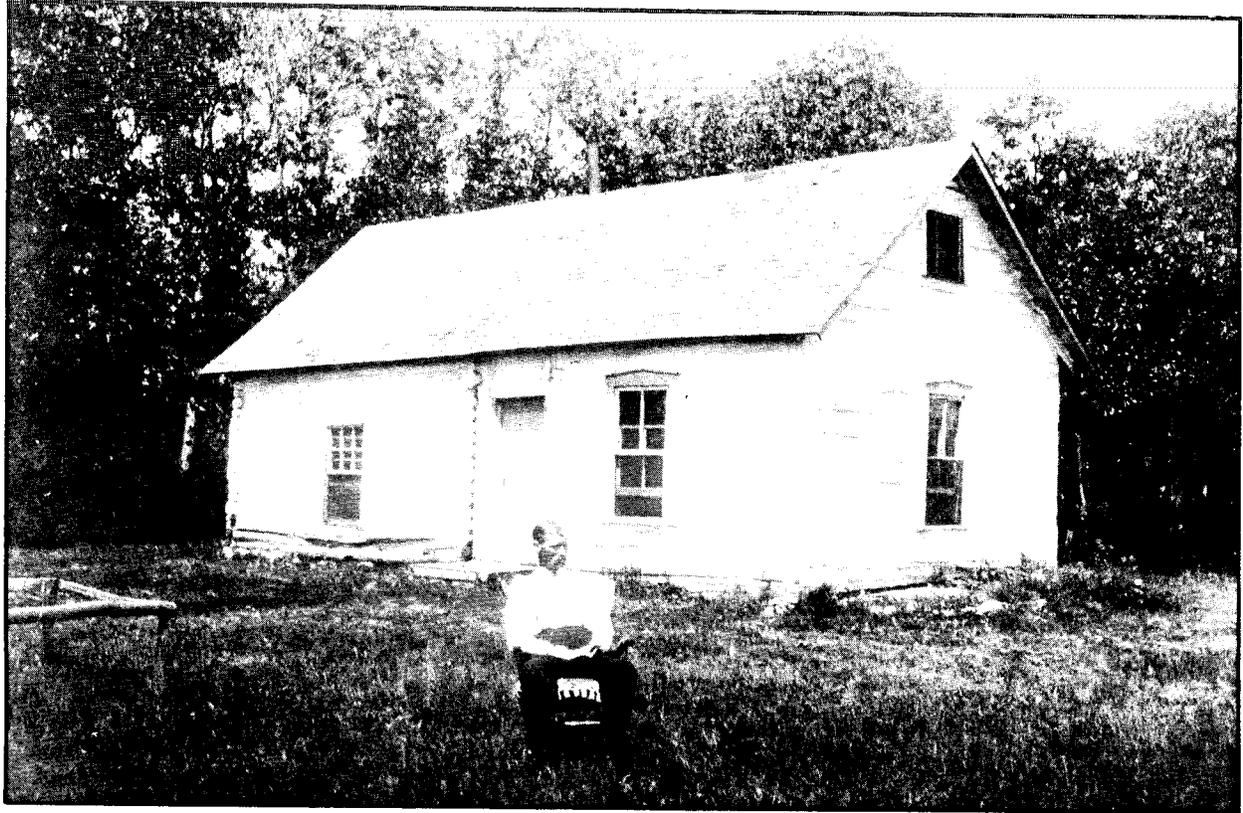


An incomplete history of
Marsh Grove Township
1884-1984



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF MARSH GROVE TOWNSHIP, MINNESOTA

During the latter part of 1983, the residents of Marsh Grove Township, under the leadership of Orville Harstad, began plans for a Centennial Celebration to be held on July 3 and 4, 1984. Combining efforts with New Folden Township, the following programs were decided upon. On the evening of the 3rd, a program with Paul Tandberg as the Master of Ceremonies will be presented in the Newfolden school.

INVOCATION Delano Lind

NATIONAL ANTHEM BY ALL - Led by Mark Knutson

NORWEGIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM Sung by Frida Lina Kildal of Oslo, Norway

GREETING Marcella Gonsorowski, Marshall County Commissioner

GREETING Ervin Strandquist, Vice President of Minnesota Association of Townships

PRESENTATION . . Marsh Grove Honored Citizens - Anna Engelsrud and Hjalmer Hjelle

A CENTENNIAL REVIEW OF MARSH GROVE

FIRST PERIOD 1884 to World War I Alice Knutson, Henry Engelsrud, Harvey Engen, and Pearl Boe

STYLE SHOW

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BY THE BROTEHS

SECOND PERIOD World War I to World War II Orville and Lenore Harstad, Mary Tandberg, Verne Green, and LeRoy Knutson

SPECIAL MUSIC..... Verne Green with a roller organ previously owned by Ed Sagness

GROUP NUMBER

THIRD PERIOD..... World War II to Present Marcella Gonsorowski, Katherine Knutson, Milo Windahl, Merlin Boe, and David Bakke

SING-A-LONG..... Led by Kathy Rokke; Judy Duray, Pianist

CLOSING SONG God Bless America"

ACTIVITIES ON THE FOURTH OF JULY:

*Parade in combination with New Folden Township

*Games will include a Softball Game and Horseshoe Tournaments at 3:00 p.m. •Pork Barbecue will be served at 4:00 p.m.

*New Folden Township will have their program in the school at 1:30 p.m. *There will be an All-Talent Program in the evening

*Marsh Grove Pictorial Display in the school library beginning at 3:30 p.m., July 3 •On sale will be various souvenirs such as caps, cheese crocks, history books, and a Two-Year Pictorial Calendar

PRESENT OFFICERS OF MARSH GROVE TOWNSHIP

SUPERVISORS - Orville Harstad, Leonard Gonsorowski, and Dennis Skjerven. **CLERK** - David Bakke. **TREASURER** - Eunice Engelsrud Liedberg.

Prizes will be awarded to the holders of the "Lucky Centennial Souvenir Button"

All festivities will take place in the City of Newfolden, Minnesota.

The petition of Louis Johnson and others to have township 156 Range 45 organized as a town was granted and named Marsh Grove. First town meeting to be held at the house of Chas. Carlson in said town on the 13th day of April, 1884, with C.M. Harthon, L.L. Skanavel and Peter K. Green as judges and Charles Carlson and Anton L. Skanavel as clerks.

The 1885 census showed a population of 99 people in Marsh Grove, consisting of 54 white males and 45 females.

The tax list recorded in Marshall County Court House shows six tax assessments in 1884: August Swan, S. Ingermausen, Anton Frommett, Otto Edward, F.L. Murray and Sam Grisvold.

COVER PICTURE: Picture of house built by Ellerth Sagness, the man who Ellerth Store and Post Office were named after. We believe the gentleman seated is Ellerth's son, Ed Sagness.

EARLY MARSH GROVE TOWNSHIP

"This section of the country with its well developed farms, well built homes, telephone communications, daily RFD mail service, radios, good roads, speedy automobiles and improved machinery, was previous to 1882 uninhabited by white man." So begins an article in the Newfolden Clarion, September 9, 1932. The article was written by Inez L. Anderson, Granddaughter of one of the first settlers in this area. The article entitled 'Early History of West Valley and Marsh Grove Townships' was published in two issues of the Clarion.

In 1882, Anders Anderson, along with several others settled the area now known as Marsh Grove Township in Marshall County located in Northwestern Minnesota. He settled on a homestead along the banks of the Middle River. Several other Norwegians arrived the same year. Listed below are some of those early settlers and the year they arrived.

1882: Halvor P. Elseth, Ole P. Dyrud, Anton Haft, Gulick Wedne, Charley Westman, Andre Westman, Halvor P. mundson Andrew Larson, Lars Amundson, Jutelrud, Elias Haarstad, Glaf L. Brekkstrand, Salve C. Anderson, John Anderson, Gustaf Scott, C. M. Hawthorn, Jacob Vinje, Fred Knitter, Fred Sevinke, August Sevinke, John F. Johnson, To11ef Boardson, Wesley Gaar, John Collins, and Peter Julin.

1883: E. O. Hjelle, Iver Ophus, Ole Bjornrud, Ote Sathre, Anton Larson, Christ Engelsrud, Herman Engelsrud, Peter Vinje, Mads O. Vinje. Carl Ravenkilde, Peter Jens Webjorston, Lars Johnson, Ole Erickson, Edward Haarstad, Martin Strand and Jacob Elstad.

1884: Ole Nyflot, Torkel Subdahl, Jorgen Garbal, Ole H, Lind, Jens Green, Peder Green, Evan Sagnes, John :Knutson, Anders Bring and Iver Grimstad.

1885: Peder J. Bakke, Andrew J. Bakke, Thomas Holstad, C. P. Haugen and August Gast.

When these early settlers came to Marsh Grove they had to clear the land of trees, build some type of shelter and plant crops. Most of the early shelters were built of logs with sod roofs. They were usually very small one-room dwellings. Next to be built was a shed of some variety for the livestock. The settlers later built frame

homes. Once the land was cleared of trees and undergrowth, the sod was turned with hand plows drawn by horses or oxen. Seeding was either by hand or by using a 'broadcast seeder'. Harvesting was done usually by hand. Charlie Westman, however, brought with him a harvester which cut the grain but did not tie bundles. Two men had to stand on the machine and tie the bundles by hand. Westman did harvesting for his neighbors with this machine. Gulick Wedne was the first farmer to have a self binding harvesting machine. Threshing was done with an early version of the threshing machine. The machine did not have a blower or feeder attachment, so it took many people to operate the machine. Bundles were thrown into the machine on one end and the straw removed by hand on the other end. The grain was collected in boxes on the ground. Power was supplied either by horses walking in a circle or by a stationary steam engine. The engine was on wheels and had to be pulled from farm to farm.

Wheat was the prime grain raised by the early settlers. Argyle was the nearest place to sell the grain. The trip there took a full day. There were no roads at the time so the people drove cross-country. The Middle River had no bridges at that time so they had to travel along the southern side of the river making the trip longer. The first bridge built over the Middle River was in 1894 and cost \$200.00 including material, labor and grading.

The trip to Argyle had other benefits also because the farmers could buy provisions there and pick up their mail. A post office was established in 1884 in West Valley township and mail was delivered there once a week. Next a post office was established in Newfolden. D. B. Bakke was the mail carrier and traveled by horse and cart. The first post office in Marsh Grove was not established until 1897 at Fovang which was located about four miles west of the present village of Newfolden. The post office was discontinued in 1913 when rural free delivery service from Newfolden started.

Marsh Grove township was organized March 10, 1884 with the following officers elected.

Chairman - Elias Haarstad Supervisors - H. C. Grim and Peter Green Clerk - C. M. Hawthorne.

One of the first tasks under taken was to build roads. Male residents between the ages of 21 and 50 was required to work a number of days without pay building roads. Real estate taxes were also collected to pay for supplies and equipment.

The first church congregation, Bethania, was organized in March 1884 by Rev. C. Saustad who also served as the first pastor. The log church was built in 1885 in section 5 of Marsh Grove township. In 1904 it was replaced with a frame church.

A second church Bethesda was organized on March 16, 1904 and built on section 7 of Marsh Grove township. Norwegian was the language of the church for several years. In 1964 the members voted to discontinue the services and dissolve. The cemetery and the church bell are all that remain.

Public school training took place in 1886. A. Garborg was the first teacher and the classes were held at the homes of Ole Sathre and I.P. Ophus alternating months. The first Schoolhouse was built in 1888. A second school was built in 1919 across the road from the Bethesda church. Moth schools consolidated with the Newfolden school district in 1950.

A Temperance Society was organized on June 11, 1900 and continued to be very active until recent years. Their goal was to have each county decide if they would have saloons or not.

The first white child born in Marsh Grove was Louise Green, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Green. She later married Ralf Tandberg. The Tandberg and Green Families still operate farms in the area.

One of the early settlers, Ole Sathre, brought back two buffalo from South Dakota and kept them on his farm. They created quite a sight when they wandered about his farm.

Up to this point this story has been very general with information from several places. The story continues with a history of the families important to the author.

HARTVIK AND MARIE (HANSON) ENGEN

Hartvik Engen was born in Norway in 1877, came with his parents to America in 1882 and settled in Warren, MN where they stayed for two years. They moved to a place along the Pembina Trail which the Indians were using frequently on their way to the campground by the Indian Mound. The Indians always stopped and begged for bread, but never took anything that didn't belong to them.

There was an incident when as a small boy, Dad was out playing and noticed these little animals. He went over among them and even petted them. Everything was fine until the dog came over too. Then everything broke loose. These were a family of skunks. He ran for the house crying but when he came to the door his mother chased him out again. He had never seen these animals before and didn't know what they were.

My mother Marie Hanson was born in 1878 in Norway and came to America in 1882. They came to Crookston where they stayed for awhile before moving to a homestead which is now the NE¹/₄ of section 8 in Viking township.

Hartvik Engen and Marie Hanson were married Jan. 14, 1900. In 1903 they purchased 200 acres of railroad land in section 31 Marsh Grove township. They had seven children three boys and four girls: Minnie (Mrs. Axel Gustafson) of Viking, Hulda (deceased), Clarence and Walter now of Crookston, Ella (Mrs. Art Anderson) of Thief River Falls, Mildred (deceased), and Harvey of Viking. They purchased more land in Viking township and farmed until 1943. They then moved to Thief River Falls.

Hartvik passed away Feb. 1962 at age 85 and Marie passed away March 1976 at age 98.

I, Harvey, married Virginia Cooper in Dec. 1938. We have four children, Annette (Mrs. Donald Malm) of Anoka, Dwight married Linda Koehnen and is now living at Farmington, Donavon married Janis Siebel and lives in Bemidji and Burdell of Plymouth.

We purchased the farm and have been farming since 1943.

I also had a sawmill and did custom sawing mostly as a hobby and sawed most of the oak lumber for Bob Asp for his Viking ship the Hjemkomst.

(Submitted by Harvey Engen)

CHARLEY AND CHRISTINE (OLSON) KNITTER

Charley Knitter was a resident of Marshall County from 1881 until his death in 1936.

He was born in Pommeron, Germany in 1871 to Fred and Henrietta Knitter. At the age of nine years he and his parents emigrated to America. They settled in Warren where they lived for one year. Later they lived in 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 Ingaborg Johnson. They settled in the Argyle area. The first 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 scarce but some how 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. It later was lengthened to six. Some of the first teachers were Marie Phillipson, 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. She died in 1973. Ethel taught school in Minnesota and Montana and retired in 1970. In 1935 Harry married Lorraine Green. They had two daughters. For a number of years they lived in Stephen where he was an implement dealer. He died in 1972. Hazel married Vernon Reiersen of Thief River Falls. They had three daughters. They lived in Hopkins, MN for a number of years then moved to Buffalo, MN where he died in 1980. Hazel still resides there. After Charley's death his wife Christine and son Fred continued to live on the farm. She passed away in 1955 and Fred died in 1983. At present Ethel lives on the home farm.

(Submitted by Ethel Knitter Viking, MN)

OLE WINDAHL

Ole Windahl (grandfather to Milo Windahl) came to America in 1869 at the age of seven and settled in southern Minnesota. He was born in Laadahl, Norway in 1862 to Anders and Metta Windahl. He came to Marsh Grove township in Marshall County on Feb. 7, 1887 in a terrible snowstorm to his sisters place, which is known as the Westlin farm. He homesteaded in Section 7 of Marsh Grove township which is now the PQilo Windahl farm. He was married to Clara Christianson in 1887 by Rev. E. Aas. They had twelve children: Arthur, Ella William, Mrs. Melvin (Olga) Broten, Mrs. Alvin (Palma) Broten, Viking; Conrad, Newfolden; Dora, Wilhelm, Fergus Falls; Mrs. Carl (Florence) Haugen, Newfolden; and Adella. Ole Windahl died in Feb. 1931 and Clara died in July 1949.

