

Ole and Lena Langaas



Ole and Lena Langaas in their buggy.
(Lois Dvergsten photo)

Ole and Lena (Lauritzen) Langaas were immigrants from Trondheim, Norway, who homesteaded in the northeast part of Section 13 in Lind Township. Their

daughter, Eleanor, was born July 17, 1901, soon after Ole and Lena first came to homestead. She was born in a tent (assisted by a midwife) as the log house being built was not yet finished. Ole and Lena had four daughters: Eleanor (Halvor) Knutson, Mary (Torben) Johnson, Julia (Julius) Johnson, and Laura (Martin) Anderson.

The Bethlehem church record book showed Ingeborg Elenora born June 17, 1901, and baptized August 4, 1901, the fifth child on the list, but actually the second one baptized into the congregation. Ingeborg went by Eleanor most of her life.

The mosquitoes were very bad and the land was undeveloped, mainly brush and trees. Horses were used for transportation and work. Herding cattle was common since they couldn't put up miles of fences when they first homesteaded.



Three sisters farming alone. Mary, Julia, and Laura (on the right) Langaas pitching hay into the haymow. (Lois Dvergsten photo)

Ole passed away in November, 1925, and Lena in January, 1926, two months apart, leaving twenty year old Laura to

manage the farm.

Her sisters, Mary and Julia, were teachers, but in the summer they helped Laura with the farm work.

Ole and Lena joined the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in 1906.
Submitted by Lois Anderson Dvergsten.

Gottlieb and Anna (Gonshorowski) Lasniewski

Both Gottlieb and Anna Gonshorowski were born in Europe. Like many Polish immigrants they first went to Pennsylvania. In June of 1887, the same year that Gottlieb arrived in America, he and Anna were married at Reading, Pennsylvania. This was in the days when feathered hats were popular, and dresses draped bands around the hips, and tight bodices that buttoned down the front were the fashion.

Two years after their marriage, Gottlieb and Anna homesteaded near Leo, after staying in Stephen for a while. Their home in Minnesota had two rooms and a small second story. The sounds of



Gottlieb and Anna Lasniewski with Mary.
(photo courtesy of Mary Ann Schires)

Minnesota included wolves howling at night, prairie chickens booming in the mornings, and frogs croaking early and late. Mosquitoes were a trial for both people and animals, and wolves raided the livestock. In the fall, the swamps and prairies had to be watched and checked often for fires that might start in dry grass and dead brush.

Gottlieb worked very hard. Homesteading was not easy. Clearing

the land of rocks and brush was a never-ending chore, and flooding was a common occurrence. Oxen were used for clearing the land. When horses were purchased, they were a status symbol, but the oxen kept on working.

The nearest store was at Leo, three miles away, which was where they had to go to fetch their mail. The nearest train service was at Stephen, Minnesota. In the early years, they attended mass in a shed at Leo, but later a church was built there.



Gottlieb and Anna Lasniewski family: Back: Mary, Max, John, Alex, Agnes; Front: Eleanor, Gottlieb, Anna and Magnus. (photo courtesy of Mary Ann Schires)

Gottlieb and Anna were the parents of eight children: Mary, John, Frank, Alex, Max, Agnes, Magnus, and Eleanor.

From information submitted by Mary Ann Schires and Eunice Korczak.

Memories of Grandpa Gottlieb and Grandma Anna Lasniewski

This is a short memory of Grandpa Gottlieb and Anna Lasniewski. My grandparents lived about two blocks north of the church and rectory. Father Drewnicki, who served the church, was an elderly priest.

Grandma made a hot noon meal each day for him. She would put the meal in a double boiler to keep the food warm. (A double boiler is a kettle that fits inside another larger kettle. Hot water can be put

in the larger kettle for the smaller kettle to rest in, keeping the food warm.) Every day at noon Grandpa would take this kettle off food to the priest. Grandpa was very blind, so he walked alongside a fence using it as his guide. This made a beaten path to follow. Grandpa would stop at the church to ring the bell for Angelus, then proceed with the food for the priest. In the morning, my grandparents attended daily mass and picked up the kettle.

The priest was a gifted carpenter. He made three fantastic altars, a pulpit, and his own casket. The priest had the same stature, actions, and personality of Pope John Paul today.

Submitted by MaryAnn Schires.

John and Veronica (Lorbecki) Lasniewski

John was born January 23, 1892, at Argyle, Minnesota, to Gottlieb and Anna Lasniewski. When John was seven years old, he came with his family to the Leo area (Polonia), a community of people from many areas of Poland like Mazur, Kashuba, and Salisia.



John and Veronica (Lorbecki) Lasniewski 1920.
(photocourtesyofMaryAnnSchires)

John grew up on the farm and on June 29, 1920, married Veronica Lorbecki, who was born in 1898 at Winona, Minnesota, to John and Mary (Wicka) Lorbecki. In 1919, John's father turned over the farm to him under the following agreement: "John agrees to pay the sum of \$300 per year during their natural lives and to supply them yearly with 400 pounds of pork, 30 bushels of potatoes, necessary fuel, one good milk cow, one heifer calf, to see that they have medical care when needed,

conveyance when convenient to visit, attend church, or go to town." In

addition, John agreed to pay certain amounts of cash to his siblings.

John served in the U. S. Army during World War I and was a member of the Greenbush American Legion Post. He also served on the District 58 school board, the Polonia town board, and the Roseau River Watershed board. The Lasniewskis were lifelong members of St. Aloysius Church.

John and Veronica had six children: Raymond, John Jacob, Aloysius, MaryAnn, Robert, and Lawrence. John thought of the family as a charmed circle-- no missing links.

John was an honest man and a carpenter and builder for many people, even neglecting his own work to build for others. He built many houses from Leo to Stephen with every nail doing its job, none wasting. Unfortunately, he didn't always get paid for the carpentry he did for others.

He also was a good fixer-upper-- taking care of breakdowns of farm machinery and fixing fences and gates. He was a good blacksmith, doing work for himself and for others. The metal was heated red-hot over a coal fire until it became soft and could be molded like wax. He used dynamite to loosen stones and stumps clearing

the land. It seemed risky and dangerous. He was a precise man, but every so often when his shirt needed washing, he would say washing wore it out, not wearing.

Gust Lance from Montana brought two boxcars of wild horses and John bought the worst one and tried to break and train him. In time they bonded and became friends. One morning, for no apparent reason, the horse "King" dropped dead in the barn.

One winter John moved a store about five miles on a sleigh pulled with horses while snow covered the ground. He cut the store in half and hauled one half on the sleigh. Then he moved the other half. One half of the building became a granary, the other a two-story roomy home.

John was truly Johnny Appleseed. He planted and transplanted trees all of his life. Whenever there was a tree that was not doing well, it was dug and put in a better place. For all the care, they didn't grow that well, but after he died on June 12, 1984, the trees grew beautifully and are still growing splendidly.

Submitted by MaryAnn Schires.

Fred and Delia (Botoshe) Lavoy

Fred (Alfred) Lavoy came to Hereim Township, Roseau County in 1894. He was born in Ontario, Canada, on January 3, 1862, and came with his parents to Northfield, Minnesota, when he was a small boy. He came to Roseau County to homestead.

He first married Minnie Grumbo (Granbois) of the Greenbush area, and had two daughters, Lillian (Pyle) and Lucian. Shortly afterwards his wife passed away.

In 1905 Fred married Delia Botoshe, the daughter of Roger and Cecelia (Dejarlis) Botoshe of Greenbush. Delia's siblings were James and Willie Botoshe and Rose (Mrs. Fred) Montry. The Lavoy's had six children: Eleanor (1899-1992); Cecelia (no dates); Louis (1908-1911); Louis Norman (1912-1961); James Alfred (1915-1960); and Leonard (1918, infant).

Their daughter Cecelia married Louis A. Teske, and had two children David and Mary Jean. They lived in Dewey Township when the children were in grade school in District 25, moved to Greenbush when they were in high school and later moved to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Their son Louis Norman Lavoy married Connie Larson. Their children are Joanne, Joyce, Jeanette, Jeraldine, and Jeffrey.

Information from Ruby Scales and Leona Emery. Compiled by Myrna Sovde.

Hans and Ellen Lerum

Hans Lerum was born in Lyster, Norway, in 1871, and his wife, Ellen Carlson, was born in Sweden. Hans first came to Wisconsin, and later moved to Stephen, Minnesota, where he worked in a bank. Their only child, Harold, was born in Stephen. Hans started a store in Strathcona in 1904, when the railroad arrived and he was the first postmaster. He was also depot agent for a short time.

Hans was a shareholder in the Strathcona bank when it opened in the fall of 1913, and was vice president of the Peoples State Bank of Greenbush when it was organized in January 1913. In 1917 he was elected president of the Peoples State Bank. When the State Bank of Greenbush reopened in 1921, Hans was simultaneously president of both that and Peoples State Bank. He was one of the fifteen local incorporators of the Greenbush Credit Company organized in 1923 and served as president.

In 1918, he was the second highest dairy producer selling to the Greenbush Creamery, with a yearly sale of \$563.79. He took an active interest in farmers' co-operative affairs.

He died at age fifty-three, not unexpectedly, at his brother's home in Minneapolis on January 2, 1924. The Tribune stated, "He was an accommodating business man and many of the old timers received aid from him in their time of need."

The Lerums' son, Harold, married Edna Anderson and they farmed south of Greenbush, in Hereim Township. Their home was in the NW 1/4 of Section 34. They had four **children**, James (Mayvis Anderson), Donald, Edna Mae (Kendall Peterson) and Herdis who died as a child.

Submitted by Arlaine Duray and Myrna Sovde,

Helge and Karen LiUemon

Helge Lillemon was born in 1866. His wife Karen Helgeson was born in 1870, in Stuartville, Minnesota. They were married in Buxton, North Dakota. They came from Hatton, North Dakota about 1900, and homesteaded in Section 24 of Dewey Township where they farmed. In December 1911, they were living in Hatton, ND, but moved back to Greenbush sometime later.

Helge and Karen had six **children**: Gilbert, who died of the flu; Louis, who died at age 3; Ingvald (Lydia Pederson); Clara (Jack von ROhr); Ruth (Clarence Wehr); and Gustine (Henry Hermanson).

The Tribune of 4-9-26 listed Helge as one of eighteen members who organized the Greenbush Co-operative Creamery on April 8th, 1905. He was also a director of the first creamery board.

Submitted by Arlaine Duray.

David Lofgren

David Lofgren was born June 13, 1896, and was only 18 years of age, he and his brother, Art, opened a general store in Karlstad. He came to Greenbush in 1915 and opened a general store, which he owned in 1936.

He and his family **moved** to Minneapolis, **Minnesota**. He spent 19 months working on the Mcan Highway and **also a year** in the Navy yards at Bremerton, Washington. He **operated a** store in Columbia Heights, Minnesota, from 1950-1958, when he retired in Fridley, Minnesota.

He served in the U. S. Army in World War I and later became a charter member of the American Legion Post 88 at Greenbush.

He died March 28, 1970, while visiting his daughter in California. Surviving him were his wife **Minnie** and his children David of Anoka, Mrs. Daniel Connoy of Idlewild, California, Peter of Portland, Maine, and 13 **grandchildren**. Also **surviving** were his brother, Axel, of Hallock, and sister, Cecelia Erickson, of Roseau. He is buried at Fort Snelling.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from the Roseau County Museum.

John and Mary Lorbiecki

John was born in Poland and immigrated to the U. S. at the age of 22, to Wmona, MN where he worked in a **sawmill**. He married Mary **Wika**, age 18. They moved from Winona to Greenbush, settling in Polonia Township in 1899. They farmed, as well as owned the Leo store.



LtoR: Martha, **Max**, Mary, Motber Mary, Veronica, Frances, John, and Helen. (photo courtesy of Mary **Ann** Schires)



Submitted by Barb (Lorbiecki)

Back: Rose, Lawrence, Veronica, Martha, Fronti Della, John and **Horak**. Mary. (photo courtesy of Mary **Ann** Schires)

Lorens and Elizabeth Lorensen

Lorens Lorensen was born **June 4**, 1860, in Norway; and Elizabeth Nelson was born on August 17, 1860, also in Norway. They met and married in 1880. Lorens was a successful fisherman. They would fish with a fleet of about sixteen boats and a crew of nine to ten men on **each** boat. They did most of their fishing around Greenland, and sold their catch to floating canneries. It was during one of these fishing expeditions that they were caught in a fierce **storm**. They lost fourteen of their sixteen boats. The men on these boats all **drowned**, including a cousin of Lorens. It was then that he **decided he** could no longer live this life, so **he** sold his boat, and in 1897, he left for America, from Tronso, Norway. When they arrived in Iowa, they had only \$2.50 in their pocket, but a lot of determination to make a new life for their family. Lorens got a job on a farm, Elizabeth cooked, and the older **children** were "farmed out" to help at other farms.

In 1901, they were able to save money enough to buy a team of horses, a cow, sheep, a plow, a **harrow** and a scythe. Lorens traded his shotgun for a wagon, and they took off for Minnesota, walking a lot of the **way** to save on the horses.

In 1902, they settled in Huss Township, six miles east of Strathcona, in Roseau County. Elizabeth passed away in 1916, at the age of 56 years. Lorens buried her near their home. This was the beginning of the Lorensen Cemetery. He continued to make his home there. Many summer evenings, you could hear his beautiful voice carry across the ridge, as he sat outside his home and



Lorens Lorenson house in **Section 22**.
(photo submitted by Lila A. Dersot)

sang hymns. Lorens and Elizabeth were hard-working, honest people who loved their family. They left a legacy to the coming generations of faith, hope, and trust in the future, and the ability to conquer any obstacles that came before them. Lorens passed

away in 1953, at the age of 92 years. Truly, they built their family on a firm foundation.

Their children were: Nicholai, 1883 (Ingeborg Lillegard); Laura, 1884 (Alexander Benner); Ludwig (Martha Holt); Henrietta, 1887 (Ingvald Sands); Peder, 1889 (Agda Wicklund); Rasmus, 1891 (Esther Strandberg); Julia, 1893 (Pete Johnson); Edward, 1896 (Elizabeth Haverland); Carl, 1898 (Minnie Riski); Nannie Elizabeth, 1903 (died in childhood); Mary, February, 1904; adopted December, 1904 (Hans Christianson).

Submitted by Charmaine Lorenson.

Rasmus and Esther (Strandberg) Lorenson

Rasmus Lorenson was born March 8, 1891, at Transjer, Norway, but the hometown was Tromso, Norway. In 1897, at the age of six, he came to America with his parents, Lorens and Elizabeth Lorenson, and his four brothers and three sisters. They came by boat to New York City, then traveled to Clear Lake, Iowa. From there they moved out into the country, to a small town called Fertile, Iowa, where they resided for about four years. During those years, a son and a daughter were born.

When Elizabeth's health began to fail, Dr. Hanson, a doctor in Forest City, Iowa, advised the family to move to Minnesota and settle on the highest land they could find. They and their ten children, with two covered wagons, four cows, two heifers, one sheep, and their personal belongings, came to Minnesota in the late summer of 1901. They settled two miles east and a mile south of Middle River, where they rented a piece of land. But Elizabeth wanted to find higher ground to live on. On April 2, 1902, they moved to the Siberian Ridge, about six miles east of Strathcona, where they homesteaded. They were the first ones to settle in Huss Township, Roseau County, with a few Indians in the surrounding area.



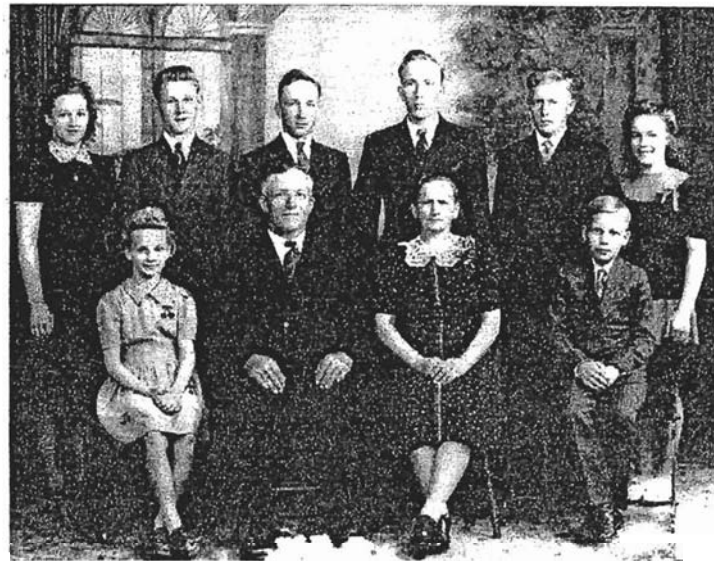
NW 114 Section 26 Huss Township, the Rasmus Lorenson building site 2004.
(Myrna Sowle photo)

On March 15, 1905, the Township of Huss opened up land for homestead. The bank of Pelan made money available to file for homestead rights. It cost sixteen dollars to file for the title. When Rasmus went to the first Roseau County Fair with his father; it took them two days to get there. After they moved to Strathcona, Rasmus and his brother, Pete, had twenty miles to go for the mail at the Ringbo Post Office, which was five miles northeast of Holt; they waded barefoot through three miles of swamp and water to get there. Rasmus was ten years old then. Rasmus and Pete also walked to Warren and worked on a big farm. In November 1907, a logging camp at Bemidji hired them. On Thanksgiving, Rasmus wrote home to his dad (in Norwegian) that they were lonesome and wanted to come home. Their dad answered the boys, saying that they had better stay since "there wasn't a nickel to make at home." So they "toughed it out." Each of them came home with a check for \$98.89 and gave their money to their parents.

