OLE JOHANNESEN (TRETENES)

MORVIG

Ole J. Morvig was born in 1808 at Tretenes, Aasene Mid-thorland near Bergen, Norway. He married Kari Tyssen who was born at Voss, Norway in 1910. They settled on the Morvig farm and later changed their surname from Tretenes to Morvig. They had the following children: Askneld Olsen Morvig who married Anna Oddsdatter Brunborg; Andreas who married Inge Vidden Myhre; Ole Olsen Morvig who married Ger-trude Tyssen; Johannes Olsen Morvig whose wife was Anna Hjesedal; Britha, Mrs. Bogetvedt; Martha, Mrs. Aastveit; Carolina, Mrs. Christian Aagenes; and Maria, Mrs. Rolland. All the children and the parents came to Fertile in Polk county except for Maria, Britha and Martha who remained in Bergen. Ole J. Morvig and his wife Kari made their home with Askneld O. Morvig after they came to America in 1888. During their last years before they died they lived at the Andreas Morvig home. Ole died in 1900 and Kari in 1902. Both spent a productive life up to the end.

Anna Knudsdatter Fadnes was born at Voss, Norway in 1818. She married Odd Knutsen Brunborg in 1847. Her father, Knud O. Fadnes, already 64 years old, decided to sell the family farm and come to Wisconsin Territory. He gathered all his family and paid passage for them to America. Once in America, he helped all seven children and their families obtain a fine homestead near Madison in Dane County Wisconsin. Later Mr. Fadnes' nephew, who later became U.S. Senator Knute Nelson, also came with his mother to Dane County. Nelson will be remembered by many as the governor of Minnesota. In 1863, Odd K. Brunborg died, leaving his wife Anna to run the Spring Prairie farm. For a while her eldest daughter, Ingeborg, and her husband, Ole Larson, took over the farm until he got "Red River Fever" and took a homestead at Dwight, North Dakota where he would eventually own over a thousand acres. A son of Mrs. Brunborg had died as a child and a daughter Ada Louise had died in Chicago of diphtheria. Another daughter, Carrie, had moved to Fertile with her husband Ole. L. Opheim to homestead. Martha Oddsdatter Brunborg married Knute Nelson and Anna Oddsdatter Brunborg married Askneld Olsen Morvig. Carrie Brunborg who was married to Ole Larson (Brunborg) Opheim had three living children: Louis who was a pioneer businessman at Clearbrook; Ella, Mrs. Koxvold; and Ada, Mrs. Hilbert S. Dahl. Dahl was a voice teacher and the uncle of actress Arlene Dahl. Ingeborg Brunborg Larson of Dwight, North Dakota, had twelve children. Better known of her children locally is Mr. Larson of Grand Forks who began the Larson Furniture Company.

DR. ARNE NELSON

The memory of this pioneer physician and surgeon and leading merchant is held with much esteem and honor. He was a promoter of immigration to the county and dealt in land for the purpose of carrying on extensive business. He was in active practice as a physician and in mercantile business as a druggist. In all his activity he was giving service to the region and its residents. Such was the life of Dr. Arne Nelson.

His birth place was in Voss, Norway, in March 1851. He grew up in his native land and obtained academic education at state public schools and normal schools in that country. He taught school for five years. In 1873, he came to the United States and located in southern Minnesota. He worked with Dr. McNamara at Owatonna, and later on began study of medicine under the direction of this man. He began his practice in Freeborn county. After two years moved to Aldal in Minnesota. He formed partnership with Andrew Opheim in 1882, handling general merchandise and drugs. They carried on big business until in 1887 and then moved to Fertile, taking their store building and stock with them to a new site. Here they continued in business. In 1883, they dissolved partnership and divided the stock, Dr. Nelson taking the drugs and Mr. Opheim the other goods. The same year he erected a new building, which was used by his nephew, Nels Vasenden. The building still stands and is now the Fertile Bakery.

The Doctor carried on his drug business and kept up his practice as physician until his death on May 2, 1908. He was known in Polk county and other adjoining counties, as an able physician and progressive and public spirited citizen of great force for the good in this region. Dr. Nelson was married in 1878 to Miss Besie Hatleberg, a native of Wisconsin. They were the parents of five children, all of whom died in childhood except their daughter, Clara, who became the wife of Odd Eide, of Fertile.

Dr. Nelson was a Republican and a leader in the councils of his party in this locality. He was a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church. For many years he served as member of the Village Council of Fertile. He held membership in several different medical societies.

This is a story of one of the achievements of Mrs. Arne Nelson. She was a fine seamstress, and so made a flag to exhibit at the county fair. At the close of the fair, she came to get her flag. It was gone! Its whereabouts were never known.

THOMAS H. NESSETH

The late Thomas H. Nesseth, one of the most enterprising and progressive farmers and business men in Garfield township and a highly respected citizen, was born March 18, 1859, in Telemarken, Norway. He came to the United States with his parents, Helge and Margit Nesseth, in 1871, and the family located in Harmony in Fillmore county, Minnesota.

In 1881 the family came to Polk county and 1890, Thomas homesteaded on property north of the village of Fertile, which remained in the family for about seventy-five years and became one of the finest rural homes in the county. Soon after locating on his farm, he became a dealer in farm implements, flour and feed, and also operated a land office in the village. After a few years, Martin Peterson became a partner in the business, later selling his interest to Albert O. Gullickson. Mr. Nesseth served on the local school board, was mayor of Fertile, and president of the village council, was one of the organizers and secretary of the Garfield Farmers Mutual Insurance Company and secretary of the Cooperative Creamery Company. He helped organize Little Norway Church, whose church edifice is one and one-half miles east of his farm and near his old family home. He was secretary of the church until his untimely death occurred in July, 1912. He was married to Margaret Rude, who died after one year. On August 6, 1892, he married Mrs. Agnete Gullickson Henderson, a widow with two children Lillie and Arthur Henderson. There were four children by the second marriage, Mabel, Ida, Helmer and Albert.

Presently in 1975, the daughters, Mabel Nesseth and Ida Nesseth O'Banion live in Fertile, Minnesota.