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THE SKAVLEM AND
ÖDEGAARDEN FAMILIES

BY

HALVOR L. SKAVLEM

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THE SKAVLEM AND ÖDEGAARDEN FAMILIES

Being a
Genealogical Record and Pioneer History of the Skavlem and
Ödegaarden Families from Their Emigration from
Norway down to the Present.

With Ninety-nine Portraits and
Other Illustrations.

Written and Compiled by
HALVOR L. SKAVLEM
1915

(Only 200 Copies Printed)

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HALVOR L. SKAVLEM

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1243975

TO MY VALUED FRIEND,
RASMUS BJÖRN ANDERSON KVELVE,
FATHER OF NORSE LITERATURE IN AMERICA — STURDY CHAMPION
OF TRUE DEMOCRACY, WHOSE LIFE WORK IS NOW DRAWING
TO A CLOSE, HAS DONE MUCH TOWARDS KEEPING GREEN
THE MEMORIES OF THAT RICH INHERITANCE—THE
SPIRIT OF FREEDOM—TRANSMITTED TO THE
ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE BY THEIR AN-
CESTORS FROM THE NORTHLAND,
THIS VOLUME IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY THE
AUTHOR.

FOREWORD

"How our fathers toiled, and how much they suffered, we their descendants who are now enjoying the fruits of their labours, can never realize or know, and we owe them a debt of gratitude which we can never pay. The best we can do is to live worthy lives, and try to keep green the memories of those who did so little for themselves and so much for us."—R. B. Anderson.

The above beautifully expressed sentiment, so appreciative of the simple but earnest lives of the pioneer immigrants is a most appropriate eulogy, tendered worthy subjects.—"They who did so little for themselves and so much for us"—simple words, yet so rich—so full of meaning. Conscious of our debt of gratitude, and desirous to "keep green the memories" of ancestors who were worthy members of that band of pioneer immigrants, we have gathered material for these historical sketches and memoirs.

It has taken much time and a voluminous correspondence, extending over several years. The lives of our immediate ancestors were cast in pioneer days. They were not *writing* history—they were *making* it, leaving it for others to preserve the records. This, I am sorry to say, has been sadly neglected, and now much is irretrievably lost, the pickings up of fragmentary bits of data often coloured and distorted by traditional transmission—and sifting out the facts, is a work requiring both time and patience; at best it can only approximate accuracy.

No one can be more conscious of the short comings of this work, nor more deeply deplore the inevitable presence of errors than the author; he has done the best he could with the material at his command, and it is hoped that, with all its defects, it will still help to "keep green the memories of those who did so little for themselves and so much for us."

The making of these records what they are could not have been accomplished without the hearty co-operation of nearly all of "our Folks," for which I wish here to express my full appreciation. Special mention is due cousin Tosten Holverson for his unstinted aid and financial support in the prosecution of this work; in fact the production of this work is largely due to his enthusiastic support.

Louis Blakestad is another cousin who has spent both time and money to make these records a success, and it is largely due to his aid, that this large branch of our family—the Blakestads, is so fully recorded; to Mrs. Gertrude (Skavlem) Holme, Mrs. Mary (Gravdale) Inman and Mrs. Gunel (Gulack) Helgersen, I am also indebted for valued aid and assistance in this work, all of which

is fully appreciated. For myself and all "our Folks," I wish to tender all these valued aids and assistants our most sincere thanks."—Cousin Halvor.

Just a word to the reader. Were these records intended for the general public only, there is much herein of a trivial nature that would have been eliminated, but this work is primarily for *our families*, our own "Mutual Admiration Societies," it is *our* "Tales by the fireside." If it is tinged with family pride this concerns only ourselves and our people, and is not intended for public consumption.

Be assured that there is no intention of boasting of any superiority of our folks over others, or that we have the conceited idea that our people are any different or any better than thousands of early pioneers who lived the same lives and accomplished similar results, be their nativities as varied as that of the Palm and the Pine. The records of Ole Gullik and Herbrand, of Gunnil, Gjertrud and Guri, are typical of hundreds, aye, thousands of Norwegian immigrants to this country.

We have done our best to gather for permanent preservation the records of our people. Very little of this work has been done by Norwegian-Americans,—in this line of effort we are pioneers, the field is large and almost untouched. Go thou and do likewise, ere it be everlastingly too late, and the records of your pioneer family be totally lost.

Long after the finish of my life's work, I hope through the medium of this book to be present at the tales by the firesides of our descendants, and thus help to "keep green the memories of those who did so little for themselves and so much for us."

H. L. SKAVLEM.

Janesville, Wis., May, 1915.

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CHAPTER I.

Nummedal¹

Old Norse—Numadalr.
Present Name—Numedal.

Nummedal. The Laagen. Length of the Nummedal. Population. System of Government. Church Records.

Nummedal is a part of the water shed of the Laagen² river which rises in the Hardanger mountains, flowing in an east—northeasterly course until it enters the upper part of the Nummedal where it bends to the southeast bearing in a general southeasterly course until it empties into the sea at Larvik, at the head of Larviksfjord, south of Christianiafjord.

The Laagen river is one of the largest rivers in Norway, with numerous rapids and waterfalls, with immense but undeveloped possibilities of water power.

The Nummedal is that part of the valley of the Laagen between Kongsberg at the south and Dagalien at the extreme upper valley where the river plunges down from the high mountain plateau, and forms the first habitable margin of its rocky shores.

The length of the Nummedal valley is given as about 100 English miles with a population of about 7,000. It has an interlocking system of local government, consisting of a number of political divisions called "Herreids"—something like our counties—which have the civic control, and the Parish or parochial division, where the state church is vested with certain governmental functions.

Many of the church parishes are of a very old origin, and are often designated as "Bygdelag" (settlements), or a sort of Clan division of the olden times, each having distinctive dialect variations.

These "Bygdelag" are generally termed "Sogn"—(Parish), and have at different times been combined for larger and more general supervision with the larger Parish designated as the "Prestegjeld" head Parish—and the smaller as "Annex" or sub-parish, thus in Nummedal there are three Prestegjeld with their four "Annexes."

¹Nummedal is now generally written with only one m, but in the old documents of seventy odd years ago when our people left there it is invariably written with the two ms, Nummedal, and in the majority of these records it also had the h in dahl, although both forms of dal and dahl were then in use. I am willing to compromise and leave out the h in dal but shall continue to write Nummedal, as it is in the Nummedal of seventy odd years ago, that we are most interested in these records. H. L. S.

²We have here the same deplorable irregularity in orthography: this stream is variously designated "Laugen," "Lauven," "Lögen," and last by a Norse American "ex-State Senator" as "Laagen." I rather like that form, and as he, coming from Tunhovd, must be considered the *highest* authority on the river (coming from Tunhovd), I have adopted his orthography.



Nummedal Costume
as Worn by Our People When They Came to America, 1839-41
Gjermund Strommen and his wife, Ragnild Frygne,
Grandmother Aae's Sister.—H. L. S.

These are Nore having two "Annexes," Opdal and Dagalien; Rollag with its annex of Veggli and Svenne with its annex of Flesberg.

The church records are kept at the head Parish, and thus the Annex is really but a part of the head Parish, and by some this division is used in making residence records of Norwegian emigrants. This rule limits Nummedal to three parishes, Svenne, Rollag, and Nore. Amongst the earlier emigrants the "Bygdelag" designation was usually given, and Opdal, Veggli,³ and Flesberg were given as the Parish, with the explanatory "Annex" left out. We are already in a bad mix-up in our records of Norwegian Immigration, the same person will be recorded in one place as from Veggli, in another place his nativity is given as Rollag. Three men may be recorded as from Nore Parish; in another record one of these may be given as from Opdal Parish, and the other hails from Tunhovd, while only one of the three is a Noreing. The above brief notes may aid in a better understanding of the apparent errors in location records.

³ Veggli has also a much varied orthography; in the old documents it is mostly given as Weglie, occasionaly Veglie, at present we have these forms, with the additions of Veggli and Veggliid. The authorized official spelling is veggli.
H. L. S.



Reunion of the Skavlem and Odegarden Families at Yost Park, Beloit, Wis., July 26, 1913.

CHAPTER II.

Sixty Members of Skavlem-Odegarden Clans Meet

First family reunion. Yost Park. Addresses. Initiatory work started for collecting records.

About sixty persons ranging in years from one year to four score and all in some manner a branch of the Skavlem-Odegarden family, met at Yost park, Saturday, for a big family reunion.

Everyone invited to the event was either present or sent his regrets, and the day was one that will linger long in the memories of those who were in attendance.

The earlier part of the day was spent in visiting and renewing acquaintances, and as one member of the family said, "Who ever dreamed he had so many relatives?"

Some of the people present were very distantly related to be sure, but nevertheless they could all proudly trace themselves back to the two families whose names they were honoring.

At 4 o'clock the assemblage was photographed after which the women brought forth the good things to eat, prepared for the occasion, and then the big family seated themselves at the sumptuous repast.

Dinner over and the next hour was spent listening to papers read by the older members of the family, one of them by Hon. H. L. Skavlem, of Janesville, giving the history of the family dating back to the time the first member of the Skavlem family who came to America, was born in distant Norway.—*Beloit Daily, News, July 27, 1913.*

Mr. Tosten Holverson, of Portland, Ore., urged concentrated efforts to gather up the records of our pioneer ancestors for permanent preservation.

Much of this was already irretrievably lost, and in a few more years all would be blotted out unless we took early action for collecting the scattered data yet available.

The sentiment was unanimous in favor of making the effort. H. L. Skavlem volunteered to take charge of the work, and thus was initiated the work of which this volume is the result.

CHAPTER III.

(Extract from Mr. Skavlem's Address at Yost Park.)

Skavlem Family in America.

"Time as an ever-rolling stream
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day."

Fully realizing that the subjects of these short sketches are entitled to no special distinction, fame or long remembrance,—that the record of the individual is but that of one of the soon-to-be-forgotten millions—yet it is hoped that these brief records of the life and conditions in the early formative days of our state may add just a trifle to the permanent history of Wisconsin, and at the same time revive our memories and enlarge our appreciation of what those sturdy pioneers—our fathers and mothers, grand-parents and great-grand-parents have done for us so that we and our descendants are privileged to enjoy the highest type of twentieth century civilization.

Faithfully acting their simple parts in the great drama of life, with that rugged Norse fidelity to their code of strict justice and honest dealing, they "builted better than they knew." Their influence has aided in the uplift and betterment of society, even affecting the larger communities of state and nation. To them the sentiment expressed by Carlyle was an ever present reality:

"It is a high, solemn, almost awful thought for every individual man that his earthly influence which has had a commencement, will never through all ages have an end—what is done, is done, has already blended itself with the boundless ever-living, ever-working universe, and will also work there for good or for evil, openly or secretly, throughout all time."

The founders of the Skavlem family in America were Halvor Gullikson Skavlem and his wife, Bergit Æls-datter Skavlem. They were thrifty peasants and owned the farmstead of "Nordre-Skavlem" in the sub-parish of Veggli, Nummedal, Norway. The family consisted of the parents and eight children, seven boys and one girl, named: Ole, Gullick, Paul, Halvor, Kari, Gjermund, Lars and Herbrand.

Could a seer have told the destiny of this sturdy family of Norse mountaineers it would have been to them a romance surpassing the tales of the Arabian Nights. Could they have seen their names enrolled on the list of honored pioneers in a foreign land—to them at that time, entirely unknown—it would have appeared as improbable

and visionary as a present-day prediction of a trip to the moon would be to us.

