John S. Kotschevar received his early education principally in Douglas County, but finished his schooling with a course at St. John’s College, in Stearns County, leaving that institution in 1886.

On the second of November, 1887, he and his father established a general store at Brandon, where he lived for several years. The store was called the General Merchants of Brandon. It was one of the leading businesses of the place. Later he became engaged in the agricultural implement business and bought wheat for O. N. Ostrom, of Minneapolis.

His father, Mathias Kotschevar, also had a general store at Millerville, and dealt extensively in stock.

The Kotschevars (the word means “from Kothe”) came to this country in 1869 with many other of their Austrian countrymen with the famous Father Frederick Baraga, who later became Bishop Baraga, the first bishop of Marquette, Michigan. The Krainers, as they were called, stored some of the old Kotschevars in the St. Cloud diocese. Their culture went back to the time of the Caesars, when their country was known as Illyrium, in the Roman Empire.

John S. Kotschevar was married on October 18, 1887, to Anna Movern. She was born at Cold Springs in Stearns county, Minnesota, but was reared and educated at Millville, Douglas county. They lived in Brandon for twenty years. They moved to a farm in Polk county, in the Spring of 1904. The farm is located fifteen miles southeast of Crookston, on Highway 2 near Marcoux Corner. They lived there for thirty-three years.

Life on a farm in the early 1900’s wasn’t one of leisure. They milked the cows by hand, plowed the fields, planted and harvested the crops by horsepower. By working hard, John and Anna Kotschevar were able to keep themselves and their family clothed, fed, and comfortable. Besides a grain crop, John Kotschevar raised a garden, sheep, cattle, and chickens on the 160 acres granted to him by the government to homestead.

Later on, he was unable to rely solely on the farm for the family living, so he drove a school bus. It was a hard way of life back in the early 1900’s, but with self discipline and a lot of hard work, John and Anna Kotschevar raised a family they were proud of.

During the time they lived in Brandon and Polk county, their nine children were born. Seven grew to adulthood in Polk county. Their family included Mary Anne, who married Francis Henry Morrissey; John Jr., who died in infancy; Matthew Joseph, who married Edna Westland; Conrad Jacob, who lived in Crookston until his death in March of 1974; Clara, who died in infancy; Adeline Margaret, who married Bernard Duffy; Martha Ann who married Alvin Palmer; Lenore Barbara, who married Emery Palmer; Julia Agnes whose first husband, Ernest Raymond, died in 1933. She later married Bernard Kuiper, who survives her.

Three members of the Kotschevar family, Mrs. Martha Kotschevar Palmer; Mrs. Bernard (Adeline) Kotschevar Duffy; and Mrs. Emery (Lenore) Kotschevar Palmer live in Crookston.

Eight of the twenty-eight Kotschevar grandchildren and twenty-four of the fifty-two great-grandchildren are also living in Polk county.

Tynsid Township History

The history of Tynsid township is very vague; but after scanning old records and histories of various settlers and also referring to an old History and Biographical Book of Polk County, 1916, I managed to find the following facts.

This township was in the making sometime before 1877. At that time the land had not been surveyed, so those who came had wide open spaces in which to stretch their arms; therefore, these "squatters" as they were called agreed among themselves as to boundaries and sought to secure a large portion of timber along the river bends. This made ideal building places.

The settlers came from Telemarken, Osterdalen and Tynset in Norway and from Ireland. Many of these migrated from Houston, Freeborn and Ottertail counties. The names of these families at that time (taken from the biography and township books) were Patrick Quigley, Matthew Martin, Thomas Logan, John Logan, Peter Gannaw, Barney Haggerty, Mike Quirk from Ireland. Ole Johnson. Erick Jordahl, Hans Koppang, Helge Thoreson, Esten, Leet, Ole and Ingebret Fosback, Ole Bruan, August Aas, Iver Lund, Peter Boukind, Kornelius Hanson (Valo). Halvor Lund, Ingebret Vingel, Elling Dokken, Arne Ness, Hans Olson, Ole, Lars, John and Louis Larson, K. D. and Lars Gulseth.
In 1878 and 1879 real development came and during this
time land sold for $5 an acre but a rebate at $2.50 per acre
for breaking up three fourths of it was given, plus fifty cents
more for cropping, so a quarter section of land cost the purchaser
$440. How about that you farmers of 1976? These settlers
knew their desires and needs, so before too many years they
began to make arrangements for roads, churches and schools.
Township officers were set up for this purpose and many
meetings were held at various homes for these purposes. I
found the township officers convened many times as various
farmers would make their request known for roads and
boundary lines. An amusing thing I noted was that a road dividing
Room and Tynsid townships was to go as far as the “slough.”
By doing some inquiring I found the “slough” was west of
the present Fred Bruun farm, east of the Joseph Larson farm. This
is what is known as County Ditch No. 53. The line to divide
the Bygland and Tynsid townships was executed and com-
pleted in 1894. The supervisors present from Tynsid were Lars
Gulstad, Ole S. Engen, and H. Vale. Lands from and
land was T. D. Ose. On the south the Netha ditch divides
Tynsid and Vineland and the Red River on the west. This Town-
ship is very small (half a township) with only 10 full sections,
sections 3, 10, 15, 22, 26, 35 are cut into by the Red River.

Worship services were held in the farm homes. A minister
serving these townships would walk back and forth staying at var-
ious homes, and would swim across the river to serve his par-
ishioners. His pay was very meager but I am sure, between him
and God, he was well paid. Later the services were also held in
the school house. The first Sandhill Church was built in 1883.
The Catholics were also busy with their sacred duties and
erected a church in Fisher around this time.
The next effort was to get a place where the young people
could receive some book learning. A small square school house
was built in section 26. Clara Bruun Dahlen told me it was so
cold in there that their sandwiches were frozen by noon.
School was held four to six months during the year in crowded
quarters and have been told that many did not attend full time
but parents wanted their children to attend as much as pos-
ible. Later another school was built (possibly more modern)
and was district 226 or the Valor school. Another school was
erected farther north which was district 225 or the Irish school.
Often times the teachers had to do their own janitor work and
would receive a few dollars more a month. In later years a hot
lunch was served. The students bringing what they wished and
it was heated in a large canner on a one or two burner kerosene
stove and served up at the top of the school yard.
The two schools have now consolidated with Climax and Fisher.