When Rasmus was 14, his father hooked a team of oxen to a wagon and with some extra clothes, food and much encouragement, sent Rasmus by himself to the Red River Valley to haul bundles in the fall harvest. It took him four days to get there. He earned \$104.50 for his fall work. When he came into the bank in Hallock, the banker asked him, "Aren't you too small to have so much money?" Rasmus said, "I don't know." The banker asked, "How much money are you going to spend?" Rasmus said, "I'm going to buy myself a good sheep-lined coat, and have some money for lunch." The banker asked, "Is eight dollars enough?" "Yes," was the answer. The banker said, "I'll prepare a bank draft for the remaining \$96.50. That way, no one can steal it from you. You can still get your money, even if you lose it." Rasmus returned home with the draft, and he gave the money to his father to buy all the windows and doors for their new house.

Rasmus worked eight years in the woods near Baudette. He washed his own clothes by hand. He always said that he was called "a lumberjack." He remembered the bad fire in 1910, at Baudette and Spooner; 28 lives lost and they were buried in a long trench. There was a little boat, called "Gall," that was in the bay between Baudette and Spooner. It was filled with women and children, and the men were out with pails, throwing water on them to save them from the fire.

Rasmus bought a farm of 80 acres, a mile from his parents' home,



Rasmus Lorenson family taken on Silver Wedding Anniversary, May 25, 1943. Back: Lillian, Eldor, Edward, Clifford, Melvin, and Delores. Front: Lila, Rasmus, Esther, and Randa D. (photo submitted by Lila A. Dersot)

where he spent the rest of his life. He married Esther Strandberg on May 25, 1918. Rasmus passed away on March 25, 1982, and Esther (who was born on May 25, 1902) passed away in April, 1954. They raised eight children, five sons and three daughters. They were: Edward, 1918 (Violet Bentow); Clifford, 1920 (Dorothy Bentow); Lillian, 1922 (Edward VacuralMelvin Koehnlein); Melvin, 1924 (Jane Anderson); Eldor, 1926 (Charmaine Modahl); Delores, 1928 (Ed Stromlund); Randall, 1930 (Delores Jackson); and Lila, 1932 (Kennis Anderson).

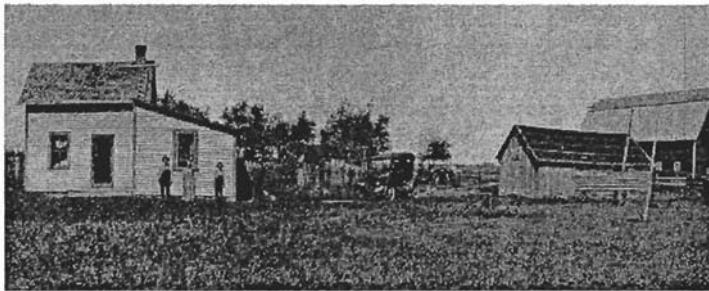
Submitted by Charmaine Lorenson.

(Carl) Selmer and Benedicta (Larson) Myhre/Majer
(and Clara Larson Majer)

Carl Selmer Akselsen (Krabby) Majer was born May 9, 1857, to Axel Myhre Jacobsen (Krabby) and Siri Poulsdatter in Skulerud, Erie Ostre, Toten, Oppland, Norway. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church of Norway. Carl was known as Selmer. His grandparents were Jacob Jacobsen and Marlene Larsdatter. His siblings were Anders Axelson; Johannes Axelson Tutt Sundby; Peder Axelson; Carl Axelson; Jens Axelson Kraby Berg; Anton Axelson Ulstrud; Karen Axelsdatter Gilbertson; Karine Axelsdatter Erikson.

After (Carl) Selmer's mother died, his father Axel came to the Argyle area about 1878, along with some of his children. Axel lived there with the Anton Ulstrud family (his son) and fanned.

After serving in the Norwegian Army, (Carl) Selmer came to America in the spring of 1880. He joined his brother Anton Axelson Kraby Ulstrud and his father Axel Myrhe Jacobson (Krabby) where they fanned in the Stephen-Argyle area. (Carl) Selmer married Clara Larson, and they had one daughter. Both Clara and the daughter died.



Selmer-Benedicta Majer Homestead. (photo courtesy of Carmen Sather)

On October 17, 1890, (Carl) Selmer married Benedicta Larson who was from Silkeborg, Denmark. They were married at Ada, where they made their home for four years before moving to Stephen. In the spring of 1901, they moved to Roseau County and homesteaded in Deer Township, where he farmed until his death on October 17, 1942. (Carl) Selmer donated land for the Poplar Grove Church and helped to build the church. The church sits in the southwest corner of his field. Many fanners often dedicated a field of crop to the church for donation when harvested.

The children of (Carl) Selmer and Benedicta included:

(1) Axel I. Majer was born in Ada, Minnesota, on 12-6-1890. He was never married, farmed in Deer Township (grain, dairy, beef) in partnership with his brother Elmer. He died 7-19-1979.

(2) Syvert Majer was born **9-6-1892**. He was a WWI veteran. He farmed in Deer Township, never married, and died 11-26-1967.

(3) Benny Majer was born October 17, 1894. He was a WWI veteran and died in Veteran's Hospital from a war wound 10-22-1921.



Selmer A. Majer family: Selmer, Benedicta, Axel, Hilda, Syvert, Anna, Bennie and Elmer. In front: Clarence and Lawrence. (photo courtesy of Carmen Sather)

(4) Anna (first) Majer- died in infancy.

(5) Infant Majer- died.

(6) Anna (second) Majer was born 11-20-1897, in Stephen, Minnesota, and baptized and confirmed at Poplar Grove. As did many people of the time, her parents named her for a daughter who had died, Anna (first). Anna married Axel Nelson 12-10-1947, and they farmed in Deer Township. They had no children, but raised Axel's brother's children, Loralie Nelson (Robert Foldesi- died 2004) and William Nelson (Pat). Anna died 5-14-1980.

(7) Elmer Majer was born 4-2-1900, in Stephen, Minnesota. He farmed (cattle and grain) with his brother Axel Majer. Elmer died 11-17-1975.

(8) Hilda Majer was born 7-31-1904. She married Emil Haugvedt, a fanner. They had the following children: Elaine (Ernest Nesteby); Morris (Maria Hayes); Velma (Danford Hammess); Eunice (Basil Stavness); Harris (Grace); Curtis (Kay Hahn); Stanley (Julia Ellefson). Hilda died 9-18-1961.

(9) Lawrence Majer was born 10-30-1905. He married Helen Nelson, and they farmed in Deer Township. Their children were: Laurel (married Donna Payne, Donna Gerhart, Carol Blakeley, and Arlette Grave); Gretchen (married Harold Wold).

(10) Clarence Majer was born 7-7-1909. Clarence married Orla Reiersen and fanned in Deer Township. Their children were: Cannen (Dean Sather); Dana Majer (Charles Crane); Clair (Caroline Beito). Clarence died 2-5-1995.

Submitted by Carmen Sather.

Adam and Mary (Markus) Mattson

Adam Mattson was born on December 26, 1872, in Denmark. He came to the United States when he was seventeen. He lived in St. Paul where he was engaged in business. Mary Markus was born on July 29, 1872, in Bohemia. She came to the United States in 1891 and settled in Albany, Minnesota. In August 1894, in St. Paul, Adam and Mary were united in marriage.

In 1916, the couple came to the Greenbush area and homesteaded in Barto Township, five miles north of Greenbush, where they lived for over 30 years. Mark and Mary had three children: Sylvia, Ella, and Mark. They were highly respected neighbors and friends.

Mary died June 20, 1944, in Barto. Adam died September 17, 1948, at St. Luke's Hospital in Thief River Falls. His funeral was held at Bethel Church in Greenbush.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak and Linda Gieseke with information from the Roseau County Museum.

Sven Arthur (S. At) and Alva (Nubson) Mattson

Sven Arthur Mattson, more commonly referred to as "S. A." Mattson through the years, was born on January 13, 1892, at Norrackar, Sweden, to Matt and Sarah Mattson. In 1913, he immigrated to the U. S. and settled in Virginia, Minnesota, before coming to Greenbush. He joined the U. S. Army in 1918 and was in WWI.

On October 24, 1919, he married Alva Nubson in Greenbush. Her parents were Henry N. and Olive Nubson. Alva was born September 21, 1894, in Kensett, Iowa. She came to Huss Township with her family in 1907, and later moved to Greenbush. She was well known for her love of flowers.

The S.A. Mattson family home, the big square house on the north end of Main Street, was located on the empty spot between the Legion and the City Office.

Art operated a garage for many years. He had an implement and Ford dealership, and also had the first Chevrolet dealership. His place of business was where Lowell Langaas has his garage now. He was active in civic affairs and was mayor for several terms. He was a member of the Greenbush American Legion Post #88 for over 50 years, and was commander at one time. Art enjoyed fishing and hunting. He also did carpentry.

Alva and S. A. had nine children. Marjorie 1920 (George Cowie); Ruth 1921 (Clarence Bonn); Reynold "Ray" 1921 (Charlotte Hughes); June 1924 (Lon Holter); Donald 1926-1976 (Della Sather); Paul 1927-1985; Robert 1930 (Linda); Richard 1934-1990; and Wayne 1932-1985.

Alva died in 1957. In 1961 S. A. married Ida DeRaad. S. A. passed away **June 8, 1969.**

Submitted by Henry "Buster" Nubson. Compiled by Myrna Sovde. See H. N. Nubson history.

Neil and Agnes McFarlane

Neil McFarlane was born in 1847, in Meaford, Ontario. He was the son of Alexander, Jr. and Belinda Jane (Corley) McFarlane. Alexander was born in Scotland, and Belinda Jane was born in Ireland. They both came to Ontario with their parents.

Alexander's father, Neil's grandfather, was said to have been a coal **miner** in Kilbirnie, Scotland. In 1895, the British government decided to settle upper Canada. Free passage and 100 acres of land were offered to settlers. In that year, the family of Alexander, Sr. sailed from Scotland to Quebec. The ocean voyage took about two months. In the spring of 1916, he received a patent for land near what is now Meaford, Ontario. Alexander, Jr. was 5 years old when the family settled in Canada.

Belinda Jane Corley, mother of Neil, came to Ontario in about 1835. Eventually, the Corleys settled near Meaford and became neighbors of the McFarlanes. Belinda Jane married Alexander, Jr. in about 1838 or 1840. To that union was born Neil in 1847.

Neil was raised in Ontario where he met and married Agnes Manning in 1869. She also was born and raised in Ontario; however, William, her father, came from Northern Ireland at the age of seven. As a young man, William married Eliza Jane **Body**. She also had been born in Ireland. Agnes, the daughter of William and Eliza Jane, was born in Creemore, Ontario in 1850.

Neil and Agnes had five children while they lived in Canada. Three of the five died within a week when a diphtheria epidemic hit the area. Discouraged, Neil and Agnes took the remaining two

children and moved to the United States. Their other seven children were born near Bowesmont, North Dakota. The new home was about three miles from the Red River, which frequently flooded. Hearing of homestead land available in Minnesota, the McFarlanes moved to Barnett Township in about 1904. Here they settled on 80 acres in Section 26. Agnes died in 1915 and Neil McFarlane died in 1917. Both are buried in Badger City Cemetery.

Following is a list of each of their children and spouses: Alex (Cora Belle Lintott), Minnie (Tom Ferguson), Carrie (Pete Paulsen), Neil (Maggie Marsh), John (died at birth), Mary (Robert Smith), Maggie (Fred Brown), Florence (died as a child), and Wilbert (Pearl Steele). From these, there are believed to be about three hundred descendants. Many still live in and around Greenbush.



Neil and Agnes McFarlane
(photo submitted by Pat Hogan)

Every two years a McFarlane Family Reunion is held in the Greenbush area. The event is always well attended, with members coming from the United States and sometimes Canada.

Submitted by Wilbert McFarlane Family. Researched by various family members.

Joseph J. and Mary (Smirdl) Mekash

The story of Joseph Mekash is one of triumph over great odds. It begins in Bohemia, where he was born in 1859. As a child, he had virtually no opportunity for schooling, though he had managed to learn to read and write. He helped his parents on a farm, herding cattle and geese to market. At the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed to a carpenter. In 1875, he and two older brothers obtained permits to leave Bohemia and to come to America.

In the United States, he worked a variety of jobs: in the sawmills and lumber camps of Michigan, as a beer-wagon driver, and as a timber cutter and dealer. He managed to save enough money to invest it, but lost his holdings through forest fires, bank failures, and the panic of 1893.



Joseph and Mary Mekash

Eventually he ended up in the harvest fields near Warren, Minnesota. There he met friends, Janousek, Smrstik, and Novak, who had already filed claims in northern Minnesota and encouraged him to do the same.

In January of 1895, he came to his homestead in Barto Township and began to haul logs for his new home, and built a two-room house and a small bam. In the spring of 1896, he brought his

wife and five children to live on the farm.

In recounting some of his experiences in the first years on the homestead, he told of a hard-hearted neighbor who had many cows and much milk. The Mekashes had not yet been able to buy any cattle. When the neighbor's cow strayed to the Mekash farm, they soon came to claim the animal, but offered not a drop of milk. Mekash had arranged to buy a cow from this same neighbor for \$19, but since he had no cash, he had to give \$20 for the animal, after he returned from working the Dakota harvest fields in the fall.

There was much wild game, so meat was plentiful, but Mekash bartered for supplies. He hauled huge loads of timber, posts, and ties in exchange for a team of horses and for feed. Each year he cleared more land and made his claim more productive.

Mekash was a hard worker and was trusted in the community. He served on the school board for twenty-eight years, as township treasurer for twelve years, and supervisor for eleven years. He was on the Farmer's Elevator board for eleven years, the Farmer's Store board for eight years, president of the Farmer's Bank Board for six years, and an agent for County Fire Insurance for two years.

Joseph and Mary Mekash had ten children: Mamie (Dolezel); Carrie (Roche); Jennie (Novacek); Joseph, Jr.; Nettie (Sobtzak); Alice (Gust); Agnes (Novak); and three who died in childhood.

Joseph, Jr. farmed in Barto Township for thirty-nine years.

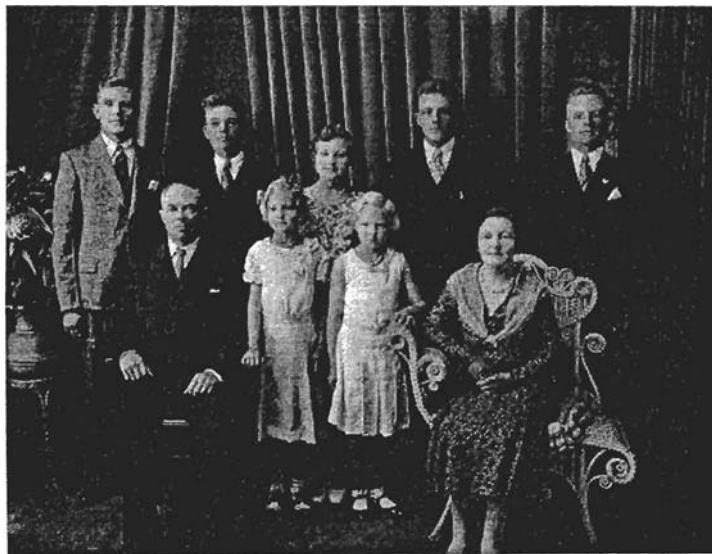
From Pioneers! O Pioneers! (A Roseau County Historical Society Publication).

John and Magna (Thorp) Melby

Johannes (John) Melby and Magna Thorp Melby were both born in Rakkesiad, Norway. John was born on May 20, 1886, to Helge and Helvine (Naerby) Melby. He had three sisters. One sister remained in Norway; the other two immigrated to the United States.

Magna was born on March 20, 1885, to Hans Christian Anderson Thorp, a school teacher, and his wife, Elizabeth (Nordby) Thorp. She and one of her brothers immigrated and three siblings remained in Norway.

John made one trip to the United States before actually leaving Norway. He and Magna were married on January 20, 1906, in Oslo, Norway. They immigrated to Madison, Minnesota, in 1906 where three of their seven children were born. The family moved to a farm east of Greenbush in 1912.



John Melby family - 1933: Back: Helge, BiD, Alice, Clarence, Melvin J.; Front: John, Martha, Sigrid, and Magna. (photo by **Faye Bjorgan**)

The children of John and Magna are: Helge, Clarence, Melvin I., Alice Pugh, William (Bill), Martha Dodds and Sigrid Baker. Twenty-nine grandchildren were added to the family tree.

