teacher at St. Petri.

Donna May was born at Dr. Erickson Hospital in Halstad. She attended the Nielsville school, Halstad High School and took a six-month course at the Dakota Business College in Fargo, North Dakota before working at the P.C.A. Office in Moorhead and the North Dakota State University in Fargo until December 30, 1966. She was married August 20, 1966, to Clayton Grimley of Moorhead at St. Petri Church by Reverend Alex Stoffel of Moorhead. They now live at Glyndon, Minnesota, with their three children, Mary, Pamela and Sandra. Ervin Ray was born in Crookston. He attended the Nielsville school, Climax High School and has attended five quarters at the University of Minnesota Technical College in Crookston. He also plans to take the 1975 winter quarter at U.M.C. He started farming in 1972.

SIGURD WEGGE

Sigurd, born in Traill county, North Dakota, was the oldest son of Thermod and Marie Wegge. Other children were John, Leonard, Ovey, Thorwald, Edwin, Theresa (Mrs. Harry Silver), Ruth (Mrs. Henry Ranten), Olaf, and Roy.

Thermod immigrated to America in the 1890's and worked as a farm laborer until 1899, when he went back to Norway. Then he married Marie Johanneson and returned to America the following year. They homesteaded on a farm in Bingham township where they resided until their deaths.

Minnie was the daughter of Martin Rude and Tilda Tron-

Huntsville Township

Huntsville Township was formally organized at a meeting at the A. P. Sullivan home on March 19, 1878. Officers elected were: Arne Higdam, chairman; Arch McRae and Thomas Patterson, supervisors; Robert Anderson, clerk; James Sullivan, treasurer; James McRae, assessor; Joseph Robertson, justice of the peace; and Thomas McVety, constable. Town meetings were held in the homes in those early days. Meetings in the following homes are recorded: A. P. Sullivan, W. C. Nash, Robert Anderson, Arne Higdam, Leon Surplice, William Sproat, John Ryan. By 1882, the Mallory school was completed and they met there. In 1892, the town hall was purchased from Thomas Nisbet for $200.00 and meetings were held there until in the 1940's when the hall was sold to John Roberts for a dwelling place, and the township purchased the

Woodman Hall where meetings still are held.

Establishment of township roads was the big item of business in those early days. To help out on expenses for roads, a poll tax was standard to use. That tax meant each man in the township between the ages of 21 and 50 must donate one day's labor a year on road work or pay $1.50. Other means of revenue was $.50 on each $100 worth of real and/or personal property owned. Work was paid for by the day back in those days with the usual wage being $2.00 until the 1920's when it became $3. In 1930, wages started to be set by the hour and the going wage was 25¢ for a man and 45¢ for a man and team. In the 1940's, we find wages at $.70 for a man; $1.00 for a man and team; and $1.50 for man and tractor. Increases are seen from then on until in the 1970's we find $3 for a man; $8 for a man and tractor.
In the 1950's began snow-plowing of township roads with a notation of $4.00 an hour paid for snow removal. Before that time county roads were opened but township roads were opened by the individuals who used them. Mallory township is divided by the Red Lake River running through it in a westerly manner and has made for distinct settlements: the Scotch in the Northeastern and Mallory parts, with Irish on the way towards East Grand Forks — all north of the River; the Scandinavians and Irish in the southeastern part and the French in the southwestern part south of the River. The first bridge over that river went down in the 1880's and in 1888, a new bridge was constructed with Thomas White as the contractor and costing $10,000.00; $800.00 of the cost was carried by the county and $200.00 by the township. That bridge crossing the Red Lake River along the section line between sections 34 and 35 was built high enough to accommodate steamboat traffic between East Grand Forks and Fisher. In the 1930's there no longer was river traffic. The bridge was hazardous for the new car and truck traffic, so it was lowered by one section or about six feet. In the 1950's and '60's spring floods were hard on the bridge. It was repaired many times. Finally after the 1969 flood, it was declared unsafe. In 1970, it was completely dismantled. A new site to cross the Red Lake River was chosen and the new bridge was opened in the fall of 1975. It crosses the River in the middle of section 17 with a new road built on the half section line connecting State Highway 220 with United States Highway 2. It was contracted to Eickhoff and Company of Crookston at a cost of $1,000,000.00 from Federal and County funds.

Farming has been the chief business in Huntsville township starting with the wheat farming almost entirely and gradually being brought over to a very diversified type of farming: grains, corn, beans, peas, legumes, potatoes, livestock, dairying, poultry, sugar beets, fruits and vegetables.

The wooded areas have been cleared and drainage ditches dug to make way for cropping very nearly all of the land in the township. Most of the drainage has been accomplished by open ditches to the extent that control is needed to avoid the severe flooding as the devastating flood in July of 1975, when many acres of crop were destroyed. Much work is needed on the problem.

Attendance at township meetings is interesting. In the early years thirty to one hundred people were general with a record 157 recorded for the annual meeting in March 1895. Attendance then again went down with another surge in 1937 and 1938 when 160 and 147 are recorded. Grass roots rule is a basic form of government and where can it be found more basic than in this township? Many, it has been said.

It has always been the rule that the board of supervisors be composed of persons living so each side of the River is represented on the board. The following listing is of persons serving five or more years on the board: Darragh Geddes — 42 years; James Driscoll — 28; Williard Guerard — 26; Charles DeGagne — 17; Ludger Monda — 16; T. M. McVeety — 12; R. Enright, W. J. Cumming, and Joe DeGagne — 9 each; Richard Barrett, James Cumming and Joe Jeffrey — 8 each; M. Johnson, Dave Will and John Enright — 6 each; O. Osmundson, Lee Coulter and Walter Rogers — 5 each. Clerks serving five or more years are: Albert Osmundson — 31 years; Osmund Osmundson — 22; D. B. Ferguson — 11; O. Osmundson — 7. Treasurers are: T. D. Lee — 29 years; Harvey Kirk — 27; T. D. Stewart — 21; Thomas Nisbet — 13. Assessors have been: Charles Ryan — 36 years; Mrs. Esther Danielson — 13; James and Gerald Enright — 10 years each. Present officers are: Herbert Nisbet, chairman, Keith Driscoll and Truman Danielson, supervisors, Mrs. Esther Danielson, clerk, John Cumming, treasurer and Mrs. Esther Danielson, assessor.

Education of the youth was not neglected by the pioneers. At Mallory, a special meeting was called on March 15, 1879, and the first school was off to a start with the building being built on one-half acre of land donated by C. L. Coulter in the Northwest quarter section 26. By 1881, that building became too small, so a larger one was built in the southwest quarter section 23. This became school district #11 and school was held there for grades one through eight until 1958, when the school district was consolidated with East Grand Forks and became district #595. The land became a building site and the building became a workshop on the Walter Roberts farm. The next school to be established was the Fontaine school district #42 as it came to be called. This school was south of the River on the coulee bank in section 18. It too served for grades 1-8 until consolidation in 1958 when the building and site were sold as a dwelling place.

The Cumming school district #84 served the northeastern corner of the township and was built on the Marais on a piece of ground donated by James Cumming in Section 14. Upon consolidation in 1958, the building became a shop in Nesbit township and the land reverted back to the owner. At very nearly the same time, the Driscoll school district #85 was established for the northwestern corner of the township on land donated by James Driscoll. It had grades 1-8 and was in use until 1942 when Sacred Heart Grade School was opened in East Grand Forks and the children (100% of them were Catholic) were bussed there for school. In 1958, this district had to consolidate as well with district #595 in East Grand Forks. The building was torn down for other construction work and the land went back to the owner.

The Timberline school district #93 was established for the southeast portion of the township on land donated by Osmund Osmundson in section 34. This school was truly a "melting pot" of nationalities. There were French, Irish, Swedes, Norwegians and Bohemians. The first school became too small so it was sold and a new one erected in 1915. It served the area until consolidation in 1958, when the building was sold to become a warehouse on the Hedstrand farm and the land reverted back to Osmundson's son, Albert.

The French school district #248 served the southwestern corner of the township. The first school was built in 1898 on ground purchased in the southwest quarter section 30. That soon was too small, so it was sold and moved away and a new building was put up in 1914. It was a very modern school with two rooms — one for grades 1-3 and the other for grades 4-8. It had a full basement and recreation area plus indoor plumbing. Since the folks in the district were predominantly Catholic, the school was closed in 1942 and the children were bussed to Sacred Heart Grade School. In 1958, it too was consolidated with district #595 and the building was torn down for lumber, and the land sold. All the rural schools served as community gathering places for programs, socials, 4-H Club meetings, Farm Bureau meetings, etc. Consolidation has all but eliminated community spirit and solidarity, sad to say.

The Methodist Church was organized in 1885 and was built at Mallory. Little is known as to what happened, because records are scarce. At any rate in the early 1900's, the building was sold and moved to the Rhutell farm. Members evidently either went to the Grand Forks church or joined the Bethel Presbyterian Church, by then established.