To the present generation it seems almost a dream that steamboats
went up and down the Red River, but they did! The late Mrs.
Peder Hetland used to tell me about some of her visits with the James J. Hills.
On one occasion there was some
mechanical trouble with the “Steamer” by their place near the
river and Mrs. Hill went up the bank to visit with her while
waiting for repairs. Chris Engen was hired to assist and later
Mrs. Hill returned and presented Mrs. Hetland with a
lace embroidered lovely silk handkerchief which I now poss-
 sess.
The settlers tilled the land and progressed. Steam threshing
machines were used for many long years; from the large
threshers with the large crew of men (some even had their own
cook car and cook, which would cost more), or the smaller sep-
aratör with about half the crew of a steamer. Those who
owned these had a “run” as it was called, of neighbors working
 together. If the season was good, the owner would have two
“runs.” So much was charged per bushel for each crop. Farms
became larger, time began to make an essence, help was becom-
ing scarce, so the next harvester was the combine of various
sizes and is being used today with little or no effort when the
weather cooperates. The reason also for this great change was
that farmers now were turning more to potatoes and beets;
cattle raising was going out of the picture more and more as
were pigs and chickens.
The mail was delivered by horseback, sleighs, horse
and buggy and sometimes on foot when road conditions were bad.
Now it, too, has modernized with the times — air conditioned
new cars are essential it seems to bring the important news to
the farmers. In the early days, mail was received only about
twice a week being picked up by the individuals at Neby, Byg-
land or farther south of Nielsville. It was brought there by
horse and cart. Halvor Grove of Roomo Township had the job
— he picked it up at Fisher’s Landing. In later years, mail
boxes were put up outside each farmer’s drive and that is the
mode of today, too. The mail carriers who have served here are
Nils Birkland, Marcus Nelson assisted by his son, Walter, dur-
ing inclement weather, Norman Kobbervig, for a few years,
and the present carrier, Cameron R. Gray.
The main roads in this township are gravelled except for
Highway 220, which is paved. We graduated from cart trails
and prairie roads to the present. Over those old roads traveled
many from various walks of life. The gypsies would visit vari-
ous farmers to beg or steal wares, if possible, and, Oh my, how
frightened the children were of them! Then there was the
“Peddler Woman” who would make spring and fall visits on
foot throughout the area selling all kinds of wares which she
carried in a large black bag on her back. She came from
Crookston. We had buns, who would beg for a bite to eat, the
hobo, who would offer to do some work for his food, and
many other peddlers. Now those things are in the past.
I must not forget to mention that from lamps to electricity,
from the outdoor plumbing to the modern indoor bath room,
Tynsid township is 100% modern, the REA of Halstadt furn-
ishing the electricity! So it goes, time marches on and today it
seems almost unrealistic to think all these things have taken
place. Wouldn’t our ancestors be pleased to think they could see
the township they “squatted” on over 100 years ago. There
would be some sadness too. I am sure. Everything has to
have a beginning and an end, but we are living in the present.
Can the change be so great in the next 100 years? What is the
future? No one knows but the Great Creator of us all!

HANNAH ALVINA BRATGER

Hannah Alvina was born March 6, 1904, at Climax, Minne-
sota. I was baptized by Rev. Hans Skyberg who with his wife
were my godparents; witnesses were their daughter, Olga,
and Lawrence Larson. When mother died January 11, 1911, we
were placed in foster homes. After we were parted, we didn’t
see much of one another for years. Dad took me to my new
home January 13, after a week’s stay at Erickson’s waiting for
a nice day. It turned out to be the coldest day of the year, being
40 below zero and it wasn’t that cold again till twenty years
later! There was all bundled up and I had very hard to keep out of
Martin Erickson’s fur coat, which was handed me. I
succeeded in getting a frost bitten cheek. I was welcomed by
the Paulson family, the mother, Aletta Halvorson, Mathilda
and Halvor.

One surprise followed another. I wasn’t able to attend
school that year because of being ill, so Halvor bought me a
Norwegian A.B.C. and taught me to read. I could read Norse
before I learned the English alphabet. My first Christmas tree
was a delight. It was the first I’d seen; in fact, I didn’t know
they existed. I got a doll and bed and an iron that I still have.
It was so much fun to listen to Mother tell of the first years of
pioneering, especially about the big catfish she used to catch.
I was sent to get the cows and in a dried up pond I saw these
dime size toads. Thinking they were frogs, I gathered a mess of
them in my apron and took them to Mother, forgetting the
cows. I was going to say, “Now you can fish!” I got a scolding
instead.
In the spring we were cleaning grain for seeding.
Mathilda, John Lindem (hired man) and I, were taking the
grain from the upstairs through a stove pipe in the ceiling.
My job was to push the grain into the bin where it would run into
the fanning mill below. I took the afternoon coffee to Halvor,
who was seeding. He’d let me ride on the drill. I wasn’t told to
come right back so had my ride and as I was nearing home,
John came up the hill with a switch and I got it. Halvor was
very fond of eggs and in winter the few hens they had didn’t
lay, so when Mother and Mathilda were out milking he would
try some eggs. Once he took (gomezost) limburger cheese
instead of butter in the pantry in the dark. I still laugh when I
think of his reaction to the awful odor.
When we were still together before Mom died I remember how we kids would run down to the river to see the steam boat heading down the Red River. Also, in 1910, we went down toward the river in a clearing to see Halley’s Comet. It will return in 1986, but I don’t expect to be around to see it again. I was confirmed Palm Sunday, March 24, 1918 in the Sand Hill Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church by Rev. H. Winter. Sister Alena died November 20, 1972 in Lagunitas, California. Mother Aletta Halvorson died January 29, 1931, and is buried in the family plot at Sand Hill cemetery.

IRWIN ERICKSON

Irwin Erickson is the third generation living on his farm in section 36, Tynsid Township. His grandfather, Elling T. Dokken was among the first settlers in the Township, homesteading in the land in 1871, and it has remained in the family since then. Elling Dokken was born in the Hol Hallingdal, Norway, September 22, 1842, and grew to manhood and was educated in that country, where he remained until late in the 1860’s, when he immigrated to the United States and located in Worth County, Iowa. He moved to Polk County in 1871 from Iowa. The trip was made with ox teams and covered wagons and the party consisted of a number of families from the same neighborhood in Worth County, Iowa. The journey lasted several weeks, and while there were no real dangers encountered enroute, they experienced all the hardships of pioneer life.

Mr. Dokken married Ingrid Houg on April 2, 1878. They were the parents of six children, three who died in infancy. Daughters Minnie, Thilda and Lena lived to adulthood. Lena passed away at the age of 27. Minnie passed away in 1960. Thilda married Knute Erickson on February 24, 1915. They had two sons: Myron, who lives in St. Paul; and Irwin, who farms the home farm. Knute took over the farm after his father-in-law passed away in spring of 1915.