Conrad Windahl married Nellie Lausness on Dec. 1, 1934. They had one son A4ilo. They farmed the land until 1964 when they moved to Newfolden. Milo bought the farm at that time and is presently farming it. He married Darlyne FFallick in May 1979. They have two children Debra who graduated from Winona State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and is employed by a law firm in Chicago, Ill. She was married June 2, 1984 to Garth Unke from Wells, MN. He is a third year law student at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. Wayne attended the AVTI Welding School in Thief River Falls and graduated in 1981. He is presently working at Marvin Windows in Warroad, MN.

CHRISTIAN HAUGEN

Christian Haugen emigrated from Norway to Westby, Wisconsin in the Spring of 1883. In the fall he was married to Mathea Hanson also of Norway.

In the summer of 1885 he came to Warren, MN and a year later 1886 Christian and his wife Mathea settled in Marsh Grove on the farm which is now known as the Carl Haugen farm. They had thirteen children. Four girls and one son died.

Iver Ophus was post master at Faavang at that time (1888 or 1889). Later it was transferred to Christian Haugen, a position he had for twenty-two years. Christian Haugen was active in church and community affairs.

JOHN AND CARRIE SWAN

The John Swan family is counted among the pioneers of Marshall County and Marsh Grove township. John Swan, born in Fdleskog, Varmland, Sweden in 1855, came to America in 1878. His first stay was in Zumbrota, Minnesota in Goodhue County where he met Carrie Romnes who was born near Skien, Telemark, Norway in 1863 and came to America in 1884. They were married in 1888 in Red Wing, Minnesota and soon came to Marshall County to make their home on a farm, in Marsh Grove township, which had been homesteaded by his younger brother, August Swan. The farm eventually grew to three quarter sections one of which was in West Valley township. Upon their retirement the land was sold to their son Arthur who farmed it until his death, whereupon the land was sold to Lowell Lindemoen.

Born to the pioneer couple were daughters: Selma (Mrs. M. Seielstad), Claxa (Mrs. Julius Johnson) and Edna (Mrs. W. E. Hanson) and sons: Oscar (married Minnie Bengtson), Willie (married Annie Kouba, Beach, ND), Elmer (married Ida Gallant, Devils Lake, ND), Arthur (married Annabelle Windahl) and August.

Early day shopping trips were sometimes a three day trip to Warren traveling along the "Sand Ridge" and the Great Eastern road. Flour was purchased at the Old Mill site in quantities of several hundred pound bags. A seamstress came to the farm twice a year to sew clothing. Eggs were sold to the Marsh Grove store and groceries were received in exchange. Visits to neighbors were walks of a mile or more. Home churned butter was also sold to the store.

Threshing the grain in the fall was a big event because a crew of men came to stay several days until the job was completed. In the fall the mattress ticks were filled with fresh straw or hay (no innerspring mattresses in those days!).

The Swan farm was fortunate to have a deep flowing well which supplied good cold water. Foods and milk were cooled in a sectional tank through which the water flowed before going outside the well house into tanks for the cattle.

The children attended grades on through eight at the Fairview School which at times had an enrollment of forty-two pupils.

The only one now living of this family is Edna (Mrs. W. E. Hanson) residing at Braham, MN. She was a teacher in the Warren, Alvarado, and Braham public schools until her retirement in 1972.

MATHIAS AND SELMA SEIELSTAD

The centers of activities of Marsh Grove township were Fairview School, Marsh Grove Store, and Bethesda Church located on the corners formed by the crossroads six miles Church one-half mile north of that was in Bethania church but we also as it also was a Lutheran Church. time by attending programs in both

The store building, which still stands, was built in 1890 by Nels Volding who sold it to Andrew Korstad. Mathias Seielstad came to work for Mr. Korstad in 1903 and upon Mr. Korstad's retirement became owner of the business but continued to rent the building until 1929 when it was sold to Olaf Brekkestrand by the administrator of the Korstad estate. The store served as post office which was called Ellerth because it was originally in the home of Ellerth Sagness two miles to the south. The Ellerth name was used for both the post office and store and continued in usage until March 1, 1913 when distribution changed to rural free delivery. The store then became Marsh Grove store but the Ellerth name clung a long time. The store also housed a telephone exchange from 1908-1929. After 1929 the building was not operated as a store again but was used for storage and living quarters.

Mathias Seielstad was born March 30, 1861 in Ringebo in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. He came to the United States at about twenty years of age and became an United States citizen June 16, 1898 while employed by a department store in Minneapolis. lie came to Marsh Grove in 1902 looking for land to homestead but he was not a farmer at heart and did not like all the mosquitoes so he returned to

Minneapolis but returned the next year when Mr. Korstad offered him a job in the store.

On April 10, 1909 P4athias Seielstad and Selma Swan, daughter of John and Carrie Swan of the community were united in marriage. Family responsibilities were added with the arrival over the years of six children: Synneva now residing in Grand Forks, ND; Clarice Sherva, Billings, MT; Lillian Robidouz, East Grand Forks, ND; Marvin, Grand Forks, ND; Velma Christiansen of Minneapolis; and Wallace John of Devils Lake, ND.

To assist with young ladies of the Shern, Ella Goplin, west of Newfolden and Bethania intersection. Our regular attendance frequently attended Bethesda Church We were richly blessed at Christmas churches and the school.

the clerking in the store our father employed several community: Lena Ostlund, Viola Goplin, Hannah Pauline Bakke, Julia Ldestlin, and Nellie Rokke. Viola recalls one day when Clarice as a mere tot came into the store, crawled up into the chair where ladies tried on hats in front of a big mirror. She selected a very wide brimmed hat with lots of flowers and put it on and in Norwegian she triumphantly announced, "Aka-rat" which meant it was perfect in every way - when the child could scarcely be seen under the big hat!

The merchandise offered for sale was of a wide variety, groceries, millinery, jewelry, fabrics and sewing notions, men's work clothes, shoes, hardware, vinegar and molasses in bulk, kerosene, and later gasoline and oil for the automobiles.

Clarice recalls one day she saw what she thought was a black dog behind the store and asked mother to come and see it. When mother saw it, she led Clarice away very quickly because it was a porcupine. It was the only time Clarice could recall seeing one. I recall once in the winter time I came upon a large cat with a trap on one foot. I noticed the paw was badly infected so I released the trap and the cat fled. Years later I realized that was no ordinary cat because it had very pointed ears.

I recall such things as: an early automobile with carbide headlights and a crank on the side; fumigating the school after exposure to scarlatina by burning

sulfur in the school room (truly bad enough to drive any germs away!); picnics at the Old Mill site when the water wheel stood on the river bank and the grain was ground between large stone wheels; on a cold winter night walking one-half mile to the home of Willie and Viola Windahl to hear their first radio crystal set with head phones (music out of the air was a mystery!); the early whistle of the steam engine at harvest time and grain stacks awaiting threshing after snowfall; mother, Ida, or Kari Johnson took us out to pick strawberries, raspberries, raspberries, Juneberries, pincherries, chokecherries, cranberries, or plums and gunny sacks full of hazel nuts which we hulled, cracked and ate, or fed to our tamed chipmunk which sat on our shoulders; clerking in the store, marking merchandise, making egg crates which held thirty dozen, scrubbing the store floor, candling eggs, answering the telephone when I had to stand on a wooden box to operate the switchboard; the first flyover of an airplane; watching for the smoke of the Soo-Line freight train; Dad hauling twenty-gallon cans of water from Lars Johnson's well using a two-wheeled cart in summer or sled in winter; the hum of the saw rig in the fall preparing wood for the parlor furnaces, carrying wood in and ashes out; cleaning the lamp globes; and mother canning meat for summer use.

In 1929 our father purchased a building in Newfolden and relocated the business and family to the village where he continued to conduct business until 1935. For a few years he rented the building out then sold it. In a short time the highway department bought the property and the building was demolished to construct black top Highway #59. Mrs. Seielstad passed away in Oct. and Mr. Seielstad in Dec. of 1945.

(Submitted by : Lillian Robidoux and Clarice Sherva)

TORGER AND KARI KOLSTAD

Torger (Tom) and Kari Kolstad homesteaded in Marsh Grove in 1886. They had two daughters, Regina and Karen (Carrie) and a son who died in infancy.

By hard work and cooperation the homestead was improved. Land was put into cultivation and buildings were erected. Eventually the luxury of a Model T Ford was

realized. During the winter it was stored in the shed and put up on blocks. Every once in a while Tom would crank up the car just to hear it run.

One of the things Tom enjoyed was taking his pet bulldog, Buster, for a ride. One day when they were in Newfolden, Buster missed his ride home. Tom assumed Buster would find his way home, so he just left. Later in the afternoon the telephone rang and the "central" operator said, "You have to come and get your dog. he is sitting in the middle of the street howling!" Tom drove back to town and rescued "poor" Buster.

Kari died in 1913 and Tom in 1925. After the death of their parents, Regina and Carrie took over the farming. When Carrie and George Lee were married they made their home on the farm. Regina continued living with them until her death in 1963.

George and Carrie had three children, Thorvald, Gordon and Katherine. Thorvald married Violet Holmaas and has two children, Karen and Timothy. Violet died in 1971.

Gordon took over the farming when George retired.

Katherine married Mervin Knutson. They have three children, Kristy, Arlene, and Mark.

George and Carrie continued making their home on the farm with Gordon. Carrie died in 1971 at age 79 and George died in 1977 at age 86.

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 came to America a few years later and homesteaded eighty acres in Marsh Grove. 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.

In 1908 he 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. Harlan and Roy Bakke now own and operate the home farm.

MAGNUS AND ALICE (HALL) BAKKE

Magnus Bakke was born May 27, 1908 in Marsh Grove township to John and Randine Bakke. He grew up and attended school there in Dist. 39, which was called the "Popple Lane" school. In 1935 he bought the Anton Hanson farm in Marsh Grove.

On April 25, 1936 he was married to Alice Hall of New Solum township. After they were married they started farming, raising grain, dairy cattle, chickens and sheep. Magnus served on the township board and also was treasurer of School Dist. 39 for a number of years. They are both members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church where Magnus has also served on the church council. He also served on the community homes board. Alice has taught Sunday school and Bible school and is active in the A.L.C.W.

They have three children all of whom have grown up in Marsh Grove township. Beverly (Mrs. Bertyl Pederson) lives in New Solum township where they farm and raise beef cattle, she is an L.P. 1st I. and works at Northwestern Hospital at Thief River Falls. They have four children, Nancy, Pam, Brent and Brenda. They are members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Darrell is married to Julie Halme of Middle River. They live in Thief River Falls where Darrell has an insurance agency. They have two children, Heather and Darren. They are members of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

David is married to Marge Wappula of Middle River and lives in Marsh Grove township where they farm. After Magnus retired David also farms the home farm.

He serves on the Marshall County Central school board and Marsh Grove township board. They have two children, DeAnn and Deland. They are members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Magnus and Alice have been retired for a number of years and have since enjoyed a little traveling. They are still living on their farm.

LOWELL AND GERALDINE LINDEMOEN

Lowell Lindemoen, born in Oslo, MN, and Geraldine Landrenille, born in Argyle, MN, were married Oct. 10, 1950. They have farmed all their married life.

Their family consists of Susan, (Mrs. John Nelson) Newfolden, who has three girls, Bonita, (Mrs. Wallace Bengtson) who has one girl and and boy, Merlyn, who married Terri Anderson from Greenbush, MN and has one son, Allen, who married Sheila Nowacki of Marshall, P-1N, Norman, Keith, Michael and Randy. All the children have graduated from high school at Marshall County Central in Newfolden.

WILLIAM (WILLIE) AND MABEL OLSON

Willie and Mabel (Haugen) Olson and six children: Myrtle, Alice, Milford, Harlan, Edith and Lester moved to Marsh Grove township in Marshall County from Dent, MN in Ottertail County, in the spring of 1933. Uncle Ole Olson also moved with the family and lived with the family until he passed away on May 28, 1960 at the Warren Hospital. They lived on the Jack Elstad farm until they bought the Grimstad farm and moved there in 1934. While living on the Elstad farm the children went to school by the George Lee farm which was known as the Kolstad School.

DuWayne was born July 1, 1933 on the Jack Elstad farm. During the first Christmas on the Elstad farm the Jule Boks, (Christmas Fools) came over to our house all dressed up in funny clothes. They brought lunch and had a program. We all had a very good time.

We than moved to the Grimstad place by the Alice Knutoon farm and lived in the granary till the log house was ready to live in. They had to plaster and whitewash the log house and fix the windows and floors. We moved into the log house in the fall.

Muriel was born that fall, Oct. 30, 1934, and later Clifford, William Jr., Albert Gene and Marlys. Donna, the youngest, was born Nov. 19, 1940. While we were still living in the granary the neighbors came over for a party, possible a birthday party. I remember that Stanley and Muriel Fillibrant, Johnny Tobiason, and Alice Knutson and family were there. We were having a lot of fun even when Ole Olson who was playing the accordion and leaning against the door which wasn't hooked very well suddenly opened and he fell out on the ground playing the accordion. Luckily he was not hurt.

After moving to the Grimstad farm the children went to the "Holmaas School".

We walked everywhere we went. Since we had no car; only horses and wagon. They got a buggy and used that till they got a car.

Willie Olson passed away June 10, 1940. Mabel continued living on the farm with her family. Milford, Harlan, DuWayne and Clifford were in the Armed Services. Later she moved to Argyle and lived there several years until she had a stroke and was moved to the Good Samaritan Home Sept. 15, 1969. She lived there until she passed away Feb. 7, 1980. Deceased family members include: Willie, June 10, 1940; Mabel, Feb. 7, 1980; Milford, Dec. 21, 1967; Lester, May 11, 1945; DuWayne, Dec. 10, 1983; Clifford, July 11, 1982; Albert Gene, June 5, 1938; Marlys, Sept. 17, 1939; Ole Olson, May 28, 1960.

Living family members are: Myrtle, Alice, Harlan, Edith, Muriel, William Jr. and Donna.

(Submitted by Myrtle (Olson) Dargus)

TANDBERG FARM

The land in Marsh Grove township presently farmed by Paul Tandberg has been farmed by a member of the Tandberg family for eighty-four years. The farm was purchased in the year 1900 by Rolf Tandberg of Sigdal, Norway.

Rolf and his wife Petra (Green) Tandberg lived on and worked the land until Rolf retired to Newfolden in the year 1944. Petra Green was the daughter of Peder

and Liue Green and the first white girl to be born in Marsh Grove township. Four of their seven children are still living - Luella and Erna in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Chester in East Grand Forks, MN, and Shirley in San Pedro, CA.

Peter Tandberg, second oldest of the Rolf Tandberg sons, and his wife Mary (Keogh) Tandberg operated the farm through the year 1900, when Peter retired.

Of the four sons of Peter and Mary Tandberg, the oldest, Ralph, lives in San Jose, CA. The younger three are in Minnesota - John in Moorhead, Gary in Minneapolis and Paul on the family farm in Marsh Grove.

JOE AND ELSIE BENGTON

Joe and Elsie Bengton were some of the first couples that settled in Marsh Grove township in the late 1800's. Their farm was located five miles west of Newfolden.

They first built a log house, as many old settlers did in the pioneer days, and in this log house they raised a large family of twelve children. When the winters became very cold Joe would stay up and fire the stove to keep the house somewhat warm, while Elsie was caring for their babies. They faced many sorrows, as five children died in infancy or early childhood. A daughter died at early womanhood as a result of goiter surgery. But through their hardships they bravely faced the future.

In the year 1912 they arranged to get a new house built on this same farm, now that the family was grown up.

Their children that grew into adulthood were six daughters and one son, Marie the oldest, Emma, Hannah, Clara, Ella and Adeline, and a son Benarth Bengton.

SAM AND LAURA GOPLIN

Laura Webjornson came to Marsh Grove in the year 1883, with her parents from Waseca, MN.

