

Coulter) and Theresa (Adrian Borowicz).

John bought the original homestead of his father-in-law Andrew Cibulski in 1912 in Barto Township and they took care of him during his last illness until 1923. They lived there until 1929 when the farm was sold to Leo Kukowski. John and family then moved to a farm near the Haug Store. In 1951 they retired and bought a home in Greenbush. John served on the board in Soler Township, was trustee of St. Aloysius Church at Leo and served on the Haug-Leo Telephone board. Laura enjoyed her flowers and gardens. John died August 18, 1976, and Laura died April 27, 1970.

Submitted by Lorraine Blawat.

Paul and Frances (Greskowiak) Pulczynski

Paul and Frances (Greskowiak) Pulczynski moved to Greenbush from Warsaw, North Dakota, about 1901, with their first five children. They lived on a farm northwest of Greenbush in the Leo area. They farmed and raised their growing family. They attended St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Leo. The children attended a school about a mile and a half from their house.

Paul and Frances had twelve children, six boys and six girls: Selmea (? Prickleo), Delphina (John Miksialke), Joanna (Mike Phillips), Paul (Agnes Stanislawski), Vincent (Frances Pietruszewski), Nick (Sophie Kulas), Victoria (Frank Mellas), Peter (Amelia Sikorski), Florence (John Gonshorowski), John (never married), Theresa (Harry McDonald), and Albin (Mary Pietruszewski).

After Frances died, Vincent lived with various children until he passed away.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from Theresa Pulczynski McDonald.

John and Rosalia Raichl

John Frank and Rosalia (Havlicek) Raichl were born in Yugoslavia; John was born on June 20, 1883, and Rosalia was born on August 31, 1886. John came to the United States in 1905 and Rosalia joined him in Joliet, Illinois, in 1907, where Annie was born in 1909. Next, they moved to Nebraska, where Mary was born in 1911. Then they came to Minnesota in March 1913, and rented a farm in Section 10 of Poplar Grove Township. (When they left Nebraska: farmers were working in their fields; they came here to three feet of snow, and had to scout for feed for the animals they brought with them.)

In December of 1917, John bought land in Section 13, for \$9.00 per acre. An older house was moved onto that land and was ready for occupancy in January 1918. Much of the land was cleared by hand; using horses to pull stumps and trees.



From 1930-1960 the center of the barn was filled with hay. Animals were in the leans. John Raichl farm. (Frances Forst photo)

John and Rosalia had a family often children: Annie (July 1909-February 1998), married Eddie Svir, (June 1895-October 1960); Mary (February 1911-July 2003), married John Pesek (May 1909-May 2001); Emma (June 1913) married Alex Gust (October 1906-April 2002); Lillian (September 1915-December 2002) married Melvin Ellefson (February 1915-March 1993); Rose (January 1918-1973) married Clement Gust (October 1914-June 1998); John, Jr. (July 1920-March 1996); Helen (January 1922-March 1941); Agnes (January 1925) married John Stehlik (January 21, 1925-July 21, 1981); Elsie (June 1927-September 1929); Frances (June 1930) married Johnnie Forst (July 27, 1920-June 8, 1982).



Front: Rosalia and John Raichl Sr.; LtoR: John, Agnes Stehlik, Frances Forst, Lillian Ellefson, Rose Gust, Emma Gust, Mary Pesek and Annie Svir 1945.

With only one son, sixth in line, the girls were able to take on any task outdoors, in the fields, or milking cows; and of course, they took time doing chores inside the house.

John Raichl, Sr., passed away April 1954, and Rosalia passed away July 1970.

Submitted by Frances Forst.

Herb and Lou Vicia (Foster) Reese

Herbert Reese was born January 23, 1900, at Adrian, a small town near Worthington, Minnesota. His parents, Nickolas and Christina (Benning), moved their family to the Greenbush area in 1911. They ordered two emigrant boxcars from the railroad to make the move. Four horses and farm machinery were loaded in one car. The other car was used to haul four cows, two pigs, some chickens, geese, house furniture, a horse buggy, and feed. Herb's dad and his oldest brother rode with the horses. His other two brothers, Joe and Bill, rode with the cows. Herb, his mother, and three sisters rode in the caboose.

Herb was eleven years old when the family came to Greenbush. He helped his dad on the farm until 1916, when he went to work for Olaf Dalby, the International dealer in Greenbush, repairing and making new machinery ready to sell to farmers. He soon earned the reputation of being capable of fixing or starting any kind of machine.

Young Reese made his own bicycle with two flywheels from a comsheller, a wooden frame, and a sprocket and chains from an old binder. A young blacksmith, Andrew Solom, helped him make the axles and pedals. The bike was very heavy, so he could hardly ride it downhill!

In 1917, Herb worked with a 15-30 Mogal & Racine thresher. He threshed for farmers all around the area. Having rigged up lights with a 1914 Dodge generator, he threshed from five in the morning until nine at night. At the end of the first season, he bought the

outfit and continued to thresh for many years.

In 1919, he contracted to build his first road, seven miles for Pelan Township. He built many hundreds of miles of state and county roads in Minnesota and North Dakota, over a thousand miles of township and county roads and ditches in Roseau County alone. In 1942 and 1943, he and a Mr. Olson from Mankato formed a partnership and contracted to build nearly one hundred miles of the Canadian-Alaskan Military Highway. He also built the local airport and a number of buildings in Greenbush.

Herb threshed in the summers and worked at various jobs in Minneapolis in the winters. In 1920, after finishing the harvest season, Herb went to Minneapolis to work for the winter. It took him a week to make the 350-mile journey.

LouVicia M. Foster was born February 5, 1903, at Armah, Iowa, to Edward and Elizabeth (George) Foster. She played basketball at Badger High School and rode the train to games at Holt, Middle River, and Greenbush. A skilled and versatile person, LouVicia loved crafts, was an excellent cook, and won numerous ribbons at the fair for her gardening.

LouVicia was working in Minneapolis, when Herb came there to work in the winters. Herb and LouVicia married on June 10, 1925. When they returned to Greenbush, where they planned to live, and went to draw out their money, the banks had closed, so they were without money. In the fall, he went to work threshing and she cooked. They lived in a tent while they built a small house (which is still standing across from the elevators).

Herb owned a garage in Greenbush, selling cars, trucks, and farm machinery to many people in Roseau, Kittson, and Marshall Counties. He sold many lines and items over the years including Whip-pet cars, John Deere tractors and machinery, Buicks, and GMCs. He sold both new and used cars, trucks, and farm machinery.



Herb and Lou Vida (Foster) Reese

Herb was mayor of Greenbush for a short time. He saw a need for more building lots and new streets. He cleared three blocks, extending Main Street North through a heavily wooded area. He then graded and graveled the street.

In 1941, Herb excavated the basement for the new Catholic Church, and in 1942, he contracted to make longer runways at the Wold Chamberlain Field in St. Paul.

After Pearl Harbor, all road building equipment had to be listed with the War Production Board. In February of 1942, they requisitioned Herb's new Lorain dragline and D8 Caterpillar dozer. The government did pay him for the equipment, but he couldn't replace it until 1946 when machines could again be sold to civilians.

Herb was an active promoter of the hospital, served on the hospital board, and as a member of the city council.

LouVicia was very involved with raising her family and later, at age 65, took up golf. She loved it and played well into her 80s.

Herb and LouVicia had seven children: Hector (Bernadette Pulczinski); Doris (Gilbert Kranz); Gregory (Frances Novacek); Herbert, Jr. (Marlene Flaten); Phillip (passed away in 1954 at age 19); Shirley Ann (died in infancy); Virginia (Richard Sovde). They had 44 grandchildren.

From information submitted by Virginia Sovde.

Johan and Johanna (Mary) (Ophthun) Rein "The Church Man"

Johan ("John") Rein was born to Karl Olsen Rein and Malena O. (Hvidlyn) Rein near Trondheim, Norway, on June 16, 1858. He came to America in 1878 with his parents, grandfather, and two sisters. They first lived in Polk and Norman Counties in Minnesota. John, his father, and his grandfather were all skilled craftsmen: carpenters, master cabinet makers, painters, and builders of houses and churches.

Johanna (Mary) Ophthun was born to Thomas Nilson Ophthun and Ingrid Johansdatter Berge Ophthun at the Ophthun Farm Luster County, Sogo, Norway, on April 9, 1859. Her family had lived in the Luster Fjord valley since the 1400s. She came to America with her parents and siblings in 1870, when she was eleven years old. They homesteaded in Kickapoo Valley in Wisconsin and later moved to Hendrum, Norman County, Minnesota.

When John and Mary met, Mary was a widow with a young son, Ifas Nicolae Ellingson. They were married at the St. Pauli Church at Hendrum, Minnesota, on December 10, 1883. John traveled throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, the Dakotas, and even so far as Washington, building Lutheran churches wherever he went. He became known as the "Church Man." Mary followed him and made a home wherever he went to find work:

Their first child, Karl Thomas, died when he was two days old at Hendrum in 1886. About 1888, John and Mary went to Spokane, Washington, where Mabel Andom was born. By 1892, the family had returned to Hendrum where Nils John Julius was born. About 1894, he moved to Henning, Ottertail County, where he built yet another church and where Selma Josephine was born. She died at the age of four.

Around 1897, John homesteaded in Skagen Township near old Greenbush (Section 31, Township 161 N, Range 42 W), recording the patent in Crookston on December 30, 1897. The Reins were active in many of the early Lutheran churches of the area. John built the Rose Lutheran Church and was the artist of the original altar painting, which now resides in the Roseau County Museum. He was involved in the organization of the Hvidsol Bethania Congregations and helped build the Bethania



Rein Altar Painting from Rose Lutheran Church - chosen to be on the Minnesota Bicentennial post card Issued by the Norwegian American Museum at Decorah in 1976. (picture from Roseau County Museum)

Lutheran Church near Old Greenbush.

Their daughter Clara Jonetta was born in 1897. About this Mary Rein (the mother) became ill and John asked for leave from his homestead to take his wife to seek medical help. Dr. Lawrence Parker of Roseau gave a statement that Marie was suffering from pulmonary phthisis (TB) and that she needed a change of climate. The affidavit was dated September 7, 1898.

The Rein family left Greenbush and went to Willis, Brown County, Kansas, to be near the hospital. A son, Selmer Tideman was born there in 1899. Sometime after 1900, the family moved back to Greenbush, and a son, Justin Malvin was born in 1903. Later that year, John took on a job to build a church at Fisher, Minnesota. Mary's oldest son, Ifas, died there on August 14, 1903, and Mary Opthun Rein died there on November 19, 1903, at the age of 44.

In 1904, John's father, Karl Rein, now widowed, sold his homestead and went back to Norway. John also decided to leave and sold his homestead to Olaus T. Lanegraff on January 24, 1904. He took his family and moved to Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin.

Notes: *John Rein's altar painting of "Last Supper" from the Rose Lutheran Church was chosen to be on the Minnesota Bicentennial post card issued by the Norwegian - America Museum at Decorah, Iowa in 1976. The painting was chosen to be part of the Bicentennial Exhibition of Minnesota Art and Architecture. It now resides in the Roseau County Museum.

*JoOO and Mary's son, Nils John Julius Rein, is the famous Norwegian concert violinist.

*Malena Rein, John's mother, born in 1834, died on September 5, 1896, and was the first recorded death in the Bethania Church Records. Hers was the first burial in Hvidso (Pioneer Haven) Cemetery. A was set by the family in 1996 when the cemetery was restored by Andy Gieseke as part of an Eagle scouting project. *Submitted by Eunice Korczak with thanks to Lisa Hanson for land patent research. Largely from articles appearing in Roseau County Heritage and Pioneers! O Pioneers! (Both are of the Roseau County Historical Society).*

Karl Olsen and Malena (Hvidhyld) Rein

Karl Olsen Rein was born March 31, 1827, at Leksvik, Statsbygd, Trondheim (NorTondelag), Norway, the son of Ole Olsen Rein and

Pedersdaughter Keiseraas. They lived on the farm Reinkind. Malena Olsdaughter Hvidhyld was born in 1834 to Ole Hvidhyld and Jonetta Vanvik. In 1854, when Karl was 27, he married Malena. He made two trips to America, the first in 1869. He left his family, wife, son, and two daughters on the Island of Hitra, and came to St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota. He worked on the construction of the American railroads for ten years.

Then he returned to Norway and brought his family back to Minnesota in 1878. At first they lived at Hendrum, Minnesota where they were members of St. Pauli Church. About 1895, Karl and some of the family moved to Roseau County "along the Trail."

At "Old" Greenbush, Karl and his wife, Malena, became charter members of the Bethania Lutheran Church. Karl applied for an 80-acre homestead in Section 9, in Stokes Township on September 4, 1900. It was patented in 1902.

Karl and Malena had three children: Johan "John" Arndt Karlsen Rein (Johanna Opthun from Hendrum); Karen Martha Rein (Christian J. Grothe who lived in Badger); and Jonetta Ovidia Rein (Ole G. Lee) who died at Hendrum. Malena died October 10, 1896, and is buried in the Hvidso "Pioneer" Cemetery at Old Greenbush.

Karl and his father, Ole Rein, and his son, John, were carpenters and built many of the early Lutheran churches in Minnesota, including those at Greenbush and Roseau. They also made other wooden things to sell, including pails, tubs, chums, and rolling pins. When there was a need, they made coffins, many of which were used for their own family members.

After the death of his wife and daughters, Karl Rein sold his farm to his neighbor, Eric Norman. He went back to live at Orlandet, Norway. He was then seventy-five years old. He married Martha Hansdatter Weklem in 1904. He died in December of 1916, eight months after his son John died in America.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with in/orlnation by Carol (Rein) Schwayder written for the Roseau County History Book.

Vincent and Marciana Retzki

The Retzki family and Stephen M. Sobtzak came to the United States from Posen, Poland in 1883. Retzkis and Sobtzaks first settled in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, then Winona, Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota and finally Leo, Minnesota.

Four daughters came with them from Skargacz, Poland. Ottilia married and stayed in Pennsylvania and raised a family of sixteen children. Mary married a Kinowski and lived in Winona, Minnesota, and raised a family of thirteen. Pauline married Stephen Martin Sobtzak and raised eight children near Leo, Minnesota.

The fourth daughter, Julia married Joe Pulczynski Sr. who farmed northwest of Leo, Minnesota and raised several children including Ed; Emil; Ottilia (who joined the Crookston Convent and took the name Sister Kostka); Benna Hasson (the mother of James Helen Novacek (the mother of Albina Blavat); and Joe Jr. (the father of Walter, Sylvia Jensen, Daniel, Edward, and Ernest).

Vincent and Marciana Retzki claimed a homestead in 1897 in Polonia Township Section 13. In 1899, their daughter Pauline and son-in-law, Stephen Sobtzak, came to Leo to work and live with them.

A new house was built in 1907, the year Ally Sobtzak was born. It was the third home built on this homestead. The first was a sod house. The second, built of was destroyed by fire.

The Retzki's farm was sold to their son-in-law, Stephen M. Sobtzak in 1910 and to Stephen and Pauline's son Ally in 1931.

Submitted by Dennis Sobtzak, compiled by Myrna Sovde. See Pauline and Stephen Sobtzak history.

Christine and Sander S. Rue

Christine Vallacker or Nygaard married Sander Rue in Mekinock, North Dakota in 1900*, the same year that Christine's stepfather, Syver Nygaard died. Christine was born in Stone Run, Minnesota to Lars and Malene Kirkeide Vallacker. Her father died in a snow-storm when she was a baby.

Shortly after their marriage, the Rues, Christine's recently widowed mother, and her four half-brothers, Ole, Lars, Tom and Knute Nygaard, moved to Roseau County and took homesteads in Deer Township. Malene took eighty acres on the southwest corner of Section 5 and Rues homesteaded the SW 1/4 Section 9 now owned by Larry Stephens. Tollef S. Rue a relative of unknown linkage to Sander Rue homesteaded the NE 1/4 Section 17 adjacent to the southwest of Sander's claim.

Sander Rue was among the petitioners for starting District 60 Gavick School in 1902 and was director on the first schoolboard.

Haldor and Moli Samstad

Haldor Samstad was born February 22, 1857, in Norway to Nels and Betsy Samstad, who were born in Norway. He died March 6, 1930.

Mrs. Moli Samstad was born March 20, 1860, in Selby, Norway to Joseph and Carrie Evjen, who were born in Norway. She came to this country in 1882, and settled at Madison, Minnesota, where she lived for 12 years.

They homesteaded in Roseau County in 1894 and lived on the homestead for 40 years and he was a farmer. They had fifteen children. She died at her home in Greenbush on December 7, 1932 at the age of 73 years. Her funeral was held at Bethania.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from Eunice Korczak taken from the Greenbush Tribune.

John Sannes

John Sannes was an elderly single man who lived in old empty buildings. For years he lived in the old schoolhouse, District 74, that sat on David Hanson's land. The school house was used for township meetings and voting while he lived there. His furnishings and belongings were sparse; his bed was but a cot. He worked for farmers for a living.

He talked broken English. One time Bernt Hanson's dog got into his food box and at his balcony. He went to the store where he bought it and expected a replacement. He said to the clerk, "Honson's hoon et al mine baloona."

Neighbor boys liked to play tricks on the old man which included plugging his chimney.

He drove an old coupe car but never learned how to shift the gears, so he started out in high gear and jerked, bounced, and chugged until it got rolling.

In his declining years he lived in the old Tangen house just west of Hansons. He died in the old folks home in Karlstad in the late 1940s.

Submitted by Art Anderson.

Hansine Olson- Jacob Anderson- Ole Sather

Hansine Esaiassen Olson was born in Ibestad, Norland, Norway, on June 20, 1871. She married Jacob Kristian Anderson in 1889, and in the ensuing eleven years they had seven children. They immigrated to America in 1894; the first three children were born in Norway, the last four in America.



Jacob and Hansine (Olson) Anderson family.
(photo courtesy of Jane Lorensen)

The Anderson children: Ove (Camilla Holm), Greenbush, carpenter; Anton (died at age 19); Jentoff (died in 1919 on a ship returning from the war); Hilmer, Greenbush, carpenter; Martin (Mabel Wold), Badger, farmer; Harda (Carl Hedlund and later Adolph Hagen); Hilda (Alfred Bergland) Wilmar.

The couple came to America with some of



Grownups LtoR: Albert Anderson, Amund Peterson, Sander Rue, Andrew Anderson, Theo Larsen, Hannah Larsen, Otto Foss, Anna Foss, Thone Anderson, Christine Thompson, Christine Rue, Annie Anderson, Kari Peterson. Front: Three girls on right from LtoR are Alice, Judith, and Agnes Anderson. *(photo courtesy of Donavafl Foss)*

Their oldest child, Selmer was six in the spring of 1903 when he first attended school.



Selmer and Baby Rue
(photo submitted by Paulette Melby)

That the Rues were active in community get-togethers was quite evident in old pictures taken in the neighborhood. Clarice Martinson's "Memories" which were partially from the remembrances of her older relatives confirmed that. "Mrs. Rue was a very active and talkative lady. Once she walked the distance of about two miles to attend Ladies Aid at Foss'. It was winter time, so she wrapped her baby in a blanket and quilt and carried it. When she walked into the house she discovered the baby was missing from the quilt. Retracing her steps she

found the baby laying in the snow where she had crossed a fence, still sleeping in his blanket! Once, when preparing to leave she went to the bedroom to pick up her sleeping baby. It was Tone (Thone) who discovered that Mrs. Rue had picked up the Anderson baby by mistake"

When the Rues moved back to North Dakota isn't certain, but it was before Christine's mother, Maline, died in 1929. Maline's obituary listed her survivors, her sons, Ole, Lars, Knute, and Tom and Mrs. Rue as being from Mekinock. The 1935 Atlas showed the Sander Rue claim owned by Winona State Bank.