Knute was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Erickson, also Polk County pioneers. Thilda Erickson, Irwin’s mother, passed away on January 26, 1927. With the help of housekeepers and Thilda’s sister, Minnie, Knute was able to continue farming and keep his boys together. On March 14, 1966, Knute (Irwin’s father) passed away. In 1940, Irwin took over the farm. He married Joyce Thompson on November 14, 1942, daughter of Mrs. Bessie Thompson and the late Anton Thompson of Cummings, North Dakota.

Joyce and Irwin have two children: Jacquelyn (Mrs. Larry Myrmel) of Anoka, Minnesota. They have two children: Laurie and Jeffrey. Wayne, after graduating, enlisted in the United States Army for three years and served two years in Germany. He now lives near Climax and farms with his father. He married the former Erlene Reese and they have four children: Shawn, Michelle and twin boys, Shane and Chad. Irvin and Joyce also had twin daughters born in August 1947, who passed away shortly after birth.

Irwin is active in community affairs. He is a member of the Climax Credit Union board of directors. He has served as director on the Farmers Union Oil Company of Climax, has held various positions in Sand Hill Lutheran Church, of which he has been a member all his life.

Joyce is also a member of Sand Hill Lutheran Church and A.L.C.W. Both are members of the Sons of Norway lodge.

MARTIN ERICKSON

Martin Erickson was born in Sogne, Norway on August 2, 1862. At five years of age he came to America with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erik Drydal. Their first home was in Lanesboro, Minnesota (Fillmore County), where he was confirmed and spent his early childhood. After a few years he came with his family to Norman county, where they took up homesteading near Twin Valley, Minnesota, in 1877. Martin changed his last name by adding “son” to his father’s first name, which was a custom at that time for those who came from Norway.

Since Martin had other brothers at home to help, he left and found work at Grandin Farms, located in the Halstad and Hillsboro, North Dakota area. Since it was a large farm of
grew to adulthood. Deceased are Edward, Jens, and Knute; living are Lulu, Emma, Alvin and Palmer. The family farms are operated and owned by the sons and nephew of the family.

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

PALMER AND LILLIAN ERICKSON

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

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

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

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

CAMERON AND MARIAN GRAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN KOPPANG

Johan Koppang, known as John, was born in Tynsid township, section 26, March 24, 1894, the youngest son of Hans O. and Gurina Fosbakken (later changed to Fosbak) Koppang. He attended grade school in district #226 and often told of how he walked to school early in the morning in the cold and would start the fire in the cold schoolhouse and have it warm when the teacher and other pupils got there. He attended the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston in 1910. He was
a member of the Sand Hill Lutheran Church, where he was baptized and confirmed in 1908. He farmed, raising small grains, corn and livestock (always preferring hand-milking to milk machines). He served as trustee of the Sand Hill church, and was a former school board member and township officer. He often sang little ‘folk’ songs and was a jolly sort of fellow.

John was married January 4, 1919, to Tina Hanson, at Crookston by Rev. P. E. Moen. Tina Hanson Koppang was born in Badger township, the tenth child in a family of ten children, to Simon and Berthe Svebakken (later changed to Sweum) Hanson, October 6, 1899. She attended school in Badger township and tells of walking three miles every Sunday to Sunday school. She was baptized and confirmed in 1913 in the Saron Lutheran Church, rural Erskine. After her marriage, she was a member of the Sand Hill Ladies Aid, in which she held offices, was a teacher in the Sunday school for over twenty years, and was a member of the Sand Hill choir. She is presently living in Erskine.

John and Tina Koppang lived in Tynsid township (except for one year in Oregon), until 1968, when they moved to Erskine, Minnesota. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Sand Hill Lutheran church. John suffered a stroke in 1971 and was hospitalized and taken care of at the Pioneer Memorial Home until his death August 23, 1974. Seven children were born to them: Blanche, married to William Anderson, lives in Woodside township; Talbert, married to Mabel Haugen, lives in Tynsid township; Edna, married to Boyd Knutson, lives in Bygland township; Lorraine, married to F. K. Kern, lives in Hillboro, North Dakota; Joyce, married to Robert Stout, lives in Spokane, Washington; Marlene, married to Warren Foss, lives in Princeton, Minnesota; and Allen lives in Washington, D.C.

REMINISCING

Bringing up seven children during the Depression must have been difficult, but there was no awareness of being deprived of anything among the children. The family enjoyed comforts in the large Koppang home (where John had been born). The home had been remodeled with conveniences, such as running water, indoor plumbing, bathtub, and a wood burning furnace, in ‘better times’ in about 1927. Always there were gardens planted and much canning was done, of vegetables and meat, as well as fruit. And, of course, baking bread, cakes, cookies and pies was done at home; how fast they would go! They had large families and a lot of hired help. Wheat was often ground at Terrebonne and sacks of flour assured the family of food.

The children learned at an early age that a little money had to provide and buy many ‘necessary’ things and there were no luxury items bought. Everybody had to work, but there was time for relaxation also. Singing, gathering around the piano (how we enjoyed the piano), and listening to the battery radio provided hours of entertainment. How we strained our ears to weakened batteries to hear the Lone Ranger, Jimmy Allen, Orphan Annie, One Man’s Family, Ma Perkins and Asher Sizemore and Little Jimmy from WSM, Nashville, Tennessee; how we enjoyed them! Sunday worship and Sunday school were important in our lives.

The Young People’s Society, later changed to Luther League, was enjoyable. The Koppang sisters were often asked to do the recitations in these programs. Most exciting, of course, was Christmas. How we enjoyed the one-room school programs with the plays and recitations and singing! And always, on Christmas Night, the 25th, the Sunday school program was held at church. Christmas Eve at home: how fast we did the dishes! We would sing. John would read the Christmas story from Luke, and then the presents! How dangerous, but lovely, the candles were when lit on the Christmas tree. Memories; beautiful memories! Popping of corn on the kitchen wood-range and eating crisp apples were evening snacks. Remember?

TALBERT KOPPANG

Talbert Koppang was born in Tynsid township near Climax, Minnesota. The house he was born in was purchased by Bernard Quirk some years ago and moved into Climax where it is still the Quirk’s residence.

He is one of seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Koppang.

Talbert received his elementary education at school district 226 in Tynsid township. This rural one-room school house is still standing. He received his secondary education at the Northwest School of Agriculture at Crookston. Talbert married Mabel Haugen of Kloten, North Dakota in 1947. She is the daughter of Mrs. Haugen and the late Ole Haugen. The Koppangs live on the farm where his father was born.

