Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stinar.

Mrs. Andrew Stinar Sr.

tember 30, 1868, to Andrew and Anna Stinar. He received his education between the ages of six and twelve, when during the months of November to April they used to attend school in the Lutheran parsonage. After he was confirmed, he worked on farms and his wage was $30 a year. He immigrated to America and came to Minneapolis in June, 1886, and got a job at a tannery shop where the wages were $1.50 per day. He came to Tabor, Minnesota in 1888, and worked on the “Irish Farm” for a few years before buying his farm north of Tabor in Farley Township. His brother, Tom, came to America in 1888, with his parents; two sisters, and another brother, John, arrived in 1892. Andrew Stinar married Marie Bandzak of Minneapolis on July 6, 1890.

Mr. Stinar bought his land from the railroad company for $8 an acre and started farming in 1889. This he continued to do till he sold his farm to his son, Andrew M. Stinar in 1930. In the early days oxen were used and Mr. Stinar kept as many as 24 horses on his place. The Stinars built their first home and barn themselves. They kept a few cows so they had their own milk, cream and butter. They also raised a few sheep so they would have their own wool. Mrs. Stinar would card the wool to be used for quilts and for knitting. Mrs. Stinar did all the bread baking and other baking like everyone else with the old wood or coal ranges, and had to churn butter every week. They also did all the canning and put up all the meat etc., so were kept busy. In winter when there was little spare time there was always sewing or mending to be done and sometimes crocheting.

They built a new barn on their home farm in 1912 in Farley Township. Mr. Stinar had over 20 horses at that time. His brother, John, lived with them for several years. They then built a new house or larger house on their farm in 1916.

Mr. Stinar had a steamer and separator and later a threshing machine so threshed for several of his neighbors.

Mrs. Stinar raised turkeys during the twenties and enjoyed this hobby or work, she also enjoyed working in her garden. Grandma Stinar also lived with the Stinar family. They worshiped God together with other families in the neighborhood at the various homes until they organized or built the Lutheran Church at Tabor. It was demolished in 1930 by a tornado so they built a new church, now the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Stinar were the parents of nine children, two passing away in infancy. The following children were: Andrew Jr., and George of Warren; John of Grand Forks; Anna, Mrs. Fred Jirmasek, of Vancouver, Washington; Thomas, Paul and Edward of East Grand Forks.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stinar Sr. are both deceased; now also their sons, Andrew Jr., John and Paul.

Mr. Andrew Stinar Sr. made his home with his son, Andrew Jr., and wife, Angelina, and family, Myron, Elaine and Ralph from 1930 till 1957.

In 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Stinar, Jr. moved into Warren, where Mrs. Stinar resides at her home on North Central Street.

Fisher Township History

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER MEETING, October 9, 1876.

Application of a majority of the legal voters of Township 150 Range 48 asking to have a town organized composed of said Township 150, Range 48 and to be known as Town of Fisher was granted and the first town meeting ordered to be at Fisher’s Landing on Monday 30th day of October 1876, with William Kinner, Walt Dickensen and B. J. Garrnder for Judges and H. Shepard and H. T. Thompson for clerks. On October 9, 1876, a license was granted to run a ferry across Red Lake River at Fisher’s Landing. Records of Fisher Township from this 1876 court house account until 1925 have been lost. They were possibly destroyed in one of the fires in the village of Fisher in the early days.

Ever since the township became self-governing it apparently had taken care of the primary and general elections with the village of Fisher providing the facilities. However, at the 1972 annual meeting it was resolved to sever its election relationship with the village.

The following have served various terms each as town supervisors, clerks, treasurers and assessors over the past years in the order given: supervisors: O. J. Tinkham, Otto Ross, P. M. Aune, Ben Johnson, Carl Strande, A. L. Merrill, August Snyder, Christ Petersen, Thomas Torrison, Alfred Malmberg, Walter Ross, William Davidson, Ben Filipi, Orville Haug, Leonard Berg, Jr. and Larry Haug; clerks: Arthur L. Wagner, E. C. Hopkins, H. J. Widenhoefer, Henry Ross, Sam Roningen and Ferdinand and H. Wilken; treasurers: Isaac Jorgenson, Owen Olson, L. A. Wentzel, John Stalemo, Melvin Peterson and Lloyd Wagner; assessors: Oscar T. G. Olson, C. H. Omlid, Rudolph Olson and Sheldon Roningen. Many other towns people served various terms each as town justice of the peace; constable and road draggers over the past years. Dr. W. H. Hollands served as town health officer for many, many years.