The Rue children as far as can be gleaned from Gavick School and Bethlehem Church records were: Selmer Ludvig born 1897, Alf Marell 1898, Stella Maria 1900, Edwin Melanetan 1902, Calmer 1905, Tilmer (confirmed 1923), Carl Ellert 1910, Myrtle Sylvia Julianna 1912, Lillian Viola 1914, Bernice Clarise 1917, Ardel Calmer 1921.

*The Rue marriage date and date of Syver Nygaard's death came from family records, written by a niece in rather recent times, while the children's birth dates are from church records which were given by the **parents** at the time they occurred.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: school and church records, Kirkeide family records.

Hansine's (Olson) relatives. Most of the Olson family group ended up near Grand Forks, North Dakota, but Jacob and Hansine split off from the others and made their way to Roseau County, Minnesota, where they settled in Moose Township about four miles north of the site of Old Greenbush. Jacob died in 1900, while working in North Dakota. Transportation and communications being what they were, Jacob was buried before Hansine received notification of his death.



Ole and Hansine Sather (photo courtesy of Jane Lorenson)

In 1902, Hansine married Ole Sather, a bachelor. Their marriage is the first recorded in the Old Bethania Church records. They began their married life on Ole's farm just north of the site of the Old Bethania Country Church and Cemetery, about 3 miles north of Old Greenbush. (Old Greenbush was located at the junction of Minnesota Highway 11 and County Road 11.)

When Ole and Hansine first married, they lived in a building later used as a little shop. Although there was a lean-to cookroom when Ole and Hansine lived there, it still was hardly large enough for a couple, much less a large family. The kids all slept in the loft, but it is difficult to imagine how they managed in the tiny space.



Ole and Hansine (Olson Anderson) Sather family. Back: Ove, Anton, Martin, Jentof, Harda and Hilda Anderson. Front: Emil, Arnt, Ole, Alma, Hansina, Alfred, and Tillie Sather. (photo courtesy of Jane Lorenson)

Ole and Hansine had seven children together: Emil, Arnt, Alfred, Leonard, Oliver, Alma, and Otelia (Tillie). In the midst of all these births, they eventually found time to move to a farm with a larger home, not quite a mile south (later the Leonard Sather farm).

Ole's death is recorded in the Pennington County "Return of Deaths" for 1920. There he is listed as having succumbed to "cirrhosis of the liver, TB of the right hip, and stony of the bladder"

on February 17, 1920. His parents are listed as Eric Sather and Kersti Olsen. Ole died in the TB sanitarium in Pennington County, Minnesota, hence the death registration in that county.

Hansine, a Gold Star Mother, lived another 20 years after Ole's death. She suffered a stroke in 1938, and died in 1940. Both Ole and Hansine are buried in the old rural Bethania Cemetery, also known as the Sather Cemetery. The cemetery land was originally part of Ole's farm; he donated land on which to establish the original (rural) Bethania Church and Cemetery-- so in effect, Ole remains on his homestead.

The Sather children: Emil (Emily Haug) Greenbush, farmer; Oliver (died as an infant); Otelia (Syver Klopp and later Ted Hagen); Amt, Greenbush, farm hand; Alma (Oscar Graft), Greenbush; Alfred (Deborah Graft), Greenbush, farmer, trucker, Greenbush business man; Leonard (Maymie Roberts), Greenbush, farmer.

Although none of the Anderson/Sather children are living, many of their descendants remain in Greenbush and the surrounding area. Submitted by Eunice Korczak.

Emil and Katherine Schaller

Emil Karl Schaller was born to Johan and Margaret Barnickel Schaller of Scheckenlohe, Germany, on May 10, 1878. On April 15, 1895, he came to Mendota, Illinois, where he was employed as a farm laborer. Later he homesteaded in Perkins County, South Dakota. Emil became a citizen of the United States on September 6, 1901.

When he came to Roseau County he had already used his homesteading rights, so he purchased state land in Section 20 of Hereim Township a couple miles west of Greenbush where he started farming. Schallers called that property behind Stolp's place "the sand slough."

On July 10, 1912, Emil married Katherine Marie Ambacher at Redfield, South Dakota. Katie was born in Germany on September 1, 1890, to George and Elizabeth Ambacher. She came to the United States when she was 17. Alma Anderson thought Katie was the prettiest girl she had ever seen.

Emil brought Katie back to Greenbush to start their long life together. In December they bought Anna Myra's homestead, the NE 1/4 Section 19, a mile west of Emil's other land. This homestead was on the ridge, with high land and dry sandy soil. By 1913 he had also bought the NE 1/4 of Section 30 on the south side of Two Rivers.

The Myra property had a new house that served the family until after Katie died, but all the other buildings were added. The farmstead along the highway was always neat and attractive. One of the



Schaller farm west of Greenbush. (photo submitted by Raymond Schaller)

most noticeable features of the farmstead was the row of lilac bushes along Highway II. The beauty was and is remarkable.

Emil and Katie had four children. Clayton, 1913-2000, married Louise Olaf. Maybelle, 1923-2004, married William Wilson, Jr. and had three children Allen, Gary, and Ward. Raymond, 1931, married Lizzie Burkel Schires and lived on the home place. Florence, 1935, married Gerald Dvergsten and had four sons, Roger, Ronnie, Randy, and Greg.

Emil began raising potatoes in 1922, and eventually went to raising certified seed potatoes. They had a potato warehouse on the west side of the farmstead. They also milked cows and raised grain. Both Clayton and Raymond farmed with their dad all their lives. The girls were skilled farm hands too.

Katie always had a beautiful garden and flowers and did a lot of canning. She also did intricate fancywork, crocheting, knitting, tatting, and quilting.

Emil died October 4, 1971, at age 93 and Katie died November 15, 1988, at age 98, proof that hard work never killed anyone.

In 1989, Raymond and Lizzie tore down the old house and built a new one. The oak grove now has another home on the east end, and a business, Wahl Brothers Racing, tucked in amongst the oaks. But cattle still pasture among the oak trees and the lilac bushes still bloom every spring.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde with information from The Tribune, Roseau Times - Region, Raymond Schaller, and Florence Dvergsten.

John and Flora Scheldorf

John and Flora Scheldorf came to Roseau County from Manning, 1918. They purchased the Christ Dallager homestead in Section 34 of Dewey Township.

They raised cattle, sheep, and many hogs, shipping a carload of hogs each year according to a Tribune in November 1924.

John was an outspoken man while his wife was a **stay** at home, quiet farm wife and a nice lady. They had no children.

John was active in the community. He was a comet player in the Greenbush Community Band who liked to show off his playing ability by going on stage and playing solo numbers before the program started.

During prohibition days John made moonshine. His still was in the basement under the hog house. He had a wood stove on the main floor of the hog house so the chimney for the still went inside and up through the wood stove and then out the roof. All other bottles and such were stored in the attic of the chicken house.

All neighbors knew about his operation, but no one ever turned him in. A teenager who worked for John claims the pigs were often drunk from eating mash dumped into the manure pile. One time a neighbor hitched a ride into town to go shopping. When John discovered "revenuers" in town, he hurried the neighbor along, because he had to get home to hide "stuff."

John drove a Dodge coupe and was up at Caribou, either going to or coming from Canada when the revenuers started chasing him. He had a faster car (with bigger tires on the rear) and outran them, but got four bullet holes in the trunk of his black car. He plugged the holes with lead, painted them black, and drove it many more years. He never did get caught.

In 1942 when his wife fell ill, they prepared to return to Iowa. She died on the scheduled auction day. He took the body to Iowa for burial and returned to have the auction.

The still machinery used to make his moonshine was placed on

the auction sale right along with the other goods. John sold the farm to Martin Kirkeide and moved back to Manning, Iowa.

Submitted by Art Anderson and Myrna Sovde.

Charles and Rosella (Meier) Schaefer

Charles A. Schaefer's family originally came from near Berlin, Germany. First they immigrated to Illinois. Charles was born March 18, 1882, in Meadow, Illinois, and died November 15, 1970. When Charles was fifteen, after his father died, his mother homesteaded near Badger. Charles met his wife, Rosella Meier, while he was working in a livery stable in Badger. Her parents were Andrew and Suzanne Meier who had come to homestead in Roseau County. Rosella was born May 4, 1890, in Bellingham, Minnesota, about twenty miles east of Milbank, South Dakota. She died April 13, 1976.

After Charles and Rosella were married on July 6, 1915, they lived in several places around Greenbush before settling in Barto Township Section 36. The Schaefer's house, which was right next to the railroad tracks, was demolished. Chester and Veronica Novacek have a new house just north of where the house stood.

Charles had a butcher shop in town and he had also worked at the elevator. They farmed, had sheep, and as Delores recalled, milked twenty-one cows. Everyone had to help. Rosella was a good all-around worker, both inside and outside.

Charles and Rosella's children were: Catharine (3/24/1916-4/10/1998) married Donald Remme; Charlotte (7/6/1918-9/2/1994) married Edgar Erickson; Sammy (10/2/1920-1/16/1981) served in WWII; Harriet (1/19/1921) married Bill Marcoulier; Charles (10/15/26-7/5/90); Rosemary (3/22/1930-1/3/1989) married Marlow Johnson; Delores (3/22/1930) married Palmer Haugtvedt. There was also a step brother, John, from Charles' first marriage.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Delores Schaefer Haugtvedt.

Samuel and Bertha (Mitchem) Shafer, Sr.



1934 - A friend, Sam Jr., and Sam Sr. in front of Shafer cabin. (photo courtesy of Diane Shafer)

Samuel and Bertha (Mitchell) Shafer, Sr., were from Pennsylvania and near the turn of the century they migrated to Minnesota. They were among the first home-

steaders in Roseau County, finding land they wanted to claim just southeast of Badger. The family lived in a one-room cabin with paper tacked to the walls for insulation. Finding enough food was always a problem- there were no deer in the area in those years due to abundance of timber and brush wolves. Sam, Sr. used to tell of hearing the wolves howl all around the cabin almost every night. The men in the area made extra money by hunting wolves and coyotes for the bounty they brought.

Submitted by Diane Shafer.

Albert and Julia Shimpa

Albert Shimpa was born in Kimball, South Dakota, in 1892. His parents were Joseph and Mary (Pospachal) Shimpa. Both were born

in Bohemia. Albert Shimpa was one of ten children.

Julia was born in Barnett Township on July 4, 1902. Her parents were Ludvig Kaml of Germany and Agnes Hlucny of Bohemia. Ludvig came to America when he was 26 years old. Agnes came over at the young age of 16.

Albert moved to Barnett Township after living in South Dakota, Florida, and Willmar, Minnesota. He married Julia Kaml in 1921. They farmed, raising grain that was cut with a binder and shocked by hand for threshing. Dairy cows, sheep, chickens were raised, and a garden was planted for canning food. Clothes were sewn to help with expenses.

Albert passed away in 1961. Julia worked in the Greenbush Hospital for eight years. She also bowled and was active in the Senior Center.

Albert and Julia had five children: Albert (Evelyn Nowacki), Louis (Elvina Wiskow), Julia (Floyd Wiskow), Lillian (Marvin Mattson), and Florence (Gayford Gustafson).

Submitted by Julia (Shimpa) Wiskow and information taken from the Roseau County Heritage book.

Joseph and Mary (Pospachall Shimpa)

Joseph Shimpa was born in Bohemia. In the old country their name was Shimpach, after the county they lived in. In coming to America, they lived in many places until they came to Roseau County and settled down on a farm.

They built roads with horses and scraper and also drilled wells. The well for the Greenbush Creamery was drilled by Shimpas.

Mary Pospachal was born on November 15, 1860, at Chasko, Slovakia. She came to the United States at the age of six with her parents. Joseph and Mary married in Boscobel, Wisconsin. They homesteaded in South Dakota, two years after their marriage. After seven years, they moved to Willmar, Minnesota, where they lived for twenty years.

In the early 1900s, they moved to Roseau County, Barnett Township, and lived there until her death in 1933, from a stroke at age 72.

At the time of her death, Mary had eight surviving children: Mary Sluka, Emma Feiferak, Victoria Clemetson, Mike, John, Albert, Joseph, Jr., and Josephine Clemetson.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak and Julia Wiskow.

Reverend Annanias and Anna Skogerboe

Annanias Skogerboe was born in Ardahl, Norway, June 15, 1876, and came to Iowa at age 20. In 1907, he graduated from the Red Wing Seminary. He came directly to Greenbush, his first parish, in



Reverend Annanias Skogerboe, Judith, Norris, Alpha*, and Anna Skogerboe.
(photo courtesy of Lilly Bingaman)

1907. In 1908, he married Anna Gurine Grinde in Portland, North Dakota.

Reverend Skogerboe ministered to Vestre Pople Grove, Bethlehem, Moland, and other churches in that parish. Former pastors of these churches had been farmers and lived in the country. He was the first of the ministers to live in town; he and his family lived three houses north of the Moland Lutheran Church, which was located on the site where Blessed Sacrament Church stands today.

The first record in the church minutes of the Hauge Synod Moland (Bethel) Busy Bees was February, 1914, when Mrs. Skogerboe served coffee and collected \$1.15.

While the Skogerboes were in Greenbush, a baby son, Joseph (or Norman Joseph) died and was buried in the Moland Cemetery. Church records said, "Joseph," but courthouse records said, "Norman Joseph." The baby was born Mardi 3, 1909.

The Skogerboes were in Greenbush from 1907 until 1917, after which they went to Thief River Falls; then to Erskine from 1919 until 1953. Reverend and Mrs. Skogerboe had five living children when the pastor died (year not found): Alpha (Mork), Judith (Hyland), Norris, Rudolph, and Arvid. The Skogerboe name is still remembered in the area because their son, Rudy, was a doctor in Karlstad, and then in Grand Forks.

*Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Bethel Archives and other church records; Roseau County Courthouse. *The children's names are assumed from birth order listed in the obituary.*

John and Ida Skogstad

John Skogstad came to Dewey Township in the fall of 1896 with six other men from Norman County Minnesota. According to Dr. T. E. Dufwa, all seven men spent the winter in a small log hut they quickly constructed. Then, during the winter, each cut logs for his own cabin.

John homesteaded the SW 1/4 of Section 14 in Dewey Township between David Hanson and the Stenberg farm. The deed was recorded as June 20, 1905.

Ida Skogstad came sometime later to keep house for her brother. They had some cattle and a team of horses but no car. They had a wagon with a low box on it and a buckboard seat in front. John was just a little man and Ida was a pretty hefty woman. When they came driving to Pauli Church, Ida's side of the seat was way down and John's was way up. He was sitting half on the seat and sort of on her hip.

About 1938 they sold out and moved away.
Submitted by Art Anderson.

James and Frances (Wojciechowski) Smrstik

James (Jim) Smrstik was born in Wisconsin in 1890. His parents were John and Theresa Smrstik, who were born in Czechoslovakia. Jim came as a young child with his parents to Roseau County, settling on a farm in Barto Township, located at S 1/2 SW 1/4 Section 4 and N 1/2 NW 1/4 Section 9, near Greenbush, where he attended school and grew to manhood. He married Frances Wojciechowski on May 3, 1921. Her parents were Joseph and Mariana Wojciechowski. She was born on February 18, 1895. Both Jim and Frances spent nearly all their lives in the Leo community of rural Greenbush.

Jim was a farmer and was also active in community affairs. He



Jim and Frances Smrstik 1957.
(photo courtesy of Elinor Koshenina)

served for many years on the Barto Township Board, was a member of the school board, and served on the Roseau County A. S. C. Board. Frances was a homemaker and a saleslady at the Hildahl store in Greenbush. She also was a clerk at the Pete Dembiczak store for years. She was very active in the Country Homemakers Club, where she was a leader and reporter for many years. Jim and Frances had one child, a daughter who passed away shortly after birth.



Jim Smrstik, Alex Wojciechowski, and Frank Wirkus.
(photo courtesy of Elinor Koshenina)

After Jim passed away in September of 1969, Frances had an auction sale and purchased a home in Greenbush: Lots 10, 11 & 12 of Block 3 of the Pulczynski Addition to the Townsite of West Greenbush. She lived in that house until she moved into a nursing home in Roseau, where she passed away in January of 1987. A niece and her husband, Elinor and Jerome Koshenina, purchased her home in 1984. Since they needed more space for their family, an addition was built onto the house. Elinor and Jerome continue to live there. Submitted by Elinor (Kukowski) Koshenina.

Around H. and Eroelia Snare

Amund Halvorson Snare was born either January 19, 1847 (record from Norway) or January 12, 1846 (from death record). He was born in (Snare) Vinger, now called Kongsvinger, Norway. Amund was the oldest son of Halvor Johannesen Snare and Maren Amundsdatter Snare. Amund came to Prince Edward Island, Canada, with his parents on June 30 or July 1, 1867, when he was eighteen years old. The nine children ranged from a few months old, to eighteen years old. What a trip that must have been! They were on the ocean for seven weeks and drinking water was in short supply. Henry (Halvor) contracted smallpox, and one of the boys broke a leg. They settled near New Hampton, Iowa, but moved near Hadley, Minnesota.

Amund's siblings were Martha (Amund Holman); John H. Snare (Gora Thompson/Ellen Hanson); Gurienne (John Anderson); Henry Snare (Annie Peterson); Sam Snare; Anne (Erik Solberg); Mam (John Olson); and Olliena (Fred Wiskow). (These were the names they used, not their birth names.) Their last name should have been Johnson, but since there were so many Johnsons they took the name

of the place they came from.

Amund married Emelia Ericksdatter, daughter of Erick Smestad. She was born in Norway on August 2, 1854.

Amund H. and Emelia had eight children. 1) Emma 1879-1957, married Sever Koldingnas. 2) Casper 1880-1968, was a plumber. His sons were Adrian and Charles. 3) Halvor, 1883, lived in Oregon and had one son, Alden. In 1913, Halvor owned the NE 1/4 Section 10 right across the road from his twin, Amund A. in the NW 1/4 Section 11 Huss Township.

4) Amund A., 1883-1955, married Lena Asleson and had eleven children, Adolph, Agnus, Amanda, Ellen, Floyd who died in WWII, Gust, Amund, Emma, Amy, Elsie, and Velna. 5) George 1885-1959 lived in Warren, Minnesota, and had two daughters. 6) Mensvil 1888-1975, married Marie "Mary" Hanson, lived near Pelan and had Cora, Myrtle, Emmett, Annie and Kenneth. 7) Ellert 1892-1972 (Elida Pederson) lived where Carl Brandvold and now Kappes live. His children were Art, Alvin, Eleanor, Ethel, Mildred, and Esther. 8) Albert Snare 1896-1981 (wife Annie) lived in Pelan and had Amos, Alice, and Irene.

Amund died November 20, 1918, and Emelia died June 1, 1929. They are buried at the United Free Lutheran Pauli Cemetery, near Pelan, Minnesota.

Submitted by Kenneth Snare. Compiled by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Snare family records from church records and Norway.