Talbert and Mabel have four children, Janice who lives at Plymouth, Minnesota and is employed at North West National Bank of Hopkins, Minnesota; Roger, a senior at Moorhead State University; Terry, employed at Ted’s Interstate Standard Service in Fargo, North Dakota; and Miles, who is a freshman at Mayville State College.

The Koppangs are members of the Sand Hill Lutheran church.

ELMER LARSON

Elmer Larson is the ninth child of Martin Larson and Josephine Thoreson Larson. When he was two years old, his parents and brothers and sisters sold and moved from their farm close to Eldred, Minnesota, now the Orris Hegge farm, to a farm in Tynsid township, formerly known as the Lunas farm. Elmer and his brothers and sisters attended local rural school in Roome and Tynsid township, the southeast corner of Section twenty-five and they belonged to school district 226. Due to the fact that so many of their cousins attended district 41 in Roome township, the sisters and brothers were anxious to attend school there. I guess youngsters at that time pressured
parents too, so the older ones, as many as district 41 had room for, attended grade school there and the younger ones, Elmer included, attended district 226. Elmer only attended part of one year in district 226 as he became very ill with pleurisy after a case of measles and was unable to finish that year of school. This was a trying year for his mother, as his father, a younger brother, the oldest brother and a sister were all very ill that winter and roads were such that it was hard to get to a doctor.

In spite of the hardships, this was a happy family and now as the brothers and sisters reminisce about their childhood days and all their antics, there is cause for much laughter.

Elmer attended and graduated from high school at Climax, Minnesota. Elmer married Marion Neil, October 26, 1941. I am the daughter of Cecil and Olive Jeving Neil. I attended country grade school at district No. 6, a modern two-room school, which was built the year I was born. The frame school previous to this two-room school was built the year my mother was born in 1888 and before that, there was a log building used for school, church and other gatherings.

After eighth grade, I attended and graduated from high school at Climax, Minnesota. During our high school years, Superintendent Oluf T. Olson was the head administrator and he served in that capacity for many years and all but one of our children finished high school during his tenure. We have five children, all living, three girls and two boys. Our oldest girl, Judith, is married to Robert Hoffman and they presently reside at Waseca, Minnesota, where he is employed by Brown Printing Company. They were both teachers, Judy in elementary where she taught for several years and Robert taught English and physical education on the secondary level. He went on and earned his Master's degree at Mankato State and doctorate at Utah State University. He then was assistant superintendent at Worthington, Minnesota and superintendent at Waseca Public School. They have a daughter, Kelly Jo, born March 1975.

Linda, their second daughter, graduated from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota and has been teaching third and fourth grades at Zumbrota, Minnesota. She married Darren Pahl, a dairy farmer from Zumbrota and their farm is only a few miles from town and school.

Arlan, our oldest son, graduated from Moorhead State University with a degree in business management and marketing. He married Dana Henderson, daughter of Harris and Rhoda Henderson of Halstad, Minnesota. She has her degree in elementary education from Moorhead State University. They live on his great-grandfather's farm, which he bought from his uncle, and have recently built a new home, replacing the one hundred year old log house that was originally built by his great-grandfather. Arlan and Dana have two boys named Benjamin James, almost two years old and Matthew Allen who is two months old at the present time. They are the fifth generation.

Our third girl, Wanda, graduated from North Dakota State University with her degree in home economics education and textiles and clothing. She married William Scoville, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Scoville of Grandin, North Dakota. He is also a graduate of North Dakota State University with a degree in agricultural engineering. They presently live at Steele, North Dakota. Wanda teaches at Hazleton, North Dakota and Bill is manager of the John Deere Service Center, a branch of Jamestown Equipment Irrigation Company at Steele, North Dakota.

Owen, our youngest, is presently attending Moorhead State University, majoring in business administration. He helps his father and brother with farming when not in school.

JOSEPH EDWARD AND BLANCH O. LARSON

The land that we call home goes back, it seems, to 1871 when it was given by the U.S. Government to Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad Company for their use and benefit. From them it went to Central Land Company and then to the County for the sum of $18. The first owner was J. Olson Fosbak, May 9, 1885: then in December, 1885. Ingebrit Olson Fosbak and his wife Bertha O. became owners.

In 1910 the land went to Andrew and Ingeborg Stortroen, who held it again in 1910 to L. O. Twite and Augusta, his first wife. During this time a bungalow was built in 1924 for their family use. Many different renters came and went over the years, some we recall: Fretties, Swanson, Wilert, Shimek, Radi, Devork, Hegge.

We bought the Twite farm the fall of 1945 from L. O. Twite and wife Lillian. Joseph, the son of Martin and Josephine Larson, had been born and raised on the farm, yet now live. Blanch, a daughter of Henry and Julia Knutson, was born and raised on the same farm in Bygdland Township where her mother still lives. We were married January 10, 1943, at Tacoma, Washington, while Joe was in the Army. He served in Europe during the war. While he was gone, a son, Jerry Joseph, was born in 1944. We moved into the small house on our farm the spring of 1946 and started farming with a new Model G John Deere tractor and very little machinery. We planted potatoes, wheat, barley, had a couple of cows, and a team of horses named Rye and Raleigh.

With potatoes comes a need for storage, so, during that first busy summer, a root house was built, which served as "on the farm storage" till 1956.

In 1948 a baby girl, Dianne Karen, joined our family.

Two old landmarks were destroyed in 1949. We tore down the old Fosbak house and built a new garage. The old school house, that had originally been built across the road on the west side of the place, had to be moved. There were many names of pupils carved on the walls of this building.

Darrel Edward was born in 1952.

Farming changed fast. In 1956 we built potato storage in Climax by the railroad track. Merle'Anderson and Joe built the original building, and the old root house went down. Then in 1958 a machine shed was built where the landmark grainery, with the high drive-way for unloading grain, had been. 1959 saw a much needed new home for our family. In 1960 the bunch that had started by the side of the road for so long was moved to Climax, Minnesota.

Another landmark went when we burned that barn in 1972 and replaced it with a shed which was joined in 1974 by a pole shed.

During these years we had the usual Baptisms, Confirmations, graduations, and one wedding.

In 1969 Dianne and Paul S. Brokke were married. He is the son of Palmer and Almira Brokke of Climax, Minnesota. After this they spent two years in the Air Force. Upon their return, he started college at Moorhead State completing the accounting course. In February, 1974, we were all blessed when their daughter, Denise LeAnn, was born.

