grew to adulthood. Deceased are Edward, Jens, and Knute; living are Lulu, Emma, Alvin and Palmer. The family farms are operated and owned by the sons and nephew of the family.

Mr. Martin Erickson died on June 22, 1947 and his wife, Tilda, died June 20, 1949. They are buried in the Bygland Lutheran cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Knute Johnson Brokke are also buried there. The home place, section 10, Tynsid township, was bought in 1949 by Alvin Erickson who farmed it until his recent retirement. Alvin married Hilda Benson, July 14, 1936. They have three children, Hilda, Elaine, died in infancy, Allan, who is the fourth generation to live on and farm the home place, and Yvonne who is married and lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Alvin has served on the Tynsid township board as treasurer for over 20 years. He has also served several years on the Bygland church council.

PALMER AND LILLIAN ERICKSON

Palmer was born and raised in Tynsid township. He is the son of the late Martin and Tilda Erickson, pioneers of Tynsid township. He attended school about half a mile from home. He worked on his father's farm until he was married.

Lillian is the daughter of the late Lars and Karen Sander, also pioneers, residents of Tynsid township. She was born in Bentree township, Reynolds, North Dakota and came to Minnesota with her parents at the age of six. Palmer and Lillian made their home in Tynsid township since their marriage on June 4, 1932. They began farming land rented from Palmer's father; later they purchased this land and added another sixty acres to their holdings. In 1947, they built their present home on this land, a beautiful scenic spot along the Red River. Through the years they added other buildings and have landscaped the area to make it a very neat attractive farmstead. They are parents of four children, all of whom live in East Grand Forks, Pearl, the eldest is Mrs. Knute Aker; Betty, Mrs. Lindemoen: Martin “Bubs” Erickson: Linda, Mrs. Eugene Wavra.

These four children have presented Palmer and Lillian with thirteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

They have been active members of the Sand Hill Lutheran church, also they are members of the Neby Farmers Union Local.

CAMERON AND MARIAN GRAY

The farm on which we are residing was homesteaded by my grandfather, Kornelius H. Valor in 1877. He was born in Norway in 1850, was married there and with his wife and two children came to America and Minnesota to take up farming. Being a carpenter by trade, he built the necessities that one would need for a livelihood. A son, Rudolph, married Augusta Berland, who was born near Nielsville but was later of the Bygland Community. She was a teacher but after their marriage they moved to the home place. To that union two children were born, Alphon, Minot, North Dakota and Marion. A number of years later she married Hans Valor.

We attended school in a one-room school, which was known as District 226 or the Valor School. The school is still standing and was used for town meetings and elections but was purchased recently by the Polk County Historical Society to be moved to their new property. Many fond memories are interwoven with that place. Every spring I ask myself, where has all the “rubber ice” gone to? Many mornings we would walk to school on “rubber ice” and have many ponds around the school on which we would continue to play. I attended the Northwest School at Crookston but graduated from the Climax High School and took teacher’s training, teaching in the rural country schools.

Then I met Cameron who was born in Larimore, North Dakota to Reuben and Gladys Gray. His father worked for the Great Northern Railroad and later transferred to Grand Forks. Cameron is one of six children. Their ancestry is one of great interest and history. Their great grandfather served in the Civil War and their great great grandfather in the Revolutionary War. He is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Cameron and I were married in the Sandhill Church in 1938. Cameron was an employee of the Great Northern Railroad, so we made our home in Grand Forks. We have two children, a daughter, Aldine and a son, Cameron Valor. World War II came along and Cameron was called to serve his country. He went overseas on D Day to the European theater, landing on the Normandy Beach. The children and I were then here on the home place where we have remained. Cameron was gone for three years. He was in the 4th Infantry Division of the 4th Medical Battalion. He received the Silver Star commendation awarded to him by General Barton in the presence of General Eisenhower, the Oak Leaf Cluster and Purple Heart. During his absence I kept busy on the farm. Due to the manpower shortage I was frequently seen on the tractor doing various jobs; then I graduated to the combine. Aldine would sometimes ride along, but Cameron stayed home with Grandma, Grandpa and the dog. I even tried to shock corn, but it seemed the bundle would put me down instead of me putting it up.

When Cameron returned from the war he gave up the railroad and became the rural mail carrier after passing the Civil Service examination. He has spent 30 enjoyable years at this work.

Aldine and Cameron attended grades and graduated from the Climax High School. Our little school was closed; we consolidated with Climax district. Aldine attended the University of North Dakota majoring in music. Since she had always leaned towards nursing, she later sought that career and is now a nurse at Riverview Hospital in Crookston. She married Donald Poppe and now she and the girls, Anita Ann and Margie Lynn, are making their home in Crookston. Cameron attended North Dakota State University in Fargo; then he had to serve his time in the Service. His overseas tenure was spent in Vietnam. He is working for the Central Exchange Fertilizer plant in Climax. He and his wife, Marlene, and girls are living in Climax. Marlene commutes to Crookston, where she is a nurse at Riverview.

We are members of the Sandhill Lutheran Church and active members therein, serving on various boards and offices. We are thankful to the pioneers for their concern for a church and that we can promote our welfare in God by our work in furthering the Kingdom of God. We take an active part in community affairs, belong to a number of lodges, we both are on the state board of the Rural Letter Carriers and Auxiliary. So with our family and grandchildren not too far away, and our hobbies, I don’t think we will have too much idle time on our hands when Cameron retires.

JOHN KOPPANG

Johan Koppang, known as John, was born in Tynsid township, section 26, March 24, 1894, the youngest son of Hans O. and Gurina Fosbakken (later changed to Fosbak) Koppang. He attended grade school in district #226 and often told of how he walked to school early in the morning in the cold and would start the fire in the cold schoolhouse and have it warm when the teacher and other pupils got there. He attended the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston in 1910. He was