Mensvil and Marie Snare

Mensvil, 1888-1975, and Marie "Mary" Snare lived along Highway 11, on the E 1/4 of NE 1/4 Section 28 Dewey Township in the house where Torn Abrahamson lives now. It was Marie's father's homestead. Marie was the daughter of Ellert and Marie Hanson. Ellert, one of the early settlers in Dewey Township, lived across the highway and a little east of the range line.

Mensvil was the son of Amund and Emelia Snare, who were also Pelan pioneers. His brothers and sisters were Emma (Koldingnas), Casper, Halvor, Amund A., George, Ellert and Albert. Mensvil and Marie had five children, Cora, Myrtle, Emmett, Ann, and Kenneth. The children attended school at District 110, Sogn School, and also District 53 in Pelan.

Mensvil worked for Andrew Sogn on his farm a few miles south. Andrew Sogn was exactly 50 years older than Kenneth, Mensvil's youngest son, so they celebrated their birthdays together.

Kenneth recalled that times were really tough when he was growing up. Once his dad bought a cow at an auction sale for \$9 and had to borrow money from the bank (probably early 1930s).

His mother had a big garden and canned but it still wasn't enough food for the family. Because there wasn't enough food, Dad Mensvil went hunting out of season. In the late 1920s and early 1930s there were very few deer. The family saw a deer about once a month.

One time Mensvil took the rifle and followed a deer track all day. He came home and told Marie that he would go out the next day because he could see the track was becoming more and more fresh. The next day he took a sandwich along, and went out as soon as it was daylight. About 2:00 p.m. he got close enough to the deer and shot it. After he dressed it out he realized that he had followed it a long ways and was very far from home. Too far to drag the deer. But he got his bearings, and thought he knew where the county road was.

When Mensvil got to the county road, an old Model A coupe was sitting there. The fellow asked if he'd been hunting. Mensvil told him he'd shot a deer that he had dressed out and that now he needed

to go home to get his horse to haul the deer home.

The good fellow said, "That's okay. We can just pull it out and I'll help you get it home." The two proceeded to lay the deer in the back, took it to Mensvil's home and hung it in the tree.

Mensvil invited the fellow for supper. After they had eaten the fellow asked what Mensvil did with the hide.

Mensvil told him, "I got a deer about the same way last year." Then he took him into the bedroom and showed him that it was under the straw mattresses. He explained, "The floors are so cold and the cold goes through the mattresses. The hide really helps keep the cold out."

As the man was ready to leave, Mensvil said, "I can't offer you anything because I don't have anything to give you."

The man asked, "Don't you want to know who I am?"

"Yes," Mensvil answered, "because I want to thank you."

"Well I'm the game warden from Hallock. But I won't do anything because you've used everything and didn't waste anything."

In their later years, son Kenneth moved Mensvil and Marie to a small house in Hallock. Their last years were spent in the Greenbush Nursing Home.

Submitted by Kenneth Snare, compiled by Myrna Sovde. See Ellert Hanson and



Marie and Mensvil Snare and Uncle John Jenson. *Amund Snare history.*
(photo courtesy Kenneth Snare)

Stephen M. and Pauline Sobotzak

The Retzki family and Stephen M. Sobotzak came to the United States from Posen, Poland, in 1883. They first settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, then Winona and St. Paul, Minnesota, and finally Leo, Minnesota.



Stephen M. and Pauline Sobotzak moved to Polonia Township in 1899. (photo courtesy of Dennis and Eloise Sobotzak)

Stephen Martin Sobotzak and Pauline B. Retzki married in 1888. For about ten years while in St. Paul, they worked at the James Hill Mansion (the owner of the Great Northern Railroad). Stephen and Pauline came to Greenbush from St. Paul in 1899, by horse and wagon. A stagecoach ran from Stephen to Roseau with stops at Pelan and "Old Greenbush."

Pauline's parents, Vincent and Marciana Retzki, had already come to the Leo area in 1897 and filed a homestead in the south half of Section 13 of Township 10 North, Range 10 West, Leo Township. One eighty was 10 the south-

east quarter and the other eighty was in the southwest quarter. Stephen and Pauline lived and farmed with Retzkis and purchased the farm in 1910.

Stephen M. and Pauline had eight children. Stephen C. married Julia Briske of Warsaw, North Dakota, and lived in Coleraine, Minnesota. Henry married Nettie Mekash and farmed near Crookston. Rose married twice, a Meier and a Hoffman. Otilia, also known as Tillie or Lillian, married a Mr. Irvin, who died young of tuberculosis after returning from WWI. She then married Fred Gallagher and lived in Minneapolis. Anne, known as Sister Hyacinthe, joined the Crookston convent in 1921. She received her teaching degree at LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and worked fifty years teaching and as a school administrator. Helen married Richard Erespamer and lived in Tawas City, Michigan. Tony married Anne and lived and worked in Coleraine, Minnesota.

Ally Sobotzak bought the homestead from Stephen and Pauline in 1931. Ally met Catherine Spina when she came from Williams, Minnesota, to her first teaching job at District 58 in Polonia Township, near the Frank Novacek and John Lasniewski farms. He married Catherine and they lived on and farmed the homestead. Their children, Eileen and Dennis, were the fourth generation to live on the homestead which is now owned by Dale Kuznia.

Submitted by Dennis Sobotzak, compiled by Myrna Sovde.

Inger and Ole Sodnak

The family of Inger and Ole Sodnak first went to South Dakota and worked for awhile before coming to northern Minnesota. The Sodnak children were all adults when they came to homestead in Soler Township. Their children were John (Beret) Sodnak, Iver Sodnak, Andrew Lien, Louis who died in Norway, another Louis Sodnak, Peter Olson, and the youngest child, Anna Sodnak, who married Peder Nelson.

With the quota on immigrants only so many from a family could enter the United States, therefore some family members changed their names. This was not uncommon. As a result Pete became Olson. Why Olson? Because he was the son of Ole, a common Scandinavian practice of naming. But why Andrew chose Lien is unknown. It was also common when one child died very young to name another child with the same name (Louis and Louis).

Inger and Ole Sodnak homesteaded with their grown sons, Andrew and Iver. Andrew and Iver lived together and had a half section in Section 11, while brother Peder Olson had the SW 1/4 of Section 11. Louis Sodnak's quarter was two eighties in Sections 19 and 20. John Sodnak had two eighties in Sections 19 and 30. Beret Sodnak, John's wife, had two eighties in Sections 20 and 29. Sister Anna and Peder Nelson had land in Sections 1 and 12.

The brothers were instrumental in starting the Oiland Church and Iver was on the schoolboard. District 22 schoolhouse was located in Section 11 on Peter's land.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Norma Brinkman, Roseau County Atlas.

Andrew and Carrie Sogn

Four Sogn brothers, three Sogn sisters and their father Hans H. Sogn settled within a few miles of one another in Lind and Dewey Township. Most filed on their own homesteads.

Andrew Sogn was the only one of the Sogn Brothers to marry, to a woman named Carrie. This made some of the history very con-

fusing having a wife Carrie and a sister that was Karen or Kari or Carrie, depending on who was recording information. The first entry **about** Andrew and Carrie having a child, was an eye popper. What? Carrie was his sister! No, not this Carrie.



Helmer (Odin) and Helen SogD born 1910.
(photo courtesy Noreen Lorensen)

Andrew and Carrie had four children. Alice **born** in 1908, twins Helmer and Helen born in 1910, and Bertram born 1913. Andrew homesteaded the N 1/2 SW 1/4 and N 1/2 SE 1/4 Section 4, Lind Township. This was a mile quarter across the middle of the section, not along the section line.

In 1918-1919, Odin (Helmer), Helen, and Alice Sogn attended school in District 110 which was called the Sogo School. Why it was called that isn't

known since it wasn't on Sogo land. But half of the school children (three) were Sogos. Andrew Sogn was on the schoolboard that **year**, as well as in 1924-25 and 1925-26 and perhaps other years.

The marriage broke up **and** Carrie and the children moved to Saskatchewan, Canada, where they farmed. The boys were very successful farmers.

Andrew stayed on the **farm** and his sister Helen kept house for him. Neighbors remember Andrew's children visiting during the summer. In Andrew and Helen's later years they moved to Greenbush, into the house west of the Bethel Church, later owned by Gladys Hontvet.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde and Art Anderson. Sources: Bethlehem records. school records. Kenneth Langaas. Roseau Co. Registrar.

Christian Sogn

Christian was **the** first of the Sogn **brothers** and sisters to claim to a homestead in Roseau County. His homestead patent was granted on May 25, 19m, which meant he filed on **the** homestead in 1898. Several other family members **came** from Barnesville, Minnesota, around that time or a little later. His sisters were Helen, Oline "Lena," and Karen "Kari/Carrie" and his brothers were Martin, George, and Andrew. Hans Sogo was his father.

Christ homesteaded 140 acres in sections 30 and 31 of Moose Township northeast of Greenbush. He later sold the homestead and bought the NW 1/4 Section 33 in Dewey Township to be closer to family members.

Christ was known for his musical ability. In 1903 the Bethlehem church requested that he lead the singing for the tiny congregation. They had no piano and evidently guitars or violins were not in vogue for church services. Later, they had a full fledged choir as shown on the photo. Christ was a **serious** director, expecting perfection in performances according to **those** whose parents were involved in the choir.



Bethlehem Church Choir: leader Christ Sogn (seated). Front **row**: Esther Anderson **Thrane**, Calma Langaas, Mary Wahl, Emma Wahl, Minnie Paulson Anderson; Second **row**: Norma Thrilne Svegdllhl, Emma Gustafson, Nelly Hagen, Mary **Peterson** Thrane, Olga Paulson **Anderson**; Back: John Langaas, Hjalmer Knutson, **Fred** Hagen, Bert Anderson; Leif Hagen, John Gustafson, Elmer **Anderson**, Hjalmer Thrane, Ole Svegdahl. (photo courtesy of Noreen Lorensen)

To the displeasure of the director and the pastor of Pauli Church, Christ was requested by some Pauli choir members to lead them. As the story was told, the choir was prepared to sing but the pastor never acknowledged them. After the service they all went up front, proceeded with their song and none of the congregation left. Later the Pastor chastised T. E. Dufwa, who had nothing to do with the "choir uprising;"

In 1917, Christ was elected Justice of the Dewey Township and was a director of the new publicly owned Pioneer Telephone **company** in 1919. In 1923, he was one of fifteen organizers of the Greenbush Credit Company.

The Sogo brothers farmed quite an extensive acreage for the times. They also had machinery, other than horse drawn machinery, before most people did. His brother, Martin, and sister, Lena, lived with him on the farm in Dewey Township.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Art Anderson. Pauli in the Park by Eunice Korczak. Bethlehem records. homestead patent. See Nels and Karen Dallager, and other Sogn histories.

Hans H. Sogn and George Sogn

According to one **source**, three Sogo brothers (pronounced song) and three Sogn sisters **filed** for homesteads. I couldn't find evidence for that. I found three Sogo sisters, Helen, Lena, and Karen (Kari/Carrie) and a **sister-in-law** (Carrie) and five Sogn men: Andrew, Christ, Martin, Hans and George. Hans was the father. Carrie Sogn, Christ H. Sogn, Andrew Sogo and Martin H. Sogn and Hans H. Sogo were issued homestead patents. (If others were issued, they didn't come up.) The Carrie Sogo patent was Karen Sogo Dallager.

The Sogns came from Barnesville, Minnesota. Christ came about 1898, which was proven by his patent and the other family came by or before 1900. About 1880, they emigrated from Hadeland, Norway. **It's** unknown whether Hans' wife Sofia, the mother of his children, was alive at that time.

The Sogos were members of Bethlehem Church in Lind Township. In 1904, those who formally joined the church were Andrew, Hans H., Carrie H. and C. H. Christ/Christian.

The source first indicated, also said that Christ Sogo homesteaded

in Soler Township. He actually homesteaded 140 acres in Sections 30 31 in Moose Township across the line from Soler Township in 1898.

Hans H. Sogn came to homestead after his son Christ had already homesteaded in Roseau County. His homestead patent was granted November 14, 1905, the same day as Carrie's. Hans homesteaded a mile quarter along the south side of Section 1 in Lind Township. Later, John Langaas owned the west eighty and Albert Anderson the east eighty. The land is now owned by Kenneth Langaas and Edsel Anderson, respectively. The building spot was on the south-west part of the SE 1/4.

Hans died in 1913. His son, George Sogn, was born October 12, 1886, in Clay County Minnesota and died at Oakland Park Sanitarium in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, on '30, 1929, of tuberculosis of the lungs. He was buried in Barnesville.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Bethlehem records" Art Anderson, Noral Sovde, 1913 Roseau County Book, homestead patent research by Linda Blumer. See Karen Sogn Dallager history.

Martin Sogn and Lena Sogn

Martin H. Sogo never married. He homesteaded the NW 1/4 Section 4 in Lind Township receiving his deed March 19, 1904, which meant he claimed it five years earlier in 1899. However he didn't live there. He probably only lived there, until the "proved up." He lived a mile north on the NW 1/4 Section 33 in Dewey Township which was his brother Christ's land that Christ bought to be closer to the rest of the family. Christ, Martin and their sister (Oline) Lena lived there together.

In addition to his homestead quarter, Martin also owned the NE 1/4 Section 12 of Lind Township in 1913. Martin was a quiet, stay at home, and work oriented man who always smoked a pipe. In 1899, he was a signer on the petition for forming School District 26 in Lind Township. Lena was a quiet reserved lady also. She kept house for her bachelor brothers, Martin and Christ, and her daughter Grace.

In the 1940s, Grace and her husband Gail Rowley took over the farm. At the present it is owned by Wayne Juhl.

Sogn brothers owned a threshing rig and did custom threshing. They also did custom ditching with an outfit called a stump puller which operated like a and tackle and worked well for ditching in wet places.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde and Art Anderson. Sources: Kenneth Langaas, Noral Sovde, research on patents Linda Blumer.

Lars and Minda Sovde

Lars O. Sovde was born, Lars' O. Olson, on 8, 1867, at Lystersogn, near Bergen, Norway, where he was a tailor. Lars, like so many other immigrants, took the name of a place. When Lars first emigrated from Norway in 1887, he homesteaded in Saskatchewan, Canada. In 1893, he went to Norman County Minnesota.

Karl Bjerck was born in 1874, and married Lars Sovde in 1893, probably in the Hendrum area since that was where Ole was born. Karl and Lars had four children, Olai (Ole) in 1893, Hilma 1895, Thea (Thora) 1897; Clara 1899; Karl died in 1899 or early 1900 when Clara was a baby. 'Supposedly, she is buried in Winger.

In 1900, married Minda Stabenfeldt in Norman County. Eight

children were born to this marriage. Ida 1901, Charlotte 1903, Melvin 1905, Lue 1907, Olga 1910, Nestor 1912, Erling 1915, and Gladys 1917.

It is not quite clear just where Lars and the family lived during some of these years. Melvin was born in Norman County, but Olga was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. And, possibly they were the Sovdes who lived five miles southeast of Hallock on Section 26 Thompson Township.

In 1915, Lars brought his family to Roseau County where he engaged in He bought 200 acres in Section 16 Hereim Township. The farmstead was across the highway from the Blessed Sacrament Cemetery. In later years it was called the Fred Ruscher place.

Lars was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church and a member of the Northern Minnesota Laymen's Federation, of which he was treasurer from 1928 until his death in 1936. Ole's family referred to him as a "fire and brimstone" preacher. The family joined the Moland church on January 1, 1916. Lars served on the church council in several capacities. He was Sunday School Superintendent and was also hired to teach parochial school. As early as 1920, he was unhappy with the pastor. This came to a head in 1922. The family left Moland and joined St. Olaf where he was council secretary from 1923-25. (His handwriting was easy to read.) He was also kirkesanger (songleader, I think). Ironically, in 1925, Moland and St. Olaf joined to become Bethel.

In November 1920, Lars Sovde bought another (Berggren and later Froemke) a couple miles east of Greenbush on Highway 11 in Skagen Township from Bernt and Cora Hanson for \$4800. The quarter stretched a mile long on the west sides of Sections 30 and 31. The old house is still standing on Highway 11 between Kurt and Gene Wojchowski's homes. Melvin and Luella lived there for several years and also Ida when she taught in District 1.

In 1925, Lars had an auction sale on the farm west of Greenbush. Later the family then moved to Section 34 Deer Township a half mile west of the Strathcona Cemetery. Lars and Minda lived there until their deaths and were buried in the Strathcona Cemetery. Lars had sisters living in Mahanomen and Hendrum, and a brother in Norway when he died on May 30, 1936.

Olai (Ole), 1893, at a very age worked in Moose Jaw/Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada during wheat harvesting. He was a WWI veteran stationed in South Carolina. He became a barber and restaurant owner in Holt, Minnesota. Ole, wife Luella Johnson, and son Lowell moved to Oklee where they owned and a thriving store.

Hilma, 1895, married Mr. Herring. Thea (Thora), 1897, married Verner Lindquist of Marshall County on December 31, 1916, and later, Mr. Mingo. She had a daughter Vi. Clara, 1899, married Mr. Brem(n)berg. Ida, 1901, (Walter Netteberg) taught in rural schools, in Greenbush and in Thief River Falls.

Charlotte" 1903, (Jack Ritchie of Grafton) moved to Washington state. Their children were Margie, Charlene, Clint, Darlyns, and Roger. Melvin, 1905, (Mabel Wollin) operated Sovde and Sons and lived in Karlstad and Greenbush. Their children were Lyle, Donna, Melvern, Merlyn, Richard, Lois, and Melvin Junior. Luel, 1907, farmed by Strathcona.

Olga, 1910, (Carl Berg) was also a teacher. She died young leaving children, Darlene and Allen. Nestor, 1912, (Mabel Dallager) farmed west of Greenbush, had one son Noral. Erling, 1915, (June) farmed on Lars' last farm by Strathcona. They had two children, Sharon and Erving. Gladys, 1917, (Bert Gjovik) had son, Bert

Jr. and farmed south of Strathcona.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Lois Sovde Chrzanowski, Richard Sovde, Doris (Lowell) Sovde, David Sovde, Darlene Berg Steiger, Greenbush Tribune obituary, Moland and St. Olaf records, Roseau Co. Registrar.

John and Victoria (Kukowski) Stanislawski



Peter, Leo, and Alex (in front) Stanislawski at their home across from the church at Leo about 1911. (photo courtesy of Alice (Floyd) Blawat)

In 1875, John Stanislawski was born in Winona, Minnesota, to Joseph and Augustina Stanislawski, who were both born in Germany. John came to Roseau County about 1898 or 1899 and homesteaded the NE 1/4 Section 19 in Barto Township, across the road to the west of the Leo church.

John's brother, Joseph Stanislawski, had the quarter, a mile west and a mile south, which was about a half mile across country in Section 24 of Polonia Township. John's father, Joseph Stanislawski, had the NW 1/4 of Section 30, Barto Township.

About two years after coming to the Leo area, John married Victoria Kukowski. Victoria was born in 1876, in Dodge, Wisconsin, to Anthony Kukowski and Elizabeth Schrieberg. Unlike most of the new homesteaders, both John and Victoria **spoke** English.