Special recognition should be given to the following for their faithful services as town board members: Sam Roningen as town clerk for thirty-six years; Walter Ross as town supervisor for thirty-six years; Melvin Peterson as town treasurer for twenty-six years; Leonard A. Berg Jr. as town supervisor for thirteen years; Orville Haug as town supervisor for thirteen years; Sheldon Roningen as town assessor for twenty years.

The present town officers are: Leonard A. Berg Jr., Willis Wagner and Larry Haug, supervisors; Ferdinand H. Wilken, clerk; Lloyd Wagner, treasurer; and Sheldon Roningen, town assessor. At a recent annual town meeting the voters approved a resolution empowering the Board of Supervisors to adopt building and zoning regulations and restrictions.

JOHN A. BERGSTRAND
Anna Mathilda Ness was born in Sigrernesvangen, near Kongsvinger, Norway, June 30, 1878, to parents Olea and

Mr. and Mrs. John Bergstrand (Anna Ness) — Best Man — Andrew Larson
Bridesmaid — friend from Norway.
Andreas Johaneson, the eldest of seven children: Esten, Jorgen, Thora, Helga, Agnes, Borghild, and Johanna. In the spring of 1895, she left Norway and came to Fisher, Minnesota, where her uncles Ingebrit, Christian, and Arne Ness and Aunt Ellen (Mrs. Louis Larson) were settled. She was united in marriage to John Albin Bergstrand, October 24, 1900, by Rev. Sundahl. John was the eldest of five brothers and one sister born to Hanna and August Bergstrand. He was born at Oxnavalla, Sweden, March 5, 1871. Two years later, they moved to Humselynga, Sargard, where the third generation now operate a dairy farm. He came to America in 1895 and worked as a farm laborer, steam rig engineer, and worked for Alex Spokely and others in Fisher, traveling stallions for stud service. When first married, they lived at Fisher but moved thirteen times in ten years. Olena Augusta and her still-born twin sister were born February 2, 1902, at Fisher. Hannah Alvina was born March 6, 1904, in a little house by the Red River west of the Edward Quirk home. Esther Geneva was born August 20, 1906; her birthplace is not known. Agnes Josephine was born April 30, 1909, in a house down in the woods west of the Alvin Erickson home. That house was purchased by Severt and Emma Jordahl that summer.

The last move was made to a one-room log house near the John K. Johnson home and the old Erickson building site. As I, Alvina, am writing this, I look back and remember what a happy group we were, and how kind and good the neighbors were: the Johnsons, Erickson, Quirks and Haggertys. Mama had Hodgkin’s disease and was in and out of the hospital in Grand Forks. When I was five, I had my first lesson in honesty. Olena and I saw a catalogue with deep pink index pages in some rubbish in Erickson’s old house. We tore them out and took them home. Mama told us to take them back where we found them and never take anything that did not belong to us, because that is stealing and, “When you come back,” she said, “I will give you a magazine and you may cut paper dolls.”

Then came Christmas, 1910, and I got pneumonia. Papa took off for Fisher to get medicine for Mama. Erick Jordahl lived near by so he was with us. Magel Johnson brought our laundry back and saw Mama near death, so she went home and Addey, her husband, came. As we stood by the bed, I heard them say, “It’s all over, the quilt doesn’t move”. Johnsons had promised to take baby, Agnes, and did so immediately. The following day, Papa came back from Fisher and Albert Arness came for Olena. Arne Ness came for Esther and Jens and Lulu Erickson took me on a stone boat, a large horse-drawn sleigh, to their home to wait for warmer weather to make the eight mile trip to my new home at Halvor Paulson’s of Climax. This was due to my illness.

