Fanny Township of Section 6, land now owned by James Fanfulik and Marjorie Barret. According to information given to me by William Rutherford, a life long resident of Fanny Township, Mr. Buffington acquired two and a half sections of land in Fanny Township in 1880. Until nearly 1950 that land was called the Buffington Farm. Mr. Buffington taught Sunday School in school District 77 on land now owned by William Volker. Often he walked to this school, a distance of about three miles. Most of his pupils did likewise. Just how long Mr. Buffington operated this farm, Mr. Rutherford does not remember. He remembers it best when Mr. Berthold owned it. Mr. Berthold expanded his holdings to nine and a half sections. Mr. Rutherford remembers seeing 11 5-horse drawn plows, followed by three harrows and three drills. At least 80 horses were needed for this immense project. There were three horse barns. The farm had both dairy and beef cattle, mainly to supply meat, milk and butter for the farm hands. So there had to be a cattle barn, too. There was a depot, elevator and huge outdoor scale, too. Very little grain was stored here. The grain was weighed and shipped out as it was harvested. A foreman was needed to run the farm. The one Mr. Rutherford remembers best was Peter Milan. A hired girl was also needed to help cook and clean for the men. The late Mrs. William Schipper, formerly Mabel Johnson, worked there for many years. She grew up on the neighboring farm. The last owner was Alfred Vonderbeck. Times were hard and the nine and a half sections dwindled down to about two sections. After Mr. Vonderbeck left, many different families moved in and out of the big house. In 1930, the Koolstras, a Dutch family, took up residence on the farm. The family consisted of a mother, five sons, and two daughters. They were an industrious, pennywise people and they prospered in their new land. All of them, even the mother, acquired spouses. At one time there were three Koolstra families living in the big old house. Finally they all acquired other homes. Most of them stayed in this area. James Fanfulik and his sister bought Section 6 in 19.50. James has a lovely new home there now. He says it took him about 15 years to clear out the old buildings, cement foundations, and weeds in which the once proud Buffington Farm site had deteriorated.

**JORGEN NIELSEN**

Jorgen Nielsen was born in Sonderborg Aal, Denmark, June 4, 1877, to Niels Nielsen and Louise Marie Nielsen and came to Northwood, Iowa, with his parents in 1895 to the farm home of his sister, Mrs. Jens Rasmussen. Grandfather and Grandmother Nielsen lived with their daughter and family helping in many ways. Jorgen Nielsen worked for farmers in the area.

In 1899 Jens Rasmussen and Andrew Andersen of Gibson City, Illinois, bought land in the Red River Valley, in the Crookston, Minnesota area. Then in 1900, Jens Rasmussen and Jorgen Nielsen came north on a freight train, bringing horses, cows and machinery and household goods to Hixon Station. Mrs. Rasmussen, four children and Grandfather and Grandmother Nielsen came by train to Crookston, Minnesota. Mr. Rasmussen met them with horses and bob sled to take them to the farm home.

After working with Jens Rasmussen and neighbors, Jorgen Nielsen rented the northwest quarter of Section 29, Fanny Township and then some years later, rented the north half of Section 31 in Fanny Township. At this time Grandmother and Grandfather Nielsen moved over to their son, Jorgen's farm, keeping house for him with some help from their daughter and granddaughters. Grandfather Nielsen died February 12, 1923. Grandmother Nielsen died August 13, 1923.

Clara Nielsen, daughter of Carl Nielsen, formerly of Crookston, married Jorgen Nielsen in 1924. They continued to live on the farm. Their daughter, Betty Elaine was born November 1925. Clara Nielsen, after a lengthy illness, died May 18, 1930. Jorgen Nielsen died December 23, 1932.

Betty Elaine Nielsen then went to live with her aunt Mrs. Rasmussen and family. She graduated from Fisher High School; and in 1946, she graduated from Grand Forks Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing. Miss Nielsen was then employed at the Northwestern Clinic for a number of years. In 1949, Norman A. Wentzel, son of Mrs. August Wentzel, was married to Betty Elaine Nielsen, in a garden wedding at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Jens Rasmussen. They continued to live in Crookston, Betty working at Northwestern Clinic and Norman worked at Top and Body Works.

They moved to Fargo, North Dakota, for about a year, then back to Crookston. They have two sons, Mark Allen and Gary Lee, both born in Crookston. A number of years later, the Wentzel family moved to Seattle, Washington. Norman now works with an Auto Insurance Adjustor, and Betty nursed at the Hospital. Mark graduated from Forestry Service and is now employed in this career. Gary is in a College of Business working on his master's degree. Norman A. Wentzel now has an Auto Insurance Adjustor Company in Seattle, Washington.

The Wentzels live in Auburn, Washington. Mrs. Wentzel has continued in the nursing profession.

**MR. AND MRS. GREGORY RADKE**

Greg and Karen Radke live seven miles north of Crookston on the Clarence Reitmeier farm where they have lived since their marriage in 1974.

Greg was born May 11, 1954 to Elmer and Gleva Radke of Crookston. During his younger years, he lived on the campus of the Northwest School of Agriculture, now known as the University of Minnesota, where Elmer is employed as an Animal Husbandry Technician. Then in 1963, the Radkes made the move to their present home in Crookston. Greg received his education at the Crookston Public Schools, graduating in 1972 from Central High. Other members of the family are Elmer Deane, of San Diego; Connie Lou (Nichols) of Pacific, Missouri; Kenneth Rae, on board ship with the Navy; and David Lee at home and a student at Central High School.

Karen was born on February 22, 1956, to Wilburn and Loraine Breken. Karen spent her growing years on the present family farm south of Crookston. Karen received her education in the Crookston Catholic Schools, graduating from Mount St. Benedict in 1974. Other members of their family are Larry, of Crookston; Jerry, of Prescott, Wisconsin; Rick, of Crookston; and Mary Lou (Plante) of Crookston.

Greg is presently employed in farming with Clarence Reitmeier. Karen was employed with the West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District but is now a full-time housewife as their first child, Jill Marie arrived on May 24, 1976.

**ALFRED RASMUSSEN**

Throughout the United States there are many people whose beginnings date back to colonial times. I am such a person. My great grandfather, James Lee, was born in Hampshire County, Virginia, in 1818. Hampshire County is now a part of West Virginia. Because all records were destroyed during the Civil War, I have been unable to get exact data on my family before that date. My maternal great grandfather, Jason Billings, was born in Maine in 1819. My paternal grandparents, the Lewis Sampsons, came to Iowa, directly from Germany.