In 1838 Ansten Nattestad returned to Norway from the New World where he had made a journey of exploration which had taken him into the far northern wilderness of a country at that time unknown to his countrymen. He had penetrated this new land as far to the westward as Lake Michigan and the frontier town of Chicago. He brought back wonderful stories of the opportunities awaiting the enterprising pioneer whose brain and brawn were the only requisities necessary to transform a patch in the immeasurable wilderness into a fertile farm and the erection of a prosperous home.

Desirous of achievement and eager to fulfill the dreams of success and prosperity awakened in them by Nattestad's tales—and probably it does not stretch the truth to say that an all venturous spirit, heritage of their early ancestors, had considerable influence in shaping their resolution,—Gullik, next oldest son, and family of wife and daughter, together with Gjermund, Lars, and Herbrand, unmarried, were among the first persons to sign a list with other of their townfolk as prospective emigrants to the far-off land.

At Drammen they embarked on the immigrant ship "Emilia," Capt. Ankerson, for passage to New York City, where they landed August 23, 1839, having been at sea about nine weeks.

Having reached the New World their journey was not ended. Chicago was their objective point to reach which involved a long and arduous journey. Part of the journey was made by way of the Erie canal, and when the Great Lakes were reached further transportation was by means of slow moving boats, subsequently arriving at the infant frontier settlement of what is now the great city of Chicago.

From Chicago they started on the last lap of their travels. They travelled most of the way on foot, their baggage being transported on carts drawn by ox-teams. On across the wet and boggy marshes and swampy prairies of northern Illinois they finally reached Jefferson Prairie, Rock county, in the southern part of the territory of Wisconsin, thankful that their journey was ended, having arrived at the destination they had decided on so long ago and so far away.

The first Norwegian settlement in Wisconsin had been located the previous year at Jefferson Prairie by Ole Nattestad, a brother of Ansten Nattestad. Ole joyously welcomed the new arrivals, and in true Norse hospitality tendered the freedom of every house in the settlement—which consisted of the one log cabin!

In 1841 the balance of the Skavlem family, excepting the son Halvor, emigrated and joined the colony in Rock county. The old folks, father and mother, found a home with their son Gullik, who had located a farm some two miles northwest of the little village of Beloit. Paul and Ole with their families found temporary homes with Gjermund and Lars until they could provide homes for them-

selves. The sister Kari (Caroline), soon found employment at Madison as a domestic in the family of James Duane Doty, who was then governor of the Territory of Wisconsin.

Thus, in the short space of three years, the Skavlem family was transplanted from their little home in the mountains of Norway to the virgin soil of the New World and taking root grew and flourished and today blooms in one of the most fertile and beautiful sections of what has since become "The Great Northwest."

After fifteen years' residence in Rock county, Gullick for the second time, became a pioneer, this time, joining the colony established by Rev. C. L. Clausen, which left Rock Prairie in the middle of May, 1853. The Clausen party consisted of a train of forty ox teams, drawing the regulation "prairie schooners." This party located in Mitchell county, Iowa, where Mr. Skavlem joined them in the summer of 1854, and passed the balance of his days developing his second home in the wilderness. His only child, Bergit, married Ole O. Narum in 1849. Narum adopted the name Blakestad after his marriage and accompanied his father-in-law to Mitchell county in 1854.

Herbrand Halvorson Skavlem (Abram Holverson), the youngest member of the family, after a residence of more than a quarter of a century in Rock county, again resumed the role of pioneer. This time the "call" beckoned to southern Kansas, and he located on a place near Cedarvale, Chautauqua county, where he still resides, surrounded by a large progeny of well-to-do farmers,—a conspicuous character now fast approaching the century mark—respected and honored as one of the sturdy characters that always "make good." The history of Chautauqua county will not be complete without the name of Abram Holverson occupying a prominent position in that record.

In the little country churchyard at Luther Valley the balance of the Skavlem immigrants are at rest. There, resting at peace, are the old parents, Halvor Gullikson and Bergit Ols-datter, Norde Skavlem. Halvor Gullikson Skavlem died eight days after arriving at his son's home. (We have thus far been unable to obtain complete data of his age; but we know he died early in the fall of 1841.) His wife (Grandmother Skavlem) lived with Uncle Paul and died late in the fall of 1854. Complete data of her age are also lacking.

Ole Halvorson Skavlem, the oldest member of the family, whose home was located about two miles northwest of Orfordville, Rock county, Wis., died in the year 1855. The little marble tablet which marks his last resting place has an inscription which gives the date of his birth as October 13, 1789; his death occurred September 7, 1855.

His wife, Ragnild, died Februaay 18, 1869, aged 68 years, 9 months and 13 days.

Paul Skavlem, together with the deceased members of his family, are also at rest in the little cemetery at Luther Valley.

Kari Skavlem, of the immigration family, daughter of Halvor and Bergit Skavlem, married Nils O. Wagly, in 1845. In 1841 Mr. Wagly located on government land in Section 32, Plymouth, and resided there until the death of his wife in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Wagly, with three of their children, now rest with the others of their kin in the little cemetery.

Gjermund Skavlem lived a bachelor's life, making his home for many years on a small farm in Section 5, town of Newark. In 1884 he joined the Skavlem contingent at the little country churchyard.

Lars Skavlem with his large family of twelve children are all to be found here, excepting the two living, H. L. Skavlem, of Janesville, Wis., and Mrs. Caroline Thompson, of Beloit, Wis.

It is quite remarkable that so many of this large pioneer family should find their last resting place together in one little country churchyard. Their living descendants are scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Hudson Bay to Texas.

"They builded better than they knew" is indeed the very least that might be said for those hardy, intrepid pioneers whose origin was "a home in a drift"—a snow drift on the Norway mountains—"Skafel-heim."

CHAPTER IV.

The Skavlem Name^{*}

How near we came to losing our name. Lars Skavlem gets a free ride. Comes home with free groceries and a "family name."

My father told this amusing story of how near we came to losing the "Skavlem" family name. If Lars Halvorsen (Sporan) had paid his grocery bill promptly there would have been no "Skavlem" family records to write up in this country.

The facts in the case are these: Lars Halvorsen (Skavlem) and Lars Halvorsen (Sporan) were neighbors and purchased their supplies at Beloit, mostly at I. T. Shue's store. Father did business on a cash basis, while his neighbor and namesake got most of his on "tick," and soon landed where he could not meet his obligations.

The result was that the merchant sent an officer out to Lars Halvorsen to see if there was any property that could be levied on for payment of the long overdue grocery bill. The constable being a new man at the business, as well as a comparative stranger in the community, had no acquaintance with the Norwegians, and sized up these foreigners as a sort of cross between the Eskimo and the Indian that had to be handled without gloves, to make them "come across." When he got into the Norwegian settlement he enquired for Lars Halvorsen and was directed to my father; he found father engaged

*In the histories of early Norwegian immigration there is a Skavlem family mentioned who were no kin to our family, neither did they adopt the name of Skavlem; their family name is Gilbertson. The Erik Skavlem mentioned by Ansten Nattestad, as quoted by Sven Nilsson in *Billed Magazin*, and referred to by Anderson, Holand and Flom, in their histories of Norwegian immigration came from "Søndre" (south) Skavlem. There are two Skavlem farms in Veggli designated respectively, "Søndre" (south) and "Nordre (north) Skavlem. Erik Guldbrandson Skavlem came from South Skavlem. Erik's family name was Americanized from Guldbrandson to Gilbertson, and is well represented at the present time among the wealthy farmers of Jefferson Prairie. In later years there has also appeared another "Skavlem" name that may easily be confused with our family name; in fact they have (innocently, no doubt), "cribbed" our name. As near as I can learn it has come about in this way: Uncle Ole's home west of Orford became known as the Skavlem farm; after his death the farm was sold to an American, but amongst the old Norwegian neighbors it was still designated as the "Skavlem" place; later on it was purchased by a Norwegian who soon became known as Skavlem amongst his Norwegian neighbors. By the persistent continuation of the Skavlem name to the old farm, some of the younger generation of the latter occupants of the old Skavlem homestead have adopted its name, and thus started a separate Skavlem family in America, which without this note of explanation would likely lead some future investigators to the conclusion that they were a branch of our family, although they are no kin of ours, and as I learn not even "Nummedølings" from the old country.

in hauling rails with his yoke of cattle and a "Kubberulle" (a sort of homemade truck wagon). Father said the poor man was so swelled up with the importance of his office, that at first he thought he was a "tulling" (simpleton), but he soon realized that there was trouble ahead.

The man asked father what his name was, and he replied Lars Halvorsen, whereupon the constable proceeded to serve his document which he read in a very loud and impressive manner. He then inquired whose cattle and cart he was using. Father replied that they were his. Very well, if they were his property, he would take them to Beloit, and father must settle the grocery bill or he would lose his team, kubberulle and all,—but he didn't want the load of rails, and ordered father to unload them then and there; the officer at first seemed much surprised that father could express himself fairly well in English. Father tried hard to explain that there was some mistake—he did not owe any man for groceries,—that he was not the man wanted at all,—but the officer was firm; he had Lars Halvorsen's cattle and cart in his possession and to Beloit they went, and father got a free ride with his own team to the store. The proprietor met father at the door with a broad smile on his face extending his hand for a friendly shake,—undoubtedly anticipating a nice little bill of cash sales. He was much taken aback, when father refused the proffered friendly hand, and unmistakably showed that he was not in a trading mood. The officer having safely disposed of his seizure now appeared on the scene, more pompous and important than ever, and proceeded to report the complete success of his commission.

Of course the unfortunate mistake was soon apparent to all of the parties interested, and then the constable got what was coming to him—good and proper—from the irate merchant to the undoubted enjoyment of father as an interested listener.

With profound apologies and excuses for the unfortunate affair, both merchant and officer tried to laugh it off as a great joke on the constable. Here was father's inning, he couldn't see the joke—demanded compensation for all time and trouble caused him, and one of the particular demands was that the officer drive the team back and put the rails back on the cart where he made the seizure.

By this time a goodly crowd had gathered at the store, and everybody seemed to think the laugh was on the poor constable, whose pompous and overbearing attitude had subsided like a punctured air-bubble,—well the constable didn't have to load up the rails. Father said everybody was laughing about it, and he got over his "mad" and laughed with the rest, and with a humorous twinkle in his eyes, he said that this time he really took home a nice bunch of groceries that he didn't pay cash for, and for which there never was any bill presented. He determined then and there that he would always use his full name as he termed it, substituting for the middle

name Halvorson, just the initial H., and thence forth until his death his signature was Lars H. Skavlem. He never was called upon to pay any other Lars H. Skavlem's grocery bill. It will be seen from these records that all the Skavlem brothers first simply used the Halvorsen name leaving the Skavlem or farm name out, except as it circulated by word of mouth amongst their own countrymen, and there is but little doubt that Lars Halvorsen (Skavlem) would have been perfectly satisfied to remain just "Lars Halvorsen" to the day of his death had Lars Halvorsen (Sporan) promptly paid his grocery bill.

CHAPTER V.

Names.

Old Norse names. Their derivation and significance.

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

It is certainly much to be regretted that many of the strongly characteristic Norse names have been lost or so mutilated as to be beyond recognition.

Often their substitutes are no improvement but, instead a meaningless jargon, absolutely misleading as to origin or derivation.

