On March 10, 1894, he married Margit Austad. She was born in Satesdal, Norway, January 6, 1870, to parents Svalaug and Jon Austad. Other children in her family were Gjermund who in the 1800's was killed by lightning while putting up a fence. Knut Johnson who came to Byland Township and Tone who married Ole Moe also came to Byland Township and Thrud who met his death by falling over a stump on Haavør's farm.

Many folks were very reluctant to let go of their Norwegian habits which led to a saying by a friend who was more liberal, "Margit, I think you think Jesus himself was Norwegian."

Nine children were born to this marriage. The story of two of these will be found elsewhere in this book since they are at present living in Polk County. A daughter Bergt, married Knut Kutsen and a daughter, Sophie, married Alfred Lindem, both of whom live in this community.

Gunhild was 14 years old when she became ill with rheumatic fever and died March 10, 1914. Turine married Charles Prine who was killed at Okinawa. She was married later to Donald Egan at Spokane, Washington. He passed away in 1966. Turine died of cancer in 1970. Oliver married Helen Gauthier who was killed in a car accident in 1964. Oliver died April 3, 1975.

Alma married Arley Aslakson, a farmer. She taught in rural schools and the first grade in Fisher, Minnesota for 30 years. They have three children, Barbara, who was married to James Short. They have one son, Steven. She is at present an elementary teacher at Fisher, Minnesota. She has been organist at the Byland Lutheran Church for 19 years — beginning when she was a sophomore in high school. Harvey spent seven years in the navy where he was in the submarine service. He married Barbara Fairbrot of Greenfield, Massachusetts. They have two sons. Brian and Gary and live in St. Louis Park, Minnesota where Harvey is a mechanical tester at Mts System, Inc. Paul, who lives in East Grand Forks, is a self-employed trucker.

Thelma married Thomas Helgeson. They moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He had a heart attack and died April 28, 1965. They have two daughters, Rosalie, who married John Svoboda and Joanne, who married Guytta Filip. They have three children, Stacey, Patti and Matthew. Ronald farms. Carolyn, a nurse, married John Ridgely. They live in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Thorson children have memories that are very vivid, but perhaps one of the most vivid is an accident that happened in 1908. Haavør owned a feed mill. One day he spotted a nail about to go into the machinery. Hastily he grabbed for it and the machinery caught his hand and before the men could stop it, his four fingers and part of the hand were ground off. The children will always remember that he was able to do more with his left hand plus a thumb than a great many men have been able to do with two healthy hands.

Haavør died June 8, 1949 at the age of 86 years, 10 months.

ALBERT TORGERSON

Albert Torgerson, son of Tellef and Guri Torgerson, was born January 28, 1867. In 1892, he married Gunhild Evans, daughter of Eivend and Tora Evans. She was born on August 24, 1872. While living in Byland Township, they operated a one room store in their home. Their children were: Edward, born March 24, 1893; Gina (Loyland), April 15, 1896; Tillie, August 24, 1897 (died April 21, 1927); Elmer, July 8 (died February 28, 1967); Amelia (Vigen), August 19, 1901; Alice (Hogol), October 15, 1908; and Charles, born October 15, 1904. Albert Torgerson died July 7, 1941 and Gunhild died May 18, 1965. They left over 90 descendants.

Charles Torgerson, born in 1904, was married to Anna Loyland. He lived in Byland Township until his marriage and then moved to Thompson, North Dakota. His wife was born July 11, 1899. Their children are: Ellsworth, Gloria, Robert, Arlen, Truman, Richard (died in 1951), Donald, Donna, Ronam, Ronald, Dale, Darryl and Judy.

Ramón Torgerson was born at Thompson, North Dakota on April 23, 1925. He married Theodora Fladeland in 1957. She was born January 27, 1939, at Reynolds, North Dakota. They moved to Byland in 1957. Ramon worked as a farm laborer for Hans and Adolph Skyberg for two years. In 1960, they bought and moved into the school known as District # 92. Their children are: Brenda Rae, Craig Allen, Breg Ramon, and Todd Ardell. Ramon was a construction laborer for fourteen years and then they both became employed for the East Grand Forks School District, where all their children attend school. He is Boiler Worker and Assistant Engineer and she is a school bus driver.

They attend church at the Faith Evangelical Free Church in Grand Forks, North Dakota.

MRS. JULIA THOMPSON TOWN

My name is Mrs. Ervin E. Town, formerly Julia Thompson, the only remaining member of a family of ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Ole Thompson, who came to Byland Township from Wisconsin in 1891. His grandparents' names were Hatlevik and Ottum. My mother's name was Kristi Sjurdsatter Ottum. They came to America from Sogn in Norway and settled in April Valley Church Valley in Minnesota. My nine brothers and sisters and I were all born in Wisconsin. The oldest was Tom, who married and stayed there all his life; the oldest girl was Stina, who married Anthony Lindem and later came to Byland.

Next was Louise, who married Otto Serum and moved to Minneapolis, then Severina, who became Mrs. L. A. Ogaard and lived out her life in California. Mary came to Polk County with her parents and lived here all the rest of her life. She taught in rural schools and was a faithful worker in her home, church and community. Mathilda came to Byland as a twelve year old, taught in rural schools and then married Daniel T. Danielson in 1906. They lived and farmed in Huntsville township, Susie, another daughter, married Redor Wardner of Byland, but she died at an early age. Sever Thompson taught school and later moved to Seattle, Washington, where he and his wife, Ella, lived. Ella still lives in Seattle. The youngest of the Thompson family was Elmer. He was six years old when the family came to Byland. He married Aurora Egelad and they lived on and farmed the family homestead the rest of his life. Aurora still lives there. Elmer was active in community affairs — serving on township and school boards and served his church — Byland Lutheran. He sang in the church choir, played in the Byland band and sang tenor with octet and chorus members in the Chester-Crookston area. Elmer died November 14, 1964.

This comes now to me, Julia. I will be 94 years old this March 10, 1976.

I was a school teacher for 23 years, first in rural schools in Polk County, and later as principal in Proctor, Minnesota. I