We were one of the lucky families whose children were blessed by four living grandparents, but in 1954 Grandpa Larson died unexpectedly. In 1975 Grandpa Knutson died. The two Grandmothers are still with us.

Our son Jerry has farmed since about 1960 when he rented Gunder Bjaeland land. Then in 1965 he went into the service for two years. During this time he bought Ingeborgh Thoreson's land. She was his great-great aunt. He later bought into the potato warehouse in 1970, and they built a grading room in 1971. He is very active in community affairs and is active in National Potato Council and Red River Valley Potato Growers. He continues to live on the home farm and has never married.

Darrel has completed college and is in his second year of law-school at Spokane, Washington. He has many interests and lives on the home farm summers. He has never married.

An interest of the whole family since 1959 has been our place on Maple Lake near Mentor, Minnesota, where weekends, in summer are spent swimming and water skiing.

MARTIN LARSON

Martin (Rykrogen) Larson was born January 28, 1872 to Lars and In gri (Rykrogen) Larson in Foldalen Norway. In the year 1893, he came to America, where he worked as a farm hand in the Eldred-Climax area. Eight years later he went back to Norway to visit. At the age of thirty-five, he returned to
America and was married April 14, 1906 to Helga Josephine Thoreson, daughter of Helge and Anna (Bangen) Thoreson of Climax, Minnesota.

To Martin and Helga Josephine were born twelve children, all born at their home.

Idella Lenora was born September 30, 1906. Married Arthur Gjert of Climax, Minnesota. They now reside in Crookston. They have five children. Anna Hulda was born February 12, 1909 and died on from brain fever at the age of two. Lars Carlton was born June 5, 1910. He married Myrtle Knutson from Manvel, North Dakota. They have one son. Lars passed away in 1974 and his widow is residing in California, where they used to live. Anna Hulda the 2nd was born November 19, 1911. She married Orville Evenson of Climax, Minnesota. They had five children. Helge Julian was born May 3, 1913, died at the age of two from pneumonia. Melvin Julius was born May 28, 1914. He married Gloria Mizzini of Illinois. They have two sons. They now reside in Joliet, Illinois. Helen Jennette was born January 1, 1916, married Bernhard Meling, who was accidently killed in 1938. To this couple was born one daughter, Helen remarried Arnold Evenson in 1945. They had four children. William Waldo was born March 26, 1917. He is now deceased. Elmer Julian was born September 29, 1918. He married Marion Neil of Climax, Minnesota. They have five children. Joseph Edward was born June 25, 1920. He married Blanche Knutson of Byland, Minnesota. They have three children. Adolph Christian was born May 9, 1922. He married Gladys Evenson of Climax, Minnesota. They had a son. Adolph died in 1956 and Gladys remarried Arthur Grove of Hilliboro, North Dakota, who then adopted Douglas. Gladys died in 1950. Clifford Odin was born August 29, 1923. He lived only six days.

Martin Larson passed away from a heart attack in 1954, at the farm home where Mrs. Larson continued living in their own house at the Elmer Larson farm till 1969. Then she moved to St. Anne's Guest Home in Grand Forks and later moved to Good Samaritan in East Grand Forks, where she now resides at the age of 88 years.

One really different coincidence that happened in this family is that three sisters, Idella, Anna and Helen, were born five years apart. They married farmers and had five children each who were three sons and two daughters and each sister lived three miles apart at their farm homes.

**RONALD HAGGERTY**

Sigrid Jennifer Gunstinson Haggerty was born April 1, 1947, to Ernest and Helen (Jenson) Gunstinson. She has three sisters: Mrs. Bill (Patricia) Roy; Mrs. John (Sandra) Kraft; Mrs. Paul (Stephanie) Egeland and two brothers, Gerald and Vern. Sigrid’s grandparents were Ole and Mary Gunstinson and Andrew and Sigrid Jenson. Sigrid’s father drove a gas truck in Fisher, Minnesota for many years and then for Transport Inc. from Grand Forks, North Dakota. She lived in Fisher with her family until her marriage to Ronald Eugene Haggerty in 1964. Ronald was born April 12, 1946, to Eugene and Sylvia Haggerty.

After Sigrid and Ron’s marriage they lived on the Haggerty farm while Ron attended Aakers Business College in Grand Forks. After graduation they moved to East Grand Forks, where Ron was employed at Sweet Clover Dairy. They have had four children: John Ronald, born September 26, 1964; Christine Marie, who was born July 11, 1965, but only lived a few hours and died the same day; Debra Ann, who was born May 17, 1966; and Maura Alane who was born February 15, 1971.

**GJERT GUNDGSON**

Gjert Gunderson was born November 15, 1831, at Sogn, Norway. His wife, Borgid Halvorsdatter, of Hollingdal, Norway, was born July 26, 1841. They were married in St. Angsar, Iowa, in 1864 and came to Bentru township near Reynolds, North Dakota in the year 1877 from Freeborn county, in Minnesota. Twelve children were born to this union. Mr. Gunderson passed away in 1894 and his wife in 1888. They are buried in the North Ringsaker Cemetery in Belmont township.

Gjert Gunderson’s oldest son, Andrew, married Gurnor (Gertie) Tofslie, twin daughter of Evind Tofslie. To this union were born four children: George E. Gunderson, Gordon B., Evinda and Herman. All these children were born at Reynolds except Gordon, who was born at Williston. Herman passed away as an infant and the mother a few months later.

Evinda was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Ole Koppang of Climax and George came to live with them in 1921. In 1954, he married Mildred Walker at Byland and three children were born: Donna (Mrs. Donald Williams), David, and Shirley.

George passed away on February 25, 1975, at his home in Tynsid Township and is buried in Byland. After his father’s death, Gordon also came to live at the Koppang home and remained with George to the present time.

Their sister, Evinda Wirkanen, now lives in Minneapolis.
dren which included John Jr., Thomas, George, Martin, William, Barney, Louis, Frank, Wendell, Mrs. Mary Haarison, Mrs. Fred (Gertrude) Quiley, Mrs. Ole (Ellen) Benson, Mrs. T. E. (Aggie) Logan, and Mrs. Max (Florence) Griggs.

