americus Township. Ole Tweten married Betsy Fladeland, the daughter of Augond and Jorond Fladeland, October 10, 1882. Betsy Tweten was born August 16, 1862.

Ole and Betsy Tweten joined the East Walle Church, later becoming members of the St. Olaf Lutheran Church. He was also a lay preacher for the Red River Valley Innermission Society, a branch of the Norwegian Lutheran Church which is now the American Lutheran Church. Ole and Betsy Tweten were the parents of ten children: Mrs. Olavus Hanson (Emma), Snare I, Snare II, Mrs. Herman Johnson, Andrew, Mrs. Ed. Erickson (Margaret), Mrs. Olaf Lebacken (Gunda), Elizabeth (Mrs. Fred Gjelsness), Mrs. Ben Larson (Tilda) and Salvina.

Mrs. Betsy Tweten died in 1937. In 1939 Mr. Tweten married Lena Lind. Ole Tweten passed away April 28, 1946 and is buried in the St. Olaf Cemetery near Reynolds.



Gunder Gunderson was born Sept. 12, 1847, in Grue, Solor, Norway. He came to Grinnell, Iowa in 1872, and to Grand Forks Co. by boat on the Red River in 1879. He settled on the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -20-149-50.

He married Agnetta Holmen, Nov. 9, 1880. She was born Nov. 11, 1850, in Aasness, Solor, Norway. She came to Chicago, Ill., in 1870. Their children were: George, Oliver, Anne, and Gilbert.

They were members of St. Olaf Luth. Church. Mr. Gunderson was a charter member. He helped organize School District #21 in 1883 and served as treasurer for twenty-four years. He was a blacksmith besides operating the farm. He died Nov. 10, 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson are buried in St. Olaf Cemetery.



Anton Haugen was born Jan. 29, 1861, in Grue, Solor, Norway, and came to Mona, Iowa, April 18, 1870.

In 1885 he married Randine Buck who was born in Aasness, Norway. She had come to Mona, Iowa in 1880. In 1885 he filed a homestead claim on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -20-149-50 where they started their home. They lived in a cellar the first winter, building a one room house the next summer. Born to this family were: Caroline, Peter, Henry, Anna, Anna Oline, Ida, Alma, Esther, and Chester.

They were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church and active in its affairs. Mr. Haugen was active in community affairs, served as clerk of the school board for twenty-eight years.

He died June 23, 1946, and Mrs. Haugen on Dec. 6, 1942. They are buried in Americus Cemetery near Reynolds, No. Dak.

Ole I Peterson was born May 28, 1876, in Odalen, Norway. He came with his parents to Grand Forks Co. in 1880 from Clinton Junction, Wisc. He farmed until 1906, being mechanically inclined he found farming not to be his vocation. He worked for the Northern Pacific Railway as a boiler maker in East Grand Forks, Minn., and later to Laurel, Montana.

He was married to Regina Hegg.

Amos C. Peterson was born August 20, 1853, in Odalen, Norway. He came to Grand Forks Co. with his parents from Clinton Junction, Wisc. in 1880.

In 1889, in Grand Forks Co., he purchased the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -36-149-50, now Americus Township.

He married Karen Hagen, who was born in Ulsaker, Norway. Their children were: Henry, Myron, Dora, Pearl, and Ruby. They were members of St. Olaf Luth. Church.

He died Dec. 20, 1942. Mrs. Peterson died in 1953. They are buried at St. Olaf Cemetery.



Simon J. Mahlum was born in Fa-berg Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, June 2, 1853. He came to New Hope, Wisc. in 1866, and to Grand Forks, June 1878, by train to Fisher Landing, Minn., walking the rest of the way to the Reynolds area. He homesteaded on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -14-149-50.

He married Ingeborg Martinson, Dec. 10, 1880. She was born in 1860 at Lillehamer, Norway. They were married in the New Hope Church near Stevens Point, Wisc. They were parents of: Marie, Helma, Oscar, Laurence, Stella, Marvin, Edna, Eleanore and Florence.

They were members of Walle Church, later transferring to St. Olaf Luth. Church. They were active in church affairs. Mr. Mahlum died Sept. 15, 1929, and Mrs. Mahlum died March 21, 1954. They are buried in St. Olaf Cemetery.



Torger Jenson was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, Sept. 22, 1851. He came to Grand Forks Co. in 1878 from Stevens Point, Wisconsin, by train to Fargo. With a neighbor, Nels J. Brathovde, they walked from Fargo to this area where he filed a homestead claim on the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -27-149-50, and a tree claim on S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -22-149-50.

In 1882, he married Mathilda Rambeck, who was born in Iola, Wisconsin, August 15, 1858. Their children were: Oscar, Melvin, Mabel, Ella, Gladys, and Florence.

They were members of the St. Olaf Church. They are buried in St. Olaf Cemetery near Reynolds, No. Dak.



Peter C. Peterson was born in Odalen, Norway, August 14, 1848. He came to Grand Forks Co. from Clinton Junction, Wisconsin in 1878, crossing the Red River at Fort Abercrombie. With him came two of his brothers, Christian and August. Mr. Peterson homesteaded on the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -25-149-50. He also filed on a timber claim and also acquired a one-fourth section under the Pre-emption Act.

In 1875 he married Gunhild Olson, who was born in Numedal, Norway, February, 1846. Mrs. Peterson died June 24, 1884. Later he married Olivia Christianson, who was born in Norway, April 25, 1857. She died June 7, 1906. Born to this family were: Lena, Julia, Mina, and Clara.

They were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church.

Mr. Peterson died February 13, 1926.

Marius Anderson was born May 26, 1841 in Oslo, Norway. His wife, Ingebor Ausmoen was born Sept. 19, 1839, in Ullensaker Praestegaald, Norway. The Andersons and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Hegg came by sailboat (the journey took eleven weeks) to America in 1870. They received permission from Rasmus Erickson of Fillmore County, Minnesota, to build a house on his homestead. Here the two families lived together for eight years. The Andersons were the parents of two children, while the Hegg were blessed with three.

In May, 1878, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and the Hegg family left Fillmore County to seek homesteads in the Red River Valley. The journey took one month. After arriving in Americus Township they lived with friends until a homesteaders shack could be built.

Anderas Sander was born in Sondre Odalen, Norway, Feb. 12, 1861, and came to America in April of 1882. Mr. Sander went back to Norway and in March, 1886, was married to Mathilda Enger, from Sondre, Odalen, Norway. Shortly after their marriage they started back for America with his brother, Lars

Sander. In the fall Anderas bought eighty acres of land and settled on it. Three daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sanders. In the winter of 1896 and '97 the family endured the hardships of a prairie winter. One morning the outside door was snowed over. To get out they had to shovel the snow into the kitchen, until they could get an opening.



Sven O. Braaten was born in Torpe Hallingdal, Norway, Feb. 9, 1852. He first came to Nerstrand, Goodhue County, Minn., and to Bentru Township, Grand Forks County in 1884. He studied at St. Olaf College, Lutheran College, and graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1884. He married Ambjor Kvelperud from Nerstrand, Minn. in 1884. They were the parents of: Ambjor, Carrie, Oline, Oswald, Ingeborg, Hjalmar, Albert, Selmer, and Viola.

He served as Pastor of Walle, Nazareth, Rosendahl, and Hoiland Congregations from 1884 until his retirement in 1924, a total of forty years. He held many important offices, both in church and community affairs.

As a pioneer pastor, he encountered many hardships, especially in the winter when the roads were poor and much snow, with roads almost impassable. Remuneration was very small those days but Pastor Braaten had the true pioneer spirit. He had a nice farm and home in Americus Township.

The family were members of Walle Luth. Church. Pastor Braaten passed away August, 1926, and is buried in the Walle Luth. Church Cemetery, near his farmplace.

Ole Syverson was born March 21, 1871, in Aasnes Solor, Norway. He came to Grand Forks Co. by walking from Holt, Minn. to where he had immigrated with his parents, Severin and Anne Syverson. He worked on neighborhood farms and rented farm land until 1890 when he purchased the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -21-149-50. He made his home there until some time later when the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ -16-149-50 was acquired. The family home was on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -16-149-50.

He married Emma Melby in 1894.

She also was born in Solor, Norway. To this union were born: Selmer, Einar, Albert, Oscar, Olga, Trygve, Anna, Clara, Helen, Esther, Agnes, Bertha, and Mary.

They were members of St. Olaf Luth. Church and active in its affairs.

Mr. Syverson died May 5, 1942, and is buried in St. Olaf Cemetery.

Anton Ole Lebacken was born Feb. 20, 1860 at Zumbrota, Minn. He came to Grand Forks Co. in Aug., 1887 with his wife, Mathilda. Her maiden name was Matson, born Dec. 18, 1862 at Lillehammer, Norway.

He began farming in 1888, on rented land, where they lived until 1896 when they built their home on the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 13-149-50. This land was purchased May, 1891.

Born to this family were: Roy, Harlen, Lloyd, Marvin, Ernest, Alfred, Olaf, Chester, Lenne, and Glenn, and daughters Ragna and Cora.

They were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church. Mr. Lebacken died on May 26, 1942. Mrs. Lebacken passed away in 1958. They are buried in Americus Cemetery near Reynolds, No. Dak.

Louis T. Hegg was born in Ulvesaker, Norway, June 17, 1858, and came to Grand Forks Co. in 1882.

In 1888 he filed a homestead claim in the Turtle Mountain area, but because part of this country was so dry, he came back to Grand Forks Co. and purchased the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -14-147-50. The farm is now operated by his son, Tilford.

In 1890, he married Martha Duckstad, who was born in Voss, Norway on June 23, 1865. She had come to Buxton, No. Dak., April 11, 1865. They were parents of a son, Tilford.

They were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church. Mr. Hegg died Jan. 3, 1911, and Mrs. Hegg on Oct. 24, 1942.

Gunerius O. Saure was born in Aasnes Solor, Norway, July 18, 1840. He came from Lake Mills, Iowa, by train to Fargo, Dak. Territory, then to Grand Forks Co. After the death of his brother, Ole O. Saure in 1884, he took over the homestead claim on S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -21-149-50.

In 1886 he married Oline Syverson. She was born in Aasnes Solor, Norway. They adopted two children, Bertha and Einar.

They were members of St. Olaf Lutheran Church of which Mr. Saure was a trustee. The church is located on the Saure farm.

Mr. Saure died Feb. 25, 1930, and is buried in St. Olaf Cemetery.



Ole Evenstad was born June 12, 1866, in Solor, Norway. He came to Traill County, Reynolds, N. Dak., in 1889 by train. With him came his wife, Elsie, maiden name, Hovelsaas, and her parents, Tollef and Olia Hovelsaas.

Born to this family were the following: Emma, Torville, Henry James, Oscar, and Evelyn.

Mr. Evenstad was engaged in his trade as a carpenter until 1905 when they moved to Grand Forks County and began farming. Their home was on the S.E. ¼-18 Americus Township.

The family were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church. Mr. Evenstad was a member of the school board for twenty years.

Mrs. Evenstad died in 1954, and Mr. Evenstad in 1959. They are buried in Americus Cemetery, near Reynolds, No. Dak.



Sigvart Sorenson was born near Sander, Odalen, Norway, Sept. 28, 1858. He was married to Milla Sander in Norway in 1881 and came to Reynolds, Grand Forks County by train in 1882.

Born to this family were: Emma, Mina, Nels, Selmer, Melvin, and William.

Their first home was a log house on N.W. ¼-36, Americus Township which they shared with another family, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Wold. This was school land. Later, probably in 1891, Mrs. Sorenson purchased S.E. ¼-34, Americus Township.

They were members of St. Olaf's Luth. Church, later transferring to Zion Luth. Church.

Mr. Sorenson died April 11, 1950. Mrs. Sorenson had passed away many years earlier. They are buried in Americus Cemetery.



Christian Peterson was born in the parish of Odalen, Norway in 1852. He emigrated to the United States along with his parents in 1869, first settling in Rock County, Wisconsin. His brother Peter, had come to the same place three years before. In June, 1878, Christian, with two of his brothers, Peter and August, came to Grand Forks County. His father, Christopher, and mother Dorothy Peterson, came the same year. Christian Peterson was married to Miss Maren Hanson of Grand Forks County 1883. To this union were born the following children, Maria, Clarence, Alma, James and Ruby. Mr. Peterson died Sept. 18, 1925, and Mrs. Peterson died July 29, 1942.

Ole O. Saure was born in Aasnes Solor, Norway, June 21, 1852. He came to Grand Forks Co., Dak. Territory, by train to Fargo from Lake Mills, Iowa. On May 15, 1879, he filed a homestead claim on the S.W. ¼-21-149-50.

Mr. Saure never married, was a member of the Luth. Church, and he operated the farm until his death, March 7, 1884 (death resulting from being kicked by a horse).

HERBERG TOWNSHIP

Grant Baxter was born in Quebec, Canada and homesteaded in Herberg Township in 1879. He died at his farm home on November 21, 1927 at the age of 74 years. He was survived by three children: Mrs. David Hutchison, Mr. Frank Baxter, and Mrs. William Baxter.

He was married to Miss Catherine Johnson of Nielsville, Wisconsin on March 19, 1899.

Mr. Ole J. Ronglie was born in Norway, March 31, 1841 and immigrated to America in May of 1870. In 1872 he came to Traill County and settled on Section 10, Herberg Township. Mr. Ronglie was married on August 19, 1877 to Anna Bergithe Ronglie at Caledonia, North Dakota. To this union were born the following children: Ametie, George, Julia, Olga, Emma, Laura, Richard and Clarence. Mrs. Ronglie was born in Norway on August 25, 1849 and died January 30, 1930 at the age of 81 years. Mr. Ronglie died February 2, 1914 at the age of 73 years. They were buried in the Marsh River Cemetery, Norman County, Minnesota.

Mrs. J. M. Herberg was born in Lalse, Haugesund, Norway, December 24, 1845 and was married to J. M. Herberg on May 19, 1863. They and their three children came to this country in 1870, residing at Fairbault, Minnesota one year prior to coming to the Dakota Territory. They filed on a homestead in Herberg Township and lived there until moving to Halstad, Minnesota in 1917. Mr. Herberg died two years later. Herberg Township is named for them.

Mrs. Herberg died January 16, 1935 at the age of 89 years, who was survived by three daughters: Mrs. Theresa Rover, Mrs. Lena Tripp, and Mrs. John J. Johnson, and five sons: Thomas, Herbert, Albert, Eddie, and Thorolf.

Mr. Peder G. Ronglie was born June 22, 1835 in Narren, Norway. He and his wife were married in Fillmore County, Minnesota in 1870, prior to coming to the Dakota Territory in the spring of 1871, and settling on the North-east quarter of section 1, Herberg Township. There were eight children born to this marriage: Wilhelm, Sophia, Benna, Gerhard, Inga, Josephine, Nels, and Christine.

Mr. Ronglie died September, 1908 at the age of 73. Mrs. Ronglie (Ingeborg) died in November of 1907 at the age of 64. Interment was at the Lutheran Cemetery at Caledonia, North Dakota.

Mr. Nels A. Herre was born in Norway on August 14, 1852 and in 1860 immigrated to the United States, settling in Wisconsin. In 1877 he came to Dakota Territory and filed on a homestead in section 32 in Herberg Township.

He was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Sunfry who also was born in Norway in 1879. Nels Herre was one of the pioneer residents of Herberg Township. He died at the age of 74 years, 11 months and 23 days. Surviving him was his wife and one son: Hjalmer Herre. Burial was at the Riverside Cemetery at Hillsboro, North Dakota.

NORWAY TOWNSHIP



Even H. Moen was born Nov. 23, 1871 in Norway Township. He is believed to be the first white child born in Traill County. In a newspaper contest held in 1948, he was judged the oldest white man still living that was born in North Dakota. He was baptized and confirmed in the Aal Lutheran Free Church of Hillsboro, of which he was a charter member. He attended the Kaldor School.

Nov. 2, 1902, Even married Johanna Kongsli, daughter of Tjostle and Raunaug Longlie at Devils Lake with Rev. Alfred Fonkarlsrude performing the ceremony.

Even helped organize Deep River Lutheran Free Church of which he was a charter member and served as sexton, trustee and deacon at various times. He was active in other community affairs serving on the township and school boards.

In 1946 the family moved to Uphan. Even passed away Dec. 27, 1949. Both Even and his wife are buried in the Deep River Cemetery near Uphan.

Simon Kaldor was born April 24, 1838, in Oier, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway. He was the second oldest child of Ole and Anna Kaldor and immigrated to America to Freeborn Co., Minn.

Simon Kaldor reached the banks of the Goose River in June, 1870. That evening the prairie scout followed the Goose River westward to the place where Hillsboro now stands.

He was a charter member of Aal Luth. Church. He owned land and lived here his entire life. He had never married. He died at the home of his brother, Mathias Kaldor, in Hillsboro, N. Dak., and is buried in Aal Cemetery. He died in 1912.



Lars A. Bakkum was born Dec. 19, 1842 at Bjorgehagen Fodevang Ringebo, Norway. He arrived in Traill County in the spring of 1875 from Coon Valley, Wisconsin. He filed a claim located in the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 28 Twp. 146 N.R. 51 Traill County. He went back to Wisconsin in the fall and came back the next spring with his bride, Johanne Lokken, born Dec. 25, 1852 at Oier Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. Johanne and Lars were married April 2, 1876 at Coon Valley, Wisc. They had 10 children: Albert, Julius, Christian, Sophie, Ann, John, Clara, Bennie, Lena, Peder. There are 5 children still living, they are: Anna (Mrs. John C. Kaldor) Clara (Mrs. M. A. Ulland) Bennie, Lena (Mrs. Joe Dammen) and Peder. In their early years they were members of the Aal Lutheran Church, but later transferred to Our Saviours Lutheran Church at Hillsboro, N. Dak. Lars passed away Aug. 16, 1932 and his wife Johanne, Sept. 9, 1931. They are both buried at the Aal cemetery.

Lars Evenson Moen Hillsboro N. Dak. born in Etnedalen Valdres, Norway July 22, 1825. He arrived in Traill Co. June 21, 1871. He settled on the No.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of sec. 20 Twp. 146N. R. 51 W. He came from Freeborn Co., Minn. In 1854 he married Ingri Mikkelsdatter Oien. She died in 1858. On April 9, 1860 he married Joran Arnesdatter. They were both from Norway. Their children were-by his first marriage—Even, Gjertrud, Ingeri. By second wife—Joran, Marit, Arne, Maria, Inger, Elise, Julia, Louis.

He was a member of Aal Church. He died May 6, 1906 and is buried in Aal Cemetery.



Christian Kaldor was born June 27, 1844 at Oier Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. He emigrated to America and lived for a time in La Crosse, Wisc. While there he worked in a tailor shop as he was a professional tailor. He later moved to Freeborn County, Minn. His wife Ragnhild Jahr, born Feb. 1, 1846 was also born at Oier Gudbrandsdalen, Norway and they came to America together. Christian, and his wife Ragnhild and their two daughters Anna, Malla came to Dakota Territory June 21, 1871. They (Christian) located in the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 28, Twp. 146 N. R. 51. Christian and Ragnhild had 10 children: Anna, Malla, Thea, Ole, Theodore, Carl, Edward, John, Julia, Jennie. Christian & Ragnhild were charter members of Aal Lutheran Church. Christian passed away June 16, 1909 and Ragnhild Dec. 29, 1931.



Gilbert H. Moen was born in Norway Township in 1874, the son of Hans and Sigri Moen. He was baptized and confirmed in Aal Lutheran Church and attended the "Kaldor" School. He homesteaded at Pleasant Lake in 1899. In 1902, he married Ida E. Moen, daughter of Even Larson Moen, who came to the Goose River Valley on June 21, 1871. Ida was a member of the second graduating class of the Mayville Normal in 1896, and taught in the community five years.

They had eight children: Anna, Ellen, Josie, Ingvald, Martha, Lawrence, Margaret, and Glenn.



Marit Haugen Berg was born in Elnedalen, Valdres, Norway, Feb. 8, 1841. According to records from Norway she was married to Ole Nielson Solbrekken on April 13, 1867. Here in America he called himself Ole N. Berg. Their oldest son Nels, was born in Norway. Mr. Berg immigrated to America first, and after a few years provided his wife and son with a ticket so they could join him here. They resided in Clayton County, Iowa, after which they moved to the Goose River Valley. They raised a family of six, two of them died of diphtheria in 1882.

Mrs. Berg passed away Jan. 17, 1927, and Mr. Berg in 1923. Both are buried at Aurdahl Cemetery.



Knut Haugen was born in Etnedalen, Valdres, Norway, on Jan. 12, 1843.

Knut, his parents, and his brother, Ole, immigrated to America, coming to the state of Wisc. He married Kjersti Rodningen in 1870. In 1873, after a brief stay at Silver Lake, Iowa, they, together with their daughter, Marie, Knut's father Ole, and Kjersti's parents and brothers, arrived at the Red River Valley, July 10, 1873, and homesteaded in Traill County. Three of their children died in the diphtheria epidemic of 1882.

He was a charter member of the Aurdal Church and was very much concerned about young folks getting their religious training (parochial school). His last words were, "Glem ikke mission og presteskolen!"

Knut died in June, 1922, and Kjersti passed away in June, 1924.