Magna was well-educated for a woman born in the late 1800's. She was a marvelous story teller and told her children stories filled with Norwegian folklore. She was a seamstress and an excellent cook. Like most women of her time, Magna rarely wasted a minute. There was always washing, knitting, food preparation, canning, sewing, gardening and baking to be done for her family. Magna enjoyed singing and her children remember her singing nearly every morning as she started her day.

John was a good farmer who liked to try new things, new seeds, different breeds of cattle. He particularly enjoyed the planting season and he also planted many trees. He made improvements on shearing machines which his sons put to good use while shearing sheep in the area.

John and Magna returned to Norway for a visit with two of their children. John also returned alone, for one final visit. John passed away on April 4, 1946, and Magna on June 5, 1952.

They were members of Zion Lutheran Church (rural Greenbush) and later at Bethel Lutheran in Greenbush.

Submitted by Faye (Melby) Bjorgan.

Thorvald O. and Inger (Larson) Melby

T. O. Melby was born December 24, 1864, in Nannestad, Norway, the son of Ole Pederson Kogstadhagen and Anne Thorsdr. Anne spun yam for a living. He was called Thorvald Larsen. Inger Dorothea Larson, also referred to as "Dorothy," was the daughter of Hans Larson. She was born in Bjerkee, Prestejel, Norway on August 27, 1864.



Thorvald O. Melby



Inger (Larson) Melby

(photos submitted by Becky Melby)

He was a hired man or "husman." He had also been in the Norwegian Army. In Norway, if you weren't the firstborn son, you had to hire out. Jens Holter was the first of the relatives to leave Norway (Mrs. Holter was Inger's aunt). They helped to sponsor the immigration of Hans Larson and Thorvald Melby.

T. O. and Inger were married in Norway in 1882, and had three children before they decided to sail to America. They left in 1889. The **boat** trip took about three weeks. They entered at Philadelphia, traveled to Chicago, and then to Minnesota. They arrived at Madison, Minnesota, **where** Inger's parents were already living. They lived there for six years. Because of conditions and relatives

living in Roseau County, they decided to move here too. T. O. had been here before and had looked over the land.

They traveled by horse and wagon and brought along their cattle and poultry also. There were about eleven families in this caravan that traveled to Roseau County in about 1895. The trip took six weeks. They traveled during the week, and rested on weekends by a water source. They did laundry and baked bread on Saturday and rested on Sunday. Thorvald joked how it took three weeks to get to America and six more weeks to get to Roseau County!

T. O. and his family stayed with Inger's parents, Hans and Anne Mary Larson, when they first arrived. T. O. and Inger homesteaded in Moose Township and farmed and raised cattle for a living. Thorvald changed his name to Melby and used the initials of T. O.



Thorvald Melby and family: Back: Melvin, Dewey, Hans, Ingmand, Enock; Front: Alfred, Ida, Thorvald and Tom. (photo submitted by Becky Melby)

They had eleven children. The first three were born in Norway: Hans T. (1883-1900, never married, died from gangrene while working on a farm in North Dakota), Anne "Mary" (1885-1939, married Peter Skyberg, Hillsboro, North Dakota, had six children), and Tobias "Tom" (1887-1969, never married, farmed with parents).

The other eight were born here: Carl "Alfred" (1890-1971, never married, farmed with parents), Ida Luine (1892-1962, married Julius Holter, moved to Saskatchewan, had thirteen children), Laura Matilda (1894-1945, never married, lived with her parents), Arnold "Melvin" (1897-1970, married Asta Vatnsdal, had three children, Asta died in 1923, married Ellen Glad, had four more children, farmed south of his parents' farm), Dewey Palmer (1900-1992, married Manda Jackson, had six children, farmed in Saskatchewan for 24 years, returned to farm north of Badger), Hans (1903-1966, married Ingeborg "Emma" Vatnsdal and had one daughter, Emma died in 1923, married Selma Dokken and had six more children, farmed north of Greenbush, and later Gatzke), Ingmand (1905-1989, married Edith McAllen, had two children, farmed next to his parents), and Enock Manford (1908-1985, married Tilda Dokken, and had five sons, farmed east of parents).



Thorvald raking hay with horses. (photo submitted by Becky Melby)

T. O. was active in the formation and building of Oiland Congregation and also served on the Haug School

Board #16. Inger was active in Ladies Aid at Oiland.

Because of financial conditions, they lost their farm in Moose Township in about 1924, and later bought the Ingvald Kolberg farm in Soler Township. They lived there for the rest of their lives.



Melby barn - Tom and Alfred putting up hay. (photos submitted by Becky Melby)

Many hardships and trials were endured. The flu epidemic of 1918 and diphtheria were some. Inger's sister and their oldest son, Hans, died about the same time in 1900. There was not an abundance of food, clothing, or medical care to be had, so the family had to learn to do with little. Their faith in God was an important ingredient in their pioneering life.

T. O. Melby died December 18, 1953, and Inger died on October 31, 1929.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from an article in the Roseau County History Book and also from the Melby family history (written by Wayne T. Melby).

The Ole and Thone Metvedt Family

Ole and Thone Metvedt, Norwegian emigrants, arrived to homestead two and one-half miles northwest of present day Greenbush in 1895. They had previously lived in Norman County, Minnesota and the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota. Ole's brother, Aaune Metvedt, and his family moved to the area directly north of the Ole Metvedt family. The family consisted of the parents, sons Olaus, Ole, Severt, and Tom, plus daughter, Gena. In October of that year daughter Clara was born during a winter-like storm. The homestead house Ole had built was so poor the neighbors came to see if the baby had survived the cold. Later two more children were added to the family, Albert and Julia.

Because Thone was the neighborhood midwife, Ole delivered all eight of the Metvedt children. The children remembered how much they dreaded hearing someone knocking on the door in the middle of the night, knowing their mother would be gone for several days to deliver the baby and care for the mother and child.

A school was built directly east of the farm. The children didn't like being so close as they couldn't carry a lunch bucket and play during noon recess but had to go home and do chores. The teachers were usually young girls who had a difficult time maintaining discipline, and when the noise got too loud, Ole would come across the road and settle things down. Later, Mr. J. Webb, who was a peddler in the summer, became the teacher. He boarded with the Metvedts, so Thone had to learn English. All the children learned English when they started school, so that was another job for the teacher.

During the summers the older sons worked on farms, but spent

the winters at home. The men would take care of the horses, but never the cows. That was the job for the women and girls, a custom that came from Norway.

In 1910, the Metvedts, along with several neighbors, moved to Canada to homestead again. Unlike most of the others who left, Ole kept his land at Greenbush and returned about ten years later. Thone hated the plains, the incessant wind, and lack of trees. Olaus, Severt, and Albert remained in Canada. Gena, Ole, and Tom all homesteaded in Montana. Gena returned to the Greenbush area and was a rural schoolteacher in Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana for all of her life. Tom came to live with his father after Thone died in 1926. Julia lived for many years in Cut Bank, Montana.

Clara and her husband, Charlie Johnson, moved to Greenbush in 1925. They had three boys, Wesley, Carl, and Franklyn. Shortly after they moved, Norman was born. Later, Arne and Darlene were added to the family. They moved to a small farm a mile north of Greenbush where Clara, with the help of her sons, ran the farm while Charlie worked as a carpenter. He knew the history of almost every farm for miles around since he had worked on most of them. During the war, Charlie was away working on defense related jobs in Alaska and Newfoundland.

Clara was interested in outside work, and often had a "hired girl" to cook and clean. Egg and cream money bought many of the staples needed on the farm, and Clara raised turkeys, sheep, pigs and garden produce. Arne was eleven and a half when Darlene was born, and it became his job to stay in and cook and care for the baby while Clara worked outside.

One of the family memories is of the March storm in 1941. The weather was unusually nice for March, and Clara, Charlie and Arne went to town on a Saturday night for a movie. While they were at the movie a storm started, and they were able only to drive as far as the Kjos farm by having someone walk in front of the car. They spent the night there, along with several other people. In the morning with the storm still raging, and worried about fifteen year old Norman alone with infant Darlene, Charlie borrowed extra clothes and crawled the mile north along the fence. His eyelids were frozen open by the time he got home.

The four oldest sons were all in the military during the World War II, while Arne was drafted and served in Korea.

In 1946, the farm buildings were sold and Charlie, Clara and **Darlene** moved into Greenbush. Clara spent many of her summers in Cut Bank, Montana with her sister Julia, and moved there in 1957. Charlie died in Greenbush in 1974. Wesley, and Norman lived in Montana, Arne lived in Montana and South Dakota; Franklyn lived his adult life in East Wenatchee, Washington. Carl lived in Greenbush until he died in 1966. Darlene Skari, a former teacher, has lived for the past 35 years on a family farm in Montana that is about the same distance from the Canadian border as Greenbush is.

Submitted by Darlene Johnson Skari.

Bertha Meyer Family

Bertha Meyer was born Bertha Olesdatter, on Gaarden Fliesberg (Fliesberg farm) near Elverum in Norway, on March 8, 1840. Fliesberg had been the home of Bertha's family for many generations.

Hans Pederson Aker (Graft) was born Hans Pederson, on the Aker farm in Norway, about 1834.

After Hans and Bertha were married, about 1860, the family lived



Bertha Meyer family; Back: Carrie, Hannah, Julius, (Gravberget).
Mina, Oluf, Ludvig. Front: Pete and Mother Bertha.

at the Fliesberg farm for a time. The Norwegian census indicates that Hans and Bertha and their two oldest sons, Peder (born about 1861) and Oluf (born about 1864) resided at the farm in 1865. According to the 1865 census and family legend, Hans was a logger or lumberjack. Perhaps he worked as a logger on the neighboring Graff farm

They moved to the Graff farm before August of 1867. According to the Elverum church records, Julius, their third son, who was born June 22, 1867, was baptized on August 25, 1867. In the records, his parents are listed as Hans Pederson Aker and Bertha Olesdatter of Gravberget, Vaaler Parish, Hedmarken. (Gravberget is the Graff farm.)

After the three oldest sons, four additional children were born: Mina (Jacobson) born in 1870; Hannah (Jackson) born April 16, 1874; Ludvig, born May 30, 1879; and Carrie (Thompson), born September 6, 1881. All the children were born in Norway.

Individually, the older sons came to America. Later Bertha and the rest of the family came as a group, settling first in Lac qui Parle County in southern Minnesota. For a time, Bertha lived with Peder who had changed his name to Meyer after his employer-- which was a common practice in Norway. Bertha also assumed the name of Meyer.

Except for Mina, the family eventually migrated to Greenbush, Roseau County, Minnesota, where homesteading land was available. Bertha homesteaded in Moose Township (Roseau County, Minnesota) next to her eldest son, Peder's, homestead. (Pete's homestead was where Oscar Graff later lived.) Bertha made a home on her homestead, and Ludvig and his family lived there with her.

Bertha and her sons were instrumental in establishing and building the Oiland Church.

As Bertha grew older, she left her homestead and lived for a while with her son Julius Graff and his family and later with her daughter Hanna (Jackson) and her family.

Bertha died April 25, 1918, and was buried May 1, 1918, in Oiland Lutheran Cemetery, Roseau County, Minnesota.

Bertha's children were Peter Meyer (married Thora Haukom), Oluf Graff (unmarried), Julius Graff (married Emma Hellickson), Mina Graff (married Bernt Jacobson), Hannah Graff Meyer (married Edward Jackson), Ludvig Graff (married Julia Halvorson), and Carrie Graff (married Charles T. Thompson). Bertha's children used Graff, Meyer, and sometimes Hanson as last names.

In her lifetime, Bertha is known to have assumed many different surnames including: Olson, Norlie, Hauge, Leashaugen, Mayer, Meyer, and Major. The family generally calls her **Bertha** Meyer.

Many of Bertha's descendants live in the Greenbush area.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak.

Peter and Thora Meyer



Peter Meyer
(photo courtesy of Bob and Ruth Graff)

Peter Meyer was born Peder Hanson at Gaarden Fliesberg near Elverum, Norway, about 1861. His **parents** were Hans Pederson (Graff) and Bertha Olesdatter Graff (Meyer). His brother Oluf was born about 1864 and another brother, Julius, was born in June of 1867.

Before August of 1867, the family had moved to neighboring Gravberget (the Graff farm), Vaaler Parish, Hedmarken. Fol-

lowing the custom of the time and country, the family took the name Graff. The family continued to grow: Mina was born in 1870, Hannah in 1874, Ludvig in 1879, and Carrie in 1881.

Peder, the eldest, was the first to come to America. He began working for a farmer in southern Minnesota named Meyer, and following Norwegian custom, **took** the name Meyer as his own. He was known as Peter Meyer the rest of his life.

Julius arrived in America next and worked for Peter for a time. Soon Oluf also came to the United States. Julius and Oluf retained the Graff name. When their mother, Bertha, and the rest of the family came to the United States after her husband died, she stayed for a while with Peter and also took the name Meyer. Surnames apparently were of little importance to Peter's mother, Bertha, as she used several different ones throughout her lifetime. As for Peter's siblings, some were known as Graff and some as Meyer-- and at least one used Hanson occasionally.

Eventually the family, except for Mina, migrated to Greenbush, Roseau County, Minnesota, to homestead. Peter homesteaded the farm in Moose Township where Oscar Graff later lived.

Peter, his siblings, and his mother were instrumental in establishing and building the Oiland Lutheran Church. Peter built the original baptismal font and pulpit.

Peter Meyer married Thora Haukom on June 23, 1901, in Roseau County. They had no children. Peter lived and farmed on his homestead in Moose Township the rest of his life. He died December 1, 1927, and is buried at the Oiland Cemetery near the church he helped to establish.

Peter became something of a legend. (*The following stories are from anecdotes told by Hector Graff about his uncle, Peter (Graff) Meyer*):

Uncle Pete had no medical degree, no fancy equipment, no clinic, nor any association with a hospital, but he did have an uncanny talent for healing. He concocted his own medications and treatments-- and he got results.

For instance, there was a neighbor who had a problem with his legs. The fellow had been out wading in the swamp for some unknown reason and became soaked to the skin. He was fully clothed, probably including woolen underwear, which would have held the swamp water against his skin for a lengthy drying time. Soon he broke out in a rash that turned to nasty sores. He consulted area medical doctors who attempted a variety of treatments, none of

which produced results. Eventually, the medical doctors decided he had leprosy. The afflicted man, apparently in desperation, finally consulted Uncle Pete who mixed a brew of water and ashes in cream cans and possibly added some secret ingredients. He set the man to soaking each leg in a can and soon the man was cured!

At another time, Hector Graff, who was then a youngster, consulted Uncle Pete because he'd got a couple of metal slivers in his eyes. Pete put something in Hector's eyes and put him on a cot for an overnight stay. Hector thinks the slivers were gone when he awoke in the morning, but Uncle Pete performed some **ministrations** over his eyes and then showed Hector the slivers on a piece of cloth.

And then there was the time a neighbor's horse was bleeding. The neighbor couldn't stop the **flow** of blood. When Uncle Pete arrived on the scene, he merely went over and spoke quietly to the horse. The bleeding stopped!

Upon hearing this I asked, "Was he a witch?"

Hector smiled and replied, "Some people thought so."

Submitted by Eunice Korczak.

Mabel Amanda Ohlquist (Mickelson), an Early Teacher

Mabel was born in Northwood, North Dakota, on October 16, 1889, to Kjersten and Frank Ohlquist. She was one of the first white children born to the settlers at Northwood.

Little is known about her early childhood, but when she was ten years old, her family moved to a farm near Badger, Minnesota, which they homesteaded. While traveling with three covered wagons and riding horseback, they had to ford the river at Pelan, Minnesota, because there was no bridge.

At that time there were few schools in Roseau County and it was too far for Mabel to walk there. However, she did receive her grade school education in Mayville, North Dakota, where she lived with an aunt during the school year.

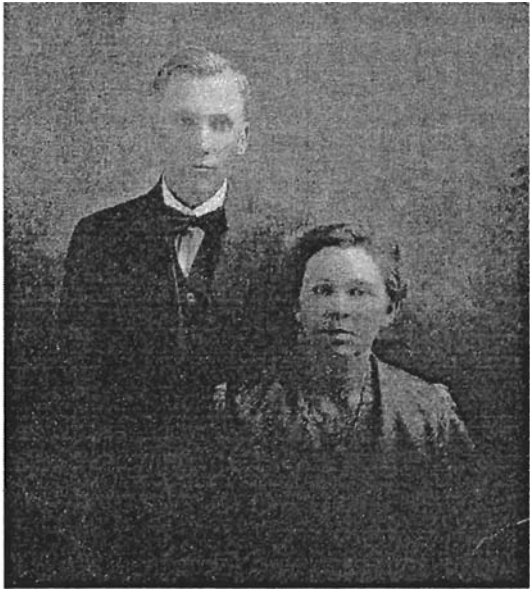
Mabel continued her education and was one of the first graduates at Badger, Minnesota, in 1906 with the equivalence of a high school diploma. She then went to Moorhead, Minnesota, and attended "Normal Teachers' Training" for one year. After completing this, she began teaching about 1908, and taught at rural schools in the area for fourteen years, sometimes having to walk four or five miles a day. Teachers in the early days taught all eight grades, from thirty to fifty students, many who could not speak English. Being an excellent teacher, Mabel demanded respect and discipline, and was well-known for her teaching abilities. Mabel is pictured in the school section of this book at the District One schoolhouse.