Of the Odegarden family that figure as founders of this branch of our family records there were five persons, all women, widow Gunnil Odegarden and her four daughters, Gunnil, Gjertrud, Astrid and Guri.

Here are four good old "norske navne" (Norwegian names) worthy of perpetuation by our Norse-American descendants. I am pleased to state that such preservation has taken place sometimes where least expected.

The derivation and signification of these names, as given by the best Norwegian authorities, is interesting.

Almost all genuine Old Norse names are based upon the leading trait, character or use of the thing or thought, which the root-word signifies.

Often these names were originally binominal, that is combined of two names. Their significance must be sought in a figurative rather than a literal translation of the root-word.

The deplorable lack of uniformity in the orthography of these names by modern Norwegian writers is undoubtedly largely the result of the attempted blending of the centuries old dialects that are still very tenaciously upheld by the clan spirit, common to all primitive communities, at present still pronounced in the more isolated mountain districts of Norway.

What is now given as the correct orthography of these Old Norse names by the best Norwegian lexicographers will appear as obsolete, when compared with the modern Norwegian orthographic mixture, or blend-language, which is certainly "up-to-date" in makeup—like many of our modern food products—if not "frightfully" it is certainly "wonderfully made."

Here are the conclusions of wise men's study of the origin and significance of these names, substantially as given by Bernt Støylen in "Norske Döbenavn" (Norwegian Baptismal Names).

Gunnhild: this is given as the proper form. Then comes the variants, Gunnild, Gunnilda, Gonild, Gonelle, Gundla and Gonla. The Old Norse form is Gunnhilder—Gunn, Gunna: Goddess of war, Hilder, Hilda: one of the shield maidens,—the name of one of the valkyries, is leader in strife, battle, war; figuratively the spirit that never quails, but faces all opposition with a bold and resolute determination to succeed or die in the attempt.

Now my good Norse-American cousin Gunnil, ar'nt you "proud of your name?"

Had'nt we better change its spelling back to its correct form of "Gunnhild" and dump the "Nellys" and "Cornelias" and "Geneals" and other "improved" and bastard translations into the wastebasket of our name vocabulary?

Then there is mother Gjertrud's name. Geirtrud is given as the proper form of this name,—obsolete,—Old Norse. Geirthrud: Geir: spear, lance. Thrud: strength, force,—figuratively that spirit that pierces and overcomes all opposition, like the strong lance in the hands of the ancient warrior.

Then comes our aunty: Astrid or Astri. Astrid is given as correct form. Old Norse, Astridr, probable derivative As-rid. As: Asagod, Rid: equipped, furnished, like a valkyrie, to ride forth and lead in battle and strife—figuratively the person that is ever alert and prepared for any emergency.

And last but not less valliant comes Guri, Gudrid given as proper form, but very seldom met with in modern Norse. Old Norse Gudridr: Gud: God. Rid: equipped rider, God equipped shield maiden, valkyrie going forth on her powerful war steed into the thickest of strife,—battle. It is a twin name to that of Astrid with very little variation in its significance,—interestingly illustrative of the rich figurative, poetical vocabulary of the Old Norse language.

How well "widow Gunnil" and her four daughters, Gunnil, Gjertrud, Astrid and Guri, lived up to the significance of their valliant Norse names, their sons, daughters and grand children richly recall in a hallowed and pleasant memory. And as their decendants looking at the earnest motherly features of their great-great-grand-mothers in the family pictures permanently preserved in these records and read these altogether too brief and imperfect sketches of their strenuous pioneer lives, they will all become Olas or Oleas in the Old Norse figurative significance of that name: Ancestor-worshippers.

BAPTISMAL NAMES OF THE SKAVLEM FAMILY

The immigrant Skavlem family that became the founders of the Skavlems in America, consisted of the old parents, Halvor and Bergit, and their children, Ole, Gullik, Paul, Kari, Lars, Herbrand and Gjermund.

HALVOR.

Hallvard, given as correct form, but obsolete; variants, Halvar, Halvor. Old Norse, Hall-Vardr, Hall: precious stones, jewel, pearl. Vard: guard, defender,—a precious highly valued defender.

BERGIT.

Bergit is given as a variant from the Keltic name Brigita, variants, Brigda, Brygda, Brita, Brit, Bergitta, Birgit, Bergit, Berit, Birta: a strong, excellent magnificent woman.

In this country Bergit is usually Americanized into Betsey or Bessie, this being considered a proper translation. Betsey or Bessie, however, is an entirely different name as to origin and meaning. Betsey and Bessie are diminutive forms of the Hebrew name Elizabeth: worshiper of God; consecrated to God.

OLE.

Olav is given as the correct form for Ole. Old Norse. Olaf, Aaleifr. Anglo-Saxon. Anlaaf, Anlaf, the first root-word is evidently Aai: Ancestor, old father, Lof same word as Leif: the living one, descendant,—the descendant of an old and honored ancestry—the living representative of our forefathers, in other words “a chip of the old block.” As variants of Olav, Stoylen gives the following alterations: Olaf, Ola, Ole, Olof, Olavus, Olaus, Olavius, Olevinus, Olai, Olaves and Oliver, the last a compound of Ole and Iver—not the English Oliver which is of the Latin derivation—the Oiltre man. Of women’s names with Olav as the derivation, the following is given: Olanna, Olea, Oleana, Oletta, Olevina, Olefine, Oluffa, Olufine, this again abbreviated to Fine, Olia, Oliana, Oliane, Olise, Olovise. No wonder at the Norwegian adage, when you meet three men on the highway, you can safely greet them, “good morning, Ole.”

GULLIK.

Gudleik is given as correct form, Gulleik and Gulik as variants, root-words, old Norse, Gunn-Leik, Gun: strife, battle. Leik: play, amusement, diversion. He to whom strife and battle is mere play.

PAUL.

From the Latin Paulus. Paal was the early Norse form, and is yet given as correct by Stöylen, but Paul is now common usage; its meaning is, the little one.

KARI.

Katla, variants given are Ketel, Karina, Karin, and Kari. Katla is the old Norse feminine form of Ketel: Pot, Caldron; the

sacred vessels of heathen sacrifice — also Helmet: shield of the head: The sacred provider and shield of the family—appeaser of the wrath of the gods.

LARS.

Lars comes from the latin name Laurentius, the Laurel crowned, the Triumphant, variants given are Lafrance, Laurens, Larens, Laurits, Lasse and Lars.

HERBRAND.

From the old Norse Her-Brand. Her: Host, army, multitude. Brand: sword, weapon: The sword of battle—the warrior's weapon, —the spirit that hews and cuts its way through all opposition.

Unfortunately this strongly characteristic Norse name of one of the founders of our family was lost during the transition from the Norwegian to the American system of names and naming, and in its stead was substituted a supposed translation of the same—Abram, a Jewish name, utterly different both in origin and meaning.

In our days Abram strongly suggests the three golden balls of the pawn-broker shop. Let the Abrams of our family grasp their good old Norse "Brand" and forever banish their apparent relationship to the three golden balls, by resuming the proper orthography of their intended true name, *Herbrand*.

GJERMUND.

Geirmund is given as proper form; it is the Old Norse form, but long ago changed to Gjermund. The original binominal was Geir-Mund, Geir: spear, lance. Mund: defence, protection—the valliant Lancer, the Spear-armed defender, figurative of the brave and undaunted warrior.

CHAPTER VI.

Names (Con.)

Americanization of Norse names. Their evolution and transmutation.

Many of those who read these records—particularly those of the younger generation, and the generations yet to come—will, undoubtedly criticise their ancestors for the apparent reckless, unreasonable, and seemingly ridiculous mutilations and often absurd translations of their good, old Norwegian names.

This obliteration and loss of characteristic national names is not limited to the Scandinavians. Other European nationalities have likewise suffered. Descendants of the old Holland Dutch families of New York are today spending large sums of money in the endeavor to unravel the tangled records, and connect their Americanized names with some good old Dutch name of "New Amsterdam."¹

Very little has been written in explanation of, or to show the causes or reasons why these changes came about; and without an accurate and thorough knowledge of conditions as they existed in the earliest days of the Norwegian settlements, the real "reason why" can hardly be comprehended.

I have frequently heard flippant and sarcastic reference made regarding the multiplicity of Norwegian names, and this is not to be wondered at, when made by men who do not know the true reason why. The absurdity of three or four brothers each designated by a different surname is very apparent. I ask the reader to carefully note what I have to say on this subject in the following pages. I believe he will agree with me, when I say that it is hard to conceive how it could have resulted in any other way. With but slight revision, I quote from Chapter XVIII., p. 428-432, Vol. 1, History of Rock county, Wisconsin.—(C. F. Cooper, Chicago, Ill., 1908.)

"One of the first things required of a stranger in any community is to give or be given a name by which he may be known individually and also designated in transactions of business with his associates. The system of names and records of the same, in vogue among the peasantry of Norway, differing radically from the practice in this country caused much confusion of names, so that in the early

¹ As an example of the similarity of the Old Country Dutch and Norwegian system of names, also a similar mutilation and change of the old home or grange name, with its descriptive or suggestive meaning, to a meaningless appellation, see Vol X, Wisconsin Historical Collections, p. 452, *ibid*, p. 509.

days of the colonies it was not unusual for one individual to be known by three or four different names in less than that many years. Their signatures to papers and documents of record soon produced apparent flaws in titles, which fact has caused much trouble and considerable expense to correct, and will continue to puzzle the title experts for many years to come. The Norwegian peasantry have no family or surname, but every grange, farmstead, habitation has a name, and this name becomes the address, home or family name of those who occupy the same; and whenever they change their home, their address, home or family name is changed, to that of their new home. The name of the farm or grange is never changed, so that those who live at Skavlem will always be Skavlem. Those that live at Nyhus will always be Nyhus, and so on."

NORWEGIAN SYSTEM OF NAMES.

We will take the name "Gullik Olsen Gravdal" and analyze it:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1st. Baptismal name, | Gullik |
| 2nd. Father's baptismal name Ole, plus sen | Olsen. |
| | <u>Gullik Oleson.</u> |

(We now have Gullik Oleson, Gullik the son of Ole.)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 3rd. Residence name, | Gravdal, |
| and we have the complete name | Gullik Olsen Gravdal, |
| which means Gullik, Ole's son, who resides at | <u>Gravdal.</u> |

This, in Norway, answered fully all the requirements of a complete perfect name—a name by which that particular person could be individually designated and also be individualized and separated from all other persons.

A woman's name is on the same plan, except adding the word datter (daughter) after the father's baptismal name, thus:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st. Baptismal name, | Gunnil. |
| 2nd. Father's baptismal name, | |
| Gjermund, plus datter, | <u>Gjermund's Datter.</u> |

We now have Gunnil, daughter of
Gjermund, Gunnil Gjermund's Datter.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 3rd. Residence name, Odegarden, | |
|---------------------------------|--|

Her full name, Gunnil Gjermund's Datter Odegarden, that is, Gunnil, the daughter of Gjermund who resides at Odegarden.

The process of change of name in America was brought about in a variety of ways, often unrealized by the person himself until years after, when he became familiar with and understood the American system of family names.

"Very few Norwegian names have escaped mutilation of some sort. Some may be but slightly changed in spelling—Nattestad to Natesta, Weglie to Wagley; here the sound of the name remains

practically the same, but we have a meaningless word and name substituted for a descriptive one. Natte, or Nut, equals Knoll; Stad equals Town or Stead; and we have Knolltown or Knollstead. Weg equals Wall; Li equals Glenn or Side-Hill, and we have Wall, Glen, or Wall Side.