In 1895 Laura was married to Sam Goplin who came here from Osseo, WI. Born to this union was four daughters and two sons. Viola, who married Willie Windahl, and had three sons, Vernon (died in infancy), Roger and Duane, deceased. Stella, who died in infancy. Walter, who married Elenore Anderson.

They have two daughters and one son, Norita, Corrine and Howard. Ella., married Oscar Peterson, and has one son Pastor Dale Peterson. Pearl, married Gust Haugen. They had five sons and one daughter, Laurie, Jack, Jerry and Jim. Tommy and Billy, twins, are deceased. Sanford, married Harriet Bren, and have three sons and two daughters, Lee, Russell, Lowell, June and Lana.

Sam Goplin had a blacksmith shop. People from far and near came to have their horses shod, plowshares sharpened, buggy boxes built, you name it he could fix it. He and his brother-in-law Ole Windahl owned a threshing rig and did a lot of threshing around the area for years. He also had a well drilling machine and dug a lot of wells which are perhaps flowing yet today.

What I remember most about the blacksmith shop is the smell of coal smoke when Dad stoked the forge and pulled the big bellows above to fan the fire, and the Kling-Kling-Kling of the hammer on the anvil as he shaped the red hot iron into whatever shape anyone wanted. Perhaps there are a few old-timers who remember the old shop? Laura Goplin taught Parochial School in Marsh Grove for many years and was a charter member of Bethesda Church.

In 1884 eleven townships were launched. One of those was Marsh Grove. Officers were - A.C. Gast and Sam Goplin.

MEMORIES FROM MARSH GROVE AND VICINITY

BY ARTHUR J. HOLMAAS

I was born on my father's homestead in Marsh Grove before World War I - the fifth of nine children all born at home. My father was Andrew E. Holmaas and mother was Julia (Stokke) Holmaas. This was still the frontier. Our house was one room of log to which later had been attached a frame shed roofed shanty. Sleeping in the small uninsulated loft, three to a "bed" on a straw pallet on the floor was a chilling experience even with homemade quilts and a fur robe in winter.

My earliest specific memories date to 1918. That spring mother (Ma), sisters Alice and Inez and I went by train from Viking to Grand Forks to visit Aunt Helga (Stokke) Engebritson. The train ride and sights at Ringling Bros. circus are still

vivid in my mind. Elephants, camels and lions were so different from farm animals. This was also the year I first learned to read. November headlines on the "Decorah Postem" are as vivid now as then - "Krigen Er Ent", (War is Ended). This was a great relief to me as father (Pa) had just registered for the draft and I was so afraid that he would have to leave.

Memorable also was 1920, the year of the "new house". It was actually an old house Pa had bought and which was moved on skids with horses and rollers from the Gerlund place southeast of us. I remember watching for them coming with it across the Kolstad land where we'd often see and hear coyotes in the winter months. That was also the year I started school. I remember walking to school with Alice and sitting with her in a double seat on the window side of the one room school. All desks were double in those days in District 39. I already knew the alphabet fairly well and could read some. I was a proud boy when our teacher Lily Holson let me take a book home that first day.

Apparently I got a good impression of school from the start as it became an important part of my life For many years. One seldom knows who or what may leave lasting impressions on children. I recall Alice responding to the teacher's questions about her history lesson one day. Her recitation impressed me greatly and may have been one reason I learned to like and later majored in History in College. While reciting she also idly drew a design on the front edge of our desk. When I returned to teach there in 1933, the pencil marks had long been erased but the impressions in the wood were still there. So are impressions sometimes unknowingly left on a child.

These were busy times. Feeding chickens before school, carrying in wood after school, herding sheep in summer were regular chores from first grade on until I was "promoted" to milking cows, hoeing garden, raking hay, chopping trees for firewood, shocking grain, etc. Milking by hand was not easy. Also spraying for potato bugs with Paris Green and a sprinkler can was rough. Cutting trees in winter with a double-bitted axe was more fun - not as tedious. Usually Willard (Bill) and I would cut pole wood during Christmas vacations. The long poles were hauled home with horses and bobsled to be later sawed into firewood by a buzzsaw.

Earliest money I recall earning was bounty for gophers. Tails were used as evidence and kept in a Copenhagen Snuff box or a tobacco can. We'd sometimes walk to C.P. Haugen's to collect the Marsh Grove bounty of 3 cents for striped gophers and 5 cents for pocket gophers. Usually he would have us count them out but occasionally he accepted our word for the numbers. We learned to take pride in being trusted for our honesty. By the middle 1920's, I earned bigger money - maybe up to \$3.00 for catching a white weasel. Skins were shipped to Hill Bros. St. Louis. Made five to ten dollars that way.

In the spring of 1927, I graduated from 8th grade. Passed the State Board exams in all subjects after seven years of school. This led to a trip to Warren to be awarded a diploma by County Superintendent Nels M. Engen. This was exciting.

Ma and I persuaded Pa that I should go to High School that fall. Arrangements were finally made for me to stay with Aunt Emma (Stokke) Johnson and attend Holt High School. I was to work for board and room doing chores - milking, carrying wood, etc. I went to school there two years. While there I also attended confirmation class in Newfolden. Hitchhiked or walked the ten miles on several Saturdays. One day it was unbelievable cold facing the northwest wind so I crawled into the snow in the big ditch east of Newfolden and warmed my near frozen fingers by lighting wooden matches. Well, I made it that day too and was later confirmed by Rev. G.P. Ronholm who served the Westaker Church and the Lutheran Church in town.

Holt became a three year school so after two years I transferred to Newfolden. I stayed at home and drove Pa's Model T to school except in the coldest months when I roomed at Mrs. Schey's. One winter Harvey Dyrud and I roomed there together. We cooked our own meals on a kerosene stove. There were no school buses to Marsh Grove in those days and no school cafeterias. Brothers Bill and Elmer had taught me how to drive and I did pretty well driving one very foggy morning. Visibility was about zero and I bumped the rear wheel of Gust Strand's buggy. Fortunately neither the buggy or Gust were hurt but the glass in the right headlight of Pa's first car was cracked. It worried me all forenoon, but at noon I bought a new lens at Alfred Johnson's Garage - cost 14 cents. Classmate

Ernest Eckman helped me install it. Pa was not too greatly disturbed when I got home. However, that was my first and last accident in which I have ever hit someone on the road.

In addition to classwork and new friends, my two years at Newfolden High involved me in class plays, interschool debates, etc. Never to be forgotten was the time when Supt. Rykken loaned me his good gray suit to wear on an "important" debate trip. This could hardly have happened except in a small town high school in the early days of the great depression.

My graduation in 1931 marked the first student from District 39 that graduated from Newfolden High. Thorvald Knutson and my brother Melvin had gone to Newfolden High, but neither had finished. Melvin was however very helpful to me in inspiring me to study and helping me overcome a country boy's fear of measuring up to the "town kids".

After High School and a year of Teacher's Training at Warren, I taught school in Newfolden twp. for one year, then at the home school in Marsh Grove from the fall of 1933 until the spring of 1935. Salary was \$50.00 a month for 8 months. Plus teaching I was my own janitor - carried in wood, made the fire, and scrubbed the school floor. Not much money, but good experience. One morning in 1935, sister Violet and I walked to school when temperatures were 52 degrees below zero. She was the only pupil that day, so after starting a good fire and getting warm we closed school for the day. We had no telephone or way of announcing in advance a school closing so I had to be there in case some pupils should come.

Other earlier weather experiences included riding bareback and rounding up the cattle that had broken the fence and drifted south during an early fall rainstorm, which turned to sleet and snow towards evening. Finding them was easy but bringing them home in face of that near was something else - I could hardly see. I was about 11 or 12 at time. It was a good thing that old bronco "Sam" was a horse that knew how to herd cattle. All I could do was hang on as he turned back forth and didn't miss a one. We made it although it was dark when we got home. while raking hay. Again the horses saved me and the rake. But, the tornado abolished one of our haystacks and cut a swath through a nearby grove by pulling up and

breaking large popple trees. Also a near disaster was being caught in the big prairie fire that swept for several miles across Marsh Grove in the early 1930's. Cousins Ernest and Art Stokke were with us to help stop the fire at a firebreak furrow Pa managed to plow around a haystack. We barely got a backfire started when the prairie fire was on us with a roar. It leaped across the backfire and furrow and caught the haystack behind us. We couldn't save the stack but managed to save ourselves by putting our heads in the furrow to get air below the smoke and covered ourselves with our wet gunny sacks until the fire in front of us had died enough so we could jump the remaining flames and run to plowed field on the Haakon Hansen place. I have respected the power of fire, wind and cold ever since these experiences.

During the late 1920's and early 1930's I also helped Pa, who was Township Assessor, with arithmetic involved in filling in Assessment Books and reports. He would bring the finished work to the Court House and take me along. There I met many county officials which started my interest in government. The same was true in Marsh Grove. I have particular memories of Paul Gast, the long time Town Clerk.

I could go on and recount many other Marsh Grove and Newfolden events. We had some fun and social life too, including rural school programs, socials and carnivals; also summer ice cream socials, picnics; a few house parties, barn dances, and bowery dances at County Fairs or Fourth of July celebrations. All helped prepare me for later social events in Moorhead, Fargo, Minneapolis, Washington, New York and Virginia where I've lived since leaving Marsh Grove.

In the fall of 1935 I left Marsh Grove except for occasional visits. Inspiration to go on to college came mainly from Elizabeth Kleppe and indirectly from my friend Maynard Tvedt. However, the experiences - lessons learned and attitudes formed in Marsh Grove - have helped me always. These included hard work; honesty; being careful with money; coping with and adjusting to weather and nature; being friendly, fair, and helpful to others; and being interested in education, history and public affairs.

Certainly my Marsh Grove heritage was helpful in working my way through Moorhead State College during those lean years with hot summers and cold

winters from 1935 to 1938 and later through the University of Minnesota for a Masters Degree. The latter in turn led to a year of study with the National Institute of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. followed by more than thirty years of government service.

I can truthfully say that such success and recognitions I have had in education and employment, including promotions, commendations, citations and awards for work performance received from many top officials including Vice President and President of the United States were due in no small part to the start given me in Marsh Grove and Newfolden area by my parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, neighbors and friends. In addition to brothers and sisters mentioned above, this included younger brothers, Emil and Stanley. To them and sisters Inez and Violet I was in the category of older brother which also helped shape my attitudes and sense of responsibility.

Hopefully, I have been able to pass some Marsh Grove values on to our four children - Julia, Andrew, Janet and Joanne who now all have homes of their own.

My wife Jean and I now live in semi-retirement in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia about 100 miles from Washington. We are far from Marsh Grove.

Marsh Grove has also come a long way since my birth in January 1914. Most sloughs and marshes interspersed with popple groves from which it got its name in pioneer days are now gone. There are now fields where many marshes and groves remained before World War II. Marsh Grove, I salute you and your present people on 100 years of progress and I trust that many of the old virtues and values will remain for many generations yet to come.

HJALMER AND HANNAH HJELLE

Hjalmer Hjelle was born March 23, 1899 in Marsh Grove and is one of the oldest living settlers in Marsh Grove township.

He was married to Hannah Hanson, also of Marsh Grove, on June 28, 1924 in Warren MN. They had seven children - Clarice (Mrs. Carl Hjelle), Hilton, Kenneth,

James, Grace, Clayton and Linda (Mrs. Dennis Walz); twenty grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Hjalmer recalls the days when he paid 9 cents a gallon for fuel for his tractors. He didn't get much for the grain in those days, but still seemed to make some money on the grain we had to sell, quite a difference 21 from now as the expenses are much higher even if you get more for the grain. He also did threshing for the neighbor's. They also had some laying hens from which they would get 10 cents a dozen for the eggs, quite different from today's prices.

ED AND IDA (ANDERSON) HANSON

Ed H. Hanson was born in Marsh Grove township on May 10, 1900 to Edward and Maggie Hanson.

He lived with his parents on the farm until his marriage to Ida Anderson on Dec. 16, 1926. She was from Comstock township and had been born the same year as he on Nov. 5.

In the spring of 1927, they moved to a small house on an 80 acre farm located on the southwest corner of Section 29. They grew a crop on the 30 acres that were open and worked hard to clear the rest of the land. They rented the land north of their property and later purchased this also. Five children were born into their home: Dorothy (Mrs. Paul Waterworth), Violet (Mrs. Erhard Woetzel), Wallace, Dennis (deceased), Ruth (Mrs. James Tostrup).

All of the children attended the Green Valley School which was on the corner of Section 29, until it was closed. The younger ones continued their education in Newfolden. Several of the teachers stayed at their home for room and board.

One day in harvest, Ed and his neighbor, Bertil A. Bakke came driving home from town and noticed the grain shocks were all spread apart in the field south of the house. Ed told Bertil that his sow must have been out again, but when they came into the yard, they were met by two little boys with their hands full of mice. Wallace remembers them climbing on top of a haystack and staying there until

dark. Then they sneaked home and did their chores and sneaked into bed. By the next day things had cooled off.

Ed died in Nov. 1962 and the next fall Ida bought a house and moved into Newfolden. She lived there until shortly before her death in June 1979.

Wallace purchased the farm from his mother, and he and his family are presently living there and farming the land.

He was married in 1955 to Arlene Gustafson on Viking. They have four children: Janell (Mrs. Kent Hudson), Jon, Ann, and Nancy.

(Submitted by Mrs. Wallace Hanson)

A TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEER

Arnold E. Windahl

No more at night when ghostly North Lights quiver
The coyote wails unto a waning moon;
No more the whippoorwill who sang at even
The echoes wakes with repetitious tune.

The old log cabin, too, is slowly crumbling,
Where hearth fires glowed, now gaping windows stare;
And youngsters going home at eerie midnight
Pass by with bated breath and prickly hair.

No more at morn the pioneer awakens
The woodland with the sound of ringing blow,
The burning zeal that spoiled the virgin forest:
Is chilled, the springing step is slow.

And now at night when purple shadows lengthen,
A whisper seems to murmur through the tree:
"Old pioneer, your labor now is ended,

Go home with God to rest and endless peace."

MARSH GROVE AS IT WAS THEN

Arnold E. Windahl

The wilderness was king when the first settlers moved in. Grandma and Grandpa Vebjornson came in 1883 and filed on a quarter section of land in section 8, the southwest quarter. To get this land under cultivation was no easy task. The area was infested with wolves, coyotes, bears, fleas, mosquitoes and horse flies. The land was wet and soggy because of lack of drainage, covered with brush and groves of poplars, willows and a few oaks. Sloughs bred mosquitoes by the millions. But for several years the common cold was unknown as some of the early settlers have verified.

That which challenged the early settlers was of large proportions: the building of homes, barns, granaries, road construction, building of schools, churches, clearing the land of stones and timber, draining the land, cutting and sawing by hand for winter use the poles which had been grubbed out, - all this drained the strength and courage of the pioneers.

Besides this the sickness which claimed the lives of many of the children, and the typhoid and diphtheria which ravaged families. When I worked for Henry Cook, close to Warren, his mother which was staying with him and his wife, told me that one winter they had laid away five daughters who died of black diphtheria.

In Feb. of 1887 our father, Ole Anders Windahl, walked into the Marsh Grove area from Argyle. It was 40 degrees below zero that morning, and a bitter north wind created a ground swell of snow obliterating all tracks. The road was a sleigh track winding in and out among the groves and clumps of brush. As he walked he felt a stinging pain in the back of his arm pit. Taking off his glove and feeling for the area he found that his fur coat had opened in the seam. He was heading for his sister's place, Mrs. Ole Erickson Natvig, now known as the Westlin farm. Night was falling and he had to take refuge with a Hess family living just east of the Pembina trail. The next morning he reached his destination. In Dec. of that year he married Clara

Christianson, a daughter of Mrs. Vebjornson. Dad bought 80 acres in section 7 and later donated an acre for the building of a church and for a cemetery, directly across from the Ellerth store.