Even Larson Moen, oldest son of Lars E. Moen, was born in Etnedalen, Valdres, Norway, Jan. 31, 1854. At the age of 13 he came to America with his father, mother and 7 younger brothers and sisters.

He came to the Goose River Valley, June 21, 1871, by covered wagon and "squatted" on land 8 miles northwest of what is now Portland.

The Forks Post Office was established Dec. 2, 1871, with Even Moen commissioned as the postmaster on Jan. 12, 1880.

On Jan. 1, 1877, Even married Anna O. Bakken. Three children were born to them.

Even died at the early age of 26 on Nov. 19, 1881, from tuberculosis, and his wife died three years later from typhoid fever.

Even and his family were pioneer members of Aurdal Luth. Church of Portland.



Mathias Kaldor, Hillsboro, N. Dak., was born April 2, 1847 in Oier, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, and immigrated to America in 1868 to Freeborn County, Minn. He arrived in Traill County by covered wagon, June 22, 1871. He settled on the N.E. 1/4-29-146-51.

He married Gryi Evenson on Aug. 5, 1874, who had immigrated to America in 1868 from Etnadalen,

Norway. Their children were: Anna, Gina Kaldor Skjonsberg, Oscar, Bella, Anna Kaldor Skar, Enock, and Olga Kaldor Simengaard.

He was a charter member of Aal Luth. Church which was the first organized church in Dak. Territory.

He died in Norway Township, May 22, 1924 and is buried in the Aal Cemetery.



Sigri Evenson Moen was born in Nordre Aurdal, Valdres, Norway, Aug. 12, 1837. She was married at Brufat Oct. 19, 1867 to Hans Arneson at Lundemoen.

To earn money so they could come to America, Hans worked in the fishing industry at Synmore. In the spring of 1868 they left by sailboat for Albert Lea, Minn.

Arriving in Freeborn County, they cut logs on State land to build for themselves a dugout home in a small hill by Albert Lea. They were members of the Round Prairie Congregation.

In the spring of 1871, they left by covered wagon for the Red River Valley reaching Norway Township on June 21, 1871, the date of the first settlement in the Goose River Valley.

Sigri's husband died Dec. 28, 1903, and Sigri passed away May 3, 1925 and are buried at Aal Cemetery, Hillsboro, N. D.

Anders Kaldor was born in Oier Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, Sept. 19, 1841. His parents were Ole and Anne Kaldor. His wife, Anne Maria Olsdatter Rugsven, was born Aug. 14, 1844 at Oier Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. They were married in Norway. They homesteaded along the Goose River in 1873, on part of the S.E. 1/4 of Sec. 20 Twp. 146 N. R. 51. Anders and Anne had 7 children: Anna, Oluf, Ole, Olena, Agathe, Andrew, Marie.



Arne L. Moen, Hillsboro, N. Dak., born June 9, 1864 in Etnedal, Valdres, Norway, and came to Traill County June 21, 1871. He settled on the N.W. ¼ Sec. 20, 146N. 51 W. He came from Freeborn Co. Minn. He married Thora Oen in 1898. She came from Norway in 1886 and settled near Minot, N. Dak. on a ranch. Their children are Marie, Clara, Leon, Jennie, Anna, Albert.

He was a member of Aal Church and served as deacon for 20 years. They farmed in Norway Twp. until 1924 when they retired and moved to Mayville.

He died shortly before his 79th birthday and is buried in Aal's Cemetery.

His father's name was Lars Evenson Moen who was born in Norway and came to Traill Co. June 21, 1871



where he was a farmer. His mother's name was Joran, who was also born in Norway.

Mrs. Gjertrude Evenson Arnegaard was born Aug. 24, 1846, and baptized Oct. 18, 1846 in Nordre, Aurdal, Valdres, Norway. She left Norway April 14, 1869, on a small vessel called the Concordia, landing in Quebec, Can. She lived in Wis. and parts of Minn. before coming to the Dakota Territory in 1873, traveling by train and covered wagon.

She married Iver Arnegard in 1874, and they settled where the Woodland park is now located in Hillsboro. After living there one year, they moved to Norway Township, Traill County.

In 1892, Iver, at the age of 33, was killed by a runaway team of horses, leaving Gjertrude a widow with five children. She continued living on the farm making a living for her children.

Gjertrude lived to be almost 93 years of age, passing away July 24, 1939, and is buried in Aal Lutheran Cemetery near Hillsboro.

ELDORADO TOWNSHIP



Ole N. Ydstie pioneer resident of Eldorado Township was born at Stjordalen, Prestegjeld, Trondhjem, Norway May 9, 1851. At the age of 16 years he came to America settling at Clayton County, Iowa. Mr. Ydstie settled on a homestead in Eldorado Township in June, 1878.

On Dec. 28, 1873 he was united in marriage to Miss Astre Olson in Clayton County, Iowa. To this union were born seven children: Nellie (Mrs. Henry Hausman), Bergitta, Henry, Alma, Hanna (Mrs. Henry Bjelland) Ida, and John.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Ydstie retired from farming in 1909 when they moved into Hillsboro and Mr. and Mrs. John Ydstie took over the farming interests in Eldorado Twp.

Mrs. Ole Ydstie passed away November, 1924 and Mr. Ydstie passed

away September 12, 1927 at the age of 76 years and four months.

Burial was made in the St. Olaf Cemetery.

Ole J. Hanson was born in Alma, Iowa June 10, 1856. He resided at Spring Grove, Minnesota before coming to Traill County in 1879. He then took up a homestead in Eldorado Township where he continued to reside until his death.

He was united in marriage to Miss Live Swenson of Spring Grove, Minnesota and to this union eight children were born: Mrs. W. C. Mergenthal, Mrs. Carl S. Anderson, Oscar, Luyon, Lena, Teman, Elvina and Agnes Hanson.

He was county commissioner from 1909 until the time of his death. He died March 6, 1922 at Grand Forks, North Dakota. His remains were laid to rest in the Riverside Cemetery at Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Asle Engerbretson was born in Nore, Prestegjeld, Nummedal, Norway, June 25, 1857. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean at the age of 16 years with his parents and a sister to join his brothers who had previously settled in Clayton County, Iowa. In 1879, he with his father and mother, came to Traill County arriving at Caledonia, North Dakota with but \$2.50.

In 1888 he was married to Miss Annie Bergstrum, a native of Wisconsin.

Anulf Stenerson was born in Nummedal, Norway May 19, 1856. He came to the United States with his parents in 1860 and settled in Mitchell County, Iowa. He taught school in Iowa for about three years and in the spring of 1878 he came to North Dakota. During the summer of that year he filed claim to the southwest quarter in section 6, Eldorado Township, Traill County.

He taught the first school in Eldorado Township which was in October of 1879. He received twenty dollars a month and board for this.

In January of 1882 he was married to Miss Gunel Peterson. Four children were born to this marriage: Stephen, Tilda, Thomas and Carl Stenerson.

John Lindberg was born in Sweden, August 29, 1845. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. S. E. McCallum, of Los Angeles, California, September 23, 1927 at the age of 82 years. He came to America as a young man, first residing at Rockford, Illinois. Here he was married and lived for a number of years.

About 1889 he leased his farm and moved to Monticello, Minnesota where they lived for a number of years.

Mr. & Mrs. Lindberg had four children; Mrs. S. E. McCallum, Ludia Lindberg, Mrs. Alice Applegate and one son. Mrs. Lindberg died in Monticello, Minnesota.

Torger Brenden was born in Skabo, Nordre From, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway February 16, 1854. He immigrated to America at the age of 15 years, leaving Norway in July of 1870. He moved to Traill County in 1878 where he took up a homestead. The following winter he worked for John Little, a Caledonia, North Dakota storekeeper.

On November 8, 1882, Mr. Brenden married Miss Bertha Blegeberg of Spring Grove, Minnesota. To this union were born five children, John and Oliver (dead); and survivors at his death January 13, 1930, were Mrs. Clara Aasen, Alfred, and George. He was a resident of Eldorado Township for 50 years. Interment was made in the St. Olaf Church Cemetery.

Henry Strom came to Traill County with his parents in the spring of 1878 from Elgin, Fayette County, Iowa by team and covered wagon. The Strom family settled on the south-west quarter in section 10, Eldorado Township.

Mr. Strom was born February 10, 1876 and was married to Miss Laura Laeson on August 7, 1902. She died April 11, 1918. On March 29, 1920 he was married to Miss Ida Jahnke. To this union were born the following children: Lloyd, Joseph, Nanda, Selma, John Ione, Marlene, and Janis.

Mr. Strom had been a school clerk and a member of the legislature for a number of years.

Mrs. Marit Olson was born in Norway July 28, 1855. She left Christiania, Norway in the summer of 1876, leaving her mother and father behind in the home-land. After arriving in New York she traveled by rail to McGregor, Iowa where she stayed with relatives, and while there, she met Johannes Olson. They were married on January 29, 1878.

The couple started out for the Dakota Territory that same year in a covered wagon to begin life in the "New Country." Nine children were born to this marriage: Living are Mrs. Marie Lerom, Ole Olson, Mrs. Clara Hanson, Laura Olson and Ruby Swalstad.

Mr. Olson died on the farm in 1915 and in 1920 Mrs. Olson moved to Hillsboro, North Dakota where she lived for about five years.

Hebjorn Strom was born in Nore, Prestegreid, Nummedal, Norway, January 27, 1846 and was the eldest in a family of four children. He came to America at the age of 22 years. They prospected through the county from Caledonia to Northwood, North Dakota through Grand Forks

County and down the Red River and back to Caledonia. By this time most of the land along the Red River had been claimed. Mr. Strom filed a claim to the south-west quarter of section 10 in Eldorado Township where he resided until his death.

Mr. Strom was married in 1875 to Miss Guri Halvorsatter who was born in Brevig, Norway. Six children were born to this union. They were: Henry, Lewis, Otto, John, Clara, and Martin. In 1888 he was elected County Commissioner for the second district and served one year resigning to accept a seat in the lower house at the first session of the state legislature. He served in this capacity for three terms. Following his service as representative he was elected a member of the State Senate.

Mr. Strom died June 8, 1917 at Grand Forks at the age of 71 years. He was buried at the St. Olaf Cemetery.

Peter Olson was born July 14, 1843. He came to America and settled on a farm in Eldorado Township, Traill County, North Dakota. Here he lived until his wife died July 29, 1911. Later he suffered a paralytic stroke and had to retire from farming. He died November 28, 1920.

He was survived by four sons and three daughters: Olaf, Albert, Willie and John Olson, Clara, Anna, and Gunda, and his wife. Two children preceded him in death. He was buried in the St. Olaf Cemetery.

Esten Halvorson was born in Christiania Stift, Norway, April 28, 1851. When he was 16 years old he came to America and went directly to Clayton County, Iowa where his half-brother resided. He remained there for about 10 years working as a farm laborer and dealing with horses. He invested in draft horses in Iowa and in the spring of 1877, drove overland to Caledonia, North Dakota. In the spring of 1878 he filed a claim to land section 10, Eldorado Township. In 1899 he leased his land and moved to Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Mr. Halvorson was married in 1878 to Miss Inga Olson, she died in 1884. Three children were born to this marriage: May, Henry, and Lena. Mr. Halvorson was married to Miss Annie Grandin in 1890 and four children were born to them; Ida Josie, Lillie, and Ester. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He died March 16, 1900.

Henry Biermann was born in Neurenberg, Germany July 10, 1847. His mother died in 1853 and in 1859 his father and two children crossed the Atlantic and arrived in New Orleans

shortly after Christmas. From there they took a steamer up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Missouri.

Although but fourteen years of age, Mr. Biermann enlisted, August 14, 1861 in Company G., Twelfth Missouri Volunteer Infantry. Peo Ridge was the first engagement and then followed Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Look-out Mountain, and the battle of Atlanta. He served a little over three years before he was mustered out on September 3, 1864. In the fall of 1877 he came to the Dakota Territory.

Mr. Biermann was married December 17, 1870 to Miss Augusta Hausmann. Eleven children were born to this union; William, Louisa, John, Katie, Amelia, Emile, Hammon, Henrietta, Carl and Alfred. He was the victim of a fatal accident on November 14, 1908 and was buried in the Immanuel Lutheran German Cemetery.

Herman Riemer was born in Providence Posen, Germany, Dec. 8, 1849. He served in the German army and saw service in the Franco-Prussian War—1870-71. He was married in 1876 to Otilie Goshinska.

They immigrated to America in 1893, settling in Eldorado Township. At one time he farmed nine quarters of land and was known as a bonanza farmer.

Ten children were born to them: Rienhart, Martin, Herman, Otto, Leo, Martha, William, Elizabeth (Mrs. Norman McKenzie), Gustav, and Edward.

Burial was made in the Emmanuel Luth. Church Cemetery located in Eldorado Township, of which they were members.

Ole Hanson Baglien was born in Gulbrandsdalen, Norway, February 12, 1853. His oldest brother immigrated to America in 1869 and his glowing account of adventures in the new land lured his parents and the remaining six children to follow. In 1871, they joined a caravan of sixteen covered wagons heading into the unknown "west." They came to Ottertail County, Minnesota and in March of 1878, Mr. Baglien continued to Traill County, North Dakota where he took up a homestead in Eldorado Township.

Mr. Baglien was married to Miss Maren Tofsrud of Spring Valley, Minnesota. Mrs. Baglien died July 3, 1947 at the age of 84 years and Mr. Baglien died July 11, 1936 at the age of 83 years. Both Mr. & Mrs. Baglien were buried in the Riverside Cemetery. Ten children were born to them. The 7 living were: Mrs. John Fisher, Arlin, Benjamin, Mrs. Ted Bahnson, Hilbert, Samuel and Jerome.

ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP

Early Settlers

F. C. Harrington, Maine	144-49	Sec. 26.	1882.
Geo. H. F. Johnson, Canada	144-49	Sec. 26.	1874.
Thos. Knox, Canada	144-49	Sec. 30.	1878.
David Martin, Canada	144-49	Sec. 30.	1877.
Ilex Smart, Canada	144-49	Sec. 22.	1878.
J. L. Anderson			
Stewart McCrady			
Christ Olson			
John Weller			

Bryngel B. Rover was born at Rover, near Haugesrend, Norway. On May 17, 1852, at the age of seventeen years, he left his native country first stopping at Kenyon, Goodhue County, Minnesota where he remained for three years, coming to Traill County in 1876.

He filed on a claim in the Elm River Township and also took up a tree claim. On December 20, 1878 he was married to Miss Marie Gunhus of Kenyon, Minnesota.

Mr. & Mrs. Rover were the parents of five children; Helen (Mrs. Nels Lundass), Emma, Cora (Mrs. Fred Severts), and two boys who died in infancy. Mr. Rover died August 25, 1927.

William Grady was born in Ontario, Canada in 1873 and at the age of six years, along with his family, immigrated to North Dakota, and in 1879 took up a homestead in what is now called "Elm River Township." He lived there until 1911 when he moved to Lankin, North Dakota and entered into the veterinary business.

He was buried at the Quincey Cemetery in Traill County on March 24, 1930.



FROM HERE AND THERE



Erick Johnson was born in Haaland, Norway, December 10, 1849. In 1870 he landed in New York.

He went to Decorah, Iowa and worked at farm labor and whatever other work he could do.

Julia Olson was born October 26, 1859 in Bergen, Norway and came to the United States when seven years old. Her parents settled in Spring Grove, Minnesota.

On January 19, 1876 they were married at Spring Grove.

On June 25, 1878, Mr. & Mrs. Johnson came to Dakota Territory. Mr. Johnson took a pre-emption in the N.W. ¼ section 12 of Ervin Township.

Mr. Johnson passed away April 14, 1914 and Mrs. Johnson on March 25, 1949, and both are buried at the Highland Cemetery. They were members of the Highland Church.

They were the parents of 11 children, the living are: Henry, Oscar, Bennie, Inez Kuchenbecker, and Claire Anderson. The deceased are: John Arnt, Gustav Adolph, William Claus, Edward Adolph, Evelyn Falciade and Emma Nash.

Ole O. Hovde was born October 23, 1840 at Hovde, Bratin in Beridalen, Gjorvik, Nodre Land, Norway. He emigrated to the United States when he was twenty-six years old, arriving in Ophert, Wisconsin. He married Mari Gulbrandson in May, 1871. Miss Gulbrandson was born February 12, 1842 in Torpen, Nodre Land, Nor-

way and emigrated to America in 1867, landing in Quebec at the age of twenty-five. Shortly after the Hovde-Gulbrandson marriage they arrived first in Ottertail, Minnesota. Mrs. Hovde, weary from the long journey remained here while her husband continued on the excursion. Ole selected a site on the banks of the Goose River near Hillsboro, North Dakota and a few days later returned to Ottertail for his wife, Mari. Three children were born to Ole and Mari Hovde, all of whom made their home at Hillsboro: Maria Gelina (Mrs. William Hewitt), Mathea (Mrs. Even A. Nelson), and Ole.

Mari Hovde died Feb. 19, 1929, being preceded in death by her husband, Ole, about four years earlier. Nov. 15, 1924.

Adolph Vinje was born in Gjemso, Lofoten, Norway. He arrived in Traill County on June 20, 1898 by train. Upon arrival here he settled on the northeast quarter in Section 28, Township 147, Range 52.

After several years in this country he married Inga Karstad on March 3, 1906. She was originally from Jevnaker, Norway, leaving there for America in May 1896. From this marriage were born six children; Clara, John, Ida, Erling, Myrtle and Alf.

He was a member of the First American Lutheran Church in Mayville.

Adolf K. Vinje died on November 11, 1962 and buried in the Bruflat cemetery at Portland, North Dakota. His wife still resides at Mayville, North Dakota.



Mr. & Mrs. Ole Anderson came to Traill County in July, 1886 and settled on the NW 1/4 of section 23 in Ervin Township.

Mr. Anderson was born December 24, 1862 at Aasness, Solor, Norway and he came to the United States when he was 21 years old.

Caroline Johnson was born April 14, 1863 at Aasness, Solor, Norway. She came to America in July 1883 and was married the following month to Ole Anderson.

They lived at Cummings in Ervin Township all their lives with the exception of five years, from 1910 to 1915, when they lived at Froid, Montana.

Mr. & Mrs. Anderson were the parents of six children: John M., Mayville; Melfred of Kalispell, Montana; Bena and Marie of Great Falls, Montana; Ida Christine who died in September 1921 and Henry O. who died in March, 1957.

Mr. & Mrs. Anderson were members of the Highland church. Mr. Anderson served on the Highland church board and the Ervin School board.

Mrs. Anderson died in March 1938 and Mr. Anderson died in December, 1950.

Christ Amund Hong was born in Lille Hammar, Gubrandsdalen, Norway, on April 30, 1865.

He came to Buxton Territory in 1884 at the age of nineteen, and worked on the Reeves farm. In 1892, he opened a hardware store and tin

shop at Buxton, which he operated for 40 years before retiring in 1932.

Mr. Hong was married in 1904 to Martha Anderson of Hillsboro. Seven children were born to them: Mae, Curtis, Clifford, Lloyd, Nora, Arlyn, and another daughter.

He was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Buxton.

He died June 30, 1949, at the age of 84 years, and was buried in the Buxton Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Olson immigrated to the United States from Norway, coming to Traill County and Belmont Twpt. in the early 1880s. They lived and farmed there the rest of their lives. The following children were born to them: Henry, Ole, Pete, Lena, Albert, Halvor Jr., Rendina, and Lars. They belonged to the Ringsaker Church, and are buried in that church cemetery. Mr. Olson was born in 1858 and died in 1924. We have no information on Mrs. Olson.

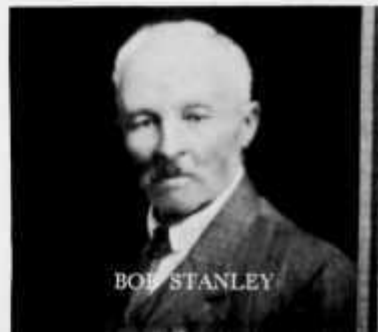


Knut Ingvaldson was born in Huston County, Minn. July 11, 1859. His wife was born in Skudenes, Norway, she came to the United States in 1882. They were married in 1883, and bought land in Belmont Twpt. where they lived the rest of their lives. They had one son Ingvald, and one daughter Hannah. Mrs. Ingvaldson was born Dec. 3, 1855. They belonged to the Ringsaker Church, and are buried in that Church Cemetery.

Mr. Charles L. Gordon settled in Bingham Township in 1875. An interesting story told by Mr. Gordon was: "One day shortly after he settled in Bingham he met a young stalwart looking man while plowing. The man, who had been riding leisurely along on a buckskin pony talked to him for a time and asked him what his ambitions were? Mr. Gordon replied," that he was going to make the farm his life's work. At this time the stranger tried to convince him that he could make more money and lead a more interesting life by coming with him although he did not say what type of business he was in. A short time later, the attempted bank robbery at Northfield, Minnesota took place. The famous James Brothers gang of robbers was broken up with nearly all its members being killed or captured. From descriptions of the men and information which he later received, Mr. Gordon discovered that it was Jesse James, himself, that had offered him a job.