This change has usually come about by the phonetic spelling of the name as pronounced. Others have had their name divided and sub-divided, being designated at one time by their first or baptismal name, afterwards by their father's Christian name, with suffix Son or Sen, and perhaps later on by the farm, grange, or locality name, which finally becomes the permanent family name. All of these separated names would also be subjected to still further changes by phonetic spelling. To illustrate the last mentioned series of changes, we will take Mr. Gravdal, the father of Rock Prairie settlement, whose name has now gone into history as Gullik Olsen Gravdal.

When Mr. Gravdal first met his American friends and neighbors he could speak no English; they, of course, understood not his Norwegian. In the family and amongst acquaintances the Norwegians always address each other by the Christian name. His American friends heard him called "Gullik" by his family, as also by his Norwegian neighbors, so naturally enough he became "Mr. Gullik" or "Gulack" and when they had occasion to write the name they spelled and wrote it variously "Gullik," "Gullack," or "Gulack."

His children would be "Mr. Gulack's" children. As they learned their Christian names they became "Ole Gulack;" Tolle, changed to Tolle, became "Tolle Gulack." Maria Gulack and Sigri, or Siri, was changed to "Sarah Gulack."

It was the same with all of the earliest Norwegian settlers—at least on Rock Prairie. By the English speaking people they were first known and designated by their Christian names:

Gunnil Gjermund's Datter Odegaarden became "Widow Gunnel."

Lars Halvorsen Skavlem was "Mr. Lars."

Gisle Sebjorson Hallan, "Mr. Gisley."

Hans Halvorsen Husemoen, "Mr. Hans."

Kleofas Halvorsen Hansemoen, "Mr. Cleophas."

When their children first came to the English school their English speaking playmates would tell the teacher the name of the bashful little towheads, and it was "Halvor Lars" and "Halvor Hans," "Halvor Cleophas" and Sebjorn changed to "Saber Gisley."

And by the same schoolhouse legislation the writer's mother-in-law, who was a daughter of the "Widow Gunnil," and whose full Norwegian name should be written "Gjertrud Thorstensdatter Odegaarden, was hokus-pokused into "Mary Gunniel!"

When she paid Uncle Sam a dollar and a quarter an acre for the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 21, T. 1, R. 11, June 7th, 1846, we find her registered as "Mary Gounoriel?"

If we could stop with these changes it would be easy, but the trouble has just commenced. When Mr. Gravdal went to the land office at Milwaukee, December 12, 1839, and made his first purchase of land, we find from the records that on December 12th, 1839, Goelicke Holt, became the owner of S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 1, T. 1, N. R. 11, E. On February 19th, 1842, the same Goelicke Holt is registered as the purchaser of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 1, T. 1, R. 11. And on March 13, 1846, Gullek Olsen buys the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ —S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 1, T. 1, R. 11.

Now, these three parcels of land above described are the old Gravdal farm, which Mr. Gravdal purchased direct from the government, so Mr. Holt and Mr. Olsen and Mr. Gravdal must be the one and same person!

Now for the explanation:

As they had no home or farm as yet in this country they would be known by the last home they had in the old country, and this name would be given to their new home here. Mr. Gravdal had sold his farm "Gravdal" a short time before he concluded to emigrate to America, and purchased a place called "Holt." This place was some distance from the old home Gravdal, and located in another parish. So, when he came to join the Ansten Natesta party, consisting largely of neighbors from his old home, to them he was still "Gravdal," and the name "Holt" appears only on the first two patents. In the third patent he gives his name simply as "Gullik Olsen." This was what may be termed the common every-day "style of Norwegian signature, by the Christian name and the Far's-navn" (father's name), which consisted of the father's Christian name, plus Son or Sen. Many would not sign their full name except when extreme accuracy or particularly important documents were supposed to require it. This is also customary at the present time. Very few people ordinarily sign their full names, most sign by initials and family name, except when requested to make signatures on documents of record.

Ole Gulack, Mr. Gravdal's oldest son adopted "Gulack" as his family name, and among those that now represent the name of old Mr. Gulack is the Hon. Gilbert Gulack, ex-senator of North Dakota, a grandson of Gullik Gravdal on his father's side and grandson of Widow Gunnil on his mother's side.

The younger son, Tollev, changed to "Tolle" by phonetic spelling, took "Gravdal" for his family name, and the old Gravdal name is represented by Gilbert Gradval, a prominent and wealthy farmer of Newark.

Again, others have translated the old country home or farm

name. For instance, the Newhouse families of Clinton, were Nyhus. Ny equals New and Hus equals House, and we have Newhouse. Haugen translated has become Hill, and we have Halvor P. Hill, of Janesville, a grandson of Halvor Pederson Haugen, of the "Amelia" party. Mr. Hill's uncle, son of Halvor Pederson Haugen, took the middle name of his father "Pederson" changed it to "Peterson" and adopted that as his family name; and we find him in history as the "Honorable Halvor H. Peterson," representing the First District of Rock County in the Legislative Assembly, 1871. Mr. Peterson is now living in Alta, Buena Vista County, Iowa, and is one of the few survivors of the "Thirty-Niners."

The following is a partial list of the various ways of changing names. Those who are in need of new names can take their choice:

- 1st. Father's baptismal name for family name.
- 2nd. Grandfather's baptismal name, plus Son for family name.
- 3rd. Farm or home name for family name.
- 4th. Translation of home name for family name.
- 5th. Phonetic spelling of either of above names for family name.
- 6th. Any old name will do for a family name.

Two well known families can trace the origin of their family name to a large spring, located near the center of the north half of Section 4, Town of Newark. This fine spring soon attracted the attention of the early homeseeker, and in September, 1841, Gullik Knudsen and Gunnul Stordok, with their families, located near it which, as a land mark, was already known as the "Big Spring."

Stordok, with his family, lived in a haystack for three months while he built a house. In 1843 he sold his interest in the place to Gunder Knudsen, a brother of Gullik Knudsen; so we have the two brothers, Gullik and Gunder Knudsen, living near "Spring-en" (the Spring). This place already having a name, they were referred to as "Gullik Springen" and "Gunder Springen." As this family grew up they continued the name "Springen." And Ansten Springen still owns the farm of his father Gullik.

The well known K. G. Springen and his sons, prominent business men of Mayville, North Dakota, represent Gunder Springen.

Perhaps the most singular and apparently unexplainable mutilation of a name is that of "Widow Odegarden," as her name appears on the government land records. In examining the entries of land in Rock County, I find that Gisle Seberson Hallan, became a freeholder in Rock County, November 29, 1839, and on the same date Gooneal G. Doctor took title to her first land. Now, the question is:

How can we change the "Doctor" to the Widow Gunnil Gjermund's datter Odegarden?

The explanation is this: Undoubtedly Mrs. Odegarden sent

with Mr. Hallan money to purchase this piece of land, and when the clerk at the land office asked for the name of the person to whom the patent should be made, Mr. Hallan gave the name "Gunnil Gjermunds' datter," omitting the farm name "Odegaarden." This, to the clerk, would sound as a name of three words, and following the custom then, as now, wrote only the initial of the middle name "G." He mistook the word "D-a-t-t-e-r" for "D-o-c-t-o-r" and there you are!

There is also much irregularity and variation in the orthography of many of the baptismal names.

I have endeavored to learn if there were any rules governing the proper spelling of these names, but as yet have been unable to find any satisfactory solution.

In comparing various Norwegian publications I find that those of recent date show greater variations and "confusion worse confounded" than prints of an earlier date. This is probably in a measure due to the rapidly increasing literary activity of the Norwegian peasantry, who have made a most remarkable cultural progress in the last half century; but they are still very much inclined to a clanish worship of their particular "Bygdelag" (shire) and "Bygdemaal" (shire dialect). They have large and active societies for the promotion and perpetuation of their various dialects, and the present result is that the Norwegian press and publications show a wonderful conglomeration of bastard words and phrases that are neither good "Bygdemaal" nor the former "skrift-sprog" (written language). Thus far the improvement in diction and composition is, to say the least, questionable.

The many efforts to render into written form the various dialects has necessitated attempts at phonetic representation of the words by letters and the varied pronunciation of the same word in the dialects give, of course, a variation in the spelling of the same.

Some of these old-time dialects are absolutely beyond the reach of alphabetic interpretation as to sound; and the best efforts to render some of these quaint dialects into print has resulted in the most grotesque jargon.

I give a few examples of the variations in the writing of some of the most common Norwegian names which, singular as it appears, have no fixed orthography. Most of these variations I have copied from books that presume to be historical works, and as such undoubtedly made correct transcripts and copies of those names. As these names have a varied pronunciation in the different dialects, it follows that when printed in dialect the orthography must be similarly varied.

The rugged old Norse name Thorstein (Thor's stone) is variously written:

T-o-r-s-t-e-n; T-o-r-s-t-e-i-n; T-o-s-t-e-n; T-o-s-t-e-i-n; and then back to the original T-h-o-r-s-t-e-i-n,

Peder or Peter has all the variations given in Webster's dictionary—and some more. This is not an old Norse name (*Peter* being derived from the Greek word meaning *stone* or *rock*). It does not appear in Norwegian history until after the introduction of Christianity. The Norsemen, however, had plenty of "Stein" and "Steinars" (stone, or rock) and these names continue to this day. All the "Steins" and "Steinars" know the meaning of their names. This can be said of but very few of the "Peders," "Pers," "Peers," "Peters," or "Petters."

Again we have "Gunder," "Gunner," "Gunnar;" so, also, "Hellik," "Helleik," and "Hellek;" likewise "Gullik," "Gulleik," and "Gullick."

The old Norse name of Gunnhild, when modified to suit the dialect pronunciation, becomes variously "Gonil," "Gunel," "Gunil," "Gunnil" and "Gunild," first appearance in improved Americanized form "Gooneal," and then further improved to "Gonnoriel." "Sigri," "Sigrid," and "Siri," are variations of one name. "Berit," "Bergit," "Bergithe," "Bergitthe," and "Bergitha" are apparently the same name but varied in orthography.

I am inclined to believe that the reader will agree with the writer that there is considerable work and research necessary to get these tangled up names straightened out so as to be rendered intelligible for our "family records."

After much thought, study and some worry I have concluded to adopt the following as a general rule:

To give, first, as the *subject heading* of each individual sketch, the full baptismal and family name as recorded (or should have been recorded). Then, if there has been any change in the name to give the changed name below the *subject heading* as a *sub-heading* in parentheses, thus:

Herbrand Halvorsen Skavlem
 { changed to }
 { Abram Holverson. }

In the case of a woman's name the "datter" part will be omitted when the woman was born in the United States, although the early church records show a continuation of the old country style of registration.

Then with a liberal use of explanatory notes it is hoped to make our records intelligible and fairly accurate.



Where Gullik Skavlem Blakestad's House Stood
Photo 1913



Remains of A. Holverson Home. Town of Beloit, Wis.
Photo 1913

CHAPTER VII.

Looking Up the Old Records.

Looking up the old records. Early homesites. Indian trails. "Indi-eiken." Looking backward. Turtle Village and Mankani. The Red Man's College. Noted men of the Rock River Valley. Col. Henry Gratiot. The beginning of the end.

On the twenty-second day of July, 1913, H. L. Skavlem and Tosten Holverson visited the sites of all the pioneer homesteads of the Skavlem families in Rock County, Wisconsin, located by said families on government land in the years 1840, 1841, 1842 and 1846. The object in view was the preservation and authentic recording of any remaining evidence of those pioneer homes.

