Norway, married and remained there raising a family of eight children. Gunder was a sailor. The last card received from him (by Anne) carried the address of the Philippine Islands. No more was ever heard about him.

The descendants of Olav and Ragnhild number roughly three hundred at the present time.

The first record of the Aakhus family dates back to 1612, when Kristen Aakhus owned a very large farm (gaard) in the Bygland Valley of Norway.

About two hundred years went by, but in direct line, the land now went to Halvor, born in 1816 (died in 1876) who married Torbjør Os. Their children were: Brigid, Ragnhild, Anne, Anne, Kristi, Gunnar, Aslak, Knut, Tallak, and Signe. By 1875 all of the Aakhus brothers and sisters were in America—except one of the Annes, who remained in Norway. (In 1835 Halvor entered into an agreement to have an agricultural experiment school buy a big share of his land. This school in Bygland, Norway, is still in operation.)

Ragnhild, second child of Halvor and Torbjør, married Olav Grebrok at Kristiansand, Norway, on their way to Minnesota. They changed their name to Aanundson, also Aanenson, in the new country. They had ten children, who have been listed under “Aanundson” relationship.

The Aakhus relationship has a reunion every two years. The numbers who attend add up to over two hundred. They come from the Red River Valley in Bygland, Fisher, McIntosh, Effie, Bemidji, and various parts of the United States.

HERMAN ANDERSON

Herman Anderson began farming in 1939. The following year he was married to Evelyn Strande, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Strande of Nesbit Township. Over the years they have raised grain, potatoes, corn, sugar beets, dairy cattle, hogs, chickens, sheep, and beef cattle.

The Andersons have four daughters and one son: Judy, Mrs. Paul Helland, of Mankato, Minnesota; Susan, Mrs. Allan Natvig, of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Gayle, Mrs. Lloyd Meyer, of Byron, Minnesota; Carolyn, Mrs. Paul Otto, of Eagle Lake, Minnesota; and Peter of Fisher, Minnesota. Until 1955 the children attended the rural school, District 222, at which time this district dissolved and became a part of the Fisher school. They were all active members of the Riverside 4-H Club, with their parents serving as adult leaders for many years. The four daughters all graduated from Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato and the Mankato State College with degrees in education. Peter attended North Dakota State University at Fargo and UMC at Crookston and is presently employed as parts manager at Massey-Ferguson Inc. at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson also have 11 grandchildren, five boys and six girls. They are members of the River Heights Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

PETER ANDERSON

Peter Anderson (later spelled Anderson) came to America from Saetersdal, Norway in 1889 at the age of 21. Two years later, his parents and five of his six brothers—Evan, Rolf, Tellef, Olaf, and Gunnulf, and a sister, Ingeborg, joined him in Bygland Township. Another brother, Ole, serving in the Norwegian army at the time, came later. As was customary among Norwegian immigrants, Peter used the name Anderson, because he was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andres Pearson, whereas the rest of the family chose to be known by the name of the farm on which they had lived in Norway—Moe.

In 1895 he married Sigrid Aanenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Aanenson, also of Bygland Township. Their first home was in Section 11, on land owned by Tellef Hoverson, of which he later purchased. In 1907 he bought another piece of land of about 80 acres along the Red Lake River in Section 2, on which there were a few crude buildings. In the spring he moved his family there and they lived in a small blacksmith shop through the summer while a new house, barn, and granary were being built. Peter and Sigrid had 19 children, 17 of whom grew to adulthood. They were: Andy, Helga (Mrs. Arthur Eggstraaten), Ragnhild (Mrs. Minuel Eggland), Olaf, Martha (Mrs. Clarence Belcher), Gerald, Hannah (Mrs. Herman Nelson), Sophie (Mrs. Theo. Thureen), Rolf, Kenneth, Ingvald, Esther (Mrs. Alfred Danielson), Ingeborg (Mrs. Harold Tiedeman). Herman, Gertrude (Mrs. Sigurd Tjernagel), Marie (Mrs. Peter Tjernagel) and Sigrid (Mrs. Howard Christenson).

Mr. Anderson later acquired another 240 acres on the land on which he raised grain, potatoes, and corn. His children were all very much involved in helping to produce the crops, hand-picking and hauling in as many as 80 acres of potatoes, milk- ing from 20-25 cows year-round, as well as caring for chickens, geese, and hogs. During the summer large amounts of curdants, gooseberries, plums, wild grapes, and raspberries were picked and canned or made into jelly. Annually, Mr. Anderson hauled a load of wheat to the flour mill to exchange for approximately a ton of flour that was stored in an upstairs room for the daily bread-baking. Wheat was also ground with a roller mill on the farm for use as cereal. The chickens more than supplied the family with eggs, so the rest were "traded" for groceries, although it was understood that the eggs gathered on Sunday were to be sold and the money given to missions. Spare time in the winter was spent cutting wood for the cook stove used year round, although a large hard coal heater supplied heat for the house.

The large number of children attracted a great number of their friends, and the "Horseshoe Lake" and hillside behind the buildings were often the gathering place for 20-30 young people enjoying the skating and skiing there — or in the summer playing baseball in the adjoining field. All of the children attended the rural school, District 222, before some of them went on to higher education in Crookston or East Grand