Jimmy Wall and Bob Stanley were the "young 'uns" in a 35-team wagon train that hauled lumber in June, 1870, from Anoka, Minnesota, to Fort Pembina, Dakota Territory, then under construction. The boys had a tough lot. Breakfast of hard tack, black coffee, and baked beans at 3 a.m., dinner when they reached a water hole, and supper under like conditions. Their bed a spot under one of the wagons, their covers an overcoat wrapped about their heads as a defense against mosquitoes.

The trip over, they separated. A few years later, Stanley, a stage coach driver from Cannonball to Dedar River on the Deadwood, Bismarck line, expected to be held up any night. A band of masked men staged frequent holdups, seeking to take the stagecoach when it was loaded with gold. Missing the gold, they took watches and money from the men, but didn't touch the women. Somehow, Stanley's coach was never molested, even when he carried the gold safe. Finally the leader of the gang was killed in Cheyenne. He was Stanley's companion of wagon-train days—young Jimmy Wall.



DR GRASSICK



A man struggling blindly across the North Dakota prairie during a blizzard in the 1880s was saved from almost certain death by a strange sound in the night.

The noise was the bray of a mule, harsh, grating and discordant, but to the frenzied man searching for shelter, the sweetest music under heaven.

For although the cry was strange because mules were rare on the prairie, the numed man recognized it not as an hallucination but as a sign that a human habitation was nearby, and recovered hope and reached safety.

This tale is one of a number of intriguing sketches of the experiences of a pioneer country physician, Dr. James Grassick of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, who came to Buxton in Traill County to begin practice in 1885.

He set out with his horses and sleigh that bitter night toward a settler's home in response to a call for help, and was well on his way when the blizzard closed in.

The trail disappeared immediately and soon the horses plunged into a snow-filled ravine, where the sleigh was lodged beyond hope of extraction by either the doctor or his team.

He freed the horses, unhooking the tugs, unsnapping the reins and fastening them to the harness and detached the neckyoke before starting off in search of shelter.

The flying flakes were blinding and the snow deep as he began his almost hopeless journey through the cold and darkness. He feared it would be a long and difficult task, and he proceeded slowly to conserve his strength.

For hours he bent against the storm, plodding heavily through the drifts, seeking vainly to peer through the opaque curtain for the light in some cabin window.

He began to lose strength but his alarm gave him moments of vigor at times, yet he began to realize as the hours passed that he could not last much longer and that to stop and fall meant oblivion.

It was when his despair had begun to deepen into hopelessness that he heard the strident cry of the mule the first time.

He regarded it in the beginning as a dream. Then he heard it again and he hurried on toward it.

The first objects he made out were his own horses. They obviously had left the sleigh and found their way to this remote place. They were standing in the lee of a small lean-to building attached to the side of a settler's cabin.

The mule was not in sight but its braying disclosed that it was within the make-shift barn.

Its cries had aroused the homesteader and his wife, and when the doctor reached the door and rapped, they lighted a lamp and asked in Norwegian, "Who it it?"

The doctor stepped indoors and fell in a heap before them.

When he regained consciousness he found himself lying on sheepskins. The homesteader was holding one of his hands and his wife, Sigrid, was rubbing the other.

She gave him a cup of hot coffee and noting his utter weariness wrapped him up.

When he awoke, she was making breakfast.

"After a night of such strenuous effort," the doctor recalled, "I was 'under the weather' for a time, but I had youth (he was in his 30s) and a rugged constitution in my favor, and with these as allies I was shortly able to work again," Dr. Grassick said.

This is only part of the tale. As soon as he was able, the doctor returned to the humble home where he had found shelter and sought out the mule, which bore the name of Ole.

"I called to pay my respects and tender my thanks to Ole for his plebeian bray which in all human probability had averted a tragedy," the doctor said.

"He didn't seem to notice any of the fine words that were said in his capacious ears. He stood dumb and motionless, as much as to say, Why don't you speak in a language that I can understand?"

His sign language was duly interpreted and a generous helping of corn was given him.

This he understood. His eyes flashed and sparkled his thanks. His ears, which had been listlessly lopping, pricked up and swung alternately fore and back, expressive of pleasure and appreciation.

His head, which formerly hung desolately was up in the mid air, as

if he felt the dignity of his position as a life-saver and was proud of the part he had played.

I saw to it that regular corn rations were provided for Ole during the remainder of the winter.

A shiny hide and well-rounded quarters; were the spring reactions." Literary scholars could detect "symbolism" in this true life story of the prairie as they consider its elements—the animal, the humble home, and the struggle—and relate them to a life and episodes of nearly 2,000 years ago.

Certainly Dr. Grassick's life was spared for a good purpose. By the time of his death at 90 he had given nearly 50 years of faithful service to his fellows.

In the winter of 1880, Ole Loing, early settler in Bentru Township, stopped at the Robert Ray store in Belmont. Mr. Ray had a number of empty vinegar barrels standing alongside his store. Mr. Loing asked what he wanted for one of them. Mr. Ray said that if he could jump into the empty barrel he would give him one. Mr. Loing then told Mr. Ray that he had two very good neighbors, Peter Bye and Amond Erickson, that needed barrels, too. "Well," said Mr. Ray, "if you can jump into three barrels you can have them free, too." Mr. Loing then jumped into the three barrels.

A story from Frog Point runs as follows: "A certain blacksmith walked to Caledonia, a distance of 12 miles, and from there carried home a sack of blacksmith coal on his back.

One pioneer, living near where the Village of Buxton now is located, carried a breaking plow on his shoulders to the nearest blacksmith shop—ten miles away. Let's go!

One prairie schooner carried the following sign: "Frog Point, Traill County, Dakota Territory or bust, you bet."

AND SO WERE THE CHURCHES ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH"

—ACTS 16:5

ST. OLAF LUTHERAN



SANDHILL LUTHERAN



The St Olaf Congregation was organized December 28, 1878 by a group of immigrants who had come to homestead in what is now Eldorado Township.

Reverend B. N. Harstad became the first pastor and organizer.

The first church was built in 1892 and was destroyed by cyclone in 1900. A year later the present church was erected at a cost of \$2000. The site on which it stands was donated by *Hegbjorn Strom*.

The St Olaf Ladies Aid was organized in 1891. Their contributions to the upkeep and furnishings was a great help financially.

Religious instruction in the Norwegian language was provided for the children from the very beginning. Teachers were hired and board and room was furnished by the parents. The school term was usually two months.

The pastors who served St Olaf through the years have been: B. A. Harstad, John Tingelstad, J. R. Rorvik, George Lane, L. A. Haatvedt, O. Turmo, S. K. Thollehaug, O. P. Stavaas, N. G. W. Knutson, A. I. Tjornhom and C. T. Saveride who is the present pastor.

The Hillsboro parish was organized in 1884 with St Olaf as a part of the parish. The pastor resided at Hillsboro.

In 1918 as a result of the merger of the three Synods The Emmanuel Lutheran and the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Church both of Hillsboro United and took the name Our Savior's. The parish was reorganized and St Olaf continued in the parish.

An annex was added to the church in 1953 to serve as a dining hall and kitchen.

The 75th Anniversary of the congregation was celebrated in 1954. Several of its former pastors were present.

Miss Laura Olson, a daughter of the Congregation (recently retired), served for many years as a missionary in Madagascar.

The Reverend Ervin Ydstie, grandson of a charter member of the church is now serving a congregation in Wolford, North Dakota.

The Sandhill Congregation was organized August 12, 1872, at the Tollef Tollefson home. According to the records of the first secretary, Peder O. Satermo, the organizers, who also became charter members were: Peder O. Satermo, A. O. Tronnes, Gulbrand Amundson, Peder O. Estenson, Salve Olson, Gullik Salveson, Johan Bramseth, Elling T. Dokken, H. Heia, Tollef Tollefson, Nils Olson, Ole Estenson, Ole A. Estenson, Ole A. Tronnes, Ole Johnson Jevning, Knut Olson Ose, Thore Erickson, and Jorgen Knutson.

Rev. B. Hagebo, working in the interest of the Home Mission of the Northern Danish Conference, helped organize this congregation and became its first pastor. The church building was constructed in 1883, and served its members until the erection of a new edifice in 1959 and 1960. Dedication ceremonies for the new church were held on November 20, 1960. The old church built by the pioneers, which had been a landmark, was torn down.

Various auxiliary organizations have helped build this congregation into a fellowship of believers in the Christian faith. The Ladies Aid had its inception on October 27, 1876, at the Ole Estenson home. Sixteen ladies were present.

The church choirs, Sunday School and the Luther League have all played an important part in the Christian education and inspiration of its members.

Pastors who have served this congregation in the order of their services are: Pastors B. Hagebo, O. Bostad, Chr. Saugstad, H. J. Villevik, Chr. Ytrehus, Lonne, J. Bromo, O. N. Bergh, H. A. B. Winther, Ludvig Pederson, N. Halvorsen, C. J. Christianson, Louis Olson, and C. J. Carlsen. The congregation is served at the present time by Pastor N. C. Anderson.



FIRST LUTHERAN

A day that will never be forgotten by the people of Eldred is December 14, 1939, for that was the day in which the church was dedicated.

This little congregation had been looking forward to this day ever since June 17th, 1914. It was then that an organization was completed, bearing the name, "First Lutheran Community Church of Eldred," with J. O. Ensrud as pastor.

The charter members of this first organization were: B. E. Bredlie, R. Carlson, A. A. Dragseth, J. E. Eig, C. J. Gilbert, Hans Glasrud, T. E. Johnson, O. M. Kasberg, J. O. Nyberg, Anton Peterson, M. O. Sivle, P. H. Solstad, E. W. Swanson, Alf Thorson, and Geo. E. Wise.

The congregation was served by Rev. J. O. Ensrud from 1914 to 1916. Rev. H. M. Tjernagel served from 1917 to March, 1918, and Rev. J. N. Dordal from 1918 to 1921. Services were held in the Eldred School until the time when the new church was completed. From 1921 to 1927 church activities in Eldred were at a stand still.

Services were resumed in May, 1927, by Rev. E. A. Schuett, Pastor of Our Saviors Lutheran Church of Crookston, under whose leadership a reorganization of the congregation took place on August 3, 1928. The congregation was organized on strictly Lutheran principals.

It was decided at a meeting February 16, 1930, by the congregation to build a church. On June 29th the corner stone was laid. The church was built and designed by August Jurchen of Eldred.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, Dec. 14, 1930, with some 320 "pressed" into the building. It was a day of exceeding joy for the people of Eldred to find their prayers were heard and the church was completed.

Pastor Schuett served the congregation until 1951; Pastor V. T. Trahus, then assistant pastor served until 1952 when Pastor H. E. Sieving came in 1952 and served until 1961. Pastor Eyrick Hanson came in 1961 and is presently serving the congregation.



NEW STAVANGER

New Stavanger congregation was organized in 1881 by Pastor Bergsven Anderson, a traveling mission pastor of the Hauge Synod. Those present at the organization meeting were: Orm Boen, Osmund Ramsfeld, Gabriel Gunderson, Rasmus Riveland, Torger Ulledalen, Knute Lilleoe, Halvor Knudsvig, Peder Asheim, Osten Asheim, Osmund Thompson, Sivert Broe and Styrk Kvitne. The first regular pastor was Gustav O. Gjerstad who took up the work in 1885 and served until 1891. During Pastor Gjerstad's pastorate the church was built.

In the 1880's the congregation extended over an area of over twenty miles from east to west. The building of the church and organization of the congregation was a great achievement for these staunch early settlers.

In the year 1892, Rev. M. G. Hanson took over the work of the church. The same year the church building was completed and dedicated on Nov. 26. After five years of service, Pastor Hanson left and was succeeded by Rev. D. T. Borgen, who served until 1908.

During these early years, one of the most important activities for the congregation was the parochial school. This instruction was held each summer in the different districts of the congregation's area. The entire family cooperated to make the closing day picnic one to be remembered by all.

As in the case of most congregations, one of the most helpful organizations of the church was the Ladies Aid. Because of the large area of the congregation, the Ladies Aid was organized into four groups: the West, the Town, the North, and the East. All four societies combined in an annual festival held in the town hall each fall. During the early history of the Ladies Aid, all proceeds were devoted to mission work and charities.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



From a tiny body of 18 persons and their meager resources but great determination the present United Church of Christ was founded over 73 years ago.

On June 25, 1891, a council of Congregational churches was held in the Methodist Church of Hillsboro. Mr. C. L. Leslie of Hillsboro addressed the group, presenting them with a letter signed by 27 Hillsboro citizens asking that a new church be formed here. Eighteen signified that they wished to become members, thus forming its beginning.

On July 12, 1891, Rev. Wm. L. Burdick of East Greenwich, R. I. answered a call to become the first pastor of the church.

Dedication of a new church was made on May 29, 1892 at which time it was completed and debt free.

Rev. Burdick resigned from the pastorate here a month after the church was completed. A student from the Hartford Theological Seminary supplied the pulpit until October of that year, when Rev. C. Y. Snell was hired.

To date the church has been served by 26 pastors.

In 1957 the Congregational Churches in America voted to become the United Church of Christ with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches. In June of 1963, the state conference of the Congregational churches dissolved and declared itself now to be the Conference of the United Church of Christ in North Dakota.

In the summer of 1963 the old parsonage was sold and a beautiful parsonage built in the east section of Hillsboro.

The congregation to date has a membership of some 140 members. The Rev. G. Robert Backer came as pastor beginning September of 1963.

ST. PETRI LUTHERAN



According to the church publication "Norske Lutherske Menigheter I Amerika" the St. Petri Congregation is listed as being organized on Oct. 11, 1874 with a total of 100 members that first year. Another source listed the date of organization as May 11, 1875. Since the early records of the congregation were destroyed by fire the exact date is difficult to establish.

The charter members as of May, 1875 were: Hans L. Gordon, Andrew L. Gordon, Lars H. Gordon, Charles L. Gordon, Anders O. Tronnes, Jorgen Johnson, Ole A. Tronnes, Johannes Jorgenson, Edward Tronnes, and Theodore Tronnes.

The decision to build a church was made in March, 1886, but the actual building did not take place until in 1887. The church was built on a site east of the Hans Bjornstad farm on a plot of land donated by the late Henry Simon, Sr. In 1896 the Great Northern Railway Co. laid its track through what became the present site of Nielsville and two years later the church was moved to its present site.

Pastors who have served St. Petri are: Rev. Bjug Aanondson Harstad, 1874-1880; Rev. Hans Pederson Solstad, 1877-1882; Rev. Peer Olson Stromme, 1880-1882; Rev. Anders C. Anderson, 1882-1890; Rev. Halvard Roalkvam, 1890-1892; Rev. Hans Olsen Skyberg, 1892-1893; Rev. Hans Johannessen Villesvik, 1893-1896; Rev. Johan-Theodor Bursett, 1896-1898; Rev. Ole Hanson Brodland, 1898-1911; Rev. Otto Johnson Lutnes, 1911-1916; Rev. Karl Stromme, 1922-1924; Rev. Ole Hanson Brodland, 1925-1939; Rev. Jacob Nelson Dordal, 1939-1940; Rev. Hans M. Finstad, 1940-1946; Rev. Orlando A. Lee, 1947-1954; Rev. Edward W. Johnshoy, 1955-.

CLIMAX LUTHERAN



As the ever increasing number of settlers entered the valley, they were compelled to seek locations farther from the Red River, west and east to the vicinity of the Sand Hill river. This is where the Skatvold and Climax congregations were organized. However, these two congregations were not the original ones in the valley. The early pioneers had organized congregations and built churches along the Red River, among them the Sand Hill Church to the north and the St. Petri Church at Nielsville to the south. Most of the people who later formed the Skatvold and Climax congregations were affiliated with one or the other of these churches.

Each congregation had its beginning with the organization of Ladies Aids, the first meeting in the Skatvold group being held November 6, 1890 at the home of Ole Lundberg.

Continuing until December, 1923, when the Skatvold congregation united with the Climax Congregation.

The Skatvold Congregation was organized January 25, 1894 by Rev. H. J. Villevik. The following pastors have served the Congregations: Rev. H. J. Villevik, January 25, 1894 to March 20, 1900; Rev. B. L. Sundal, April 13, 1900 to April 14, 1901; Rev. H. Ostgulen, May 5, 1901 to April 19, 1903; Rev. J. O. Brono, May 3, 1903 to June 1, 1905; Rev. O. N. Bergh, July 2, 1905 to June 3, 1917; Rev. H. A. B. Winther, June 14, 1917 to Nov. 20, 1921; Rev. N. Halverson, November 20, 1921 to June 4, 1922; Rev. Ludvig Pederson, June 4, 1922 to July 31, 1927; Rev. C. J. Christenson, October 16, 1927 to June 7, 1936; Rev. Louis Olson, November 1, 1936 to August 12, 1951; Rev. C. J. Carlsen, December 13, 1951 to Sept. 8, 1959; and, Rev. N. C. Anderson, April 13, 1960.

With the exception of Rev. Sundal and Rev. Ostgulen, all the above designated pastors served also the Climax Congregation.

The Climax Congregation also began with the organization of a Ladies Aid which was organized November 18, 1897.

Records indicate that the church was built in 1898.

The Skatvold and Climax Congregations were affiliated with the Lutheran Free Church and continued in this church organization until the merger with The American Lutheran Church, February 1, 1963.

STJORDALEN LUTHERAN



Stjordalen congregation was organized on July 22, 1882 at the home of Arent Lee. The Rev. C. J. M. Grnild of Hatton, who served as pastor of the congregation until 1895, was the organizing pastor.

In 1895, the congregation purchases a church building from St. John's, Hatton. The building was razed and then reassembled in its present location under the direction of Lorentz Trattli. A new pastor, the Rev. Louis S. Marvick, arrived in time to officiate with Pastors Albert Johansen, O. K. Quamme, B. Tollefson, and S. O. Braten in laying the cornerstone on Sept. 8, 1895. Pastor Marvick, who served until 1902, also introduced occasional English services, a radical innovation at the time.

The pastors serving Stjordalen were from the Hatton parish. In 1923, however, a new parish was formed of Stjordalen and Zion and St. Olaf's churches in Reynolds, with the pastor residing in Reynolds. The first pastor called to this new parish was the Rev. M. O. Ensberg, who served until 1931.

Recently the need for adequate classroom space required the building of an educational unit, which was dedicated on May 15, 1960 during the pastorate of the Rev. Victor Gilbertson who served the parish from 1953 to 1963.

AAL LUTHERAN

OLDEST LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NORTH DAKOTA



Aal Lutheran Church in Norway Township was organized Aug. 11, 1872, 14 months after the Moens and Kaldors arrived in the Goose River Valley. This organizational meeting was held at the home of Lars E. Moen with pioneer pastor Rev. Bernhard Hagboe of the Norwegian Danish conference present. The church was named Aal in honor of the place in Norway from whence some of the settlers had come. The full name was Aal Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Traill Co. Dakota Territory.

Among the families present at this meeting were: Christian Kaldors, Lars Evenson Moens, Andrew Pedersons, Hans Arneson Moens, Ole Ericksons, Ingebret Larsons, Erick E. Moens, Ole O. Strands, Halvor Olson Arne-gaards, Andrew Hansons, Mathias Kaldor, and Simon Kaldor.

Services were held in the homes of the pioneers the first years. Later when a school house was built, they held their services there.

At a business meeting of the congregation in 1883, it was decided to build a church. The church, although incomplete, was used for services in the fall of the same year. The altar was built by a pioneer miller, Mr. Kaut Lie, who later joined the congregation. He had learned the art of wood carving in Norway. There is considerable wood carving in its design which incorporates much Biblical symbolism.

The Aal Church is the oldest Lutheran Church in North Dakota and still is in use. The present pastor is Rev. Waldemar Anderson.

ROSENDAHL LUTHERAN

The Rosendahl Congregation was organized on March 1, 1891, by Pastor S. O. Braaten, who served the congregation until January 1, 1924, a period of almost thirty-three years. The Nazareth Congregation located seven miles north-east of Buxton, North Dakota was dissolved in 1892 to unite with the Rosendahl Congregation. Pastor Braaten had served that congregation also.

The first annual meeting of the Rosendahl Congregation dates back to December 7, 1893. The charter members were as follows: Ole H. Loing, Ole A. Tofslid, Martin Broderson, Halvor Hanson, Peter Bye, Even A. Tofslid, W. B. Wilson, Knut Sondreal, Amund Erickson, John Sanvik, S. A. Berg, Martin L. Holem, Ingebright K. Sondreal, S. O. Quammen, John Larson, and Ole A. Nelson.

It seems that the first building was completed in 1896 for \$1,545.00. This church building was, however, of short duration, as it was destroyed in a cyclone July 15, 1902. In the church at that time were eight young people who had gathered for choir rehearsal. Three of the young people were hurt; Ole Loing receiving a serious injury from which he died August 2nd of that year.

In 1903-1904 the present church building was erected.

The first Ladies Aid meeting was on June 21, 1891. The Luther League was organized under the supervision of Pastor Louis Olson of Climax, Minn., on April 3, 1938.

The congregation has been served by six pastors, namely; Rev. Sven O. Braaten, Rev. Ludvig Pederson, Rev. Louis Olson, Rev. Forest Monson, Rev. Carl Carlson, and at the present time, Rev. R. S. Aanestad.