On April 29, 1927, John died a sudden death while dynamiting stumps. He was only 52 years old. The Greenbush Tribune reported, "For a number of years he was the storekeeper and postmaster at Leo and held township offices many times. He was one of those genial, God fearing men, whom everybody was glad to have as a friend. Although not enjoying the best of health of late years, he could not remain idle and was up and doing whenever



Mother Victoria holding Leo, Rose Pelowski, the hired girl, Joe, Agnes, Father John, Helen, and Peter about 1906 at their Leo home. (photo courtesy of Frances (Alex) Stanislawski)

possible. He was a jovial disposition and had a welcome smile and cheery word for all."

After the first postmaster, P. Y. Johnson, became ill, the post office was moved to the Stanislawski corner by the Leo Church, where John Stanislawski was postmaster until December 1913.

John and Victoria's children were: Joe (1898-1978), Peter (1900-1964), Agnes (1901-1973), Helen (1902-1990), Leo (1904-1952), Alex (1907-1984), and Theresa (1921-1989). Joe, Agnes, Helen and Leo lived with their widowed mother and never married. Leo died young of multiple sclerosis. Theresa moved to Chicago and never married. Hilda Carolyn Johnson boarded with the family in the 1930s, when she taught at District 13 a mile south of Leo.

Alex and Peter married local girls. Peter married Rose Dolney and moved to Racine, Wisconsin. Their children were Lorraine Widmaier, Marie Anderson, Dorothy Wells, Irene Holly, and Robert Stand. Robert was in business and changing his name was expedient.

Alex married Frances Efta, who told him it was a good thing she came along so he would have somebody to marry, because everyone else in the neighborhood was related to him. Alex and Frances lived and farmed in Section 23, Polonia Township, until their retirement. Their children are Georgine (John McMartin), Alice (Floyd Blawat), Louise (Dennis Brekke), Gerald (Renee Larson), John (Connie Loken), and Kathy (Tim Timm).

Victoria was over eighty years old when she died in 1960. The homestead remained in the family throughout the years. John W. and Connie Stanislawski live on Grandpa John and Grandma Victoria Stanislawski's homestead at the present time.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Frances Stanislawski and Alice (Floyd) Blawat, Greenbush Tribune. See Joseph and Augustina Stanislawski history.

Joseph and Augustina (Mazik) Stanislawski

Joseph Stanislawski was born in 1831 in Germany. In 1870, he married Augustina Mazik who was born somewhere between 1842 and 1847, also in Germany. They were married in Germany in 1870. They came to the United States with a few young children and lived in the Winona, Minnesota area. By the time they came to Roseau County in 1898 or 1899, most of their children were grown. They settled in the Leo area.

They were the parents of John, Joe, Stanley, Peter, Steve, Sister Eisebia, Elizabeth (Kukowski) and Pellgral Pelagia (Zabrocki).

John married Victoria Kukowski. Their seven children were Joe, Peter (Rose Dolney), Agnes, Helen, Leo, Alex (Frances Efta), and Theresa.

Joe married Regina Maikowski. Their nine children were Frances (Harold Johnson of Barto Township), Felix (Millie), Agnes (Paul Pulczinski), Elizabeth (Ben Landowski), Ann (Harold Pauker), Richard, John L. (Christine Kasproicz), Frank, and Veronica (Bill Schoen).

Stanley, Peter, and Stephen and Sister Eisebia never married.

Elizabeth married Peter Kukowski and had twelve children, John, Frank, Stanley (Carol), Chester (Bernice Gajeski), Ally (Betty Gajeski), Helen, Frances (Art Braun), Bernice, Marie (John Chrzanowski), Sister Josephine, Sofie (Carl Nelson), and Agnes (Max Lasniewski).

Pelagia (Tillie) married Gracian Zabrocki. They had nine children. Joseph (Stella Kukowski), Clara (Lawrence Lorbiecki), Nora (Paul Witzman), Marian (Walter Mlodzik), Harry (Emma Stenberg),

Albin (Isabelle Hennestad/Estelle), Florence (Ernest Fowler), Leonard (Leila Laud), Raymond died age 29, never married.
Submitted Myrna Sovde. Sources: Frances Stanislawski, Ally and Betty Kukowski, Elizabeth Landowski, and Leona Truscinski.

Joseph A. J. and Regina <Maikowski> Stanislawski

Joseph Stanislawski was born January 14, 1874, in Minnesota. He was the second son of a family of six boys and three girls. One son died in infancy. Joseph was educated in the Winona schools. All but one of the girls came with their parents to Roseau County in 1895, where Joseph, his father, and his brother John all filed homestead claims. Joseph and Martin Gonshorowski and another man walked to Crookston to file for their homestead rights. Joseph filed on what is now the southeast quarter of Section 24 in Polonia Township in 1895 and lived there until his death.

Regina Maikowski was born October 14, 1886, in Minnesota. Joseph married Regina in November of 1904 and they made their home on their homestead claim in Polonia Township. The early years were difficult ones. In addition to the need to clear land, they suffered through the weather and the inconvenience of the remoteness of the area. At that time the railroad came no closer than Stephen, and Joseph made many trips on foot, returning with a sack of flour on his back to share with his neighbors. The trip with oxen took three days and the road was often nearly impassable. In 1913, a tornado destroyed all of his buildings, most of his machinery, and some of his livestock.

In 1902, Joseph was elected clerk of Polonia Township, which was organized in 1899. In addition to holding that position for twenty-five years, he served as treasurer of the school district for twenty years, was a trustee of St. Aloysius Parish, and was a member of the Roseau County Draft Board during World War II.



Joe A. and Regina (Maikowski) Stanislawski.
(photo courtesy of Christine Stanislawski)

Joseph who knew both Polish and English often acted as interpreter, because many of the new settlers did not know English. For many years the town board meetings were conducted in Polish, but one day Joseph, the clerk, announced, "Today we will have to try to carry on in English, as we have an Irishman among us

and he doesn't understand Polish."

Joseph lived on the homestead in Polonia until his death on June 22, 1959. Regina died June 1, 1967, at Greenbush Hospital and is also buried at St. Aloysius.

Joseph and Regina Stanislawski had nine children: Felix; Agnes (pulczinski); Elizabeth (Landowski); John L.; Frances (Johnson); Ann (Pakuer); Veronia (Shoen); Frank; and Richard.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak with thanks to Lisa Hanson for researching dates and Christian Stanislawski for information provided.

Stanislawski Brothers. Steve and Peter

The Stanislawski brothers, natives of Winona, came to Greenbush with their Polish immigrant parents who homesteaded here in 1895. Their first spring here was devoted to breaking five acres of land with a team of oxen, hand seeding the patch, harvesting with scythes, and flaying the bundles to harvest the barley.

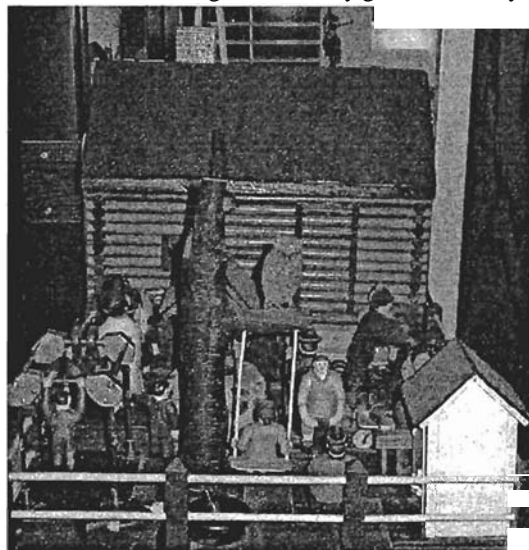
While the men worked in the field, the women did all of the household chores by hand-- churning butter, washing clothes on a wash board, grinding coffee, and even spinning yam.

In 1904, the brothers took over the farm, operating it for forty years. During that time most of the farming was done with horses, although they did have two tractors. According to Peter, "Tractors were in the development stage and we were able to get into the fields faster with horses. Farm work produced a lot of sweat in those days."

Steve and Peter retired in 1950 and moved into town. These busy men were not thrilled with facing a winter of nothing to do. Steve said, "We didn't know what to do with ourselves. We were used to keeping busy." But then he got an idea. He melted several old aluminum pots into small blocks, filed them down, and shaped them into miniature tools-- the old-fashioned kind they had used all those years on the farm. A hobby was born.

His brother, Peter, was an expert carver and carved parts for a miniature 1915 Case steam engine; then he sent them to a company to have them cast. Some parts he took to Polaris for boring and such; the rest he made by hand, filing and fitting so that everything worked. The result was a working miniature steam engine.

The brothers crafted a multitude of tiny items, not only farm machinery, tools, and farmyard animals, but also household equipment, like a coffee grinder. They garnered many a prize and award,



Working Model Farm made by the Stanislawski brothers. On display at Roseau County Museum. *(photo courtesy of the Museum)*

including numerous blue ribbons at county fairs and hobby shows, but perhaps the most well-known project is the miniature working farm that resides at the Roseau County Museum. It's a wonderful little working farm that includes eighteen carved people who perform chores, all operated by a hidden electric motor.

Perhaps the hobbies these men enjoyed are not so unusual, but what is unusual is the meticulousness of detail, entailed in the wonderful little old-fashioned items made from first-hand knowledge of their uses.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Condensed from newspaper articles provided by the family.

Henry and Louise (Berntsen) Stenberg

Henry Marius Stenberg was born on November 9, 1874, in Sogndal, Norway, the son of Amund and Engel (Sigbjornson) Stenberg. Amund was a farmer in a limited way. He raised potatoes, small grains, pigs and sheep, and he milked cows. The name of the farm, located about two English miles from the sea, was Stenberg, which means Stone Mountain. Henry was baptized in the Lutheran Church of Sogndal, Norway.

Henry came alone to America in 1893 by ship and worked as a farmhand near Cottonwood, Minnesota, for several years. He held other jobs in Minnesota and Montana before making a trip back to Norway to visit his family. After his return to America, he became a citizen in 1900 at the age of 25.

Louise Berntsen was born July 14, 1881, at Egersund, Norway, the daughter of Lars and Johanna Berntsen (Regedal). She lived in Norway until she was 15 years old and, as a child, used to ice skate on the lake directly back of her home. Her father, a baker in Norway, brought his family to America where they settled on a farm at Cottonwood, Minnesota.

On November 6, 1901, Henry and Louise were married at the Vinje Lutheran Church at Wilmar, Minnesota. They made their home in the Cottonwood area until 1907, when they moved their family to Dewey Township near Greenbush, Roseau County, Minnesota. They brought Arthur, Luella (Wilson), and Emma (Zabrocki) who was only two weeks old. Later children included Joseph, Harry, Norman, and Mabel (Bell).



Henry M. Stenberg family. Back: Luella, Art, Emma, Front: Harry, Mabel, Henry, Norman, Louise, and Joseph. (photo courtesy of Roy and Bev Holm)

The life of this pioneer family was desperately hard and the work of clearing and hewing out a forest of trees in order to obtain land to till was backbreaking. But there was determination, courage, and stick-to-it-iveness to be found in abundance in these pioneers. The pioneers also relied upon family togetherness and neighborhood togetherness-- and together they got it done! Eventually, the Stenbergs opened up a quarter of virgin land, which had been practically covered with willows, big poplars, and oak trees. This took about six years and was done with hand power and "live" horse power-- not mechanical.

The Stenbergs were members of the Pauli Church in Dewey Township. Henry served as chair of Dewey Township Board, chair of Roseau County School District 25, and Secretary-Treasurer of Pauli Lutheran Church.

The Pauli Church was built at the time that the Stenbergs came to the area. The building was crude; they had only benches to sit on and a "floor stove" for heat. Nearby was a bam in which the pa-

rishioners could house their horses during services.

Louise was involved with the church and her family and home. She served as treasurer of the Pauli Ladies Aid for many years. Louise was a kind, gentle Christian lady who could laugh easily and could spin really tall humorous tales for her grandchildren.

Henry and Louise farmed in the Greenbush area for 32 years. In 1939, they retired and moved to Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Louise died at 72 years of age at her home in Thief River Falls on October 10, 1953. Henry died at Northwestern Hospital of Thief River Falls on December 19, 1968. He was 94 years old. Both are buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Thief River Falls.

Four generations of Stenberg families have resided on the original Stenberg farm: Henry and Louise; Harry and Opal; Larry and Eunice; and Kurt and Bridget.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak from material submitted by Beverly Stenberg Holm, Thief River Falls.

Osmond Even and Hilma Matilda Suby

In 1903, Osmund Even Suby of Telemarken, Norway, met Hilma Matilda Larson of Julita, Sweden, at the old hotel in Crookston, Minnesota, where Hilma's culinary skills had become a local legend. Osmund's day of birth was July 15, 1877, in Telemarken, and Hilma Matilda was born in Julita, Sweden on December 26, 1878. Osmund, having a keen eye for beauty and kindness and a hearty appetite, courted the young and bright Swedish girl.

On January 30th, 1904, Osmund Suby married Hilma in Greenbush, Minnesota, the very same year that the Great Northern Railroad came to the area. Thus, the Subys began their marriage and started their family at the time the thriving new city of Greenbush started its own life. The Subys were members of the Moland Church until 1924 when Moland and St. Olaf united and became Bethel Lutheran.

Osmund farmed sweet clover, barley, wheat, and potatoes along with fields of blue flowering flax, on the quarter section of land homesteaded by his father and mother, Even and Sigri Suby in 1904. The elder Subys, Even and Sigri, had immigrated to America in 1882 where they settled in Chicago with their children, all born in Norway: Arnie, Olaf, Anne, Berget, Osmund, and Mareget. Later, in Chicago, Christian and Annette were born. The elder Subys moved from Chicago to Northwood, North Dakota, and, after homesteading a quarter section of land, they packed all their eight children into an oxen drawn wagon and traveled from Northwood to the Barto Township in the thriving area of Greenbush in 1904.

When Osmund grew, he took over the farm and worked the crops; he also raised milk cows and sheep. Hilma gave birth to six children, Leonard, Selmer, Arvid, Hazel, Alpha, Gladys and Adolph who died as an infant. The Suby family became a cornerstone of the Greenbush community. Osmund drove a special sleigh for school children during the long cold winters: an enclosed structure built over a horse drawn sleigh installed with a wood stove. This warmed sleigh kept the children warm in the long cold winters on the way to school. Osmund also served on the school board as a clerk, making sure the community had ample and good teachers for the children.

Hilma, an accomplished homemaker, spun wool for yam, knitted socks, crocheted, made thrifty quilts from sample cloth, and cleaned the family woolens each year in crocks of gasoline, and then hung them in the crisp fall air to dry. She made lefse, blood soup, lutefisk,



Osmond and Hilma Suby
(Glenn Darst photo)

and fattigmand with equal skill and success. Alpha, Hazel, and Gladyce were often in the kitchen helping Hilma home-can jars of goods by the dozens, harvest **after** harvest, and help too, with the extended job of cooking lefse for a family of eight. Hilma could crochet and knit, and bake with unarming ease as she had in her early years at the hotel in Crookston. She was an active member of Ladies Aid, and Osmund served for eight years as secretary of the Moland Church board and as an elder for three years.

Leonard, Selmer, and Arvid stayed in Greenbush to carry on life on the farm, while Hazel married Don Anderson and moved to North Dakota. Daughter Gladyce, married Phil Anderson of Roseau and moved to California. Alpha married Conley Darst and stayed in Greenbush to carry on the tradition of homemaker and farmer. For many years Alpha and Conley raised turkeys on the family homestead but returned to growing crops as the years went by. Both Leonard and Arvid served in the armed forces during World War II.

Leonard became an airplane mechanic while stationed in Texas during the war years. As a young man he was musically inclined and played the violin, harmonica, and Jew harp. The family favorite was his rendition of "The Red River Valley" that he played on the saw with a violin bow. The talented Leonard paid the same attention to detail when he worked on the combines and tractors as he had in the military taking care of large bombers and transport airplanes.

Arvid became a medic while stationed in Hawaii before returning once again to Greenbush, his home town, where he became an integral part of every day life in the community. He worked at odd jobs around the farms and helped his brothers when he could. He played the **guitar** and could often be seen carrying it around the farm on his shoulder. Arvid was killed in a farming accident in 1954.

Selmer, a carpenter, farmed the family homestead after his father retired and helped Leonard who had bought the Berggren and Benson property. He loved listening to his brothers' music.

Today, Osmund's grandson, Glen Darst carries on the family tradition of farming, but the crops have changed through the years. Today it is canola, rather than flax, but wheat is still a staple on the modern Minnesota farm. Osmund Suby and his descendants have farmed the land in Barto Township for more than a hundred years and served as a vital part of the farming community throughout the century that we celebrate now.

Submitted by Marlene Anderson, granddaughter of Osmund and Hilma Suby.

Nels and Annie Svegdahl

Nels and Annie Svegdahl came from Norway to Northwood, North Dakota, about 1898. They were there for only a short time when they brought their children, Ingeborg Marie, John (1881), and Ole

(1888) to Roseau County because the land was more affordable. Nels settled the NE 1/4 Section 14 in Lind Township. According to the 1913 Atlas, their sons owned the quarter where the school was located which was adjacent to their quarter.

Ingeborg Marie, known only as Marie in later years, married Iver Olson and had seven children. They moved to Strathcona in 1915 and remained there the rest of their lives. (See Gulbrand and Thuri Olson.) John married Hilda Botoshe and had no children. Ole married Norma Thrane and had three children. Ole took over his parents' quarter, where the Svegdahl family still lives.

Nels and Annie joined the Bethlehem Church in 1913. They returned to Northwood, North Dakota in 1917.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Bethlehem records. Noreen Lorenson.

Ole and Norma (Thrane) Svegdahl

Ole Svegdahl was born in 1888 to Nels and Annie Svegdahl. He was ten years old when he came from Norway to Northwood, North Dakota, with his family. Land was cheaper in northern Minnesota so his family moved to Lind Township to settle. The 1913 Atlas showed that Ole and his brother John had their own land, the SW 1/4 of Section 11 in Lind, while their parents had the quarter southeast from them in Section 14.

About 1901, a school, then District 26 North and later called District 33 or the Svegdahl School, was built in the southeast corner of Ole and John's quarter.

Ole met and married Norma Thrane born in 1897, the daughter of Nels and Lovise Thrane. Perhaps they met at the Bethlehem Church where both of them sang in the choir when they were adults. Norma's parents joined the church in 1904 roughly two years after its founding and Ole's parents joined in 1913, though they attended before that time.

Ole and Norma were very active in the Bethlehem Church. Even though the church didn't have a choir in later years, Norma's strong voice was a big aid in the congregational singing and memorable to those of us who loved singing the hymns with her. Norma was often an officer of the Ladies Aid and Ole was active in the church council.

After their marriage, Ole and Norma moved to Ole's parent's property, the NE 1/4 Section 14. His parents lived with them for awhile before returning to Northwood, North Dakota, with their son, John, in October 1917. Then, Ole and Norma boarded the teachers as his parents had done. The first Svegdahl house burned when Norman was five years old. The new house, a very large square one, was



The home built in 1929. Upper right: Norman, Norma, and Ole Svegdahl.
(photo courtesy of Noreen Lorenson)

built that same year, 1929. That house is still lived in today by Norman and his wife Christine.

Ole died in 1965. In later years, Norma lived in a small house right next to Norman and Christine. She lived there until a few months before she died in 1982. They had three children: Alpha, born in 1917, married Alvin Dalager; Nephie, 1919, married Gilman Aas; and Norman born in 1924 married Christine Berge. Norman and Christine's children are Noreen (Ronnie Hamness/Doug Lorensen), Lisa (Denny Dvergsten), and Noel (Marilee Zak). Noel, Marilee, and daughters, Madison and Peyton live in a new house just north of the original building site. (In 1917 when the pastor wrote Norma's name by Alpha's baptism, he wrote Norine.) Of course Ole and Norma's children attended the Svegdahl School.