Mabel taught school at Duxby, Minnesota, north of Badger, on the Roseau River. There was a church, school, and small store. The families were Helgeson, Foss, Foster, Schmit, Vick, Vatsdal, and Erickson. There are third and fourth generations still living in Roseau County.

On September 30, 1916, Mabel married Ben Mickelson, and they homesteaded a farm in Moose Township. Along with being an educated woman, Mabel had a "green thumb." She raised many beautiful gardens and grew flowers both inside and out.

Ben and Mabel attended church regularly, driving a team four and one half miles through all kinds of weather. Mabel played an old pump organ during church services for twenty-five years.

Mabel had the appearance of height because of her dignified manner. She was set in her ways, almost to the point of being stub-



Ben and Mabel (Ohlquist) Mickelson 1916.

born and acted just how she felt. If she did not like something, she would let you know, either by actions or by telling you. Mabel showed little outward emotion and took on no problems but her own. She was very reserved and choosy and careful in making friendships and associations. Very in-

dependent, she could spend many days on the farm alone, occupying herself with a book, gardening, knitting, or crocheting. Even though she was a thrifty woman, she was extremely generous with her own children, buying them whatever they needed.

Mabel died of breast cancer in 1964 at the Roseau Hospital. She was a proud woman and did not complain-- ever.

Submitted by Dana Wojciechowski, granddaughter of Mabel.

Frank and Maggie Miller

Frank (1863) and Maggie (Hatler) Miller both came from Germany to Missouri with their parents in the early 1870s (Frank in 1871). They grew up near one another in Missouri, married, and lived there awhile before moving to the Zumbrota, Minnesota area. Later they moved to Key West, Minnesota, near Euclid, where he farmed and did carpentry.

In 1902, Frank and Maggie moved to Huss Township, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Their homestead is now the Art and Kathy Berge farm. Their children were Mary (Bill Hannah); Henry; August or "Gust"; Annie (Ted Nelson); John (Pearl Gorvin); Clara (Morris Hagen/Golder); Emma (Tom Nesteby); George; Hulda (Tom Hendrickson); and Della (Melvin Dvergsten).

The family belonged to the Zion Lutheran Church in Barnett Township. The children attended school in District 75 North, which was later District 99 in Huss Township. Frank and Maggie were among those who petitioned for making part of District 75 a separate district.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau County Heritage Book and Doris (Miller) Wicklund.

John and Pearl (Gorvin) Miller

John, the fifth child of Frank and Maggie Miller, came to Huss Township in Roseau County in 1902, when he was 13 years old. The move was rather traumatic for John since his father brought him and the cattle to the homestead and then left him in the wooded area to care for the cattle. His father returned to the Key West / Euclid area, a few days journey each way, to get the rest of the family and their belongings.

John married Pearl Gorvin on January 12, 1915. Pearl was the

daughter of Andrew and Martha Gorvin. John and Pearl farmed in Skime a couple years, returned to Greenbush and farmed in Barnett Township SE 1/4 Section 7, where their son Walter farmed later.

John also had quite a scary adventure when working in the "woods" in the Baudette/Spooner area. There was a huge forest fire. When the fire broke out in town, all the townspeople fled into the river. The entire town of Spooner burned. Even the river got warm. Another scary adventure took place when John and Melvin Dvergsten were hauling pulpwood across Lake of the Woods. They were caught in a white-out (a terrible snowstorm). They put their horses together and stood between them to survive. The storm subsided in the morning. (Working in the "woods" meant going to the timbered areas around Baudette or even farther east where lumbering was done. Farmers often did this during the winter, to earn much needed cash, while the women cared for the family and livestock. The men were gone for a month, or sometimes more, at a time in the earlier days.)



This 1947 Chevrolet, the last car Pearl and John drove, is owned by granddaughter Faye Miller Schmalz. (photo courtesy of Doris Wicklund)

John drove school bus in the 1930s and 1940s. He drove a car until after heavy snowfalls, and by November he would use a horse and caboose. Greenbush didn't have a hot lunch program yet, so once a week or so the bus riders would walk a block to the caboose where John would cook a fried egg sandwich on the little airtight



Pearl Miller on her 100th birthday in 1994. (photo courtesy of Doris Wicklund)

heater, used to warm the school bus. The horses were kept on the property where Dorothy Brazier lives now.

Pearl and John had eight children, Ernest (Alice Anderson); Lillian (Al Kriko); Myron (Carol Holm); Doris (Don Wicklund); Harry died in infancy; Walter (Adell Miller); Donald (Judy); Dorothy (Clare Minske).

Pearl (Gorvin) Miller 1894-1995, lived to be 101. John Miller died in 1970. Shortly before his death they moved to the outskirts of Greenbush. Pearl lived

at Elderbush manor for about 22 years, then with Walter and Adell for a couple years before moving into the Greenbush Nursing Home in 1991. Pearl was always a busy lady, cooking, baking, gardening, canning, and entertaining. She also cared for her mother for 21 years and her mother-in-law for six years.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Doris Wicklund.

Joseph and Catherine (Fonar) Minarik

Joseph Minarik was born in the old country of Bohemia on March 5, 1856. In 1880, Joseph married Catherine Fonar, who was born April 23, 1860. Their oldest child was born in Bohemia. In 1882, they came to the United States and settled in New York City, where they lived for ten years. They moved to Tabor, Minnesota, in the spring of 1892. In the fall of 1892, Joe and Catherine Minarik and their daughter moved to and homesteaded in Soler Township near Greenbush, Minnesota.

Joseph Minarik passed away of heart failure at the age of 82 on March 7, 1938. Catherine Minarik passed away at the home of her daughter, Rose Brekke, on August 15, 1939. Both Joseph and Catherine are buried in the Badger Catholic Cemetery.

The children of Joseph and Catherine were: (1) Annie (Pennow), born 1882, died 1976; (2) Mary (Roberts), born September 10, 1884, died August 21, 1952; (3) Barbara (Kotrba), born January 31, 1886 died June 4, 1963; (4) Joseph, born August 2, 1894, died May 5, 1970; (5) Rose (Brekke), born September 28, 1900, died December 21, 1981; (6) Emma (Jackson), born May 16, 1903, died July 12, 1987.

Submitted by Ruby Brekke.

Frank Xavier and Josephine Mlodzik

Frank Mlodzik was born December 3, 1871, and was the son of John and Hedwige Mlodzik who lived in Poland. He came to the United States at the age of 16 during the time that Poland was under German rule. Frank died February 12, 1958.

Josephine Mlodzik was born in 1870 and was the daughter of Tom and Mary Thomas. She came to the United States at the age of 9. Josephine died in 1955.

They were married at Millerville, MN in April 1894 and farmed near Millerville a few years. He read in the paper that one could get a homestead around Greenbush. They used two horses and a wagon and drove to see the land around the year 1900. They had a cow tied in back of the wagon. They liked the place and decided to stay at rural Greenbush located in Barto Township. There was a one room log cabin on the place with an upstairs. They cleaned it



Frank and Josephine Mlodzik homestead.

and stayed there and later Frank added a kitchen to the house. A great-grandson, Brad Blawat, owns the original homestead place.

They attended the St. Aloysius Church at Leo which was about two miles away. The school was in the open prairie and the children didn't get much schooling as it was too far to walk and there were no roads. After a few years the school was moved near a better road so the two youngest attended, but the roads were still very poor. Frank held the office of clerk in his township.

After a few years, Frank could claim the land as his and he had to go to Crookston to prove it. There was much brush to clear on the farm and many stones to be picked. The farm was 160 acres. After several more years, a new house was built and the old one moved out and used as a chicken house. There was no Greenbush as it is now, so when something special was needed, Frank and Josephine drove the team to Pelan which was about ten miles away to get the things. There was a store and post office at Pelan so they got their mail there. After several years Greenbush was built up.



Frank and Josephine Mlodzik with children, John, Vincent, Mary and Walter.

There were nine children born to Frank and Josephine. They were May (Dan Kalka); Walter (Marion Zabrocki); Vincent (Martha Chrzanowski) and John (Elizabeth Pietruszewski). Walter, Anna Rosalie, Anna Katherine, and Cecelia died in infancy.

Submitted by Lorraine Blawat.

John Lars and Tina (Thompson) Modahl

John Lars Modahl was born in Telemarken, Norway, on February 3, 1873, and came to the United States at a young age. He came to Clear Lake, Iowa, and later to Hazel Run, Minnesota, in Yellow Medicine County. Tina Thompson was born in Rio, Wisconsin, of Norwegian descent, in 1876. John and Tina were married in Yellow Medicine County. They traveled north and spent about five years in New Solum Township, Marshall County. Then they moved north and homesteaded 15 miles southeast of Greenbush. The homestead was located in Section 3 of Poplar Grove Township, Roseau County, Minnesota. There were several other homesteaders in this area called Benwood, that was established in the early 1900s. The early settlers found a high ridge, that had abundant growth of spruce and tamarack to use for building their log cabins, houses, and barns, but the area was surrounded by swamp, making it difficult to travel in or out at certain times of the year.

The Benwood Post Office was established on December 16, 1904, on John Modahl's homestead, and he was postmaster for several years. A general store and oil station was also built on his land. At

first, freight was brought to the store with horse-drawn or ox-drawn lumber wagons. Later, John bought a truck to haul the supplies. There were many carriers who hauled the mail and all the merchandise from Badger, Greenbush, and Strathcona to the post office and store in Benwood. Tina's father, Tennes Thompson, was one of the early carriers. The water on part of his route was so deep in places, that both he and the mail would get soaked, in spite of the fact that he rode horseback. The post office was discontinued on February 14, 1925. John operated the store from 1918 until he sold it to the Gulseth brothers in 1930.

John and Tina worked hard to build up their farm. The land was broken up and seeded to grain crops, such as wheat, oats, rye, flax, sweet clover and potatoes. The Modahls also raised cattle, hogs, chickens, and hay. They used horses to plow and work their land. John and Tina lived on his homestead nearly fifty years. After they built and moved into a small, comfortable home in Badger, their son, Leonard, and his wife, Christine, took over the farm. Christine passed away in 1968. Leonard continued to live there until he sold it to his son, Terry, and his wife, Ida, in the early 1980s. Terry still has the farm. Leonard passed away on October 30, 1985.



John and Tina Modahl family. Back row LtoR: Ethel, Sarah, Milton, Leonard, Alice and Cora. Front row: Edith, John and Tina. (photo courtesy Charmaine Modahl Lorenson)

John and Tina were charter members of the Klondike Lutheran Church. They raised eight children: Alice Cardine, February 15, 1898 (Fred Smebak, January 13, 1894); Olga Josephine, October 20, 1899 (died from typhoid fever in 1911, at the age of 11 years); Ethel Theresa, October 7, 1901 (Charles Metlner, June 28, 1907); Leonard Todell, February 12, 1904 (Christine Dallum, March 6, 1906); Sarah Rebecca, May 31, 1906 (Jens M. Vig, April 1, 1898); Cora Hazel, August 21, 1909 (1st marriage, Vernal Durgin, divorced; 2nd marriage, Ralph Dowers); Edith Odella, June, 1914 (Leonard C. Larson, January 10, 1904); and Milton Vernon, September 17, 1917 (Alyce Engdahl, July 2, 1921, divorced).

John was an active community person. He sold war bonds during World War I, served as township and School District 77 treasurer, (all his children attended School District 77), and he was an agent for Roseau County Mutual Insurance Company for many years.

Tina passed away in 1957, at age 80; John passed away in 1962, at age 89. They are buried at Klondike Lutheran Cemetery.

Submitted by Charmaine Lorenson.

Frederick Montrueil and Rosalie (Botoshe) Montry

Frederick Montry, originally Montrueil, was born January 10, 1878, in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. He came to Greenbush in 1886. He married Rosalie (Rose) Botoshe, daughter of Roger and Cecelia Botoshe on July 13, 1902. Six children were born to this union. Three died at a young age: Fred Roger 1903-12, Margaret "Margit" 1907-11 and Adelina Caroline 1910-11.



Daughter Mary Rose (1912-2000) married Hubert Haupt and had one child Louis Haupt. Daughter Josephine (1915-74) married Kenneth Fering. Fred and Rose's son, Peter William (1905-89) married Margaret Saice of Mahnommen. Pete had nine children: Rose, Paul and Peter, Jr., Francis, Doris Jean, Frederick, and Robert. Two daughters, Betty Ann and Carol died at birth.

Rosalie Montry about 1940 with grandson Frederick Montry. (photo courtesy of Ruby Scales) Frederick spent five years in Mahnommen farming. He returned to Greenbush and built a home four miles west of town. He was engaged in fur farming and dairying until ten years before his death when his health failed. Then he moved into West Greenbush. He died July 3, 1918, and was buried in the Blessed Sacrament Cemetery.

Submitted by Ruby Scales. Compiled by Myrna Sovde. Additional sources: Leona Emery, Frederick and Francis Montry.

Andrew and Mary (Wroblecki) Mooney

Andrew Mooney was born Andserwieg Pieniasek in Poland in December of 1866. Mary Wroblecki was born in May of 1872. They married and when they moved to America he changed his name to Andrew Mooney.



The Mooneys (Pieniasek from Poland) from left to right: Andrew, Barbara Pilaczynski, Joseph, Annie Kubera, Mary, LuciUe Chrzanowski. One sister, Pauline Dembiczak is missing. (photo submitted by Genevieve Gonshorowski)

They had five children. Annie was born in 1891. She married Joe Kubera and they had four children: Mary (Orin Bartlett/Walter Pahlke), Leonard (Esther) Mooney, Delphine (Earl Hall), and Joann Milton Steinke).

Pauline was born October 1893. She married Pete Dembiczak. They had five children: Gertrude (Albert Bizek), Frances (Joe Kukowski), Mary (Tony Kukowski), Raymond Dembiczak, and Annie (Joe Pietruszewski). Pauline died and Pete Dembiczak married Vema Korczak. They had one child, Henry.

Barbara was born in June of 1896. Her first husband was Mike Pilaczynski and they had no children. Her second husband was Soren Olson. He had fourteen children who took care of her after Soren died.

Joseph was born in July of 1899. He married Helen Chrzanowski. They had seven children: Jake, Nora, Eddy (Irene Bialke/Etta Hontvet), Florence Hill, Delores (Ambrose Dolney), Joseph, Jr. (Joyce Penas), and Rudy (Eileen Soltzak). Joseph and Helen died in 1990.

Lucille was born January 23, 1902. She married Joseph Chrzanowski on October 16, 1922. They had four children: Dorothy (Ludwig Kasprowicz), Genevieve (Felix Gonshorowski), Leonard (Lois Sovde), and Carol (Edwin Kukowski).

Mary died in 1955 in Appleton, Minnesota.
Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from the Mooney Family Tree provided by Genevieve (Chrzanowski) Gonshorowski.

Joseph and Helen (Chrzanowski) Mooney

Joseph Mooney was born July 8, 1899, to Mary Rublowski and Andrzej (Andrew) Peaniazek. This was another case of name change. Peaniazek in Polish means money. Perhaps when the Polish speaking people said the English word money, it sounded to teachers or officials in charge of name changes like it should be spelled with another O. When Joe's son, Ed, wanted a passport a few years ago, he learned that his baptism certificate gave his name as Peaniazek and the birth certificate was Mooney.

Joseph had four sisters: Barbara, Pauline, Annie, and Lucille.

Helen's maiden name was Chrzanowski and she was born October 31, 1902. They both passed away in February of 1990; Helen only seventeen days after Joe. Both grew up on their parents' homesteads; Helen in Polonia Township about five miles away from Joe in Section 9 of Dewey Township where they lived the majority of their married life.

They were married at the Leo Church on October 17, 1923, and



Joe and Helen Mooney celebrated their 60th anniversary in 1983.
(photo courtesy of Ed Mooney)

had a reception at her parents' home and a dance in the hayloft of the bam. Joe had added on to his parents' home and they lived with them for many years.

Joe began farming with a one-bottom walking plow, and remembered what a big improvement it was when he got a two-bottom plow. He bought land for \$5 an acre to increase the size of the farm. Joe recalled how it was, "...like slave work to pick the rock and clear the land. Sometimes you had to work all day on a single tree, chopping the roots and snaking it out with the horses." He had a blacksmith shop, did his own machinery repair, and passed his skills on to his sons. He taught himself to weld after electricity came to the farm. In the later years, after they moved to Greenbush in 1964, he built cedar chests (over 34), and repaired bicycles.

Joe served on the school board, the telephone board, and was a member of the Farmers Union Elevator and Midland Coop. The telephone line didn't work half the time, especially when it was hit by lightning.

Helen helped with farm work in the fields and milking cows. She also did gardening, churned her own butter, and washed the clothes with a wooden washing machine operated by hand. She was in ladies' groups at Leo Church where their children were baptized and confirmed. Church played a big part in family life. She enjoyed cooking, housekeeping, quilting, crocheting, and playing cards with the neighbors.

Their key to happy marriage? Joe said, "Get out of the house when you get into an argument." Helen added, "Then turn around and have a smile on your face and it's alright."