ST. OLAF'S LUTHERAN



"St. Olaf's Norsk-Luterske Menighed" was organized Jan. 31, 1886 at Sven Ellingson's store in Reynolds. At this meeting Arne Haugen was elected president and Christian Vold, secretary. The first pastor was the Rev. Jens Iverson Lnné (1887-89).

The new congregation was placed in the Buxton parish which consisted of Buxton, Grue, North Prairie, and St. Olaf's. During the pastorate of the Rev. Gustav M. Oftedal (1889-1902), a parsonage was purchased in Buxton by the parish.

At first the congregation met in various homes and schools. It was finally decided to alternate between the C.C. rural school and the Methodist Church in Reynolds.

At the same time, a building committee was elected. They reported on Jan. 7, 1890, that the location of the church would be on the land of Gunnerus Sauerud in Americus township. By a vote of 13 to 9, the congregation decided to build on that site. Because of the number opposed, it was decided also to build a chapel in Reynolds for the convenience of the members there. With this compromise, the matter was settled and fund-raising began. Construction began in 1891 and the church was dedicated the following year.

With the church nearing completion in the country, however, the majority was no longer willing to build a chapel in Reynolds as originally planned. Sven Ellingson announced that he had 69 signatures of members in Reynolds who wished a church there, and that they wished to remain in St. Olaf's congregation, as the original plan had been. On Jan. 14, 1892, the majority again voted against building the chapel in Reynolds. The Reynolds members then resigned from the congregation "because it was too far to church (paa grund af for lang kirkevei)." The Ladies Aid also divided at the same time.

The Reynolds group met at Sven Ellingson's store on Jan. 21, 1892, to plan their building and the name of Zion was chosen for the congregation. The church was constructed the next year. The congregation was served by pastors from Hillsboro.

St. Olaf's was often visited by the Red River Valley Inner Mission, which held prayer meetings and attempted to "awaken" the people. The most significant of these "awakenings" was during the 1898 meetings. The peni-

tential, severe pietism of the Inner Mission meetings has greatly influenced the piety of the congregation.

In 1923, St. Olaf's and Zion, together with Stjordalen Congregation, decided to form a parish, and in 1926 the present parsonage in Reynolds was completed.

Pastors who have served these congregations are: Jens Iverson Lonne, Gustav M. Oftedal, Ole T. Nelson, Thore Johnson Gronningen, Martin Oliver Ensberg, Peter Oas, Michael Luthre, Thomas Gabrielson, A. E. Norson, G. Victor Eilbertson, and at present Win Mott.

ZION LUTHERAN





RINGSAKER LUTHERAN

The Ringsaker Lutheran Free Church was organized in 1891 with the leadership of Rev. C. Saugstad. A tract of land for the building and cemetery was purchased from Robert Ray. The church building was constructed in 1892 at a cost of \$4,240. The parsonage, built in conjunction with the Climax and Sandhill Congregations cost \$3000. Charter members of the Ringsaker Congregation were: Knute Renslen, E. O. Myrland, Ole Vetter, A. Arneson, Ole Rust, T. H. Thompson, Knute Rauk, S. J. Knutson and Martin Thompson. T. H. Thompson was its first secretary and he served until 1936.

The first church building was destroyed by a tornado on July 15, 1902. For fifteen years services were held in the Belmont school house. A new church was constructed on the same site in 1918. Pastors who have served the Ringsaker Congregation are, in the order of their service: H. J. Villevik, C. K. Yrehus, J. H. Brono, O. N. Bergh, H. H. Winter, L. Peterson, C. J. Christianson, Karl Stromme, C. J. Carlsen, L. B. Satter. Rev. N. C. Anderson is the present pastor. The Ringsaker Congregation is now affiliated with the American Lutheran Church.

The Ringsaker Ladies Aid was organized June 30, 1892, at the Ole Engen home (which later became the S. J. Nesvig farm). Mrs. Mary Cooper was chosen its first president, Mrs. Sigrid Thompson, secretary, and Mrs. Maline Engen, Treasurer. The first years of this organization, the ladies worked in two groups, the South and the North Ladies Aid, because of the distances involved and limited means of transportation. In the fall of 1920 the two groups united as one Ladies Aid.

During the years the women of the church, sewed, crocheted and knitted. Their first auction was held Nov. 5, 1892, with S. K. Knutson the auctioneer. A sum of \$283.55 was raised. Through the efforts of the Ladies Aid the church received its furnishings. The cyclone resulted in the complete destruction of the church property. True to their pioneer spirit, the ladies helped rebuild and equip the new church. They also contributed to missions and other charitable organizations, and were primarily dedicated to the spreading of the Gospel.

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN

Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Hillsboro, North Dakota, came into existence on June 25, 1917. It would be a mistake, however, to assume that the history of this church dates back no further than 1917. Actually, it finds its historical origins in the 1870's with the inception of Lutheran Church work among the early settlers in this area. Ultimately, this work resulted in the formation of the two congregations in Hillsboro

which later merged to form the present Our Savior's Lutheran Church" was organized in 1883 with the Rev. Jens Lane as its first resident pastor. The other was organized on June 12, 1892, and called "Immanuel Lutheran Church. Its first resident pastor was the Rev. J. R. Rorvik.

Besides the Rev. Jens Lane, who served from 1883 to 1897, the following pastors served the Hillsboro Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church: Pastor Christopher Yrehus, 1897-1899; Pastor Anders Houkom, 1899-1906; and Pastor L. M. Skunes, 1906-1917. Succeeding Pastor Rorvik, who served the Immanuel Lutheran Church until 1902, were Pastor George Lane, 1902-1907 (The Rev. Lane was the first pastor to preach a sermon in the English language in Hillsboro's Synod Church); Pastor L. A. Haatvedt, 1907-1908; Pastor Olaf Turmo, 1908-1911; Pastor S. K. Tollehaug, 1911-1917.

Hillsboro now had two Norwegian Lutheran Churches. On June 25, 1917, a joint meeting was held which resulted in the decision to merge and the adoption of a constitution and by-laws. The newly organized church was named, "Our Savior's Norwegian Lutheran Church." Its first pastor, the Rev. O. P. Stavaas, served from 1917 to 1920. He was succeeded by Pastor N. G. W. Knutson, 1920-1926; Pastor A. T. Tjornhom, 1926-1941. The present pastor, Rev. C. F. Savereide, was installed on Dec. 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor day) and continues to serve the congregation.

On January 13, 1924, a disastrous fire destroyed the old frame church which had served the congregation so well for many years. In 1928 the present gothic brick structure was erected.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new educational building were held on June 2, 1957.



BARDO LUTHERAN



Bardo Norwegian Evang. Luth. Church was organized Dec. 1, 1878 by Rev. C. Saugstad. The first members were Mathias Christiansen, O. K. Quamme, Ole Olson, John J. Bonnes, Jens F. Aspaas, Aners B. Anderson, John B. Anderson, Martin Finseth, John P. Olson, Samson G. Hilde, Christian M. Urseth, Jens C. Peterson, Nels N. Kaarstad, Hans O. Urseth, S. M. Christenson, Ole Nelson, & Jens Peterson.

The pastors who have served the congregation are: Rev. C. Saugstad, 1882-95; Mickelson, 1895-96; Sundal, 1896-1901; P. S. Vang, 1901-05; Peter Steen, 1905-15; John Hjelmeland, 1915-18; H. A. B. Winther 1919-20; I. Hovland, 1920-27; Christensen, 1927;31; Louis Olson, 1931-39.

In 1939, the church became inactive. Members joined other congregations.

HIGHLAND LUTHERAN

It was at a meeting at the Ole Lilleberg home, on December 8, 1879, that a group of pioneering Traill county farm people, who had settled in what is now Ervin township, organized Highland Lutheran congregation.

Charter members who signed the congregation role as an out-growth of that first meeting were: Ole J. Lilleberg family, George S. Lilleberg family, Elias Lilleberg family, Christoffer Tromson family, Gulbrand Nielson family, John K. Alstad family, Tollef Finniseth, Andrew Iverson, Christian Sandvig, John E. Lilleberg, & Halvor Smette.

Elected first trustees of the new congregation were H. A. Nash, Borger Johnson and Elias J. Lilleberg. Halvor Smette was elected secretary and Borger Johnson was the first treasurer.

Old church records reveal that the second meeting

was held June 2, 1880, at which time seven new families signed the membership roll.

The first pastor of the congregation was Rev. B. J. Harstad, who served between 1879 and 1884, in the parish which included Highland, St. Olaf, Hillsboro and Gran churches. Later the parish was changed to include Highland, Walle and Rosendal churches, with Rev. S. O. Braaten serving from 1884 to 1920. Another change was made in 1920, when Highland, Buxton, Hillistad, North Prairie and Norway became the churches of the parish. They were served by Rev. J. C. Hjelmervig and B. M. Lokkesmo in the years 1920 to 1922.

From 1922 to 1925 Rev. Karl Stromme served the parish consisting of Highland, Salem, St. Petri, (Nielsville, Minn.) and Scandia (Beltrami, Minn) congregations. Rev. O. H. Brodland served this parish from 1925 to 1939, Rev. H. M. Finstad from 1940 to 1946 and Rev. O. A. Lee from 1947 to 1955. In 1955 Highland joined the Buxton and Norway parish with Rev. John Kronloken as the pastor. He served until 1957 when Rev. E. O. Anhalt (who is the present pastor) came.

Ground for the church site was purchased from Christ Moe. J. P. Gould, not a member, gave \$500.00 toward the building fund. Members gave \$1,550. In that manner the initial building fund was started.

The church structure was built in 1895 by M. C. Rudrud, contractor, for a sum of \$3,300. The first meeting in the new church was on July 21, 1895. A sacristy addition was built in 1912.

Originally built without a basement, the basement was constructed in 1926. Before the work was completed, the church members sponsored a supper to help finance the project, meeting in the church proper. During the meeting, floor supports in a portion of the building gave way, causing the floor to drop two feet, but no one was injured. Extra supports were put in and the church was used for funeral services for a member, Ole Finneseth, the day after the incident.

In 1959, a new addition was erected which consists of Sunday School rooms, front entrance, dining room, kitchen and rest rooms. The greater part of the construction and finishing work was done by members of the congregation.



GRUE LUTHERAN



On March 17, 1879, a meeting was held at the home of Knut Rauk to organize a congregation. This was given the name of Grue Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. The charter members are as follows:

Hans Erickson, Karilius Johnson, Bernt Johnson, Johannes Odegard, Elling Ellingson, A. T. Sonnes, Ole B. Haugen, Martin Broderon, John Hall, Helge Rejergaard, Mrs. Martha Bengrud, John Lerum, Swen Kvammen, Gjert Gunderson, Christian Johnson, Hans Pederson, Christian Hanson, Erik Ingvalson, Ole K. Rauk, Amund Erickson, Arne Erikson, Broder Broderon, George Broderon, Iver Lerom, Swen Knutson, Peder Haugen, Bredde Haugen, Christian Odegard, Ingvald Ingvaldson, Ole Davis, Halvor Hanson, Jacob Fevold, Gutrom Jacobson, Hans Thompson, Jens Braaten, Peter Cole, T. H. Thompson, Christian Thompson, Martin Wong, Sten Sondreall, Louis Thompson, Ole Nettum, Martin O. Vang, Mrs. Sever Brokke, Ole Rensland, T. B. Hogstad, Knut Rensland, E. O. Myrland, Grunde Klepp, Ole Engen, Halvor Thompson, Berge Johnson, Axel Haugen, Ole Vettern, Knut Knudson Loike, Kittel Lillegaard, Lars Olson, Hendrick Hendrickson, Knudt Heggard, Nils B. Haugen, Theodore Landa, Ole Reinestad, K. J. Nomland.

The congregation at this time, covered a large territory with services being held in homes and school houses.

On December 10, 1890, the sum of \$1120 was subscribed for a church building and by the fall of 1891 it was completed at a cost of approximately \$3000. The present cemetery was also established at that time.

At the turn of the century, a parish was organized by the St. Olaf, North Prairie, Buxton and Grue Congregation. In 1921 Grue seceded and was served by Free Church pastors until 1936, at which time the congregation voted to become independent. On December 5, 1952, Grue became affiliated with the Lutheran Free Church and remained so until October 29, 1961 when the mem-

bers voted to merge with the American Lutheran Church.

The following pastors served the Grue Congregation: 1879-1880 Pastor O. H. Bostad, 1880-1889 Pastor Christian Saugstad, 1889-1902 Pastor Gustav Oftedahl, 1902-1905 Pastor O. T. Nelson, 1906-1921 Pastor T. J. Gronningen, 1921- Pastor H. A. Winther, 1921-1922 Pastor Nils Halvorson, 1922-1927 Pastor Ludvig Pederson, 1927-1936 Pastor C. J. Christensen, 1936-1951 Pastor Karl Stromme, 1951-1953 Pastor Forrest Monson, interim, 1953-1959 Pastor Carl J. Carlen, 1959-1960 Pastor L. B. Sateren, interim, 1960- Pastor Norman C. Anderson, now serving.

On September 25, 1932, dedication services were held for the basement which was constructed that year. The 62 Anniversary of the congregation and the 50 Anniversary of the church building were jointly celebrated October 26, 1941 and on July 11, 1954 Grue observed the 75 Anniversary of the congregation.

Many lives have been touched by the ministry of this congregation. The pioneers struggled and sacrificed to have the church at the heart of their community and in so doing laid the right foundation for themselves and those who would follow. Jesus Christ is that foundation. "Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Christ Jesus." (1 Cor. 3:11)

CALEDONIA LUTHERAN

The Caledonia Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Caledonia, North Dakota, Traill County (Dakota Territory at the time), had organized and held their first service on September 3, 1878. Pastor Martin J. Waage served as their first pastor from 1878 to 1880.

The following pastors served the congregation beginning in 1880: Pastor A. Megrund, July 1880 to 1909; Pastor L. M. Skunes, April 18, 1909 to 1929; (during the absence of no pastor in part of the year 1929, Pastor O. H. Brodland from Nielsville, Minnesota, served the congregation), Pastor A. T. Tjornhom, January 14, 1930 to 1941; and Pastor T. N. Teigen, April, 1942, to 1946.

The church has been inactive since 1946 due to the decrease in membership.

The Caledonia Cemetery is located in Block 30, original townsite of Caledonia, N. Dak. section 15-146-49. Many of the old settlers are buried in this cemetery and markers identify their names.

The church building is still intact at this writing and is on the original location.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP —CATHOLIC



Following the coming of the railroad into the Valley in 1881, the influx of great numbers of Catholics necessitated the establishment of a church in the Reynolds vicinity.

The needs of the first parishioners were taken care of by the Grand Forks parish and later by a mission priest who had charge of the entire area of Thompson, Hillsboro, and Reynolds. One of these zealous men was Father Edward Conaty, who in 1893, purchased an old schoolhouse from south of Reynolds and had it moved onto a site just west of the tracks where it served the parish needs until a new church could be built. On September 30, 1895, the certificate of corporate existence was signed and the nucleus of the Catholic Church began to take shape. The name, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, was picked.

The need for a rectory was met with the purchase of a house owned by Iver Iverson, a merchant at Frog Point. It was used until the present parish house was built in 1948 by Father J. A. Bellerose.

In 1898 a new church was built; this was later enlarged and improved, but is the same one that serves this parish today.

Father Edward Geraghty became pastor in Reynolds in 1898 and was followed by Father Stephen Landolt in 1905.

An enlarging and remodeling contract was completed in 1922 while Father Francis Meyer was resident pastor and except for changes in the entrance and repair work the building remains today as it was. Bishop O'Reilly rededicated the enlarged church in the spring of 1923.

1945 was one of the years that Father Thomas Ryan spent as pastor of Reynolds and it was also.

The present pastor is Father Kenneth Knoke who took up his duties in this parish in the summer of 1963.

NORWAY LUTHERAN

In the school house known as School No. 1 of Norway Township, a group of men met on January 28, 1892 with Pastor Jens Lonne of Hillsboro, North Dakota and organized a congregation called the Norway Norsk Evangelisk Lutherske Menighed. Later it was known as the Norway Lutheran Church. The first board of trustees included Peter S. Waslien, John Haarstad and Andreas P. Waslien. The deacons were Christian Ellingson, Peder Sundby and Syver Lonberg.

J. R. Korvik served as pastor from 1897 to 1902. George O. Lane, 1902 to 1908; L. A. Haatvedt, 1908 to 1909; Olaf Turmo, 1909 to 1910; S. K. Tollehaug, 1910 to 1917.

Pastor J. C. Hjelmervick from the Buxton parish, during the years 1918 to 1920.

In 1922 arrangements were made with Nielsville, Minnesota and work was taken over by Pastor Karl Stromme continuing until 1925 when Pastor O. H. Brodland, also of the same parish, served as pastor until 1939.

Again in 1940 the church was without a pastor and Pastor A. A. Nelson, of Mayville, agreed to serve temporarily until such time when other arrangements could be made.

In 1950 when Buxton and North Prairie were looking for another congregation to help form a parish, it was decided to join with them. Pastor J. D. Kronlokken was called and is at this time the pastor of the church.

In 1904 the congregation built the present church.

In 1949 a church basement was built across the road from the old site on land donated by Elias and Arnt Nysveen. The church was moved to its present site and was dedicated October 23, 1949.

Its present pastor is E. O. Anhalt of Buxton. He has served for a period of seven years.



SALEM LUTHERAN



The Salem Congregation was organized January 27, 1907 and was given the name: Salem Norsk Evangeliske Menighedi Traill County, North Dakota. Later this was translated into the American language, now known as the Salem American Lutheran Church. O. H. Brodland was then the Pastor of the Nielsville Parish and also helped to organize the new congregation. The following officers were elected: Secretary, H. A. Gordon, three Trustees, Ole Berg, O. R. Hauge and T. B. Haugstad; "Klokker" or Cantor, G. T. Egeland; Treasurer, Olaus Haugstad.

The Constitution was adopted Feb. 5, 1907. The Charter members were Ole M. Berg, Olaus R. Hauge, Egebret E. Sondrol, Thor B. Haugstad, Gabriel T. Egeland, Anton Thompson, Adolph Halverson, Henry A. Gordon, Harold Monson, Olaus Haugstad, Thomas Thompson, Thormond Wegge, Samuel S. Wegge, John Roalsvik and Bernt Haugstad.

The first services in this community were conducted by Rev. Bernt Hagboe, Home Mission worker, in the '70s.

Services were conducted every other Sunday. The congregation made use of the two school houses in the community.

The church was built in 1916, and situated at the S.E. corner on Sec. 22, Bingham Township. The site was donated by Thor B. Haugstad.

The Ladies Aid was organized Dec. 14, 1904, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Haugstad.

The Salem Cemetery is located half a mile south of the church. It was originally registered under the name: "Elm River Coulee Cemetery." It was donated by Bjorn Winge and Peter Smith, each donating two acres.

Pastors who have served this congregation include O. H. Brodland, O. J. Lutness, J. N. Dordal, Karl Stromme, H. M. Finstad, O. A. Lee. The present Pastor is E. W. Johnshoy.

The church observed its Fiftieth Anniversary July 14, 1957.

In the intervening years, the church has been remodeled, basement built, electric lights put in and a number of other improvements made, including a Conn Electric Organ.

BUXTON LUTHERAN

On January 13, 1889, Charles Berg, Ole Hong, L. O. Myhre, Syver Sorenson, Lew Thompson, P. L. Odegard, E. R. Nestoss, O. B. Olson met at the Charles Berg drug store in Buxton to make plans for organizing a new congregation. In March of 1889, a call was issued to Gustav Oftedal, who came to Buxton in the fall, and on November 11, 1889 the church was organized. Besides the families of the above mentioned men, the Ole David, Waldy, and K. K. Knudson families were listed as the membership.

Work was begun on building a church in 1892.

Meanwhile the ladies had also been busy becoming organized. As early as the fall of 1886 a society for spiritual welfare was organized by a group of ladies at the home of Mrs. Charles Berg. This was an inter-denominational organization called the Community Ladies Aid, and when the various denominational groups began to build their churches, this society lent its influence to each. This community organization continued until November 28, 1889 when a group met at the home of Rev. Oftedal to organize a "Kvindeforening" to work specifically in the local congregation.

Pastor Oftedal resigned from Buxton on February 20, 1902 and was succeeded by Pastor O. T. Nelson. He in turn was succeeded by Pastor T. J. Gronningen in 1905.

CALEDONIA CONGREGATION

Work toward the organization of an English-speaking church was begun in 1882. Mr. George H. Lee, student, spent summer of 1883 doing missionary work, also occasional visits by Rev. H. C. Simmons, Supt. of American Home Missionary Society for Dakota. Also Mr. John J. Thompson, Yale student, spent his vacation doing missionary work here. On Feb. 27, 1886—Rev. E. H. Stickney, Pastor at Harwood, N. Dak. made arrangements whereby he could hold services here half of his time. A meeting was called on April 25th, 1886 and all interested church workers came. It was voted to organize a Church. Rev. Stickney was retained as regular pastor.

In 1887 a church was built on Block 8 Lots 1,3 & 5. Mr. John Fulton was contractor. Cost was \$2200.00, paid by subscriptions. It was a thriving church in the early years and had a large membership. Rev. C. H. Phillips, widely known in ecclesiastical circles in North Dakota, often served this congregation in the early days in connection with his work at Cummings, N. Dak. Other early ministers were Rev. Whiting, J. W. Dafford, P. P. Womer and Wm. Griffith. Rev. Covell was the last minister.

