

Charley and Christine (Olson) Knitter

Charley Knitter was a resident of Marshall County from 1881 until his death in 1936. He was born in Pommeran, Germany in 1871 to Fred and Henrietta Knitter. At the age of nine, he and his parents immigrated to America. They settled in Warren where they lived for one year. Later they lived near Argyle. After some years his father took a homestead in Marsh Grove Township.

In 1896 Charley married Christine Olson. She was born in Varmland, Sweden. As a young child she came to America with her parents Olaf and Igaborg Johnson. They settled in the Argyle area. The first couple years of married life, Charley and Christine lived on the Mentzel farm near Argyle. Here their son Fred was born. In 1900 they bought land in Marsh Grove Township. Times were hard and money was scarce but somehow they managed. Warren, which was twenty miles away was where they got their groceries and supplies. This was a hard, long trip with horses and wagon but they made it in one day by leaving in the wee hours of the morning and returning late at night. Mail was picked up at the Ellerth store. Later a school house was built, which was a mile away. The school term was three months. After some years it was lengthened to six. Some of the first teachers were Marie Phillipon, Ruth Hanson and Mattie Vixie. Four more children were born, Lillie, Ethel, Harry and Hazel. Fred farmed the land he purchased near the home place. Lillie lived in Minneapolis and California. In 1935 Harry married Lorraine Green. They had two daughters. For many years they made their home in Stephen, where he was an implement dealer. He died in 1972. Hazel married Vernon Reiersen of Thief River Falls. They have three daughters. At present they are living in Buffalo, Minnesota. After Charley died, his wife Christine and son Fred continued to live on the farm. She died in 1955. At present Fred and Ethel are on the home farm.

From the Self Portrait of Marshall County, 1976

Submitted by daughter, Ethel Knitter