One of the hardships faced was the lack of roads of any kind. Dad told of an experience he had coming from Argyle with a load of lumber. The frost had crone out of the ground and in passing through a slough, the wheels cut through the sod and he was stuck in the midst of it. What did he do? He unhitched the team of broncos, and then carried the lumber piece by piece to higher ground. Then he dismantled the wagon and carried it out of the slough.

The winters could be fiercely cold with blizzards and drifted roads. Hauling cord wood or poles to Warren and Argyle took a heavy toll. With slow moving oxen it took 11 hours to reach Warren and the same length of time to reach home again. In the bitter cold it was needful to walk behind the sleds, but because of the slow moving oxen it was necessary to walk away from the sled then back again to keep warm. There were instances where some of the men almost froze to death.

Most of the families were large. There were no doctors available for childbirth, but some of the women served as midwives. I know of no instance where either the child or mother died in childbirth. The mothers were young and strong, working right up to the time of delivery. Three families in our area had a total of 32 children! No wonder the first small school house was crowded! Men's talents also were called into service as veterinarians and para-medics. When dad cut out an artery in his leg which would not stop bleeding, Mr. Westman from West Valley township was called and he came with his buckskin needles and sowed up the gash. There was no infection. When Ole H. Lind tore his hand in a threshing incident, he went into the house, got out a bottle of red liniment and poured into the wound!

Pastors, teachers and doctors must be listed among those who helped to build the community. Pastors were so constantly on the road with their pony team and buggy that they became "buggy sick" - an expression coined in those days.

After the modest homes had been built, the next great need was a church building. After a few years of sowing the seed of the Word of God, revivals broke through. Dr. Lavina Rokke told of an awakening among the school children. One day after recess when the teacher rang the bell the children did not come. When she went in search of them, she found them in the barn on their knees praying to God.

There was no crime, no need of the sheriff or police. There were no locks on the doors. A spirit of optimism and hope of better things prevailed.

May God bless the memory of these hardworking and thrifty pioneers who paved the way for the generations to come.

OLAF AND RAGNA BREKKESTRAN

Olaf Lars Brekkestran was born at Westre Aker Oslo, Norway, on April 9, 1859. He came to the United States from Norway when he was 21 years of age and settled in Ottertail County.

Ragna Erickson Pletan was born at Sigdal, al, Norway, on Feb. 7, 1865. She came with her sister and stayed until she was confirmed, where Olaf attended her confirmation and started corresponding. At the age of 20 years, Ragna decide to be a housewife and on Dec. 23, 1885, they were married at Warren, MN by a Justice of Peace as there were no pastors then. The couple settled on his homestead in Marsh Grove township. They were some of the first pioneers in Marsh Grove and earned a living by raising sheep, cows, chickens, ducks, and geese. Their house was built of log which Olaf hauled from the Tamarac woods to saw mills. The house consisted of two small rooms, but they always gave a warm welcome to every baby.

They first got their mail at the Andrew Larson home in West Valley. Sometime later the Post Office was moved to the Brekkestran home getting the mail every other day. Olaf lived in the same house for 57 years and they celebrated their Golden Wedding at the Bethania Church. Olaf helped build the first church which is now Bethania, with Pastor Aas as the first minister. The Brekkestran home was always a stopping place for ministers, especially Rev. Ostgulen who came from Warren to have services once a month. Mr. Bjornson stayed at the

Brekkestran home while teaching parochial school at Bethania Church. Ragna was very active in the Ladies Aid and was president for many years.

One of the Brekkestran's neighbors had some buffalo and one night they broke loose and came over to their place. The buffalo got in the little hay pen which was very precious and for fear that they would eat the grass which had grown on their sod roof, Ragna took the gun and went out and shot up in the air to scare them away.

There were 11 children born and they were Gina, Mae, Mabel, Leonard, Carl, Oscar, Jalmer, John, Emma, Agnes, and Ella. Mae and Mabel passed away when they were quite young. Olaf passed away on April 11, 1942, and Ragna passed away on Jan. 16, 1963 at the age of 97 years. They are buried at the Bethania Cemetery. There are only three of the children still living and they are Jalmer, Emma and Agnes.

OSCAR AND SELMA BREKKESTRAN

Oscar Brekkestran was born in Marsh Grove township on Sept. 12, 1896, to Olaf and Ragna Brekkestran. He was one of 11 children, so there was never a dull moment. Whenever he could get to town, he would always bring home some candy for his little sisters. He went to a small school which was right by the Marsh Grove store.

On Jan. 22, 1938, he and Selma Lausness were married in Newfolden by Rev. G.P. Ronholm. They lived for about a year where the old Marsh Grove store had been and then moved to their farm in Section 17 where they lived until 1958 when they moved to Newfolden. On Sept. 7, 1939 their daughter Sandra was born. She attended the same school through fifth grade when it was consolidated with Newfolden.

There was always time to visit the relatives and neighbors, sometimes walking or skiing, on a Sunday afternoon. There were the Ladies Aid and Luther League meetings and they were active at Bethania Church, where Selma is still a member. Oscar passed away on May 7, 1978, and is buried there along with his parents and Mae, Mabel and John.

Sandra graduated from Newfolden High School in 1957 and has been employed as Deputy Clerk of Court in Warren, MN, for 25 years. On Dec. 31, 1981 she married Donald Steinhauer and they live on a farm in Excel township where they raise small grain, hay, cattle and Registered Belgian horses.

ANTON AND CLARA (MATHESON) HANSON KROGFOSS

Anton Hanson Krogfoss was born near Oslo, Norway, which was then known as Christiona. When Anton was 18 years old he and his younger brother Oscar came to America where three years later he bought his pre-emption rights for a homestead in Sec. 22 in Marsh Grove township. He had some difficulty getting it as a former homesteader had lost his rights to the land. His homestead included 12n acres. Later he bought 40 more acres which gave him a total of 160 acres in Marsh Grove. He built a log house which was later replaced by a lumber house measuring 18x28 ft, and included an upstairs. This was where all the sixteen children were born.

On Dec. 13, 1907 he married Clara Matheson at Warren. Life was hard for a large family but everyone either worked on the farm or cared for the younger children. It wasn't unusual to bake a dozen loaves of bread daily or boil a huge kettle of oatmeal for breakfast. In those days people had a large garden and also raised their own meat.

In Sept. 1926 Anton broke his leg and crushed the bones in his heel which resulted in Anton being on crutches for several years. The twins Agnes and Clarence were born in Oct. of that same year.

The children attended Popple Lane School.

We remember when Pa bought his first Model T. When he was learning to drive it, Ma made sure we were all in the house. One time he sailed passed the house hollering "Whoa - Whoa" and stopped in the fence.

The names of their children are as follows: Annie Caroline married Lewis Swenson in 1928. They live in Park River ND and have 6 children. Carrie Marie married Severt Thompson (both deceased) in 1928 and had 15 children of which 12 lived to adulthood. Hilda Johnson married Bloyd Klinen and live in St. Paul.

Helga Matilda married Carl Kleven (both deceased) in 1928 and had 5 children. Alice Elenore is married to Ole Kalbakdalen and live in Karlstad. She has a son by a previous marriage. Karinus Johonas still living in Marsh Grove, never married. Carl Edward lived in Marsh Grove until he passed away at the age of 62. Melvin Alfred is married to Ella Larson and lives in Marsh Grove. They have four children. Mabel Edna married Arthur Augustine (deceased) and have two children. She is now living in Grafton ND. Hazel Lillian married Robert Bruce (both deceased) and had three children. Lillian Helen lives in Newfolden. Twins Clarence Gordon and Agnes Florence: Clarence (deceased) married Beatrice Lindstron and lived in Karlstad and had five children; Agnes married Helmer Johnson (deceased) have seven children, she still lives in Strandquist. Betty Jean is married to Wm. Meader and live in Karlstad. They have seven children. Edwin Floyd died when he was 18 years old. Esther Arlene is married to Donald Matheson and live in Milwaukee, WI. They had four children, her youngest daughter died of Leukemia at the age of 20.

Anton and Clara Hanson both lived to the age of 82 years. They had about 56 grandchildren and over 100 great grandchildren.

(Submitted by Mabel Augustine and Agnes Johnson)

MATHIAS AND EMMA (STRAND) HAUGEN

Mathias Haugen was born on Dec. 17, 1872 at Ringbo, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. In 1893 at the age of 21 he came to America and came to Marshall County where he worked on farms in the community until he homesteaded on his own quarter section in Marsh Grove township, section 13.

In the year 1902 he married Emma Strand, who was born in Pelican Rapids in the year 1884. She came to Marsh Grove township at the age of three, along with her parents the late Johannes and Anne Strand, who made the long journey with a yoke of oxen and covered wagon. She could relate several stories of their experiences along the way. The one she especially remembered was when they saw a terrible storm approaching out on the prairie. They had to try to find cover

in a hurry. They found and went into a bachelor's cabin where they managed to find refuge from the tornado that struck Fergus Falls.

The wagon train consisted of three yokes of oxen pulling three covered wagons. The other two wagons belonged to Edward Thompson and Ole Nordaum.

The wedding on Mar. 30, 1902, of Mathias Haugen to Emma Strand was the first wedding performed at Westaker Church, then located one mile west and two miles south of Newfolden. Pastor O. Ostgulen performed the ceremony.

They made their home on their homestead in Marsh Grove township where they engaged in farming. Some of their hardships were that transportation was so bad. There were few roads and the only means of travel was by horse and buggy, wagon and on foot. Also there were no stores near by and the nearest large town was Warren.

To this union eight children were born, namely: Paul, died in infancy; Julia (Mrs. Elvin Westman) died Mar. 8, 1967; Evelyn (Mrs. Leonard Brekkestran) died Mar. 17, 1964; Clarence, Alma, Garfield and Erwin who reside on a farm east of Newfolden; Reuben, now living in Newfolden.

Mathias died April 4, 1921 and Emma died Oct. 13, 1947. They are both buried at Westaker cemetery. They were lifetime members of the Westaker congregation.

(Submitted by daughter, Alma Haugen)

ENOCK AND LILLIAN HOFF

Following several years of severe drought, the Hoff brothers, Enock and Carl, sheep ranchers from northwestern SD, came east looking for grazing land and hay. They found it in abundance on the lake bottom of Thief Lake, which had been drained a few years before in a reclamation attempt. In July of 1936 they shipped their sheep by rail to Middle River, then trailed them to Randeem Ridge, north of Gatzke. Enock's sons, Karl and Gene, joined them in an attempt to put up hay for some 2,000 sheep. The letters they wrote telling of the wild raspberries, strawberries

and blueberries and grass so high you could hardly see the sheep, seemed unbelievable. That fall Enock went back for his wife Lillian and daughter Thelma.

The following year the Thief Lake reclamation attempt was dubbed a failure, the drainage ditches dammed, and the lake reflooded. With their grazing land now underwater, the Hoff brothers moved to a farm in Marsh Grove township and found grazing land near Radium. Friendly neighbors and a warm church home influenced their decision to remain in MN. They soon found that wintering in MN required a great deal more hay than in SD. Reducing the size of their sheep herd, they also raised turkeys.

While in SD church life was very limited, due to scarcity of population and distance involved. Here the influence and fellowship of the church was greatly appreciated. Enock was instrumental in getting a Sunday School started at Westaker. He died suddenly at the farm home in 1954 and Carl in 1964. Mrs. Hoff and Thelma moved into Newfolden where Mrs. Hoff died in 1971.

Of their children, Karl spent most of his life working at Boeings in Seattle, Gene as County Agent at Balsler, MT and Thelma (Mrs. Reuben Haugen) teaching school. They are all now retired.

(Submitted by Thelma (Hoff) Haugen)

HANS AND ANNETTE (JOHNSON) HAUGEN

Hans P. Haugen was born Oct. 14, 1869, in Fodvang, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway to Peter and Runhaug. He came to America in 1888.

Annette Johnson was born Oct. 25, 1873, at Larvik, Norway. She came to America in 1888 at the age of 12 and she stayed with her uncle and aunt at Mentor, MN.

Hans and Annette were married at the home of his brother C.P. Haugen in Marsh Grove township by Rev. H. Ostgulen, pastor of Westaker congregation, on Feb. 8, 1896. They settled on their homestead 2 1/2 miles west of Newfolden in Marsh Grove township and resided there all their life. Hans helped build the Westaker Church and Annette was a faithful member of the Ladies Aid. At that

time the Ladies Aid was held in the farm homes either in the afternoon or evenings. It was a joyous time to meet with the people of the congregation.

They were blessed with four sons and five daughters: Albert, Rudolph, Bertil, Arthur, Mabel, Agnes, Helga, Minnie and Myrtle. The sons have all passed away, Mabel died in 1980 and Minnie in 1981.

Hans and Annette observed their 50th Wedding Anniversary Oct. 13, 1946 at Westaker Church. All their children were present and also many of their grandchildren.

Hans died Oct. 1, 1949 at the age of 79 in the Warren Hospital. Annette died June 2, 1967 at the age of 93 at the Warren Hospital.

(Submitted by Myrtle Hjelle)

ANDREW E. AND JULIA (STOKKE) HOLMAAS

Andreas Erickson Holmaas was born April 27, 1877, at Holmaas, Norway and was baptized the same spring at Lindaas State Church. It was about one American mile from Holmaas to Lindaas "Prestegaard", and approximately five Norse miles north of Bergen. (One Norse mile is about seven American miles.) Andreas was confirmed Dec. 1892 in the Lindaas Lutheran Church by Pastor A. Bjornstad and received a Bible from him on Dec. 24, 1894.

Erik O. Holmaas, father to Andreas, was a commercial fisherman. He made most of their living at sea fishing.

.Andreas, known as Andrew E. Holmaas in America, was the youngest child of four boys and two girls. The oldest Helena, married Ivar Grimstad in Norway. They left for America in 1882 and took homestead in the SW 1/4 section 22 in Marsh Grove township.

Andrew's mother died when he was very young and at the age of 13 he had to leave home to earn his living. He went to Lindaas and stayed with his brother Mons and sister-in-law Uni where he worked for them as they were caretakers of the Lindaas Church farm which helped support the church.

On March 6, 1896, when he was 18 years old he left Bergen for America, using his inheritance money from his mother for his ticket. He left on the steam ship Tasso to Hull, England, took the train to Liverpool and from there on the steam ship Teutonic, White Star Line arrived in New York. From New York he took the train to Warren, MN arriving there March 23, 1896. Once in Warren he got a ride with Iver Lokken, from Newfolden township, with his horses and sleigh. He rode as far as Ellerth Store in Marsh Grove. There Lokken pointed out a trail that would lead to Ivar and Helena Grimstad's farm, Andrew's sister. He walked a short distance when he saw a farm house and stopped in to inquire if he was on the right trail to Grimstads. This was at Laura Goplin's home and here he had his first cup of coffee in Marsh Grove. This gave him new courage to walk on in an unknown land through woods and swampland. It was getting dark when he came to the log cabin of his sister and brother-in-law. Here he stayed and worked that first summer.

In the fall he went to North Dakota and worked through harvest and threshing for \$1.50 per day. That winter he returned to the Grimstad's. When he lived in Norway he learned the shoemaking business so he now patched shoes for the Grimstad family. He helped with chores, chopped fire wood for the house stoves and cut cord wood which Ivar Grimstad hauled to Warren, a distance of 20 miles, to sell and buy flour, sugar, coffee and other necessary things for the family.

Andrew went to school six days at the Lars Akre's farm house to learn English. He was promoted to the work of third grade.

In the spring of 1897 he went out to work on a farm close to Warren. He worked there all summer and continued working out till the spring of 1902. Summer wages were then \$22.50 each month.

During the fall of 1901 Andrew and his cousin Nils Holmaas, who had come to America in 1897, worked in the woods at Dadem, WI, for Flemming Lumber Co.; and later in the winter of 1902 at French River, near Duluth. Here they earned \$15.00 per month.