Bethel Presbyterian Church, Burned Dec. 1, 1946.
The Knox Presbyterian Church was first organized in Fisher in 1880 and served Mallory, Key West and Fisher. In 1885, the Mallory people requested to be moved to the Mallory school, as it had become too crowded at Fisher. In 1886, the Bethel Church was built on a gift of land in section 24 by James Lee. Early pastors were Rev. Charles Even and Rev. Travis. That church served the area from 1886 until 1946 when it was destroyed by fire. Their membership transferred to Mendehall Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks, but their burial grounds still are maintained in the township. Pictures of the Bethel Church may be found in the story sent in by Mrs. Myrtle Peterson, who now lives in the old manse remodeled, standing on the former church property.

The Cathedrals in the area joined Sacred Heart Church in East Grand Forks; the Scandinavians (predominantly Lutheran) joined the Bygdland Lutheran Church.

On April 11, 1926, the Mallory 4-H Club was organized by Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cumming with eleven members signing up. Because there was no county agent at that time, the club was officially chartered in 1927. These were the club officers: president — Francis Driscoll; vice-president — Sandy Coultier; secretary — Bert McWalter; treasurer — Jean Nisbet; yell leader — Joe Driscoll; reporter — Mildred Cumming; sergeant-at-arms — Edward Lealos; junior leaders — Francis Driscoll, Kathryn Lee and Jean Nisbet; adult leaders — Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cumming and Lilian Bitzer. The club motto, “To Make the Best Better”, remains the same. The club pledge has had the work “home” added to “my club, my community and my country”. Mrs. Cumming furnished adult leadership as late as 1954.

Many members have won trips to the Minnesota State Fair, the Junior Livestock Show in South Saint Paul for outstanding project work. Some of these are: In 1934, Joe Driscoll had the championship beef at the Show in St. Paul. Achievement Day Queens were: Joanne Roberts in 1949. Dorothy Kirk in 1950, Marjory Roberts in 1963 and 1964. In 1960, Roy Nisbet had the champion sheep exhibit at the State Fair with his built yard tractor. In 1975, Carolyn Barrett was selected to attend the Citizenship Short Course in Washington, D.C.

Club Tours are still a big event in the club year — a time when each project is viewed along the way to completion — and usually ends with a picnic. Achievement days were at first held locally with the Mallory Club using the barn at Bethel Presbyterian Church for exhibits of completed projects. Later the merchants in East Grand Forks put on an area Achievement Day as well as an annual wiener roast every fall instead. During 1968, the Club began including members from Key West area, since that club had been dissolved.

As its 50th year as a 4-H Club comes in 1976, the fine traditions of 4-H will be cherished. As always the motto: “To Make the Best Better” for “my Home, my Club, my Community and my Country” will reign.

On April 5, 1930, the Riverside 4-H Club was organized by Selma Hedstrand, A. W. Aamodt, and C. C. Chase at a meeting in the Timberline school district #93. Fifty young people formed this club. The first leaders were: Mrs. Aamodt, Mrs. H. E. Gregory, and Mrs. E. W. Dayton. Officers chosen were: president — Selma Hedstrand; vice-president — Adeline Torgerson; secretary-treasurer — Esther Anderson; reporter — Bergit Osmundson; adult leaders — Mrs. H. B. Egeland and John Jeffrey for the boys.

In 1932, six members won trips to the State Fair from the Club. Selma Hedstrand came home the champion room furnishing judge. Ingvald Anderson was first alternate crops judge. Ruth Egeland and Ingeborg Anderson were in the top five bread baking demonstration teams. Adeline Torgerson won second in state on her clothing exhibit, and Bergit Osmundson and Margaret Hyliden competed with a canning demonstration. That year, too, Bernard Duffy showed the championship beef at the junior livestock show as well. The Club received the award as the outstanding 4-H Club in Polk county that year. In 1934, Esther Anderson won state champion- ship in canning and received a trip to compete in the national contest held in Chicago, where she placed sixth in the nation. By 1936, the Club had grown so much that it was decided to move the meetings to the Bygdland town hall where they still meet today.

Farmers gathering once a month for a social evening was successful for many years with a Farm Bureau unit on each side of the River meeting in homes, in schoolhouses, or in the hall. Exchange of ideas as well as socializing is ever necessary. Home-maker clubs, too, were found on both sides of the River, meeting in homes and receiving outside help in the form of lessons on a variety of subjects connected with the home from the Extension Service.

The Mallory Burns’ Club was organized in 1900 with James Nisbet as the first president. Each year on January 25th, they held entertainment and dance with refreshments in commemoration of Robert Burns. Scotchmen came from far and near. Gifted players on bagpipes, old time Scotch dancers and singers gave a splendid evening’s entertainment. As the years rolled by, it seemed many Irish, French, Scandinavians became Scotsmen for one night as the whole community joined in. That Club was active until 1962, when it was decided to disband.

Baseball games were a fine reason for gatherings of a Sunday afternoon for many years. Someone’s pasture or open meadow served as a ball diamond. Mallory had several teams as the years went by. In the 1920’s the Mallory team and a team composed mainly of Frenchmen on the south side of the River played in a league with Key West and Tabor. They also had occasional games with the Bygdland team, which played in a league composed of teams from Climax, Nielsville, Buxton and Buffalo Coulee. In the late 1920’s, the Bygdland team and the French team combined to make one team, managed by Bill Powers.

GUST AAKHUS

Four Aakhus brothers emigrated from Norway about 1875 and all settled in Polk County: Eidvend in Bygdland Township, Olav in Sletten Township, Gunstine in Erskine, Minnesota, and Grundy in section six of Fisher Township. Grundy and his wife, Signe Bygdland, had seven children and Gust was next to the youngest. In those days farms were small and with three other brothers at home Gust went to live with his oldest sister, Bertha, who lived with her husband, Ole Hanson, on a farm one mile north of the Aakhus homestead. This move was made when he was very young, so Gust grew up in the Hanson home.

He attended the Sprague rural school for eight years and a few years later attended the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston for two winter terms. Ole Hanson died in 1933, and from that time until his death in 1968 Gust was responsible for the operation of the Hanson farm.
Gust was one of the first sugar beet growers in the Red River Valley, beginning with twelve acres in 1923; he never missed a planting in 44 years. At that time all work with the beets, such as planting and lifting was done with two-horse machinery, including the hauling of the beets to the Sprague siding where they were shoveled into gondola cars.

Gust Aakhus always had a good rapport with his Mexican beet workers. This resulted in many of them returning year after year. Two men, Felix Heredia and George Negrete, were with him during his entire 44-year period of raising beets. When not working with the beets they learned to help with the haying, shocking during harvest, and pitching in the fields during threshing.

**ALLEN AND MARY BARRETT**

Richard Barrett bought the farm located three miles east of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, on section 17 from Boyd Sproat about 75 years ago when the Sproat family moved out west. He had built a large barn, and had a large herd of Jersey cattle. The barn has since been torn down and steel buildings put up nearby.

The Richard Barretts had five children, Allen, Fred, Richie (who drowned in the Marais at the age of 12), Grace (Mrs. H. Whiteaker), and Elsie (Mrs. James Chaplin), all deceased.


Mrs. Barrett's great-grandfather was John O'Neil, who came from County Cork, Ireland. He was married to a Driscoll, and they had nine children, grandmother Enright being the oldest. She had also come from County Cork, Ireland. John O'Neil's second wife was Margaret Mulloy, and they had eight children, Mrs. Mike Driscoll being one of them.

Catherine O'Neil was married to Dennis Enright. They had 12 children, and reared two more, one being Charley Hertweck. Thomas Enright was fourth in line in the family. He was born in 1855, and died in October 1942. He was married to Margaret Malone, and they had nine children: Mary (Mrs. M. W. Barrett), Catherine (Mrs. J. R. LeClair), Cora (Mrs. Frank Austin), William, Gerald, Edward, James, Leo, and Earl.

Dennis Enright came from Ireland when he was 21, and settled near Almonte, Canada. Later he married Catherine O'Neil, and they had three children. They moved to Sarnia, Canada, and later to East Grand Forks, a tiny place at that time.

From Sarnia, they took a boat to Duluth, then went by train to Fisher, as that was as far as the train went. Dennis Enright met the family as he and three of his sons had been there for some time, and they rode to East Grand Forks in a lumber wagon, being 12 miles to the Sullivan farm. They settled in a place nearby, which is now the Hanksleben place.

Allen Barrett's father, Richard, came from Watertown, Wisconsin. He and Ellen Salisbury were married in 1878. He broke 90 acres of land, and also built a log house. They were married at Winona, Minnesota, and came by train as far as Fisher. Five years later a five room house was built on the homestead (as it was called), a mile east of this place.

Mary Barrett's parents also came from Ireland. Her father came when he was eight years old from Kilkenny, Ireland, and her mother came from County Mayo, Ireland. They settled in Almont, Canada. In later years they were married and had four children. Years later they moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Robert farms the family place and other farms nearby, and raises wheat, potatoes, barley, and beets. He lives at Fisher, Minnesota.

**RICHARD W. BARRETT**

Richard W. Barrett was born February 2, 1924, in Huntsville Township, the son of Fred M. and Sadie (Austin) Barrett, and he is a lifelong resident of the township.