Submitted by Noreen Lorensen and Myrna Sovde. Sources: family records and Bethlehem records.

John and Hilda (Botoshe) Svegdahl

In 1898, John Svegdahl, born May 24, 1881, emigrated from Norway with his parents, Nels and Annie Svegdahl, to Northwood, North Dakota, and later to Roseau County. He and his brother, Ole, owned the SW 1/4 of Section II in Lind Township. He had one sister Ingeborg Marie (Iver) Olson. In 1917 he and his parents returned to Northwood, but John came back after a few years. He lived and farmed on that quarter the remainder of his life.



Left to right: William Botoshe, Francis Halvorson, Mary Johnson, Hilda Svegdahl. (photo courtesy of Ruby Scales)

William, Caroline, Francis (Kenneth) Halvorson, Mae (William) Martel, and Norman. Hilda was a very good help on the farm.

John died as a result of a farming accident. A very wet year made plowing difficult. The plow had unhooked and the lever hit his leg. The lever was low to keep the plow from going too deep into the wet soil. The lever hit his leg so hard it completely broke the bone. In order to get back to the house he drove the tractor right through fences rather than opening the gates.

John died September 27, 1951. Hilda lived in a small house in Greenbush after that. She did handiwork, embroidery, made rugs, and quilts. At one time she was a nanny for a family in Minneapolis. Hilda died in 1983. They had no children.

Submitted by Ruby Scales and Myrna Sovde. Source: Norman Svegdahl.

On November 18, 1930, he married Hilda Botoshe who was born September 2, 1913. She was the daughter of Louis (Willie) and Anna (Aamodt) Botoshe who lived about three miles west of Greenbush. Hilda's siblings were: Cecelia (Gust) Gustafson, Mary (Leo) Johnson,

Gunhild Marie Svensrud

Gunhild Marie Nygaard Svensrud, born March 12, 1848, came from Norway to Minnesota between 1900 and 1909, to live with her daughter; Emma, who was married to John (Hanson) Berger.

Mrs. Hanson came at the same time. Mrs. Hanson was the mother of John Berger and also of Sina Johnson who was married to Harold I. Johnson. It was a double relationship since Harold was Gunhild's nephew, the son of her sister Thea Nygaard Johnson. The Johnsons lived a half mile west of Bergers.

The families had paid for Gunhild's trip and for Mrs. Hanson's trip from Norway. An interesting note was that Mrs. Hanson decided to go back to Norway. Later she decided she wanted to return to Minnesota, but the family wouldn't pay for another trip.

In 1914, Gunhild became a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at the same time as the John Berger family and several others who had formerly belonged to the West Poplar Grove Congregation.

Gunhild died on New Year's Eve, 1923. Her body was kept on the front porch all winter until she could be buried in the spring, when the ground thawed. She and most of the Berger family are buried at Bethlehem Cemetery.

Submitted by Mark Stephens and Myrna Sovde. See John and Emma Berger history.

Charles Thor and Carrie Othila (Gram Thompson)



Charles and Carrie (Graff) Thompson wedding photo - December 17, 1900. (photo courtesy of Bob and Ruth Graff)

Charles Thor Thompson was born September 14, 1877, in Lyle, Minnesota. He moved to northeastern Minnesota as a young boy. Carrie Othila Graff was born September 16, 1881, in Adam, Norway, and she came to the United States as a very young child. Charles and Carrie were married December 17, 1900. They settled in Moose Township. Then in 1908, they moved to Soler Township.

Children born to this union were: Alpha Bertina, April 14, 1901-August 24, 1924, married Joseph Jenson and had one infant who died at birth. Belle Myrtle, July 25, 1904-August 18, 1966, married Amt Hoem Holm and had four children. Campbell Thorine, April 26, 1906-January 23, 1971, married Olga Kammen and had five children. Delford Joseph, December 18, 1908, married Ina Pala who died May 5, 1979 and then married Margaret Ayers. He had two children. Thelma Alvina, May 29, 1911-December 26, 2004, married Joseph Jenson and had three sons. Lizzie Caroline, December 15, 1913, married Arthur Kjersten and had six children. Jennie Albertina, December 23, 1915-July 9,



Charles and Carrie (Graff) Thompson home in Soler Township - Charles, Carrie, Alpha, Cambell, Belle, and Oluf Graff (seated). (photo courtesy of Bob and Ruth Graff)



Back row: Theodore Larson, Mrs. Rue, Sander Rue, Rue boy, Mrs. Larson, Christine Thompson. The five children on the right are Lilly on the ground, Willie behind her, Sanford behind him, Elmer and Alice. Stella Rue is second to the left. The others are Rue and Larson children. The photo was taken by Sam Thompson. (photo courtesy of Lilly Bingaman)

2002, married George Wickstrom and had two daughters. Hilda Ardelle, August 17, 1920, married Jerrie Blazek and had 14 children. Belmer Alvin, October 25, 1922-August 17, 2000, married Helen Skrutvold and had six children.

Their children attended School District 9, which was across from their garden on the farm, almost in their back yard. Many of the teachers who taught there boarded at the Thompson home. The following is a list of some of the people who were teachers at that school (not necessarily in chronological order): Lizzie Ranklin, Mabel Hanson, Olava Christianson (daughter of Brede Christianson), Miss Harkins, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Kapell, Theresa Lee (whose father taught at the Haug School), Belle Thompson (second oldest daughter of Charles and Carrie Thompson), Alma **Kjersten** (daughter of Helge Kjersten), and Miss Laura Olson (who married George Roberts).

During their lifetime, Charles and Carrie owned numerous farms, even in 1942, after moving into Greenbush. There they lived in the corner house, east of what is now the nursing home. The first tractor Charles bought was a Rumley that he got in 1920, and he was extremely proud of it. They raised horses, sheep, cattle, chickens, pigs, and even turkeys.

Carrie died September 21, 1958, in Greenbush. Charles died December 15, 1966, also in Greenbush. Both are buried in their home church cemetery, Oiland Free Lutheran, in rural Greenbush. **Submitted** by Avis (Holm) Iverson- daughter of Amt and Belle (Thompson) Holm and granddaughter of Charles and Carrie (Graff) Thompson.

Severin (Sam) and Christine Thompson

After the marriage of Sam Thompson and Christine Anderson in 1904, they lived on a farm by Strathcona, Minnesota. Sam speculated in land deals, and the town of Strathcona was built on land he sold to the Town Committee. He also sold land to John Johnson (whose sons were Julius and Torben) and to others. While Sam and Christine were living near Strathcona, Elmer, Sanford, Alice, Willie, and Lilly were born. Then they moved to a farm seven miles southwest of Greenbush, the NW 1/4 of Section 6, Deer Township.

When Sam helped to build the streets in Greenbush, oxen were used, as well as horses, to pull the scoop shovels to level the ground. After he helped to establish a bank and a creamery in town, he worked at the creamery for awhile. Sam bought a big Rumley tractor to make roads; and he made ditches across the prairie to make section lines. Even though he had a big tractor, the wheels were too

narrow to do the job right, so the neighbors helped him put extra-wide rims on his wheels. That worked well, and the jobs got done. Sam and Christine also engaged in farming. They raised cows, pigs, and chickens; but while Sam was working away from home, the family had to take care of the animals.

The children attended the Mickelson School, as it was only two miles west of their place. The Mickelson School teachers were Olga Paulson and Roy Anderson. The pupils were: Ames, Flora, Victoria, Anna, and George Mickelson; Elmer, Sanford and Alice Thompson; and Edwin and Inga Haagenson. After five years, the school board discovered that the Thompson family did not belong in that district, so they had to change to the Gavick School, which was three miles southeast. The names of the teachers in the Gavick School were: James D. Webb (he used a whip on the students, and blood was shed several times); Victor Hendrickson (a kind man); and Ida Holen (a beloved teacher). The Thompsons offered a ride to the children of Andrew Anderson when it was 30 and 40 degrees below zero. One time, the Anderson kids did not realize that some of the Thompsons were under the quilts, covered up in the back, on the floor, and the Andersons stepped on them as they got into the sled. Games played at the school were: long ball, pump-pump-pull away, "ante-hi-over", prisoner base, and drop the handkerchief.

A son, Sherman, born to Sam and Christine, near Greenbush, died five weeks later. He was buried in rural Greenbush, at Bethlehem Church. Children born later were Raymond, Clarence, Roy, Bennie, and Laurine.

Sam had a threshing machine and threshed for many neighbors. The farmers hauled bundles to the threshing rig from the fields, which would help pay for threshing at their own places. Some farmers made stacks of the bundles, in case it should rain a lot or they didn't get done before the snow came. Then the threshing machine was parked along the side of the stack, where they would pitch the bundles.

In about 1917, when Sam Thompson and Harold I. Johnson were in Greenbush, helping to get ready for the big 4th of July celebration, there was a cloudburst of rain that filled the rivers to overflowing. Water filled the peat bogs, and it was about 18 inches deep where it covered the road. The next day, when the Thompson family traveled to the celebration, Sam, Christine, and baby Roy sat in the seat of their double buggy, with Clarence, Willie, and Lilly in the back, on the floor of the buggy. Willie and Lilly dangled their feet from the back, until the water became too high. When they got closer to the bridge over the river, Elmer and Sanford got a ride with their neighbor, in his buckboard wagon. The night be-

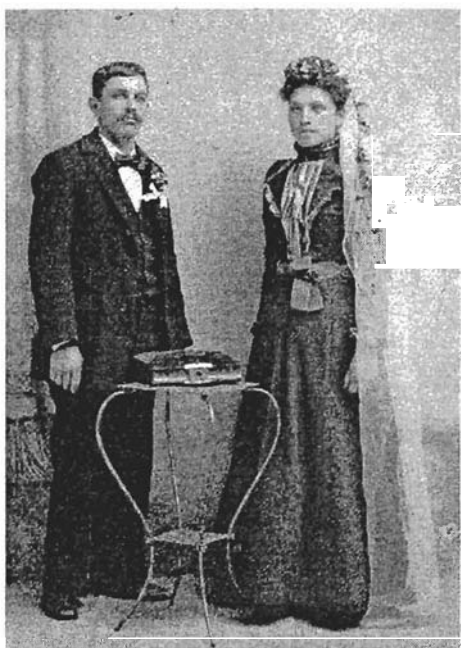
fore, Sam had parked his car above the bridge, on the highway that was on a high ridge (called the "sand ridge"). When they reached that area, they left the team of horses and buggy at that neighbor's farm and took the Reo car into town for the 4th of July celebration.

Sam worked for a friend during threshing time who told him about a farm in North Dakota that was for sale. He was interested, because there were so many rocks on his farmland. In the fall of 1920, the Sam and Christine Thompson family moved to a farm near Churchs Ferry, North Dakota, 20 miles west of Devils Lake.

Names of schoolmates, friends, and their families included the following: Langaas, Svegdahl, Andersons (Andrew, Iver, Albert), Bertilrud, Dallager, Johnson, Berger, and Walsh.

Submitted by Lilly Thompson Bingaman, 93 years old, of Churchs Ferry, North Dakota, as told to and compiled by her son, Sid Bingaman.

James and Annie (Barto) Tomasek



James and Annie Tomasek

James Tomasek was working in Ironwood, Michigan, when all the mines and lumber mills shut down. There was a panic in the area. He used his last "time check" and bought a ticket on the train to Grand Forks, North Dakota.

He worked in the harvest fields at Tabor, Minnesota, for 36 days and earned a dollar a day. There, he met Henry Blazek who told him about the homesteads in Roseau County. They walked to Soler Township in

the fall of 1895, where Henry introduced him to Math Barto.

Math told him about an L-shaped piece of land just south of him that was still available. It was covered with big white poplar groves with willows in the lower ground. He also met up with Fred and John Spevachek, who he had worked with in the woods at Ironwood, Michigan. James cut some poplar logs and built a claim shanty. John Spevachek stayed with him the first winter.

The men all had to go out west to the harvest fields to make money. Some of the women went too, to cook in the cook cars. Peder Sjoberg was building a flour mill in Badger and when he found out that James Tomasek had worked in the flour mill in Duluth, he hired him to help put in the machinery. James remained the miller there until they shut it down and made a seed house out of it.

James was surprised to see all the people from Ironwood and Bessmer, Michigan, that were here. Janouseks homesteaded just north of Bartos. John Smrstik was south of the Bartos. Joseph Mekash was west and Joe Holly was north of the Bartos!

James Tomasek married Annie Barto on November 7, 1899. Their children were: Charles Wencle (September 1900-April 9, 1901), Adolph Math (February 18, 1902-May 16, 1992), Frank Marten (February 18, 1905-December, 1984), and Emil John (January 27,

1911-May 15, 1992).

Annie passed away in 1916 at the Warren Hospital following an appendectomy. In about 1922, James bought Math Barto's homestead. There were about 40 acres of field there at the time. The rest was brush and woods. James and Adolph cleared the land by hand and broke it up with horses. They also bought Joe Holly's homestead, which only had 35 acres cleared. Adolph and Emil cleared that land, but by then they had a tractor so it was much easier. James bought the Manilla homestead that joined his land in 1935. James passed away of cancer in 1943 and the brothers, Adolph and Emil, stayed together farming until 1948.

Adolph married Rose Janousek on June 20, 1938 at St. Aloysius. They farmed just north of the home farm until Rose passed away in 1968. They had no children so Adolph farmed alone a few years following his wife's death. He sold the farm to Richard and Karen Timm and traveled around the United States for a few years before settling in Ironwood, Michigan. In 1991, he moved back to Greenbush and resided in Elderbush Manor until he passed away on May 16, 1992, just hours after his brother, Emil's death.

Frank left home when he was seventeen years old. He was a carpenter. He also worked on the Golden Gate Bridge. The last big job he did was on the school in Flint, Michigan. After that he retired, taking only small jobs.

Emil married Alma (Lind) Kelly (January 21, 1904-November 6, 1995) on July 22, 1937. Alma's husband, George Kelly, found Alma and their son Earl, a job at the Tomasek's, just before he passed away in 1933. Emil took over the farm in 1943. Their children include: Earl Kelly, who died of a heart attack, resulting from a car accident in 1949 only two miles from home; Rhoda (Tomasek) Gust married to Albert, Strathcona; and foster son, Curtis Hvamstad (October 11, 1929-October 10, 2001). Curtis lived on the farm with Emil and Alma and helped on the farm until they passed away. He continued to live there and help with the farm until he passed away.

The Tomasek name came to an end, as they were the last of the descendants. They were often called the Norwegian Bohunks by their neighbors and friends.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from Rhoda Gust, Ernie and Karen Janousek and the Roseau County History Book.

Paul and Martha (Johnson/Kulas) Troskey



Paul and Martha (Johnson/Kulas) Troskey

Martha Johnson, born in Perham, Minnesota, on February 18, 1887, was a daughter of Pete and Frances Johnson. The family moved from Perham, Minnesota, and settled six miles northwest of Greenbush. Martha married Tiefel Kulas who died at a very young age. They had four children: Rose (Pete) Burkel; Mary (Joseph) Mekash; Alex Kulas; Helen (Leo) Fredricks. All are deceased.

Paul Troskey, born March 22, 1882, at Mankato, and Martha Kulas

were married in 1906 at Leo Church. They lived on Martha's homestead. They had three children: Blonden (Manfred) Peterson, both deceased; Anton (Regina) Troskey, both deceased; Clement (Agnes) Troskey, Clem passed away February 12, 1981.

The children of Clement and Agnes Troskey are: Marian (Robert) Dybedal, Rose Mary (Leonard) Mlodzik, Clayton (Patricia) Troskey, and Betty (Earl) Gorsuch.

Submitted by Marian Dybedal.

E. R. and Minnie (Hildahl) Umpleby

E. R. Umpleby was born in Ohio on June 13, 1878, and spent his boyhood in Griswald, Iowa. He began working in a print shop at the age of 14, and although he considered becoming a pastor, he continued in the newspaper business all of his life. His editorials were short. He said, "What you can't say in two paragraphs, they aren't going to read, anyway."

While working for a newspaper in Renville, Minnesota, he saw a for sale ad for the Greenbush Tribune. He bought the Tribune from C. B. Goodrich. It had been in existence for a few months, having been preceded by the Greenbush Journal.

Umpleby, a somewhat reserved but well-respected fellow, was known as Ray to his friends. He was a lay pastor for the Methodist Church, mayor for many terms, a school board member, a member of the Greenbush Hospital board, and the Oiland Park Sanatorium board.

Minnie Hildahl was born in Norway and in 1892, when she was five years old, came to Iowa, in America, with her parents. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Roseau County. Before her marriage, Minnie worked as a clerk in the Hildahl Store in Greenbush (owned by her brother, Olaf Hildahl), and in the Durgin Store in Badger (owned by her brother-in-law, Ted Durgin).



Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Umpleby
(photo submitted by Kathy (Evans) Englund, granddaughter)

E. R. Umpleby and Minnie A. Hildahl were married on August 12, 1910. Minnie was a devoted homemaker and mother, stressing the importance of education and reading in the home. But in Ray's words, she also, "helped very materially in the growth and development of The Tribune." Except for brief intervals, Minnie was the only help Umpleby had for forty years.

Minnie died in 1950 and Ray died in 1951.

They raised three children: Ardelle and Phyllis, their daughters, and Adeline Dock, their niece.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Condensed from articles appearing in Remembrances and Pioneers! @ Pioneers! (Both publications of the Roseau County Historical Society).

Alida and Jonas Vatsdal

Alida Erickson was born in 1904 in Thompson, North Dakota, but came to Soler Township with her parents, Edward and Tina Erickson, at a young age. She attended Island Home School located on Section II just west of their home on Section 12. Jonas was born in 1902. His parents were Joe and Johanna Vatsdal, who lived in the Duxby area. They met at a dance.

Alida's parents were against their marriage. Alida thought it was because they wanted her to stay home and work. Because of this, Jonas and Alida eloped. They were married in Roseau by Judge Hagen on August 3, 1923. Melvin Melby, a neighbor, and a Miss Nelson were their attendants. The newlyweds went to Cooperstown and worked on a farm from August until November. Then they moved to a farm near Duxby, in Pohlitz Township and lived there until November 1969, when they moved into Greenbush.

They had seven birth children: Ardys Joyce who died at birth in 1928; James (Doris Sjaaheim); Joy (Joe Gust); Ray (Ardith Johnson); Dennis (Eldri Nystrom); Gerald (Lanna Harvey); Doyle (Marsha Robinson and Jeannie Klitzke); and Joyce (Ed Lorensen) who was like their eighth child.

Once, during church services when everybody was standing to sing, Jonas poked Alida to look at a mouse. Alida let out a big yell, jumped up, and stood in the pew. To her great embarrassment, everybody stopped singing. Then everyone had a good laugh and services continued.



Jonas and Alida Vatsdal in 1987 on their 64th wedding anniversary. (Joy Gust photo)

Jonas and Alida were very congenial and loved to visit. After moving to Greenbush, they were active members of Bethel Church. They celebrated 66 years of marriage before Alida died in October 1989 at age 85. Jonas died in 1993 at age 91. They are buried in the Bethel Cemetery as is Ardys Joyce.