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

**PAUL HALVORSON**

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

The Halvorsons lived in a dugout just south of the present homestead. Later a small home was built. It was a target for spring floods, with the trap door in the floor floating before the water receded. On May 14th, 1887, F. O. Sustad, Land Agent with a Crookston office for St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Company Land Department, offered Paul Halvorson more land, which was selling for $6.50 an acre. Here in the new land there was much hard work, happiness, death and sadness. The family was blessed with six more children. Some were called home at an early age. Halvor born October 22, 1873, died in 1945. Marcus Oliver born in 1877, died in 1878, Mathilda Oline born in 1880, died in 1884. Anton Oliver born in 1882, died in 1904, Mathilda born in 1885, died in 1960. Bertha Louis, born in 1891, died in 1894. The family also raised a foster daughter, Alvina Bergstrand, who came to live with them at the age of seven or eight.

![The Paul Halvorson Family.](image)

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

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

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

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

**SIMON HANSON**

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

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

The Nels Sveum family (Berthe's parents) had come to Lesor township in Minnesota and sent for Simon and Berthe Hanson and their six children to come here. The slow boat that the Hansons were on developed trouble at Liverpool and Hamburg and the time of travel was much longer than they had planned for. Some kind people shared food with the Hansons. Ida became very ill on the boat (she was three years old) and almost died. The Hansons arrived in Minnesota in 1890. They lived with her parents for a while. Their own first home was a dismal sod hut built into a small hill. Their log house was built later in Badger township, just north of where the main house now stands. What a thrill it must have been to move from the sod house to the log house, and later to the beautiful new home they built. Always there were flowers grown at the Hansons. Simon Hanson was sick for a long time and died at home of cancer on May 9, 1913. The older boys did logging near Wilton, Minnesota. They would cut logs, pull them out of the woods and haul and sell them. They would go by horse and wagon and take food and drinking water along in cans and stay for weeks. Everyone worked hard, the girls herding sheep and cows and working in the hayfields. They would find and pick wild strawberries, chokecherries and cranberries. Rhubarb and gooseberries were also picked and jelly and sauce were made. Cranberries grew plentifully in the woods; and so, you see, way back in the 1890's, the Hansons made cranberry juice, which now has been on the market the last few years.

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

**HANS O. KOPPANG**

Hans Olsen Koppang was born in Koppang, Osterdalen, Norway, July 10, 1848. His father, Ole and mother, Elene Halvorddatter, were in Norway and remained there. Hans took the name 'Koppang' since this was where he came from in Norway. He was reared and educated in Norway and reached Ottertail County, Minnesota, with his brother, Halvor, in 1872.
at the age of twenty-four. Hans settled in Polk county in 1874; but his brother, Halvor, chose to remain in Ottertail county.

Hans was married in 1876 to Gurine Fosbakken (later changed to Fosbak). Gurine was born in Bod, Nordland, Norway, March 12, 1850. She came to the United States at the age of eighteen in 1868. Hans and Gurine Koppang bought the Koppang home place, Section 26 in Tynsid township from Ole and J. Lee in June of 1885. They had twelve children, four died in infancy. Ole, Olaf, Emma who married Oliver Severson, and Johan (known as John) stayed in Tynsid township and farmed, married, and raised his family there. Marie, Oline, Helmer and Anna moved to the west coast and settled, married, and lived there, since their father, Hans, owned land in Oregon.

Hans was also a landowner in Cuba, raising sugar cane there. He loved to travel, but his wife preferred to stay at home, running the farm in Tynsid township. She was an excellent housewoman and could drive wild broncos that no one else dared drive. She could also butcher as well as anyone. She was a very short, stout lady. Hans Koppang died in November, 1924, at the age of 75. Mrs. Koppang died in April of 1923 at the age of 73 years. They were members of the Sandhill Lutheran church.

**THOMAS LOGAN**

"Lincoln is shot. Lincoln is shot." These were the words that stunned the brave young Thomas Loughan and his family as they arrived in New York on April 15, 1865. The immigrants had spent a month sailing from Mayo, County Galway, Ireland, where Tom was born on August 7, 1847. With him came his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Loughan, his brother John and five sisters: Sarah, Ann, Bridget, Mary and Catherine. The family name was later changed to Logan. On the tombstone of Tom's father, buried in Lakehurst, New Jersey, is the inscription: "Martin Loughan born County Galway, Ireland. Died March 13, 1876, aged 53." The stone stands intact today.

The Logan family settled in Manchester, New Jersey, now called Lakehurst, where Tom worked as a section hand, building railroads. On June 5, 1877, he married Bridget Griffin in Vineland, New Jersey. His wife was born on January 1, 1855, in Cloonculane, Roscommon, County Galway, Ireland. After coming from Ireland at the age of 16, she worked as a domestic for a wealthy family in New Jersey for two dollars a week, in spite of the signs in the windows which read: "Help wanted, but no Irish need apply." She received from the lady of the house one match each morning to light the kitchen fire.

On June 5, 1877, Tom, his bride and a daughter Mary by a previous marriage decided to take advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862. They set out from Vineland, New Jersey. They arrived in Polk county on June 15, 1877. The young couple settled on section 2, Tynsid Township.

The Norwegian neighbors, accustomed to dealing with logs in their native Norway, taught the Irish how to construct log cabins. In such a residence the Logan family lived until a substantial and commodious house was built.

Mr. Logan had about $2,000 when he came here. He at once bought a tract of railroad land at $5 an acre with the usual rebate agreement in the contract. He procured a team of oxen and with them he broke up a hundred acres the first year.

By dint of Mr. Logan's arduous labor, the original 160 acres increased to 1,000. With increasing land came an increasing family which finally reached 14. The children were Martin, Thomas, Henora, Bridget (Dollie), Theresa, Lucy, Laura, John, Sarah, Agnes, James, Arthur, Rose and Claire.

The mother of the family insisted that the children receive a good education. Tom and Martin attended St. Thomas College, where the latter was valedictorian of the first graduating class. John studied at the University of North Dakota. James studied at the Cathedral High School in Crookston and a technical school in Wisconsin. Arthur died of the 1918 flu during his high school years.

The five oldest girls graduated from what was then known as Saint Bernard's Academy at Grand Forks. They were also students at the University of North Dakota. Two daughters became teachers in the public schools and one in the parochial system. Agnes became a registered nurse in the first class graduated from the former St. Vincent Hospital in Crookston. Claire graduated from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. Rose was the first of the novices who first entered the Benedictine Order at Mount St. Benedict in Crookston. She holds two Master's degrees, one in history from Notre Dame University, South Bend, and another in French from the University of Minnesota. She is also a member of Delta Epsilon Sigma. Her name in religion is Sister Scholastica.

The mother of the family often said, "Tom, we cannot leave our children a fortune, but we will give them all a good education and no one can take that from them." Her wish was realized at considerable cost in money and separation from her children during the scholastic year.