Papa married Clara Sandvik in 1918 at McVille, North Dakota. They had five children: Cora, Clenora, Susie, Victoria and Harding. In October, 1947, Papa came to live with me and passed away February 2, 1948. He lies at rest beside Mother and sister Agnes in Fisher cemetery.

MR. AND MRS. GUSTAV BUTENHOFF
Gustav Butenhoff was born in Pomerania, Germany, August 3, 1871, to Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Butenhoff. He, with his parents and three brothers and three sisters, immigrated to Renville, Minnesota, when Gustav was a young boy and they homesteaded in Emmett Township.

He was confirmed in the Bethany Lutheran Church. When he grew up, he was a surface-well driller by trade. He dug many of the wells in Danube, Olivia, Renville, and surrounding areas.

On March 28, 1900, he married Martha Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Miller of Renville, Minnesota, in the same church where they were both confirmed.

They rented a small farm east of Renville, and they were one of the first to raise sugar beets for the American Sugar Beet Company. In 1926, they won a blue ribbon for the highest tonnage of 14.76 tons to the acre, and in 1928, they won first and second prize certificates for the best general work performed for stands of beets left, and selective thinning and hoeing during the growing season.

They always dreamed of some day going north. Our dad had been up here when he was a young man and he thought it would be a real challenge to raise beets on flat land. So in 1929, he and his wife and three sons and the youngest daughter went by train with the machinery and the cattle; the rest of the family came by car.

They rented 220 acres of land a mile from Fisher. Section 15. They raised small grains and one hundred acres of sugar beets. There were no trucks in those days so they shoveled beets by hand onto wagons that were pulled by horses; then the beets were taken to Fisher, Minnesota, and shipped to East Grand Forks by trains. Our beet industry has come a long way since then.

The Butenhoffs joined the Trinity Lutheran Church and took an active part in church, school and community. If anyone needed any help there was always time to help a neighbor or a friend. Mother was called many times to assist Dr. Hollands to bring to the world a new life.

In 1931, the family purchased a farm two and a half miles north of Fisher, 310 acres in Section three. Times were hard; this was the Depression. Our parents lost this tract of land and in the fall of 1932, they moved off. In the spring of 1933, they redeemed the land.

Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Butenhoff had fifteen children. They are all still living as of this date.

In order they are: Mrs. William (Pauline) Duffett of Renville, Minnesota; Mrs. John (Mathilda) Blokzy; Mrs. Johanna Sterger at the Crookston, Riverview Nursing Home; Mrs. Martha Voss of Renville; Mrs. Bernice Foss of Princeton; Mrs. George (Alice) Ryks of Raymond; Mrs. John (Emma) Schroeder of East Grand Forks; Mrs. Ames (Helen) Evenson; and Mrs. Andrew (Ida) Sterger of Crookston; Mr. Alfred Butenhoff of Grand Forks, North Dakota; Harry Butenhoff of Selah, Washington; Mrs. Raymond (Ethel) Grove of Crookston; Mrs. Edna Seaton of Crookston; and Mrs. Joe (Arline) Brault of Long Beach, California.

In 1945, the Butenhoffs sold their farm and moved to Crookston. Mr. Butenhoff died March 18, 1947, of a stroke. His wife died March 5, 1949.

They are survived by their fifteen children, 68 grandchildren and 37 great grandchildren. There were a lot of hardships but best remembered are the good times!

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES EISSNER
Charles H. Eissner was born in Germany in 1872 and immigrated to America with his parents at the age of one year. The family lived in New York. His mother passed away when he was five years old and he was placed in an orphanage until he reached the age of fifteen. When he moved westward, ending up in Spencer, Iowa, where he met his wife-to-be, Ulrika Schueneman.

Ulrika Schueneman was born in Germany in 1877 and immigrated with her parents to Iowa at the age of five. She grew up in this area and became a school-teacher. They were married in Iowa in 1903 and moved to a farm known as the Vance farm, three miles south of Crookston. About 1909 they

Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Butenhoff.