CLIMAX



Looking west from Elevator

In the year of 1896 the first building of Climax began on the farm of Levi Steenerson, who was also the first mayor or president of the council. The first known building was the Corner Hotel by Pete Snyder, then a butcher shop owned by W. B. Mesner. In 1897 a dry goods and grocery store, built by Mr. Gitchel, and later purchased by Ole Estenson, was put into operation. Next, a livery barn was constructed by Andrew Spokley. By this time the town was established and expanded rapidly as more buildings were erected. Another dry goods and grocery store was built by the Locker Bros., an implement firm by the Landager Bros. and a Manger and Fossum Hardware store and the lumber yard were further additions. These business establishments were followed by the blacksmith shop operated by Lindblad and Cronquist. A volunteer fire department was organized in 1898. In the fall of 1902, however, a fire destroyed the half block of buildings on the north side of Main Street. This did not stop the pioneers but led to the rebuilding of most of the property destroyed. A Stern and Sather Cobbler and Harness Shop was built. By this time the railroad was extended from Halstad. Two grain elevators were constructed—the St. Anthony and the North Western, followed by the Crookston Milling Co., a year or two later. Another fire on the 27th of Dec., 1905, destroyed the Samuelson Hotel, this being the first hotel built by Pete Snyder. In 1898 Larson and Slette organized the State Bank of Climax, which was later sold to Norman Roshoit. Another Hotel—The Commercial—was built, also a barber shop by J. A. Ralston, and a photograph gallery by A. H. Kahlert, who was also the first policeman. The photograph gallery was later destroyed by fire. The Kahlert Hotel built in 1905 or 1906. The establishments of Climax changed hands many times during the development of the community. Some of the latest additions to the town was the Climax Potato Co. by Eli Steenerson in 1910, the Standard Oil Co. Bulk Station in 1900 besides several new homes.



Lindblad Implement 1905

The Climax Roller Mill was built in 1898 by Ole and John Braseth at a cost of \$20,000. Besides the manufacturing of flour—"Braseths"—they also ground and sold all kinds of feed. The mill was powered by water and steam. A dam was built on the Sandhill River, just below the mill run by a long cable from the dam to the mill. Steam was used when the water at the dam became too low for its operation. The Braseth Bros. operated the mill until 1909 when they sold out to Gilbertson and Nelson. In 1913 F. Guy Stearns purchased the mill and made many improvements in it having installed modern machinery throughout. He also installed an electric light plant to supply the mill and the village with lights and power. This plant was housed in a brick house built beside the mill. The plant was of thirty horse power and the current of 220 volt. D.C. strength. On Nov. 27, 1915, the village of Climax had its first electric lights, which was quite an improvement from the old gas and kerosene lights. The Climax Mill burned to the ground in the fall of 1919, just the power house remained. The Stearns continued the operation of the light plant until he sold out to the Interstate Power Co., who was building a line from Crookston, south through Climax, and soon furnished the village with A.C. Current.



CLIMAX SCHOOLS



This two room school house built in 1900 or there about and served the community until the consolidated school was constructed in 1918. With the increasing number of students it was necessary to enlarge the building in 1939, adding a combined Auditorium and Gymnasium with class rooms on the second floor.

Then came the tragic fire on the morning of Feb. 24, 1954, when the school was destroyed and left only the walls standing. The smoke had hardly disappeared when talk of building a new school was begun.

Following the fire, several rural districts joined the Climax district and voted almost unanimously to erect a new building to replace the one destroyed by the fire. In the fall of 1954, construction was started and was finished in 1955. The first classes were held in the new school after the Christmas vacation of that year. A great deal of credit for the building of this beautiful school goes to Supt. O. T. Olsen. Mr. Olsen has been Supt. of the Climax School since 1931.



The 1954 Fire—February 24



The First School



Built in 1955



Built in 1939



MINNESOTA PIONEERS



Ole Jevening was born near Bardw, northern Norway, April 12, 1845. He arrived in Freeborn County Minnesota August 29, 1866. He worked there as a carpenter for two years after which he came to Ottertail County. In 1869 he joined the government supply train leaving St. Cloud for Ft. Abercrombie and worked as a cook. He took a homestead claim in Ottertail County in 1869 and after holding the claim for two years he let the land revert back to the government. He came to the Red River Valley in 1871 with the Estenson Family. He lived there as a bachelor until February, 1872 at which time he married Miss Ingeborg Estenson. This was the first marriage in Polk County.

Mr. and Mrs. Jevening were the parents of the following children. Ingeberg, Johann Ragnolf, Ole Elmer, Ingvard Anton, Ida, Inga, Anna Johanna, Rebekke, and Oliva. Mr. Jevening died July 19, 1920, and Mrs. Jevening died in 1939.

Peter S. Jacobson was one of the earliest settlers in Polk Co. He was born in Finnoy, Norway.

He arrived in Polk Co. in 1872, and settled on S.W. ¼—36 Hubbard Township, on the bank of the Red River. His wife and one son came with him from Norway.

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church, which was located on the old Nielsville site, and which was built in 1887.

He is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery.



Ole O. Estenson was born in Tynset, Norway in 1848. In 1857, the family consisting of the parents and four children, started for the United States. After arriving in New York, they traveled by train to Green County, Wisconsin. In the summer of 1861 they moved to Pierce County and in the summer of 62 they moved again this time to Freeborn County, Minnesota and from there to Ottertail County, near Fergus Falls. In the spring of 1871, Ole O. Estenson, then 21 years old, started for the Red River Valley, where he took a squatters claim to land in section 23 of Vineland Township.

Mr. Estenson was married in June, 1875, to Miss Paulina Evenson who had also come from Norway. Five children were born to this union, they were: Emma, Helmer, Peter, Ida, and John. He was the first assessor for his township and was county commissioner at the time the first court house was built in Crookston. At different times, Mr. Estenson owned and operated the general store at Neby and Climax, Minnesota.

In 1917, Mr. & Mrs. Estenson retired and moved to Climax. At the time of his wife's death in 1925 Mr. Estenson moved to the farm and lived with his son, Peter E. Estenson, until his death in 1945.

Arnie Grundyson was born in Satterdalen, Norway, July 8, 1860. The family immigrated to America in 1861.

They located first in Fillmore County. Mr. Grundyson taught school at various times from 1879 to 1895 and in 1881 he arrived in Polk County for a visit with relatives. He then took a claim near Foston, Minnesota and moved his home there for two years. In that year he was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Polk County and in the fall of 1890 he was elected to the office of Sheriff, which he held for four years.

Mr. Grundyson was married to Miss Berget Torbjoinson in October of 1885.



Esten Estenson was born February 22, 1860, in Green County, Wisconsin, and came to the Red River Valley at the age of eleven years. Mr. Estenson was married to the Miss Karen Gjolhaug, who came to Foston, Minnesota, in 1883. She was born in Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Estenson were the parents of 10 children four of whom died in infancy. They are: Oliver, Mrs. Chester Green (Ruby), Thomas, Ester (now Mrs. Johnson), Haaken, and Mrs. Howard Berger. The Estenson home was the stopping place for James J. Hill, prior to the building of the railroad through the Red River Valley. Mrs. Estenson died 1950 and Mr. Estenson passed away 1954.

Hans Samuelson was born in Norway, November 6, 1864, and emigrated to the United States in the summer of 1882. He landed in New York, and from there came to Grant County, Minnesota. He was there until 1866 when he went to North Dakota. Later he went back to Minnesota where he took up a timber claim in the neighborhood of Bemidji where he lived for three years. Early in the nineties Mr. Samuelson moved to Polk County, Minn., where he bought 160 acres of land in Vineland Township. On October 20, 1890 he was married to Miss Anne Steenerson, who was born in Houston County, Minnesota, May 1, 1860. They were the parents of four children: Stanley B. who died at the age of two years, Berget, Hans and Stanley. Mrs. Samuelson died in 1936 and Mr. Samuelson in 1934. They are buried in Bergit's Cemetery.



August Aas was born in Oslo, Norway, on October 21, 1864. In 1885, at the age of twenty-one, he immigrated to America going directly to Climax, Minnesota.

Mrs. Anna Aas was born at Dalton, Minnesota, Ottertail County on Sept. 17, 1870.

They were married Sept. 30, 1898. To this union were born the following children: Hans, who died in infancy, Herman, Carl, Marcus, Marie, and Alvhill.

Mr. Aas was a member of the school board and on the township board for a number of years.

They were members of the Sand Hill Church.

They settled on the Northeast quarter in Section 24 of Tynsid Township.

Besides farming, Mr. Aas was a painter, and steam engine operator.



P. O. Satermo was born in northern Norway, November 13, 1847, and was the eldest of eight children born to Ole and Carrie Satermo. At nineteen years of age he decided to come to the United States. Upon his arrival in this country he went directly to Winneshiek County, Iowa, where he remained until about New Years of 1870, when he went to Ottertail County, Minnesota. In June of 1871 continued on his way to the Red River Valley. He "squatted" on land which proved on survey to be in sections 24,

25, and 26 in Vineland Township.

Mr. Satermo was married in 1873 to Miss Elizabeth Estenson who came to Polk County the same year as Mr. Satermo. The following children were born to this union: Bertha, Ida, Emma, Olga, Palmer, Belva, Ralph, Nora, and Blanche. Mrs. Satermo died Feb. 24, 1914. Mr. Satermo—May 5, 1931.



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gannau were born in Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1872 arriving in Polk County, Minnesota. They located in Section 29 in Tynsid Township. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Gannau: John, Katherine, Mamie, Art, Mike, William, Emmet, Frank and John.



Ananias Bremseth (also known as Andrew and Annas) was one of the early settlers of Polk Co. He was born in 1851 in Trondhjem, Norway. He came to America in 1866 with his

parents, Johan and Johanna Bremseth, and three brothers and one sister, Ole, Otto, Johan, and Johanna. The oldest brother, Arndt, remained in Norway where some of his family still resides.

His parents took up residence in Eau Claire, Wis. Later they moved to Houston County, Minn., where they remained until 1871 when the family came to Vineland Township and homesteaded S.E. section 29—range 48—where Carl Hanson now resides.

Ananias settled N.W. ¼ sec. 28 E ½ N.E. ¼ sec. 29—range 48-240 A. the farm was kept in the family until 1960 when it was sold to Helgeson of Eldred, Minn.

In 1881 Ananias was united in marriage to Kari Nerison from Telemarken, Norway. She arrived in 1880.

Ananias and Kari had a family of nine; seven sons and two daughters . . . Johan, Bergit (Bessie) Ole, Henry, Julian, Carl, Anna. Two died in infancy. Carl died in 1949. Henry died in 1959.

The Ananias family were charter members of the Sand Hill Norwegian Lutheran Church.

Ananias died Sept. 18, 1899, at the age of 48. Kari died August, 1940 at the age of 83. Both are buried in the Skatvold Cemetery, Climax.



Karl J. Jevning was born in Norway, Oct. 29, 1862. He came to America in 1881 and settled in Vineland twp. His wife, Karlotta, was also born in Norway, Feb. 28, 1893.

Nine children were born to them: Ragna (McMullen), John, Marcus, Helmer, Ingeman, Clarence, Arnold, Andor, Hazel, and a foster son Arnt Larson.

Mrs. Jevning died in 1939, and Mr. Jevning in 1955. Both are buried in Sand Hill Cemetery.



Olaus Benson was born in Houston County, Minn., April 3, 1868.

Mr. Benson began to work out for wages early in life and gave part of his earnings to his parents. By the time he reached the age of 21, he had \$300 saved. He then rented a farm belonging to Tollof Tollofson, an uncle of Olaus.

Mr. Benson married Mr. Tollofson's only child, Turin, and when her father died she inherited his farm of 185 acres.

Olaus was also interested in the General Store at Hielsville, together with his half brother, Halvor.

Olaus Benson and his wife are the parents of one child, Gina, and Hannah Arneson was reared at the Benson home.

Olaus Benson died in 1944 and Mrs. Benson died in 1945. Both are buried in the Sundet Cemetery.

Theodore Tronnes was born in Nordland, Norway, May 20, 1852, his parents having moved to that town from Osterdalen, Norway. At the age of 18 years he came to America arriving in Red Wing, Minnesota with but 35 cents. He remained there for one year and then moved to Wilkin County, Minnesota.

On May 5, 1872 he came to Polk County where he "squatted" on section 1 in Shelley Township. The railroad claimed the land and it took considerable litigation to clear the patent and prove claim to this land as a homestead.

Mr. Tronnes was married May 18, 1876 to Miss Johanne Iverson. The following children were born to this union: Alfred, Caroline, Albert, Martin, Tyler, John, Thilda, Oscar, Bella, Edwin, and Henry.

Knute Steenerson (1844-1921) was born in Norway Nov. 21, 1844, and came to America with his parents, Steener and Birgith (Roholt) Knudson (Meaas) in 1851. He took wagon trip to the Red River Valley in 1870 but did not stay. He returned to Lac qui Parle County where he married Miss Marie Anderson. They had nine children and did not return to Polk County until 1898. Mr. Steenerson died Feb. 21, 1921 at the home for the aged in Los Angeles, Calif. and is buried there. His wife died Aug. 31, 1925 and is buried at Oakdale Cemetery in Crookston, Minn.

Christopher Steenerson (1850-1925) was born in Norway Feb. 21, 1850 and immigrated to America with his parents, Steener and Birgith (Roholt) Knudson (Meaas) in 1851. He came to the Red River Valley in 1875 where he taught school and held various offices. He married Dordy J. Lee born in Norway, May 13, 1863 and they lived on their original homestead until they died; she died Sept. 15, 1917 and he died July 29, 1925. Their resting place is Bergit's Cemetery, Climax, Minn.



Mr. Ole O. Romo was born in the ancient and historic city of Trondhjem, Norway, July 7, 1860. The family settled about 30 miles southwest of Red Wing, Minn.

He came to Polk Co. in 1880. He bought the homestead of Ole Bramseth, another pioneer, and eventually bought more land and a lot and house in the Village of Climax.

He was married to Mrs. Sigre Amundson, a native of Norway, and the widow of Ole Amundson. She had one child Alfred Amundson by

her first marriage. By her second marriage, Mrs. Romo became the mother of 7 children: Oscar, Oliver, Clara, Thea, Bertha, Josie, and Olga.

The family all belonged to the Skatvold Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Romo died in 1927 and Mr. Romo died in 1929.



Peter O. Estenson was born in Tonset, Oslerdalen, Norway, May 14, 1850. The father brought the family to America when Peter was 7 years old. Their tickets took them to Chicago and from there they went to Janesville, Wisconsin, and from there to Steward, Greene County, Wisconsin. In the summer of 1861 they moved by prairie schooner to Martell, Pierce County, Wisconsin. In October of 1862 they hitched up a pair of un-broken steers and moved to Hartland, Freeborn County, Minnesota. There they bought 160 acres of land and on this the family lived until 1870, when they moved to Ottertail County, Minn. and then to the Red River Valley in 1871.

Mr. Estenson was married to Miss Anna Bangen of Norway. The following children were born to this union: Ingrid, Stella, Simon, Olga, and Bennie.

Matthew Quirk was born in 1840 in Fryeland, County Roscommon, Ireland. He arrived in Polk Co. in 1874, and settled in Sec. 14, Tynsid twp., range 149.

Arriving from White Haven, Pennsylvania, 1874, after the death of his wife, he came to Polk Co. and homesteaded next to his brother, Michael.

They had two daughters: Margaret (Mrs. John Logan), and Mary (Mrs. Chauncey Smith).

They were members of St. Francis Church, Fisher, which was built in 1775.

He died in 1914 and is buried in Crookston.



Anton E. Hanson, who later changed his name to Anton E. Evenson, resided in Vineland Township, Polk County.

Mr. Evenson was born in southern Norway, April 18, 1854. He spent his boyhood on the farm in Norway and came to America with his father in July 1868. The father sent for the Mother and two other children as soon as he had made enough money to pay their fares. The mother died in England while enroute and the children came to America. The father and Anton went to Columbia County, Wisconsin. They remained there until 1872 and then went to Freeborn County, Minnesota. They worked on a farm there until the spring of 1874, when the father, brother and Anton went to Polk County.

Mr. Evenson was married in 1889 to Miss Trina Kjolhaug, Fosston, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Evenson had six children namely; Even, Gunda, Cora, Alma, Ames, and Harry.

Mr. Evenson was a member of the Sand Hill Lutheran Church.

Mr. Evenson died in 1931.

John Steenerson was born in Minnesota, July 6, 1862 and was the youngest son of Stener and Berget (Knutson) Steenerson. He lived at home in Houston County until 1876 when the family moved to Polk County. At the age fifteen years, with his father's help, he bought a quarter section of land in Section 19 of Vineland Township. On March 1, 1900, he bought a half interest in a hardware store in Nielsville, Minnesota. He also had an interest in a store in Esmond, North Dakota.

Mr. Steenerson was married June 20, 1899 to Miss Sophia Thompson of Valley City, North Dakota. They had two daughters.

Mr. Steenerson died in 1917, age 55. He is buried in Esmond, N.D.



Marcus Nelson was born in Climax, Minn., in 1881, and spent his early days here. Mr. Nelson was appointed the first rural mail carrier in 1901.

There were no improved roads in the early days, and after a heavy rain and in the spring break-up, it was sometimes difficult to get through even with horses. In the spring of the year, Mr. Nelson would use a two-wheel cart and one horse. He served as rural carrier for a number of years.

Upon leaving the postal service, he accepted a job with the N.P. Railroad as brakeman. He moved to Moorhead with his family where he was with the railroad for about 5 years before returning to Climax and again becoming the rural carrier. He continued this position until his retirement in 1950.

Mr. Nelson was married to Miss Ida Evenson in 1906. She was born at Climax, Minn., in 1886. Seven children were born to this couple.

Mrs. Nelson passed away in 1956.

Amund A. Eidsmoe was born April 16, 1863, in Norway. He came by boat from Norway, and first came to Halstad, Minn., to his brother, Ole Eidsmoe, in the spring of 1887.

He settled in Polk Co., on a quarter in sec. 26, Hubbard Twship., range 48, Nielsville, Minn.

Anne Hansbraaten came with him from Norway. She was born in Bagn, Valdris, Norway, April 12, 1865.

He married Anne on Nov. 13, 1887. Children born to them were: Ingvald, Otto, Gustav, Marie (Mrs. George Larson), Henry, Albert, and Melvin.

They were members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church. He died Feb. 7, 1908 and is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery. His wife died July 1, 1915.



Gabriel Egeland, Nielsville, Minnesota, was born February 12, 1867 in Sandness, Norway. At the age of twenty he came by boat and train to Hillsboro, North Dakota, where he worked as farm hand for six years. Then he returned to Norway and on April 1, 1893 he was united in marriage to Marie Erickson. In June the same year they came to America and made their home on land two and one-half miles west of Nielsville, Minnesota, where he operated a ferry for many years. At present this is where the Nielsville bridge is. He also farmed in Caledonia and Bingham Townships.

To this union eight children were born of which five are living. One son died in infancy. Thomas, John, Bennie, Clara now Mrs. Chas. Askew, George and Tyler, Gladys now Mrs. Dewalt Palm of Nielsville, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Egland were Charter members of the Salem Congregation.

Gabriel Egeland passed away November 12, 1936. Mrs. Gabriel Egeland passed away October 1, 1928. They were layed to rest in the Salem Cemetery.

Patrick Quigley was born in County Galway, Ireland, and immigrated to America, arriving in Polk County in the year 1871 from Brainard, Minnesota. He married Elizabeth Cookman in 1874. Mrs. Quigley was also an emigrant from Ireland. Mr. Quigley settled in Sec. 15 in Tynsid Township and worked on Jim Hill's railroad and was there when the golden spike was driven.

Children born to Mr. and Mrs. Quigley were: Mary, Nicholas, Fredrick, Thomas, Patrick, William, Frank, Nellie and Laura. The Quigleys were members of the Catholic Church in Fisher, Minnesota. Mr. Quigley died in 1916.



John T. Thompson was born in the southern part of Norway March 24, 1852. He remained there until 1871, at which time he accompanied his mother to America. They spent nine weeks on the trip first stopping at Albert Lea, Minnesota where he spent three years.

In the spring of 1884 he came to the Red River Valley arriving at Belmont. Mr. Thompson "squatted" on section 24 in Vineland Township.

Mr. Thompson was married in 1873 to Miss Johanna K. Lovlien who had also come from Norway. To this union the following children were born: Martha, Olivia, Marin, Thomas, Julius, Peter, Magda, Nora, Trina, Josephine, and Alf Mauritz.

Mrs. Thompson died in 1936—Mr. Thompson Jan. 22, 1946.

Steener (Knudson) and
(1819-1884)

Bergit (Roholt) Meas
(1821-1892)

The family came to America under the name of Knudson, in 1851. He was a school master in Siljejord Prestigjeld, ovre-Telemarken, Norway. In May of above year with 3 small sons, Knute, Levi and Christopher they began their journey to America from the seaport Shien. They came to the Red River Valley and Vineland township in 1874. They took a homestead across the river from Levi's place and the original house is still standing. Their 7 sons and 2 daughters at times gathered here as old pictures attest. Bergit Knudson Steenerson bought a tract of land from Christopher and dedicated this as a final resting place for any or all of her family. It is called "Bergit's Cemetery." Steener Knudson died as Steener Steenerson in 1884 and Bergit Knudson Steenerson died in 1892. They are buried there in the family burial place.

