



Esten and Karen Estenson and three sons, Oliver, Thomas and Ivan.

sota, Vineland Township. Kjerstine Simonson Kjolhaug was born 1860 at Bardo, Norway, working as a tailor at Trondheim, Norway making men's suits and followed that trade after arriving in America. She came to Fosston, Minnesota where her folks had come in 1880. She came here in 1883 and in October 1884, they were the third couple married after the church was built in 1883. The Neby Church is called Sand Hill Church now. Estenson was the first Secretary at the time. Mrs. Estenson was the president of the Ladies Aid for several years. They celebrated their Silver, Golden and Diamond Wedding Anniversary in the same church. On their Golden Anniversary they had 400 persons witness the re-enactment of their marriage ceremony. Mr. Estenson served as president and later vice-president of the Historical Society and contributed several valuable relics. He also gave many valuable relics to the Smithsonian Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota and Washington. He was one of the founders of the Agricultural College Farm, now called University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Technical College. He was first vice-president of the Red River Valley Dairymen's Association, founded in 1903. The Estenson's home was the stopping place for James J. Hill when he surveyed land prior to the building of the Railroad through the Red River Valley. In 1889, they moved to Crookston for 10 years. They had an apiary and sold honey to all the stores.



Mr. and Mrs. Esten Estenson and Family.

Mr. Estenson was County Commissioner and was at the Polk County Court House. In the spring of 1899 they moved back to Climax and farmed. They also had a logging at Kelliher in the winter. In 1934 they retired and moved back to Crookston and lived with their daughter, until they passed away. Mrs. Estenson passed away at 90 years of age in 1950. Mr. Estenson died at 95 years of age in 1955. Their home at Crookston was at 103 E. 9th St. They had 10 children: four died in infancy: Selma, Iver, Katherine and Simon.

Thomas married to Ovidea Sondrol; Ivan married Elaine Vigen. Their daughter Carol married Howard Berget, deceased. There were four children: Bruce; wife Rita; one child, Kimberly Ann; Paul, not married; William, not married; Pamela married to Steven Soroto, one son, Steven, and daughter, Katherine, Dr. William Perry was her second husband. George, was not married, served in WWI and WWII; Esther married Laurie Ulseth (deceased) one daughter Kathleen married to Mervin Stromsmoe, one son, Kent and daughter, Karen married to Joel Erickson-Loren Dillon (deceased) and Al Johnson (deceased); Haaken married to Donna Shimpek; three sons, Roger married to Ann Siverson and Richard married to Diane Woods; Lionel (deceased).

## OLE AND INGRID ESTENSON

Vineland Township in the Climax neighborhood is the oldest Norwegian settlement on the Minnesota side of the Red River of the North. Among the first settlers were found the Estenson family, P. O. Satermo and Ole Jevning. Ole Estenson of Faadal, Norway, left Tynest in Osterdalen in 1857 with his family and had a difficult overseas journey. They spent nine weeks on the ocean in a small sailing vessel, "Flora", which left from Langes Undsfjorden with 275 passengers on board.

Enroute they encountered terrific storms and due to the congested quarters, the passengers suffered untold hardships. Two adults and six children died on the way and when they finally reached Quebec, two of the Estenson children were so overcome with fatigue that they had to be hospitalized before the family could continue the hazardous journey inland to Green County, Wisconsin, where they finally decided to locate. The Ole Estensons had three sons, Ole who married Pauline Hanson; Per married Ame Bangen and Esten married Karen Kjolhaug. Their three daughters were Ingeborg who married Ole Jevning; Elizabet married Peter Satermo and Marit married Ole Stortroan.



Ole and Ingerid Estenson and Family: Ole, Per, Esten, Ingeborg, Marit and Elizabet.

In Green County, Wisconsin Esten O. Estenson was born on February 22, 1860. Esten's father, Ole Estenson of Faadal, enlisted in the Civil War. His descendents preserve, as a prized possession, his letter written from Fort Snell, the 22nd of April, 1865, telling of the assassination of President Lincoln and the impression this made on the men awaiting their discharge from the Northern State army. After his discharge, Ole Estenson returned to Freeborn County, Minnesota, where he located in 1862. However, land was becoming scarce in northern Minnesota. The trip out to the new territory, now known as Vineland Township took thirty days and they encountered many difficulties.

At the Wild Rose River, the stream had felled a tree and it was necessary to fell another, which, combined with branches and twigs, made it possible to construct a usable bridge. They continued the march until they found land they liked. There was no surveying done in this territory at that time, and when this later was accomplished, they found they were located in Section 23, Vinland, Polk County, Minnesota. The first log cabin built in the Climax area of the Red River Valley is still standing and has been preserved as a historical home. It is located four miles northwest of Climax on Highway 220. The second family home, wooden frame structure built in 1874, has also been established as a historical home and is presently owned by Roger Estenson. June 10, 1971 marked the 105th anniversary of Ole and Ingrid Estenson's settlement in the Climax area. Also settling at that time were Ole Jevning and Peter Satermo.

The first farm house built in the central Red River Valley was built in the summer of 1874. It has housed the Estenson families since it was built and is the present home of Roger Estenson. James J. Hill frequently stayed in this house in his pioneering journeys into the Red River Valley. In this dwelling all the Esten Estenson children were born: Ester (Johnson) Haakon, George, Ivan, Thomas and Oliver.

## PEDER AND JOSIE ESTENSON

Ole O. Estenson was one of the first Norwegian immigrants to settle in the Red River Valley. He homesteaded on section