His grandfather, Richard Barrett, arrived here in 1878 after a 22-day journey from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His parents were natives of Ireland, and moved to Jefferson County, Wisconsin, from Rutland, Vermont, in 1830. He brought his bride, Mary Ellen Salisbury, to the homestead in 1879 after their marriage in Winona, Minnesota, a year earlier. She was a native of Columbia County, Wisconsin. As with many early settlers, she arrived at Fisher's Landing.

Their first home on their claim was a log house, which was replaced by a frame house about 1880. About this time they purchased the northeast quarter of section 4 in Huntsville Township, which adjoined their homestead.

He served as chairman of the Huntsville township board for 20 years. He was the first treasurer of the school board for district 85, serving in that office for 25 years.

Their children were: Allen W., Fred M., Elsie (Mrs. James Chaplin), and Grace (Mrs. Hall Whiteaker). A son, Richie, drowned in the Marais at the age of 12. Two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Fred (Sadie) Barrett, and Mrs. A. W. (Mary) Barrett, still live in the area.

In 1914, Fred M. Barrett married Sadie D. Austin, whose parents were Francis R. and Clara V. Austin, also early residents of the county. They came to Huntsville township about 1901, and operated what is known as the "Riverside Truck Farm" in section 31. Their parents had settled in the Dresden, Ontario, and Bathgate, North Dakota, areas. The Austin children were Andrew, Walter, Frank, Stewart, Sarah (Sadie) and Grace.
In telling of the move to Huntsville township from Shermire, Sadie says, "The children rode in the buggy with mamma. Papa brought our few possessions in the wagon. There were two five-gallon milk cans in the wagon. One was full of cream, which papa planned to sell in town. On arrival at Grand Forks, he discovered that the can was full of butter."

Fred and Sadie Barrett purchased the northeast quarter of section 4 from his parents in 1921. Times were very hard, but they improved the farmstead with the planting of trees, including an apple orchard. Farming was done with good conservation practices.

Fred Barrett passed away in 1940. Sadie maintained the farm for several years with the help of her children. In 1953 she moved to Grand Forks, where she now resides. Their children are Mr. David (Clara) Will, Mrs. Francis (Jean) Smith, Mrs. Warren (Grace) Bos, Mrs. Lowell (Randes) Thompson, Richard W., Fred R., and Lawrence T. Barrett.

Richard attended rural school at Polk County district 85, located in section 9. He and the other members of the family walked the 3½ miles to school, together with other neighborhood children. He later attended the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston.

After the death of his father in 1940, he left school to help at home with the farm work. The farm at that time included a herd of high-grade milking cows. Later several head of registered Brown Swiss cattle were purchased. Until 1963, Grade A milk production was a daily part of the farming operation.

In June 1951, Richard married Joyce Aardahl, of Larimore, North Dakota. Her parents had homesteaded in Williams County, North Dakota, in the early 1900's. Their parents were Norwegian immigrants who had settled in Walsh County, North Dakota, and Dodge County, Minnesota, respectively. Joyce's mother told of early travel in North Dakota over roads which still had "T.R. Trail" (Theodore Roosevelt Trail) markers.

Joyce attended Aaker's Business College in Grand Forks, and was secretary to Robert A. Matt at the time of her marriage to Richard Barrett. She worked for H. H. Matt prior to that time.

Richard and Joyce have six children: Paul, a 1974 graduate of Bemidji State College; David, serving with the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Robert E. Peary; John, who attends the A.V.T.I. in East Grand Forks; Carolyn, who is attending the University of North Dakota. All of the children are graduates of the East Grand Forks Senior High School. Glenn is in the tenth grade. Sandra is in the eighth grade.

Richard farms in partnership with his brother, Fred, raising grain, potatoes, and sugar beets. The farming operation includes the original homestead of their grandparents and the farm of their parents.

The family attends United Lutheran Church. They are also active in school functions and the Mallory 4-H Club.

JOHN W. CUMMING

John W. Cumming was born August 23, 1929. He is the son of William James and Nettie Hannah Cumming. He married Mary L. Chalmers, September 16, 1950. John and Mary live and farm the same farm in Huntsville Township as did his father and mother. His father was active in many community projects: Farm Bureau, Bethel Presbyterian Church, Red River Lodge 292, AF and AM. His mother worked with the Sister Kenny Foundation, Farm Bureau, Order of Eastern Star, and many church activities.

John and Mary are members of the Mendenhall Presbyterian Church of East Grand Forks, where John has been an active elder and Mary has taught Sunday school and other youth classes along with other church activities and the Order of Eastern Star. John has been president of the Nesbit Cemetery Association, is the treasurer of Huntsville Township, worked with the Boy Scouts, and is an active member of Lodge 292, FM and AM. Mary and John are Guardian and Associate Guardian of Bethel 71, International Order of Job's Daughters, and East Grand Forks Masonic Lodge. Their daughters are active members of the Order.

Their son, Robert, lives and works in St. Paul, Minnesota,

where he also attends the University of Minnesota. Another son, William (married to Kathy Roos) lives and works in East Grand Forks. He also is a member of Lodge 292. Their daughter, Katherine, lives and works in East Grand Forks. Their other daughters, Karen and Kim live at home on the farm and go to high school in East Grand Forks.

ALFRED DANIELSON

Alfred Norman Danielson was born May 9, 1908, at the home of his parents, Ole and Bertha Osmundson Danielson, in Huntsville township. He went to the school district #93 and later graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. In 1927, he started operating the home farm. He kept active in sports: skiing, skating, baseball, boxing as well as the church choir, Farm Bureau, Crop Improvement Association, Potatoe Grower's Association and farm test plots.

October 14, 1938, he married Esther Anderson, daughter of Peder and Sigri Aanenson Andrsen of Bygdland township. They have three children: Richard, a graduate of the Northwest School of Agriculture of Crookston and the University of Washington in Seattle and now as a supply officer with the United States Navy; Mrs. Lowell Hegg (Mary), who attended Moorhead State after being graduated from Central High School in East Grand Forks. She is now a housewife busy raising a family in Arvada, Colorado; and David, who learned drafting from the Wahpeton School of Science after graduating from Central High, now is a draftsman in Freeport, Illinois.

Alfred farmed through good times and bad and found it all a big challenge. He tells of the time in mid-summer when he

Richard W. Barrett Family.

Alfred Danielson Family.

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was cultivating potatoes when his sister came out to inform him that the bank had closed and Alfred had his only money, $250.00, in there to keep him going until the fall crop would be harvested. In order to borrow $50.00 to "tide him over," he had to list all his machinery, sign the papers, and get his mother to sign as well. The interest on his money was deducted in advance on the money. That money had to keep the farm going until fall.

Many, many changes have come to rural life in those years, machinery over hand labor, telephone service, electricity for light, power and heat, all in the name of progress.

Alfred started having attacks of multiple sclerosis in 1949, but managed to keep the farm going until 1963. He and his wife still live on the farm, but rent out the land for farming. He keeps busy with such hobbies as his condition permits. Esther works part time outside the home: as township clerk, assessor and as home health aide with the Polk County Nursing Service.

**OLE DANIELSON**

Ole Danielson was born October 11, 1855, in Satesdal, Norway, and came to America and Minnesota with his parents, Daniel Ose and Anne Skore Ose, and his brothers and sisters: Tarkel, Olav, Gro and Ingeborg.

Ole homesteaded land in Tynsid Township, bordering the Bygland township line and a mile east of the land his parents took in Bygland. In the late 1880’s, he married Bertha Osmundson, who was born at Portage, Wisconsin, on May 15, 1870, and came to the area with her parents, Osmund Albert Osmundson and Anne Sannes Osmundson, in 1876.

Ole and Bertha lived in Bygland township not far from Tarkel in the early years of their marriage. In 1892, they purchased their farm: the Southwest ¼ of Section 33 in Huntsville township 151, North Range 49, West and the East ½ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 4 in Bygland township 150, North Range 49, West from Halvor Knutson. They located their buildings along the coulee of the South ½ of the Southwest ¼ of section 33 in Huntsville township, where their youngest son, Alfred and his wife, Esther Anderson Danielson now reside.

Ole and Bertha had five children who grew up: Daniel (deceased) of Antelope, Montana; Mrs. B. U. Kienkolz (Anne) of Excelsior, Minnesota; Mrs. Gilbert Knutson (Alma) of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Carl Berkeland (Olga) of Thompson, North Dakota; and Alfred on the home farm.

Community gatherings were the entertainment of the time: to celebrate a completed house or barn, to compete at sports, to have a baseball game, for horse racing (Ole’s horse Kate, was one of the fast ones), for a basket or tie social. School programs or 4-H events brought everyone out.

All the Danielsons were active in community, school and church affairs. They belonged to the Bygland Lutheran Church, school district #93, the Twentieth Century Climbers, Bygland Band, choir, baseball team and later the Farm Bureau, 4-H Club and Homemakers. Ole and Bertha opened their home for all. They gave their cow pasture for ball games and picnics, even their barn roof and hillside when they allowed Alfred to build a ski slide from the top of the barn out over the coulee bank.

Ole Danielson passed away in February, 1930, at age 74. Bertha lived on the farm with her son and family until 1960, when she entered Valley Memorial Home in Grand Forks, where she passed away in September, 1963, at the age of 93.