August Lindblad was born in Sweden, July 12, 1871. In 1891 he came to America and located at Marquette, Michigan. After remaining here for two years he went to Ada, Minnesota, in Norman County. He came to Polk County in 1895 and for about a year operated a blacksmith shop on the farm of Christ Steenerson. Then, moving into the village of Climax, where together with a nephew, John Cronquist, started the first blacksmith shop there. In 1905 he sold out to Gunder Bjaaland and started in the implement business with Andrew Spokley. Mr. Spokley sold out his interest in the firm to C. M. Davidson. It was known as the Lindblad and Davidson Imp. Co. A few years later Mr. Lindblad sold out his interest to Ole Jevning and started another implement company known as the Northern Imp. Co. After quitting this business he moved out onto a farm which he had purchased just outside of Climax, now owned by John Tofsley. After living on this farm for a few years he moved to Moorhead where he passed away in 1934. Mr. Lindblad was married Dec. 30, 1895, at Ada, Minnesota, to Hilda Kirkvold. Six children were born to the couple: Esther, Hardin, Alvin, Russel, Pearl and Ira. Mrs. Lindblad passed away in 1944 on the West Coast.



Hans H. Berg was born in Toten, Norway December 7, 1839. His father was a farmer and blacksmith, and Mr. Berg was reared in the same occupation.

He remained at home until he was twenty-five years of age, and after his marriage to Miss Trina Thompson they came to the United States in 1867. They came to the Red River Valley in the month of August, 1873. Homesteading in Vineland Township, Polk County. Mrs. Berg died in 1884, and two years later Mr. Berg married Miss Severina Hanson, to this union were born the following children. Karine, Hilda, Theresa, Emma, Sarah, Hans, Laura, Marguerette and Hanna Sofia. Mrs. Berg died in 1930 and Mr. Berg died on Jan. 17-1909.



Amund P. Moen was born in Guldbrandsdalen, Norway, November 25, 1859. He came first to Freeborn County, Minnesota and farmed there for 8 years, moving to Polk County in 1879. He filed a pre-emption claim on section 6 in Vineland Township. They lived in their prairie schooner for three months, while they put up hay for the stock and did some breaking and in the fall a log house was built. Mr. Moen took land as a homestead in Vineland Township in the fall of 1880. Mr. Moen was married in 1884 to Miss Thea Thronson, also a native of Norway. Eight children were born to this union. They were; Mina, Hilda, Peter, Mary, Stella, Peter, Henry, and Cora. Mrs. Moen died in 1933. Mr. Moen. December 28-1943.

Mr. Martin Paulson, born in Norway, came to Rushford, Minn. in 1878. He arrived in Polk Co. in 1879, and settled on S.E. Quarter in Sec. 20, Hubbard Township, Range 48.

His first wife, Caroline Johnson, came from Rushford, Minn., in 1879. His second wife, Anna Hendrickson, came from Fosston, Minn.

Children born to the first marriage were: Mathilda, Julia (Mrs. Olaus Engelstad), Clara, Hans, Melvin, Emil, Henry, Selmer, and twin girls.

Children born to the second marriage were: Alma, Mabel, Clara, Elmer, Floyd, all named Hendrickson.

His family of the first marriage were members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church, Nielsville.

After his marriage to Anna Hendrickson, they moved to Pangman, Sask., Canada, and took the Hendrickson name for his name.

He died Dec. 22, 1927, and is buried at Pangman, Sask., Canada.



Paul Simon was born in Telemarken, Norway, October 4, 1842. At the age of nineteen he came to the United States.

They went to Stoughton, Wisconsin and a year later moved to Houston County, Minnesota. Mr. Simon, with his brother, Henry, came to Polk County, Minnesota in 1871, driving a team of oxen a distance of 500 miles. The grass-hoppers took his first crop in two hours.

Mr. Simon was married in January of 1878 to Miss Ingeborg Amundson. Mrs. Simon was a native of Minnesota and was born in 1856.

To Mr. & Mrs. Simon the following children were born; Anne, who died at the age of twenty years, Alfred, Carl, Mary Palmer, Henry, Albert, and Thomas.

Mr. Simon assisted in the organization of Vineland Township, which included what is now called Hubbard Township. He was elected County Commissioner in 1874.



Peter Thompson was born in Vestre, Toten, Norway on Aug. 21, 1845. He was reared to farm life in his native land until he was 21 years of age when he came to America in company of his two sisters going directly to Columbia County, Wisconsin, where he stayed for eighteen

months before coming to Polk County in 1873. After reaching Polk County he filed on a claim as a pre-emption on section II in Vineland Township. This proved to be railroad land, which he had to buy from the railroad. He resided on this land until 1893 when he bought land in section 7.

Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Mary Peterson in 1871, she died in 1877, leaving one son, Christian Thorwald. Mr. Thompson was married again in 1879 and two sons were born to this union, Henry and Arthur. His second wife died in 1885. He then married Miss Mary Frederickson in 1887. They had the following children, Beta, Thea, Magda, John, Olaf, Peter and Hans. Mrs. Thompson died Sept. 24, 1899 and Mr. Thompson July 12, 1914.



John Gjestrum was born in Norway May 23, 1854. He immigrated to the United States about 1880 or 1881. Some time later he settled in Vineland Township, where he and Mrs. Gjestrum resided until their death. They had two sons Olaf and Even, also two daughters, Mrs. Anton Thorson and Mrs. Adolph Ronning. Mrs. Gjestrum preceded him in death by a number of years. Funeral Services were held in the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, and burial was in the Church Cemetery.



Gunder Dale was born in Dane County, Wisconsin. He was married to Miss Else M. Hauge on November 30, 1881. Mrs. Dale was born in Wraadole, Telemarken, Norway on September 12, 1861. They came to Polk County, Minnesota from Fillmore County, Minn. in 1874. Mr. & Mrs. Dale had the following children; Glen, Gunder, G. Dale Jr., Helmer, Helen, Turine, Alvilda, Alexander, and Josephine.

The following is a story told by Mrs. Josephine Stevens to Loma, Montana who is a daughter of Mr. Dale. "One night a man rushed up to their log cabin and told them to get up and move as the Indians were coming and then went on to notify other homesteaders. The next day they found out, it was not the Indians but the Stenerson Brothers dancing around a camp fire to keep from freezing.

Mr. Dale died July 23, 1923 and Mrs. Dale died October 19, 1949. They were both buried in the Skatvold Cemetery.



Bernt Arneson Ronning was born in Grue, Norway, on Dec. 13, 1856 and immigrated to the United States in 1887, making the trip alone. He came first to Traill County, Dakota Territory, where he stayed for a short time, later going to Polk County, Minnesota. While he lived in Traill County he worked as a carpenter.

He was married to Miss Hedvig Olson, who came to the United States in May, 1889. To this union were born the following children: Otto, Bertha, Adolph, and Emilia. They were members of the Sandhill Lutheran Church of rural Climax, Minnesota, and are buried in that church cemetery. Mr. Ronning died June 6, 1951.

Nils O. Paulsrud was born in Lillhammer, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway in 1846. Mr. Paulsrud married Miss Bertha Amundson on January 10, 1868. After arriving in the United States in 1869 they went directly to Goodhue County, Minnesota where they spent a year and one half and then to Wilkin County but were not satisfied with land there so in the spring they moved to the Red River Valley. On arriving they "squatted" on what is now section 24 in Hubbard Township, where he resided until his election of sheriff of Polk County in 1886, when he moved to Crookston. He resided in Crookston for nearly four years and died of heart failure a short time before the expiration of his second term.

Mr. & Mrs. Paulsrud had the following children: Oluf, Albert, Emma, Amilla, Gina Bertha, Johnathan Arnt, Edwin Julius, Anne Julia, Bernhard Nikkolai, and Gayhard Elmer.

Mr. Paulsrud died in 1890.



Mr. Charlie Meland was born in Norway, October 6, 1856. He immigrated to the United States about 1881 or 1882, and settled in Vineland township. He lived there the balance of his life. At the time of his death he was survived by his wife, and three sons. Clarence, Selmer and Olaus, two daughters, Mrs. Emma Jordahl and Mrs. Even Gjestrum. Mr. Meland died February 12, 1941, at the age of 84 years. Funeral services were held at the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, and burial was in the Church cemetery.

Ellen Stenerson Torkelson (Gjelstad) was born Houston County, Minn. In 1858. She came to Polk County with her parents in or about 1874. She filed on land there and proved it up. She married Tollef Tor-

kelson (Gjelstad). They had one child, Katie. She died in 1924 and her husband preceded her in death in 1906.



Hans Kjelsrud was born in Vestre, Toten, Norway, on Nov. 11, 1862, and together with his mother, came to America in 1888. He worked on a farm in Vineland Township for about two years before renting the former Elias Steerson farm, where he lived with his family for thirty-eight years. Mr. Kjelsrud was married to Ollana Berg on Oct. 27, 1894. In 1929 when his health began to fail he moved to Climax where he made his home until he died on May 30, 1931. Mrs. Kjelsrud died in 1939 and both are buried in the Bergit Cemetery. Survivors included two sons, Axel and John of Climax, and two daughters, Mrs. Oline Olson of Climax, and Mrs. Adolph Hagglund of Alvarado, Minnesota. Two daughters preceded the Kjelsruds in death and were Dina and Olga.

Johannes Olson was born April 27, 1849, near Oslo, Norway. In January, 1878, he was married to Marit Rogn-dokken. They took homesteads in what became Eldorado Township.

Through this marriage nine children were born: Marie (Mrs. Jens Lerom), Ole, Clara (Mrs. Siver Hanson), Julia (Mrs. Ole Helland), Ida (Mrs. Swalstad), Ruby (Mrs. Swalstad), Caroline; Anna Louise, and Laura, who was a missionary in Madagascar.

Mr. Olson died in 1915, followed by his wife's death in 1941.



Anton Braaten was born in Valdres, Norway, June 30, 1874, and emigrated to the United States, arriving in Polk County on March 4, 1904. He was accompanied by his wife, Marit Nybraten, who was born Nov. 24, 1900, in Valdres, Norway, and a son and a daughter. The following children were born to the Braatens: Gunder, Eliza Gunderson, Inga Jevning, Oscar Braaten, Martin, and Christopher. Mr. Braaten selected the occupation of farming and settled on the NW 1/4 Sec. 25 in Hubbard Township. They were members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church in Neils-ville. Mr. Bratten passed away March 19, 1956.



Iver J. Mjoen was born near Sne-hedtn, Trondhjernshft, Norway, May 11, 1843.

When he was 21 years of age he and his bride-elect came to America on the same steamer, first to New York then to Duluth and then to Moorehead, Minnesota. He was married in November of 1872. Soon after their marriage, Mr. & Mrs. Mjoen moved to Vineland Township where he took up residence on Section 25 on the banks of the Red River. Mr. Mjoen was married to Miss Rande Mjoen and to this union the following children were born; Richard B., George Martin, Ole Randolph, and Jens Immil Nikkolai.



Erick O. Stortroen was born in Tynsid, Osterdalen, Norway, on September 1, 1855. He was reared on a farm and at the age of twenty-two years the twins came to America. In 1878 went to Polk County. In May of that year he took a homestead claim on Sec. 20 of East Vineland Twp.

Mr. Stortroen was married to Miss Maret Bangen (Simonson) of Norway, Norway on June 1, 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Stortroen were the parents of the following children: Sirine, Josephine Gilbertson, Valborg Christine Lunos, Jennie (Johanna), Stella Eveline Evenson, Mabel Evelyn Lunos, Ernest Granville, and Simon Emil.

Mr. and Mrs. Stortroen were members of the Sandhill Lutheran Church. He passed away Jan. 4, 1948.

James C. and Samuel C. Hayes farmed extensively north-east of Nielsville. Their farming operations included cultivation of more than 2,000 acres.

The brothers were born, reared, educated, and married in Union County, Pennsylvania. James was born in 1844 and Samuel was born in 1847.

When the lumber trade showed signs of exhaustion in Pennsylvania, James came to the Red River Valley in 1878. The next year Samuel joined him. They bought a section of land in Hubbard Township for \$7.50 an acre. James also took up a homestead in Reis Township and Samuel a pre-emption in Liberty Township. Later they bought all of School Section 16, in Hubbard Township and also railroad land from James J. Hill.

James C. Hayes was married to Miss Mary Glover in 1884 in their native county. They had three children but lost them all in childhood. Samuel C. Hayes was married to Miss Ella Burn of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. They had no children.



Sven Philip Swenson, a pioneer of Vineland Township, Polk County, Minnesota. He settled on Section 20 in 1874.

Mr. Swenson was born in what is now the city of Manitowac, Wisconsin on November 21st 1845 and came to Houston County, Minnesota around 1860. In 1874 he became a resident of Polk County, taking up the homestead already mentioned.

On July 3, 1882, Mr. Swenson was married to Miss Elizabeth Osmark, a native of Norway and they took up their residence on the Vineland Township farm. From then until his death on April 20, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Swenson were the parents of six children, namely, Knut, Oliana, Lina, Anna, Ole and Carl.



John G. Vraa was born in Norway Jan. 7, 1865, and emigrated to this country in 1872. They located in Faribault, Minnesota. The father took a homestead in Vineland Twp., 80 acres of which are included in the farms then owned and occupied by their son John G. Mr. Vraa was married in Dec., 1887 to Miss Maria Anderson. They were the parents of: Cecil, Albert, Minnie and Lena. Mr. Vraa passed away in 1955 and Mrs. Vraa died in 1916. Both are buried in the Skotvold Cemetery.

Mr. K. K. Knutson was born in Christianband, Norway in November of 1847. The family immigrated to America in 1859 and settled in Wisconsin where they lived for fifteen years.

In 1873, Mr. Knutson visited Minnesota and decided to take land in Polk County where he filed to a quarter section of land in section four of Bygland Township.

Mr. Knutson was married in 1875 to Miss Bertha Isaacson of Wisconsin. To Mr. & Mrs. Knutson were born twelve children, three of which died in infancy. Children surviving were; Mary, Knud, Martha, Ione, Berget, Nare, Osmund, Salve, and Ole. Mr. Knutson assisted in the organization of Bygland Township and was elected its first Treasurer.



Knute S. Aker was born in Norway, Sept. 19, 1853, and came to this country in 1860 with his parents, Sonder and Ingebor Aker. They located in Winneshiek County, Iowa.

On June 12, 1878 Knute Aker came to Polk County and bought 160 acres of railroad land which is still a part of his home farm. In the fall of 1910 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and served in the regular session of 1911 and the special session of 1912.

Mr. Aker was married in Bygland Twp. Polk County on June 3, 1880, to Miss Alice Thompson, who was born in Cresco, Iowa, March 4, 1862. Nine children were born to the union, and only three are now living, namely, Mrs. Ole Bramseth (Guri), Mrs. Harry Larson (Annie) and Carl.

Mr. Aker passed away in 1930 and Mrs. Aker died in 1938. Both are buried at the Sundest Cemetery.



Ole F. Bruun was born in Norway, Oct. 27, 1862, and immigrated to this country in 1880 and located first in Ottertail County, Minnesota, where he arrived May 24. On June 4, 1888 of that year he was united in marriage with Mrs. Gia Thoreson who was born in Fillmore County, Minnesota, Sept. 8, 1868. After his marriage, Mr. Bruun took up his residence on a farm in Sec. 24 Tynsid Twp. Polk Co., buying eighty acres of land which is still owned. In 1901 he bought 363 acres of land in Sec. 2, Vineland Twp. and changed his residence to that tract on which he also erected a fine set of buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruun raised twelve children. Mr. Bruun passed away in 1937 and Mrs. Bruun died in 1939. Both are buried in the Sandhill Cemetery.

Mr. Andreas J. Gronberg was born in Trondheim, Norway on August 7, 1846. He and his wife Maria, (who was born August 7, 1853.) immigrated to the United States in 1882. Coming direct from New York City, to Halstad, Minn. by train.

One son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gronberg while they still lived in Norway, his name was John. Other children born to them were Carl, Olaf, — they settled on the N.E. quarter of Section 32 Vineland Township. For a number of years Mr. Gronberg was road overseer and township Treasurer of his township. Mr. Gronberg died in May 1904. And Mrs. Gronberg died in 1946. They were both buried in the Skatvold Cemetery.

Johannes J. Bjornstad was born near Tretten, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway in 1838. His wife, Karen, a native of the same place in Norway was born in 1850.

They came to the U.S. in 1875 and took up a homestead in what became Hubbard Township. Until they were able to cultivate the land, Johannes worked for his brother-in-law, Nels Paulrud, who had come to America four years earlier while his wife worked in Grand Forks. They lived in a dug-out on the coulee bank of the homestead until a loghouse was completed.

The Bjornstads were early members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church. Their entire life was spent on the farm they homesteaded. Johannes passed away in 1926 and Karen in 1939.

Six children were born to them: Marie, Elise (Mrs. George Burd), Hans, Odin, Netta (Mrs. Oscar Hanson), and Hans.



Mikkel G. Vraa, son of Gjermund and Liv Vraa, was born April 29, 1857 in Vroodal, Telemarken, Norway. He immigrated to America in 1871 and lived for a time in Fairbault County, and later moved with his father and two brothers and a sister to Polk County by oxcart. He married Aslaug Folkestad in 1878. She immigrated to America in 1861 and settled in Freeborn County. She later moved to Chippewa County and from there to Polk County where she married Mr. Vraa. They lived the rest of their lives on their farm in Sec. 32 of Vineland Township. Five children were born to this union, one of who died in infancy. Others were: Louise, Sander, Mary (Mrs. Herman Halverson) Gina (Mrs. James Kolstad).

Mrs. Vraa passed away in 1938 and Mr. Vraa died in 1951.

Thomas O. Haugen was born in Telemarken, Norway, Dec. 24, 1859.

He arrived in Polk Co. in 1876 from Cresco, Iowa. He had walked that distance with a friend and first came to his cousin, Ole Tollefson. He was 17 years of age at this time.

He married Sigrid Olson, May 9, 1886. She came from Emmons, Minn. in 1877 at the age of 12.

Children born to them are: Oscar, Myrtle. (Two children died in infancy), Louis, Henry, Albert, Obert, Gilbert, Gina, Tillie, Clara, Nora, Lillian, and Lyla.

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church.

He passed away in July, 1944. He and his wife are buried in Sundet Cemetery.



Ole G. Dale was born in Rushford, Fillmore County, Minnesota, on Aug. 27, 1854, to Gunnvar and Gunhild Dale and came to Hubbard Township Polk County in 1875, and settled on the farm now owned by Mrs. Ann Larson. Mr. Dale married Annie Amundson in 1879. She was born in Telemark, Norway. Ten children were born to this couple: Gina, Gilbert, Henry, Tobias, Thilde, John, Otuf, Mabel, Clara and Adolph.

Mrs. Dale was struck by lightning while sitting by an open window in her home in Montana. Mr. Dale passed away June 24, 1940. Both are buried at Farifield, Montana.

John Letnes was born in Norway Oct. 30, 1867, and came to this country in 1888, and located in North Dakota. In 1891 he became a resident of Polk County, Minnesota. During the railroad land boom he bought land which was the start of his farming operations. This land was located in Andover Township.

Mr. Letnes was married in 1894 to Miss Margaret Oustby of Climax, a former citizen of Norway. They raised nine children: Lawrence, Thomas, Pauline, Anna, Louis, John, Magnus, Daniel and Isabelle.

John Letnes passed away in 1931 and Mrs. Letnes in 1960. Both are buried in the Bergit Cemetery.



Andrew Steenerson (1855-1908) came to Polk County in 1878 and in 1880 was united in marriage with Bertha Ilaug (1858-1939) and seven children were born to this union. Our subject was born Feb. 9, 1855 in Sheldon, Houston Co., Minn. His wife was born in Kongsvinger, Norway, Dec. 2, 1858. Mr. Steenerson was sheriff of Polk Co. from 1892 to 1896, and gained prominence as a storekeeper in Climax. He died on May 9, 1908 and his wife died in 1939. They are buried in Bergit's Cemetery in Climax.



Levi Steenerson (1847-1915) was born in Norway July 22, 1847 and immigrated to America with his parents in the year 1851. In 1871 our subject came to the Red River Valley, reaching the site where the village of Climax now stands in June of that year. In 1891 he was married to Miss Sigrid Ostby, born Oct. 7, 1865 and they had seven children: Steener, Bergit, Ingeborg, Tarjie, Halver, Lou and Leif. Mr. Steenerson was first a "voyageur" working for the Hudson Bay Co., then he was a farmer, working on contracting timber in the pineries in the winter, an implement dealer in Fargo and Grand Forks. He platted the Village of Climax and gave free right-of-way to the Fargo & St. Vincent Railroad. He died Feb. 17, 1915; his wife died July 20, 1940. They are buried in Bergit's Cemetery in Climax.