Mr. Henry Olsen furnished transportation by means of his automobile, and his daughter, Miss Alma, manipulated the camera. The result of her work adds very materially to these records.

Records of the land office show that Goelick Halversen purchased the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$; Sec. 28, T. 1, N. R. 12, E. (Town of Beloit), May 16, 1840.

This location is now less than one mile west of the city limits of Beloit.

The picture shows Mr. Skavlem and Mr. Holverson standing on the spot where Gullik Halvorsen (Skavlem) Blakestad's stone house formerly stood. The old stone house was cleared away some sixteen years ago. The area it covered is now part of the nicely kept lawn of a large modern farm house standing about thirty feet to the south.

The very first building, the home of Mr. Blakestad and family, was a semi-dugout. It stood a short distance to the west of the stone building, across a narrow ravine. It was made by digging into a side hill and supported by three logs high above the ground. The interior area was about sixteen by twenty feet. The site of this forms part of the barn yard now, and there is not the slightest trace of the rude shelter. A large burr oak tree, about sixty feet to the east, is now the sole relic of the days of 1840.

The second place of interest was the pioneer home of Herbrand H. Skavlem (Abram Holverson).

Government records show that "Abram Hobartson" became owner of the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 19, T. 1, R. 11, E., September 29, 1842.

The first location of the homesite was on a slight rise of ground near a small spring in the center of S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$.

In 1850 another homesite was selected about seventy rods farther west, and a little to the north. The original log house was moved to the new location; subsequently a stone, or grout, addition was built on the west side and a frame kitchen on the east. The original building occupied the center, its sheeted exterior giving it the appearance of a frame building. Years ago the present owners of the farm removed all the buildings—except the old house—to the north, near the highway. All that now remains of Mr. Holverson's well-built homestead of sixty years ago is the old house as seen in the photograph.



Where "Widow Gunil's" Home was Located.

For many years the old house has been utilized as a storeroom and granary. Every vestige of the large orchard, barns and other buildings of sixty years ago have disappeared.

From the old Holverson house a photographic view was taken showing the location of Mrs. Odegaarden's pioneer home. The view was taken at a point in front of the Holverson house looking west, a distance of three-quarters of a mile. In the picture the arrow points the spot where Mrs. Odegaarden's log house marked the "beginning of the end" of the wilderness, early in the spring of 1840.

Its location is in the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 24, T. 1, R. 11 (Town of Newark).

From Mr. Holverson's house west to the Odegaarden place the land was "creek bottom" or marsh. Through this marsh flowed a small stream which came to be known as "East Coon Creek." The Odegaarden house was located at the east edge of the heavy timber that bordered the marsh on the west.



A fine spring is the only remaining land mark of the early days. It still continues its tiny stream of pure, cold water—everything else has changed. The woods are all gone. Even the marsh has almost disappeared. Tile drained, the once boggy marsh is now transformed into rich cornfields. Where Mr. Holverson and his boys carried the long marsh-hay on poles, the quivering bogs affording but a precarious foothold, the corn-binder now harvests the bounteous crops.

Great, indeed are the changes of a lifetime!

The next point of interest was the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 11, T. 1, R. 11, where Lars H. Skavlem located in the spring of 1840. He first took this as a pre-emption claim, and on June 4, 1841, paid Uncle Sam \$1.25 per acre for the title to the same.

During the summer of 1840, Mr. Skavlem, together with his brother Gjermund and Knud Chrisbinusen built a good log house. This was located near the center of the claim.

In 1845 Mr. Skavlem built (for those days) a commodious frame house near by the dwelling of his father-in-law, located in the northeast corner of N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the same section. He moved into it in the fall of that year, and there made his home up to the time of his death in 1879.

The log house was sold and moved away shortly after Mr. Skavlem vacated it. The only remaining evidence of it is a slight depression of ground indicating the "Wisconsin cellar."

The old Skavlem frame house is still doing service as a farm house, being the main or upright part of the present farm house.

Mr. H. L. Skavlem has sketched his earliest recollections of the old home, together with his grandfather, Halvor Nielsson Aae's plastered log house; also the partly underground stable.

In the foreground the primitive "kubberulle" is shown. Its wheels were made from the butt cut of a three-foot log, with hub, spoke and felly all one solid piece of wood.

The next objective point was the old home of Paul Skavlem, in section thirty-two, Town of Plymouth.

Records show that Paul Halvorsen (Skavlem) purchased the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, T. 2, R. 11, E., September 15, 1841.

The homestead, however, is located in the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ —S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, same section. This land appears as having been purchased by Nils Olsen (Wagley) on same date. Nils O. Vegli (or Weglie) and Paul Skavlem were partnership owners of these tracts, but subsequently divided them into the farms of Paul Skavlem and Nils O. Wagley.

Here it was found that the old pioneer log house still served to shelter the home of Otto Hegge, present owner of the place.

Its exterior appearance resembles a stone building, as the log



Paul Skavlem's Pioneer Home. Town of Plymouth, Rock Co., Wis. (1913)



Nils O. Wagley's Log-house. (1913)

house is covered with a veneer of limestone laid in mortar. A stone addition was later built on the east side.

All these improvements were made by Mr. Skavlem in the early days. The log house was well built, a two-story structure, measuring twenty by twenty-four feet; hewn timbers and dove-tailed corners. The only place the log feature of the building can now be seen is "up-stairs" where the smooth hewn logs, nicely whitewashed, constitute the wall finish.

A few rods to the west of the house could also be seen traces of Paul's malt-house. Here the malt for the brewing of the delicious home-made ale was prepared both for himself and his neighbors.

Following a lane due north from the Paul Skavlem homestead for the distance of a little more than a quarter of a mile the party arrived at the home of "Aunt Wagley"—the old Nils O. Wagley farm.

To the rear of a modern farm house, partly concealed by adjacent buildings, was discovered the "Old House." It was relegated to the back yard many years ago when the more pretentious frame building was erected on its original foundation. It now stands some one hundred and fifty feet to the southwest of its original site, and has for many years been utilized as a storeroom, tool house, and tobacco stripping room. Three of its sides are covered with clapboards. Fortunately one side and corner was left uncovered showing the smooth hewn logs and fine dovetailed corners, giving an excellent photograph of the well-built Norwegian "log house"—not "cabin."

The farm is now the property of H. N. Wagley, and is the only one left of the seven Skavlem pioneer homes in Rock County in the possession of a Skavlem descendant.

From the Wagley farm the party followed the old territorial road in a northwesterly direction through Orfordville to the farm now owned by H. H. Trostem, located in the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 14, Town of Spring Valley. This was the early home of Ole Halvorsen Skavlem.

Records show that Gullik Halvorsen (Blakestad) purchased the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ —N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 14, T. 2, N. R. 10, E. of the government, October 31, 1846. (Undoubtedly for his brother Ole). He deeded this tract to his brother, Ole Halvorsen (Skavlem), September 23, 1850.

As shown in the picture; part of the old log house is still standing. The west part of the house was removed many years ago, it being but one story high and covered by a turf roof. The part left standing was the living room of the house, the upper story projecting over a hall between the two buildings. As seen in the picture the hall floor was stone flagging, which is yet in evidence. The old hall stairway is also seen.

A large burr oak tree a short distance to the east of the house is perhaps the only companion that has withstood the sixty-nine years of modern improvement.

The homestead of Gjermund Halvorsen Skavlem, located in section 5, town of Newark, has been entirely eliminated. The records show that February 6, 1846, Gjermund Halvorsen purchased of the government the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 6, T. 1, R. 11. He had also purchased of Gulbrand Oleson the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ —



Remains of Ole H. Skavlem's Pioneer Home. (1913)

N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 5, T. 1, R. 11; the date of this purchase being September 9, 1843. This land joined his government purchase on the east, thus giving him a farm of sixty acres. His cabin was located on the east twenty acres, being part of Sec. 5, T. 1, R. 11.

In a recent letter from C. H. Tollefsrude, of Rolfe, Iowa, recalling early days in Rock county, he says:

"In Gjermund's cabin I have been hundreds of times. It was, perhaps the least pretentious of all the Skavlem pioneer homes; but it nevertheless gave shelter to many people during its twenty-five years of existence."

In 1866 Gjermund H. Skavlem transferred all his landed property to Hans C. Tollefsrude.

With veneration the party viewed the old homesites, where father, mother, uncles and aunts, and Grandma Odegarden had set the stakes for their simple homes in the wilderness, something more than seventy years ago.

Here they spent the best part of their busy lives in carving out of the wilderness a pleasant and comfortable home for themselves and their families.

In imagination we drew the curtain of the past aside—saw the hillside again clothed with the virgin forest—saw the open glades carpeted with emerald green—spangled with innumerable wild flowers tinted with all the colors of the rainbow—saw the bubbling springs of cool crystal waters; where now reeks the stinking “hog-wallow”—saw clear little brooklets playing “bo-peep” ’neath their silver-plumed canopy of reed grass, where now the mud ditches of the drainage system show long lines of semi-baked mud, with here and there a stagnant pool of stinking water.

As we stood at each ancestral home:

Imagination lent its hand,
And we saw the land—

as they had seen it.

We were with Uncle Gullik in the fall of 1839, as he stood near the first timber line west of the little hamlet called Beloit, and took in the surroundings. The four essentials of home-making in the wilderness were here—

Timber for fuel and building material; patches of prairie ready for the breaking plow; in the low land were hay meadows; the necessary water was undoubtedly near by; ledges of building stone cropped out on the hillside. Gullik said:

“’Tis well! Here will be my home.”

A slight shift of Oblivion’s Curtain, and we stand with “Uncle Abe” near the little spring where the mark was set for his first home. It is in the summer of 1842. Here is the water; timber in the scattered groves; the hazel patches and plum groves are easy propositions of clearing land for the necessary fields; on yonder rise of ground there is stone a-plenty; the great level bottom-land with its waving crop of grass (through which he came from his boarding place at “Widow Gunnil’s”) gave assurance of an abundance of feed for the cattle; and the husky young man set the pegs for his future home.

Again Time’s Curtain is slightly moved—back to the fall of 1839, and we are with Grandma Odegarden who, accompanied by Goe Bjöno (a brother-in-law) and several other immigrant companions whom she had assisted by financing their journey from Norway to the new land of promise, was “spying out the land.” At the beautiful spring they halted for rest and refreshments.

The little business woman takes in the surroundings; not a de-

tail escapes her observation; all was recorded on her mind with the faithfulness of a camera picture.

Round about the spring stand beautiful, majestic monarchs of the forest, tall and straight they stand, their foilage protecting the little spring below from the sun's rays. Splendid material for the building of a good large house.

In the little oak openings there is sufficient clear land to make all the field her needs will want; the level bottom land to the east is abundant guarantee of hay and feed—the "die is cast"—the location of "Odegarden" is then and there fixed.

Thenceforth and for the first time since creation, the sharp click of the ax disturbed the browsing deer in the forest. The wilderness resounded with the song of the ax,—the song was of "Achievement." The flying chips were making history; by March, 1840, "Odegarden" in Nummedal, had its namesake in Rock county, Wis. And very appropriate, indeed, is that name: "Ode-garden" rendered into English may be either "Lone Farm," or "Farm in the Wilderness."

And lone it was—barring Gravdale's new home, which was located some two and one-half miles due north. But the loneliness was destined to be but of short duration.