Mr. Logan was clerk of the township, clerk of the Logan School and trustee of St. Francis Catholic Church in Fisher. He wrote to Bishop McGolrick of Duluth begging for priestly ministry for the Catholic people of Fisher. He spent an entire summer renovating the church and soliciting funds for the building. Every Sunday Mrs. Logan taught religion to the neighboring children.

The Logan home was the center of hospitality. It was the usual thing for 25 guests to assemble for a Sunday evening of fun. Since there were eight girls in the family, each had her boy friend. When a gentleman was going there for the first time, he stopped at the home of a Norwegian and asked: "Where does Tom Logan live?" The Norwegian gasped in astonishment and said, "My God, I thought everybody in Minnesota knew where he lived."
Emma Koppong, Halvor Paulson, Mina Paulson, Ole Koppong 1906.

ANTON PAULSON

Anton Paulson, son of Halvor and Lenora Paulson, was born October 17, 1922, on the family farm, Tynsid Township, being the second generation born there. He was a member of the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946. He then returned to the farm to take over the operation after the death of his father. He was united in marriage with Eunice Adell Eckstein on January 31, 1948, in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. Here farming was in for a change, everything going mechanized. Horses, pigs, cows, and chickens disappeared from the farms. Farming went to grains, potatoes and sugar beets.

The Paulson marriage was blessed with two children, Linda Louis and Gary Anton. Linda was united in marriage with David Aubol, December 16, 1967, at the Sand Hill church. She lives at Arvilla, North Dakota. Gary was united in marriage with Connie Jane Berry, February 5, 1972, at the St. Petri Lutheran church, Nielsville, Minnesota. Gary enlisted in the United States Navy in 1971 and was discharged in 1975. They make their home in Crookston. The Anton Paulsons have five grandchildren. Anton is the third generation to farm the present land and it has been continually lived on by the family since 1872. When the grandchildren come to visit, they make the fifth generation to roam the old home.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, There has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a Description of the following land situated in the County of Pembina and in the Township of Tynsid, in the State of North Dakota, containing one hundred and sixty acres, more or less, and also a certain Description of a house and lot, being the home of the said Anton Paulson, at Tynsid, North Dakota, being as follows:

Recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of the County of Pembina, in the State of North Dakota, on this the 15th day of October, 1954, by Anton Paulson, the Undescribed, for value received.

According to the United States Register of Deeds, the survey of the said land is shown in the Register of Deeds Office by the Surveyor General.

Homestead Claim for land purchase.

HALVOR PAULSON

Halvor Paulson, son of Paul and Aletta Halvorson, was born October 22, 1873, in Tynsid Township, on the family farm. He was united in marriage with Minnie Lenora Berg, February 16, 1916, at Crookston, Minnesota. He bought the family farm and farmed until his death. There were many years of hard work and little money during Depression years. The first tractor was bought in 1937 or 1938. Children born to this union were: Pearl, Hardean, Delmar, Anton, and Green. Halvor died in 1945, and Lenora made her home with her son Anton until her death June 15, 1968.

MICHAEL, EDWARD F., EDWARD J., ALLEN QUIRK

Michael Quirk (1839-1921) was born in Frieland, Roscommon County, Ireland. After the Irish potato famine, he and his brother, Matthew, emigrated to New York City and White Haven, Pennsylvania. After the Civil War the railroad route west was being built and Michael worked to Kansas City, where Matt Martin and Barney Haggerty joined him. They traveled by boat to St. Paul and overland to Moorhead. Pat Quigley joined them there and the group came north to Climax and on to Tynsid Township, where they established homesteads — now called the "Irish Settlement." Norwegian settlers from the Climax area walked the ten miles with axes to help the newcomers put up their first log cabins with sod roofs. He later built a large two story house which stood until 1969. He added acreage to his original homestead by buying land for $5 an acre from the railroad. Brother Matthew married in Penn-
sylvestria and when his wife died, he and his two daughters, Margaret, Mrs. John Logan, and Mary, Mrs. Chauncey Smith, made their home in Tynsid Township.

While enlarging his home and the living conditions, Michael was very active in community affairs. He helped build St. Francis Church in Fisher as Mass was held in the homes on an irregular basis by traveling priests. He turned cartwheels backwards around the yard in his late sixties, a very active man always! Michael married Elizabeth Lealos, whose family were pioneers in Huntsville Township, from Ireland via Almonte, Quebec, Canada in 1873. They were parents of eight children: Margaret, John, who married Margaret Doyle; Anna, who married John Gannais; Elizabeth, Edward, who married Emma Stubson, and later Margaret Sullivan; Mary who married Martin Logan; Matthew Reagen and Delia who married Pat Quigley. There were 25 grandchildren.

Edward Francis Quirk farmed with his family, worked in Crookston and Fisher. Then purchased the John Garret homestead near his father's holdings. When steam power came in, he operated a threshing machine and crew from Byland to Climax during harvest. He installed the first Delco light plant in the new home he built in 1919. He served on school boards, and township offices. In winter many of these farmers sent their horses to work in the Central Minnesota lumber camps and some men went along for work. Edward Quirk married Emma Stubson in 1901 and had three sons: Raymond, Michael, and Bernard. Emma died in 1912 and in 1916, he married Margaret Sullivan. Their children were: Kathryn, Mrs. Raymond DeGagne; Mildred; Edward J.; Rita, Mrs. Rolland Cream; and Allen Edward Francis Quirk, who died in 1940; and Margaret who died in 1961. Edward Joseph Quirk was born and raised in Tynsid Township. He farmed with his parents and after their deaths, he operated the farm independently. He married Alma Hanson. Their children are Janice, Mrs. Bruce Martinson, who has two children: Kimberly and Chris, Thomas, a farmer, and Marjorie, a nurse. Allen Quirk was born in Grand Forks. He married Carolee Lippert of Crookston. They have two sons: Michael who married Deborah McDonald, and they have one son, Corey; and David, a student. The original homestead is still in the family. Raymond married Georgina DeGagne. They have three children and make their home in Elgin, Oklahoma. Michael spent his life in and near Climax. Kathryn, Mildred, and Rita now make their homes in Seattle, Washington.

EDWARD W. RUTHERFORD

My parents, Edward W. and Bertha Rutherford and I came by train to the Eldred Hotel in November, 1915. They brought their household goods, some livestock and machinery in a boxcar from the Campbell-Tintah area of Minnesota. They rented the farm known as the Neby farm from the Red River Valley Land Company with J. D. McPhee of Crookston as manager. This farm was located in Section 36 of Tynsid Township. The village of Neby was located there in the early days of the development of the Valley. By the time my parents came, the only building remaining of the original town was the general grocery store, which was now made over to a granary. The upstairs had two large rooms. My parents fixed one room up for a bedroom for hired help. When no one was up there, I'd take my roller skates up there and made many a hard contact with the floor as I tried to learn to skate.