Otto Paulson was born Nov. 14, 1851, near Oslo, Norway, and came to America in 1873. His wife's name was Mina Arnold, and she came to America in 1879 from Nannestad, Norway, at the age of 10 to Rushford, Minn., arriving in Polk Co. in 1877 at the age of 20 yrs.

Their children born to them were: Peder, Carl, and Clara (Mrs. Math Hanson).

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church, and they were the first couple to be married in the church, which was first located in the old Nielsville.

Mr. Paulson died Sept. 15, 1936, and is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery two miles south of Nielsville, Minn.



Martin Strommen was born in Norway in 1865. He came to the United States in 1884 and first located at Cannon Falls, Minn. From there he went to Aberdeen, So. Dak., and lived until 1887. They moved on to Minot, No. Dak. until 1890, when he came to the Red River Valley.

Martin located on a farm in Vine-land twp., Polk Co., where he lived until his death in 1926.

He married Miss Emma Estenson in 1896. Eight children were born to them: Olaf, Pauline, Edwin, George, Peter, Randolph, Harold, and Neal.

Mr. Strommen is buried in the Sand Hill Cemetery.

Hans C. Haugen was born in Søndreland, Norway, May 24, 1863. He came to the U.S.A. in 1882 by train to Ada, Minn. and from there to Polk Co. He settled on the S.E. ¼-31-147-48 (township of Hubbard).

He married Betsy Karen Wallan, July 8, 1892, and she came from Starbuck, Pope Co., Minn. in 1891.

Children born to them were: Ida C. Haugen, Kora, Amanda, Hilda, Martha, Selma, Alice, Henry C., Belle C., and Joseph T.

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church in Nielsville, Minn.

Mr. Haugen died May, 1947, and is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery, Nielsville, Minn.



Elling T. Dokken was born in Norway, Sept. 22, 1842, and grew to manhood and was educated in that country where he remained until late in the sixties when he immigrated to the U.S. and located in Worth Co., Iowa.

In 1871, he moved to Polk Co., Minn., and pre-empted 160 acres of land in sec. 36, Tynsid twp.

Mr. Dokken was married in Iowa on April 2, 1878, to Miss Ingrid Haug, who was born in Iowa, Oct. 24, 1853. They had four children: Minnie, Lena, Tilda, and Sven.

Mr. Dokken died in 1910 and Mrs. Dokken some years later. Both are buried in Sand Hill Cemetery.

Helge Thoreson was born in Osterdalen, Norway May 2, 1864. The father brought the family to America in 1868, locating in Fillmore County, Minnesota. They then moved to Ottertail County and settled on a homestead on which the father had entered claim. The father saw no good opportunities in Ottertail county in 1878 so he moved to Polk County Minnesota purchasing some land from the railroad. He died in 1892.

Helge Thoreson Jr. purchased his first land from the railroad company in 1886 and moved onto this land in 1887.

Mr. Thoreson was married in January of 1887 to Miss Anna Bangen of Norway. They were the parents of eight children, which were named: Josephine, Christine, Amanda, Helge, Thilda, Olga, Ole, and Eddy. Mr. Thoreson was a member of the township board and township treasurer for a number of years.

He was county commissioner in Polk County for 16 years.



Kornelius H. Valor was born in Norway, Aug. 4, 1850, and became a resident of Ottertail Co., Minn., in 1876. He was reared and married in his native land and there, also, he learned the carpenter trade. A few months after his arrival in Minn., he moved with his family to Polk Co. and located on his present farm.

Mr. Valor was married in Norway to Miss Mary Peterson. She died in 1902. They were the parents of 12 children.

His farm is located in Tynsid and Roome twp. Mr. Valor and his wife are buried at Sand Hill Cemetery.



Charles Nelson was born at Numedal, Norway, June 20, 1844. In 1857 his father brought him to the United States, locating in Dane County, Wisconsin. In 1862 Mr. Nelson and his father moved to Kondiyoli County, Minnesota.

Charles was married in Minneapolis to Miss Carrie Olson Roseno of Goodhue County, where she was brought by her parents from her native town of Stordalen, Trondhjem Stift, Norway, when she was twelve years old. She was born in 1857. In May, 1880, Mr. Nelson bought and proved up a homestead of 120 acres in Section 29 Vineland Township. He also bought 200 acres of railroad land at an average price of \$7.50 an acre with a rebate of \$3.00 an acre.

He was a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were blessed with six children: Nels Oluf, Carl Marcus, Clara Cecilia, Lilli, Val-

borg and Ralph Melvin. Mr. Nelson died in 1917 and his wife passed away in 1961.



Elias Steenerson was born November 4, 1856 in the town of Sheldon, Houston County, Territory of Minnesota. In August, 1876, he started for Polk County, where an older brother had taken up a homestead in the year of 1871. They covered a distance of 500 miles, arriving at Sandhill River, now Climax, on Nov. 3, 1876. He taught school for some time and then bought the improvement on a claim of 160 acres in Sec. 6 in what is now called the Township of Hubbard. Mr. Steenerson was married to Miss Oianna Long in 1884. They had one son, Vivian, who died at the age of 21 years. In 1904 Mr. Steenerson was appointed Postmaster of Crookston by President Theodore Roosevelt, and served until in July, 1913.

Mrs. Steenerson died Jan. 1, 1939. We have no information as to when Mr. Steenerson passed away.

Olaus Jenson Engelstad was born Oct. 25, 1863, in Nonsta, Norway. He came to Polk Co. about 1877 from Nonsta, Norway, and with him was Julius Knudson. Mr. Engelstad settled on the S.E. quarter in sec. 20, twp. of Hubbard and range 48. His wife's name was Julia Paubson, and she came from Rushford, Minn. in 1879. They were married Nov. 1897.

Children born to the Engelstads were: Mabel Constance, Ella Caroline, Mabel (Mrs. Bennie Aukland), Alice (Mrs. Clifford Orvik), Hilda (Mrs. Emil Hanson), Ethel (Mrs. Melvin Eidsmoe), Oscar, and Harry. They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church.

Olaus passed away March 29, 1929 and is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery.



Hans H. Bangen was born in Tolgen, Norway, December 24, 1838. He came to America in the summer of 1866, coming first to Freeborn County, Minnesota where he engaged in teaching in the Norwegian schools until 1873. The following spring he returned with his friends to the Valley. He lived on Mr. Estenson's farm the first year and in 1874 moved to what was going to be his home for many years.

Mr. Bangen was married in Freeborn County to Miss Eline Thompson, also of Norway. Mr. & Mrs. Bangen were the parents of the following children: Mina, Sofie, Hans, Anton, Marie, Clara, Thea, Laura, Theodore, Adolph, and Helmer. He was an active temperance worker and was President of the Red River Valley Temperance Association. Mr. Bangen died in 1923, and Mrs. Bangen in 1948.



Jay Rolston was born in Wisconsin in 1876 and came to Climax, Minnesota in 1896, where he started the first barber shop. In 1901 he married Bertha Satermo at Climax. In 1902 they moved to Stephen, Minnesota, where Mr. Rolston continued barbering. Mrs. Rolston passed away in 1947 and Mr. Rolston died in 1955. They are both buried in Sandhill Cemetery. Surviving are three sons, Forest and Morris of Crookston and Lowell of Minneapolis, and one daughter, Mrs. Eisner of Erskine, Minnesota.



A. H. Kahlert was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, (Date unknown) and came to Climax, Minnesota, in 1897, and built the first photograph gallery. Many of the pictures used in this book were taken by Mr. Kahlert. He was also the first policeman in Climax. Mr. Kahlert was married in 1895 at St. Paul to Miss Nellie Erickson, who was born in Wisconsin in 1873. Mr. Kahlert operated the photo gallery until 1905, when it burned to the ground. He then moved to Crookston where he operated a saloon for a number of years. Later he moved to Lewiston, Idaho, where he lived until his death in 1921. Mrs. Kahlert remained at Climax and built and operated Hotel Adeline until she passed away at Climax, Minnesota, in 1933. This hotel is now an apartment house, also housing a barber shop. Two daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kahlert: Mildred of Climax; and Adeline of Nashville, Tenn.

spent his childhood in Worth County, Iowa. He attended Prof. Dr. Breckenridge Institute in Decorah, Iowa and here received his qualifications to teach school. In July 1886 he came to Polk County, Minnesota. For the next four years he taught school near Neby, and also on the Dakota side of the Red River until the fall of 1890 when he was elected as Superintendent of Schools. He was barely 25 years old at the time. He was active in the temperance movement and other reforms; and is accredited with the formation of the newspaper, "Red Riverdalen." Death came to Mr. Grifthen while he was twenty five years old. He is buried in the Neby Cemetery.



Haggerty married Lena Boission, who was born July 14, 1868 in Ontario, Canada. This couple was blessed with the following children: William, Barney, John, Mary, Gertrude, Ellen, George, Agnes, Thomas, Louis, Frank, Florence, Martin, Eugene, and Wendell. The Haggertys were members of the St. Francis Catholic Church. Mr. Haggerty died in Sept., 1943 and Mrs. Haggerty passed away Feb. 20, 1943. They are buried in the Fisher Cemetery.



Thomas Logan was born in the year 1847 in Mayo, Ireland, and immigrated to the United States arriving in Polk County, Minnesota, on June 15, 1877, by ox team and covered wagon from Vineland, New Jersey. They settled on Sec. 2 in Tynsid Township. His wife, Bridget, who was born in 1875 in Galway, Ireland, and daughter Mary, also emigrated at the same time. Other children of this union were: Martin, Thomas, Norah, Teresa, Dollie, Lucy, Laura, John, Sadie, Agnes, Rose, Arthur and Clare. The Logans were members of the St. Francis Catholic Church in Fisher, Minnesota. Thomas Logan passed away Feb. 15, 1931.



John Logan was born in 1859 in County Mayo, Ireland. He married Margaret Quirk on April 14, 1884. Miss Quirk was a native of White Haven, Pennsylvania, and arrived in Polk County in 1874. She was the daughter of Matthew Quirk. John Logan came to Manchester, New Jersey in 1865. He came by train to Polk County where he bought some railroad land at \$5.00 an acre, in 1877.

Mr. and Mrs. Logan were blessed with thirteen children: Martin, Nellie, Edward, Matthew, Thomas, William, Leo, Ambrose, Blanche, Mae, Leslie, Margaret, Louise. The Logans were members of the St. Francis Catholic Church at Fisher, Minnesota. Mr. Logan passed away Dec. 1, 1920.



E. J. Grifthen was born June 16, 1865 in Hallingdal, Norway. He

John Haggerty was born Feb. 2, 1860 in County Clark, Ireland, emigrating to America and arriving at Fishers Landing in Polk County in the year of 1877. He now joined his father who had arrived earlier with Martin and Michael Quirk. Mr.



Esten Stubson was born in Lonset, Norway, (Osterdalen). He emigrated to the United States and arrived in Polk County prior to the year of 1879, and settled on Sec. 12, Vine-land Township. Mr. Stubson married Beret Johnson of Osterdalen, Nor- way, and she made the trip from Norway with him. Others in the same company were: Halvor Lunos, Ole Gordon and Jacob Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Stubson were the parents of the following children: Annie Ford, Ingebrit, John, Ida, Emma. The Stubsons were members of the Sandhill Lutheran Church.



Halvor Steenerson (1852-1926) was born in Dane County, Wisconsin June 30, 1852. He was graduated from Union College of Law in Chi- cago and came to Crookston in 1880. He practiced law, was city attorney, state senator and congressman from the 9th district. He served in Con- gress for about 20 years. In 1878 he was married to Miss Marie Christo- pherson Fjaugeson and 4 children were born to this marriage. He died Nov. 21, 1926 and his wife died Oct. 9, 1921. They are buried in Oakdale Cemetery, Crookston, Minn.



Matthew P. Martin was born in Ireland emigrating to the United States as a youth. He settled in St. Louis and from there went to Moor- head, Minnesota, arriving in Polk County in the year 1873. He settled on Sec. 22 in Tynsid Township. Mr. Martin married Bridget Logan, also of Ireland. The Martins were mem- bers of the St. Francis Catholic Church in Fisher, Minnesota. Child- ren born to the Martins: John, Matthew, Mamie, Edward, Annie and Michael. No record of their deaths were available.



Ole J. Bramseth, of Vineland Township, Polk County. Ole was born in Trondhjem, Norway, Oct. 13, 1849. His parents came to America in 1869, took up residence in Eau Clair, Wisconsin, where his father worked in a saw mill. They later moved to Houston County, Minn., where they lived until 1871. He filed a claim in Sec. 28 Vineland Township. He married Hattie Gjir- mundson, a native of Norway. To this marriage the following children were born: Johanna, Elize, Gilbert, Andrew, Annie and Olga. The Bram- seths continued to reside on this homestead until 1887 when they sold the farm and bought an 80 acre tract in Sec. 33. The Bramseths were Re- publicans and were members of Skat- vold Lutheran Congregation.



Jacob Soes, better known to most of us as J. P. Soes, was born in Den- mark in 1871. He came to America when he was seventeen years old, settling in Crookston, Minnesota. He married Emma Oieren, of Middle River, Minnesota. Two daughters were born to this union: Myrtle, who passed away in 1925, and Evelyn Bakke of Grand Forks, North Dako- ta.

Mr. Soes came to Climax in 1901 where he purchased the drug store and post office building from a Mr. J. Eid. Christ Steenerson was the post master at that time. Mr. Soes was post master and druggist until his death Feb. 23, 1935. He also had the distinction of building the first modern house in Climax.



Among the first of the Irish in the Red River Valley was Michael Quirk. He was born in Tryeland, County Roscommon, Ireland in 1839.

In 1872, starting at St. Louis, Mis- souri, he traveled by boat up the Miss. R. to St. Paul and from there overland to Moorhead, and then to Polk Co. When the land was sur- veyed, he filed a homestead claim on his tract of 160 acres in Tynsid Twp.

Michael Quirk married Elizabeth Lealos in 1874. She had come to Al- monte, Canada, from County Wex- ford, Ireland, and then to Polk Co. Their eight children were: Margaret, John, Anna, Elizabeth, Edward, Mary, Matthew, & Delia.



Jacob Thorson was born in Finnoy, Norway, Feb. 19, 1869. He arrived in Polk Co. in 1884. He settled on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -33-147-48. His wife's name was Malena Amdal, and she came from Nerstrand, Norway in 1890.

They were married Dec. 3, 1892. They had one son who died in infancy, and other children as follows: Thomas, Annie Thorson Rodal, and Mabel Thorson Bjorgo.

They were members of St. Petri Luth. Church, which was built on the old Nielsville site in the year 1887.

He died May 13, 1940, and is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery two miles south of Nielsville.



Ole J. Skalet was born March 25, 1854 in Valdres, Norway. His wife Olava Ellingson was born in Ringerike, Norway on June 4, 1858. They emigrated to America and arrived in Polk County, Minnesota in July, 1886. They settled on a farm in the N. E. Sec. 28, Hubbard Township. Mr. and Mrs. Skalet were accompanied from Norway by three children—John and twin girls, Anne and Gertrude. Other children born to this union were: Clara, Olga and Ella.

Mr. Skalet served as a trustee for the St. Petri Lutheran Church at Neilsville, Minn. of which they were members. Mr. Skalet passed away August 10, 1934.



Mr. Carl M. Paulson was born at Nielsville, Minn., Sept 3, 1882 (Polk County) and was of Norwegian descent. He married Otilie Melness of Erskine, Minn., April 10, 1907. She was born at Northfield, Minn., in the year 1879, and moved with her parents to Erskine, Minn., and from there coming to Nielsville to work on the Hayes farm in 1898.

Their children are: Clarence, Myrtle (Mrs. Art Stenberg), and a foster son Garfield Arneson (taken into this home at the age of 4 years).

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church, built in 1879. Carl passed away May 27, 1963. He is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery, Nielsville, Minn.

Andrew A. Moen was born in Valdris, Norway, March 6, 1869. He arrived in Polk Co. by train, and first came to Beltrami, Minn. He walked the distance from Beltrami to Nielsville in Aug., 1895. He settled on the N.W. quarter in sec. 27, twp. 147, range 48, now Hubbard Twp.

He married Hannah Klubberud, Feb. 8, 1898, and she came from No. Dak. in 1891.

The children are: Nels, Anton, and Hans. They were members of St. Petri Lutheran Church, Nielsville, Minn.

Mr. Moen passed away March 2, 1951, and is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery.

Albert J. Grotha was born on a farm in Trondjim, Norway, November 7, 1856. His parents and family moved to Norman County, Minn. in 1871. They drove overland with ox-

teams from Fillmore County, Minn. After arriving in Norman County the father entered claim to land in Halstad Township. Some years later Mr. Grotha took government land and began farming after which he sold his homestead and purchased railroad land in 1883.

Mr. Grotha was married in 1883 to Miss Karen Smustad, a native of Norway. Mr. & Mrs. Grotha were the parents of seven children. They were: Oliver, James, Christian, Carl, Bennitt, Alena, and Alma.



Mr. Nels S. Hanson was born March 18, 1877, in Vestre Gausdal Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. He arrived in Polk Co. in the year 1890. In 1909 he settled on E. $\frac{1}{2}$ -N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -27-Hubbard Township where he established his own farm.

His wife and one child (Agnes) came with him from Erskine, Minn. His wife's name was Amanda Mathida Ellingson. They were married Jan. 18, 1908. She was from Nielsville, Minn.

Their children are: Agnes (Mrs. Ole Roningen), Harry, Norman, Alfred, Mabel (Mrs. Donald Sparrow), Elmer, and Daniel.

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church, Nielsville, Minn. Mrs. Nels Hanson died in 1922.

Borre Laurits Vignes was born in Stavanger, Norway, Oct. 25, 1863. He arrived in Polk Co. from Fillmore Co., June 15, 1884. Mr. Vignes settled on one quarter in sec. 23, Hubbard Twp., range 48.

His wife's name was Bronla Pederson Skigelstrand. She was born in Stavanger, Norway, Dec. 26, 1861. They were married in Ada, Minn. the summer of 1888. She died Nov. 17, 1940, in Crookston, Minn. She was buried in St. Petri Luth. Church, Nielsville.

Names of their children were: Emil Berent, Oscar Palmer, & Peder Johannes.

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church.

He died in Crookston, Minn., May 15, 1948, and is buried in St. Petri.



Oley S. Roningen was born in Lunde Telemarken, Norway, in 1867. He came from Norway to Hatton, N. Dak. He was married in Hatton to Anne Hildal in 1893. His wife also came from Norway.

He worked a few years on the F. Enger farm at Hatton, N. Dak. and also started farming there before coming to Nielsville, Minn., in Polk Co. in 1895.

Their children are: Sam, Alfred, Andrew, Oley, and Mary.

He settled on the N.W. 1/4-sec. 24-Hubbard Twnshp. Farming was his life's occupation. They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church, Nielsville, Minn.

Mr. Roningen died July 5, 1926, and Mrs. died Jan. 10, 1942. They are buried in the St. Petri Cemetery.



Hans T. Olauson was born in Drammen, Norway, Sept. 20, 1857. He came by train to Ada, Minn. from New York and arrived in Polk Co., May, 1882, where he settled on N.W. quarter in sec. 21, twndshp. of Hubbard.

Mr. Olauson's wife's name was Bertha Skifton, and she came from Chester, Iowa, July 12, 1893. They were married July 12, 1893. Children born to them were: Gusta, Josephine, Oscar, and Henry.

They were members of the St. Petri Luth. Church. Hans died July 15, 1940, and is buried in the St. Petri Cemetery.

Franz Hanson was born Oct. 12, 1856 in Fillmore County, Minnesota, to Norwegian parents. His wife, Regine Bernhartson, was born June 24, 1861 in Telemarken, Norway and emigrated to the United States in 1868. Mr. Hanson arrived in Polk County in the year 1878 and settled on the N. E. 1/4 Sec. 8-147-48. During his active years he served as town clerk and school treasurer. Children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson were: Aasse, Tilla Caroline, Henry, Hanna, Fred, Elmer, Betsy and Carl. The Hansons were members of the St. Petri Lutheran Church at Neilsville, Minnesota. Mrs. Hanson died July 3, 1944, and Mr. Hanson passed away May 12, 1945.



HUBBARD TOWNSHIP

The first settlers came to what is now known as Hubbard Township in 1871, and settled in the northwest corner of the township. Another group of settlers arrived in this same general area prior to 1879 and claimed land a little farther south than those arriving in 1871. It is interesting to note that they founded their homes near to the Red River, perhaps of a source of fuel and nearness to water for home and livestock.

Early records show that Hubbard Township in the early days was part of Vineland Township. These records show that the earliest roads were laid out by the Supervisors of Vineland Township.

It is generally believed that Hubbard became an independent township about 1885. It is in this year that available records show signatures which are definitely known to be residents of Hubbard Township.

POLK CITY

Although the advent of railroads stimulated the townsite business, it flourished to a considerable extent before the railroads. Many towns

were started on the Red River to thrive for a time as river ports. One of these was the forgotten city on the Minnesota side, to which we have referred. It was called Polk City after the county of that name in which it was located, Polk County being much larger then. It is not known who platted the Polk townsite but the promoters apparently were energetic, for they soon had business places on the site and even a flour mill and a portable saw mill. There was a steamboat landing, of course, and for a time Polk City rivaled Caledonia, which was just a few miles south of it on the Dakota side.