Early in May of the same year we accompany three young men, Lars and Gjermund Skavlem and Knud Chrispinusen, on a land hunting expedition.

We are at the first homesite of Lars Skavlem: There is heavy timber to the north and west; a nice bit of prairie faces the south-east; to the south is a bit of low land, partly covered with willows, needing only clearing to be transformed into the finest of meadows; and water?—well, there is no pronounced running spring here but this boggy, spongy place is evidence that water rises to the surface, and selecting some desirable spot, a little cleaning out will give us a sufficient supply of good water. The land hunting terminated right there.

Three days later a bush cabin was finished, and with this cabin as their temporary shelter, the three young men began the work of getting out logs for the "real" house.

Again Time's Curtain is shifted—it is in the fall of 1841.

A new contingent from the old country has arrived. The homes of Gullik Blakestad, Gunnil Odegarden, Gullik Gravdal, Gisle Hallan and Lars Skavlem are packed full, and overflowing. Grandpa and Grandma Skavlem and Uncle Ole and his family are quartered with Gullik; Uncle Paul and his family, with a "few others," find shelter and a temporary home with Lars Skavlem; Nils Weglie, with others, are taken care of by Gravdal; Gisle Hallan, also, has a house "more than full. At this time Gullik "Springen"

and Stordock are living in the "haystack"—and in all probability the "haystack" accommodated a "few more."

Uncle Paul and Nils Weglie lose no time in looking up homesites for themselves, as the records show that on the day of September 15, 1841, they were at the land office in Milwaukee and secured title to their land.

Uncle Paul's homesite includes timber, prairie for field, hay land and a spring for water.

Nils Weglie's tract includes the same features, excepting the spring, the exception proving no particular hardship as Nils kept "bachelor's hall" for several years, and obtained his water at Paul's spring which was about eighty rods distant.

Uncle Ole left the settlement, taking with him his family, and went to the lead mines where he spent several years. However, he did not seem to find contentment there and returned to the Rock Prairie settlement. With the assistance of his brother, Gullik, he secured a home in Spring Valley, in 1846. Government land was now getting scarce and he had to be contented with a tract that, in those days, was considered somewhat inferior. But on it were all the requisites, viz.: spring water, timber, meadow land, a patch of scrub oak to be cleared for field, and directly to the rear of the house was a limestone hill.

The party having completed its inspection of the last point of interest preparations were made for the return trip.

It was nearly a half-mile to the point where the car had been left at the roadside, and the party were forced to do a little mountain climbing to the crest of the hill, and thence journey cross lots to the conveyance.

The youngest member of the party called attention to the fact that not one of the old places visited was located on a highway, and put the question "Why did they always build in the back lot?"

I am pleased to answer that question for in doing so the opportunity is given to insert a very interesting bit of pioneer history.

Excepting Indian trails, there were no roads or highways at the time those homesites were located.

The earliest settlers did build on, or near by these roads or trails.

There were two well defined Indian trails crossing western Rock county, both coming from a westerly and northwesterly direction. They joined at a point in the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 21, town of Beloit, and from there continued in a general southeasterly course striking the river nearly opposite the mouth of Turtle Creek.

At the point of convergence was a fine spring. This was known to the Norwegians as "Consul-Springen."

The origin of the name, as given to me by father, is as follows:

"A somewhat eccentric character named Ole Hansen,¹ but always known and spoken of as "Consulen," had some trouble with an "American" about the land on which the spring was located. "Consulen" had set up a "claim" right to the same, but the "Yankee" won out, and all that "Consulen" got for his pains was the attaching of his nickname to the spring."

The spring is now mostly a thing of the past, and but for this incidental recollection "Consulen's" name would perhaps never again be mentioned.

From "Consul-Springen" the northerly branch of the trail was followed by Gravidal in 1839, leading him to the spring where he staked the first homesite in the town of Newark. Thence the trail led a short distance to another fine spring at "Comstock's Tavern" (a place long ago eliminated and forgotten). From there its course was to a small creek which it crossed, and then to Keithline Spring where it lost itself in the "Big Woods," later to reappear near Hanover; thence continuing in a general northwesterly course to the Madison lakes. The south fork of the trail had a more westerly general course, aiming for and crossing the Sugar river, at or near Albany; thence to "Broken Arm's" village near Exeter and the "Sugar River Diggin's" (lead mines).

These trails were not visible in all places (like cow paths), but on the sloping hillside and sometimes on the highest ground in many places they were very distinct. I distinctly recall mother telling of walking the "Indistigen" (Indian trail) to Beloit. In later years, as I became more interested in the early history of our locality, I endeavored, with mother's recollections, to locate this "stig" (trail) as accurately as possible.

Mother would always give "Indi-Eiken" (Indian Oak) as the starting-point of her reminiscence of the trail; hence, a short history of the "Indian Oak" will not be out of place.

When Grandfather Halvor Aae (pronounced Aw-e) was building his house, he had occasion to go after a bucket of water in the dusk of the evening. As he reached down into the "water hole" to fill his bucket he noticed two men by a little fire they had kindled in the hollow side of a large tree near by.

He greeted them "good evening" in the Norwegian language. Receiving no reply he concluded to go over and investigate a bit. They proved to be two blanket Indians cooking some meat on a forked stick. Grandfather insists that he talked real good book Norwegian to them, but the only reply he got was just a "How-How"

¹ "His name was Ole Hansen, but he was generally called "Consulen" because he pretended to be a lawyer (Counselor), and I actually believe he appeared in court a few times as an attorney. He was, however, chiefly known as an itinerant Methodist lay preacher. He seems to have made his headquarters on Rock Prairie and at Highland, Wis."—Anderson. First Chapter Norwegian Immigration, p. 415.

and a grunt. Ever after that the big oak was always designated as "Indi-Eiken."

I recollect it very well. It was a very large, dead-looking tree, there being but a shell of the outside left for two-thirds around, the inside being rotted and burned out. "Our Folks" claimed that there was evidence of its having been used by the Indians as a fire-place more than once.

"Indi-Eiken" was about forty rods north of the old home. From the "Indian Oak" southeast to "Consul Springen" the trail touched at a spring east of Husemoen's house. This spring was the real head of East Coon Creek. Then about half a mile farther east it passed close to another spring located on a piece of land that later became known as "Husemoen's pasture lot." Here the trail was quite distinct, going up the hillside a little north of the spring; then it disappeared in the scrub until close to the top of the high ridge south of what was afterwards known as "Obit's Hill. There, on both sides of the ridge, the trail was quite plain in several places forming quite a ditch, caused, undoubtedly, by water erosion; and then for some distance farther on there was but little sign of a trail until near the top of the ridge where one could look down on "Consul-Springen" where again, there was quite a "stig" (trail).

Continuing the trail west from "Indi-Eiken" it was best seen right over the hill where my barn stood, on what was called "Power's Hill" in earlier days. Mother told me that I had walked the trail there many a time when I went with her to hunt the cows, but I was not particularly interested in the Indian trails those days. I cannot say that I recall the trail. It was again visible near "Springen" (the big spring); and again on the hillside back of Uncle Paul's house, leading down to his spring. Then it bore off over "Basvod-högde" (the Basswood Hill), west of Weglie's house, down past Orfordville, and on and around over the hills to Spring Valley Corners, on to Sugar River.

These two trails were the only roads in this part of the county when our folks located their homesites, and we find the first one, Gravdal, following the trail to his spring. If "Consulen" had won out on his claim he would have been at the forks. If the trail had become a highway we would find Husemoen, Halvor Aae, and Lars Skavlem; farther on Gullik and Gunder Springen; then Paul Skavlem, and but a little way from the road down to Nils Weglie, and we would probably get as near to Uncle Ole's place by the Indian trail, as we get now by the highway.

It has taken quite a bit of time to get these trails located and the question explained—so here we are now almost back to the city! Isn't that a fine view—looking down over the rapidly growing city of Beloit, with its great factory chimneys belching forth black smoke like

a colony of young volcanoes—and say! let us tarry a while and enjoy the beautiful view!

With your permission I will now draw Time's Curtain a little farther back than we did at the other end of the line. Let imagination wipe out every vestige of the white man's sway. Recall the scenes of the Red Man's day. Only eight years before our people stood here and looked down on the Rock River valley, where now we see a hustling city throbbing with industrial life, there had not been a trace of the white man's life. It is the spring of 1832, and the last days of April.

The sunny hillside is flecked with green; early buttercups and windflowers peep through the dead grass on the hill top.

The honk of the wild goose—the bugle notes of the swan—the swish and whirr of beating wings is heard as the great army of bird-life is hastening to its northern summer homes.

Down below at the edge of a clump of willows a deer is nibbling the young leaves and the swelling buds.

Nature is awake after its long winter's sleep, and the world looks young and happy.

With the keenness of the forest children let us searchingly scan the land (now blanketed by a white man's city).

Tiny wreaths of smoke drift like baby clouds over yonder hill, where now stands the white man's temple of learning.

Down on the flat below, where now the great steam horse is puffing and panting—the sons of the forest are gathering their clans, dressed in their odd and fantastic costumes of holiday attire.

Looking upstream, a birch-bark flotilla comes, silently dipping their paddles in the mirror-like waters below—glancing down stream we see a similar procession, with strong and rapid strokes approach the gathering-place.

That dust cloud over the back trail we have just come, gives warning of the approaching column of horsemen. As they advance we recognize the leader, he is "Manakeetshumpkaw" ("Broken Arm") one of the Winnebago war chiefs. (We have mentioned his village as located on Sugar River, near Exeter.) He is accompanied by a delegation of his people on a visit to the Turtle Village where they will take part in the "Mankani," or "Great Medicine Dance," that is celebrated at the approaching return of every summer.

The Mankani" is a secret society, being of a religious nature.

With "Broken Arm" as our guide we will take a panoramic survey of the leading features of this interesting "convention." Men and women, alike, are eligible to membership.

There are five ceremonial bands, occupying respectively, the East, North, West, South and Southeast of the long tent or house in which the ceremony is performed; a secret vapor bath, and certain ceremonial initiation exercises are exclusive. The purpose of

the society is the prolongation of life and the instilling of certain virtues. It teaches that long life is the reward of goodness, and that evil reacts on the offender—this was the *Red Man's College*, and the foundation principles as here taught are still promulgated though by a different people, in a different manner, at the "Big Medicine Lodge" on College Hill.

At this annual convention and "family gathering" of the inhabitants of the Rock River valley in the year 1832, are representative delegations from all their villages and centers of population.

Let me introduce you to a few of their most distinguished men: *Manacheetshumpkaw*, or *Broken Arm*, a man at least sixty years of age; a prominent war chief who is entitled to wear the *Eagle Plume*; he is proud of the scar on his broken arm, received at the siege of Fort Mies, in 1818.

Waukaunweenkaw, or *Whirling Thunder*, one of the younger chiefs, whose village is located near Koshkonong; he is short and thickset; of a sullen and morose appearance; has the reputation of possessing a cruel disposition.

Marahtshaykaw, or *Little Priest*, is a small man of symmetrical form; he has piercing black eyes; a man of few words; able, discreet, wise and moderate; he is also one of the younger chiefs.

Kaw-ray-kaw-saw-kaw, the *White Crow*, located on Lake Koshkonong and has one of the largest villages in that locality; he is a man of "many winters" apparently past fifty years of age; tall and straight as an arrow, having lost one eye; he is also called *Kaw-neshaw* or *The One-Eyed*. He is not a war chief but a counsellor, or civil chief—a great orator, the Cicero of the nation.