Joe and Helen raised seven children: Jacob (Jake); Nora (Earl Sheff); Eddie (Irene Bialke/Etta Didrickson); Florence (Bob Hill); Delores (Ambrose Dolney); Joseph, Jr. (Joyce Penas), and Rudy (Eileen Soltzak).

Compiled by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Roseau Times-Region September 21, 1983. Ed Mooney. Collette Mooney.

Karl and Augusta Nalerai

Karl and Augusta Nalerai were married in Germany in 1868 and came to the United States in 1880, living first in Crookston. They later moved to Woodside near Maple Lake in Polk County. For several years, he delivered mail on horseback to Erskine, Maple Lake, and Mentor. In 1903, they sold their farm at Maple Lake and homesteaded in Hereim Township southeast of Greenbush.

While in Germany, Karl was a machinist, running a lathe in railroad shops. In this country he delivered mail and farmed.

Karl died in Greenbush in November of 1916. Augusta died in 1920 in Caldwell, Idaho.

Karl and Augusta had four children: Frank, Henry, John, and Olga (Young).

From Pioneers! O Pioneers! (a Roseau County Historical Society publication).

John and Veronica (Jazewski) Narloch

Both John Narloch and his bride, Veronica Jazewski, had immigrated from Poland before they were married in 1888 at Warsaw, North Dakota.

About 1887, John left North Dakota to look for land in Roseau County. He came to the Leo community and homesteaded on land in Barto Township. After a year on the homestead, he returned to Warsaw to be married and brought his bride to Leo.

Narloch erected many buildings of logs including a house, barn, and granary. John was one of the men of the Leo community who donated labor to build the St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

The Narlochs had six children: Lilian, Tillie, Pete, Joe, Ted, and Mary.

In 1903, John died of cancer and became the first member of the church to be buried in the cemetery at Leo.

After John Narloch's death, Veronica married John Mindak. They also had six children: John, Gertrude, Lucy, Helen, Stella, and Alex. The Mindak family moved from Leo to Drayton, North Dakota, in 1918.

From an article in Pioneers! O Pioneers! (a Roseau County Historical Society publication).

Jonas and Anna (Peterson) Nelson

Jonas was born on April 1, 1859, in Sweden. His parents were Jonas and Christina (Nilsson) Nelson. Anna (Peterson) Nelson was born on September 16, 1867, in Upsala, Sweden. Her parents were Peter and Greta (Sjolund) Peterson. Jonas's parents and Anna's parents were all born in Sweden.

Jonas and Anna were married on November 5, 1884, in the Douglas County Courthouse in Alexandria, Minnesota. Their five sons and seven daughters were all born in Alexandria, Minnesota. The family moved to Deer Township of Roseau County in 1910. They settled on a farm in Section 11, the SW 1/4 and W 1/2 of SE 1/4 of Deer Township.



Jonas and Anna Nelson by their original homestead house. Their granddaughter, Helen Nelson Majer Berg, was born in this house on July 5, 1912.

Later the school house became the Deer Township Hall.

The youngest of their twelve children was not yet grown up when their eldest daughter, Christine, (Mrs. Alfred Nelson) passed away, leaving five little children. The grandparents took the children into their home.

The five grandchildren are Elmer (Gertrude Willet) Nelson, Amanda (Harold Harlow), Albert (Agnes Sanvik) Nelson, Marvin (Marcella Anderson) Nelson, and Helen (Lawrence Majer).

Jonas and Anna's son Willie lost his wife, Bertha leaving three children. Jonas and Anna took Evelyn, Dorothy and Fay in and

Jonas and Anna's 12 children are John Nelson, Christine (Alfred Nelson), Albin Nelson, Axel (Anna Majer), Ida (John Hjelmeland), Willie (Bertha Hunking), Clara (Harry Eccles), Emma (Arnold Narverud), Mathilda (Oscar Englund), Selma (Harry Harlow), Hilma (Thomas Hunking), and Wallace (Nellie Francetta Willet).

The children attended District 68 school in Deer Township. The land on which the school is located was presented to School District 68 by

the Jonas Nelson family.

Jonas and Anna raised a total of 20 children and grandchildren in their home.

In the earlier years the Jonas Nelson family attended the Swedish church in Strathcona. They walked the railroad from their farm to Strathcona to church. In the later years, the family joined the Poplar Grove Lutheran Church near their home.

Jonas and Anna sold their farm to the youngest son and his wife and remained living with them. Later, the family farm was sold to a granddaughter and her husband. Jonas and Anna continued to live on the farm with their granddaughter and husband who cared for them until they passed away.

Jonas died on May 14, 1946, and Anna died on June 20, 1946. The granddaughter and husband, Helen (Nelson) and Lawrence Majer, continued living on the farm until they each passed away. The farm was passed on to Helen and Lawrence's son, Laurel Majer. Submitted by Marilyn Zimdars.

Peder and Anna (Sodnak) Nelson

Anna Sodnak, born in 1869, was the youngest child of Inger and Ole Sodnak. Anna's brothers were John Sodnak, Iver Sodnak, Andrew Lein, Louis who died in Norway, another Louis Sodnak, and Peter Olson. (See Inger and Ole Sodnak.)

Anna married Peder Nelson. Most of his brothers went to North Dakota and Manitoba, Canada. Their homestead quarter was located in Sections 1 and 12, eighty acres on either side of the section line. Anna washed clothes and baked bread for her bachelor brothers and her parents for many years. After Pete Olson had a stroke she cared for him.

Anna and Peder's daughters were: Inga who died at age three; another Inga, born in 1901; Elene, born in 1903; Astrid 1908; and Elvina 1913. Inga, Mrs. John Berget, was postmistress in Holt for many years, but in her later years lived in the historic Hildahl house in Greenbush. Elene married Charlie Weaver. They had a daughter, Norma (Gerald) Brinkman. In 1925, Elene married John Frislie and had two sons Ivan and Allison (Mildred Vacura). Astrid married Gilmer Berger and had one son, Gilmer (Budd) who married Jackie Gullickson. Elvina never married. She cared for Anna who was nearly 100 when she died in 1969.

John Sodnak, Anna's brother, homesteaded in Section 19 of Soler Township where Anna's granddaughter, Norma Brinkman, lives now. Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Norma Brinkman.

Tom and Mary (Tronnes) Nelson

Tom Nelson, born March 23, 1867, in Norway, came to America in 1885, settling first in southern Minnesota. Mary I. Tronnes was born in Norway on March 12, 1870, and came to this country in the late 1890s. Tom and Mary were married in October of 1900 and in the spring of 1901 came to the Greenbush area. They homesteaded in Section 31 of Barnett Township.

Tom Nelson, my grandfather, first built a house on the homestead



Tom and Mary (Tronnes) Nelson homestead 1910. (photo courtesy of Bob Nelson)

and then added to it about 1908. Before he added on, five of the children were born: Obert G. on April 13, 1902; Arthur N. on August 9, 1903; Melvin T. on September 17, 1904; Myrtle T. (Olson) on February 2, 1906; and Hilda S. (Foss) on March 7, 1907. Two more children were born after the addition to the house: (Penas) on March 8, 1909, and Gehard I. on September 25, 1910.

After Grandpa added on, it was a fairly large house for the time, with five rooms downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs. It was a cold house, but I think most were back then. At first, it was heated with a wood heating stove and a wood kitchen stove. An oil heater was obtained later and then later still, a gas cook stove. There was a cellar (a hole under the middle of the house, not very large, that was shored up with boards) where they kept canned goods and potatoes. As long as the wood stove was kept going, it stayed cool, but didn't freeze down there.

We had to carry in wood-- a lot of wood-- to keep those stoves going. Cutting wood was different then. We used axes and hand saws called Swede saws. The wood was cut pole length in the woods, then hauled in by sleigh pulled by a team of horses. It was easier to get around in the woods with horses. The woodpile was usually close to the house and the wood was chopped to a smaller size to fit in the stove. When gas engines and tractors became available, some used a saw and mandrel to cut the wood to stove-sized blocks. The saw was driven from the engine to the pulley on the mandrel with a small drive belt. Sawing wood blocks was a dangerous job, and many fingers, hands, and arms were lost. When I look back, there were many, many dangerous jobs on the farm-- there were no safety guards, no caution stickers, no OSHA.

Before or around 1908, a log bam and a chicken coop were added to the farm buildings. Then in the 1920s a big bam, a pumphouse, and a blacksmith shop were built. A smokehouse, about 8 feet by 6 feet, was a part of the farm for as long as I can remember. We smoked meat and fish.

Seeding, cutting hay, raking hay-- everything was done with horses until the early 1930s. Then we got a tractor but still did a lot of the work with horses. By the late 1940s, tractors were used for most of the work. Before the 1930s, a few custom threshers went from farm to farm threshing. Sometimes the farmers would stack the bundles close to the buildings, because they couldn't get anyone to come to do the threshing until almost Christmas. I believe the weather may have had something to do with this. Our first threshing machine, purchased in the early 1930s, was made of wood, but most of the moving parts were iron.

We raised shorthorns (cows) which were pretty good for both milking and beef. Besides the cattle, we had sheep, chickens, and during the late 1930s and early 1940s, turkeys. Just before Thanksgiving and just before Christmas, when the weather was cold, the turkeys were processed. Having been penned and unfed for twenty-four hours, they were supposedly empty of waste. They were bled out and the pinfeathers were removed, but they were eviscerated nor were the heads removed. When processed, we had to haul them into town right away. They were shipped to the bigger cities considered a rich man's food.

Cream days were Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and it had to be in by one o'clock. In warm weather, it was necessary to haul cream more often. In the summer, a lot of sour was brought in. One fellow who worked in the creamery said he found a baby shoe or something similar in the cans every now and then.

My grandma sold eggs in town and bought groceries though, I don't think there was much money left over, so it was more like

trading goods. Sometimes the store owner would throw in a small bag of hard candy. It was a real treat as I didn't get much candy.

My grandparents always raised a big garden, as almost everyone did back then. The produce was canned. They raised almost all of their food, but sugar, coffee, spices, syrup, molasses, and flour had to be purchased in town. For a time, in the late 1930s, we took our wheat to Red Lake Falls where it was ground and we brought the flour back the same day.

Grandma would put kerosene on the bedsprings with a feather and a brush. This must have killed the bed bugs or their eggs, as I don't remember ever having any in our house. Mosquitoes, though, were very bad some years. Then we'd have to build smudges for the livestock. Also, there was a spray that could be purchased. It was poured in a hand sprayer and used on the livestock-- and on people, too. Mosquitoes were very bad in 1937 and quite a few horses died from sleeping sickness that year. I don't remember any of our horses dying, but we had two horses that we had to lead and walk a lot. I don't remember if they had the disease or if it was supposed to prevent the sickness.

Grandpa lived on the farm until his death on September 17, 1942. Grandma continued living on the farm until 1953. She died in the Greenbush hospital on February 26, 1953.

We hooked up the REA for electricity in 1946, and my uncles put in a bathroom and pressure system about 1969.

Now in May of 2004, Myrtle is Tom and Mary's only surviving child and is 98 years old. Obert died on May 3, 1970, and Arthur on June 28, 1970. Hilda died March 5, 1980; Melvin on April 26, 1983; Hjordis on March 28, 1996; and Gehard on July 29, 1996.

Bob Nelson, the grandson of Tom and Mary, lived with his grandparents for many years. Now he and his wife Eva live on the home-- the third generation to live on this farm that has been in the family for over 100 years.

Submitted by Bob Nelson.

Oscar and Ingaborg Nesteby

Oscar Helmer Nesteby was born August 30, 1890, by Lake Park, Minnesota; and Ingaborg (Ida) Berge was born to Eivind and Anna Berge on April 25, 1897, in Dahlin, Norway. Oscar and Ida were married in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, on May 7, 1915. They raised pigs, sheep, chickens, and milked cows.

They lived by the south branch of Two Rivers where Oscar worked on the dredge. He loved to swim and was known to dive off the dredge. But once he miscalculated, and got his head stuck in the mud. After that he was nlore careful.

They raised four children: Amanda Issora Jacobson, born October 19, 1916; Erling T., born March 20, 1919; Mearel Edward "Ted", born May 17, 1923; and Ivan O., born May 27, 1935.

Amanda married Myron E. Jacobson, born April 24, 1912. They had five children: Cynthia (died at birth); Ronald Myron (Shelah), born April 24, 1941; Celeste Amanda Sperl, born April 14, 1943; Maureen Rae Ryden, born May 8, 1952; and Janelle Renae Melin Craigmile, born November 7, 1955.

Submitted by Ronald and Shelah Jacobson.

Stephen and Mary (Halvicek) Noha

Mary Kathleen Halvicek, born May 5, 1882, and Stephen Noha, born in 1878, were married in Yugoslavia. They had six children born there, of which four died of childhood illnesses.

In 1913, Stephen and one of his brothers came to the United States due to World War I. The Nazis were going from door to door killing all men. One of Stephen's brothers was shot while working in the field.

In 1921, Mary and her two surviving daughters, Bessie and Annie, came to the United States to be united with Stephen. They then bought a farm in Roseau County (**Benwood** area) where they built a frame house and put up a shelter for cattle, horses, and chickens. They grubbed and cleared land for fields and garden to raise food for the animals and the family. In 1922, another daughter, Agnes, was born.

In 1922, Annie married Frank Witt and had one daughter Elsie. Annie and Frank are both deceased. Elsie married Lyle Thompson (Lyle is deceased). Bessie married George Pesek in 1931 (both deceased). Bessie and George had two children Mary Ann Jelenek and George Pesek, Jr. Mary Ann is the only one surviving. Agnes married Clement Troskey in 1938 and lived northwest of Greenbush. Clem passed away in 1984. Lawrence Paulson and Agnes married in 1991. He passed away in 1997.



Noha family 1954. (photo submitted by **Marian Dybedal**)

Mary and Stephen retired and moved into Greenbush from the farm in 1941 to be closer to the church and the businesses in town. They had a house and garage, plus a huge garden directly behind the Catholic

Church. Stephen passed away in 1955 and Mary in 1956. Both are buried at the Blessed Sacrament Cemetery.

At this time there are seven grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Submitted by **Marian Dybedal**.

Charles Jr. and Helen (Pulcziriskil Novacek

This is the best I can remember.

All of my family are dead except one brother, D. Arthur Novacek. He was the youngest and I was in the middle. Art is 73 years old, and I am 92.

Anna Kratochvil was born in February of 1852, in Za Mlejni, Czechoslovakia. She married Karol Novacek in 1874.

I know little about the family as they never discussed their past or told us ages and wedding dates. All I know is that my grandparents on my dad's side, Karol (Karol means Charles) and Anna (Kratochvil) Novacek came from Austria and Czechoslovakia about 1884. When Charles, Jr. (my dad) was six years old, they arrived in New York. Charles, Jr., had to work at age nine in a cigar factory rolling cigars. How and when they moved to Tabor, Minnesota, I don't know. Charles and Anna (my grandparents) had five boys, Charles, Jr., Joseph, **Frank**, Jim, John, and one girl, Margaret. Two

girls died in infancy. All the boys were farmers. I don't know what Margaret did; she left home early and her visits were scarce.



Charles and Helen (Pulczinski) Novacek with Helen, Harry and Anne. (photo courtesy of **Albina Novacek Blavat**)

Charles, Jr. (my dad) moved to Greenbush to start a family and farming in the early 1900s. At approximately 20 years of age, he met and married Helen Pulczinski, age 16. Our family lived about three miles north and half-mile west of the Haug store. In 1919, we moved and lived three miles north and one and a half miles east of the Haug Store.

The year 1919 was also the era of the deadly flu. It killed many people. All of my

family was sick with it, except me. It was also the year my uncle, Ed Pulczinski, came home from World War I. Uncle Ed died three years ago; he lived to 101 years of age.

The average farm was 160 acres. Our income was from what grain Dad could sell, and cream, eggs, and some poultry. Beef calves were all sold. We never had beef to eat at home.

Times were very lean. We ran barefooted until it was too cold to go without shoes. At first, clothes were washed on a washboard. Later, they managed to get a washing machine that had rotating panels inside, and we could use hotter water for washing with home-made soap and Fels Naphtha.



Anna (Kratochvil) Novacek _at age 76, she walked 80 miles from Tabor to Haug in three days to visit her son's family. (photo courtesy of **Albina Novacek Blavat**)

Grandma Anne Novacek, who still lived at Tabor, walked twice from Tabor to Haug to visit-- 80 miles. At the time of one trip, she was 76 years old. It took her three or four days. She packed food in a backpack, slept in ditches, and **drank** water at farmers' outdoor pumps. She didn't talk English. My dad, Charles, took her back with the horse and buggy.

There were ten of us in the family. One child died at two weeks old. We lived about two miles north and one-half mile west of the Haug Store. Most of us went to school in District 22, called Island Home, except the last three boys. I was about

18 years old when we moved to Warren, Minnesota, because our farm went bankrupt due to bad weather and insects.

Helen, the oldest, married Art Nelson; Anne married Louis Diedrich; Harry married Regina Diedrich; Albina married Valentine Blavat; Emily married Andrew

Gruhot; Pauline married Walt Sirek; Charles married Luella Jensen; Dan married Margaret Rapacz; Art married Lois Cariveau. Some of us were farmers, some were not, but we all had big gardens and canned everything possible, even pork.