Oldtimers remembered general stores, hardware stores, many dwellings, grain balthouses and other business enterprises in Polk City. It became a trading center of a section rapidly being peopled by settlers. Foresighted promoters could not have expected the town to survive the advent of the railroad, at least not without being moved, but took a hand in the determination of the town's future. Fire destroyed the mill, and then one dry summer, most of the other structures on the townsite were razed by fire. Perhaps the building of the railroad and the springing up of other cities already had sealed the doom of Polk City, and her business men, realizing this, had not attempted to rebuild the town. Anyway, it soon disappeared and today there is not a vestige of it left, and crops grow where tall buildings, paved streets and white ways might exist today under a more kindly disposed Providence.

QUINCEY

A village that has passed into the past is the town of Quincey, which was located in the central part of Section 26, in the township of Elm River. The first buildings were erected in 1876. This village, though small was delightfully situated on one of the finest sites along the picturesque Red River. This village suffered the same fate as other small river ports until today, with all of the buildings razed or removed, the only vestige left is the Quincey Cemetery. The last building to be moved from the townsite was the church. This forgotten village stood on the Dakota side of the Red River. A post office was located at Quincey in 1887. The Hudson Bay Company ran a mail coach between Georgetown and Pembina, on the west side of the river. There were stations twelve miles apart along this road where teams were changed and lunch could be had. A few people lived at each of these stations. One of these was located at Quincey. There was a hotel here where people traveling between Moorhead and the Goose River generally stopped.

NIELSVILLE

The first settler who came to Nielsville was Niels O. Paulsrud. He settled one and one-half miles from Nielsville on the coulee near the Hans Bjornstad farm. This was in the year 1872.

In the year 1882, the first Post Office was established. It was located in the Paulsrud shack. It was given the name Nielsville after Niels. In 1885 the Post Office was taken to the Andrew Thompson farm where Niels carried it to Caledonia, North Dakota. There was also a third Post Office. It was in old Nielsville, in the L. S. Kolden store. At that time the mail was carried from Fisher, Minn., to old Nielsville, Minn.

The Great Northern Railroad was built from Halstad, Minn., to Crookston, Minn., in the year 1896. At that time the settlers in old Nielsville decided to move their business places and homes, and also the Church (St. Petri Norwegian Lutheran Church) to the now present site, Nielsville, Minn.

The Village was incorporated May 20, 1920.

There are none of the earlier, pioneer business places now in operation except the Great Northern Depot, and many new changes have been made since the early pioneer days.

The first settler, Niels O. Paulsrud, served as Sheriff of Polk County in the early days of this settlement.



One of first school houses at Nielsville



Pictures tell many stories



Driving too fast



Peter Estenson at work with his team



A sod house on the prairie

One pioneer, early one morning saw a bear and started to run. His wife yelled, "Come back, are you going to leave me here and let the bear eat me up?" The man said, "Oh, you fool, don't you see I'm running to get a gun."

BRIDGES



The first bridge across the Red River between Frog Point, N.D. and Climax, Minn.



Third Bridge



First Bridge at Nielsville



New Memorial Bridge



Third Bridge at Nielsville

THE CYCLONE OF 1902



Ringsaker Church Destroyed

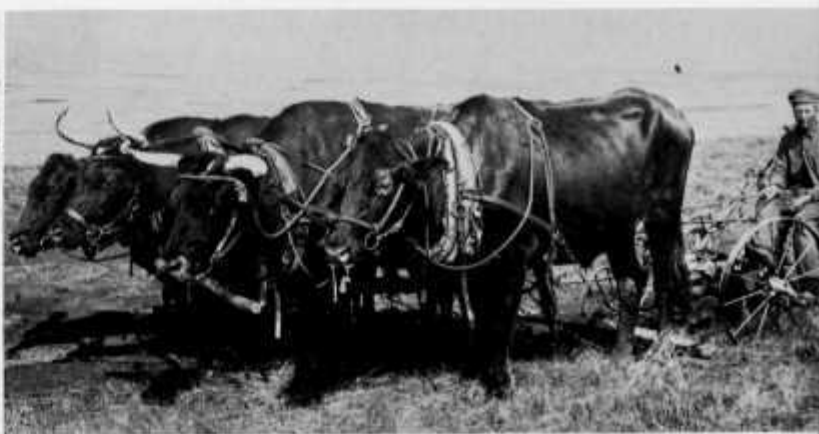
The above picture was taken by Theo. Bye, just a few minutes before the storm struck and destroyed the Rosendahl Church. (Bentru Township) 8 P.M., July 15, 1902 the following people were in the church for choir practice. Ole Loing, Jr., Charlie Erickson, Ole Hougness, Arne Ellingston, Jennie Erickson, Gunell, Louise and Clara Sollum. Shortly after they entered the church, the storm struck, five of these people although hurt were able to walk and three were hurt critically. A hurried trip was made by Carl Loing to Reynolds, North Dakota for Dr. Holleday to attend the injured. The doctor informed Ole Loing Sr. that an operation would be necessary for his son Ole, Jr. The next evening Dr. Wheeler of Grand Forks arrived by train at Reynolds. The two doctors drove by team to the Loing farm eight and one half miles east of Reynolds. At eleven o'clock that night with only kerosene lamps, and on the kitchen table, they operated. After 18 more trips by Dr. Holleday, Ole Loing Jr. 18 years old died on August 2nd.

This was the same cyclone that destroyed the first Ringsaker Church at Belmont, North Dakota. Many barns and small buildings along the Red River also blew down in the storm.

Only a Memory



Hitch up the Oxen, Pa!



HILLSBORO

HILLSBORO: Originally known as HILL CITY for is was established on the hill west of the present site. When the Great Northern R.R. reached here from Grand Forks in Sept., 1880, S. G. Comstock and White, in charge of townsites along this road, platted the station townsite along the south of the Goose River and named it COMSTOCK. The Post office was established Sept. 14, 1880, with Asa M. Morgan, postmaster; succeeded in 1885 by his cousin Manly Morgan. On Aug. 12, 1885 the village name was changed officially to Hillsboro, to honor James J. Hill, the empire Builder of the Great Northern Rwy. Hillsboro organized as a city May 1, 1882, and was designated the county seat in 1890.

EARLY BUSINESS MEN: Ackee, N. E., Norway. 1872 General Merchandise. Anderson, Ollus, Wisconsin. 1881 P.M., Hardware and Horse Dealer. Brevik, O., Norway. 1886 Marble Dealer. Bowers, Geo. E., Michigan. 1881 Editor. Baglien, Hanson & Co. General Merchandise. Bates, Geo. F., Maine. 1891 Physician and Surgeon. Burnett, Elmer, Ohio. 1884 Livery. Burmeister, Charles, Canada. 1882 Fruit and Confectionery. Clark, O. P., Vermont. 1878 Clerk of Dist. Court. Carmody, John, Wisconsin. 1885 Attorney at Law. Carley, Thomas, Indiana. 1888 Hotel Proprietor. Elliott, L. O., Indiana. 1882 Bakery and Confectionery. Falk, E. N., Norway. 1876 Editor of Trail County Times. Goodman, Fred D., New York. 1881 Loans, Insurance and Real Estate. Hagen, Chr., Norway. 1886 Contractor, Painter and Decorator. Howard, Gunder, Norway. 1872 Importer and Dealer in Horses. Harvie, W. D., New York. 1889 Physician and Surgeon. Johnson, J. L., Norway. 1886 Lather. Kennedy, Joseph, Minn. 1886 County Superintendent of Schools. Kjelsberg, J. O., Norway. 1878 County Judge and Farmer. Larson, Lewis, Minn. 1877 Miscellaneous. Langlie, H. A., Norway. 1882 County Auditor. Leslie, C. E., Vermont. 1889 Attorney. Loitwood, P. N., Denmark. 1882 Elevator Agent, N.W. Elevator. Lindell, A., Norway. 1888 Editor. Moore, J. M., Illinois. 1881 Druggist. Morgan, A. H., Maine. 1872 Merchant. Morgan, C. W., Maine. 1872 Druggist. Murphy, M. H. Wisconsin. 1883 Proprietor of N.D. Boiler Works. Muri, L. O. N., Norway. 1882 Bookkeeper. Nelson, N. D., Norway. 1879 Merchant and County Treasurer. Paulson, John E., Minn. 1877 General Mdse. and farm Machinery. Pierce, E. M. Michigan. 1890 Dentist. Pritchard, P. L., Illinois. 1883 Hardware. Quamsee, T. J., Norway. 1887 Merchant—Tailor. Rinnert, F. J., Indiana. 1887 Boiler Works and Contractor. Rustad, Andrew, Iowa. 1878 Hardware and Tinsmith. Rudrud, M. O., Norway. 1882 Contractor and Builder. Sarles, E. Y., Wisconsin. 1881 Banking and Lumber. Sarles, O. C., Wisconsin. 1881 Vice-Pres. First National Bank and Sarles Lumber Co. Sargeant, Asa, Vermont. 1870 Farmer and Register of Deeds. Selby, J. F. Pennsylvania. 1881 Attorney at Law. Seaver, W. K., Illinois. 1879 Deputy Sheriff and Chief of Police. Skrivseth, J. L., Norway. 1879 Photographer. Swenson, P. G., Norway. 1888 Attorney at Law. Taylor, B. C., Canada. 1886 Veterinary Surgeon. Tockle, A. L., Norway. 1891 Merchant Tayler. Weston, Mrs. Geo. E., Canada. 1878 Proprietor of the Weston House.

BUXTON

BUXTON: Named by Budd Reeve, the founder and townsite owner, in honor of his friend and business associate, Thomas J. Buxton, banker and city treasurer of Minneapolis, Minn. On completion of the St. P., Mpls. & Manitoba (now called the G.N.R.R.) to this point Budd Reeve platted the townsite in Nov. 1880 on Sec. 25-148-51, erected an elevator hotel and several business blocks. The post office was established Nov. 8, 1880, with Arne A. Moen, postmaster.

EARLY BUSINESS MEN: I. W. Corry, Agent for inter-state grain Co. J. Grassick, Physician and Surgeon. A. L. Hanson, Banker. L. O. Myhre, Hardware. Geo. L. O'Neale, Agent for M. & N. Elev. P. L. Odegard, Elev. Agent. Thompson & Jacobson, Gen. Merchandise. L. Usted, Lumber Agent. T. H. Wolody, Gen. Merchandise. Charles Berg, Druggist. D. T. Borgen, Pastor. T. Borin, Hotel. R. R. Knutson, Hardware. Louise Bergerson, Millinery. O & C. Hong, Hardware. Jacob Nesvig, Butcher. Arne A. Moen, Postmaster. Christian Haugen, Hotel. Erick R. Nestoss, Harness Maker. Nesvig and Olson, Butcher shop. Sam Peterson, Depot Agent. A. B. Steen, Barber. O. T. Thomsen, Shoe Maker. J. H. Springer, Restaurant.



Buxton Band 1913

CUMMINGS

CUMMINGS: Platted by F. L. Comfort in 1880 on Sec. 30 of Irvine Twp. and named for Henry Cumings, a Great Northern Rwy. employee at the time the rails were laid. The post office was established Oct. 9, 1882, with Dow B. Wilbur, post master. The post office was cumings with one "M2 but the name was so consistently misspelled that the Post Office Dept. legitimized the doubling of this letter March 15, 1922 when Burbett L. Meyers was postmaster.

EARLY BUSINESS MEN: G. A. Kirkeberg, General Store; D. Larson, Banker; O. A. Stonedahl, Constable; Vestre, Blacksmith; T. Farthun, Hardware Store; Simon Haugen, Blacksmith; D. B. Wilbur, Hotel and Livery; Charles H. Phillips, Minister of the Gospel; E. J. Smith, Elevator Agent.

THOMPSON

THOMPSON: From the time of earliest settlement until Jan. 21, 1881 when Albert Thompson was commissioned postmaster, both the village and post office were called **NORTON**, for George Norton, owner of land near the townsite, in Sec. 25 Allendale Twp. and Sec. 30 Walle Twp. Two versions are given for the change of name. Because mail from Norton, Minn., was frequently sent here by mistake, the postal Dept. was requested to rename the post office for the postmaster and his brother Robert Thompson, early settlers here. The other version—it was named for Alec Thompson, local pioneer business man. The same year, 1881, the Great Northern R.R. changed the name of the station to that of the post office.

EARLY BUSINESS MEN IN THOMPSON, NORTH DAKOTA: C. C. Odney, Grain buyer, S. A. Iverson, Grain buyer, Hans Anderson, Grain buyer, Henry Peterson, Blacksmith, T. Kjelsberg, Painter, O. Thompson, Shoemaker, Eng and Wilde, Hardware, Nels and Henry Falk, Hotel, Breun and Peterson, Feed Mill, Marie and Helena Wilde, Dress makers, Jacob Brown, Black, Mr. Stubb, Meat market, Cameron and Smith, Machinery and Hardware, Joseph Freeman, Blacksmith, J. M. Schieffer, Harness maker, Max Griggs, Griggs house and livery, Leon Turcotte, Livery and Sales stable.

REYNOLDS

REYNOLDS: A Great Northern R. R. station in Sec. 31, Americus Twp. established in 1880 and named for Dr. Henry A. Reynolds, a temperance apostle, who homesteaded the land on which it is located. He platted and promoted the townsite in 1880 and was commissioned the first postmaster May 26, 1881. The town is on the Grand-Forks—Traill County line; and many residents have their business places in one county, their homes in the other. It is one of three towns in North Dakota situated in more than one county.

EARLY BUSINESS MEN IN REYNOLDS, N.D.: Ben Lavelley—Jewelry Store, Bill Hemmey—Grocery Store, Finn Lay—Meat Market, H. R. Dickson—Gen. Merchandise, Bill Corry—Hardware store—Curfoot—Drug Store, L. Shulstad—Hardware Store—Tabor—Lumber Yard, Halvor Sevrnson—Wagon Shop, Osten Bros.—Blacksmith Shop, Martin Mefa.—Blacksmith, Martin Bye.—Restaurant, Christ Gorder—Restaurant and shoe repair shop, Halvor Drenkson.—Harness shop, Lebacken Bros.—General Merchandise, John Murphy—Banker, Swen Ellingson—Furniture Store, S. Christonson—Bicycle shop, Jim Lindfoot—Taylor, Ole Larson—Grain buyer, Frank Sale—Grain buyer, Dr. White-man—Vet. and livery man, Lee Ford—livery stable, Geo. L. Reyerson—Attorney and editor Reynolds Enterprise, Jenney Bros—Flour mill—Swift—dray man, Dr. Holladay—Doctor, Dr. Smith, Dentist, P. L. Allen—grain buyer, Alex Austin—Blacksmith, W. F. Grewe—Vet, J. M. Hubbard—farm Mach and Real Estate, Hosetter Bros.—lumbermen, Lars Larson—Elevator, agent, Procter and Wilcox.—Gen. Merchandise, Frank Davis—Tow Mill, Christ Murphy.—Barber, Swen Myhre—sallon, Michael J. Forde.—Blacksmith, M & C Hebacken.—farm Machinery, Ludvik Schulstad.—Hardware, D. J. Hennessy.—grain buyer, Nick Keitel.—Barber, Ole M. Hage.—Blacksmith, John Henderson, Rockaway Hotel.—Obrin.—soft drink parlor.



STORIES WORTH TELLING

KNUT RENSLER

At one time he was going to cross the Red River. Spring had then set in, the river rose lifting the ice and leaving a strip of open water on both sides. The weather turned cold that night and a sheet of ice formed around the shore. This had to be broken to make a passage to the solid ice. He stood in the boat beating the ice sheet with an oar, some ice had broken from the sheet further up stream. This was floating down stream, and failing to notice the floating ice sheet, it struck the boat. The jar sent him toppling into the icy water. Luckily he grabbed the gunwale and escaped with just a soaking in icy water. The distance to the house was about sixty rods. The water running out of the heavy clothing froze to icicles and made a jingling sound as he ran into the house.

Pastor Bersvend Anderson used to tell of an exciting experience he and his driver had in crossing the Red River during a spring flood near Belmont. They were driving a yolk of oxen from the Minnesota side by ferry, which was so water logged that it sank. They saved themselves from drowning by throwing themselves on the backs of the oxen, who swam across the river.

Much of the church activity of the day was at the Sandhill Church across the river and a close link with the neighbors across the Red was more common then, than it is now. It involved a trip in a row boat and a long walk through the woods. One almost unbelievable story is of the time during the late spring when a special meeting was to be held at the Sandhill Church and the boat was on the other side of the river. The river was still swollen from spring waters but Mr. Severson swam across to get the boat and thus the problem of getting there was solved.

Amond Erickson, coming from Fargo, No. Dak. to his homestead in Bentru Township with team and sled, got lost in a snow storm as he neared his home. As he drove along, his sled touched something that turned out to be the corner of Ole Loing's house. Mr. and Mrs. Loing were both home and they tried to take the team of horses inside the house to save them from the raging snow storm. It then occurred to them that the floor of the house might not hold up under their weight. They then thought of a lean-to on the north side of the house. Through this lean-to they slid the horses into the cellar under the house. The next day the storm was over and it was necessary to take the roof off the lean-to to get the horses out of the cellar.







1901 Funeral





HISTORY OF OLD SETTLER'S ASS'N

A short history of the Old Settler's Memorial Ass'n. Inc.

A public meeting was held in the Belmont Town Hall on March 2, 1944, for the purpose of formulating plans, ways, and means to construct a Memorial Monument in memory of the Pioneers who settled the Red River Valley.

The following Trustees were elected: Alfred Torgerson, Albert Haugstad, Carl Gronberg, Albert Hovet, Olaus Renslen, Oscar Nesvig, Carl Gunlickson, Gunder K. Dale, Martin Nettum, L. C. Odegard, Helmer Bangen, Julius Spokely, Melvin Sondreal, Theodore Peterson, and Edwin Cooper.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF OLD SETTLERS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION: Know all men by these presents: That we, the undersigned, have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the provisions of Chapter 23, Civil Code, Compiled Laws of 1913, and amendments thereto; and we hereby certify that:

ARTICLE I The name of said corporation shall be **OLD SETTLERS MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION.**

ARTICLE II Section 1. The purposes for which it is formed are: With solemn faith in God, full confidence in mankind and irrevocable fidelity to our country and institutions, this non-profit sharing membership memorial and historical Association is hereby organized for the purpose and with the objectives of providing for the preservation and research of scientific and other historical records and the continuance of progressive social economic enlightenment of patriotic education and ways and means to acquire a suitable parcel of land on or near the old townsite of Belmont, Traill County, North Dakota (formerly Dakota Territory) and to build, construct and erect thereon, as early as conditions permit, a suitable constructive and durable pioneer's memorial build-

ing; said building to be so constructed and equipped that it will provide for filing and preservation of historical community and individual records and further to acquire the essential co-related fixtures, souvenirs and other collections of historical material; and to prepare and maintain in a respectable manner the grounds and all other property of the Association and to provide public access to the grounds on which premises the use and sale of intoxicating beverages and gambling shall always be prohibited.

Section 2. In Witness Whereof, We have voluntarily associated ourselves to faithfully execute the above plan in accordance with the By-laws hereinafter provided. All this being done in memory and honor, gratitude and esteemed respect of our beloved early pioneers, old settlers and frontiersmen of this great historic Red River Valley of the North.

A monument commemorating the memory of the pioneers who settled the Red River Valley was erected in 1952 at a cost of about \$3,800.00. The ground where this monument stands was donated by Alfred Torgerson.

Buildings on the picnic grounds built in 1953 cost about \$3,100.00.

A log cabin built in 1871 by one of the first homesteaders of Vineland Township, Polk County, Minn. was moved to the park location in 1957 and now stands at the Belmont park entrance.

Names of the 1963 Trustees: Theodore Peterson, President; Ovey Wegge, Vice President; Edwin Cooper, Secretary; Clifford Erickson, Vice Secretary; Albert Haugstad, Treasurer; Willard Thompson; Ernest Hanson; Ordean Estenson; Marten Bartelson; Mancur Olson; James Nesvig; Richard Lowing; Alfred Torgerson; John Kjelsrud; Olean Hetland.

IN APPRECIATION

Trustees of the Old Settlers Memorial Ass'n appreciates, and wishes to give credit and thanks to all who Co-Operated with them in gathering material for the biographies, pictures, and to those contributors of data used in this booklet. First, Clarence Anderson, Hillsboro, N.D. The Fargo Forum and staff writer Roy P. Johnson, Fargo, N.D. May Atwood, B.C. Canada. Senator Quentin Burdick. Mary Ann Williams, Washburn, N.D. Mr. and Mrs. George Nornes, Climax, Minn. Elling Ellingson, Grand,

Forks, N.D. Carl Loing, Reynolds, N.D. Mrs. Abany Capistran, Crookston, Minn. Monroe Ellingson, Nielsville, Minn. Mrs. Irene Sondreal, Buxton, N.D. Mrs. Gaylord Olson, Buxton, N.D. Marshal T. Cooper and many others.

In as much as no previous history has been compiled in this area, the Trustees are aware that omissions and mistakes are both probable and possible.

Trustees Old Settlers Memorial Ass'n.





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