Here is old *Naw-kaw*, or *Caramaunee*, the *Walking Turtle*, and also his son, the younger *Caramaunee*.

The old chief has an illustrious record. In 1809 he was with Tecumseh on a mission to the New York Indians. In the campaign of 1813 he served under Tecumseh, and was present at his death at the Thames. He signed the treaties of 1816-'25-'29, and is destined again this year to sign that of 1832.

His son is also a chief of note. (It is probably his name that is responsible for the "Turtle Village" as recorded in later history).

The sun is sinking behind the hills back of Broken Arm's village, and we must hasten to a close. Halt a moment on this high ground, which in later days will be known as "College Hill."

Take a last look at the congregated multitude on the plain below,—bid an eternal farewell to the *Indian College*, to *Mankani*, the last Medicine Dance at Turtle Village.

Even now, as the wise men (Medicine Men) are instructing the neophyte into the mysteries of *Mankani*, chanting their songs, "Long life is the reward of goodness" and "Evil reacts on the offender," a white man is clamoring for an audience with the big

chiefs. He is informed that he must wait until their religious services are over,—and for two days Col. Henry Gratiot² awaited the convenience of the big chiefs of the Rock River Valley, before he could convey to them the “news,” that brought in its trail ruin, destruction, and death to their homes and their people.

² See Wis. Hist. Collections, Vol. X, p. 493.

CHAPTER VIII.

Documentary Records

Documentary Records of Skavlem Family's Emigration to America, as copied from the Church Records, Rollag Parish, ¹ Nummedal, Norway, by M. Seip, "Sogneprest" March 23, 1914.

Should any of our people at any time desire to investigate our ancestry any further back, the instructive letter of Rev. Seip gives full instruction for the same. There is no doubt but the lineage could be easily extended back several generations by consulting the excellent system of records so carefully preserved by the Norwegian government. The omission of Gullik Skavlem Blakestad's record by Rev. Seip is explained by the fact that I failed to state in my enquiry that Gullik was the "Gaardman" at Blakestad, and would be registered under that name.

Rollag 23—3, 1914

Hr. H. L. Skavlem:

I Anledning af Deres Ærede af 6—3, 1914, tilbagemeldes herved, at ifølge Kirkebogen for 1841 er Livøremand Halvor Gulliksen Skavlem og Hustru Birgit Olsdtr. den 10de Mai udflyttet til Amerika. Han var da 81 Aar og hun 63.

Fødselsdatum og Fødested kan jeg ikke meddele for Dem, da jeg ikke har Kirkebøger længere tilbage end til 1814. De Kirkebøger, som er ældre, beror nu i Rigsarkivet.

Ved at skrive til Det norske Rigsarkiv, Kristiania, vil De antagelig kunne faa de af Dem ønskede nærmere Oplysninger. Muligens De ogsaa kunde faa disse ved at skrive til Grdbr. Ole K. Fjøsø, Rollag. Han har vistnok en delvis Afskrift af de gamle Kirkebøger. Samtidig med Halvor G. Skavlem og Hustru sees Pige Kari Halvorsdtr. Skavlem (33 Aar) at være reist, ligesaa Grdbr. Paul Halvorsen Skavlem (33 Aar) og Hustru Gunhild Pedersdtr. (27 Aar) og 2 Børn, Halvor og Birgit (4 og 2 Aar). Ved den Tid er ogsaa udvandret Grdbr. Ole Halvorsen Skavlem (43 Aar) og Hustru Ragnhild Thorsdtr. (36 Aar) med Søn Halvor (1½ Aar).

I 1839 (7de Mars) sees Herbrand Halvorsen Skavlem (16½ Aar) og Gjer-mund Halvorsen Skavlem (23 Aar) at være udvandret, ligesaa (under 21 Mars) Lars Halvorsen Skavlem (20 Aar).

Andre Oplysninger end disse kan jeg ikke give med de Kirkebøger, som staar til min Raadighed her i Arkivet.

Med min Kompliment for Deres Færdighed i at skrive Norsk og med venlig Hilsen tegner jeg

Med Agtelse,

M. SEIP, Sogneprest.

¹ Rollag is the head parish of which Veggli is an annex or sub parish,—all records are kept at the head parish.

TRANSLATION.

ROLLAG, March 23, 1914.

MR. H. L. SKAVLEM:

Replying to your favor of March 6, 1914, I have to report that in accordance with the church-book for 1841, annuity man, Halvor Gulliksen Skavlem and wife, Birgit Olsdatter, emigrated to America the 18th of May. He was then 81, and she 63 years old.

The date and place of birth, I am unable to give, as I do not have the church-books further back than 1814. The church-books of an earlier date have been placed in the national archives.

By writing to the national archives in Christiania, you will presumably be able to get the further information you desire. Possibly you might also obtain this information by writing to farmer Ole K. Fjose, Rollag. He is supposed to have partial copies of the old church-books. At the same time with Halvor G. Skavlem and wife, the maiden Kari Halvorsdatter Skavlem (33 years old), appears to have emigrated. Likewise farmer Paul Halvorsen Skavlem (38 years old), and wife, Gunhild Pedersdatter (27 years old), and two children, Halvor and Birgit (4 and 2 years old). At this time farmer Ole Halvorsen Skavlem (43 years old) and wife, Ragnhild Thorsdatter (36 years old), with the son, Halvor (1½ years old), also emigrated.

In 1839 (March 7), Herbrand Halvorsen Skavlem (16½ years old), and Gjermund Halvorsen Skavlem (23 years old), are recorded as having emigrated, and (under date of March 21), Lars Halvorsen Skavlem (20 years old).

Other information than the above I am unable to furnish from the church-books at my disposal here in the archives.

Complementing you on the ease with which you write the Norwegian language, and with friendly greetings, I am,

Yours respectfully,

M. SEIP,

Parish Minister.



Nordre-Skavlem, Weglie Parish, Norway
From photo about 1860

CHAPTER IX.

Founders of the Skavlem Family

Founders of the Skavlem family. Champion contests. Bandages and salve. Retired from active life. New champion contest at the age of 81 years. Oldest Norwegian immigrant. Earliest birth date.

The available data for any extended biographical sketch of Grandfather and Grandmother Skavlem are very meagre, consisting mainly of the recollections of my father's reminiscences—as told to his children,—of his early boyhood days, and fireside tales of earlier times as related to him by his parents. Still these “tales by the fire-side” reveal fragmentary bits of our family history extending back for more than a hundred and fifty years. If there was any one of the old, old country customs that father disapproved of, more than others, it was that of physical combat for championship.

Father seemed to think it necessary to always explain to us that these “raw” (crude) trials of strength and prowess were a heritage brought down from viking days, and the *custom* of champion fights was really more to blame for his father's reputation as a “kjempe” (champion) than an inheritant quarrelsome disposition.

The principal social events of the Nummedal mountaineers in the days of Grandfather Skavlem's prime, seem to have been the marriage and burial feasts. These were guaged as to duration and expense, according to the wealth and social standing of the principal in whose honor the feast was held. Less than a three days celebration was considered a small affair.

A prominent man's wedding or funeral—“Gravöl”—grave-feast—would take up a week's time, and sometimes weeks of preparation.

After the official services of marriage or burial came the real feasting, dancing and champion contests; these contests were the “real thing”—no padded gloves, nor rules as to when and where to strike the opponent.

It was “catch as catch can” and lusty blows from the ungloved hand, while resort to the “tollekniv”—sheath knife—that was always carried as a side arm,—was admissible, restricted, however, to blood-letting without fatal results.

This manly spirit of the olden times had already been eliminated from the cities and more cultured societies, where contact with the progressive civilization of the outside world had softened and polished the rugged old Norse character, and in the early part of the

19th century it was banished from its last stand in the upper mountain valleys of central Norway.

Halvor Gulliksen Skavlem was one of the last "kjemper" of the old school and lived to see the "manly art" as by him practiced in his best years, degenerate into mere wrestling bouts and "halling-kast."

The "halling-kast" is an athletic feat consisting of a combination of a jump, half somersault, and high kick, where the artistic performer, keeping step with the music whirls himself into the air, tips the overhead beam or ceiling with his toe, lands on his feet light as a feather, without a jar or misstep, then "on with the dance," which has a variation of steps and contortions that has the "highland fling" beaten to a frazzle.

Undoubtedly Grandpa Halvor considered these new-fangled sports as soft and degenerate substitutes for the real stand up and fair fight of former days, and when Grandma Beret deemed it no longer good form to carry her little bundle of lint, bandages and salve for "first aid"—which had been an integral part of her equipment, to either wedding or funeral feast in the early days of her wedded life, old Halvor undoubtedly looked upon this "refined amusement" as a sure indication of degenerate manhood.

In 1841 we find this former champion of his native heath, still a strong and robust man—though past the age of four score years,—an ideal typical representative of the old time Norseman—busked and ready for battle with unknown dangers, willing and anxious to forsake the old mountain home where kin and ancestors for ages past had fought for leadership in the clan communities of upper Nummedal. The favorable reports from his sons in America, of the wonderful opportunities open to the honest worker in that land of promise, soon decided the destiny of the balance of the Skavlem family, excepting one son Halvor who was married and had established a home in a distant part of the Nummedal valley.

The old people, Halvor and Beret Skavlem, had retired from the active management of their farm years before, giving over the farm property to their two married sons, Ole and Paul, receiving in return stipulated annuities with necessary care and comforts for the balance of their lives, this being secured by lien on the farm property. Both Ole and Paul had the "America fever," but they could not see their way to make the change, their equity in the little farmstead would not go far if sold subject to the annuity contract. They had also contracted and agreed to care for the old folks the balance of their lives, and could not leave them to pass their old age with strangers, but they would consult their father about it.

Grandpa soon settled the difficulty. Why, he was as anxious to see America as they were. Dispose of the old farm? Why sure, he would relinquish the annuity contract any time, the only regret was

the opportunity had not come earlier in his life, and thus Halvor Gulliksen Skavlem at the age of 81 years entered as champion in a new field destined to entitle his name to a place in the very front ranks of Norwegian immigrants to America.

The long and arduous journey was safely accomplished. He arrived at the home of his son, Gullik, near Beloit, Rock County, Wis., in the early part of September, 1841, *doubtless the oldest Norwegian immigrant that ever came to Wisconsin, and very likely the oldest Norwegian immigrant to the United States.*¹ Furthermore, we believe that Halvor Gulliksen Skavlem's birth date, 1760, on the modest little memorial marker in the old Luther Valley cemetery in Rock County, Wis., is the *earliest* birth date of any Norwegian immigrant to the United States. Counting the beginning of emigration with the sailing of the sloop Restaurationen, in 1825, it is almost certain that none of that party were the seniors of Mr. Skavlem; the oldest age record of that party being Mrs. Thomas Madland, born 1768, eight years the junior of Mr. Skavlem. When the Restaurationen sailed for America, Skavlem was an old man of 65 years.

Excepting the Jesuit missionaries and French fur-traders, we have very few, if any, cemetery birth records in Wisconsin, antedating 1760. When Solomon Juneau was building the first log cabin on the site of Milwaukee, 1818, Mr. Skavlem was, what would now be termed an old man, of 58 years.

Destiny had decreed that his sojourn in his newly adopted country was to be of very brief duration. Slightly ailing on his arrival at the end of his long journey, his sickness soon took a serious turn, and at the end of eight days his life's journey also terminated. He was first buried on his son's farm as there was then no regular cemetery provided.