When we first came to the hotel, Mother and I stayed for a while until Father could get the house fixed for winter. Mr. and Mrs. Buness managed the hotel and Sena and my mother were young and used to laugh and have fun. Coming downstairs one day. Mother tripped on one of the steps and rolled out into the dining room where the boarders were eating. Sena heard the noise and grabbed the wash dish that the section crew had just finished washing their hands and faces in. She dashed into the room and threw all the dirty water over Mother. Needless to say that water was just as much of a shock as falling downstairs. When they found out Mother was not hurt, they really had a good laugh.

The Sandhill Church was located about one half mile southwest of the Neby farm. One pleasant memory I have of that church was the ringing of the bell for Sunday services and in the late afternoon on Christmas Eve. It seems to me that sometimes they also rang in the New Year but I'm not too sure about that. Bell had such a beautiful tone and when it chimed over the church side it seemed very peaceful.

My parents did most of their shopping in Eldred during the early days. John Elg had the grocery store while Emil Marvin was the hardware and farm implement dealer. The Ireland Lumber Yard was managed by Lloyd Brandt. He and his wife Lucy became very good friends of my parents. The Brandts were there for a number of years, then they moved to Doyon, North Dakota and later to Bartlett, where Lucy died in 1931. Looking over records my Mother kept from 1913 to 1918, I see that they owned 1/2 a yard; eggbeater 10¢; a gallon of kerosene 15¢; lamp chimney 10¢; 25 pounds of sugar $1.70; milkpail 10¢; coffee was 30¢ a pound in March 1916; a potato masher 10¢; a rolling pin 10¢; a hair cut 35¢. In 1917, wheat was $2.02; barley 98¢; and oats 77¢. They purchased a hardcoal stove in December 1917, for $70. I have many pleasant memories of sitting around that stove at night when the coals were all aglow and we would open one of the doors a little and roast marshmallows.

There are many things that come to mind from the past years: the big garden with all the canning to be done; the lovely flower garden and the geraniums about the house; out in the hay field bucking up hay or shocking grain. Oh, how I hated barley shocking! My brother, Roger, was not born until many years later, so I was Dad's hired help. There was a long walk to school at District 6. Then the light housekeeping room at Brosvold's and later at the Nesvig home, as I attended high school at Climax.

In 1933 Oscar Engelsland and I were married. In May 1935 our son DuWayne was born and in June, 1935, my brother, Roger, was born. In 1941 our daughter Judith arrived on the scene. Roger married Darlene Orvik and they have two daughters, Sandra and Debra. Judith married Bernard Semeling in 1959 and they have three daughters, Lynette, Pamela and Beth. DuWayne married Yvonne Einess and their children are Dawn and Kristi.

My parents and Roger lived on the Neby farm until March 10, 1937, when they moved to a farm near Eldred. On March 29, 1944, they moved to Nielsville community, where they farmed for about 12 years before retiring. Ed passed away on his 75th birthday, November 16, 1959, and Bertha passed away January 11, 1960. They are buried at the St. Pieti Cemetery at Nielsville.

LARS AND KAREN SANDER

Lars Sander and Karen Olson were both in their early teens when they left their native home in Norway to come to the United States; Lars came from Odalen, and Karen came from Gubrensdalen. Both settled in the Reynolds, North Dakota vicinity. Here they met and were married in 1890. After their marriage, Lars was employed by various farmers in the area.

Ten children were born to them, five of whom are still living. In 1914 they purchased a small farm in Tynsid township and resided there until their death. Lars in 1951 and Karen in 1955. It is remembered by the Sander children that their father purchased the lumber for their home at Thompson, North Dakota. He rowed the lumber across the Red River in a boat, carried it the rest of the way on his shoulders, to the building site.

The children who were attending school at that time wanted
to continue on in North Dakota so they had to cross the river in a boat. In the winter when the river was frozen, it was rather easy to cross. However, in the spring it was a different matter, some remember of crossing on ice floes, jumping from one floe to the other. This was a dangerous thing to do, but luckily no accidents happened.

Lars and Karen were members of the Sand Hill Lutheran church.

INGMAN THORESON, JR.
Ingman, Jr., is the oldest child of Ingman and Emma Thore-

Vineland Township, the largest township in Polk County, was organized July 24, 1876.

A complete list of board members is not on record but the first clerk is listed as Frank Hanson.

The first road was laid out on May 18, 1878. This road began at the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 148, Range 48. It ran south on the range line to Section 18, then angled off in a southeasterly direction towards Climax and then south where Highway 75 is now located.

It was interesting to see in one of the records the proposition of the Rainy Lake, Crookston, and Pacific Railroad Company for municipal aid. They were desirous of securing aid from the town of Vineland in the construction of its road from Crookston to a point in the town of Shelly. They asked for the amount of $3,650 Dollars. This was in the year 1878.

Officers on record who have served more than twenty years are: John Thompson, clerk. 22 years; Olof Rensland, clerk, 14 years and treasurer 18 years; Simon Nelson, treasurer, 31 years; Alton Thune, clerk. 23 years. The schoolhouse for the former School District 6 is now used as a township hall.

The present officers are: Loran Stortroem, supervisor; Howard Hanson, supervisor; Glenn Evenson, supervisor; Oscar P. Vraa, treasurer; Paul Ramsey, clerk.

SAND HILL CHURCH
The early immigrants who settled in this valley along the Red River of the North were to a large extent Scandinavians who had lived for a longer or shorter period of time in Illinois, Iowa, or other parts of Minnesota. Most of them had therefore some acquaintance or affiliation with one or the other of the two existing Norwegian Lutheran Church denominations; the Norwegian Synod and the Norwegian Alanish Evangelical Conference. These churches through their home missions sought to reach out to all the new settlements with the word of God. Wherever men settled there came also the men of God to minister unto their spiritual need. The first one of these to enter this settlement was Reverend Bernt Hagebo. This pioneer pastor came to this settlement from Audubon, Becker County, Minnesota.

While sleeping out on the open prairie one night the pastor had a wonderful dream. He saw a nail-pierced hagp of Christ pointing westward and he heard a voice saying, "Go, and I will be with you. Organize a great vineyard for me in this new country," Reverend Hagebo became the great organizer of

Mill Dam, Climax, Minnesota.