Earlier in July of 1900 he had bought homestead rights on 80 acres of land in the south half of the NW 1/4 of section 26 in Marsh Grove, from Amund Finnestad. On this land a small log house had been started. Andrew quit working July 2, 1902 and went to his homestead where he dug a well and finished the log house. He built a 10x14 shanty on to it from lumber he hauled from Warren. For the house he made a table and kitchen cupboard, and bought two chairs, a rocking chair, a pioneer's cookstove and a heating stove. He "batched" there all summer.

Andrew had met a young girl by the name of Julia Stokke when he and his cousin Nils walked to a confirmation in Newfolden township in the fall of 1898. This courtship lasted until Dec. 17, 1902, when Andrew and Julia were married by Pastor Hans Ostugulen in Warren, MN.

Julia Louise Stokke was born May 1, 1882, to Anton and Eline Stokke, in Montevideo, MN, located in Chippewa County, where her parents had settled for a few years. In 1883 they moved to their homestead in New-folden township when Julia was two years old.

Julia and Andrew received for their wedding a cow from her parents and also from the Ivar Grimstad's. This was how they started their living in Marsh Grove.

The next summer Andrew bought a team of horses and went to Vega township to do roadwork. Andrew's niece, nine year old Ida Grimstad, stayed to help Julia with the farm. Julia had a garden, took care of the cows, churned butter and then carried it four miles to the Ellerth Store to sell it to Anders Korstad. She then carried a few groceries back to the homestead. They picked strawberries, raspberries and other wild berries to make sauce, jam and jelly.

There were a lot of wolves around then. They could hear them as soon as it got dark and far into the night.

April 16, 1904, their first child Elmer was born. Andrew went back to work in Vega township that summer and fall. Ida came back to help with Elmer while Julia did the farm chores.

In the fall of 1905, when Andrew was gone, Julia saw smoke coming from the south, a prairie fire. Andrew had had a few furrows broke up for fire break around

the buildings so here Julia started a back fire. Knutson's, who had settled there in 1884, saw to help. Mandus and Otto, 13 and 14, came with turn over the furrows. They used wet sacks to daylight the next morning but the buildings Their neighbors the John the fire coming, and came a spade and pitchfork to pound out the fire until were saved.

Monday Aug. 7, 1905, Andrew E. Holmaas became a United States citizen, by Clerk of Court Thorvald Morck. Witnesses to this event were Ole Rod and August Lundgren.

The fall of 1905 Andrew quit working out. He disposed of his horses and bought a team of oxen, two more cows, a yearling heifer, a walking plow, smoothing drag with wooden frame and wooden pegs, a drill, mower, rake , binder, wagon and sleigh. He then started opening land for farming.

Roads were trails along the higher land. They got their mail at farm. Since they had to go four the mail only once a week.

September 10, 1906, their first daughter Alice was born. When I was baptized Andrew borrowed horses from Grimstads and drove eight miles to Folden Church, Julia's home church. I was there baptized by Pastor Hans Ostgulen.

Andrew proved up his 80 acre homestead in 1905. In 1908 or 1909, he obtained 40 acres of state swampland adjoining the homestead, and later in 1918, bought the 80 acres in the north half of the NW 1/4 of section Grove. He now had a square quarter plus 40 acres.

I, Alice, can remember one Sunday in the winter of 1910, Pa, Ma, brothers Elmer, Melvin and I were planning to go to church. Pa put hay in the bottom of the sleigh box then Ma took the quilts off the beds and put them on top of the hay for us to sit on. We had a quilt behind us that we pulled up to our shoulders, hot flat irons wrapped in rags by our feet and a quilt on top that we pulled up to our necks. Then we were ready to go to the Westaker Church that was four miles from the homestead. Pa hitched the oxen, Dick and Frank, to the sleigh, Pa

usually walked beside them to keep warm, and started out. We did not get very far before it started snowing and blowing so hard we had to turn back home.

I also remember Pa telling about the year he bought the oxen. He walked to Samuel Tunheim's, a distance of five miles, bought an ox yoke and carried it back on his shoulders. Courage and determination is what you had to have in pioneer days. Pa farmed with oxen until 1911 or 1912, when he bought work horses.

Ma, Julia, boarded the school teacher, Emma Tunheim, the term of 1903-1904. Emma had 44 pupils in the one room school house, which was then named the South East Marsh Grove Dist. 39 Public School. C.P. Haugen was clerk, Hans Hjelle treasurer and John Knutson director. Ma also boarded Jacobine Grimstad several terms, In 1908 Jacobine had 42 students. L.M. Mithun was Superintendent of the county, C.P. Haugen clerk, P.B. Bakke director and John Knutson treasurer. When the teacher stayed at the Holmaas home, she had to climb a step ladder along the wall to get up in the loft where there was a wooden frame bed with wide wood slats and a straw filled mattress. I can well remember the step ladder along the wall when we started sleeping up in the loft on the straw mattresses.

Pa and Ma worked hard and sacrificed much to make a living for themselves and nine children. We had sickness such as mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever, chicken pox, pneumonia, measles etc. We all had scarlet fever in the winter of 1920 and Pa drove over three miles to the closest telephone to call a doctor in Argyle, 20 miles away. In January 1924, seven of the kids were in bed with measles so Pa went to the John Knutson's and called a doctor in Thief River Falls. The doctor refused to venture out. My sister Inez died Feb. 8, 1924, at the age of seven from pneumonia.

Pa and Ma were active members of Westaker Lutheran Church all the years they were married. Pa was on the church council for many years, and Ma was Ladies Aid president.

All the nine Holmaas children went to country school in District 39, known as the Homaas school, as the district had bought two acres of land in a quarter of

section 26 close to the Holmaas homestead. In the school there was a large jacketed stove for burning wood, a teacher's desk and chair, double desks for two pupils, often three students shared one desk. There was no well so drinking water was carried by the children or snow was melted. Everyone carried their sandwiches in tin pails for noon lunch, which were often eaten frozen.

Andrew Holmaas was active in the Marsh Grove government where he served on the town board from 1907 to 1920. He also served as township assessor for 26 years, from 1921 to 1947. From 1914 to 1945 he served on the school board for district 39.

They farmed until the spring of 1946 when they sold the farm and moved into Newfolden. Ma took a job in a restaurant as a pastry baker and Pa opened up a shoemaker shop, which he continued with until 1961 when he retired at the age of 84 years.

Julia passed away at the age of 73 from cancer June 3, 1955, and Andrew passed away at the age of 90 from a broken hip and heart failure Nov. 2, 1967. They are both buried in Westaker Cemetery, rural Newfolden.

Their nine children are as follows: Elmer Alvin, born April 16, 1904, passed away July 12, 1976 from cancer and buried at Northome, MN. Alice Elvira, born Sept. 10, 1906, is still living in Marsh Grove township. Melvin Leonard, born Dec. 7, 1908, passed away Jan. 13, 1939, from pneumonia, and is buried in Westaker cemetery. Willard Theodor, born June 19, 1911, passed away Nov. 27, 1979, from cancer and is buried in the Westaker cemetery. Arthur Julius, born Jan. 29, 1914, has retired and lives at Mount Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Inez Sylvia, born Oct. 25, 1916, passed away Feb. 8, 1924, from pneumonia and is buried in the Westaker cemetery. Emil Omer, born Mar. 11, 1919, and is living in East Grand Forks. Violet Laverne, born May 18, 1922, passed away Sept. 18, 1971, and is buried in the Westaker cemetery. Iver Stanley, born Jan. 24, 1925, and lives in Newfolden. There are at present only four children living of the Andrew and Julia Holmaas family.

I, Alice, learned responsibilities when very young by helping Ma with the younger children and other work around the farm. While I herded the cattle I would knit. When I was eight years old I knit a pair of mittens for Pa. Ma taught me how to sew and I sewed a romper for Arthur when I was nine. I trapped gophers and earned 5 cents for pocket gophers and 3 cents for grey and striped gophers. My brother Melvin and I would gather crow eggs by climbing up the trees to get the eggs or poke the nest down to get the little crows, we received 10 cents for each egg or for two crow feet. We would set traps on top of fence posts by the watering pond for crows. This was the way I earned money for my dress material and for a pair of shoes for my confirmation, Nov. 6, 1921 by John Hjelmeland. We would also trap weasels in the winter and sell them to a fur company. In the summer we dug snakeroots and dried them and sold them to the Amundson and Lee Store in Newfolden.

I went out working on a farm northwest of Argyle when I was 15 years old. I helped cook for a large crew of men during harvest and threshing. In 1924, I married Mandus Knutson of Marsh Grove. He owned and operated a threshing machine and threshed grain for others that fall. Later he purchased a lumber saw and built a lumber saw outfit. We then moved to New Maine township and lived in a small log house that winter. Mandus along with his brother Albert bought timber stumpage and cut logs and hauled them out with a team of horses. Towards spring they sawed rough lumber for themselves and for others who hauled logs to the saw mill.

Our first son, LeRoy Vincent (Buddy), was born in the log house Mar. 26, 1925.

On June 22, 1925, we moved back to Marsh Grove to begin farming on his mother's farm in the SE 1/4 of Section 22. We owned two horses, one cow, one yearling heifer, two geese, some chickens, one pig to be butchered, farm equipment, Bob sleigh, high wheel wagon, walking plow, 8 ft. drill, spring tooth harrow,

smoothing harrow and a Model T Ford car. In the fall Mandus bought three more cows and two calves, another horse and a binder for cutting grain.

February 19, 1927, our second son Mervin Alton was born.

My dear husband Mandus passed away June 7, 1928, due to a farm accident. He is buried in the Westaker cemetery. This was the biggest grief and sorrow in my life. It took me many weeks to decide what I should do. I decided to continue renting the farm from my mother-in-law, Mary Knutson, who had moved to Newfolden and was living with her son Christian and Albert. Albert helped me with the farm work that summer. I boarded the school teacher in 1928 and continued boarding teacher for the next several years. Even without applying for Mother's Pension I managed to make a living for myself and my two sons. There were long days of hard work and I did the greater part of the field work. I would hire a man to help stack hay, do the plowing in the fall and to cut wood for the stoves. Wages were \$1.00 per day plus board and room.

LeRoy (Buddy) and Mervin learned to work and sacrifice when very young. They both went through four years of high school in Newfolden and they helped with chores and farm work in the evenings. Both LeRoy and Mervin were confirmed by Rev. G.P. Ronholm, who was our pastor for 18 years.

Mandus and I were active members of Westaker Lutheran Free Church. I was Ladies Aid president for 23 years.

I bought the Knutson homestead in 1945 and Buddy and Mervin each now own their own land in Marsh Grove.

LeRoy (Buddy) and I are still living on the old John Knutson homestead in Marsh Grove.

Mervin married Katherine Lee in 1959.

I have two granddaughters and one grandson.

(Submitted by Alice (Holmaas) Knutson)

HANS O. AND OLINE BROSTADLAKEN HJELLE

Hans Hjelle was born in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway, on December 14, 1854. His wife, Oline was born at Gudbrandsdalen, too, on August 10, 1866. They were married in Norway before coming across to this country. They came across on a huge ship. Hans and his wife Cline arrived at Willmar, MN, in Kandiyohi County, before moving to Marsh Grove township, where they took a homestead. They built a house out of logs with just a sod roof and they just had a dirt floor until they could get boards to make a floor with.

There was no roads at that time, just trails, and lots of water. They had some cattle and a little field. Hans had a pair of oxen to work the fields with a walking plow and drag. They had one wagon for transportation. The closest town was Warren which was over twentysix miles away. Sometimes they walked there and back carrying groceries.

There were some schools at that time. Usually there was forty days of school to start with. Gradually it grew to be longer in later years. The very first teachers were John Pearson and Bertha Laughridge.

Fodvang was the post office, they got the mail three times a week. There was a country church, Westaker.

There were six sons and three daughters. Only two of the nine children are still living. The two living are Hjalmer and Helga. Otto born August 24, 1888, died April 2, 1967. He is buried at Oak Grove cemetery. Melvin born June 7, 1901, died Sept. 30, 1970. He is also buried at Oak Grove. Olga born Dec. 14, 1894, died April 26, 1973. She is buried at Karlstad. Karinus born Nov. 24, 1896, died Sept. 30, 1970. Marie born July 17, 1892, died Nov. 19, 1929. Christ born March 25, 1890, died Sept. 10, 1983. Andor born Dec. 6, 1903, died April 21, 1981. Hans died Dec. 8, 1942 and Oline died Feb. 13, 1927. All were buried at Westaker cemetery. Hjalmer was born on March 23, 1899, and Helga on July 7, 1910, she is now Mrs. Edward Nelson.

(Submitted by Grace Hjelle)

HANS AND KAREN (THORGRIMSON) HANSON

Hans C. Hanson was born Jan. 18, 1860, at Seljord, Telemarken, Norway. Karen Thorgrimson was born Dec. 17, 1867 at Skien, Telemarken, Norway. They were married at Moorhead, MN, on March 20, 1894, by Rev. Olson.

They first lived in WI, they then came to Lake Park, MN. In 1903 they came to Marshall County and settled in Marsh Grove township. Their first home was made of home-sawed Spruce lumber.

They were the parents of three girls: Gina Mathilda died at the age of three weeks. Minnie Clarence died at the age of nine months. Both Gina and Minnie are buried at Buffalo, ND. Hannah Lucille was born Jan. 27, 1904, in Marsh Grove Township.

Hans C. Hanson died on April 9, 1941, and Karen died on April 30, 1928. Both are buried at Westaker cemetery.

To earn a living Hans chopped wood and hauled loads of it with horses to Argyle and Warren, the trip would take four to five days and he would bring home flour, sugar and coffee to last for a month.

It was a big day when they could afford to buy a few chickens and cows. He used to get \$1.25 to \$1.50 for a cord of wood. Ten cents for a dozen eggs and 15-20 cents per pound of coffee.

When Hans began breaking up land he would plow up buffalo horns and bones. When they walked for their mail at the Fodvang post office they would walk knee deep in water.

Hans was three years old when he came with his parents from Norway. The trip was by sail boat and took thirteen weeks.

What little schooling the children got was from a teacher who went from house to house. Karen went to school in Norway. She was 24 years old when she emigrated to this country. She learned English after coming here.

Hannah Hanson-Hjelle passed away May 29, 1969.
(Submitted by Grace Hjelle)

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN KNUTSON

Grandpa was the third child of his family. He had two brothers and two sisters. His father Knut Aarnesstuen, born in 1816, was born with the name Knut J. Lillenyflot but when he bought a tract of land about two acres in size from the Aarness farm he changed his name to Aarnesstuen.

In 1842 he married a neighbor girl Anne Johnsdatter Madssven and to this union five children were born.

The purchase of those two acres did not give Knut full freedom because part of the agreement was that he become a part of the labor force on the large Aarness farm for the rest of his life. He was promised meat and milk for him and his family. That was the way of life in the middle 19th Century in Norway. This was near Faavang in the Gudbrandsdalen Valley of Norway.

There was very little future for Knut's family. Johannes the oldest, did stay in Norway but bought a farm for 2,000 Kroner and changed his name to Dalen. Several of his children emigrated to Canada.

Rachel the next child married a farmer in Norway in the same neighborhood. Several of their children emigrated to Iowa and Canada. Grandpa, John, the next child went to America.

Mari, the fourth child, also went to America, all connections were lost in the New World.

The fifth child, Jens, stayed on at Aarness as "husman" following in his father's shoes as laborer on Aarness.

Grandpa came to America in the late 1870's to Alamakee County in Iowa where he probably had some nieces or nephews. Is was here in 1880 on February 23, he put his signature on the document renouncing his allegiance to the King of Norway and stating his intent to become an American citizen. He was well known in Norway for his fine penmanship and this is well documented in township affairs here in Marsh Grove where he served as clerk for many years and also on papers declaring his intent to homestead etc.

