dren which included John Jr., Thomas, George, Martin, William, Barney, Louis, Frank, Wendell, Mrs. Mary Haarison, Mrs. Fred (Gertrude) Quiqley, Mrs. Ole (Ellen) Benson, Mrs. T. E. (Aggie) Logan, and Mrs. Max (Florence) Griggs.

Gene’s mother, Lena Boisson, was born in Canada, July 14, 1867. After coming to Minnesota as a young woman she married John Haggerty. Sr. John was born February 2, 1856, in County Cork Ireland. His father, Barney, came to United States to settle in the Fisher area prior to John’s coming when he was only nine years old. They were one of the first Irish Catholic families in the area. John married Lena in 1885 and they homesteaded a farm in Tynsid township. John died in 1943 at the age of 87 and his wife Lena died the same year at the age of 76.

**PAUL HALVORSON**

One of the early pioneer families of the Valley was the Paul Halvorsons. Paul was born in Hallingdal, Norway in 1836. He immigrated to America and came to St. Ansgar, Iowa. He was united in marriage to Aletta Arenson (born in Solar, Norway, January 17, 1848) on May 15, 1871. They arrived in Dakota Territory at Fort Point in 1871. They lived for a while in the Currey farm area near the Buffalo Coulee. It was while they were living there that their first daughter, Mina, was born, January 20, 1872. They homesteaded in 1872, in Polk county Minnesota, the south half of the southeast quarter section twenty-six in township one hundred and forty nine, of range forty nine. It contained 75 acres and 75 hundredths of an acre. (The old land certificate no. 564 signed by Rutherford B. Hayes, hangs in the Anton Paulson home).

The Halvorsons lived in a dugout just south of the present homestead. Later a small home was built. It was a target for spring floods, with the trap door in the floor floating before the water receded. On May 14th, 1887, F. O. Sustad, Land Agent with a Crookston office for St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Company Land Department, offered Paul Halvorson more land, which was selling for $6.50 an acre.

Here in the new land there was much hard work, happiness, death and sadness. The family was blessed with six more children. Some were called home at an early age. Halvor born October 22, 1873, died in 1945. Marcus Oliver born in 1877, died in 1878, Mathilda Oline born in 1880, died in 1884. Anton Oliver born in 1882, died in 1904, Mathilda born in 1885, died in 1960, Bertha Louis, born in 1891, died in 1894. The family also raised a foster daughter, Alvina Bergstrand, who came to live with them at the age of seven or eight.

On August 12, 1872, the Sand Hill Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized by Rev. Hagebo. It was on that day that Mina Halvorson, along with eight other children, was baptized.

Aletta was a midwife and delivered many children in the area, all the Valor, and all the Bruun children. At the age of 80 years, she acted as midwife the last time, when Clarine Hetteland (her granddaughter) was born.

Aletta and Paul built a new home in 1904, which is the present home of the Anton Paulsons. Paul died in 1896, and his wife Aletta died January 29, 1931. They are buried in the Sand Hill cemetery.

Mina was married to Ole Koppang in November 1910. Mathilda was married to Peter O. Hetland. Halvor (who changed his name to Paulson) was married to Lena Berg. Alvina was married to Selmar Bratager.

**SIMON HANSON**

Simon Hanson was born June 9, 1854, in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. He was confirmed in 1869. He married Berthe (Nielsdatter) Svebakken (later changed to Sveum) in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1875. Berthe Sveum (the daughter of Niels Paulsen Sveum and Anna Johansdatter Sveum) was born in Lillehammer, Gudbrandsdal, Norway, February 23, 1854, the oldest of six living children. Simon and Berthe Hanson had ten children: Nels, Hans, Math, Amund, Ida who married Andrew Seter, and Signe, who married Vern Matteson, were all born in Norway. Peter, Mary, who married Rudolph Swensson, Ole and Tina, who married John Koppang, were born in Minnesota.

They were very poor in Norway; he was a laborer and she worked as a baker. She baked flatbread in Lillehammer. She learned to bake quickly and was a very good cook. Part of her earnings would be some “lieves” of flatbord. Nels, the oldest child, when about eleven years of age, became good friends and used to visit with the famous writer and poet, Bjornstjerne Bjornson and described him as walking with a cane and being a very spiffy guy.

The Nels Sveum family (Berthe’s parents) had come to Lesor township in Minnesota and sent for Simon and Berthe Hanson and their six children to come here. The slow boat that the Hansons were on developed trouble at Liverpool and Hamburg and the time of travel was much longer than they had planned for. Some kind people shared food with the Hansons. Ida became very ill on the boat (she was three years old) and almost died. The Hansons arrived in Minnesota in 1890.

They lived with her parents for a while. Their own first home was a dismal sod hut built into a small hill. Their log house was built later in Badger township, just north of where the main house now stands. What a thrill it must have been to move from the sod house to the log house, and later to the beautiful new home they built. Always there were flowers grown at the Hansons. Simon Hanson was sick for a long time and died at home of cancer on May 9, 1913. The older boys did logging near Wilton, Minnesota. They would cut logs, pull them out of the woods and haul and sell them. They would go by horse and wagon and take food and drinking water along in cans and stay for weeks. Everyone worked hard, the girls herding sheep and cows and working in the hayfields. They would find and pick wild strawberries, chokecherries and cranberries. Rhubarb and gooseberries were also picked and jelly and sauce were made. Cranberries grew plentifully in the woods; and so, you see, way back in the 1890’s, the Hansons made cranberry juice, which now has been on the market the last few years.

Berthe broke her hip the summer of 1926 and had to walk with crutches from then on. She wore myrtle flowers in her hair when she was married in Norway, and she requested myrtle flowers to be on her coffin when she died. Her family complied with her wish. She died December 10, 1934. There was a close bond between the Hanson children, perhaps more so, since the hardships they experienced brought them closer. They were sincere Christians who put their faith and trust in God and always the church was an important part of their lives.

**HANS O. KOPPANG**

Hans Olsen Koppang was born in Koppang, Osterdalen, Norway, July 10, 1848. His father, Ole and mother, Elene Halvordatter, were in Norway and remained there. Hans took the name ‘Koppang’ since this was where he came from in Norway. He was reared and educated in Norway and reached Ottertail County, Minnesota, with his brother, Halvor, in 1872.