Submitted by Albina (Novacek) Blavat.

Frank and Martha Novacek

Frank Novacek was born October 10, 1895, to Jan and Rosalie (Sevacek) Novacek.

Frank was drafted on April 30, 1918, and was placed with Company H 53rd Infantry. He was involved in the Voges Sector Battle and the Meuse Argonne Offensive during World War I. On November 10, 1918, his company marched for eight months through France and Germany, and after disarmament his infantry unit was chosen to march with General John J. Pershing through the Arch de Triumph on July 14, 1919.

Martha Gonshorowski was born September 28, 1908, to Adam and Katie (Myczkowski) Gonshorowski.

Frank and Martha married November 16, 1926. Together, they raised six kids: Florence (Frank Hutchinson), Richard (Annethea Hamness), Frances (Greg Reese), Joan (Edwin Bertilrud), Chester (Veronica Gryskiewicz), and Geraldine (Henry Nubson).



Frank **Novacek**



Martha Novacek
(photos courtesy of Henry Nubson)

When the new Greenbush Community Hospital opened its doors, Martha Novacek held the key that opened its door. Martha was a cook from 1950-1973. She has a lot of stories to tell about her cooking experiences, from unpacking all the boxes of dishes, utensils and kettles to preparing meals from scratch and working sixteen-hour days, seven days a week. She considered the hospital her secondhome.

Frank Novacek was a life member of Moen-Zimek Post 88 (Greenbush) and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8663 (Roseau). He lived to be 98 years old and was buried with full military honors at St. Aloysius Cemetery in Leo, Minnesota.

After many years living in her own home across the street from Blessed Sacrament Church, Martha has come full circle and is a happy resident of the Greenbush Board and Care.

Submitted by Frances (Novacek) Reese.

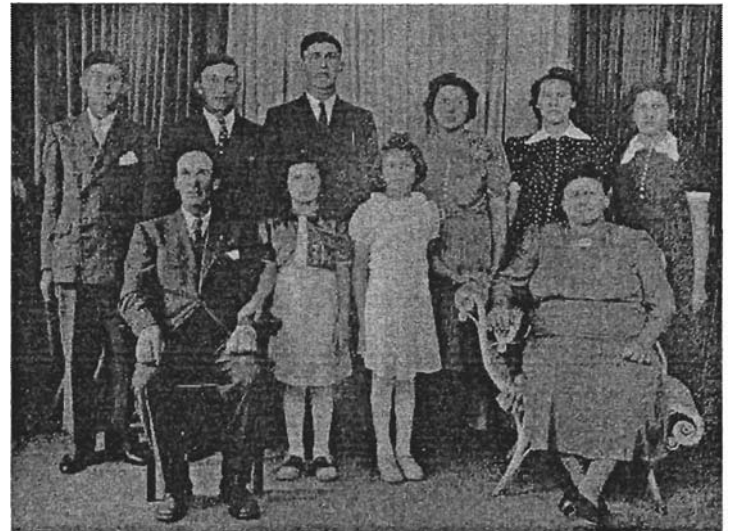
James and Mary Novacek

James was the second child, of a family of seven children, of Jan and Rosalie (Sevacek) Novacek. He came to America from Verbne, Czechoslovakia in May 1902, at the age of twelve, with his parents and siblings.

After he married Mary Wittak in 1916, they started farming nine miles west of Leo, Minnesota. They farmed with horses and rode twenty miles to Greenbush in a buggy or sled. James first homesteaded nine miles west of Leo, Minnesota. In 1927, they bought a farm that is still in the Novacek family. Two more children were born on this farm. They lived about three miles from the school that the children attended. The children walked every day and they all finished eighth grade. The two youngest children went to high school in Crookston, Minnesota. All the children helped their parents' farm and milk cows. There was no electricity and all their water was pumped by hand. There was wildlife around the farm, such as bobcats, bear, deer, fox, coyote, and skunks (plenty of them).

A son, James, was sick for two years before he died of a kidney disease at the tender age of nine, on July 6, 1933. James went to town, got the casket, and he and Mary put young James into the casket themselves. They put the casket on a trailer and took him to the church for the funeral. He was buried in the St. Aloysius Cemetery in Leo, Minnesota.

In 1945, James and Mary retired and moved to Greenbush. Georgine, the youngest child, resided with them until she married. Their nine children produced a total of 26 grandchildren and close to 50 great-grandchildren. James died of cancer of the stomach at age 73, in the Thief River Falls, Minnesota hospital and Mary died at the age of 80, at the Greenbush Nursing Home.



James and Mary Novacek family: Back: Anton, John, Joseph Albert, Rozalie, Ann, Marie; Front: James, Georgine, Phyllis, and Mary. *(submitted by Robert Novacek)*

Their children: Rozalie (Frank Brda), Anne (John Bernat), John (Helen Dembiczak), Marie (Robert Lepper), Joseph Albert (Theresa Meier), Anton (Viola Johnson), James, Phyllis (Clarence Rademacher)" and Georgine Harper.

The James Novacek farm in Soler Township, S 1/2 SW 1/4 Section 29, is owned and operated by Joseph Albert and son Robert Novacek.

Submitted by Robert Novacek and Natalie Novacek.

Jan and Rosalie Novacek



Jan and Rosalie Novacek filed for their homestead in Polonia Township on December 20, 1909. (photo submitted by Emelia Novacek)

Jan Novacek was born in the village of Verbne, Czechoslovakia, in 1856. Verbne is situated about a two day walk from Prague, the capital of Czechoslovakia. Jan served in the army for three years. All young men were required to serve once they reached a certain age. After serving his time in the army, Jan met and married **Rosalie** Sevacek, who was born in 1854. She worked in the sugar beet fields for six cents a day.

After their marriage, they built a home out of rocks with a rock floor and straw for the roofing.

Jan became a carpenter and built most of the furniture for their home. Jan and Rosalie had seven children, all born in Verbne, Czechoslovakia.

On May 19, 1901, the Jan Novacek family sailed to America. They spent a few weeks in Tabor, Minnesota, before leaving for the Greenbush area. Louie (Louis) the youngest son, decided to stay in Tabor to make his home. The rest of the family came to Greenbush in 1902 settling in Polonia Township.

The Jan Novacek family was the first to settle in Section 10 Polonia Township on the farm where Glendora Novacek lives. In 1912, a survey crew came through the swampy area of Juneberry Township. One of the survey crew, a fellow Bohemian, told Jan, "You got water now, but wait until we get done." Just after that was when the ditches came south from the river. After that many homesteaders were flooded out and left the country entirely, or moved to a **better** location.

Children born to Jan and Rosalie were: Mary, born in 1885, married Frank Grebowski; James, 1888, married Mary Wittak; John, 1891, married Emma Trefny; Joseph, 1893, married Josephine Gonshorowski; Frank, 1895, married Martha Gonshorowski; Louie, 1900, married Barbara Trefny; and Petronila born in 1901 died in infancy.

From Jan's journal, he wrote, "Petronila Novacek, daughter died a month and nine days before we came to the United States of America." Also written in his journal, "My loving woman, Rosalie Novacek, died 23 of July 1923. Dear loving wife, the eternal rest grant onto her." Jan died February 7, 1937. Jan and Rosalie are buried in the St. Aloysius Cemetery.

Submitted by Ann Novacek and Myrna Sovde. Source: Richard Novacek and Novacek Nostalgia Family book.

Joseph and Josephine Novacek

Joseph Aloysius Novacek was born April 14, 1893, in Verbne, Czechoslovakia to Jan and Rosalie (Sevacek) Novacek. He trav-

eled to America with his family when he was eight years old on a passenger ship. When they arrived in the United States they spent one night in New York and then traveled by train to Tabor, Minnesota, where they lived until they moved to a homestead north of Greenbush, Minnesota, in Polonia Township in 1902.

Joseph and Josephine both attended a country school where the teacher spoke a different language than they did. After he stopped going to school, Joseph continued to educate himself through books.

When Joseph was eighteen, he went to work for a farmer by Stephen, Minnesota. After working there for a season, he came home and helped his father on the family farm.

Joseph married Josephine Gonshorowski on October 31, 1923, at **Aloysius** Church in Leo, Minnesota.



Joseph and Josephine Novacek wedding. (photo submitted by Daniel Novacek)

Josephine "Josie" was born February 10, 1907 in Leo, Minnesota, the daughter of Adam and Katie (Myczkowski)

Gonshorowski. Joseph was 30 years old and his bride was not quite 17 years old. After they married, they moved to the Novacek homestead where they raised their children. They also took care of Joe's father, Jan Novacek, who lived in a small house on the farm until his death in 1937.



Joseph and Josephine Novacek family (June 1974); Back: Emelia, Ernest, Christine, Norbert, Leona, Joseph Jr., and Theresa. Front: Daniel, Josie, Jerome, Joseph, and David. (photo submitted by Emelia Novacek)

Between 1924 and 1935, Joe and Josie raised 10 children: Theresa (Alvin Heddan), Emelia (John B. Goroski), Ernest (Ida Danielson), Norbert (Glendora Danielson), Christine (Joseph Goroski), Joseph Jr. (Darlene McDonald), Leona (Erwin Nelson), David (Marlys Anderson), Daniel, Jerome (Janice Cundy/Carol Lee Opitz). A baby,

Bernadette, was born in 1940, but died after one month.

Besides farming, Joseph worked for the township grading roads. All of the children, except for Jerome, attended the country school which still stands close to what is now the Dick Novacek farm. [they had to walk to school and knew only Polish when they started school.

Joseph enjoyed farming and dancing, especially the polka! Joe and Josie always took an active role in church and school, with Joseph serving on the school board for over 40 years.

Josie was an excellent cook who baked bread all the time and was known for her wonderful kolaches, paczki (Polish raised donuts), kartoflani placki (Polish potato pancakes), and Polish sausage made with deer meat and pork. She also raised a large garden to feed her growing family and spent many hours canning vegetables and making pickles and jams.

When son Norbert and his wife Glendora married in 1950, they moved in with Joe and Josie. In that original little house, lived Joe and Josie, son Norbert and his family, and also Joe and Josie's son Daniel. After awhile, a larger, more spacious home was built to accommodate Norbert's growing family. Both Joe and Josie continued to live there until their deaths.

The farm was usually full of relatives every Sunday after Mass for dinner and all of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren had fun playing in the big yard and running through the trees. There was also a little house on the farm in which all the children loved to play. It was not until later they realized that the "Budda," as it was called, was actually a smokehouse for polish sausages, not a playhouse.

Joseph lived on this same farm all of his life until he passed away in June of 1978 at the age of 85 years.

Josie passed away on December 9, 1992, at the age of 85. She will forever be remembered for her strength in faith, her love for her family, and her pioneer spirit.

Joe and Josie's legacy leaves behind eleven children, forty-eight grandchildren, more than a hundred great-grandchildren and an ever growing number of great-great-grandchildren.

Norbert's widow Glendora, still lives on the farm and the main part of the original homestead house is still intact in a pasture west of the farmstead.

Submitted by Angela Peterson.

Henry Nicolai and Ollie (Holman) Nubson

Henry Nicolai Nubson, commonly known as "H. N." Nubson, was born in 1869, in Dane County, Wisconsin, but later moved to Iowa, where he married Ollie Pedersdatter Holman on December 10, 1893.

Olive was born May 6, 1864, in Land, Norway. At age four she came with her parents to Iowa County, Wisconsin. In 1887 they moved to Kensett, Iowa.



Nicolai Nubson moving to Greenbush area in 1907.
(photo courtesy of Henry C. Nubson)

Henry and Ollie



Henry and Ollie Nubson family: Front: Alva, Nicolai, Olive Mae, Back: Orin, Mildred, Henry, and Lillian. (photo courtesy of Henry "Buster" Nubson)

moved to Roseau County in March 1907, to the NW 1/4 Section 15 Huss Township. They farmed for three years before moving into Greenbush where they operated the former Dock Hotel. Ollie died December 9, 1913, the day before their 20th wedding anniversary. When she died, she was survived by two brothers and three sisters in the Dakotas and Iowa. Ollie's favorite pastime was painting, but she spent most of her time being a mother, cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the hotel.

Their children were: Alva (S. A. Mattson) who had nine children- Marjorie, Ruth, Reynold, June, Donald, Paul, Robert, Richard, Wayne; Orin (Martha Mehus) who had one child, Laverne Woods; Henry (Myrtle Olson) who had five children- Patricia, Henry "Buster", Renee, Nola, Vernette; Lillian (William Morrison/Eugene Steen); Mildred (Dewey Thurman); and Olive Mae (Irv Johnson).

Shortly after Ollie died, Mr. Nubson became a travelling salesman for the Rawleigh Company. He worked for them for over 40 years and was their oldest salesman. The Rawleigh Company had especially good spices, vanilla, and nectar. Nectar, the forerunner of Koolaid, came in liquid form to be added to sugar and water. "Grandpa" Nubson drove a Model A with a trunk on the back to hold his products. First the Mattson boys took turns helping him, and later Buster Nubson went with his grandpa to help carry things.

Ollie and Henry were buried in the Bethel Lutheran Cemetery. Submitted by Henry Buster Nubson. Compiled by Myrna Sovde. Source: Roseau County Heritage book and obituaries from Tribune.

Malene (Kirkeidel) Nygaard

The name Malene Nygaard wasn't familiar to any of my neighborhood sources although she was listed as a communicant at the Poplar Grove Church, a member at Bethlehem church, and a land owner in Deer Township. This puzzled and intrigued me. Then accidentally, thanks to some good pastor, a small bit of light was shed when he made the entry of Malene's death. He wrote, "nee Kirkeide."

That piqued Helen Kirkeide Anderson's interest and she recalled a relative, Malene, with whom the family had lost contact. When she found an obituary for Malene, I was able to add my skimpy information, which then fit the puzzle pieces together.

Malene Nygaard was born October 1, 1839, in Stryn, Nordfjord, Norway. At age 34 she came to America to her brother Daniel's place in Mekinock, North Dakota. She came with her half sister,

Margaret, and Margaret's husband, Andrew Vollen, and their three children. Andrew had taken his wife's Kirkeide name, the area they came from.

The trip across the ocean was six weeks of storms, sea sickness and lack of food. All they could take from home was dried or smoked meat and flat bread. One of Margaret's girls became sick and died as soon as they reached North Dakota. It was from starving, as she couldn't eat any of the food they had because it was moldy from the dampness.

Malene married Lars Vallacker in 1874 and lived in Stone Run, Minnesota. They had a daughter Christine. When Malene's husband died in a snowstorm, she returned to Mekinock in 1877. In 1880 she married Syver Nygaard. A daughter died in infancy and then four sons, Ole, Lars, Tom and Knute were born.

Syver Nygaard died in 1900. That same year, Christine married Sander Rue. So in 1900 the Rues, Malene and her children, moved to Roseau County and took homesteads in Deer Township. Malene settled the S 1/2 SW 1/4 Section 5 and Rues the SW 1/4 Section 9. The 1913 Atlas showed her name as Maline Hygaard.

Malene died August 1, 1927, at 87 years and 10 months of heart failure. She was buried in the Bethlehem Cemetery, rural Greenbush. She was survived by her five children and a sister, Mrs. Gunhild Visness of Mekinock, North Dakota.

In her obituary, her daughter was listed only as Mrs. S. S. Rue. The name Rue was familiar. The 1913 Atlas supplied the memory jog and proof that S. S. Rue was Sander S. Rue. Now the connection was clear as to why the widow, Malene Nygaard, lived in our neighborhood.

Malene was an aunt to Martin Kirkeide, a former Dewey Township farmer. Martin's mother was a twin to Gunhild Visness. So a long lost relative was found, but not until the next generation.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Helen and Art Anderson, obituary from Roseau County Museum, Bethlehem and Poplar Grove records, "The Kirkeide Heritage" by Malene B. Hanson. See also Sander and Christine Rue history.

Gulbrand Sjel and Thuri (Engelbretson) Olson

Gulbrand Sjel and Thuri (Engelbretson) Olson came from Valdres, Norway, about 1883 to Lime Springs, Iowa, and then to Northwood, North Dakota. In 1900 they homesteaded in Lind Township on the NW 1/4 Section 14.

Thuri's two children with a previous spouse, Anders Hovey, were Knute Anderson and Ole Hovey. Knute changed his name from Hovey to Anderson. Gulbrand, "Gilbert," and Thuri had one son together, Iver Olson, who married Ingeborg Marie Svegdahl. Iver & Marie had seven children.

Knute took a homestead in Dewey Township in 1900. Ole Hovey took a homestead in Lind Township in Sections 13 and 24. He later left the area.

Gilbert was born in 1855 and died in 1920. Thuri was born in 1840 and died in 1933. They are buried at the Strathcona Cemetery. Iver Alme bought their farm and Merlyn Alme owns it now.

When they lived in Lind Township, Iver and Marie Olson lived near his parents. Iver had been a member of Bethlehem Church and requested a withdrawal from membership when he and Marie moved to Strathcona in 1915. They raised their family on a farm south of Strathcona. Their children were Tina Gurina (Regnar Strandberg); Nels Gumelius (Agnes Strandberg); Mable Amelia (Elmer Hanson); Gilbert Oliver (Beatrice Johnson); Oscar John (Agnes Lorenson)

died in 2004; Bertina Marie (Nels Gotfred Strandberg); and Conrad Iver (Alma Kolberg) died January, 2005.