**TRUMAN STANTON DANIELSON**

My great-grandfather, Daniel Eivindson Ose, with his wife, Anne Tarkelstdt Skaari, and family came to America in 1872. He had been a farmer in Norway; but having turned his farm over to his eldest son, Eivind Danielson, he came to the United States hoping that amid larger opportunities, he might secure a patrimony for his other children. Daniel came directly to Polk County and located on the northern half of the southwest quarter of Section 30 of what later became Bygland township. His influence and his cabin home were the center around which clustered the various interests of the growing community and through him many of his countrymen came from Wisconsin, Illinois and Norway, and were assisted by him in securing a home.

![Mr. and Mrs. Truman Danielson and Family.](image)

At the time of the organization of the township, it was thought to be a fitting tribute to the worth and services of its pioneer to confer upon it his name, but this honor, he firmly declined and refused a similar recognition upon the organization of the Lutheran church in which he was active as an organizer and faithful member. Upon his suggestion, both township and church received the name of Bygland, because of the prevalence among the citizens of natives of that town in Norway. Daniel Ose continued to reside on his homestead until his death, December 28, 1885. Of his family of four sons and two daughters, all but Eivind Danielson, lived in Polk County for a time — some for all their lives. The fourth son, Ole Danielson Jr., was a farmer in Huntsville township till his death. His son, Alfred N., continues to live on that same farm with his wife, the former Esther Anderson.

Daniel Ose’s son, Ole Sr., sold his farm of 180 acres and returned to Bygland, Norway. The two daughters were Ingeborg, who married Eivind Froirak, and Gro, who became the wife of Eivind Aakhus. A son of theirs, Daniel, was a violinist and entertained often at various gatherings in Bygland and other places. He also worked as a piano tuner.

Torkel, second son of Daniel Ose, was my grandfather. He was born in Norway, at Ose, Satesdal, February 20, 1849, and spent several years in southern Minnesota before coming to Polk County. His first home was built of logs. During the years of active traffic on the Red River, Torkel operated a grain warehouse. This is described more fully in the township section of this book. Torkel was married in Stearns County, in
1872, to Sigrid Bjornson, who some ten years earlier, had come with her parents from the neighborhood of her home in the old country. To this union, four daughters and two sons were born: Anna, Josephine (a talented musician), Daniel T., my father, who married Mathilda Thompson (whose ancestry is described in the story of Mrs. Julia Town), Thora, the wife of Laurence Larson, who died young, and Thelma Blekesoe Kjelleberg. She still lives on the family farm. The youngest of Torkel's children was Regina, who was a musical instructor in schools in Minot, North Dakota. She married J. F. Anderson, a school superintendent.

My father, Daniel T. Danielson, lived on the farm in Huntsville that he homesteaded on, till he retired and moved to East Grand Forks about 1948. There he lived until his death in 1959. My mother died in 1971. Besides farming, my father was for many years the lineman taking care of the rural telephone lines in his community. Those were the days of the wall telephones and party lines. Many times these lines would get broken or tangled, and it was his job to drive around, spot the trouble, climb the poles and get the telephone working again. Those phones were a far cry from the mechanized system we enjoy today, but in many ways the old way was good. If any emergency arose, one long ring on the crank phone would reach into every home on that particular "line" and in no time the neighborhood would be aroused.

To conclude this family history, I will add a few words about my immediate family. First, in addition to me, Daniel and Mathilda had another son, Odell, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Orva, Mrs. Percy Bridgeford, Bemidji, Minnesota, Mrs. Sylvia Franklin, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, and Cora Mae, Mrs. Robert F. Hansen of Grand Forks, North Dakota. In my own family are three daughters, Marlene, Mrs. David Beedy of Thief River Falls, Minnesota; who have three sons, Mark and Michael, 13 year old twins, and Craig, 9 years old; Jean, Mrs. Dale Myerchin, Crookston; and daughters, Susan and Michele; and Helen, Mrs. Karl Randel; and two sons, Karl J. and Jeffery.

CHARLES DeGAGNE

The family home built by the French-Canadian couple, Charles DeGagne and Marguerite Boucher, still stands on the Minnesota Point, some four or five miles from East Grand Forks and about one and one-half miles equidistant from the Red and Red Lake Rivers. It is presently occupied by two sisters, Marie Elmore, oldest of the DeGagne family and Lucie Catherine, the youngest. They form the focal point for the family, still keeping open house for their sisters, nieces and nephews, grandchildren of the family and now great-grandchildren. Called locally the DeGagne Girls, or just the Aunts, the house they keep is still home to all.

Charles Marie DeGagne of Lac Ste. Jean, Canada, and Marguerite Boucher, his wife, were true pioneers. Drawn to the Red River Valley by a chance-blown newspaper, having a description of the rich soil of the valley, as was the father of his future wife by another chance tale, Charles made his way westward as a lumberjack after a time of work in a Fall River, Massachusetts paper factory. Marguerite was already in the valley, as her father had moved his family in the famous Red River ox carts when she was a child of eight. Devout as were most of the settlers, they held services in homes until parishes were organized and pastors available. Charles met his future wife at Lenten devotions at the home of a neighbor.

Slowly they forged ahead, acquiring land on borrowed money, and more as each piece was paid for. Living at first in a log cabin, then in a frail frame building, finally they were able to realize their dream of building the present beautiful home, while the children were all still with them. The good barn, the sheds, the sties, the necessary for livestock, are all gone now, and the home looks like a split-level suburban house.

Everything was grist to their mill in making a living. The clearing of the land provided wood for use and for sale. Butter and eggs meant music lessons. Even when the earliest homes were poor, food was plentiful and good as only a French housewife (who has worked for an Englishwoman for a time and learned from her also) can make it. A trapped animal meant a triple gain: fur for cap and mitts, a bounty from the county, and a delicious ragout or potpie. From the local Rabbi who always came to help on butchering days, we learned the making of Jewish pickles and other delicacies. Clothing was created from hand-me-downs with all the skill of a French seamstress, and every piece went into the scrap bag for the warm and colorful quilts which were equally interesting as a family album of garment each piece came from, even to the wardrobe of a far-away aunt in California.

Charles' study and experimentation in farming soon made him a grower of certified seed potatoes which found a good and far-flung market. He was on the board which brought sugarbeet growing into the valley with the first factory in East Grand Forks. We have his certificate as charter member of the Association which started the Red River Valley Winter Shows, many years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles DeGagne and Family.

Joseph, the oldest son, followed his father, being also elected Master Farmer of America.

Marie, the oldest, after apprenticeship, became a dressmaker, designer, maker of smart and elegant clothing, doing so well that although she was self-employed, she was named to International Quota as a successful business woman.

The second daughter, Anne, was a teacher in pioneer country schools. She married Henry Breton of rural East Grand Forks, and has made her mark in homemaking and craft work, taking county prizes in everything from berries to pickles to quilts.

Arthur, the second son, who was also an Ag school man and a farmer, was also a promising musician, being an outstanding violinist. But his life was cut off in his twenties, leaving a young family. The music training went on, however, with the help of the aunts and four of his grandchildren have attended North Dakota University on music scholarships, one giving his graduate vocal recital this month of April.

A daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, entered the Benedictine convent in Crookston. A grade school teacher most of her life, she considers her main contribution to society the salvaging of children who seemingly hadn't a chance in the world to make good. Retired now, she still educates as lecturer to adult groups in her Master's field of Scripture and Theology, with history and literature as close seconds. In constant demand as a speaker, honored by Concordia College and the Red River Historical Society among others, her latest honor is in being elected First Lady of Crookston for the Bicentennial year, Heritage Division.

A younger daughter, Rose Angela, Master in Romance Languages with Phi Beta Kappa honors (and this after overcoming T.B., contracted in her teens) has been in South America for the last 20 years as an exchange teacher. The light, semi-tropical climate of Medellin, Colombia, has proven so good for her delicate lungs that she has spent a busy useful life helping build up a school system there.

The youngest, Lucia Catherine, was a semi-invalid until early middle age. She finished her education under the G.E.D. program, and has never been different from the members of the family who had uninterrupted schooling, because of her reading habits and sharp mind.
All this is a far cry from the old frame house, papered with newspapers, applied with flour paste, with the children's sections at the bottom of each wall as Operation Headstart. All of us still remember learning to read on Reddy Fox Barks At The Moon.

Marguerite and Charles had dreams: of good, productive land (how he loved soil! We still hold memories of his licking it up in his hand caressingly as he examined it) of a lasting home — of a family that would stand together as solidly as the house they built — of children that would use their gifts to the utmost. Somehow, by their combined influence and prayers, these dreams have come true, helping to build up the spot in Polk County where they took root and carried out their lives. Dreams so all pervading that they are still building on through their children and descendants.

JAMES DRISCOLL

James Driscoll, a farmer of Huntsville Township, was born in County Lanark, Ontario, on May 1, 1860. He was the son of James and Johanna A'Hearn Driscoll, natives of County Cork and County Kerry, Ireland, respectively.