Grandpa worked as a farm laborer in Iowa and Lake Park area. The ways of America were a new adventure and soon he hoped to be a big land owner like

Aarness back in Gudbrandsdalen. There were many Norwegians and Swedes in each area he came to so friendship came easy.

In the fall of 1884 he first came to Marsh Grove. He saw lots of opportunity for homestead land was still available, and the choice was made. Here would be the new home in the SE; of section 22. However it wasn't until the spring of April 1885 that all the paperwork and the actual homesteading began.

At the age of 37 he declared Fodvang, MN, in Marshall County as his new and future address. He described the land as prairie and brushland, which would be good for farming. In March 1885 he built the 12x14 ft. log cabin valued at \$50. It was necessary to work off the farm in the fall of that year for money to provide food and improve his claim. In 1890 he listed his assets: 1 log cabin \$50; 1 log 16x16 stable \$15; 1 8x8 milkhouse \$10; 240 rods of post and rail fence \$50; 2 wells \$10; 20 acres broken and cultivated land \$100, a total of \$235. He also had a 1/2 share in a wagon, a 1/2 share in a breaking plow, one harrow, one pair bob sleighs, two oxen, one cow, one calf, and seven chickens. The house was furnished with a bedstead, stove, table, two chairs, cupboard, dishes and cooking utensils. Wheat , barley and potatoes were his principle crops. In 1885 Grandpa farmed 1/4 acre of crop and by 1887 he had one w hole acre, in 1889 the total was eight acres. By 1890 he had fourteen acres and raised 10 bushels wheat, 70 bushels of barley and 120 bags of potatoes.

Grandpa married Marie Kristendatter Palden Ophus in 1890. Marie, Grandma, was a widow with four children and she also had a farm in Marsh Grove. They were both born in 1852 and came from Faavang in Norway hut they lived on opposite sides of the river Laagen, which separated Gudbrandsdalen, Grandma came from the sun side and Grandpa the shade side. They crossed the ocean to cross the river to become husband and wife and raise their own family of four boys in a new land of adventure, hardship and satisfying opportunity.

Every year he voted in local and other elections. This was a duty and a privilege he found joy in.

Grandpa died in 1913 and Grandma in 1936. I never knew Grandpa but Grandma I remember well. The day she died is a day printed in my mind forever. She knew how to love little boys and how to make them happy. This is not only a tribute to Grandpa but also one to Grandma.

(submitted by LeRoy Knutson, his oldest grandson)

LEROY V. KNUTSON

My grandmother on my mother's side of the family was born in America of Norwegian immigrants, while my other grandmother and both grandfathers came from Norway, Yes, I'm all Norsk, part "Streal", as what the people of west Norway were called where Grandpa Holmaas came from. People from the central part of Norway, Gublands, were called "Grautdur" at least according to Uncle Albert Knutson. Both Grandpa and Grandma Knutson came from Faavang, Norway.

Grandma Knutson was married to Ole Ophus in Norway and with their family of several children came to Wisconsin in the late 1870's. From there they moved north into the untamed area of Northern MN. They settled in what came to be known as Marsh Grove in 1882 or 1883. Mr. Ophus died of TB in 1888 leaving grandma with a family of three boys and one girl. She married my grandpa, John Knutson, in 1890 and moved to the SE 1/4 of section 22 in Marsh Grove. My father, Mandus Knutson, was the second child born of this union.

After Mandus returned from service in World War I he married Alice Holmaas, my mother. In the fall of 1924 we moved to New Maine where my Dad had a lumber saw mill and in the spring of 1925 on March 26, I was born in the log cabin there. Later that summer they moved back to Dad's home farm where I now live.

I was three years old when Dad died of an accident and left mother with two sons, of which I am the oldest. This accident was an event that I'm sure changed many events in my life. Mother decided she would be a farmer and stayed on renting the Knutson homestead. She has been an inspiration to make any person proud. Managing to keep the farm and raising my brother Mervin and myself. Honesty and respect were two things she insisted on and to not look for a hand out. There's a

living to be made on your own, just learn to be content each day with what you have. Country school was a one room school, eight grades together, with the older students helping the younger ones, everyone learning and playing together. Reading, writing, and arithmetic were the basics. It was also a place to learn responsibility. Students often carried in the days' supply of wood for the big stove which stood in one corner. Mornings in the winter were cold and the syrup pails we carried our lunch in would be placed near the stove so they would not freeze. We played games like "Fox and Geese", "Pom-Pom-Pull-Away", "Kick the Can" and "Kitten Ball". We built snow forts and houses, went skiing on neighbor's straw stacks, built wigwams in the woods and gave the teachers a bad time.

At home we studied by lamplight (no electricity), had a set amount of chores and learned quickly about work to make a living. When we were young Mervin and I built bridges across the flowing well drain ditch for our wagons. Later we received one bicycle which we shared, and explored much of the surrounding area. It was a great day when we each had our own bike so the need to ride double was ended.

I was still in grade school when the other children in the area expressed the desire for a Marsh Grove baseball team. I went to most of the neighbors asking for a donation and received 25 cents from almost everyone. We raised enough money to buy a bat, ball, catchers mask and chest protector. Games were played in the surrounding community. Raymond Bakke was a good control pitcher, Maynard Hjelle also pitched, he had a good wind up, Milford Olson threw a good fast ball side arm.

I remember prairie fires when the hay stacks burned, it was a fight to protect vacant buildings but the neighbors all helped together.

It was always fun when Uncle Albert would come with his noisy tractor from his farm out west on the ridge to thresh. Once when mom took her Model T Ford out to the threshing crew with dinner I stepped in a pie, to much excitement.

High school was in Newfolden where I learned about leadership. I served as president of our class, was editor of the school paper, chair-man of various groups etc. In 1943 I graduated as salutatorian of the class.

It was a time of gas rationing, food rationing, and in general a time for young people to prepare for military service. In 1944 I got the summons to come and serve my country from President Roosevelt and in Sept. of that year I was on my way to Camp Hood, Texas, a place they said separated men from boys. After completing basic I received more training in California and Hawaii before joining combat troops on Okinawa Island in the Pacific. I rose to the rank of Sergeant, received the Bronze Star for serving beyond the call of duty; I rescued a wounded soldier in no mans land under enemy fire that my Lieutenant said couldn't be done. In the service I found my real self as an individual as a Cadre leader in the Philippine Islands. After peace was declared I was in charge of 40 men, young native boys training in the way of Americans.

I decided while still on Okinawa that I would return home and be for neighbors and especially for my the choice an easy one life told to me by neighbors worked there, August Gast, who and Pete Bakke who had a lot of good things to tell about my father, and Grandpa Holmaas who was only 19 when he left Norway for America. There was Anton Hanson who I'm sure was the best story teller north of the Twin Cities and many others. These and the rest of the pioneers who came before me had a vision. They looked forward with optimism, spoke and lived a life of live for this country, for the freedom to worship , freedom to choose and freedom to love family and neighbor. I live on the farm with my mother that grandpa came to 100 years ago and I still have a vision of optimism for those who follow after. Opportunity is all around us. Mom's conviction of no need for handouts is still sound.

I recall many accounts of pioneer like Lars Akre, who was over 90 when I liked to tease but always had stories,

BAKKE FAMILY IN NORWAY

According to the translation of Einer Hovdhaugen's *Garden og Slekter in Ringebu* from the chapter on Favang the Bakke farm was named after the straight and smooth hills. The Bakke farm was first farmed in 1604. In 1668 the tax on the farm included 3 skins, 3 markers of fish or it reverted to the Ring. A mill was added in 1723 and the tax was increased to 4 skins, 'The Bakke farm had one farmstead in 1723, two farmsteads 1801 and three in 1865. According to Hovdhaugen, the Bakke farm today is successful.

The Bakke farm is located about 120 miles north of Oslo,

Norway. The farm is on the Lagen river just south of the village of Favang near Ringebu in the Gudbrandsdalen valley. Regarding, farm ownership, research indicates that the farm belonged to the King until 1658 when Oluf became the owner. Anne Sjursdtr, widow of Amund Bakke, obtained the farm in 1665. Haldo Haldosen and his wife Mari Amundsdr became the next owners in 1723. Haldo's son Haldo Haldosen bought the farm in 1745. He married Rannei Olsdr Fossum from Oyer. In 1750 he and Arne Kristensen from Oksol became partners in the farm. In 1753 Ole Sveinson Froyse bought Arne Kristensens interest in the farm. Finally Ole sold his share back to i-Ia13o. In 1777 Enebret Arnesen Anres with his wife Ingeborg Handosdr Bakke bought the farm. Arne Engebretsen, probably as son of Engebret bought the farm in 1800. The farm had two farmsteads in 1801. Arne kept the farm until 1836 when Engebret Arnesin, again probably as son, bought the farm. Arne sold the farm in 1855 to Ostne Galbrandsen Segelstad. Osten was the owner until 1860 when he sold it to Engebret Eriksen kolstad. Engebret was married to Beret Torgersdr. In 1865 Engebret sold part of the farm to Iver Pedersen Kjorkjestugun and his wife Marit Andersdr. In 1905 Matias Iversen Bakke bought the farm and kept it until 1938 when his son Hakon Matiassen Bakke bought the Bakke farm. The farm ownership history in short form is as follows. Listed are the husband and wife as owners with their approximate date of birth.

Husband

Hakon Matiassen Bakke (1887) Matias Iversen Bakke (1864) Iver Pedersen
Kjorkjestugen (1822) Peder Jorgensen (1784)

Jorgen Pedersen (1755) (from Nedre Loysnes)

Wife

Krisine Nordolom

Karen Hansdtr Oksolhaugen Marit Andersdtr (1828) Sigred Iversdtr

Kari Nilsdtr (1751)

(1860)

Records also indicate the following livestock holdings for the farm. In 1658 the farm has 4 mares, 16 cows, 3 goats and 12 sheep. In 1668 the holdings changed to 4 mares and 26 cows while 1723 the farm had 3 mares, 22 cows and 10 sheep. By 1865 the farm had three different homes located on the property and had 2 mares, 11 cows 10 sheep, 5 goats and 1 pig on the main farm. The upper Bakke had 1 mare, 5 cows 6 sheep and 5 goats. The north Bakke location had 1 mare 4 cows, 8 sheep and 4 goats. The farms also raised barley, potatoes and peas.

BAKKE FAMILY IN MINNESOTA

During the year 1882, 30,000 Norwegians emigrated to America. One of those immigrants was Feder J. Bakke who came to the United States by boat in 1881 - 1882 and according to a hand-written note in Norwegian found among the things of his son Adolph.

"Peder J. Bakke born on the 17 of August, 1857 in Favang, Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. Came to USA in 188?_ to Alexandria, Dakota Co. and then to Warren, Marshall county in 1885."

Agnetta I{ristiansen joined him in Warren where they were married in November 6, 1885. The following new article from the Newfolden clarion on November 8, 1935, reported on the celebration of the Bakke's golden wedding anniversary.

P. J. BAKKES FETED PM THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Peder J. Bakke were pleasantly honored at their farm home in Marsh Grove when a large crowd of neighbors, relatives and friends gathered for a Golden Wedding reception on Wednesday, Nov. 6th, their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Bakke were married in Warren on Nov. 6th, 1885, and the next day moved into their tiny log cabin on their homestead in Marsh Grove. Crippled for life by an accident (during the second year of married life, his buildings once destroyed by storm. Mr. Bakke, surmounting handicaps that would have made a weaker man give up in despair stuck to his homestead raised a family of nine children, built up a fine farm home, and today may be truthfully said to be one of Marsh Groves successful pioneer farmers.

On Wednesday afternoon the guests were received in rooms tastily decorated in gold, and the following in charge of Rev. G. . . Ronholm was given:

Devotion, Rev. Ronholm; Vocal trio, Albert Lokken, Mrs. Harry Anderson; Mrs. Karen Thompson Elias Haarstad neighbors of the couple; Duet, Rev.

was completed by the presentation of the (olden Wedding Gift by Andrew Holmaas following the program a bounteous lunch and a huge wedding cake was served.

The following children were present, Gilbert, Ida and Adolph, of Newfolden; Mrs. Iver Farstad Devils Lake, N. Dak. ; Mrs. Hans Nordlie, Grand Forks, N. Dak. and Mrs. Carl Johnson, Goodridge, Three Daughters, Mrs. Carl Wickgren Robbinsdale; Mrs. Arthur Lewis, South Carolina, and Mrs. Aubrey Lopp, San Pedro, California, were unable to attend.

Mrs. Louis Farstad, Mrs. Talk, Rev. Ronholm; Talks by and ,. U. Hjelle, a 11 Pioneer and Mrs. Ronholm. The program

Peder was injured almost two years after their marriage while he was working on a threshing crew near Warren. It was a very hot day and the crew had just stopped for noon lunch. While Peder

was unhooking the horses from the bundle wagon, the horses smelled water and broke for the trough pulling the bundle wagon over Peder's neck. He suffered from

the accident for the rest of his life. He was Partial paralyzed for a long time. Because of the accident, Peder had to have Agnetta help with the spring plowing the next year. Peder would use his body to move the plow because he had little use of his hands and arms while Agnetta drove the horses.

Peder and Agnetta lived on their farm in Marsh Grove township until their deaths. They had two sons Adolph and Gilbert and seven daughters Ida, Amanda, Clara, Olga, Mary, Pauline and Minnie.

GILBERT AND ADELINE OLSON

Adeline Bengtson, daughter of Joe and Elsie Bentson, was born in marsh Grove Township July 22, 1907. The log home in which she was born was the hubbub of activity being the youngest of seven surviving children. As a young woman she left home to go to work in Warren, MN. There she met a young man who later became her husband on July 21, 1935. Gilbert Olson who had been born and raised near warren, came back with his new bride to Marsh Grove Township to farm on the Bengtson farm. Adeline tended to the needs of her aging parents until their deaths in 1936 and 1938.

A daughter, Elsie, was born to the Olson family March 11, 1937. She was a very tiny bundle weighing only four pounds and four ounces. In the days of home births chances of losing a small baby were greater but because of the prayers and wisdom of those attending she is alive today.

Following the death of the Bengtsons, Gilbert and Adeline moved their little daughter to an other farm in the same township two miles south of the Ellerth Store, just south of, the Snake River. Elsie started her education at Fairview School with Maxine Hjelle as her first teacher. The following year she transferred to Green Valley which was two miles south of the Olson farm. At this school Elsie completed her eight grades.

On March 24, 1943, another daughter was born to the family. This time Adeline took no chances and went to the hospital in Thief River Falls. But there were no complications and she gave birth to a healthy eight and a half pound

baby. She grew up quickly and soon joined her sister at Green Valley school. After the second grade the country school consolidated and both girls went to Newfolden Community School, riding the bus for nine miles morning and night.

Tragedy occurred Christmas morning 1950, when the family home was destroyed by fire. The little family temporarily made their home across the river on the Anton Knutson place. This made it possible for Gilbert to walk over to his barn and tend to his livestock.

The following spring a new house was built on the same sight as the old one had stood and the family moved back home. Later that year Gilbert decided to take a job on the Mesabi Iron Range where things were really booming then. A year or so later he moved his family out to Virginia MN for a couple years.

In 1956 the family returned to marsh Grove Township and later sold the farm to Donald Bjorgaard.

Gilbert has been well known in the area for his custom sheep shearing business. Gilbert and Adeline are still active members in the Bethania Lutheran Church all though they now live in New Maine Township where they have resided for the past thirty years.

JOHN R. OLSON FAMILY

John Richard Olson was born June 18, 1897 in Marsh Grove township. He attended a Mission church where he was confirmed. Minnie Louise Haugen was born November 24, 1909 in Marsh Grove township. She attended the Westaker church where she was confirmed.