Joanne White recalled that Great Grandma Thuri lived with Iver and Marie in the later years. Thuri read the Bible "all the time," and she never needed glasses. Her son, Oscar, would take coffee to her, and light the pipe she smoked. When Thuri was a young girl in Norway, she herded goats and sheep in the mountains all summer. These were milked and she made cheese.

Submitted by Art Anderson and Myrna Sovde.

Hansine Olson- please see article under Sather

Ole Joakim and Ellen Olson

Ole Joakim Olson and wife Ellen came to Roseau County to home-



Ole and Ellen Olson homestead cabin, now located at Northland Threshing Bee site. (2004) (Myrna Sovde photo)

stead in Hereim Township Section 25, NE 1/4 in 1899. Their log house is on display at the site of the Northland Threshing Bee. They raised horses, chickens, cows and pigs. The only groceries they bought were flour and sugar. Their children were Sam, Clifford, Edwin, and Hannah. The original homestead is still in the Olson family.



Interior of Ole and Ellen Olson's cabin. (2004) (Myrna Sovde photo)

Submitted by Maynard and Viola Olson.

Sam and Geolena Olson

Sam Olson was born December 30, 1885, in Morris, Minnesota. On September 7, 1907, he married Geolena Knudson in Greenbush. She was born August 20, 1883, at Brooten, MN. When they came to Roseau County in 1902 they lived with Sam's parents, Ole and Ellen Olson, in the log house in Section 25 Hereim Township. About 1915 or 1918 they sawed lumber to build a real house.

They had ten children: Edna (George Kucera), Clifford (Evelyn Swenson), Selma (Alfred Sliezer), Orner (Evangeline Blumer Bulow), Emil (died age 12), Agnes (Enock Waage), Alice (died age



Sam and Geolena (Knudson) Olson wedding photo - married Sept. 7, 1907 - Greenbush. (photo submitted by Maynard and Viola Olson)

9), Gladys (Leander Swensen), Maynard (Viola Erickson) and Milton (Dorothy Larson Kaml).

Like nearly everyone else, they raised pigs, cattle, and grain, but they also had ten or twelve turkey hens set up in small coops scattered around the farmyard. In the fall they dressed out the young turkeys to sell.

Geolena died November 21, 1967, in Greenbush, and Sam on December 11, 1976, also in Greenbush.

Maynard, the ninth child, went through 8th grade at Dock School and graduated from Greenbush High School in 1941.

When the school burned, he attended school at the Creamery. He worked with his parents on the farm and rented land. In 1949 he married Viola Erickson. They had two children, Larry and Mary Lou (Johnson).

Submitted by Maynard and Viola Olson.

Lars Peter and Caroline (McFarlane) Paulsen

Lars Peter, "Pete", Paulsen was born on January 7, 1875, in Horsen, Denmark. Caroline, "Carrie", McFarlane was born on July 4, 1881, near Drayton, North Dakota. Their parents were not born in the United States. Pete's parents were from Denmark, and Carrie's were from Canada. Pete's father was Nels Paulsen, and his birth mother was Annie Garretsen. His stepmother was Marie Nelsen. Carrie's father was Neil McFarlane, and her mother was Agnes Manning:



, Pete Paulson with his team of oxen. (photo submitted by Pat Hogan)

Pete and Carrie were married on July 20, 1903, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. They moved to Barnett Township from North Dakota in 1903, and began farming. They had seven children: Viona (Marshall Wiskow); Pauline (Glen Johnson, and later, Rudolph Peterson); Morris, who died in a hunting accident; Irene (Theodore Smith); Walter (Luella Conover); Agnes (Palmer Hogan); and Lawrence (Ella Gust, and later, Agnes Troskey).

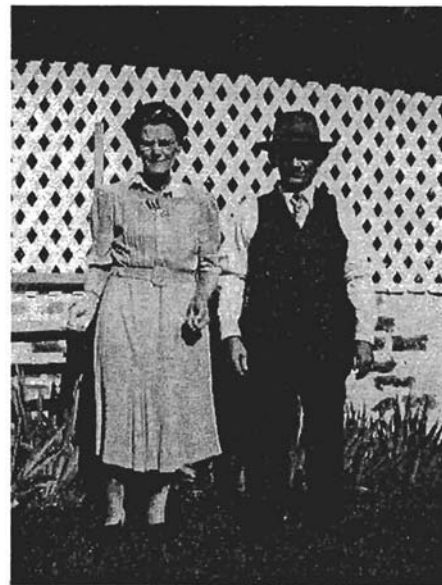
Not much is known about Pete Paulsen's early years, and he seldom spoke of those days. However, it is said that his birth mother died before he left Denmark at the age of nine. He came to the United States with an uncle, and they settled near Luck, Wisconsin. As a young adult, Pete moved to Drayton, North Dakota, where he met Carrie. It is not known when, or if, his father came to America. Yet, he had a stepmother who visited Pete's family in Minnesota. When one offspring was asked if anything about the past was learned from the step-grandmother, the reply was, "No, because none of us kids could speak Danish, and she couldn't speak English."

Memories of Caroline (McFarlane) Paulsen. "Carrie". as told to a family member in 1972:

"I was born near Drayton, North Dakota, where I went to school. I worked wherever I could, on farms or in town, until I was grown up.

There were two men who came to Drayton, rented a place, and started a bakery and restaurant. One of these was a Dane named Lars Peter Paulsen, but everyone called him "Pete". He was a cook and a baker. I heard they were looking for a waitress, so I applied and got the job.

In the meantime, my father heard there were homesteads available over in Minnesota. Being my father used up his homestead rights, I homesteaded in my name. Father, Mother, and the rest of the younger children built a log house, bam and fences. I then went back to Drayton and married Pete. That fall, Pete worked in the harvest fields. In the winter, we went to my folks' in Minnesota. Father decided that since I had homesteaded the place, I should have the quarter section, or 160 acres. Pete bought us a little farmhouse, and we logged out for a bam. That was the beginning of our farm.



Pete and Carrie Paulson 1940s (photo submitted by Pat Hogan)

Pete and I were blessed with seven children. We lost Morris in 1925, by a gun tragedy. This brought shock and sorrow to all of us. The six surviving children all live quite close to us now.

It should be mentioned that we started out with oxen. Everything in the clearing of the land, etc., was done by manual labor. In those days they had what was called a poll tax. Each man twenty-one years or older had to work one or two days a year building roads. This was done by

digging out the stumps, rocks, and brush. Then, they had to plow the land. They used slush scrapers, pulled by horses or oxen.

In those days, mosquitoes were so thick that smudges were built to ward them off. We all had our hardships, but we also had our good times. Everyone was concerned about their neighbors' welfare. We shared our sorrows and happiness."

Pete died April 18, 1957; and Carrie died July 17, 1976.

Submitted by Pat Hogan and Avis Wiskow.

Ole K. and Mathilde (Hanson) Paulson

Ole K. (1867-1924) and Mathilde (1873-1942) Paulson homesteaded 160 acres in Sections 13 and 24 in Lind Township. They had twelve children including: Hennan 1890 or 91-1893; Henry 1892-1952 (Selma Solom); Minnie 1894-1947 (Bert C. Anderson); Olga 1895-1964 (Elmer Anderson); Victor 1896-infant; Oscar 1900-1946; William 1903-1981 (Clara Aas); Harry 1905-1908; Mabel 1908-1997 (Einar Aamodt); Ellerd 1910-1965 (Hazel Dallager); Arnold Lloyd 1913-1972 (Alice); and Earl 1917-1953.

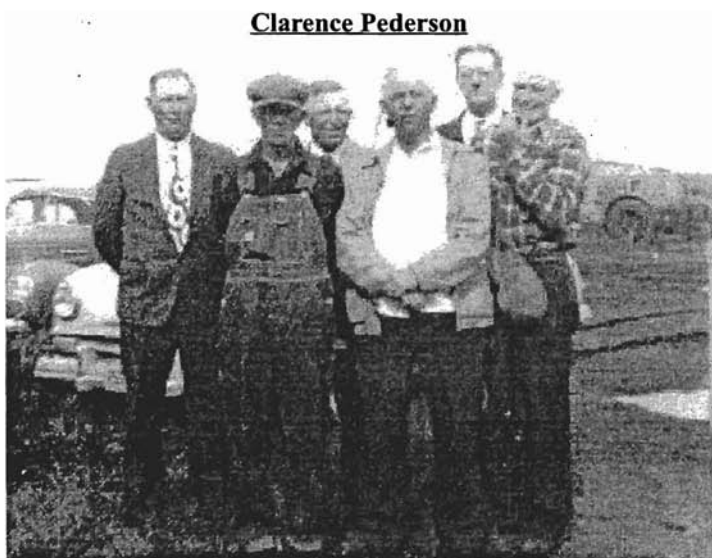
Ole's parents came from Norway via Quebec in 1868, first going to Iowa. Ole attended St. Cloud Normal School to become a teacher, but also went to barber school, which provided a source of income so he could continue his teacher's training. He taught school near Grafton until 1995 when they moved into Grafton and Ole became the Chief of Police.

Mathilde Hanson married Ole in June 1890. Six of the children were born in Grafton and six in Roseau County. In 1900 they came to Roseau County to homestead in Lind Township. When Ole first went out to the homestead, he walked in water up to his knees across the swamp south of the sand ridge. Sometimes he walked in waist high water across the swamp, carrying groceries, including hundred pound sacks of flour.

Ole was active in township and school affairs. He was on the Lind town board for many years and was the school board clerk for District 26 for fifteen years. He was also active in the Bethlehem Church where they became members in 1906. However, they were active in the church and their children were baptized there before they joined.

In 1917 they moved into Greenbush and Ole became a rural mail carrier until his death. Ole's sons, Henry and William (Bill), followed in his footsteps both becoming rural mail carriers. Bill also served on the school board in Greenbush, District 66, probably longer than anyone else.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Bethlehem Church records. Mary Jane Paulson Laker, Judy Paulson Altman, and Carol Lou Anderson LaTray.



ltoR: Andrew Alme, Clarence Pederson, Ingvald Lillemon, Joseph Anderson, Arthur Anderson, Sr., and Tommy Pederson. (photo submitted by Art Jr. and Helen Anderson)

Clarence Pederson, the son of Gunder and Annette Pederson, was born in Cambridge, Wisconsin, in 1895. The family came to Green-

bush in 1907. In the late 1920s, Clarence was farming rented D. E. Tawney land. In 1930 he moved his house and farmed with his sister, Alma, and her husband, Art Anderson, until 1938. Then he bought a farm in Section 32 of Dewey Township. He never married. He farmed until about three years before he died, in 1968. The next year, Merton Kirkeide bought the farm, which is now the Barry and Roxanne Kirkeide home and dairy farm.

Submitted by Art Anderson.

Gunder and Annette (Gunnelson) Pederson

Gunder Pederson, (May 15, 1872- October 3, 1946), was born in Nordre Numedal, Norway. In 1891, at age 19, he came to the USA. Gunder was a master carpenter. In 1892, he married Annette Gunnelson (May 19, 1872- March 27, 1949) in Dane County, Wisconsin.

Gunder's work took him many places. They moved to Stephen, where the railroad was being built and built houses for people in new towns along the railroad. Gunder took a homestead in Pencer, but moved to Thief River Falls, and finally to Greenbush in 1907. They lived in Hereim Township Section 17 in a log house in the woods. In 1909 he bought eighty acres two miles west of Greenbush in Section 8 and built a large house. The house is still standing (2004) on what is known locally as the Albert Bizek farm.

Gunder bought more land, 480 acres in all. Gunder and son Ole did carpentry work for others while sons, Jens and Clarence, broke the land with oxen and breaking plows. Later they had tractors. In the winter, Gunder went logging south of Wannaska where he had a sawmill.

Gunder liked steam engines and used them to thresh for other farmers. Many buildings in the Greenbush area were built by Gunder and sons.



Gunder Pederson built this house. Front row: Gunder, Elvin, Ella, Annette, Mildred; Back row: Ole, Clarence, Jens, Peder, Thomas, Carl, Alma, Lydia, and Rosella. (photo courtesy of Shirley Pederson)

Annette and Gunder raised twelve children: Ole (1/6/1894-3/26/1973) married May Alvina Thompson (8/30/1899-5/21/1993); Clarence (5/8/1895-2/10/1968); Jens (9/29/1896-10/5/1989) married Edna Anderson (9/10/1897-11/29/1979); Peder (12/23/1900-9/2/1969); Thomas (10/7/1902-6/30/1995) married Myrtle Reieron (8/14/1908-5/16/1989); Carl (1/29/1907-1/31/1923); Lydia (10/27/1898-9/28/1994) married Ingvald Lillemoen (10/26/1892-12/15/1991); Alma (7/13/1904-8/11/1964) married Arthur Marvin Anderson (11/16/1893-8/12/1952); Rosella (3/17/1909) married Olaf Kammen (born 1904 in Norway); Elvin (9/30/1911-6/29/1962); Ella

(9/10/1911-11/24/2001) married Andrew Alme; Mildred (5/9/1914-1/28/1923).

Mrs. Pederson lived with her son, Elvin, on the farm until her death. After her death, Elvin built a little house near his brother Tom's farm. In addition to being a carpenter, Elvin was always sort of an inventor, making things to make work easier. Art Anderson, Jr., a nephew, said, "Elvin made the first rotary lawn mower in the early '40s. It had a vertical shaft with a V pulley on top. On the bottom was a horizontal bar with mower sections riveted on one end. A small gas engine with a V belt ran the bar with the sharp sections. It was mounted on two wheels and had handle bars to push it."

Annette and Gunder were members of Bethel Church and are buried in the Bethel Cemetery.

Submitted by Shirley Pederson, Arlaine Pederson Duray, and Art Anderson. Compiled by Myrna Sovde.

Jens and Edna Anderson Pederson

Jens Pederson was born in 1896 in Cambridge, Wisconsin. Edna was born in 1897 near Northwood, North Dakota. Both came as young children to the Greenbush area with their parents. In the early years of their marriage, they lived in the northwest corner of Section 18 Hereim Township, diagonally across from the Harry Schires farm. Later, after WWII, they moved to Section 17 in Hereim, where grandson Paul (Sandy) Duray lives at the present time.



Jens and Edna Pederson (photo submitted by Carlyle Pederson and Arlaine Duray)

Edna and Jens' children are: Kendall (Edna Mae Anderson), Arlaine (Sylvester Duray), Carlyle (Inocencia Chiu/Sing Sing), and Vernoy (Christine Fairbanks). Arlaine and Carlyle continue to live in the area.

During WWII, Jens was in military construction. He went to distant and dissimilar places such as St. Lucia in the West Indies building docks for ships; Iceland, Churchill in Canada, Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska, building barracks; and Oregon doing concrete work for a nuclear reactor.

Following is Edna's story from her childhood (when her family came to Greenbush) to young adulthood. She wrote this in 1977 for her grandchildren.

Grandma Edna Pederson's History March 1977

My parents were Knute and Bertha Maria Anderson. Dad was born in Valdres, Norway. He came to America at the age of 17. My mother, Bertha Maria Olson, was born at Decorah, Iowa, on a farm. Her parents moved to North Dakota in a covered wagon when

mother was seven years old. They lived in a sod house until Grandpa built a frame house which still stands nine miles northeast of Hatton, North Dakota. The third generation of Olsons live there now.

Dad worked for mother's uncle near Sauk Centre, MN, so that is how they met. My folks stayed with her folks until they moved to a farm near Northwood, ND. Arthur was born while at Grandpa's place. Bert and I were born near Northwood. I was born September 10, 1897. My folks moved to a place near Grandpa where Mamie (Joe Anderson) was born. Then in 1900 Dad homesteaded three miles east of Pelan, Minnesota. We moved there the fall of 1900. Grandpa Olson had a big buggy and a team of white horses named King and Pete. Mother and we children drove with him from Hatton to Pelan. It took us three days. Dad and mother's brothers, John, Carl and Emil, hauled the furniture and machinery and drove the cattle along behind the wagons. They must have gone days ahead of us because our home was ready for us by the time we got to the homestead.

Dad had built the house that summer; one room downstairs and one room upstairs. He later built a lean-to-kitchen and the stairs in the kitchen so we had more room. We had a good dry cellar made from rocks picked on our land. We never had water in there at any time. (All our neighbors had water in their cellars during high water.)

A coulee ran through our land so we children had lots of fun in the water. The cows grazed on the other side so we had to wade across to get the cows. We also had a footbridge made of two big logs which we crossed when the water was high. We had lots of fun rowing in a leaky boat. We had to bail the water out. It's a wonder we didn't have an accident; and we couldn't swim!

Our uncles and Grandpa settled near Strathcona. Grandpa would come walking from there to visit us and those were never to be forgotten times.

Myrtle, Lillian, and Gladys were born during this time. Our neighbors were Dallagers: Lars, Harold and Christ; Louie Johnson, Ericksons, and Hagens. I babysat for Johnsons when they dug potatoes and harvested their garden. The last fall we were on the farm, plowing was done with the walking plow and three horses or oxen. One furrow at a time. Breaking with a breaking plow. I thought the breaking looked nicer than the plowing because it didn't break up but ran like a ribbon along the field.