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moved to a farm known as the Miller-Foote farm, two and one-half miles south of Fisher, Minnesota, where they raised their family and educated them in the Fisher school. In 1930 they purchased the Martin Logan farm in Tynsid township.


Ben Johnson

The father of two area residents, Orrin (Bob) Johnson on the family farm near Fisher, and Mrs. Truman (Bernice) Danielson of rural East Grand Forks, on their farm in the Byland community, was among the early pioneers of the Fisher area.

He was Ben Johnson, who, on May 18, 1885, not yet 17 years old, got off the train at Fisher's Landing, and, with the exception of two brief absences, spent the remainder of his life in this vicinity.

Ben Johnson was born July 7, 1868 in Norway, and made the trip to the United States with no relatives or friends. In his homeland he had already worked on fishing vessels and at various fish jobs. Here he began grubbing brush and clearing farm land.

In 1898 he entered the United States Army during the Spanish-American War, with twelve other men from this area, and served in Company L, the 14th Infantry, where he was a corporal when discharged.

He was stationed in camps in Georgia and Tennessee, and of the group which left from here, he was the only surviving Spanish-American War veteran for many years before his death.

He told many interesting tales of camp life, but the only complaint the men seemed to register was the "maggot-ridden" food served them.

Upon his discharge from the army, he returned to Fisher's Landing, where he worked at various jobs, including some time at the Fisher Flour Mill, but soon began farming west of Fisher.

He took time out to go to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where he homesteaded a timber claim.

Returning to Fisher, he was married on March 23, 1909, to Sena (Siri) Stalemo at the Lutheran parsonage in Crookston by the Rev. T. T. Ove, pastor of that church.

Mrs. Johnson was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ole Stalemo, and was born July 24, 1880 on the Stalemo farm west of Fisher. She lived here all her life, except for one year which the newlyweds spent at Coeur d'Alene following their marriage. She was baptized, and in 1895, was confirmed at Fisher Lutheran Church.

The couple celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in the same church on May 31, 1959.

In 1952 the couple retired and moved into Fisher, where they purchased a home. In spite of the fact that Mr. Johnson was then in the eighties, he still hiked out the two miles to his farm for a look at his trees and shrubbery, and usually declined a ride when offered one on the way. In his late eighties, he could be seen near the top of a tall tree in his yard, either trimming it, or even preparing to cut it entirely down.

He was presented an award on his 90th birthday.

The Johnsons had six children: Bernard, who died when an infant; Delbert, who died when twelve years old; Mrs. Truman (Bernice) Danielson, Bernard's twin sister, now employed at the Good Samaritan Home, East Grand Forks; Orrin (Bob) Johnson who lives on the home farm; Mrs. Edward (Thelma) Christenson, St. Paul, who works at the State Department of Motor Vehicles; and Mrs. Alvin (Selma) Dordal, Yuma, Arizona, her husband, originally from Mentor, owns and operates the Yuma Mortuary, where his wife is secretary.

Following his wife's death on April 8, 1960, Mr. Johnson and his son Bob lived for a time in the home here, but his last few months were spent at the Pioneer Rest Home at Erskine, where he died December 27, 1961 at the age of 92.

Harold Merrill

Harold Merrill and family reside on the same farm that his great grandfather and family, Jeremiah B. Merrill, settled on in 1878. The farm is located in Fisher Township, Section 10 north of Fisher, Minnesota. The farm is still in the Merrill name with the fourth and fifth generations living there now. The first Merrills were originally from Chautauqua County, New York State and for years the farm was called the Chautauqua Farm. More land was added as the years went by.

The first generation was Jeremiah B. and Polly Brainerd Merrill. They had five children: Anson C. Merrill, Alvin A. Merrill, Cephus B. Merrill, George Ed Merrill, and Mrs. Ella Merrill Tinkham.

The second generation included their son, Anson C. Merrill and Mrs. Ida Strande Merrill, and their three children: Alvin L.; Mrs. Ellen Merrill McCleary; and Anson C. Merrill II.

The third generation consisted of Alvis L. Merrill and Mrs. Eda Larson Merrill, and their two children: Mrs. Elaine Merrill Prestemon and Harold L. Merrill.

