family is active in many of the church activities and organizations. Clayton is presently treasurer of Little Norway as well as of the parish. The youngsters are active in Fertile 4-H club, Luther League, FFA, Ski Club, boys wrestling, girls volleyball and cheerleading, band and choir, as well as the Fertile Saddle Club.

JOHN SCOTT

John Scott was one of the first six settlers of Liberty township. He emigrated from Scotland. He and his wife, Mary Connery, first lived in Grant county, just four miles North of Elbow Lake, Minnesota. In 1878, the John Scott-family homesteaded his farm six miles west of Fertile along the south banks of the Sand Hill River. Their children then were Ella, Ruthford (Rudy) and Etta. The twins, Grace and Margaret, were born later. This was truly one of the pioneer families of the Fertile-Beltrami area. It was the time when they were frequently visited by Indians who walked right in and took the food right off the table. Overcoming all hardships of pioneer life, including floods and droughts, John developed his place to be one of the outstanding farms of the community. He had dairy cattle and grew record crops of grain.

One Scott or another of the family has always owned this farm. After John’s death in 1907, his son Rudy kept the farm going until 1947, when he retired and moved to Salem, Oregon. Rudy died in 1951. The farm was then taken over by his son, Marvin. To keep it in the family, Marvin’s son Michael now owns the Scott Homestead which has been in the Scott name for 97 years.

OLE O. SORTE AND SON, PEDER O. MOEN

Ole Olsen Sorte was born in Norway, July 19, 1807. He was a carpenter and kept on with this occupation until his marriage to Jonetta, John’s daughter Eideem, in 1839. They bought a place called Lillemoen, from which they got their name. In the spring of 1865, he sold this place and immigrated to America. There had been an agent in Norway who talked people into leaving Norway to work in the copper mines in Michigan near Superior.

Ole Lillemoen or Moen had twelve children, of whom one, named Sara, was married to Haagen Larson Sorte Plods, stayed in Norway until her death and left no family. Ole with his wife and eleven children and a neighbor named Oluf Reppe, seven, who later married one of his daughters, left for America.

There were fourteen members that crossed the Atlantic Ocean. They came to their journey’s end in August, 1865. They went to the town of Hancock, Michigan, where the copper mines were. There were woods all around a small log cabin for them to live in. They could choose to work in copper mines or cut wood, which Ole Moen did.

After some time, their youngest child, three year old Haftor, died. Later Ole sustained a broken arm when a tree fell. The family got very discouraged with life in America, and spoke to a worker, Bjorn Geving, who had his father in Iowa. They decided to get someone who could speak English and help them to Iowa. Hans Smeydi did help them move to Lansing, Iowa and later to Point Creek, Iowa. It had been ten months since they arrived. Ole’s wife passed away, as well as their newborn child: all are buried in Hancock, Michigan. The younger children stayed with some of the older ones. Peder stayed with his father. After working for some years at whatever work he could get in Iowa, Ole bought sixty acres of land and married a widow who passed away after eight years.

Peder O. Moen stayed there until he was united in marriage to Caroline Haugrud on December 4, 1880. She also had immigrated from Norway at eighteen years of age and worked for German families in Iowa.

After one and a half years there, they decided to move to Minnesota, as Peder had a brother at Fertile, Minnesota named Ole Johan Moen.

Peder and Caroline and infant daughter, Julia, born February 1882, travelled by riverboat up the Mississippi River with belongings, which consisted of a covered wagon, two yoke of oxen and some cows. After landing in St. Paul, they traveled by covered wagon to Fertile, Minnesota. They lived in a small log cabin that belonged to Ludwig Hammer (this is the farm home of Ivan Wilkenson in Liberty Township). Their five month old daughter passed away in June of 1882.

Peder got a homestead by Melvin Station (in Onstad Township; this was located southwest of the John Van Raden farm). The 150 acres was light and sandy soil, which made it difficult for them to grow crops.

Ole Moen came by train to Fertile and helped his son, Peder, build a sod house which was their home for seven years. They also built a sod shelter for the livestock. Their three oldest sons were born here: John Oscar Moen, born 1883, passed away January 1975; Melvin A. Moen, born May 8, 1886, died January 1957; Oberling Moen, born September 2, 1888, passed away August 1963. Ole Moen had made his home with them for nine years, passing away November 9, 1889. He is buried at Varnes Cemetery.

The Moens then built a lumber house. Clara P. Moen was born March 22, 1893 and still lives near Fertile. The family moved to Liberty Township and resided there the rest of their lives. Two daughters and a son were born in Liberty Township: Anna R. Moen, born July 29, 1895, passed away October 1920; Hulda H. Moen, born November 28, 1898, lives in Fertile; Otto Moen, born March 13, 1904, passed away in February 1974.

Peder Moen bought 120 acres west of Varnes Church about one-half mile west. This became their home until their death. He was the first farmer to cultivate this acreage; he used oxen and walking plow, and later used horses to farm with, as well as for transportation. Peder passed away in January 1939, at 81 years. His wife Caroline lived until 83 years of age and passed away in January, 1944.

Their family lived more or less in the Fertile-Melvin area all their lives.

Lowell Township

Lowell Township was originally a part of the town of Crookston which was organized March 28, 1876 and at that time consisted of an area now divided into four townships. At a special meeting of the Polk County commissioners held April 4, 1877 a petition of legal voters residing in the present township limits to have Township 150 Range 47 detached from the town

343