Dad had a binder and several of the neighbors had to borrow it until they got one of their own. The closest elevator was at Stephen, so the grain had to be hauled there. It took two or three days, depending on whether one had horses or oxen. Dad had horses and mules. He never had oxen.

We children had a white pony, Dick. We drove him and we could ride him too. The same with Jack, our donkey, which we had later.

The grain was in bundles and had to be shocked. Then later they were stacked in round stacks shaped like cones with only one bundle at the top, two stacks side by side with room between for the separator to be placed during threshing. There was only one threshing rig in the neighborhood, so by the time the last threshing was done the snow would be flying.

We kids had so much fun playing around the four or five grain stacks. Later we had fun playing in the big strawstacks.

Arthur's first job was to cut the twine on the bundles during threshing. The later machines had cutters for twine. Wood was used for the engine firing. In North Dakota they used straw because they had straw to burn and wood was scarce there.

Here we had small fields and we could use all the straw. The

stock liked to eat in the strawstack. We also had straw mattresses so after threshing we had to put new straw in our mattresses.

There was an engineer, fire man, and water hauler along with the steam engines. Uncle Carl had a team of horses and every fall he would drive to North Dakota to be a water hauler. It was a good paying job for a man and his team of horses.

In 1900, there were homesteaders on every quarter, eighty or forty in Dewey Township where we lived, so we had close neighbors. Pelan was quite a town at this time. It died out when the railroad failed to come there. There were postoffices scattered through the country so it wasn't far to a postoffice. A man would have the job of carrying the mail from Pelan to one of those postoffices. Sanwick was northeast of Pelan. Huss, Fir and Herb were east and south from Pelan.

We had cows and chickens so we took butter and eggs to the store to trade for what we needed. The people by Strathcona would have cord wood to trade for groceries. There was not much ready-to-wear at the time. We sent for shoes, overshoes, leggings, etc. The orders came to Stephen and then by stage or freight from there to Pelan. Lots of sewing was done, even overalls and shirts for the boys so dressmaking was a paying job.

We had no cream separator at this time, so milk was strained into shallow tin pans and set down in the cellar on a table where it was cool. The cream was skimmed off and churned into butter. Our first chum was a tall crock with a wooden handle, with a board across that was worked up and down. The very tedious job was usually a job for the children. We got a barrel chum and with that we could chum a larger amount of butter at one time.

Rabbits were plentiful, so we had fresh meat. Fish were in the river, so the boys would gather there on Sundays and snare the fish. They always came home with enough for a meal or two. Most years berries were plentiful so we had sauce and jelly. In the fall we would butcher a pig and a beef. We always had chickens so a cluck hen would be made into soup. We ate bacon and dried beef in summer.

Wolves howled during the nights. I pulled the blankets over my head because I was scared. They were in packs so it sounded like the brush and woods were full of them. Wolf hunting was quite a sport. We saw hunters riding horses with their wolfounds. We heard the baying of the hounds when they were chasing a wolf.

No doctors, but there were excellent trained midwives from the old country. Before the church was built, services were held in the homes and the schoolhouses. Our first minister homesteaded here so he was a farmer.

People worked hard, but they had fun too. Neighbors were close so there was a lot of visiting and get-togethers. I can remember the Christmas parties.

Dad had a horse-powered feed mill so people came to have their oats ground. Our roads zig-zagged in open places from neighbor to neighbor. It was not too many years before they started to grade the roads with horses and scrapers. We never had any bad winter storms, because the country wasn't open enough. We never missed a day of school on account of storms. In 1909, we moved back to Hatton where Dad rented half a section of land. Life there was more advanced. They plowed with a gangplow and six horses, and later on got a triple gang. Instead of stacking the grain, it was shock threshing.

Roy, Garvin, and Harley were born while we were in Hatton. We came back from North Dakota the spring of 1917. I started teaching that fall. I had a school west from Ross. I taught three months

until Thanksgiving. I was free for three months so I took teachers training in Crookston A. C. For the spring term I had a school farther south and a different boarding place. I went four weeks to summer school at Crookston after my school was out.

That fall, I taught my home school, District 59. World War I was on, so Arthur left for the army that spring. My third school was the Mooney school.

We had to save on wheat and sugar, so we struggled with barley flour and saved on sugar.

The next fall the war was over. I taught the Christianson or Herb School west of Strathcona. The next two years, I taught the Flaten School northeast of Strathcona, #99. The next years I was north of Roseau; they had no schoolhouse so I had a schoolroom upstairs at my boarding place. In the spring I had a different boarding place and school in a bachelor's home. The last year I taught in Kittson county northeast of Karlstad and I boarded with Mamie and Joe (Anderson).

I hope all the grandchildren will have a chance to read this. don't think I'll write another one.

Submitted by Arlaine Duray and Myrna Sovde.

Ole and Alvina (Thompson) Pederson

Ole Palmer Pederson was born in 1894. Ole was a carpenter like his father, and later a bricklayer. Alvina May Thompson was born in 1899. Alvina was a homemaker and known for her famous donuts.



Ole and Alvina Pederson family: Orville, Arnold, Doris, Alvina, Mavis, Ole, Marion, Earl, and Walter. (photo submitted by Shirley Pederson)

They raised seven children: Orville, March 18, 1925, married Kathleen Peterson. Their children are Lynn, Ray, and Carol. Orville was a bricklayer and in trailer sales.

Earl, March 13, 1927- February 13, 1994, married Audrey Arendt. Their children are Sharon, Karen, Dennis, Amy, Peter, Debbie, and John. Earl was an electrician.

Doris, December 27, 1928, married Palmer Omdahl, May 21, 1919. Their children are Bonnie, Alleen, Perry, and Paul.

Walter, January 27, 1931, married Carol Austin, February 6, 1935. Their children are Scott, Jim, and Tom. Walter was a teacher.

Arnold, December 26, 1934, married Shirley Gonshorowski, October 29, 1937. Arnie is a bricklayer. Their children are: Larry, Robert "Bob", Vicki, William "Bill" (deceased), and Ricki.

Mavis, May 6, 1939, married Lyle Stokke. Their children are Denise Valerie, Darin, Nathan.

Marion, May 6, 1939, married Kenny Larson. Their children are Michael and Kathy.

Ole passed away in 1973. His funeral was the last one in the old Bethel Church. Demolition was held up a few days to allow the funeral to be held there. Alvina passed away in 1993.

Two items from old Tribunes shed light on some of Ole's activities. In 1921 Ole had a carload of lumber for sale. He had cut it the previous winter and had it shipped from Salol to Greenbush by train. In 1926, Ole and A. J. Johnson supervised the excavation for the basement at Bethel.

Submitted by Shirley Pederson.

Andrew and Anna (Kukowski) Pelowski

Andrew Pelowski was born in Poland on November 30, 1859. He came to America with his parents in 1866. They settled in Pine Creek, Tremple County, Wisconsin.

Anna "Annie" Kukowski was born October 2, 1866, in Poland to Anton Kukowski and Elizabeth Schreiber.

In 1885, Andrew Pelowski married Anna Kukowski in Winona, Minnesota. They had three children and were expecting another when, in the mid-1890s, the family moved to the Greenbush area and settled on a homestead in Section 25 of Polonia Township. The Pelowskis were among the first settlers in this community and were pioneers in developing this area. Although Andrew was mostly engaged in farming, he was also the vice president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Greenbush for many years. He was active in community affairs.

The children of Andrew and Anna included: Stella (Albert Dolney), John (Anna Vacura), Rose (Jack Maloski), Mary (Joe Johnson), August, Dominic (aka Dan married Katherine), Martin (Ellen), Helene (Stanley Jarczyński), Elizabeth (Frank Schuck), Joseph (Anna Dolney), Anne (Harold Basset), Amelia, Henrietta, Josephine (Ed Carlson), and Edmond (Ruth). Francis and Alexander died in infancy and are buried at Leo.

August, Daniel, and Martin served in WWI, and Edmond served in WWII.

Most of the children left to live in the cities, especially after WWI. Pay in Roseau County was low, and factory wages in the cities were far better. However, during the depression of the 30s, those who lived in the cities had a tougher time than those who lived in rural areas. The father of one of the families worked for WPA for \$11 per week plus a noon meal. For supper he went through a soup line to save food for his family. The only meal he ate at home was a breakfast of nothing but toast.

Andrew was instrumental in establishing the St. Aloysius Church where both he and Anna are buried. Anna died July 19, 1928, in Polonia Township; Andrew died February 9, 1938, also in Polonia Township.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde and Eunice Korczak Sources: Adrian Dolney, obituaries, and birth and death research by Lisa Hanson.

Joseph F. and Mary (Liner!) Penas

Joseph F. Penas, Sr. was born in Jihlavia, Czechoslovakia, on August 16, 1865. Mary Linert was born in Dumbaco, Germany, on February 11, 1875. They immigrated to Owatonna, Minnesota, where they were married on October 1, 1891.

They moved to Barnett Township in 1897 and homesteaded in Section 12 in 1900. In 1905 they received the title.

They had fourteen children: Jennie LaChappelle, Mary Perro, Joseph I, John, James, Joy, William, Hubert, Joseph II, Vincent,

Martha Ruschman, Emma Thompson, Albert, and George.

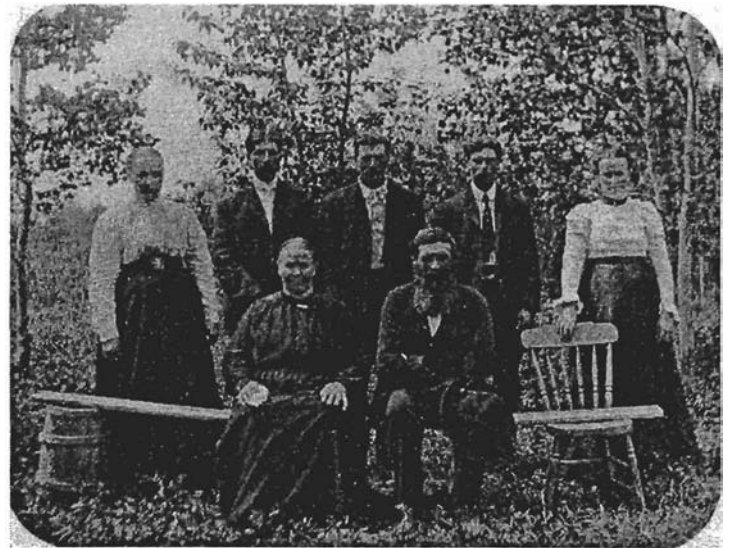
They raised horses, cows, pigs, sheep, and chickens, turkeys, hay, oats, and a large garden.

Farm work and land clearing was done by hand or horses. Wood was cut for heat, and many long hours were spent cooking and canning. There was always time to spend with neighbors for visiting. There were also barn dances and Saturday night parties.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information by Jerry Penas and the Roseau County Heritage Book.

Around and Kari Peterson

Amund and Kari Peterson were no youngsters when they came to the United States from Norway in 1887. Amund was born March 10, 1849, and Kari Amundsdotter Ronstalien was born February 5, 1841. They grew up in Gudbradsdalen, Norway, where they married and had six children: Amund Olson, Anna 1873 (Otto Foss), Gina 1875 (Syver Haugtvedt), John Byhre 1878, Christian Peterson 1880, and Thorvald Peterson 1883.



Amund and Kari Peterson and children. Front: Karl and Around. Back: Anna Foss, Christian, Thorvald, John Byhre, and Gina Haugtvedt. (photo courtesy of Donavan Foss)

They settled in Rothsay, Minnesota, before coming to homestead in what would become Deer Township, south of Greenbush in 1898. By that time their children were grown and they were grandparents. Their son Amund chose not to come (stayed in Wisconsin). In addition to their five children, two sons-in-law and eight grandchildren travelled with them to Deer Township.

Amund and Kari's homestead house was built on ten acres of the NE 1/4 of Section 7 just west of Anna and Otto and a mile north of Gina and Syver. They also had an eighty on the other side of the section line in Section 6. Since they came so early, did they accidentally get their cabin on the wrong piece of land? Later John Byhre homesteaded about a half mile northeast of his parents. Anton Foss added on to the homestead house after buying his grandparent's farm. In the mid 1940s, Hildor and Margaret Anderson moved there.

These three families, Peterson, Foss, and Haugtvedt, and the three Anderson brothers, Andrew, Albert and Iver, were the first homesteaders in Deer Township.

Amund's long beard made him stand out on neighborhood photos. This helped date some photos. Amund and his two sons-in-law were three of the eight founders of Poplar Grove Church in 1900. No paper proof exists, but a strong hunch believes Amund

left Poplar Grove Church in 1905 when Otto and Syver did.

Kari was a midwife and assisted at the births of Andrew and Thone Anderson's children. (Thone was the main neighborhood midwife.) After Amund's death, Kari lived in a little house on the Syver Hagtvedt farmstead. Kari joined the Bethlehem Church in 1915 when her daughters' families did. Clarice Martinson recalled Kari, her great grandmother, treating her and brother Gilman, to home-made sugar lumps.

Amund died January 14, 1914, and Kari April 28, 1930. They are both buried in the East Bethlehem Cemetery (Hagtvedt Cemetery) about a mile south of their homestead.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Donovan Foss, Poplar Grove and Bethlehem Church books, memories by Clarice Martinson.

Jacob Halleck and Annie Christine (Anderson) Peterson

Jacob Halleck Peterson was born on January 28, 1863, in Fairbault, Minnesota. Jacob's father, Halleck, was born in Norway in 1835, and his mother, Julia (Jacobson) was born in 1840; they were married in 1857. Halleck died in 1882.

Annie Christine Anderson was born March 30, 1867. Jacob and Annie were married on May 15, 1885. Ten children were born to this union. 1) Halleck George, January 9, 1887, married Isabella Steverson. They had three children Lloyd Herbert, Gladys Henrietta (Clarence Erickson), and Herbert Norman. 2) Belle, October 6, 1888, married Fred Mundahl. They had one child, Iona, in 1914. 3) Rachel, married Fred Robinson. 4) Ruth, married Albert Scaalrud. They had four children, Arnold Peterson (Peggy), Alfred Peterson, Vernon Peterson, and Claudius Peterson. 5) Elizabeth (Weiss). 6) Arthur.

7) Florence, married Ole Skaalrud. They had four children, Palmer, died April 1985, Viola, November 16, 1915, married Ben Christianson on July 9, 1934, (they had one son, Ronald), Alice and Orville. 8) Alice, married Lawrence Haug and then married Ole Aamodt.

9) Manfred Edward, January 13, 1904- June 9, 1971, married Blonden Troskey, March 8, 1906-1978. They had three children, Kenneth Edward, January 7, 1927 who married Challotta Goodrich, and then married Adelaide Lillevoid. Ardille Tressa, January 13, 1928- February 9, 1928, and Kathleen Mary, June 8, 1930, who married Orville Pederson.

10) Grace, December 9, 1909- June 1983, married Herman Hoem Holm, born 1904-1988. They had one child, James, who married Janet Jorgenson in 1957.

Jacob and Annie moved to Roseau County in 1910, and settled on a farm five miles north of Greenbush. They attended Bethania Church. Annie died on August 21, 1912. Jacob spent the last several years of his life at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, Grace and Herman Holm, and then at a rest home in Roseau. Jacob died on June 17, 1943, in Roseau. Both Annie and Jacob are buried in the rural Bethania Cemetery.

Submitted by Avis (Holm) Iverson, niece of Grace (Peterson) and Herman Hoem Holm.

Laura May Kelly Phillips

Laura May Kelly, 1894-1963, was the daughter of Tom and Annie Kelly of Soler Township. She married Roy Phillips in 1917. They had five children: Roy, Helen, Vernon, Dorothy (deceased) and Loretta.

All five of the Kelly girls were school teachers. Laura was the oldest. She taught when it wasn't necessary to have a high school



Laura Kelly Phillips and Evelyn Kelly of "make do." She enjoyed gardening and like to raise flowers. (photo courtesy of Lillian Nelson)

Submitted by Lillian Kelly Nelson (age 93). See Tom Kelly, Evelyn Haugen, George Kelly, Helen Kelly, and Fred Kelly histories.

John and Laura Pietruszewski

John D. Pietruszewski was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 13, 1887, and was the son of Martin and Mary Pietruszewski. He was married at St. Aloysius Catholic Church at Leo on May 9, 1911, to Laura Cibulski. Laura, the daughter of Andrew and Mary Cibulski, was born near Warsaw, North Dakota, on February 24, 1894.



John and Laura Pietruszewski 1949.

They had ten children: Frances (Vincent Pulczinski); Joseph (Anne Dembiczak); Mary (Albin Pulczinski); Elizabeth (John Mlodzik); John, Edward (Helen Hollinger); Angeline, Sylvester (Esther Snare); Raymond (Betty



The family of Mr. and Mrs. John Pietruszewski is pictured above. Left to right, back row, Joe, Sylvester, Mary, Raymond, Edward and John (Skippy). Front row, Frances, Laura, Theresa, John, and Elsie. (photo submitted by Eleanor Koshenina)