

John and Randine (Haugen) Bakke

John M. Bakke was among the early settlers in Marsh Grove Township. He was born Feb. 6, 1879 at Gulbrandsdalen, Norway and came to America at the age of thirteen. He lived with the Peter Bakke family in Marsh Grove township where he attended school at the Grimstad school. His mother Mathea Kristiandtr Olsen came to America a few years later and homesteaded eighty acres in Marsh Grove. Before homesteading, John and Mathea lived with the Peder and Agnete Bakke family and assumed the last name of Bakke. This was very common in Norway when people took a last name of the farm where they lived. John lived with his mother there in a little log house. They got their mail at the Fodvang Post Office. Their transportation was by oxen, later horses were used. Randina was very active in the Ladies Aid and was president for many years.

In 1908 John married Randine Haugen at Newfolden. They continued to live on the homestead where they had a few cows and three oxen and did some grain farming. Some years later they built a larger house. Both John and Randine were members of Westaker Lutheran Church. John also served on the school board and the township board a number of years. They had seven children, all were born at home. All the children grew up in Marsh Grove Township. John M. Bakke died Sept. 11, 1968 and Randine died in 1979. John's brothers Harlan and Roy Bakke owned and operated the home farm for many years.