The fourth generation is represented by Harold L. Merrill and Mrs. Cathy Baker Merrill and their four children: Allen J., Gem Elizabeth, Aaron L. and Kimberly Inez.

They were all fortunate to have sons, so the name remained the same through all generations, which started ninety-eight years ago.

There are a lot of descendants of the first Merrills living around here yet: Mrs. Ellen Merrill McCleary and two sons: Billy McCleary and family of East Grand Forks and David McCleary and family living in Fisher. Mrs. Elaine Merrill Prestemon and her husband, Milton and two of their sons, Lee and Miles who live at Bagley, Minnesota.

Anson C. Merrill, III, is living in Fisher, Minnesota. The Roy and Nora Tinkham families, Arthur, Earl and Alton all live in Fisher and around Fisher, and Mrs. Bernice Tinkham Samuelson and family live in Crookston, Minnesota.

Ronald and Jean Peterson

Jean Amiot Peterson was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Amiot April 2, 1938, at Crookston, Minnesota. A brother, Donald, was born in 1941. They lived in section 24 of Crookston Township until the spring of 1946 when a move was made to section 12 of the same township, where her parents still live. Mrs. Peterson attended a country school District 255, and remembers the cold outhouse, the big coal stove, and of course, the wood shed. She began taking violin lessons when she was nine years old, and was also a member of the North Star 4-H Club for eight years. In 1952, she attended her freshman year at the Northwestern School of Agriculture, and lived in a dormitory on the campus. In 1953, District 255 consolidated into the Crookston Public School District 593, at which time transportation was made available. She then transferred to Central high school and graduated from there in 1956. Some of the highlights in high school were playing the violin in the orchestra,
and marching in the drum and bugle corps. After graduation, she worked in a music store, Harris Music Center, until the fall of 1957 when she enrolled in a two year X-ray technology course at the Northwestern Clinic in Crookston and also attended the University of Minnesota. She received her American Registry Certificate in December, 1959, and continued working at the Northwestern Clinic. She was married to Ronald Peterson on August 27, 1960.

Ronald C. Peterson was born May 7, 1937, to parents Vincent and Gladys Peterson at Grand Forks, North Dakota. Until 1939, he lived with his parents and one brother, Verle, on a farm in Section 12 of Bygdal Township. After that they moved to the farm where Ron and his family now live in section 1 of Fisher Township. He attended grade school and high school in Fisher, where he graduated in May of 1955. From 1955 to 1958, he attended North Dakota State University at Fargo. He enlisted in the North Dakota Air National Guard serving from 1959 to 1965. Active duty time was spent at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

On August 27, 1960, he was united in marriage to Jean Amiot at Trinity Lutheran Church at Crookston, Minnesota. From 1960 to 1969, they resided on a farm in section 9 of Roome Township during which time four daughters: Brenda, Carol, Annette and Mary were born. In 1969, the home farm was purchased from Ron's parents and in March of that year the move was made.

The four girls all attend school at Fisher where they are involved in music and athletic activities. They also are 4-H Club members and Jean is active as a 4-H leader. The family belongs to the Fisher Lutheran Church where Ron and Jean are on the Sunday School teaching staff and have held various offices in church organizations while the girls are busy with youth activities.

Ron was elected to the school board of District 600 at Fisher in 1969 and presently serves on that board as chairman. He also serves on the advisory committee to Adult Farm Management in the Agassiz Valley Vocational Center at Crookston and has been past secretary of West Polk County Farm Bureau.

**SWAN PETERSON**

Swan August and Amanda Peterson lived in Polk County from March of 1917 until the time of their passing. Swan, or Sven as he was known earlier in life, was born in Hvena, Smaaland, in Sweden on December 12, 1859. He arrived in America in 1885, coming to Galesburg, Illinois, where he worked in a brickyard. On December 8, 1891, he was married to Amanda Emilie Gustafson, daughter of Nels J. and Emilie Gustafson, also of Swedish descent. Amanda was born in Woodhull, Illinois, on June 14, 1872, and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church of America in Woodhull on May 21, 1885. She had worked in a laundry in Galesburg before her marriage. After their marriage, they settled on a farm near Lynn Center, Illinois and became members of the Andover Lutheran Church in 1895.