As a teenager, John Olson worked as a hired man for his brother Olof. Agnes, Olof's wife had a sister named Minnie who also worked on the farm. Both of them worked there for several months and then moved over to Minnie's brothers place Albert for employment. As time went on. John got more and more interested in Minnie, teased her and they started dating. They decided that their love needed its fullest expression so one bright and breezy summer day, John asked Albert if he could take the afternoon off. Albert said "we have a lot of work

that needs to be done but if its real important, ya ya. John quickly replied with a big grin from ear to ear, its real important, Minnie and I are getting married this afternoon! Oh then, Albert answered, You'd better get going.

John and Minnie settled down in Marsh Grove on the Jager farm. After renting the land for 2 years they decided to purchase it. On the land was a large faded red barn, a brand new chicken coop which Minnie was quite happy about since her hobby was raising chickens. Also a four room house. The house was small but it was home for it had the main ingredients, love which was woven into every sock, kneaded in to the bread and cookies. To make ends meet one of the two bedrooms upstairs was rented out to a school teacher for \$10.00 a month. The teacher taught school at Popple Lane where John had gone to school as a boy.

In those days John kept coffee bubbling on the back of the stove. Johns coffee was so strong you could have considered it a transfusion but instead it was known as Norwegian gasoline' When company came Minnie would make her special coffee by cracking an egg to absorb the grounds. It came out nice and clear and was served with pride to the Ladies Aide during the drastic dry spell in 1936. That night everyone attended Ladies Aid. They sang together the hymn Showers of Blessings' while singing, their prayers were answered with a beautiful downpour of rain.

By 1939 John and Minnie were blessed with three daughters, Mildred, Mavis, and Janice. The years went by and they worked hard long hours. A new granary was built and friends, relatives and neighbors come to celebrate with dancing on the new concrete floor. Music was furnished by the neighbors. John also decided to have a road built up to the house which was narrow with a deep ditch. Driving on this road in a Model A Ford on a slippery muddy day was risky business, and John would always breathe a sigh of relief when that trip was over.

Minnie was getting plenty of help from the girls but John needed a son to help out on the farm. By 1947 he had the two sons, James and Jerry to fulfill his wish.

During World War Two there was a gas shortage. The people were appointed certain days on which they could purchase gasoline. John and Minnie were on the A day as shown in the photograph of the family by the car. Things got better as the Olson Family went from kerosene lamps to electricity a few years later.

By 1960, all three daughter were married leaving only the two sons at home. By 1970 John and Minnie had 15 grand children and one great grand child. In 1980 John and Minnie celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with friends and relatives on the Olson farm. In December of the same year John and Minnie moved into an apartment in Newfolden because of Minnie's health. In February of 1981 Minnie passed away leaving her husband, 5 children, 18 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. John R. Olson lived his entire life in the Newfolden area until July of 1983 when he moved to the Good Samaritan Home in Warren, MN where he is in good health. Johns daughter Mildred is living in Grand Forks, ND. Daughter Mavis in Salt Lake City, Utah. Daughter Janice in Warren MN. Johns son James has his farm in Viking MN and son Jerry has taken over the John R. Olson homestead.

Written by

Mildred (Olson) Everson 1984

LEONARD AND MARELLA GONSOROWAKI

Leonard Gonsorowski, the eldest son of Louis and Mary Faschke Gonsorowski was born February 10, 1920 in Walsh county, North Dakota. Leonard spent his youth on his parents farm but entered the U.S. Navy in 1944. He took his basic training at Farrogut, Idaho and served overseas in the South Pacific on the U.S.N. Elder. He received an honorable discharge in 1946 with a rank of 2nd class Boatswains Mate.

Marcella, the daughter of Leo and Lenora Radonski Jarombek was born and raised in Grand Forks county North Dakota. Marcella spent her youth at Manvel, ND where she graduated from high school. She attended Mayville State College and taught rural school,

Following their marriage in 1947 they have resided mainly in Minnesota and took up their present residence on their farm in section 26 of Marsh Grove Township in the summer of 1963, but had owned the property since 1959.

For a short time the Gonsorowskis lived in Kilkenny, MN where they operated a bar and Leonard did long distance grain hauling. While there, Leonard attended the Reisch School of Auctioneering in Mason City, Iowa, graduated as a colonel. Leonard served two terms as Mayor of Kilkenny.

Joseph, their eldest son was born April 15, 1948, when they lived on a farm near Argyle. Joe attended school in Argyle and Kilkenny and graduated from Newfolden High School in 1966. He graduated from Northland College in Thief River Falls in 1968. Joe also attended Bemidji State for 2 years. Following a car-train accident on March 18, 1975 Joe was left a quadriplegic but was able to finish up his education at the University of Minnesota, getting a degree in math and science. Although Joe is confined to a wheelchair and has very limited use of his hands he is able to operate his own van which is equipped with hand controls. He maintains his own home, doing his own cooking, cleaning and laundry. Joe has a full time job at "Circuit Drills" in Minnetonka where he presently lives. He operates a computer and various other high technology machines. The company makes circuit boards and many other components for electronic devices• even having made parts for pacemakers.

Dexter the youngest son graduated from Newfolden High school in 1970. He worked for a number of years for Arctic Enterprises as a welder, He has also worked as an auto mechanic having taken specialized training from the AVTI in electronic ignition repair and automatic transmission repair. Dexter is married to Karen Roppe, the daughter of Norman and Mavis Dahl Roppe of Strathcona. Karen graduated from Middle River High School in 1971. Karen spends her summer as a parks worker at the Old Mill State Park of rural Argyle. They have one daughter, Darcy who is 13 years old and is the only Gonsorowski grand child. Darcy attends Newfolden High School where she participates in sports, music, art and drama. Darcy is also a member of the Viking Volcanoes 4-H Club and Dexter and Karen are

the key leaders. They live on a farm 2 miles north of Viking where they raised grain sheep and pigs.

The Gonsorowskis youngest child was their only daughter, Gwendolyn Gayle who was born January 10, 1964. Gwen (Tootsie) graduated from Newfolden High School in 1982 after attending their first six grades in Viking. In the fall of 1984 Gwen will resume her studies as a Junior at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. She spends her summers and stays with Joe in Minnetonka and is employed at "The Press" a print shop in Chanhassen. During the summer of 1980 and 1981 Gwen operated the concession stand at the Old Mill State Park. Gwen was a member of the Viking Volcanoes 4-H Club for 10 years. She attended the Citizenship Focus in Washington D.C. in 1981.

The Gonsorowskis are members of the St. Josephs Catholic Church in Middle River.

The Gonsorowski family is civic minded and keen abreast of current events by reading and participating in local activities. Leonard has served on the Marsh Grove town board and is presently chairman of the board. Marcella represents district 4 on the Marshall County board of commissioners.

Reading is the #1 pastime in the Gonsorowski household. Joe's interest is in math and science; Dexter is more mechanical minded liking wood working and metal working; while Gwen likes to design and construct her own fashion clothes.

THE TOBIAS TOBIASSEN FAMILY

Tobias and Ane Tobiassen moved to Newfolden in 1918 with their six children Ingaborg, Jens, Hans Peder (Peter), Stanley, Sylvia and Stella and farmed their place for five years after which they moved to River Falls, Wisconsin.

A Daughter Effie was born to the family while living in Newfolden. Mrs. John Sundquist was the midwife and with the help of Dad, delivered her. The doctor arrived many hours after Effie was born. He had lost his way from Thief River Falls. Inga was in town and the telephone operator told her to hurry home as things were happening at our house. Effie was named after Effie Vixie.

Inga, Jens, Peter, Stanley and Sylvia attended the Popple Lane School. Their teachers were Margaret Dundas, Lily Holson, Clara Carlson and Olga Vixie. Some of these ladies boarded and roomed at our house

Peter was confirmed at the Westaker Church.

Of our large family, only Peter, Effie and Stella are surviving. Peter and Stella live in Osceola, Wisconsin and Effie is in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Effie was a social worker and Stella taught school. Peter was in the restaurant business served in World War Two and retired early as a result of French polio.

Some memories of Newfolden are the lasting friendships that we maintained over the years; Dad working in International Falls during winter to supplement income and Mom taking care of the family with the help of the older children; the fun we had in our grove; the big pit that stored our potatoes, the Christmas foolers the barn dances; the big moose at our tank; the smudges for the droves of mosquitoes in the summer and the very cold winters.

Congratulations for organizing a 100th celebration.

Peter, Effie, Stella Tobiassen

THE GREEN FAMILY

The Green farm had its beginning when Peder Green came from Norway in 1882. He made arrangements with the Great Northern Railway to buy the NW 1/2 of Section 7 in Marsh Grove Township.

In the spring of 1882, Live, who was born June 2, 1860 in Sigdahl Norway, landed in America. When Live arrive in Marsh Grove, her and Peder were married almost right away. They had the first white child born in Marsh Grove Township (Louise, Mrs. Rolf Tandberg). The children kept on coming and they ended up having a total of thirteen children, but only six survived, five died in infancy. They were Olger, Carl, Agnes, Pedra Louise, John, Alfred and Olaf.

In about 1916 Peder retired and rented out the farm to his boys, first to Olger, and later to Carl and Olaf.

Peder died in 1920 and Live in 1918, they are both buried in the Bethania cemetery in Marsh Grove Township. The farm that Peder owned was put up for sale and Carl, Vernes Dad, bought it. Carl farmed the land until he passed away in 1935, at which time his wife Inga Green (Haarstad) operated the farm until Verne joined the operation in 1939.

Verne Peter Green was born July 1.8, 1924 in Marsh Grove Township to Carl and Inga Green. Verne attended the Northwest school of Agriculture at Crookston MN, and graduated in 1941. During his years at school, he spent weekends and other available time at home helping with the farming, as his father had passed away several years before.

Verne married Crystal Olson, daughter of Mr. and Hans J. Olson of Viking MN on June 24, 1950. Crystal was born on January 15, 1926 and graduated from Newfolden High School and Moorhead State University. She taught school at Bird Island, Redwood Falls and Detroit Lakes.

After their marriage, Verne's mother moved into Newfolden and they purchased the Green farm.

They have three children, Cynthia Joy, born April 13, 1951 Carl Michael, July 21, 1952; and Patricia Marie born November 24, 1957. Cynthia married John Weigelt on December 20, 1969. They now live in West Bend, WI. They have two children Sarah Joy born December 1, 1974 and Joshua William Carl born May 25, 1978. Carl married Robera Curley on July 18, 1981. They live on the farm and Carl started farming with his father, becoming the fourth generation on the Green farm. Patricia works at Depth of Field and teaches classes for the store. She graduated with a degree in interior design. She is getting married on September 29th to Dr. Darrell Kreiger from Dallas Texas.

THE HAARSTAD FAMILY

Elias was born in 1861 at Svatssem, in Vestre Gausdal Norway. At the age of 17, he left there for America. He came to his half brother who had paid his fare. He worked for him for two years without pay, to repay his debt. He then left the farm at Fergus Falls, by train to Crookston and from thereby

foot, in search of some land to homestead. On the way he met Olaf Brekkestrand, who was also searching for land and ventured on together. At Argyle the land was low, swamps and water so they walked on east, by now there was a third man, but I don't know his name. They crossed the Pembina trail and when looking east the land looked high and dry, so kept on going until they found just what they wanted. They settled in what is now Marsh Grove, and so were the first three men to spend a winter in this community.

He managed to get 2 oxen and 1 horse, so was able to work up 5 acres, of prairie sod and seeded oats, which didn't turn out as it was alkali land. He had also bought a hay mower, so when cutting the prairie grass he struck a rock and broke a guard. He then put the horse away for rest, and he walked yet that evening to Argyle for the part and stayed over night, and walked back the next morning, 17 miles.

In 1884 he married Eline Berg who was a cook on a big farm along the red River where Granddad went to work during the harvest. They had 11 children, five boys and six girls. Albert the oldest, was the first white boy born in Marsh Grove Township.

To support his large family, Granddad started a cheese factory on his farm. He bought milk from neighbors, but when the rail road came through Newfolden and a creamery was opened, he decided to close his factory.

He was organizer of the township church, and was very interested in community affairs. He was the bell ringer for as long as I can remember in the Bethesda Church. Every Christmas Eve he would ring the bell for one hour between six and seven o'clock. This was a custom he brought with him from Norway. Elias and Eline both passed away the same year some time after celebrating 65 years of marriage.

My Dad Iver, served in World War 1, leaving just three weeks after he married my mother, Olga Shern. She was the daughter of Clara and Hartvik Shern, also of Marsh Grove. They too were early settlers. Harvik's trade was sawmaster of local sawmills. Some of the mills being at Mud Lake, sawing mostly tamarac which came from that area. The lumber was used for building

barns etc. as it was very hard lumber and could with stand the weather. He also built bridges, in Marsh Grove. He died from diphtheria at the age of 42 years. Leaving Grandma to raise the family of three girls and one boy. She stayed on the farm and managed to make a living, for her family until they grew up. Grandma was a hard worker and a good provider.

Iver and Olga had a family of two boys and one girl, and we lost our little sister when she was a month old. Her "e was Iola and she is buried beside my dad at Bethesda Cemetery. We were later blessed with a sister who came to live with us when she was six years old. My folks farmed in Marsh Grove until in 1938 when Dad Went into the Implement business in Newfolden, selling mainly Minneapolis Moline machinery. My mother also had a little restaurant at that time in Newfolden, so that's when I took over the farm. My Dad passed away in 1957, and Mother is now a resident at Oakland Park and is 89 years old.

I married Lenora Sorenson of New Folden Township, her ancestors were Soren Sorensens, early settlers of New Folden Township.

We had a family of five sons and one daughter. I have turned the farming over to a son Calvin who is married and lives in Marsh Grove and wants to continue farming. He and his wife Barb (Breeze) have two girls and one boy.

Submitted by

Orville and Lenora Harstad

ARTHUR SWAN FAMILY

Arthur Swan was united in marriage to Annabel Windahl. They farmed the John swan farm 6 miles west of Newfolden. They had nine children• namely Vernon of Newfolden, Joyce of Iron MN, Lois of Newfolden, Wendell of Madison Lake MN, Robert of Aurora MN Dorothy of Viking MN, Jean of Franksville WI, Sonya of Gonvick, and James of Newfolden.

They farmed three quarters of land for many years. In 1938 they purchased the Josie Wolf farm. Later they purchased the Swan farm from his brothers and sisters.

They raised various grain crops and lots of livestock like cattle, sheep, chickens, pigs, turkeys and horses. Some years we hatched our own chicks, which was very exiting for us to watch. We had a large garden and canned many quarts of vegetables, fruit and jam. We also canned our own meat.

We attended the Fairview School. My first teacher was Dorinda Johnson, then Clarice Olson, Olger Rokke and then Clarice Olson again. We enjoyed programs at the school. The whole neighborhood came to see and hear us recite poems, sing songs and put on plays.

Every summer we had Bible School at Fairview. Laura Goplin was one of the oldest teachers. She taught us to read Norwegian at recess time. We gave a program at the Church when it was over. One year we got all the ice cream we could eat. I ate seven comes and Roger Windahl ate 9 or 10. We also had a "pop drinking" contest, and John Bjornrud won that.

As the children grew older, we could help with many jobs. Like feeding animals, pick and clean eggs, carry wood and water clean lamps and chimneys and lantern globes,, also filling lamps with kerosene.

In winter the roads were poor and blocked with snow. Sometimes Dad brought the cream to town with horses and sleigh. We patiently awaited his coming home. He always had lots of groceries , and a big bag of candy for us from the store keeper. Sometimes he bought a loaf of bread, which was a real treat.

Our mother sewed most of our clothing. I remember her as a very happy person. She was always singing as she did her work. Some winter evenings, she would play her accordian and Dad played his mouth organ. We were all thrilled to hear them play.

At Christmas we had lots of company for meals. We had all the lefse we could eat. When we got invited away we were really exited, to all get in the car and go away.

