Telephone Company, St. Cloud, Minnesota; Mrs. Mark (Vickie) DeSchane is a graduate of Moorhead State University and lives in Minneapolis. Jeffrey is a student at Lee County Technical School, Fort Myers, Florida. Rosalyn is a student at St. Cloud University. James and Donald are students at the Fertile-Beltrami School.

With the exception of a few years, Ludvig and Emma lived their entire married life on their farm (land purchased from his father, Jacob) five and one-half miles northeast of Fertile. They were active members of the Little Norway Church. With very few modern conveniences they struggled along raising their seven children, and doing many mental tasks. There was the clearing of the land of forest and chopping of cord-wood. I recall the long rows of cord-wood piled along the driveway. It was hauled to town during the winter months by horses and sleds, and when the ruts were deep, the wood would start slipping off and it had to be fastened onto the sled. Farming was diversified, and so we raised cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens. There were field patches of wheat, corn, barley, oats and hay. The wheat was ground into flour at the Fertile Mill, and the other grain was ground at the feed mill for the stock. From about 1916 to 1930 we raised from ten to forty acres of potatoes per year. We children did the picking, father did the digging and the hauling, and mother the housework and the milking of cows. Later in the fall father would haul two loads per day of potatoes at first with wagon and horses and later by truck. Potatoes had to be sacked most of the time and so it was mother’s duty to expertly sew the sacks shut. Farming was a family project and we all pitched in. The house was constructed in 1910, silo in 1918, and a modern barn in 1924.

TOMAS AND SIGRID LENSEGRAV

Among the earliest settlers in the Fertile, Minnesota area were Tomas and Sigrid Lensegrav, who came from Drengedal in Telemarken, Norway, to settle in the Kenyon, Minnesota, area in 1845. They moved to Fertile in 1879. Their children (some of them, then married) moved there with them. The Lensegravs built a log cabin in 1879, the first abode erected in the area. It was built on the Sand Hill River near the present Highway 32, railroad under-pass one-half mile south of Fertile. It had a barn and other farm buildings near the Old Mill, a beautiful setting reminding them of Norway. Ole Hamery and wife, Johanna, a Lensegrav daughter, spent the winter 1879-80 in a sod house, as did several other settlers. Their son, George, born April 5, 1881, was the first white child born at Fertile. The First National Election in the area was held at the Lensegrav house in 1880, when Garfield was a candidate. At the same time they organized their Township and named it Garfield.

Tomas and Sigrid were married in Norway in the same church where they were both baptized and confirmed, and they left for America on their honeymoon. They had a large family, at least thirteen children. The eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth children were named Elevena, Tolena and Tortine. Several of the children died in infancy but at least three boys: John, Enert and Halvor and five girls: Johanna, Julia, Mary, Elevena and Andrina lived to adulthood. Johanna married Ole Hamery, Julia became Mrs. Johnson of Fertile, Mary became Mrs. Ole Torvestad and Elevena married Lars Gulseth. Julia and her husband adopted a boy named Frank, who graduated from Fertile High School. He became an instructor in music and made a name for himself in the California public schools.

John Torvestad, a son of Ole Torvestad, graduated from Fertile High School about 1912. He became an attorney and was employed in Washington, D.C. Elevena married Lars Gulseth and they settled in Tynsid, Township, Fisher, Minnesota. Several children were born to this union namely: Martin, Alfred, Julia, Louise and Hannah. Martin married Christina Christianson of Crookston and they had Orville, Evelyn, Maurice, Leslie and Alice. Julia married Leonard Henrikson of Crookston and became the parents of Elizabeth, Emma and Luverne. Louise married Bernt E. Breidie of Eldred in 1901 and they purchased a farm one-quarter mile southeast of Eldred. They had two children, Elmer who lives on the home place and Lillian Breidie Gorter, who lives a quarter mile north of Eldred.

Now back to the Lensegrav log cabin tucked into a cozy spot on the Sand Hill River. When the Northern Pacific Railroad came through in 1886, a huge embankment was built separating the house from the farm yard. In modern times there would be an underpass or the house would be moved, but there it was, literally a huge barricade leaving the house stranded. The Lensegravs crawled up that embankment to cross the tracks, to crawl down a longer steep embankment on the south side to go to the barn, to do chores, to do farm work, to go to church or school, go shopping or visiting, or for visitors to come see them. The Lensegravs did not complain and never seemed disturbed by the inconvenience. As time went on the young people left and the old folks lived there to a ripe old age. Tomas died first, when he had suffered exposure and fatigue after he had become tangled in the fence along the railroad, through which they often crawled to do farm work. Sigrid was hit by a freight train which she did not hear on a windy day. She was standing on the tracks calling to Andrina doing chores in the barn. The train came to a stop, and the railroad crew brought her into her house, where she died immediately.

A typical pioneer couple they were and their place should have been preserved as a landmark! Tomas was a Civil War Veteran, a peppy fellow who was always willing to lend a hand. Sigrid always had room in her heart for all who came by. An Indian squaw gave her a tiny beaded bag in appreciation of some kindness. Sigrid always said, “They were as hungry as we were, and we always shared.”

ANDRES O. AND INGRID MORVIG

Andres O. Morvig was born in the district of Bergen, Norway, December 19, 1848. He came to Freeborn County, Minnesota, in 1873. In 1877 he returned to Norway but came back the year after accompanied by his brother, Askel.

In June, 1879, Andres and Askel came to Garfield Township and took claim on land in Section 27. Claims were filed at the land office in Crookston. They lived in a sod house while breaking sod and improving their homesteads; cutting trees to build their log houses. In 1879-1880, there were six homes being lived in through that winter. Andres O. Morvig, Knute Nelson and Peer Stromme were the committee formed to organize the township of what is now Garfield. The meeting was on September 13, 1880, a few weeks before the general election. The name was taken from the then President-elect, Garfield. About forty settlers assembled for this meeting.

Andres O. Morvig married Ingrid Vidden Myhre, a widow. She was born at Vidden Gol, Hallingdal, Norway, on July 18, 1859. Andres O. Morvig was the first judge of Garfield Township and was also town constable, supervisor, treasurer and school board member. Morvig was on the boards of Garfield Farmers Elevator and Mercantile Co., Fertile Cooperative Creamery, Farmers Cooperative Produce and Farmers State Bank. By 1916, Andres owned more than a section of land. During this time, Andres built and paid for a bridge across the