Nine children were born to them: Myrtle, Mrs. Victor Erickson, deceased; Delman of Fisher; Mabel, deceased; Dorothy, Mrs. Robert Jenson; Vincent of Crookston; Ruth, Mrs. Richard Peterson; Alpha of Illinois; Etta, Mrs. Mike Koehmsredt, of Fisher; Linnea, Mrs. Dillard Wastewt, Redwood City, California; Virgil, Argyle, Minnesota; and Carl, Pleasantville, New Jersey.

The family moved to Fisher in March of 1917. Eight horses, two cows, a 1914 Model T Ford, machinery and furniture all were loaded into two freight cars, and accompanied by Delman, headed north, spending five days and nights on the road. The rest of the family rode the train and were met at the depot in Fisher by Fred Erickson, father of Mrs. Paul Stalemo of Fisher. The horses and cows were placed in the livery barn in Fisher for a few days. The family remembers there was a great deal of snow which impeded their moving considerably, but they soon got settled in their home in Section 13, Bygland Township, four and one-half miles west of Fisher.

The children went to School District 222 where Tillie Aslakson, sister of Arley Aslakson of Bygland, was the teacher. Some of the pupils they remember from those first school days were: Ruth Egeland, Josie, Julia, and Gertie Salveson, Theodore and Gunder Stalemo, Olaf, Gerald, Rolf, Martha, Kenneth, Ingvald, Sophie, and Hannah Anderson, Gertrude, Thord, and Orrin Olson, Tillie and Agnes Stalemo. Olaf Anderson took care of fires in the stove at the school.

On the farm small grain and potatoes were the main crops; and like all farmers of that time, they had some milk cows, chickens and turkeys. The 'freezer' of that day was the outdoor in winter and non-existent in summer, and the refrigerator was an old well in which milk, cream and butter were lowered by a rope to keep cool until used or taken to town to be traded for groceries.

All machinery was pulled with horses, but tractors were being talked up; so in 1917, they purchased a Titan tractor which was made by International Harvester and burned kerosene. To start it one had to turn a big fly wheel by hand.

There were many hardships. Hail, grasshoppers and rust took much of the crop some years, so at those times the cows and poultry provided what little income there was. And with a garden, much of the food was produced right on the farm.

Vincent, Ruth, Linnea, Virgil and Carl were confirmed in the Bygdal Lutheran Church. The other children were confirmed in Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson left the farm in 1935, lived a short time in Crookston, then moved to Fisher to the home where Mr. and Mrs. Mike Koehmsredt and Delman Peterson now live. Mrs. Peterson passed away in June of 1940, and Mr. Peterson in April of 1952, and are buried in Fisher Lutheran cemetery.

**WALTER J. ROSS**

Walter J. Ross and Bertha Ross, have three sons, Armin, Lyle and Harold, and eleven grandchildren.

The Rosses began farming in Fisher Township in 1933. The major crop grown was sugar beets. Wheat and barley were also raised.

The Rosses retired from farming in 1970, but continue to live on their farm. The land is operated by their son, Armin and grandson, Jim. Their sons, Lyle and Harold operate farms in Lowell Township.

Walter has been active in the community, and has served on various boards for many years. These include township, church, hospital, bank, soil conservation, elevator, Winter Shows, and Farm Bureau. He was the first president of the Red River Valley Sugar Beet Growers Association, and was president of Great Western Beet Growers.

Bertha has also been active in church and community affairs.

The Rosses are continuing to help out where needed, leading an active life and also enjoying the freedom from responsibility which retirement brings.

Walter Ross Family, Fisher, Minnesota.
JULIUS WAGNER

Julius Wagner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wagner, who were natives of Germany, was born August 12, 1853, on a ship coming across the ocean to America. He was the youngest of four brothers: John, Daniel and Paul. The family settled at Manitowoc, Wisconsin, where they were engaged in farming and lumbering. One incident in his early life was being in the great Chicago fire October eighth and ninth, 1871, and having to swim out into the lake because of the great heat of the fire.