Submitted by Joy Gust and Myrna Sovde.

Gust and Thea (Aamodt) Waage

Gustave Waage was born October 30, 1885 in Sanmor, Norway. He came to the United States in 1902 with his brother, Rasmus. Rasmus eventually ended up living in Elkport, California. Gust worked in the harvest fields and lumber camps until 1910.

He married Thea Ellise Aamodt on April 3, 1911. She was born on July 25, 1890, in Northwood, ND. Thea was from a family that broke horses and brought them here and sold them. The Aamodt family moved from North Dakota to Roseau County, living on the farm three miles south of Greenbush. The farm is now owned by Alton Aamodt.

Gust and Thea bought the homestead from the Vesterdahl family,



Gust and Thea Waage
(photo courtesy of Eileen Melby)

which is in Barnett Township. The farm is still in the Waage family. Victoria Waage lives there now, she was married to Gust and Thea's son, Selmer.

Gust and Thea made many trips back to Norway to visit relatives. Many of the teachers from the local country schools stayed with them. Gust served on the board of directors of the Greenbush Creamery.

Gust and Thea had four sons: Olaf (married Louise Vacura) was born in 1911 and died in 1979; Enock (married Agnes Olson) was born in 1912 and died in 1992; Selmer (married Victoria Erickson) was born in 1914 and died in 1998 and Otto (married Evelyn Erickson) was born in 1915 died in 1995.

Gust and Thea had eleven grandchildren including: Thilda Janousek, Clarice Burkel, Vernon, Eileen Melby, Ellis and U. Otto Waage of Greenbush; Gerald Waage of Roseau; Rita Michealson of Owatonna; Roger Waage of Hovland, Minnesota; Linda Wollin of Lake Havasu City, Arizona; and Danny Waage, who passed away in 1976. They had thirty-four great-grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

Gust and Thea were active members of Zion Lutheran Church. Zion was very close to their farm.

Gust and Thea retired and moved into Greenbush in 1951. They both died in 1967.

Submitted by Eileen (Waage) Melby.

Iver Hanson and Synnove fKjonnoyl Wahl

Iver Elesius Hansen Maasoal was born on October 21, 1866, in Maasoal, a family island in Norway, off the main island of Froya, west of Trondheim. His parents were Hans and Marsellia. He had four brothers: Hans, Sorn, Nils, and Otto, and one sister Hanna. He was baptized on December 2, 1866, and confirmed October 1, 1882,



Iver and Synnove Wahl in 1937.
(photo courtesy of Edna (Wahl) Melby)

at Storhallen Church on Froya. Their livelihood came from fishing and life was hard.

Synnove Madnussdatter Kjonnoy was born May 19, 1869, on Kjonnoy Island in Norway to Magnus and Ellen. She was baptized on May 19, 1869, and confirmed on September 28, 1884, at Sletta Church on Froya. She came from a family of sixteen children, many of whom

died very young. Synnove's family also made a living by fishing.

Iver and Synnove crossed the Atlantic and arrived in America in the late 1880s. They came to Hayward, Wisconsin, where they were married on March 16, 1889. Iver worked in a mattress factory for 75¢ a day. Synnove crocheted lace and sold it for 5-10¢ a yard to help with finances.

Free homestead land in northern Minnesota called Iver, in 1895, to make a claim on a half section north of Greenbush in Soler Township. He returned for his family and they came back by wagon with all their worldly possessions: a few clothes, table and chairs, and a cupboard, and their three children, Ellen, Hilmar, and Selma.



Original Wahl homestead (Eileen Emery photo)

They built their home with a sod roof and dirt floor. They had to cover the children's bed with oil cloth from the table to keep them from getting wet when it rained. Four more children were born in this hut in the wild woods, Nora, Arnold, Eddie, and Nora.

On April 12, 1929, Iver changed his name to Wahl because of the many Hanson names already in Roseau County. He chose Wahl taken from val in the name Maasoal, the family island in Norway. Many people did this when they came to America.

They worked with a team of oxen, saw, shovel, and grub ax to clear land for farming. To keep the family fed, Iver also did carpentry work for 50¢ a day, sometimes walking to North Dakota. He also trapped and went wolf hunting in Canada, skiing and pulling a toboggan behind. Synnove was never sure he'd make it home while she was alone in the wilderness with the children, also worrying about their survival.

Another log home with a loft was built a short distance from the old house, a castle in comparison. The last four children were born there: Alf, Sylvina, Victor, and Erling. Ellen, Arnold, Alf, Victor, and Erling stayed in the area and farmed.

Ellen (1889-1969), never married.

Hilmar (1891-1963), married Gabrielle Girard in 1926 and had 13 children: Hilda, 1927; Iver (1929-1997); Eddie (1932-1932); Anna, 1933; Mary Ellen (1934-1936); Cora, 1936; Lillian, 1938;



Back row: Victor Wahl, Arnold Wahl, Erling Wahl, Alf Wahl, Eddie Wahl; Front row: Hilmar Wahl, Ellen Wahl, Sylvina Hoyer, Nora Austinson, and Selma Larson - November 1944. (photo courtesy Eileen Emery)

Clair Ann (1941-1942); Helmar, 1943; Kaare, 1945; Carol, 1946; Randy, 1950; and Elair, 1955.

Selma (1894-1961), married Louis Larson in 1916. They had five children: Myrtle, 1917; Edwin, 1919, deceased; Lillian, 1920, deceased; Lloyd, 1927, deceased; Carol 1934.

NoraAlbretha (1897-1903).

Arnold (1899-1980), married Gwendolyn Fern Skerritt in 1932. They had six children: Fern, 1927; Juanita, 1930; Nora, 1933; Arnold, Jr. (1934-1936); Sonja, 1939; Oswald, 1941.

Eddie (1901-1974), married Marie Marik in 1928. They had two children: Arletta (1931-1992) and Gary Lee, 1942.

Nora (1903-1974), married Henry Austinson in 1922 and had one child, Dale born in 1940.

Alf (1905-1974), married Ida Jackson in 1932. They had two children: Arlen (1933-2000); and Heen, 1937.

Sylvina (1907-1994), married John Hoyer in 1931 and had two children: Donna, 1932 and Helen, 1934.

Victor (1910-1976), married Edna Erickson in 1939. They had six children: Jeanette, 1940; Delphin, 1942; Bonita, 1944; DeLaine, 1946; Layton, 1952; and LaRae 1958.

Erling (1912-1991), married Helen Sonsteng in 1941. They had five children: Douglas, 1942; Dennis, 1943; Dormont, 1945; Debby, 1951; and David, 1959.

Taken from articles submitted by Jeanette Wahl and Nora (Wahl) Hamness from the Wahl Family History compiled by Larry Wahl.

John Joseph and Ellen McCue Walsh

Big Jack Walsh, as he was known to the neighbors in Hereim Township; left an indelible mark on Roseau County. Amidst the many Scandinavians and other nationalities, the Walsh name has survived and multiplied, though the Irish blood has been diluted.

John Joseph Walsh, 1857-1949, and younger brother, James, left Cork County, Ireland, for America. They landed on Prince Edward Island, Canada, where John J. purchased land which had become tax-forfeited in the early 1850s. From there they went to Boston where John met and married Ellen (Nellie) McCue who had been born in Quebec.

Ellen's well-to-do family was distressed at her marrying a husky



John J. and Ellen (Nellie) Walsh standing west of the homestead house in Hereim Township. (Carol Meine photo)

Irish lumberjack, however, he was self-educated so could read and write and was good at figures.

John, Ellen, and James moved to a farm near Graceville, Minnesota, in Big Stone County. Nellie, John, James, and Mary Theresa were born there. They left Big Stone December 1, 1902. Herein lies conflicting information. One source said William (Bill) was born before they left. His daughter says he was born in Roseau County on December 12, 1902.

After John's brother

James was killed in a horse and buggy accident, John moved his family to Badger while he worked in the woods and lumber camps. In 1903 he operated a sawmill two miles from Vassar, Manitoba, Canada, to earn a living for the large family. After living in Badger a short time, he gave his home to Erick Carlson (who ran a saloon) and moved his family to a homestead located across the Two Rivers swamp south of Greenbush in Section 31 of Hereim Township. Charles "Kelly", Loretta, and Margaret were born on that farm.

The move to Section 31 in Hereim or choosing the homestead can be pinpointed to before August 10, 1903. The neighborhood story was that Louis Generoux wanted that parcel but when he went to Crookston to file, John J. Walsh had already filed on it. Louis filed on another parcel on August 10, 1903. The land has a complicated description since the quarter consists of four forties in the middle of the section.

The Walsh family consisted of Ellen (Nellie), 1895, named after her mother, married Leo Briol; John I. Walsh, Jr., 1897, married Elizabeth Witzman; James, 1898, married Helen Witzman; Mary Theresa, 1900, married Manley Millard; William, 1902, married Luella Mae Connelly; Margaret, 1904-1971; Charles C. Walsh, 1906, married Rose McShea; and Loretta, 1909-1940, who entered the convent.



Walsh family: Front: Charles, Jim, Grandpa Jack, little Charles, little Nellie, Jack, Bill, Manley Millard holding Mary Estelle. Back: Mary Theresa, Loretta, Grandma Nellie, Mary Connelly, and Margaret. (Carol Meine photo)

John J. ran for sheriff of Roseau County in 1909. He was on the Hereim townboard in 1913. Folklore has it that while in Boston, Jack was a sparring partner for a well-known heavy weight boxer.

A well constructed hip roof barn built about 1920 was demolished about 1998. When the original frame house with French doors burned, Con Sullivan's house was moved onto the south foundation and the north part was built on. With extensive remodeling and additions, this house is still in use. A hand dug well with hand laid rocks still stands, but only for ornamental use. A big well, dug with a spring pole was used until the 1980s.

The Jack and Nellie Walsh home was always a refuge for relatives, no matter how far removed, and perhaps some who were not related, who needed a home. Nellie's sister and niece Margaret and Mary Connelly lived with them as did Aunt Margaret McCue Brandt until her death.

The account book kept by Mrs. Walsh in 1928, relayed information about pioneer life. The list, like Tokia taken by Smart and with ditto marks for Rueby, Gracy, Daisy, and Beauty was puzzling until finding a later entry about Tokia's Jersey calf and Mirtle's calf.

The names of their eight cows were listed with the date bred and Smart was the name of the bull.

"Cally sawed wood for Pete Coluski 9th & 10 (January 1928)," was another entry that was puzzling. Who was Cally? A school report answered part of that. Cally was Callaghan. Cally had been Americanized to Kelly, but still no Kelly listed in the family book. Charles C. Walsh had changed his name. And Pete Coluski? That was Kalinowski.

Another interesting entry was that someone, probably Bill, had killed 7 polecats and received \$14. It seems skunk hides were worth a lot in 1928. Cally was chased by a bear on February 9, 1928, and Bill and Cally killed a pig on January 12.

A very strange page in the book listed eighteen neighbors, and behind eleven of them were marks; some were short and some longer. Morse Code? No. Since I lived in the neighborhood when crank phones were used, and remembered my Grandpa's ring, I deciphered this page to be their phone book. Also a short and a long were marked by the Walsh name, and that number had been transferred before my dad bought the Walsh farm. That was Gilmer and Astrid Berger's ring.

Learning English from living next to the Walshes gave the Johnson kids a head start in school. Sina Johnson and Ellen Walsh were good friends back in the days when Norwegian Lutherans didn't associate much with Irish Roman Catholics. That the Walshes were good neighbors was also stated by Palmer Hogan. This was said of the next generation, Ellen and Jack's sons, Jack Jr. and Jim, who had moved east of Greenbush, where many of their descendants remain today.

A few years after Ellen's sudden death in 1930, John I. left his farm to make his home with daughter, Mary Theresa Millard, in Crookston. He continued to spend many summer months at the homes of Jack and Jim. He died in Crookston in 1949 and is buried near his wife, Ellen (Nellie) in the Blessed Sacrament Cemetery.

Harold S. Johnson bought the Walsh homestead in 1937 with money borrowed from his sisters, Selma and Hilda. My husband, Merlyn, and I purchased the farm from my parents in 1969. This is where we raised our sons and where we continue to live.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Ella Walsh Hurt, Walsh Family Book, Steinbach Carillion May 9, 1984, Nellie Walsh timebook, Harold S. Johnson. Greenbush Tribune.

John J. Jr. and Elizabeth (Witzman) Walsh

John I. Walsh Jr., the son of John J. and Ellen Walsh, was born January 11, 1897, in Graceville, Minnesota, but moved to Roseau County as a child in 1902. He grew up on the family homestead in Section 31 of Hereim Township.

Elizabeth Witzman was born May 30, 1898, to Johanna and Nicholas Witzman in the St. Cloud area. She came to Greenbush in 1915 when her father came to manage a grain elevator.

John was a WWI veteran and a fanner and Elizabeth was a cook at the Greenbush Hotel. They were married on June 27, 1923, at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Greenbush, Minnesota. After their marriage they lived in Nereson Township where all of their children were born. In November 1940, they moved to their farm in Section 10 of Bamett Township. Their son, John and wife Delores, live there now.

They had five children including: Helen, born December 8, 1924, married Ted Vacura and had three children: William (Bill) born May 13, 1926, died 1952, was a WWII veteran; Leo born November 6,



John J. Walsh Jr. and new wife Elizabeth Witzman in 1923. (photo courtesy of Philip and Marilyn Walsh)

1928; John N. born May 10, 1930, married Delores Berger and had one child and seven step-children; and Philip T. born December 4, 1932, married Marilyn Mischel and had three children.

All of John and Elizabeth's sons served in the military. John also called Jack as was his father, served on the town board and was a township officer. Elizabeth was a farmer's wife and mother. She also taught piano lessons and played the organ at their church, St. Mary's in Badger where they were active members.



Children in front, Kathy and Karen Vacura, Dick Svir, Middle row: Elizabeth Walsh, Carolyn Svir, Helen Vacura, Ted Vacura holding Alan Vacura, Philip Walsh, Ray Svir, Back: John J. Walsh Jr. and John N. Walsh. Svir's were neighbors. (photo courtesy of Philip and Marilyn Walsh)

riage she played at Blessed Sacrament of Greenbush. John Walsh died August 20, 1959, and Elizabeth died December 25, 1992. They are buried in the Blessed Sacrament Cemetery.

Submitted by Marilyn and Phillip Walsh.

Edward and Karina (Kragerud) Watterud



Edward and Karina Watterud with granddaughter Hazel (Dallager) Paulson. (photo submitted by Shirley Langaas)

Edward Watterud was born in Jevnaker, Hadeland, Norway, to Kari and Kristopher Watterud. They immigrated to America in June 1868, when Edward was two years old. His younger brother, Anton, and an uncle also came. The family settled in the Rothsay, Minnesota area. The name has also been spelled Watrud and Wattrud.

Karina Gulbrandsdatter Kragerud was born in Norway on May 6, 1863, to Gulbrand Kragerud. She immigrated to America in May 1882, with her sister Andrian.

Edward and Karina were married October 16, 1885, in Rothsay, Minnesota. In 1900, they moved to and

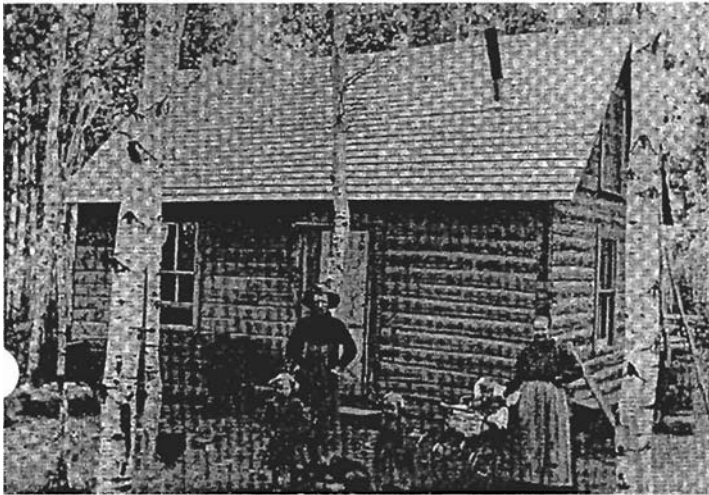
homesteaded in Deer Township, near Greenbush. In 1913, they owned a quarter in Dewey Township, comprised of eighty acres in Section 26 and another eighty in Section 35 across the road.

Karin died April 12, 1942. Edward died on December 12, 1948, in the Roseau Hospital, as the result of after effects from a fire in the nursing home where he lived in Middle River, Minnesota.

Submitted by Shirley Langaas and Myrna Sovde. See Christ and Gunda Dallager history.

Lewis and Mollie Westlund

In 1881 at age 14, Lewis (Lars) Westlund came to the United States from Sweden with his parents. Records in Sweden, checked by Heather Westlund, showed a Lars born in 1864 who died in 1865, and another Lars born to the family in 1867. This was Lewis, whose name was changed when they came to America. Naming a child with the same name as another who died seemed a rather common practice in the old days.



The Lewis and Mollie Westlund homestead pictured in 1901. L to R: Edna, Lewis, Ruth, Leonard (carriage) and Mollie. (Tribune photo from Victor Westlund)

The photo shows the Lewis and Mollie (Anderson) Westlund homestead as it was in 1901. The children in the photo are Edna (Matt Kotchevar), Ruth (Henry Stone), and Leonard (Ione Overland). The homestead cabin was located in the S 1/2 of SW 1/4 Section 29 of Deer Township. The other 80 acres of the homestead was N 1/2 of NW 1/4 Section 32. The house was built with lumber Lewis was able to purchase after selling the farm in Alexandria. The cabin appeared to be extremely well built. As the family grew, an addition made from poplar logs was added later.

The Westlunds had previously lived east of Alexandria, Minnesota, where Edna and Ruth were born. Leonard was born in Roseau County in 1900. Next came Anna (Ralph Hektner), and Ella Nora (Sommerfeld), then Victor (Florence Flaten) in 1908 and Helen (Eddie Granville).

Here was another case of mixed up names. The family always knew Ella as "Ella Gladys." Some school reports gave her name as "Eleanor." A check of the birth certificate cleared up part of that since her name was Ella Nora. Where the Gladys came from is still a mystery. Also, on some school papers, I found Westlund as **w**estrum, but the children's names were the Westlund children. So when people try researching their families, they need to be open minded and check things out from different angles.

The Westlunds attended school at District 50 in Section 30 only a half mile north of their home. The Herb Post Office was another

half mile farther north.

Victor recalled the funeral of George and Arthur, two young Haugtvedt boys who died of diphtheria in 1906. The funeral was held at the gravesite in the West Poplar Grove Cemetery (Haugtvedt), but people weren't allowed to go into the cemetery. The Westlund family had taken warm sad irons, but sister Ann's feet froze anyway. She was crying when she came home so the first thing Mr. Westlund did after putting the horses away, was to rub them with snow. (Victor wondered why he wasn't at the funeral. When I checked, I found that Victor hadn't been born yet. But the memory of the story was vivid in his mind.)

When Westlunds first came here they could file on any quarter they wanted. After breaking up some land, Mr. Westlund was less than overjoyed with the parcel he had picked. He said the quarter was so full of rocks "water wouldn't even flow between them." Luckily they were able to sell their homestead to a guy from St. Paul who didn't know any more about the land than Lewis did when he first came.