At 19 years of age, in 1879, young James and his brothers, Jerry and Thomas, accompanied their parents to Polk County, Minnesota from Ontario, Canada. They traveled by railroad to Fisher's Landing. There they bought a wagon, which they had to assemble before loading on it their household goods. They resumed their trip by horses and wagon to East Grand Forks. Here they were reunited with James' two older brothers, Michael and John, who had arrived here the preceding year. They lived with relatives until they completed the building of their new home.

James' father purchased railroad land in Sullivan Township four and one-half miles from East Grand Forks on the Grand Marais. He farmed 480 acres of land until he died on March 9, 1884, at an advanced age. The mother died in 1912.

James was associated with his brothers in the operation of the home farm for a number of years. In 1891, he purchased the south half of section nine of Huntsville Township and entered upon his independent career. This tract was the home place and he extended its boundaries to include 580 acres. He also owned a quarter section on the Grand Marais. The home farm is located four miles southeast of East Grand Forks, and it includes the land formerly owned by Z. M. Hunt, in whose honor the Township was named.

Mrs. James Driscoll Sr. and five sons: James, Jerry, Tom, Michael and John.

In November of 1891, James Driscoll and Anna Jane Sullivan were married. Anna Jane was a native of County Lanark, Ontario, and daughter of Maurice and Anna Cunningham Sullivan, of East Grand Forks. Maurice Sullivan had come to Minnesota when his daughter, Anna Jane, was seven years old.

James and Anna Jane Driscoll had ten children: James, Li- llian Bushaw, Alda Mongoven, Edna Harvey, Louise Stowe, Mary King, Frances Weber, Leonard (deceased), Charles (deceased) and John E. (present Polk County Commis-
sioner of the Fifth District — a position my father held for forty years, from 1907 to 1947. Thus far I like it very much.

KEITH DRISCOLL

Keith Driscoll was born to Leonard and Gertrude Driscoll on August 9, 1927. He was one of five children, who are all listed in the Leonard Driscoll family history in this book. He attended grade school at School District 85, as did his dad and all other members of his family. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School in 1944. He remained at home farming with his dad until 1947, when he attended North Dakota State University.

Keith married Maxine Sheppard on November 25, 1948, Thanksgiving Day. Her parents are Harry and Annabel (Geddes) Sheppard, of East Grand Forks. At that time the Leonard Driscolls decided to move to town, so Keith and Maxine moved into the farm home in which Keith had always lived. Keith continued to farm with his dad until 1958, when he and his brother Ray formed Driscoll Brothers. Together they grew grain, potatoes, and sugar beets. They purchased the Mallory, Davidson, and Key West elevators from Peavy Grain Company in 1965. They operated the Key West elevator as Driscoll Grain Company and the Key West Amonia, with Marvin Mathiason as their manager, until it was sold to Farmers Elevator in East Grand Forks in 1975.

Keith and Maxine had ten children. Linda was born in October 1949. She is now Mrs. Terry Mahoney, of Burnsville, Minnesota. They have a daughter, Tara Kathleen, born in May 1975.

The second child was Marilyn, born September 12, 1950, and died September 15, when three days old.

The third child was Dianne, born November 1951. She is now Mrs. Patrick Phaneuf, of Grand Forks, and they have one child, Kim, age four.

Rebecca was born in 1952, and she and her husband, George King, attended the University of North Dakota. Their daughter is Sara, age three.

The first son was Brian, born February 1954. He lives in Grand Forks and at present is farming for his dad.

Jeff was born in August 1956. He married Sandra Useldinger in May 1975. They live at North Star Terrace. They attend school, and Jeff also farms.

Greg was born on Halloween in 1957. He is a senior at Sacred Heart High School, and he also farms.

Margi was born May 1961, and is a high school freshman. Donavan was born in September of 1962, and is in the seventh grade. Ann was born in August 1965, and is in the fourth grade at Sacred Heart Grade School.

Keith served as clerk of the district school board until it consolidated, and he is now on the school board at Sacred Heart High School. At present he is serving on the Huntsville town board, and he has been involved with the rural water sign-up.

The farm home has seen many changes. Originally it was a small two-story home, with two rooms on each floor, built in about 1910, and lived in by a bachelor who went by the name of "Long Johnny". He was John Driscoll, Leonard's first cousin. After buying the farm, Leonard dug a basement and moved the house from the north side of the grove to the south side, and added on a kitchen. A back porch was added in 1938, and a sun-porch-living room were added in 1942. The only bathroom was in the basement, and Keith added another one to the main floor in 1952. By 1964 the house was too small for Keith's family, so the sun porch-living room were removed, and a split-level addition was added to the south. This gave the house a new kitchen, living room, three more bedrooms, and another one-and-a-half bathrooms. Many changes have been made since "Long Johnny" split wood in the house, leaving marks on the floor. After the milk cows were sold, the large dairy barn was converted to machine storage by lowering it. The silo is now used for grain storage.

Leonard and Gertrude enjoyed the farm when they reared their family there, the family now is still enjoying it, and hope that someone will always care for it.

Leonard C. Driscoll was born to Anna Sullivan Driscoll and James Driscoll on March 20, 1903, one of four sons and six daughters. He attended district #85 rural school, and was a member of the first high school class at Sacred Heart in East Grand Forks. He farmed with his dad.

On February 27, 1924, he married Gertrude Henderson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Henderson, of Seattle, Washington, who had formerly resided in Grand Forks. They moved to their own farm in Huntsville Township in 1926, where the Keith Driscoll family now lives. Leonard had a herd of milk cows, and also raised potatoes and grains. He was one of the original beet growers in the area when the sugar beet factory was started in East Grand Forks.
Five children were born to Leonard and Gertrude: Raymond, Keith, Jeremiah (Jerry), Marion, and Timothy. Marion is now Mrs. Curtis Olson, of Cottage Grove, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. She and Curtis have six children: Tim, Eric, LeAnne, Kristi, Marc, and Erin. Timothy, born in 1947, died in 1950. The families of Ray, Keith, and Jerry are listed elsewhere in this book.

Keith and Jerry farmed with their father as “Leonard Driscoll & Son” until 1968. At that time Ray and Keith formed “Driscoll Brothers” partnership, Jerry and Leonard farmed as “Leonard Driscoll and Son.” They farmed that way until Leonard retired in 1970 and Jerry took over that operation.

Leonard and Gertrude moved to 127 South Second Street in East Grand Forks in November 1948, when Keith was married, where Leonard became involved in many church and civic projects. He was alderman-at-large on the city council from 1962 to 1966. He served as president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1961-1962. He was a member of the city planning commission, and helped promote the point Minnesota-North Dakota, and Kennedy Bridges, the new water plant, the swimming pool, city hall and fire station, and urban renewal. He was one of the first directors of the Citizen’s State Bank. He was on the advisory committee for the Good Samaritan Nursing Home and the Vocational School. He was building fund chairman for Sacred Heart Church when it was constructed in 1952. He belonged to the Sacred Heart parish all his life. He was a Fourth Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus. He served 16 years as treasurer for school district 85. He is a former director and treasurer of the Polk County Beet Growers Association. He was active in Democratic Farmer Labor politics, serving as chairman for Polk County, and as delegate for Minnesota to the 1962 Democratic Convention in Chicago. He did not hesitate to give of his time and ability to others, as well as to his own family and farming operations.

From 1965 to 1968 Leonard and Gertrude spent the winters in Harlington, Texas. After selling their home there, they spent the winters in Arizona for Leonard’s health, and built a home in Mesa in 1970. They sold their home in East Grand Forks to urban renewal so the house could be removed and the lot used for commercial purposes. They disposed of their belongings in East Grand Forks in the summer of 1973 to make Mesa, Arizona, their permanent home.

In December 1973 Leonard suffered a heart attack, and passed away December 12, 1973. He was brought home to East Grand Forks where his funeral was held at Sacred Heart. Mrs. Gertrude Driscoll continues to make her home in Mesa, but spends the summers visiting her family in Minnesota.

ALBERT JEFFREY

Albert, son of Joseph Jeffrey and Rose, daughter of Mark Burton, married and settled on Minnesota Point in Huntsville Township. They farmed there throughout the life span of Albert who died in a tractor accident at the age of 72 on August 29, 1959. Rose Jeffrey moved to Crookston and now resides at 615 North Broadway. She is presently 86 years old and in good health.

During the marital years of Albert and Rose, they raised five children: four girls, and one boy: Mildred, Clifford, Vivian (died of pneumonia), Adorine and Mary Louise. Albert’s parents also resided on Minnesota Point where they farmed for many years. Both died in 1952 at ages 90 and 83. Joseph migrated from Canada. He wed Josephine Morrow. Rose’s parents resided in the vicinity of Merifield, North Dakota, where they also farmed. Mark Breton, the father was born in Quebec and migrated to North Dakota by barge to Fisher’s Landing and then by ox team to Merifield. Mark changed his name to Burton. He married Domitile Mathew; both died in the 30’s at ages 83 and 75.

Albert and Rose’s children all attended Timberline School District 93 which was located on Highway 220 approximately seven miles southeast of East Grand Forks. During the 1960’s, this school building became an onion house and was moved to the farm of Elmer Hedstrand located near the Mallory Bridge.