Mr. Wagner was married in 1875 to Miss Emelia Klinger. She was two years old when she came with her parents, Wilhelm and Anne (Dallie) Klinger, natives of Germany in 1856. They settled at Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She was sixth in line in the family of twelve children.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagner lived at Ruckland, Wisconsin, for three years. Having relatives and friends in the Fisher, Minnesota area, they moved to Section 23, Fisher Township, Polk County, and settled on a homestead one mile east and one-half mile south of Fisher, Minnesota along the Red Lake River. Their first home there was a cave built into the side of a hill until they could build a more permanent house. They were the parents of the following eleven children: August, Adolph, Gustave, Amil, Wilhelm, Anna (Liebert), Bertha (Klema), Emilia (Hinz), Martin, Amos and Alfred. Alfred is the lone survivor at the present date. The family belonged to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation organized on December 3, 1886, and Julius held the first office as trustee. Prior to the organization, church services were held in homes and served by pastors that worked in the territory from 1879. Julius died April 2, 1927, having become a successful farmer in the Red River Valley.

LLOYD WAGNER

Lloyd Wagner, son of Martin and Ida Wagner, is the owner of his grandfather Julius Wagner's farm and lives in the farm house built in 1886. This was his and his father's birthplace.

Lloyd married Harriet Meyer whose parents are Theodore and Marie Meyer who had immigrated to America from Germany. They are parents of Tamara Jurchen who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota; Deborah (Anderson) who lives in Australia; Timothy who is married and lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota, but farms with his father; Linnette and Joel, students at North Dakota State University at Fargo, North Dakota; and Jill, a sophomore at Fisher Public School.

Garfield Township History

Garfield Township, organized in 1880, was christened in honor of James Abram Garfield, who was elected president of United States in 1881. A few months after his election he was wounded fatally by James Guiteau, a disappointed office seeker.

Two of the earliest frame houses in Garfield Township were built by two of the first settlers here: Knute Bolstad Nelson and Thomas Johnson Lensegrav. The Lensegrav house was built on the edge of the Sand Hill River, with a barn and other farm buildings on a lower level, in a beautiful setting reminding them of Norway. Their "place" was near the Old Mill.

When in 1886 the N.P. Railroad came through, 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 Indians in the 1880's would often camp in the land around the river below what is now Paul Hegre's home. They were very fond of bread. Grandma Anna Morvig told her sister, Mrs. Ole Opheim, that one day her cabin door was pushed open and there stood a huge Indian. She tried to speak to him, but he spoke mostly French and some broken English. Nevertheless, he soon told her that he wanted bread. Indians often visited their home. Grandmother Rose would search in the woods for snake root which she sold to the Indians for a penny each.

KNUTE BOLSTAD

Knute A. Bolstad was born at Evanger in Voss, Norway on November 30, 1839, and immigrated to America when he grew up. He came to Dodge County, Minnesota where he worked on a farm. He was a member of the 11th Minnesota Infantry Regiment in the Civil War. He married Ingeborg Rovang and moved to Garfield Township, Polk County in 1880. Along with seven children aged twelve to several months, he came by train to Ada, where he unloaded their household goods, machinery, and livestock. They drove overland by wagon and settled on a homestead about two miles east of the present site of Fertile. Knute's brother, Lars, homesteaded a quarter Section in 27 on the south and another brother, Nels, settled in Section 26, a short distance east. The seven children, all born in Dodge County, were Gurina, age 12; Arne, age 9; Eddy, 8; Will, 6; Nille, 5; Otto, 2; and Oscar, 3 months. The other children who were born on the homestead in Garfield were Ida, Julia, Thea, Emma and Mabel. This was his and his father's birthplace.

Knute was a farmer as well as a township and school officer. The district's first school was on his land. Much of his land had to be cleared before crops could be planted and of course, this was all done by hand. Knute was 78 years when he died in 1917. His wife died in 1930.

Their eldest child, Gurina married Hans O. Strom. Their eight children were: Ingebella, Cora, Ruby, Frances, Rosella, ...