Later on we moved to the east farm. We liked it very much. Our Dad was very homesick for the west place. One Sunday we had a thunder storm, and the lightening fallowed in on the telephone line, struck the house and it burned to the ground. Another house was moved in, but it was never the same.

In the early days we would have an occasional visitor, like a fish peddler, a Watkins peddler, and even some tramps, they didn't want to work, they got some food and went on their way.

One time we had several car loads of Indians. They went to pick snake roots around Strandquist. They had car trouble and our Dad fixed the car but before they left, he asked them in for pancakes and fried eggs. There were about twenty of them. We all stood around and watched them eat. The baby woke up, we brought her in and they looked and looked. We got frightened and thought they may take her, but they just smiled at her. It was Jean, she was very dark skinned and dark hair and eyes. In fact she must have looked like and Indian.

I remember we had several family reunions and the Swans came to visit us. They were all delighted with the home made ice cream with custard added.

As the years went on the family was growing up. The four oldest were married.

On Saturday, February 20, 1953, our parents, Jean, Sonya and Jim were on their way to the Iron range to visit Vernon and Betty, and Joyce and Sidney, when they were hit head on by a drunken driver. Our mother was killed instantly and seriously injured Dad and Jean. Jim and Sonya had minor injuries.

Our Dad keep on farming until his death in 1973.

He has one living sister , Edna Hanson at Braham, MN. She is a retired school teacher. All the Swan children are living at this time.

Dad sold the East farm to L. Lindamoen before he died. After his death the West place was also sold to him.

We have many pleasant and loving memories of our childhood, we had parents that loved children.

CHRISTAIN AND CAROLINE ENGELSRUD

Christain Engelsrud was born in Namenstad Norway Oct. 8, 1859. He came to America on April 18, 1883. Caroline (Lodoen) Engelsrud was born in Hornedal Norway on Dec. 15, 1872. As a young lady she came to Warren MN in July of 1896. There she worked on the Woodward farm. That farm is now known as the Melgaard farm. It was there she met Christain Engelsrud who was the horse foreman and also was to see that all supplies were brought to the farm.

They were married on Dec. 10, 1901 at Warren MN by Rev. Astgulin. Their attendants were her sister Ingeborg Lodoen and his brother Ole Engelsrud. They settled in marsh Grove township on their farm. Two children were born there, Conrad and Clara, Mrs. Bertil Bakke.

Christain and Caroline resided on the farm until their death. Caroline passed away Jan 20, 1929 at the age of 57. Christain died Oct. 28, 1933 at the age of 74.

Conrad married Ruby Windahl June 18 1938. They have three children; Beverly Mrs. Leslie Folden, Donald, and Eunice Mrs. Rodney Liedberg.

Summer time brought gypsies and medicine peddlers, the gypsies would camp over night, and in the morning when milking time came, the gypsies would have beat you to it, and no milk. They would by then be on their way. Children would be excited when they saw the medicine peddler coming down the road driving horses, they knew he would have candy or gum for them.

Eggs and cream would be taken to town and exchanged for groceries and dry goods. There to would be a large bag of candy which the grocery man would put in for the children.

Wild animals were plentiful, one day Conrad caught a wolf in one of the traps, which I insisted was our neighbors (Westmans) dog, but I proved wrong, it was the real thing.

Conrad farmed until 1968 when he had a stroke, and Donald took over the farm. On Dec. 5, 1974 Conrad passed away.

Beverly married Leslie Folden and they have two girls, Michelle and Donelle. Donald has two children Shaun and Tiffany. Eunice married Rodney Liedberg and they have two children, Jerad and Kelly.

Donald passed away Oct. 5, 1983. Ruby Engelsrud still lives on the home place with Eunice and Rodney who farm the land.

Submitted by Ruby Engelsrud

HERMAN AND MARIE HANSON

Herman Hanson was born in Sweden in 1863. He came to Marsh Grove Twp. and homesteaded in section 13. He built a log cabin using logs from his own land.

He married Marie Hanson In Norway in 1891, having traveled there the fall before. Marie Johnson was born June 10, 1868. In the fall of 1891 he returned to Marsh Grove and brought with him, his new bride and her mother. Her mother lived with them until she died.

A yoke of oxen was the transportation going to Warren and took two days.

In 1928 they moved to Newfolden and made their home there. Herman died Oct. 8, 1937 and Marie died March 7, 1945.

They had seven children, Hans and Inga of Newfolden, Albert and Alfred of Middle River, Ruth of Minneapolis, and her twin Mae Leidgen of Michigan. They are all deceased except Inga.

CONRAD AND INGA (HANSON) MELO

Conrad Melo was born Sept 27, 1888 in Bigwoods twp. to Ole and Anna Melo. They came to America from Norway in 1882. They homesteaded in section 10 of Bigwoods twp. Conrad had a twin sister that died in infancy, and they were born in that township. He had two brothers and six sisters also. Conrad is the only one living at this time.

As a child Conrad remembers the first house was made of sod, and later a log house was built. In 1897 there was a terrible flood and they lost some of there stock. He also recalls his father going to Warren and carried home flour on his back.

Conrad married Inga Hanson of Marsh Grove twp, on June 14, 1920. She was the daughter of Herman and Marie Hanson and was born

Sept. 22, 1894,

Conrad and Inga farmed in West Valley twp, until 1966 when they sold the farm to Harlan.

We have five children; Harlan, Virgil, Merle and Wendell. Our daughter Modell died in infancy.

Submitted by

Conrad and Inga Melo

RICHARD ANDERSON FAMILY

We came to Marsh Prove in the spring of 1940, and settled on the Torkel Vikse farm. Our son John was born in 1942 and Kenneth in 1946. Both attended school in Newfolden, graduating in 1960 and 1964. John went to work at the Warren Creamery and later at Detrioter Mobile Homes in Red Lake Falls MN. Kenneth enlisted in the Air Force and spent 18 months at Eilson Air Base at Fairbanks Alaska and 2 years at Andrews Air Base, and Fort Myers in Washington D.C. There he worked in NASA communications. After his discharge, he returned to Minnesota and graduated from Bemidji State College in 1972. Since then he had lived at Wausau WI. He is married and has two boys, Richard age 5 and Matthew 1 year old. John went to Washington D.C. in 1967 and began work for a trailer sales & service co. Later he moved to Frederick, Maryland where he now makes his home. He is attending a technical school in Baltimore, at the present time.

Richard passed away on August 16, 1974, and I now live in Viking and have lived here since November of 79.

Submitted by, Ethel Anderson

ANDREW J. BAKKE

Andrew J. Bakke was born on April 23, 1862 at Folvang Ringbo Gulbrandsdalen Norway. He immigrated to America in 1886 at the age of 24. He married Betsy Peterson Jorstad in 1890, and settled on a farm 1 mile west and 1 mile north of Newfolden. Betsy Jorstad was born July 22, 1862 at Falvang Ringbo Gulbrandsdalen Norway. Andrew and Betsy had known each other in Norway and then meet again in Minnesota. They had 4 sons and 3 daughters. Ingvold, Mary, Alfred, Agnes, Gunda, Andy, and Bertil. Gunda died in 1908. Andrews wife Betsy passed away in 1909, leaving Andrew with six young children.

In 1924 Andrew bought the Dykman farm 5Z miles west of Newfolden in Marsh Grove Twp. Later he bought land directly across the road to the north. He farmed for many years when he moved into Newfolden, the farm was sold to Andrew and Sig Ordahl. He passed away in Feb. of 1955 at the age of 92 years.

BERTIL AND CLARA BAKKE

Bertil and I were married on December 18, 1929 in Newfolden by Rev. G.P. Ronholm at the parsonage. We drove to Newfolden in a Ford Coupe and met our attendants, Edward and Agnes Tunheim at Andy and Agnes Bakke's home. Edward and Agnes and their children had come to town with a horse and sleigh.

For several years we made our home at the Andrew J. Bakke farm 5 1/2 miles west of Newfolden in Marsh Grove Twp, There Bertil helped his father with farming.

Our three daughters were born there; Betty (Mrs. Clarence Amiot) Jenette (Mrs, Douglas Weber) and Vernice (Mrs. Leo Nelson).

Betty and Janette started school at the Fairview School, 1z miles to the west. In 1939 we moved as we bought a farm 4 miles south of the Fairview School. There Vernice started school. Our son Dennis was born and he started school in Newfolden as we moved there in January of 44, and rented out the farm which we still own.

There Bertil worked till all the children graduated from high school, then we moved to Thief River Falls, Bertil worked there until he had to quit because of illness. We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary in December of 79. We have

17 grand children and 8 great grandchildren. Bertil Passed away in June of 1983. I am residing in our home in Thief River Falls.

Submitted by,

Mrs. Bertil (Clara) Bakke

HOLGER AND MABEL JOHNSON

Holger and Mabel came to Marsh Grove Twp, in 1939 from Stephen MN, having purchased the former Joe Bengtson farm. They lived there until 1965 when Holger Sr. passed. away. Mabel moved into Newfolden and in 1969 sold 1:.=r farm to Clayton and Edith Blinsman. Mabel and Holger had six children. Holger Jr. and his wife Florida live in Tacoma, WA. Harold, who married Avis Bakke passed away in 1948. They also lived in Marsh Grove for their married years. Raymond and his wife, Emy, live in Milwaukee, WI. Goldie, who passed away as a small child. Wallace married Verna Owens and in 1982 he was killed in a tractor accident at Nante-Cote Maryland. Gladys and her husband Chester lived on Ida Johnson's farm for a few years before buying a farm in 1950 in Foldahl Twp, They now reside in Thief River Falls. Mabel still resides in Tacoma WA.

Submitted by, Gladys Gast (Johnson)

AUGUST GAST SR. FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. August Gast Sr. and their children came to America from Germany in 1886, and in 1899 settled on a homestead in Marsh Grove Twp. section 20, This land still belongs to the Gast Family. Their children were August C. Jr. Charles, Paul, William, Arthur, Bertha Mrs . Hil lmer Bergner) Anna (Mrs. , Ole Ihle) and Ida, (Mrs. Ole Knutson). They are all deceased. August C. Gast Jr. and Bertha Knitter were married in 1898 They later moved unto his fathers farm in section 20 of Marsh Grove. Their children are Roy, still living in Marsh Grove. Nora, who lives at Landmark Center in Warren and Chester, who married Gladys Johnson, they now reside in Thief River Falls. The children that are deceased are Frank, Lee, Esther, Walter, Alice and Clarence.

In 1910 August Jr. and his family moved to section 17 in Marsh Grove Twp, and Roy still lives on that place.

The Gast generations operated a butcher shop in Argyle for many years, in 1938 Clarence bought the shop from his uncle Bill and Clarence and his wife. Edel (Dyrud Gast), operated it until the fall of 1970 when Clarence retired. Edel still resides in Argyle.

Bertha Knitter Gast died in 1922 and August Jr. in 1950.

Submitted by, Gladys Gast

SUNDQUIST

This history was written by Sylvia (Sundquist) Olson.

My folks moved to Newfolden in 1915 and settled on a farm in Marsh Grove, in 1929 they sold their home and moved to Upsala MN. We were nine children in the family; Sylvia of Upsala MN, Evelyn of Minneapolis, Vinie who passed away, Lydia in Los Angeles CA, Viola of Baudette MN, Elsie of Oakland CA, Cal passed away on Dec 7, 1983, Arnold of Upsala MN, Violet of Oakland CA, Vernon in AZ, Delores of Oakland CO.

I am not sure how many of the people around Newfolden I would remember, the ones in my age group are probably gone.

I remember, Inga and Conrad Melo, Adeline Bengaton, Henry Engelsrud, Alice Knutson, Hazel and Gladys Westman.

LLOYD HANSEN FAMILY

Lloyd and Clara (Banken) were Married the Fall of 1934. We bought our farm in Marsh Grove Twp, in 1940 and farmed until 1967 when we sold the farm and moved to Newfolden. We have four children; Lila Hansen Vocura of Thief River Falls, Duane of Minneapolis, Dave of Newfolden, and Larry in Arvada CO.

Together with our children and grandchildren we plan to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 20, 1984 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Newfolden.

Submitted by, Mrs. Lloyd (Clara) Hansen

ARTHUR AND OLGA WINDAHL

Arthur and Olga Lind were married March 14, 1918. They built a home and farmed in Marsh Grove Twp. section 5 west of Newfolden, where they reared five children. After twenty seven years they moved to Viking where they operated a restaurant for fifteen years. Arthur passed away March 29, 1962. Arthur and Olga's daughter June married Omer Sorenson and had six children. Their children are Jerome, Jon, Clyde, Lana, Jay and Faye. Omer passed away in 1969. June now makes her home in Thief River Falls and is Mrs. Bob Barrows. Dolores married Floyd Bakke in Oct. of 1947, They have no children. Floyd is a trucker and Dolores teaches cosmetology at the Area Vocational School In Thief River Falls. They live in Newfolden.

Phyllis married James Gander in June of 1946, and now lives in East Grand Forks. Jim owns Champion Tune-up Auto service. They have seven children.

Eloise married Donald Deihl in June of 1954. They live in Dilworth and have six children.

Norlan married Geraldine Overland in March of 1964, they live at Deer River and have five children.

Olga Windahl married Albert Bothum Jan 1, 1967 and moved to Karlstad where they lived five years until Albert passed away in Dec. of 1971. Olga moved back to Newfolden and purchased a home, where she now lives.

Submitted by, Dolores Bakke (Windahl)

DANIEL AND EDITH HODNEY

Daniel and Edith Hodny came to Marsh Grove Twp. in May of 1965, along with their five children, from Lankin ND.

Their children are James, married to Lova Tollefson from Edmore ND, and they have two children Jason and Jessica Marie. Robert married Brenda Hanson from Lisbon ND and have no children. Kenneth married Rita Kazmierczak from Florian and have two children Sara Jo and Julie Marie. Kenneth's twin sister

Katherine is married to Robert Bjorgaard from Viking and have three children, Chad, Janette Marie, and Andy. Daniel married Randi Myhrer from Thief River Falls.

Submitted by, Mrs. Daniel Hodny

JORGEN AND ANN WINDAHL

They came to Marsh Grove Twp, in March of 1901 from Elbow Lake, MN and settled in section 16. Some years later that house was moved into Newfolden. They had seven children; Marie, John, Emma, Edward, Hilma, Willie and Annabell. Annabell was born January 1, 1902 in Marsh Grove Twp.

Winters were cold and lots of snow and much sickness. The older children were married so had left home, Mrs. Windahl died when Annabell (Mrs. Art Swan) was two years old, so with the help of Helma and John, Grandpa was left to raise Willie and Annabell.

My Dad John Windahl told about, one fall when their Dad was away threshing they had gone to bed up stairs and he said they always would push the truck over the trap door. One night they heard this awful racket, but they didn't dare to go down to see. In the morning when they came down, the wind had blown open the kitchen door and the chickens had all come in, there they sat on the table and cupboard.

It was nothing to walk miles then & visit your neighbors. Grandpa had a sister living on the Westlin farm. Mrs. Ole Erickson Natvig and also a brother Ole Windahl. Emma married Peter Kvilstad, Marie married Juluis Stombo, Willie married Viola Goplin. Hilma Married Ole Tvedt, he passed away and later was married to Tom Stolaas. John Windahl married Julia Elseth, she passed away and married Marie Hedquist. They have all passed away, but what good memories they have left.

Submitted by, Ruby Engelsrud

THE CALVIN HARSTAD FAMILY

I Calvin Harstad, son of Orville Harstad, married Barbara Breeze July 8, 1978. I bought the Akre farm in Marsh Grove Twp, in 1976, and was homesteaded by them. Since then I have remodeled the house and barn and also put up a pole shed.

Barb and I have a family of two girls and one little boy. They are Alison 5 years, Kathryn 3 yrs, and Jeffrey 9 mos.

I plan on making farming my future, as it is a great place to raise my family.
Submitted by, Mr, and Mrs. Calvin Harstad