The family moved to Marshall County just a few miles south of this homestead in 1916. There were no rocks on their land in Marshall County where Victor's son Annand lives now. Annand's wife, Donna, said they never pick rocks.

Leonard died in 2002 at age 102. Victor lived alone in Strathcona until 2004. Then he lived with his granddaughter, Nicolette (Westlund) Sapp, where he was at the time of this interview, October 5, 2004. Victor died October 19, 2004 at age 96.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Victor, Donna, Ted, Heather, and Wayne Westlund, and Roseau County records.

Eric and Alma (Rud) Wicklund

Eric Wicklund was born October 14, 1900. He was about two years old when his parents homesteaded northeast of Strathcona. In 1926, he married Alma Rud whose parents had homesteaded southwest of Strathcona.

Eric and Alma had ten children: Don (Doris Miller), Lloyd (Margaret Olson), Loreen (Lyle Sovde), Juliet (Eli Kay Larson), Don Nelson, Ione (Tom Krause), Ferdie, Nels (Cleone Olson), Ervin (Ione Borgen), Russell (Kathleen Veselka) and Sandra (David Hyllengren).

One time when Alma and Myrtle Hamberg were driving along in the Model T, they lost a wheel and saw it rolling down the road in front of them. Good thing the Model T didn't go as fast as **cars today!**



Eric and Alma Wicklund wedding. (photo submitted by Annette Wicklund)

Once when Alma was bringing cows in for milking, Loreen followed her into the wooded pasture. Her mother didn't notice that she had followed. When Alma couldn't find her at home, after looking all over, they sent a general ring over the party line and everyone went looking for her. Loreen had become tired, sat down by a tree, and had fallen asleep.

One year, about 1936, on

May 6th, there was a big snowstorm. When Eric kicked the snow away from the three little coops, the turkeys flew out and into the woods. Eric hurriedly tromped through the foot of snow to get the setting turkey hens back on their nests of fertilized eggs. Amazingly, all the eggs hatched.

The family lived east of Strathcona until 1953 when they moved into a new house that Eric built in Greenbush. Norman and Sharon Miller live there now. Eric, a carpenter by trade, died in 1978. Alna was born in 1908 and died in 1999. She cooked at the Greenbush School for many years. When they were on the farm she had a big garden, a necessity for her large family. She was quite a baker, and did handiwork like crocheting, embroidering, and quilting until late in life. She loved to go fishing and could be counted on any time to be included in a game of whist or pinochle.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Don Wicklund.

Nels A. and Katherina Wicklund

Nels A. and Katherina Wicklund came from Sweden to Roseau County about 1902. They homesteaded the NE 1/4 Section 29, Huss Township. Nels' mother (father Erik had died) and his sister Maria (Strandberg) also came. The mother who was blind, lived in her own small house, but went from one house to the other by following a string. During a winter storm the string broke and she froze to death.

Mr. and Mrs. Wicklund had seven children. Agda, Carl, Jonas, and Eric, were born in Sweden. Nels, Violet, and Anne were born on the homestead.

Agda married Pete Lorensen and they lived where Richard Lorensen lives now. Their children were: Johnnie, Agnes, Olga, Gladys, Bernice, Millie, Alice, and Ardys.

Carl (Anna Kruse) moved to Northfield and had seven children, Carl, Florence, Norman, Kenneth, Raymond, Jerry, and Diane.

Jonas (Agnes Lundstrom) lived where Wayne Hanson now. Their children were Vernon, Marcella, Rosella, Morris, Shirley, Herdyce, and Arley.

Eric (Alma Rud) lived by Strathcona and later in Greenbush. Their children were Donald, Lloyd, Loreen, Juliet, Ione, Ferdie, Nels, Ervin, Russell, and Sandra.

Nels was in WWI. He died shortly after returning home from the war as a result of being gassed during the war.

Violet married Melvin Skjordahl and lived southwest of Strathcona. They had two children Viola and Adeline.

Anne married Hans Gjovik and had one child, Laverne. They lived where Guy Strandberg lives now.

Mrs. Wicklund died in 1926, the year her grandson, Donald Wicklund was born. Nels continued to live on the farm a couple years. In 1929, he moved into Strathcona and operated a shoe repair shop. Later he married Christine Dahlgren and after her death he married a Lundgren. Don Wicklund found Grandpa's 1930 Model A coupe, that Nels purchased new, in the brush in Wannaska. Don restored it and drives it in many parades.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Don Wicklund.

Knudt and Kari Williamson

Knudt (Knut) Williamson was born Knudt Skall on May 29, 1849 in Hallingdal, Norway. His wife, Kari (Ellingson), was born on September 14, 1855 in Hemsedal, Norway. They were married in the country of their birth, in 1879, and continued to live there for

about eleven years following their marriage.

In the spring of 1890, together with their family of six children, they immigrated to America. They settled in Waseca County where they remained for about two years. The family then moved to Steams County where they lived for several more years. Around 1900 they decided to move to northern Minnesota. Free land was offered to those who would homestead in this area. Greenbush became their home and they spent the remaining years of their lives here.

Seven of their thirteen children were born in America. They were Gustav, Oscar, Clara, Mathilda, Clarence, Alfred, and Otto. The first six, born in Norway, were Bertha, Willie, Elling, Carrie, Annie, and Guthorm. Guthorm, born in October of 1888, died May 18, 1890, while on their journey to America.

Knudt and Kari were very active members of their church. Knudt was one of seven who helped draw up and sign a short constitution at a meeting on January 14, 1904, for the organization of a Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, namely St. Olaf Congregation. Pastor N. J. Njus was the first pastor.

On November 1, 1904, a ladies' organization was formed. The first meeting was held at the home of Knudt and Karl. It was because of this meeting, initiated by Kari, that she was credited as being the founder of the Ladies Aid of the St. Olaf Congregation. She became its first president. The special purpose of this group was to organize religious education for the children during the summer, and to help raise money for the construction of the church which began in 1905, and reached completion in 1912. Before and during the building of St. Olaf Church, services were held in the homes. Knudt and Kari's home became a meeting place for worshippers to gather.

In 1924, St. Olaf Congregation merged with Moland Congregation which had been organized in 1897. This new church became known as Bethel Lutheran Church.

The Williamsons continued to be active in their church until their deaths. Knudt died on April 6, 1911, and Kari on July 1, 1929. They are buried in Bethel Lutheran Cemetery.

The married children and their spouses were: Gustav (Andrea Ness), Oscar (Frances "Tina" Samson), Clara (Ingval Langslet), Clarence (Marie Steenerson), Bertha (John Aas), Willie (Martha Kelhovde), Elling (Emma Samson), Carrie (Carl Heltne), Annie (Alfred Nelson) and Mathilda "Tillie" (Elmer Dvergsten).

Submitted by Beatrice Williamson Dvergsten.

Oscar and Tina Frances (Samson) Williamson

Oscar Williamson (previously Skall) was born in Brooten, Minnesota, on May 21, 1892. His parents were Knute and Kari (Ellingson) Williamson, who both immigrated to America from Norway in 1890. Oscar was one of 13 children, six of whom were born in Norway, namely: Bertha, Willie, Elling, Carrie, Annie, and Guthorm. Gustav, Oscar, Clara, Mathilda, Clarence, Alfred, and Otto were born in America. Guthorn D., born in October of 1888, died May 18, 1890, while on their journey to America.

The family lived in Waseca and Steams Counties before coming to Roseau County around 1900, and settling in Greenbush. It was in Greenbush that Oscar grew to manhood and met his future bride, Tina Frances Samson, whom he married on August 5, 1925, in Roseau, Minnesota.

Tina Frances was born January 15, 1905, in Greenbush, Minnesota, the daughter of Nels and Anna Maria (Gavle) Samson. In 1913, she moved to Niagara, North Dakota, with her parents where

she lived until 1925, when she returned to Greenbush. Tina's father, Nels, was born June 3, 1863, in Norway, and immigrated to America. He died in October of 1944. Her mother, Anna, was born September 16, 1873, in Hayfield of Dodge County, Minnesota. She passed away on August 9, 1936, in Crookston, Minnesota.

Five children were born to Oscar and Tina: Mabel, married Frederick A. Haugen; Kermit, married Rose Storey; Beatrice, married Manvil Dvergsten; and Arvid, married Daphne Sorteberg. A premature infant daughter died at birth on December 21, 1933. The Williamsons had 15 grandchildren.

Oscar and Tina purchased and lived on the farm that his parents, Knute and Kari, had homesteaded when they came to Roseau County around 1900. It was here they reared their children. Oscar had a passion for horses, as anyone who knew him could tell you. Besides being a necessity on the farm in those early years, his horses also gave him much pleasure. Grandchildren today still talk of sitting on Grandpa's lap and listening to his stories about "the olden days," many of which included horses. Tina was interested in music, both vocal and playing the old pump organ, but the opportunity to pursue this talent was not a priority for her back then.

Oscar passed away on August 22, 1973, and Tina on April 5, 1986. They were laid to rest in Bethel Lutheran Cemetery in Greenbush next to their infant daughter.

Submitted by Beatrice (Williamson) Dvergsten.

William "Bill" and Olga <Bakke> Wilson

William John Wilson was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, on April 18, 1896. He was the son of Torkel and Josephine Wilson. Bill's parents had immigrated to the United States from Norway and the family name was changed from Torkelson to Wilson at that time. Bill moved with his family to Madison, Minnesota, in 1896. Bill had four brothers and three sisters.

Olga (Bakke) Wilson was born in Cottonwood, Minnesota, on November 24, 1891. She was one of fourteen children born to Syvert and Gurtie "Guri" Bakke. The Bakke family originated in Norway also. At the age of one year, Olga moved with her family to Madison, Minnesota.



William J. Wilson family 1938; Back: Irene, William, and Glendora, Front: Bill and Olga. (photo courtesy Joan Green)

Bill and Olga were married on July 25, 1910. They farmed for several years in the Madison area. Early in the spring of 1917 they moved to a farm seven miles west of Greenbush. Olga frequently told her friends and family that they arrived when there was still a good snow cover and the rocks in the fields could not be seen. She also said that if she had seen the rocks upon arriving she would have returned to southern Minnesota immediately!

The children were raised on the farm:

Glendora (Mrs. Clarence Melby), Irene (Mrs. Melvin I. Melby) and William John Jr. Seventeen grandchildren were also added to the family tree.

In 1936 Bill began to devote most of his time to public service. He served on numerous boards and committees and his death created seventeen board vacancies to be filled. He died in New York City on January 31, 1949, while attending an R. E. A. convention. He had worked diligently to get R. E. A. lines to all homes in Roseau County. Memorials to Bill paid for the first operating room in the new Greenbush Hospital.

While Bill served his community, Olga kept the farm and family organized. Bill's hobby was fishing. Olga's hobby was crocheting fine lace and they both enjoyed playing whist. They were active members of Pauli Lutheran Church.

On September 17, 1964, Olga married Alfred M. Jacobson, a member of the family, from Madison, Minnesota. They were married in Roseau and made their home in Madison for ten years. In November of 1974 they became residents of the Karlstad Memorial Nursing Center where Alfred passed away one year later. Olga passed away on March 3, 1979.

*Submitted by Joan (Melby) Green. *Rural Electrification Administration*

Ole and Ida (Knutson) Winjum

Ole Winjum was born September 18, 1876, to Jens J. and Margaretta Nasset in Hitterdal, Minnesota. His parents were both born in Sogn, Norway. Ole was married to Ida Knutson. She was born at Turkey River, Clayton County, Iowa, on October 2, 1881. Her parents were from Ness, Hallingdal, Norway.

Ida's father needed more land for his three grown sons. They decided to homestead in Deer Township in the early spring of 1900. Ole and Ida went with them to get a homestead.

Ole also worked as a bull cook on the Great Northern Railroad when it was built to Greenbush. In 1902, he was treasurer of Deer Township, and in 1904 he became clerk of the primary and general elections. He also worked part time at Hans Lerum's General Merchandise store from 1905-1910. Ole was a justice of the peace until 1913 and also served as the secretary of the school board from 1905 until his death in 1932. In 1914, Ida urged Ole to run for County Commissioner of Roseau County. He took office in January of 1915 and continued in that position until his death.

Ole's main activity, however, was farming. He farmed the 160-acre homestead and another 240 acres that they rented. In 1910, the family moved to a larger home a half mile to the north on the land they were renting. They had outgrown their little home. In 1916, they added a two story addition twice the size of the original house to accommodate their ever growing family.

Ole and Ida had 12 children: Bessie Mable (Johnson), James Henry, Myrtle Esther (Melick), Irene Otilla (Murray), arel Raymond, Hazel Alice (Bjerk), Clara Luella (Boder), Gladys Lenora (Johnson), twins Lualice Bernice (Southworth) and Lillian Merle (Johnson), Harold Earl, and Caryl Vernon.

Ida died of the flu in April of 1919, at her home in Deer Township at 37 years of age. She left 12 children from 18 years to less than a year. She was buried at Poplar Grove. Ole died in the fall of 1932, when he was 56.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from the Roseau County History Book, written by Lillian (Winjum) Johnson.

Frank and Anna (Wisinski) Wirkus
Joseph and Mariana (Briski) Wojciechowski
Frank and Mariana (Briski Wojciechowski) Wirkus



Frank Wirkus (1865-1954) was born in Poland. He came to the Leo community, in Barto Township (seven miles northwest of Greenbush) in the 1870s. He married Anna Wisinski (1866-1909) at Winona, Minnesota, in 1886. (In 1905, he homesteaded land seven miles northwest of Greenbush [NE 1/4 Section 26 164 N Range 44 W]. It was unorganized at that time. It is now called Polonia Townshi . This land was bought by Leo

Frank Wirkus, Anna Visinka (Wisinski) Wirkus, Mike Wirkus, and **Elizabeth and** Frances Wirkus. (photo courtesy of *Elinor Koshemina*)

Kukowski in 1936, then sold to his son, Tony, in 1949. Adrian Dolney purchased it in 1966-1968. At the present time, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Dolney live there in a new home. The area where they lived was mostly wild undeveloped country and swampland. Much of their entertainment consisted of house parties and dances held at their home, or at the homes of others who lived in that part of the country. They often walked to these events, sometimes the distance of seven or eight miles! Frank and Anna had seventeen children, including four sets of twins; nine children died at an early age, some at birth. Anna and their last child died during childbirth. Later, Frank married Mariana (Briski) Wojciechowski (1866-1946), after the death of her husband, Joseph Wojciechowski.



Marion Kukowski, Mariana Wirkus and Frank Wirkus. (photo courtesy of *Elinor Koshemina*)

Joseph and Mariana came to the Greenbush area in the "early days" and settled on a homestead in Barto Township, NW 1/4 Section 10. Mariana was one of those hardy pioneer **women** who helped develop that sparsely populated area, and lived to see it evolve into a fine community of homes and farms. They had ten children: Peter; John; Maggie; Max (Lena Lowe Chamberland); Frank (Frances Gonshorowski); Alex (Elizabeth Blawat); Frances (James Smrstik); Stella (Rudy Anderson); Violet; and Joseph.



Max Wojciechowski, Alex Wojciechowski, Violet Wojciechowski, Frances Smrstik, Stella Anderson, Frank Wojciechowski. (photo courtesy of *Elinor Koshemina*)



Into the union of Frank and Mariana one child, Marian (1911-2003) was born. Marian married John L. Kukowski in 1929. Mariana was bedridden for many years with a lingering illness, and passed away in 1946. Frank passed away in 1954. They are both buried at the St. Aloysius Catholic Cemetery, rural northwest Greenbush.

Submitted by Elinor (Kukowski) Koshemina.

Frank Wirkus 1950 (photo courtesy of *Elinor Koshemina*)

Frank and Marianna Wirkus
(See Frank and Anna Wirkus)

Fred and Oline "Lena" Wjaskow

Fred Wiskow was born July 16, 1863, in the town of Sherman, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin. He had five sisters and two brothers. His parents, Johan Wiskow and Caroline Lemke, were immigrants from Prussia. He grew up in Wisconsin and later moved to Murray County, Minnesota.



Fred Wiskow family: Back: Oline "Lena", Fred, Middle: Dewey, Walter, Front: Marshall, Angela and William. (photo submitted by *Avis Wiskow*)

Oline Halvorsdotter was born in Kengsvinger, Hedmark, Norway on April 9, 1867, to Halvor Johanneson and Maren Amundsdotter. She immigrated with her family that same year and they settled in Iowa. Later they came to Leeds Township, Murray County, Minnesota. They Americanized their name to Johnston later taking the name of the farm in Norway where they lived, to become "Snare."

Fred Wiskow and Oline "Lena" Wjaskow met in Murray County and were

married on Nov. 11, 1890. They lived in several places in Murray, Wadena, and Becker Counties during which time five children: William (1891), Marshall (1893), Angela (1894), Walter (1899), and Dewey (1899) were born.

The Wiskow family left Ponsford in Becker County in the summer of 1904 and traveled north to Pelan, Roseau County where Lena's brother, Amund Snare, was living. In late fall of 1904, the family came to Huss Township and settled on Section 11, buying the "squatter's rights" of the man who had been living there. That person had built a small log house and Fred and Lena and their family lived in that little house until they were able to build a frame house.

Fred's brother, Frank Wiskow, also lived with them. Fred filed his homestead application March 15, 1905. They had to live on the farm for five years, work up a certain number of acres of land and make certain improvements in order to receive a land "patent" or deed. The four witnesses who signed that he actually was living on the land were Martin Hanson, Theo. Gilbertson, Halvor Snare, and Amund Snare. Fred received his "patent" in 1910, at which time he had built a house, log barn and several other buildings. He had built a ditch 90 rods long, 3 feet wide and 1 foot deep. He had fenced 20 acres of field, 10 acres sheep pasture, and 450 rods on three sides of the claim, with rail on top. He had 17 acres under cultivation, and owned 13 head of cattle, 4 horses and 20 sheep. Two of the witnesses also had to swear that Fred and his family were actually living on the land and that he had made the improvements he said he had made. Farming and woods work were a major part of their lives.

Fred and Lena helped to start the Klondike Lutheran Church in Poplar Grove Township. Lena died in 1912, Fred in 1940, and Uncle Frank in 1917. In 1918 William and Marshall were drafted

into the army, serving in France. After returning in 1919, they resumed farming and logging.

Daughter Angela did not marry, and she died in 1966. All the sons married and bought land in Huss Township: Dewey in Section 4, William in Section 5, Marshall in Section 10, and Walter bought the homestead farm in Section 11. All the farms are still in family ownership and the homestead farm is a centennial farm in 2004.

The Wiskow family celebrated 100 years in the Strathcona area in 2004. The members have been active members of the community and their churches. Several family members have been in military service, WWI, WWII, Korean Conflict, Vietnam, and the Iraq War, as well as during peace time. Approximately 278 direct descendants of Fred and Lena are living at this time and many of them continue to live in northwest Minnesota, especially Roseau County.

Submitted by Avis Wiskow and Julia (Shimpa) Wiskow.

George and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Wittak

John Wittak was born in 1887. Elizabeth M. "Lizzy" Mitchell was born July 20, 1895. They were married and lived in Barnett Township. They had eight children: Bertha Foldesi, Eugene, Catherine, Bernice Penas, Lois Seydel, John Jr., Raymond, and Betty Froshaug.

They raised horses, cows, sheep, pigs, ducks, geese; turkeys, and chickens, as well as hay, grain, and a large garden.

