moved to a farm known as the Miller-Foote farm, two and one-half miles south of Fisher, Minnesota, where they raised their family and educated them in the Fisher school. In 1930 they purchased the Martin Logan farm in Tyndall township.


BEN JOHNSON

The father of two area residents, Orrin (Bob) Johnson on the family farm near Fisher, and Mrs. Truman (Bernice) Danielson of rural East Grand Forks, on their farm in the Byland community, was among the early pioneers of the Fisher area.

He was Ben Johnson, who, on May 18, 1885, not yet 17 years old, got off the train at Fisher's Landing, and, with the exception of two brief absences, spent the remainder of his life in this vicinity.

Ben Johnson was born July 7, 1868 in Norway, and made the trip to the United States with no relatives or friends. In his homeland he had already worked on fishing vessels and at various other jobs. Here he began grubbing brush and clearing farm land.

In 1898 he entered the United States Army during the Spanish-American War, with twelve other men from this area, and served in Company L, the 14th Infantry, where he was a corporal when discharged.

He was stationed in camps in Georgia and Tennessee, and of the group which left from here, he was the only surviving Spanish-American War veteran for many years before his death.

He told many interesting tales of camp life, but the only complaint the men seemed to register was that the "maggot-ridden" food served them.

Upon his discharge from the army, he returned to Fisher's Landing, where he worked at various jobs, including some time at the Fisher Flour Mill, but soon began farming west of Fisher.

He took time out to go to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he homesteaded a timber claim.

Returning to Fisher, he was married on March 23, 1909, to Sena (Siri) Stalemo at the Lutheran parsonage in Crookston by the Rev. T. T. Ove, pastor of that church.

Mrs. Johnson was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ole Stalemo, and was born July 24, 1880 on the Stalemo farm west of Fisher. She lived here all her life, except for one year which the newlyweds spent at Coeur d'Alene following their marriage. She was baptized, and in 1895, was confirmed at Fisher Lutheran Church.

The couple celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in the same church on May 31, 1959.

In 1952 the couple retired and moved into Fisher, where they purchased a home. In spite of the fact that Mr. Johnson was then in the eighties, he still hiked out the two miles to his farm for a look at his trees and shrubbery, and usually declined a ride when offered one on the way. In his late eighties, he could be seen near the top of a tall tree in his yard, either trimming it, or even preparing to cut it entirely down.

He was presented an award on his 90th birthday.

The Johnsons had six children: Bernard, who died when an infant; Delbert, who died when twelve years old; Mrs. Truman (Bernice) Danielson, Bernard's twin sister, now employed at the Good Samaritan Home, East Grand Forks; Orrin (Bob) Johnson who lives on the home farm; Mrs. Edward (Thelma) Christenson, St. Paul, who works at the State Department of Motor Vehicles; and Mrs. Alvin (Selma) Dordal, Yuma, Arizona, her husband, originally from Mentor, owns and operates the Yuma Mortuary, where his wife is secretary.

Following his wife's death on April 8, 1960, Mr. Johnson and his son Bob lived for a time in the home here, but his last few months were spent at the Pioneer Rest Home at Erskine, where he died December 27, 1961 at the age of 92.

HAROLD MERRILL

Harold Merrill and family reside on the same farm that his great grandfather and family, Jeremiah B. Merrill, settled on in 1878. The farm is located in Fisher Township, Section 10 north of Fisher, Minnesota. The farm is still in the Merrill name, with the fourth and fifth generations living there now. The first Merrills were originally from Chautauqua County, New York State and for years the farm was called the Chautauqua Farm. More land was added as the years went by.

The first generation was Jeremiah B. and Polly Brainerd Merrill. They had five children: Anson C. Merrill, Alvin A. Merrill, Cephus B. Merrill, George Edward Merrill, and Mrs. Ella Merrill Tinkham.

The second generation included their son, Anson C. Merrill and Mrs. Ida Strande Merrill, and their three children: Alvin L.; Mrs. Ellen Merrill McCleary; and Anson C. Merrill II.

The third generation consisted of Alvis L. Merrill and Mrs. Eda Larson Merrill, and their two children: Mrs. Elaine Merrill Prestemon and Harold L. Merrill.

The fourth generation is represented by Harold L. Merrill and Mrs. Cathy Baker Merrill and their four children: Allen J., Gem Elizabeth, Aaron L. and Kimberly Inez.

They were all fortunate to have sons, so the name remained the same through all generations, which started ninety-eight years ago.

There are a lot of descendants of the first Merrills living around here yet: Mrs. Ellen Merrill McCleary and two sons: Billy McCleary and family of East Grand Forks and David McCleary and family living in Fisher. Mrs. Elaine Merrill Prestemon and her husband, Milton and two of their sons, Lee and Miles who live at Bagley, Minnesota.

Anson C. Merrill, III, is living in Fisher, Minnesota. The Roy and Nora Tinkham families, Arthur, Earl and Alton all live in Fisher and around Fisher, and Mrs. Bernice Tinkham Samuelson and family live in Crookston, Minnesota.

RONALD AND JEAN PETERSON

Jean Amiot Peterson was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Amiot April 2, 1938, at Crookston, Minnesota. A brother, Donald, was born in 1941. They lived in section 24 of Crookston Township until the spring of 1946 when a move was made to section 12 of the same township, where her parents still live. Mrs. Peterson attended a country school District 255, and remembers the cold outhouse, the big coal stove, and of course, the wood shed. She began taking violin lessons when she was nine years old, and was also a member of the North Star 4-H Club for eight years. In 1952, she attended her freshman year at the Northwest School of Agriculture, and lived in a dormitory on the campus. In 1953, District 255 consolidated into the Crookston Public School District 593, at which time transportation was made available. She then transferred to Central high school and graduated from there in 1956. Some of the highlights in high school were playing the violin in the orchestra,