During the early spring of 1936, Albert and son, Clifford with Knute and son, Orten Knutson, hauled potatoes to East Grand Forks with two teams of horses and sleighs equipped with grain tanks. Potatoes were bagged, covered with straw and blankets to keep from freezing. The price per hundred pounds was 85¢ and due to distance only one trip per day was made. Were those the “Good old days?” The family of Albert and Rose Jeffrey now consists of four children, twenty-one grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren. Mildred and Al Overgaard live near Crookston on a farm. Clifford and Doris live on Little Wolf Lake, Cass Lake, Minnesota. Clifford manages a telephone company. Adorine and Norman Nelson live near Hominy, New York. Norman works for U.S. Government. Mary Louise and Norman Torkelson live in Cumberland, Wisconsin, where Norman is an engineer for the 3M Company.

MOISE AND ARMALIEN GUERARD

In 1878, Moise and Armalien Guerard left their home in lower Ontario, Canada. Traveling by ox team the carts were loaded with supplies. Their three daughters and eight sons walked along to about one mile north of what is now Brooks, Minnesota, Red Lake County. They built a log cabin and along with other families who had made the trek with them established Brooks and Terrebonne, permanent French settlements.

Of the eight Guerard sons, five became railroad workers on the Soo Line out of Erskine, Minnesota, and Great Northern in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Two were carpenters; One of the daughters became Mrs. Lussier and one became Mrs. Carrier and another, Mrs. Edward Hebert, was a school teacher. One of the sons, Eli Guerard, went to East Grand Forks, Minnesota, in 1893. He purchased forty acres of timber land for $10.00 per acre in section 29, Huntsville township, or what was known as Minnesota Point. This was swampy land and its only value was its timber. In 1895, Eli Guerard married Margaret Morrow, who was from Bad Ax, Michigan. They built a tar
paper shack on the forty acres and found it very difficult to
make a living. Eli would take whatever work was available at
50¢ per day, also going into North Dakota for fall harvest.
There was some humor as the harvest workers slept in the hay-
loft. When everyone was asleep, one of the fellows lit a smuggy
fire and when the barn was full of smoke hollered, “Fire”.

One of the joys of our early childhood was to board the train
from East Grand Forks to Erskine, have lunch, then walk one-
half mile north of Erskine and take a caboose ride to Brooks
to visit our grandparents.

In 1898, Eli and Margaret Guerard’s daughter, Pearl, received
a permanent injury in a fall from a highchair. This
called for extensive treatment. Margaret Guerard would place
Pearl in a baby buggy, walk six miles to the doctor in Grand
Forks, and return home by evening.

Child labor was used extensively in the early nineteen hun-
dreds as the Minnesota Point residents turned to raising vege-
tables, which included potatoes and onions. We had little time
for play.

School District #248 was organized in the late 1890’s. Early
teachers were Ella Conneran of Fisher, Lesa Lillo of Lengby,
and Clifford Frazer of East Grand Forks. One-room schools
teaching first through eighth grades were excellent places of
learning. We also remember the saw mills and brewery, and
seeing Buffalo Bill or William Cody in person when he came to
Grand Forks with a circus. Watching the Point bridge being
turned on a turntable to let river boats through was also nice to
remember. Looking around today and seeing all the changes
that have taken place, really makes Polk County one of the fin-
est places to live.

OLAF P. HEDSTRAND

Olaf P. Hedstrand was born in Sweden July 14, 1884. Louise
Johnson was also born there on March 24, 1885. They met on
the ship as they came to the land of opportunity which proved
to be Polk County.

Olaf spent the first year in America in Maine doing carpen-
ter work. Louise came directly to Grand Forks from Sweden
with her mother, two brothers and a sister. Her father had
come a year earlier and had a job to support the family. In the
first four years here, however, three members of the family
died from tuberculosis.

Olaf came to East Grand Forks and on November 10, 1904
he married Louise. He found work at a saw mill there and
Louise took in washing in using the washboard to help the family
finances.

The saw mill burned down so the couple purchased ten acres
across from Poplar Grove School in Bygland Township where
they raised vegetables.

During those years their two sons, Oscar and Elmer, and
dughter Selma were born.

Olaf then purchased a forty acre tract of land on the Red
Lake River near Mallory in Huntsville Township from Arne
Flaat. The land was all woods and took several years to clear
and cultivate. He also purchased a small saw mill and sawed
lath and lumber from the trees on his farm to make onion
stakes as he had learned from experience that there was more
profit in onions by keeping them over winter, selling in late
winter or early spring.

Onion farming was a big gamble and one spring he was
compelled to dump 20 carloads of good quality onions as there
was no market for them. This did not discourage Mr. Hed-
strand, however. The following spring he planted the usual
amount. “You have to take the long view, you know, the long
view.” he would say.

By the 1940’s Olaf P. Hedstrand was known as the “Onion
King” in the Red River Valley, shipping as many as twenty
carloads in a season always insisting on shipping only good
quality onions.

It was in 1916 the Hedstrands moved to the farm in Hun-
tsville Township which later became known as Riverside Truck
Farm. In 1922 they built a sixteen carload capacity warehouse
and in 1925 the present house was built using wind power elec-
tricity for light and power in the house.

It was in 1946 that Louise and Olaf retired from farming
because of Olaf’s failing eyesight and purchased a home in
Fisher, Minnesota. Their son Elmer and family moved to the
farm to farm it. Mr. Hedstrand lost his eyesight and his wife
spent much of her time caring for him. She was an avid knitter
as they sat alone in the evening. He would inquire of her.
“What are you doing?” To that her usual reply was, "Oh, just
knitting."

Olaf passed away in 1966 at the age of eighty-two. Louise at
the age of ninety-one is a resident of the Good Samaritan
Nursing Center in East Grand Forks. She has had to put aside
her hand work because of poor eyesight. She enjoys receiving
letters and pictures of her nine grandchildren and twenty-nine
great-grandchildren and visits from her family and many
friends.

Their son Oscar married Myrtle Knutson of Bygland Town-
ship and they did truck farming at Sawyer, North Dakota.
They had five children: Orville who died of a brain tumor at a
young age, Curtis, Aldine, Darlene, and Buddy.

Daughter Selma married Chester Knutson of Fisher, Min-
nesota and they lived at Fisher several years, then at Grafton,
North Dakota and presently at Grace Lake, Minnesota. They
had two children: Karen and Ronald.

Son Elmer served as farm manager of the Federal Irrigation
Project at Burlington, North Dakota where he met and mar-
rried LeRoi Miller before returning to take over the farm here.
Through the years they changed from raising only onions to a
more diversified truck farm raising cabbages, potatoes, car-
rots, tomatoes, and other vegetables always keeping the quality
standards high and adding a retail market at the farm for sell-
ing fall products.

Their daughter Toni married John Couch of East Grand
Forks and they live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Daughter
Penny married Richard Moe of Beltrami, Minnesota and lives
in Kent, Washington. Daughter Betty married Kenneth Reigel
of Seneca Falls, New York and lives at Newark, New Jersey.

In the fall of 1975 Elmer and LeRoi Hedstrand sold their
farm to Darrell Adams of Grand Forks, North Dakota. They
will live in Renton, Washington after March 1, 1976.

KNUT KNUTSON

Knut Knutson and his wife Margit Osmundson were born in
Setesdal, Norway and were married there on January 21, 1847.
Five children (Knut K., Guro, Swaoiga, Halvor, and Bertha)
were born to them there.
In 1859 they all came to America settling in Stevens Point, Waupaca County, Scandia Township in Wisconsin. In 1860 Osmund was born followed by Gunvor, Targe, Bessie, Salve who died in infancy. Thea, and Salve as the years passed by.

In 1873 some of the family came to Polk County. Knut K. became a prominent farmer in Bygland Township. He assisted in organizing Bygland Township and was elected its first treasurer. He became a member of the Bygland Lutheran Church and his wife (Bertha Isaacson) was a charter member of the Bygland Ladies Aid organized in 1877.

His sisters Guro (Mrs. Osbjorn Olson) and Bertha (Mrs. Halvor Tharaldson) settled in the area as well and were charter members of the Bygland Church and Ladies Aid and were elected some of its first officers.

In 1880 Knut Knutson and the rest of the family came to Polk County staying with their daughter, Mrs. Halvor Tharaldson, for almost a year while their log house was built on land purchased from the railroad in section 29 in Huntsville Township. The Knutsons had many years of the hard labor of pioneer life in America — clearing the timber land, cultivating the soil, and working the lumber woods. Knut died in 1885 and his wife in 1891. His son Osmund moved on the farm and farmed it.

**KNUT O. KNUTSON**

Knut O. Knutson, son of Osmund Knutson and Bergit Hegland, and his wife, Bergit Thorson, bought the Knutson farm in Section 29 in Huntsville Township in 1925 and farmed it. They had three children: Orten, Howard, and Marion.

Knut and Bergit both are lifetime members of the Bygland Lutheran Church and its organizations.

Their son Orten married Glendora Krostue and they live on a farm in Section 28 in Huntsville Township. They have three sons: Loren, Richard, and Alan. Son Howard married Mildred Kmecek and lives in East Grand Forks doing trucking. They had three sons: Kenneth, who died in an accident at the age of three, Dennis, and Curtis. Daughter Marion married Rudolph Kotrba and they live in East Grand Forks.