John passed away in March of 1933. Lizzie then married George Foldesi on November 10, 1938. They had one son, Robert.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information taken from an article written by Jerry Penas for the Roseau County History Book.

Nicholas and Johanna (Ihm) Witzman

Nicholas (N. P.) Witzman was born in Stearns County Minnesota in 1872. To confuse future generations, he had an older brother named Nicholaus known as Claus. His Witzman ancestors came from Rosspport, Luxemborg, and other ancestors from Germany. In 1892, he married Johanna Ihli who was born in 1870. In 1915 they moved near Greenbush where he came to manage an elevator.



Nicholas and Johanna Witzman wedding in 1892. (photo courtesy Phillip and Marilyn Walsh)

They had twelve children: Michael (married and lived in London, England); Susan, known as Sister Alquina; Elizabeth (John Walsh); Mary; Benedict; Helen (James Walsh); Alois (Norma Peterson); Paul (Nora Zabrocki); Rose (Klinkhammer); Leander, known as Lee; Roman (Evelyn Stauffenecker); and Joseph (Shirley Bergsnev).

In 1926, Nick died at age 54. He had taken his wife to St. Cloud because of the illness and death of her aged father. Two hundred miles into the turn off to Greenbush, a twelve year old Roman

awakened suddenly to find himself lying in the ditch by the side of the car. They had been sideswiped by another vehicle. "It (the car) turned turtle, throwing Mr. Witzman out of one of the front doors directly in the path of the falling vehicle." This was shortly after Witzmans had sold their farm, one mile north of Greenbush (now the Joseph and Darlene Novacek building site) and were preparing to move.

Most of the children married into area families and many descendants of Elizabeth, Helen, and Alois live in the area. Leander (Lee) was a school bus driver and janitor at the Greenbush School for many years.

Johanna died at age 85. Both are buried at Cold Spring. *Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Source: Witzman genealogy book.*

Joseph and Marianna Wojciechowski

(See Frank and Anna Wirkus)

Theodore Wojciechowski



Theodore Wojciechowski - Dad of Ben Wojciechowski. (photo courtesy of Elinor Koshenina)

The Theodore and Dominika Wojciechowski children were Leo, Ben, Clara (Goroski), Bernice (Armstrong), and Angie (Foltz).

Theodore Wojciechowski was one of the immigrants who came from the Poznan, Poland area to settle in Minnesota before the turn of the century.

Submitted by Elinor Koshenina.

E. H. (Enok) and Kristine Wold

E. H. Wold homesteaded 160 acres in Hereim Township on December 7, 1909. It seems it took him seven years to prove up the homestead, or perhaps to accumulate the transaction fee, as it was not recorded until October of 1916. E. H. was quite an artist, which was apparent in the house he built on his homestead. In it, he designed and built a tremendous fireplace, which included humidifying features.

That he capitalized on his artistic abilities is evidenced by his studio letterhead stationery. It is headed: "E. H. Wold, Artist, Painter, High Art Interior Decorating, Scenic Painting, Bulletin Sign Work and Designing." On the left upper corner of the letterhead is printed, "Color Sketches Made to Order For Any Public Building," on the right upper corner is, "Landscape and Portrait Painting a Specialty."

Apparently he was very versatile and did not limit himself to "high art." An ad that appeared in the December 15, 1916, issue of the Greenbush Tribune read: "Paint Your Automobile-- Do not have your car painted until you see me." In the ad, E. H. assures people that "painting automobiles is no more like painting houses than building automobiles is like building houses."

When the new school was built in 1920, according to the Greenbush Tribune, "interior was decorated by local artist, E. H. Wold, in Italian marble. All the stage curtains and wings are hand painted." By all accounts the painting and decorating in the school was fabulous. Unfortunately, the school burned a few years later.



Greenbush school interior was decorated by E.H. Wold in Italian marble. He also hand painted the stage curtains and wings. (photo courtesy of Milt Sather)

In the winter of that same year, 1920, E. H. advertised that he was clearing twenty acres of land and would be selling the wood, so he continued to improve his farm, although he was a busy man. He served as clerk of Hereim Township for many years, signing the Official Oath of Office on March 12, 1910, and approving township accounts as late as July of 1923. Apparently this was a paid position; it seems he may have received up to \$25 per year in the later years. His wife, Kristine, also received payments from the township. She hosted elections regularly in her home and received two dollars for "election room rent." This tidy sum was raised to three dollars later, with a couple of checks for four dollars in 1922,

but a drop back to three dollars in 1923. Perhaps the election room rent also included cooking for the township board members. Later Ernest Stauffenecker became clerk of Hereim, and his granddaughter recalls, "My Grandma cooked for the township board members. I can remember all those men eating around the big table."

E. H. also served on the school board for several years, tendering his resignation in April of 1924, "in preparation for his departure for California." He sold his homestead to Christian Stauffenecker in November of 1925, but there is no evidence that he ever made it to California. Three years later ownership of the land was transferred to Ernest Stauffenecker, who also became clerk of Hereim Township.

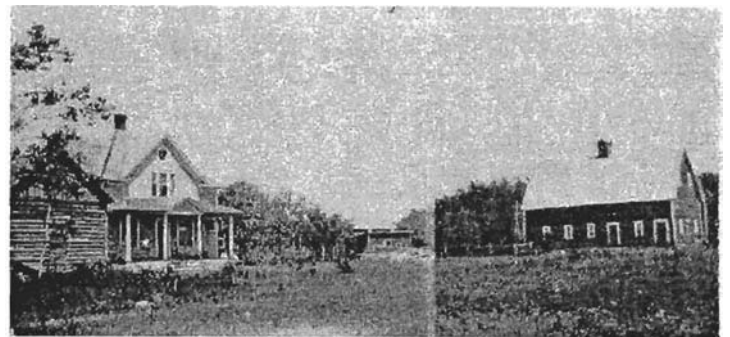
The December 14, 1933, issue of the Greenbush Tribune had an article entitled, "Former Greenbushites Have a Happy Gathering." It reads, in part, "A Greenbush family gathering took place on Thanksgiving Day at Muskegon, Michigan, when John Hereim and wife took Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wold, together with Cordie Hereim, from Chicago to join hands with old acquaintances from Greenbush, Minnesota, now residents of Muskegon." E. H. had done a watercolor painting of Andrew Benson's home surroundings at Greenbush, entitled "Harvest Time," and dedicated it to the Bensons for the occasion.

E. H. died at Chicago of a "heart stroke" on November 11, 1949. *Submitted by Eunice Korczak based on research done by Milt Sather and Linda Blumer.*

Otto and Marie Wollin

The Otto Wollin family lived north of Greenbush in December 1919, since the Greenbush Tribune mentioned that Clarence, George, and Mabel Wollin entered fourth grade and Lawrence Wollin entered first grade. That three children were in the same class indicates their schooling had been sporadic.

The Wollins had rented a farm, just east of Greenbush for about two years before buying the farm a mile north of Greenbush in Barto Township. The farm was in the SE 1/4 Section 34, which is the quarter where Joseph "Honey Joe" and Darlene Novacek have their buildings. The Wollins had come from Hoffman, Minnesota. Otto's brother Max was also in the area about that time.



The Otto Wollin farm north of Greenbush previously owned by Witzmans. (photo courtesy of Phillip and Marilyn Walsh)

Mrs. Wollin was born Marie Perleberg in 1885 and Otto Wollin was born in 1883. They both died in 1942 in a train accident.

When they lived near Greenbush, Florence Peterson recalls her mother warning them to wear hats or they would be so brown "the Indians will pick you up." She also recalled that the Indians borrowed a lot of stuff especially salt, and would sometimes milk the cows before the family could.

In the hard times, the Wollins lost their farm and the bank "sold

them out" selling their farm items at auction.

A look at a 1935 atlas, would show how horrible this time was for farmers. More land was owned by banks and the State of Minnesota than by individuals in some area townships. The banks were in places such as Winona, Slayton, Stewartville, Kenyon, Hillsboro, Mentor, and Fargo. Other groups who had the land were Theo. Hamms Brewing Company, Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad, Aetna Life Insurance, Union Central Life Insurance, Macalester College, St. Olaf's College, Minneapolis Moline Power Implement Company, Minnesota Land and Implement Company, and Iowa Land and Investment. A little farmland was owned by local banks, but D. E. Tawney controlled many many parcels, and he had been an early banker. (Many farmers rented Tawney-Bo1sum farms in the 1940s.)

Comparing atlases from 1913, 1935, and 1972, show that some families regained title to the farms, but the majority moved on.

In 1927, the Wollin family moved to a farm east of **Karlstad**. Mrs. Wollin's father, Grandpa Herman Perleberg, bought that farm for them.

The Wollins had twelve children. Mabel 1909-87 (Melvin Sovde); George 1910-83 (Amy Brekke); Clarence 1911-64 (Ethel Peterson); Lawrence 1912-69 (Vema Sanner Moen); Elmira 1914 (Orton Brekke); Carmen 1916 (Ernest Curtis); Florence 1918 (Raymond Peterson); Willis 1920-94 (Marjorie Koland); Mandeline Marie 1922-23; Bob 1924 (Betty Stavish); Harley 1925 (Alvina Zarling); and Lorraine 1927 (Elmer Mortenson). Most of the Wollins live in the Karlstad area. Clarence and his family lived in Greenbush for awhile. Mabel and Bob raised their families in Greenbush and most of their families still live in the area.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Carmen Curtis and Florence Peterson.

Olga Nalerai Young

Olga Young was the daughter of Karl and Augusta Nalerai who came from Germany to Woodside, Minnesota, near Erskine. Olga's parents lived with her on her homestead in the NW 1/4 Section 32 Hereim Township. It seems a coincidence that John Berger, who settled the quarter south of Olga, had also been in Woodside.

The 1913 atlas shows Olga's brother, Frank, owned the northeast quarter on the same sections as hers. Olga's parents owned three forties along the section line on the south side of Section 30 adjacent to Olga's claim, another brother, Henry, owned an eighty on the south and west of Section 30 as well as a mile quarter along the south side of Section 25 in Dewey Township, which was just west of his eighty. Her brother, John, had the northeast forty of Section 29. The 1935 atlas showed Henry as the owner of Olga's quarter.

The story is told that back in Prohibition days, in the 1930s, the sheriff called my grandpa on the party telephone line to say he was coming down from Roseau to raid a still in the neighborhood. Of course when they arrived there, no evidence was found. That tells you how badly the sheriff wanted to catch them. I wonder which brother was the moonshiner?

Also of interest was a petition circulated about closing bars in Greenbush. It was published in the newspaper and the Nalerai names were on that petition. Hey, that would just be better business for moonshiners, wouldn't it?

When the ditch was planned for County Road 29, Olga's buildings were right on the line where the ditch was to be dug (about 1910). She moved her buildings from the southwest corner to the

northwest corner, but farther from the section line.

Submitted by Myrna Sovde. Sources: Harold Johnson. J9J3 At/as, Greenbush Tribune. Karl and Augusta Nalerai writeup. See also Karl and Augusta Nalerai.

Graton and Pelagia (Stanislawski) Zabrocki

Graton Zabrocki was born December 18, 1879, to John and Frances (Czewiska) Zabrocki in Poland. His parents had been married in Poland on February 11, 1879, and they came to America in 1884 with their first three children, Graton, Julia, and Julius. They settled in the Winona, Minnesota area. Subsequently, five more children were born to this family: Felix, Stephen, Frank, Isabel, and Mary. Later the family, except for Graton, moved to the Miles City/Glendive area of Montana.



Graton and Pelagia Zabrocki wedding Feb. 1903. (photo courtesy of Albin Zabrocki)

Pelagia Stanislawski was born March 11, 1883, to Joseph and Augustina (Mizek) Stanislawski, Pelagia's siblings were John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Stanley, Peter, Steven, and Frances. This family also settled in Winona, Minnesota.

Graton and Pelagia were married in Greenbush, Minnesota, on February 16, 1903. They raised a family of nine: Joe, Clara, Harry, Nora, Marion, Albin, Florence, Leonard, and Raymond.

Pelagia, through consultations with Graton, "ruled the roost," in most decisions of major importance, such as large purchases for house or farm and decisions for sales from the farm. Small purchases-- groceries, clothes for the kids, gifts-- were entirely left to her. She was also the disciplinarian of the family. If any choice did not meet with her



Graton and Pelagia Zabrocki family 1938. Back: Harry, Joseph, Leonard, Albin, Clara, Nora, Marion, Front: Raymond, Graton, Pelagia, and Florence. (photo courtesy of Albin Zabrocki)

approval, she would explain the error in a few sentences. If that didn't work, the problem was reported to **Gration**. In a few sentences, he could usually bring an instant resolution to the problem. Neither used corporal punishment; they had a superior method.

Gration was a farmer who wore bib overalls, but he also was a salesman who wore a two-piece suit and a tie. He worked as a W. T. Raleigh salesman. His sales job involved **going on** the road for a few days at a time. In winter, he drove a team of horses with the products in an enclosed sleigh. The cab up front was equipped with a glass windshield, beneath which were two holes for the reins to slip through. The cab was heated with a tiny stove made from a five-gallon paint can. The fire was fed with wood pieces cut to the proper size. In summer, he drove a two-door car with the **rear** seat removed.

Pelagia, an excellent cook and baker, never let anything go to waste and maintained the kitchen inventory so the necessities were always available. She sewed most of the clothes for the family **and** was in charge of sausage making, meat curing, and raising the poultry. When the children were old **enough** to help, she assigned chores to them to help with these tasks. According to Albin, she was an excellent housekeeper, homemaker, counselor, and just a perfect mother.

Pelagia died on August 14, 1972, at the age of 89. Gration died on December 10, 1974, at the age of 95.

Submitted by Eunice Korczak. Condensed from Story of My Life by Albin Zabrocki.

Joseph and Katherine (Zevdoeski) Zimek

Joseph Zimek was born in Czechoslovakia on November 10, 1866. When he was 18 years old he came to this country, first landing in Wisconsin. He lived in Tabor, Minnesota, and married Katherine "Katie" Zevdoeski in April of 1887 in the Catholic Church in Stephen, Minnesota. He and his bride **moved to** Soler Township near Greenbush immediately after marrying. They lived there for 53 years.

They had five children: Joseph, Jr. "Joe" born March 19, 1899, served in WWII, and farmed as his father did until the 1960s; Mary born March 28, 1902; Thomas "Tom" born December 13, 1905 and died August 15, 1957; Albert born March 6, 1910; and Adolph born November 9, 1911, and was killed in action during World War II in Luxembourg, north of France, on January 22, 1945.

Joseph died August 27, 1940. The funeral was held at St. Aloysius at Leo, Minnesota. Katie died June 13, 1942.

Submitted by Linda Gieseke with information from the Roseau County Museum, Church, and the Roseau County History Book.

Wentzel Zrust

Wentzel (Wencil, Wentz) Zrust was of Bohemian descent. We are not sure when or where he was born, or what his father's name was, but we do know that his mother was Antonia Zrust. Possibly **his** father died before the family came to Roseau County because Antonia **homesteaded** in Section 4 of Huss Township.

Wentzel homesteaded the SE 1/4 of Section 3 of Huss, with his building site in the extreme northwest portion of the quarter. His homestead patent was received in **1909**, which would indicate that he moved in at least by 1904 as it took at least 5 years for the homestead to be finalized. He built a log house and had a full set of buildings, very up-to-date for the time. The log house is now 10-



Wentzel **Zrust** homestead house originally on SE 1/4, **Section 3** of Hun Township. (M)'mu **Sovde** pllotu)

cated at the site of the Northland Threshing Bee; the rest of his buildings have been tom down. His bam was moved to the Frank Brazier farm and was recently demolished.

Wentzel was a very good housekeeper; everything was always very neat and **clean**. He baked his own bread and made delicious fruitcake. Some of the neighbor ladies would ask him to make fruitcake for them. He made it during the summer and would hang it down in the well to age until winter time.

Wentzel's land was very rocky. He picked rocks and piled them into fence rows and piles. Rocks that were too large to handle were blown with dynamite to break them into smaller pieces that he could load on his stone boat to move to the piles. He was also the telephone lineman, keeping the line in repair for himself and the neighbors.

The nearest road was a half mile away so he had to drive through the neighbor's land to the road. He lived on his homestead until his health began to fail. Then he went to live with his widowed sister, Libby Gordon, where he stayed until he died April 18, 1954, in Thief River Falls.

Submitted by Avis Wiskow.

Ingeborg Nesteby Haugen and Knute Haugen

Ingeborg Thompson Nesteby Haugen was born in Norway on September 16, 1856. At the age of twenty-two she married Torja Nesteby in Norway. Seven children were born: Andrew, Anna (Andrew Halvorson), Helen (Sundlie), Oscar (Ingeborg "Ida" Berge), Thea (Eeg / Linder), Robert (Minnie Hendrickson) and Tom (Emma Miller).

In 1884 the Nesteby family immigrated to the United States and settled on a farm at Lake Park, Minnesota. In 1892 misfortune struck and her husband, Totja, was accidentally killed by the explosion of a steam boiler,

In 1895 Ingeborg married Kriute K. Haugen. Two children, Alma Haugen (George Farrel) and Charlie Haugen were born. The family moved to Greenbush in 1906 and located on a farm west of Greenbush where Evelyn (Kelly) and Charlie Haugen lived. After Knute and Ingeborg retired from active farming they lived a mile north and a mile west of Greenbush. Here again tragedy struck. In 1937, Knute was overcome by fire when cleaning the yard and died from bums.

Ingeborg lived with her son, Andrew, and had been bedridden for the last two years before her death at age ninety in June 1947. Anna (Mrs. Eivend) Berge was her sister. Her pallbearers were her grandsons Roy, Ernest, Floyd, and Erling Nesteby, Tenney Eeg and Curtis Haugen;

Submitted by Myrna Sovde Source: obituary from Roseau Times Region, Shelah Jacobson and Ruth Eeg.



Sina (Berger) and Harold J. Johnson. This is a composite photo of two separate photos taken about 1900. (submitted by Myrna (Johnson) Sovde)



Mikkel and Anna Bertilrud family, Front: Rudolph, Mikkel, Edwin, Maurice, Anna, Back: Mabel, Clara, Lillian, Arnold, Helen, Olga, and Gunda. (photo courtesy of Noreen Lorenson)



Frances (Wojciechowski) Smrstik and Mrs. Gilbert Anderson taken by a store or hotel. (submitted by Elinor Koshenina)



Knute and Ingeborg Haugen (submitted by Shelah Jacobson)



Elvind and Anna Berge (submitted by Shelah Jacobson)



People's Society of Pauli Lutheran Church. Photo taken at the home of C.R. Tox who served as a trustee of Pauli Church. (Milt Sather photo)



Ladies and children at the Sam Thompson house, seven miles southwest of Greenbush. This house was later moved to the James and Mayvis Lerum farm. Children in front: Willie Thompson, Ruth Bennes, Alice Thompson, and two others unknown. Adults in back: Albert Anderson, Andrew Anderson, Mrs. Rasmus Bennes, Thone Anderson, Mrs. Larson, bidden unknown, five unknown, Mrs. Carl Gustafson, six unknown, Emma Berger, three unknown, Mrs. Syver Haugtvædt, Christ Sogn, Mrs. Sander Rue. (photo courtesy of Lilly Bingaman)



Ambrose Dolney driving the wagon of siblings to country school two miles. Gene, Marcella, and Albin in the back. They kept their horses in the barn at school where they fed them oats and hay themselves.