Orten's son Loren married Eileen Fundingsland and lives in East Grand Forks. They have three children: Lori, Kristen, and Elliot.

Knut O. Knutson died in February 1976 and his wife Bergit still lives on the farm in Section 29 in Huntsville Township that belonged to Knut O. Knutson's grandfather.

**OSMUND KNUTSON**

Osmund Knutson's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Knut Knutson. Knut Knutson and his wife, Marit Osmundson, were born in Setesdal, Norway, and were married on January 21, 1847. Five children: Knut K., Guro, Swaolaug, Halvor and Bertha, were born to them in Norway before they came to America in 1859. Eight more children: Osmund, Gunvor, Targe, Bessie, Salve who died in infancy, Thea, and Salve, were born to them in this country. They settled in Stevens Point, Waupaca County, Scandia Township, Wisconsin where he purchased land. Osmund Knutson, father of Henry, was born in 1860, one year after his parents' arrival from Norway. Mr. and Mrs. Knut Knutson left Wisconsin and came to the East Grand Forks area in 1880, following their son, Knut K., who came to Polk County in 1873. Their son, Knut K., was a prominent farmer of Bygland Township. He had assisted in the organization of Bygland Township and was elected its first Treasurer. He became a member of the Bygland Lutheran Congregation in 1875 and his wife, Bertha Isaacson, was a charter member of the Bygland Ladies Aid in 1877. His sister, Guro (Mrs. Osbjorn Olson) was also a charter member of the Bygland Lutheran Church and a charter member of the Ladies Aid in 1877 and elected one of the first officers. Another sister, Bertha, married Halvor Tharaldson who was a charter member of the Bygland Lutheran Congregation and acted as first secretary.

The Knut Knutson Sr. Family, Guro, Swaolaug, Bertha, Gunvor, Ber-git, Sigri, Thea, Salve, Knute K., Knut, Margit, Halvor, and Osmund.

The hardships of the Knutsons, before their arrival in Minnesota were many: years of hard labor of pioneer life, assisting in the work of clearing the timber land, cultivation and working in the lumber woods. Upon their arrival, they lived with their daughter, Mrs. Halvor Tharaldson, her husband and family for almost a year while their log home was being built.

Mr. and Mrs. Osmund Knutson May 1891.
(on land bought from the railroad in Huntsville Township, Section 29). The Knut Knutsen’s grandson, Knut O. Knutson, and his wife Bergit (Thorson) still live on this place in 1975. The log home was replaced in 1914, by a huge two-story frame structure.

Osmund Knutson, a friendly and pleasant man always with a smile and a good story, married Bergit Hegland in 1891. Bergit Hegland, daughter of Olaf Hegland and Thora Nickleson, was born in Setesdal, Norway, in 1863, and came to America with her brother, Paul, in 1888. Osmund’s father, Knut, had died in 1885 and his mother died in early 1891 and Osmund and his wife, Bergit, lived on the Knutson place and farmed there.

They had ten children: Minnie, Knut, Ole, Andrew, Gilbert, Thorold Henry, Thelma, John, Gladys, and Mable. The descendants of the Knutsons represent a wide variety of occupations including: farming, trucking, public accounting, home economics, law, teaching, pharmacy, and pastors to mention a few. Bergit passed away in 1919, and Osmund in 1923.

HERBERT JAMES NISBET

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert James Nisbet were married December 11, 1942. Mrs. Nisbet was the former Beatrice I. McVeety. Both were born in Polk County, attended rural school in Mallory, graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston, and both are descendants of early settlers who homesteaded in Huntsville and Misbet townships. Their parents, William J. and Eva (McDonald) Nisbet, and Archie and Bertha (Erdmann) McVeety also farmed in Huntsville township, and were among the first farmers in the area to grow sugar beets. Most of the farms at that time were diversified livestock and grain farms, and the introduction of beets promised to be a boon to the farmers. This was partly true, though at times it seemed to be a bane because of the uncertainty of the weather, beet worms, grasshoppers, the rush at harvest time, and in many cases, the stress of trying to understand both the language and the custom of the migrant labor, proved that only the hardiest survived those early years in beet history.

Grandparents who were among the first white settlers in this area were: James and Christina (Morrow) Nisbet; James and Isabella (Miller) McDonald; Thomas X. and Isabella (McDonald) McVeety all coming from Perth and Paisley, Ontario, Canada, and homesteaded in the Mallory and Davidson area between 1875 and 1878. This area was soon known as a Scottish Community for it was predominantly settled by those of Scottish descent. Even as late as 1916 when the community numbered 289, twenty-two were Irish, six were Norwegian, twelve were German, and 249 Scottish. In 1900 the Mallory Burns Club was organized to celebrate the birthday of the Scotch poet, Robert Burns. The first president of the club was James Nisbet. The celebration was held on January 25 each year with a dinner, program of bagpipe music, Scottish readings, songs and dances, followed by a lunch and a dance. Families came from miles around to make it a gala occasion, often lasting until daylight. This celebration was held annually until 1963 when it was discontinued, but not forgotten by the many who enjoyed this special celebration.

Grandparents William and Christine (Rosenthal) Erdmann came from Berlin, Germany, and Wisconsin, before settling in Crookston, Minnesota. Mr. Erdman was an architect, trained in Berlin, Germany, and built many of the early buildings and houses in Crookston and the surrounding towns. Among the buildings built by William Erdmann was the first Polk County jail, which was used until the new one was built in 1975.

Herbert and Beatrice now farm and live on the land homesteaded by James Nisbet in 1875, and later farmed by Herbert’s parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Nisbet are members of the Mendenhall Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks, where both are elders. Herbert also serves as supervisor on the Huntsville town board, and is sexton in the Nisbet Cemetery Association. Mrs. Nisbet was formerly a rural school teacher. They are parents of: Roy Herbert, a graduate of Wahpeton State School of Science, who is a machinist and employed in Grand Forks. He married Joan Hanson in 1966, and they are parents of one daughter, Debbie.

Doris Janette, a graduate of Bemidji State College, was an elementary teacher, and is presently employed in the State Bank of LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

William James, a graduate of Wahpeton State School of Science, was married to Nancy Vasek in 1974, and they are now residents of this area, farming in the land homesteaded by William’s great-grandfather, Thomas X. McVeety.

Lori Bell is at home and attends Valley Elementary School in East Grand Forks.

OLE G. OLSON

Ole G. Olson homesteaded on the south half of S.W. Section 4 of Huntsville Township, in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Olson arrived with their family: Gust, fifteen years old; Ellen thirteen years old; Andrew ten years old — the first week of April 1879, from Decorah, Iowa. They left Decorah because chin bugs had destroyed crops three years in a row; so they left to homestead and make a new life.

Ellen married G. L. Holten in 1895. They moved to Emerald, North Dakota, to farm, later moving to Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole G. Olson retired and moved to Grand Forks, North Dakota, in 1895. Mr. Olson died in 1910. Andrew Olson married Bertha Olson, also from Iowa, in 1896. They had four children: Oscar B., Anna, Theodore, and Bertha. Andrew and Gust homesteaded together until the illness and death of Gust in 1927. They had a dairy farm, in addition to raising grain. In 1900 they sold bottled milk, 20 quarts for $1. Later they sold cream for the making of ice cream. In the twenties they sold five gallons of milk for $1, and to families, two gallons for 50¢. Andrew farmed with his sons until his death in April 1934. Later his sons discontinued the dairy operation, but raised pure-bred Shorthorn cattle, besides growing wheat, barley, and field peas. Oscar continues to live on the homestead, 96 years since his grandfather homesteaded there.

Theodore married Dorothy Sullivan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Sullivan, in 1943, and they live one mile west of the home place. Dorothy died in 1968. They have two children. Tom, who lives in Chicago, and Susanne, who is married to Richard Budge. He teaches in East Grand Forks. They have three daughters, Elizabeth, Christine, and Jennifer.

Anna taught school for several years in Oregon, and married George E. Johnson. They have one son, Richard, who lives in 337
Appleton, Wisconsin. He is married, and has one son. Anna still lives in Aurora, Oregon. Mr. Johnson passed away several years ago.

Bertina married Oscar Mellem, of Grand Forks, in 1929. They are retired, but continue to live in Grand Forks. They have two children, Donald and Janet. Donald was a navy pilot, and is now a pilot for United Airlines. Donald is married, and has one son. They live in Elgin, Illinois.

Janet graduated from nurses training at the University of North Dakota in 1968. She later got her Master's degree at the University of Washington. She has been a psychiatric nurse at the University of Washington Hospital.

Oscar and Theodore farmed until March 31, 1964, when they sold their farm equipment and rented out the crop land, and retired from farming.

ALBERT OSMUNDSON

Albert Osmundson was born in Huntsville Township on his parents' (Anne and Osmund Osmundson) farm on September 24, 1878. In 1880, the family moved to Mallory where they operated the Mallory General Store as well as the farm. November 13, 1901, he married Jennie Torbjornson of Walle township just across the Red River in North Dakota, and they moved to the farm to operate it along with his brother, Ole, who never married.

They had three children: Osmund (now of East Grand Forks), Mrs. Victor Peters (Anne), and Mrs. Charles Coe (Bergit) both of Panorama City, California. Albert farmed and served as Huntsville township clerk for 31 years, served on the school board of district #93, was a director of the Farmer's Co-operative in East Grand Forks, as well as being an active member of the Byeland Lutheran Church.

In 1949, Albert and Jennie moved to Grand Forks, and Albert's son, Osmund and his wife, Ethel Longstreet Osmundson, a graduate nurse of the Deaconess Hospital in Grand Forks, moved on the farm to operate it. Ole Osmundson passed away in October, 1948; Jennie Osmundson, in January of 1961. Albert moved in to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Peters, and is still living with them in Panorama City, California, at the age of 97.

Osmund and Ethel Osmundson had no children. Ethel kept active in her nursing while they lived on the farm. Osmund was Huntsville township clerk from 1950 until 1972, when they moved into East Grand Forks and rented out the farm. They belong to the Byeland Lutheran Church and are active in its organizations. They belonged to Farm Bureau, Homemakers and on the board at Valley Memorial Home.

In 1974, the Osmundson Farm was put up for auction and was sold to Darrel Adams of Grand Forks.

OMSUND OSMUNDSON

Osmund Osmundson was born in Kristiansten, Norway, October 8, 1941. He was married to Anne Sannes also of Norway, and they lived for a few years in Portage County, Wisconsin. In 1876, they came to Minnesota, staying for the first few months with the Osmund Isacsons of Byeland Township.

In 1877, their oldest son, Osmund Albert, passed away and was buried in Byeland. Their other children were: Mrs. Ole Danielson (Bertha), Mrs. S. K. Flaat (Mary), Mrs. John Groshung (Caroline), Mrs. Martin Solstad (Bergit), Albert, and Ole.

The Osmundsons bought the Southwest ¼ and East ½ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 34 in Huntsville township where they put up buildings and farmed. In the 1880's they invested further by purchasing the general store at Mallory, where the family then resided operating the farm as well.

In 1894, when Caroline and John Groshung were married, they lived on the farm and farmed the land. In 1896, Mrs. Osmund Osmundson passed away. After her son, Albert was married to Jennie Torbjornson of Walle township in North Dakota on November 13, 1901, they moved on the farm to farm it along with brother Ole. About this time, too, Osmund sold the store and lived with them on the farm. Osmund was active in township affairs serving as township supervisor, as clerk, as justice of the peace for a total of fourteen years. The family belonged to the Byeland Lutheran Church and were active in its affairs. Land for school district #93 was furnished by them and they took an active part in it. Mr. Osmundson was a Civil War veteran serving with the 4th Minnesota Volunteer Regiment.

Osmundson passed away in March of 1914; his son Ole, in October, 1948. He never married.

GRACE HANSON PETERSON

Ole Hanson came to Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in 1866 from Larvig, Norway, with his parents, Cheston and Hans Oleson, and his two brothers and a sister. While in the Manitowoc area the men folk worked in the woods, and in 1877 the entire family moved to Fisher. At first Ole worked on the river boats that traveled from Fisher to Winnipeg carrying supplies which were brought from the Twin Cities to the railhead at Fisher's landing. He also spent time building a sod house on a quarter section of land in section 31 of Nisbet Township which he homesteaded. (Ole's parents lived with him, George settled in Fisher and later in Cass Lake, Louis lived in Thief River Falls, and Caroline married even Olson of Fisher).

On July 23, 1893 Ole married Bertha Aakhus, eldest daughter of Signe and Grundy Aakhus and older sister of Gust Aakhus whose story appears in the Fisher Township section of this book. Between the years 1893 and 1907 Bertha and Ole lived in a log house built by Mr. Hanson about one half mile north of his sod house. This log house also was home to Mr. Hanson's parents, the hired help, and the two children of Bertha's sister Thore, Grace and Willard. In 1907 Ole purchased the Stark house in Fisher and pulled it on three wagons with six teams of horses to the farm where both houses stood today.

Grace and Willard Hanson attended the Sprague rural school until 1917 when it and several other districts joined the Fisher district in what was one of the first consolidations in Minnesota. After graduation from the Fisher High School Willard received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Dakota and spent 46 years in the schools of North Dakota and Minnesota as teacher, principal and superintendent. The last nine years were with the Minnesota State Department of Education. Retired now, he and Mrs. Hanson live in Brainerd. They have five children and at one time all five of them were in the field of education.

Following high school, Grace Hanson enrolled in Moorhead State College from which she graduated with a degree in elementary education. She taught for a number of years in Kenneth and Fisher, Minnesota. On November 14, 1944 Grace married John Peterson whose family had settled west of Fisher. Grace and John started married life on a farm which he bought from the Lee family, who were early pioneers in the Huntsville township area. The Petersons still reside on their farm although Mr. Peterson has retired from active farming.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Peterson.
The Petersons are C400 members of Concordia College and the Valley Memorial Club of Grand Forks. Grace is a member in long standing of the American Lutheran Church at Fisher and their American Lutheran Church Women's group. She is also a member of the Town and Country Garden Club of Fisher.

Mrs. Peterson states that she is especially thankful for the teachings of thrift and Christian purpose in life which they received from their forefathers.

Kertsonville Township

OTTO AND ALMA HOPPE

Our parents, Otto and Alma Hoppe, ventured to the wide open spaces of Northern Minnesota in 1918, first settling in Kertsonville Township and moving to Fairfax in 1936. Father felt the densely populated, rolling countryside of Southern Minnesota was too crowded for him and decided to go north. Grandmother thought that certainly her only daughter would be overtaken by the Indians.

Otto's parents and older brothers emigrated from Germany and settled in Southern Minnesota where grandfather farmed. Alma's father was born in Wisconsin later moving to Minneapolis where he was a teacher and farmer. Her mother came to America at the age of six and in later years opened a Millinery Shop. She also gave piano lessons. Mother's maternal grandfather fought and died in the Civil War and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Father took an early active interest in organizing the Farm Bureau and in securing the first County Agent for Polk County. In 1921-22 he took a try at raising sugar beets. He also took an active role in the Red River Valley Winter Shows which we have tried to continue. In 1940 he won the Master Crop Grower Award which 30 years later was won by Herb and Laurence.

Members of the family include: Mrs. Alice Jurchen, Herb, Irma, Laurence and Ray all who reside in Fairfax, Mrs. R. M. (Edna) Dennis, opus of Apple Valley, Minnesota, Vernon of Minneapolis and Millie of Fargo, North Dakota.

Keystone Township

A meeting was held at the home of W. W. Graves to organize a township. W. W. Wood and H. Currie were appointed judges and C. B. Rockwood and W. G. Walker were appointed clerks of election. The voters approved of organizing a town. Keystone Township, 152 Range 48, Polk County, became a township on December 3, 1881. It got its name from the large Bonanza farms known as the Keystone Farms in the area.

Some of the early town board members who held office from 1881 to 1910 were: William Gunnis, Theodore Chalmers, David Gedcess, Hugh McDonald, George Rutherford, George Horn, Charles Teal, C. Stuhlr, B. Tiedman, and H. Osterloh. The more recent ones were: Lois Giese, who was supervisor from 1924 until 1947; James Love; Walter Pulkrebek; Theo. Pulkrebek; Geo. Ovsak; Wm. Stengl; and Orville Dahlin. Dan McDonald was assessor from 1923 to 1958. R. O. Larson was assessor from 1958 to 1975. The present town board members are: Dale Giese; James Pulkrebek; Richard Bubendorf; Jacob Konrba; and Mrs. Orville Dahlin. At first they held their town meetings in the school house section of District 98. In 1899, one acre of land for thirty dwellers was bought from the School District 98. This acre of land is in NW1/4 Section of 22, where our present Town Hall now stands. The Town Hall was built in 1899 by August Kelly, a building contractor, for $356. This also included a paint job inside and out, and a coat of oil on the floor. In 1924 the Kluzak brothers made repairs on the Hall and built a foot bridge across the ditch in front of the hall. They were paid seventy-five cents an hour for their work. It is very interesting to read in the old township book about some of the laws that were enforced. If you were a non-resident of the township, you were not allowed to hunt prairie chickens on Sunday. They quarantined for diseases, such as typhoid fever, diphtheria, and smallpox.

There was a road tax on all real estate and personal property to the amount of one-half cent on a dollar. In 1904 they raised it to five mills. They also had a poll tax of $1.50 or two days work for every able-bodied man between the age of twenty-one and fifty. Town board members received two dollars a day for their meetings. They often counted votes until two a.m. Now we count all the votes at our annual town meetings in fifteen minutes and at general elections for about one hour.

The first culverts or bridges were all made of lumber. In 1901 they changed to sewer pipe which was not to be more than twenty inches in size. In 1903. County Surveyor Ralph Letter suggested steel culverts and they were bought from Clinton and Bridge Iron Works. They were to be eighteen feet long. James McDonald put in thirty-three culverts and received $9.99 for each culvert. In 1914, the road labor for one man and four horses was $7 per day. These prices were raised to $10 a day in 1924. For dragging roads it was seventy-five cents a round mile. The present town board meets about six times a year not including elections. We belong to the Polk County Township Association. We keep our roads maintained...