In 1854, when Gullik sold his farm and moved to Iowa, his sons, Gullik, Lars and Herbrand, moved the remains of their father to consecrated ground in the Luther Valley cemetery.

This was the year of the cholera epidemic, and the identity of the grave was lost amongst the numerous new mounds of the cholera victims.

Father spoke with regret of this loss, as he wished to mark his father's grave with an appropriate memorial. This he failed to accomplish before his death, and old grandpa and his lost grave were almost forgotten by his living descendants in America, who now number 160.

The work of collecting and writing up these memoirs revived family traditions and recollections, and we decided to place a simple,

¹ For further information on early Norwegian immigration, consult Anderson's "Norwegian Immigration, 1821-1840," a very interesting and reliable historical record of the first years of Norwegian immigration to America. It can be obtained at the Amerika Pub. Co.'s office, Madison, Wis. Cost, postage included, \$1.25.

but suitable marker in the old Luther Valley cemetery to preserve the memory of the founders of the Skavlem family in America.

Halvor Gullikson Skavlem, born in Vegli,¹ Nummedal, Norway, 1760; died at Beloit, Wis., 1841.

Beret Olsdatter Skavlem, born in Vegli, Nummedal, Norway, 1777; died in Rock County, Wis., 1854.

Grandma Skavlem lived with her son, Paul, until the time of her death. She was buried near her husband in Luther Valley cemetery, where so many of her family have found their last resting place. Their children were:

Ole, born October 13, 1798.

Gullik, born May 8, 1801.

Paul, born November, 1803.

Halvor. (no date)

Kari, born 1807.

Gjermund, born January 27, 1815.

Lars, born January 17, 1818,

Herbrand, born October 3, 1822.

¹ Vegli—The correct form at that time.

CHAPTER X.

Ole Halvorsen's Branch of Skavlem Family

Ole Halvorsen's branch of the Skavlem family. Lead mines. Return to Rock County. Early death. Ole O. Skavlem. Marshall Academy. Merchant. Visit to ancestral homes. Uncle Halvor. A surprise. Member of Parliament. Proud of his Nummedøl uncle. Skavlem-Anderson. The Anderson's. Children. Two school mams.



Mrs. Ragnild Skavlem's Family (1863)

Bergit

Ole

Thor

OLE HALVORSEN SKAVLEM.

Born October 13, 1798 at Nordre-Skavlem in Veggli Parish, Nummedal, Norway. His wife was Ragnild Thorsdatter Risteigen, born in Veggli Parish, May 5, 1805.

In 1841, accompanied by his parents and his brother Paul and family, he with his family consisting then of wife and one child, Halvor, emigrated to America, arriving at the Rock Prairie settlement, Rock County, Wis., sometime in the fore part of September, where he first found a home with his brother, Lars Skavlem, his family spent the first winter on Rock Prairie, while he sought employment in the lead mining country about Mineral Point, and in the spring moved his family to Hamilton's diggings (Wiota). After spending four years in the lead mining district, he returned again to Rock County, and located on a piece of land in Sec. 14, T. 2 N, R. 10 E., where he engaged in farming and continued to reside until the time of his death which occurred September 7, 1855. The family continued to reside on the farm until 1865, when the farm was sold, and

Mrs. Skavlem bought a home near the Luther Valley parsonage in what was platted as the village of Bornetz; there she continued to reside until the time of her death, February 18, 1869.

Of their children several died in infancy of which there is no record. Halvor, born in Norway, 1839, died in Rock County, Wis., 1850.

Thor, born near Wiota, Wis., May 24, 1843.

Bergit, born in Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis., May 31, 1847, died at same place, April 27, 1865.

Ole, born in Spring Valley, Rock County, October 15, 1853.

Ole Halvorsen Skavlem was a handy man with carpenter's tools—an expert axman or “tömmersmand”—that is, builder of the old styled hewn and finely jointed log buildings that constituted the architecture of the Nummedal farm buildings of that day. At the time of his marriage his father set apart a piece of the old Skavlem farm, where Ole built himself a house with the necessary out-buildings and established a home of his own, which he occupied until his emigration to this country.

Dying in the early days of pioneer life, he had but a very slight glimpse of the rich endowment awaiting his posterity in both material and cultural progress.

Of quiet and peaceful temperament he acted the simple part that destiny allotted him, with that faithful integrity so characteristic of the old family, and when he passed away the unanimous verdict of friends and neighbors was, that an honest man had gone to his reward.

THOR O. SKAVLEM.

Thor was born near Wiota, Wis., May 24, 1843; lived with his parents, and after the death of his father, assisted his mother in the work on the farm until that was sold, then he went to Clayton County, Iowa, where he was engaged in farm work until called home by the death of his mother in 1869. He then went with his uncle, Abram Holverson, to Kansas where he spent several years. About 1872 he located in Lake Township, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, where he purchased land, built and improved the same, and continued to reside there, keeping “batchelor’s hall” until 1907, when he sold his farm and moved to Stoughton, Wis., where he has since made his home with his brother, Ole. He never married.

BERGIT SKAVLEM.

Bergit, was born at the old Skavlem home in Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis., May 31, 1847. She spent the most of her life at home assisting her mother and brother Thor in farm work, during the war times of the “sixties.” In those days help was scarce and prices high, and many of the young girls took a man’s place in the harvest



Mr. and Mrs. Ole O. Skavlem and Family
Owen Mabel John Rebecca

field, as well as other kinds of outdoor farm work, and Bergit did her share until sickness and death terminated a young and promising life, April 27, 1865.

OLE OLSEN SKAVLEM.

Ole O. was born in Spring Valley Township, Rock County, Wis., Oct. 15, 1853. He lived with his mother until the time of her death in 1869, after which he made his home with his uncle, Lars Skavlem. He had received the usual common school education; this was supplemented by several terms at the Marshall Academy.

In 1876 he located at Fergus Falls, Minn., where he engaged in a general merchandise business. Fergus Falls at that time being a small village, twenty-five miles from a railroad. In 1884, he changed his business to that of a boot and shoe store.

In 1898 he closed out his business at Fergus Falls, and spent a season on the Pacific Coast. In the spring of 1900, he moved to Stoughton, Wis., where he soon engaged in the hardware business, which he continued up to the present time.

On June 10, 1886, Mr. Skavlem married Miss Matilda Anderson,¹ of Fergus Falls, Minn.; they were married at Deerfield, Dane County, Wis., at the home of her uncle, S. S. Bøe. her uncle, Rev. Nils Bøe, officiating.

They have four children:

Owen Benjamin, born at Fergus Falls, March 18, 1887.

Rebecca Janet, born at Fergus Falls, October 28, 1888.

Mabel Caroline, born at Fergus Falls, July 2, 1890.

John Harvey, born at Fergus Falls, December 26, 1893.

Mr. Skavlem and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

¹ Matilda Anderson was born May 6, 1866, at Deerfield, Dane County, Wis. Her parents were John E. and Martha Sjursdatter (Haugsjerd) Anderson.

John E. Anderson, born April 30, 1841, at Volestrand, Storöen Parish, Norway; emigrated with his parents to the United States in 1851; they located on a farm in Deerfield Township, Dane County, Wis. The parents' names were Endre (Eldrvaag) and Mathiana (Lindaas) Bøe.

On May 6, 1861, John E. Anderson, enlisted in Co. K, 3d Wis. Vol. Inf., and served during the War of the Rebellion, participating in many a hard fought battle. He was twice wounded, and was mustered out of service at Louisville, Ky., July 18, 1865.

While home on a furlough, January 24, 1863, he married Martha Sjursdatter Haugsjerd, born at Volestrand, Storöen Parish, Norway, September 9, 1839.

In 1866, Mr. Anderson engaged in a general merchandise business at Marshall, Wis., continuing there in business until 1873, when he moved to Calumet, Mich. After two years in Michigan, he located at Fergus Falls, Minn., where he again established himself in the mercantile business in which he continued until the time of his death, April 6, 1878. His widow, Mrs. Anderson, resided at Fergus Falls, until 1896, when she moved to Stoughton, Wis., where she is now living.

A Visit to Ancestral Homes.

Of all the Skavlem family in America, Ole O. Skavlem is the only one that has visited the land of his forefathers.

In the spring of 1882, Mr. Skavlem made a pleasure trip to Norway, visiting Nummedal—the old farmstead of Nordre Skavlem, and the little home that his father had built when yet a young man, before the vision of America and American opportunities had disturbed the thoughts of the young Nummedal Tømmermand.

Since Halvor Gulliksen and his sons, Ole and Paul, departed for America, in the spring of 1841, none of our people had revisited the ancestral homes, and even the names of the former occupants were forgotten except by a very few old people.

The kind hospitality and many courtesies tendered Mr. Skavlem by the then occupants and owners—to him total strangers, won his admiration and gratitude.

The mountain scenery of deep-cleft gorge, rocky glen, sparkling water-falls and swift-flowing mountain streams were a perpetual delight. Even the "speckled beauties" of the mountain tarn vied with each other in showing the American their appreciation of his Yankee flies,—it was a most delightful place to spend a holiday, but when it came to cutting hay with a jack knife on the rocky moraine, or stripping the leaves off of the birch that screened the rocky ledges of steep hillsides, to help eke out the scanty fodder supply that supported the two cows, three sheep and a goat, that constituted the stock capacity of his father's early home, he offered up a heartfelt thanksgiving to the memory of Grandfather Halvor, who made it possible for his parents to change their Skafelheim—(home on the drift), to a home in the fertile Rock River Valley, in Southern Wisconsin.

A Visit with Uncle Halvor.

As previously stated there was but one of the Skavlem family left in Norway, and that was Uncle Halvor, whose home was in Flesberg, a sub-parish of Svenne Parish, farther down the Nummedal.

Uncle Halvor had been a thrifty and successful farmer, and was the owner of two farms, the farm where he lived was called Lande. He was a widower and had three grown up children.

Bergit, the oldest was married to Niri Kolkin.

Sebjörn and Kari were single, they all lived with their father at Lande.

At the time of Mr. Skavlem's visit Hr. Lande had turned the management of his home farm to his son-in-law, Niri Kolkin, with whom he made his home, and was enjoying the well-earned rest of a long and strenuous life. He kept well posted on the current events of the day by a faithful perusal of his daily paper, the "Morgen-

Posten" (Morning Post), from Christiana. His oldest daughter, Bergit, was the wife of Niri Kolkin "Stortingsmand" (member of Parliament) from Buskeruds Amt, and this fact—perhaps, partly at least—explained Uncle Lande's keen interest in the political questions of the day.

Mr. Skavlem has furnished me the following interesting account of his visit at Lande:

I called on Uncle Halvor on my way up the Nummedal Valley, expecting to give him a complete surprise, as I had no idea that he had any knowledge of my arrival in the country, but the hotel arrivals published in the "Morgen Posten" had preceded me, and uncle was expecting me. Unwittingly, however, I gave him a much greater surprise than I expected to, by arriving unannounced. Arriving at his place, I greeted a pleasant old gentleman in the best Nummedöl dialect I could command, with a pleasant good morning, then introduced myself as Ole O. Skavlem from America, adding that I was his brother Ole's son, and then rattled off a few common-place remarks all in good old Nummedöl dialect. He appeared utterly upset, he could only clasp my hand more firmly, seemed unable to utter a word—his face quivered with emotion—then the tears began to trickle down his cheeks, and the first words he uttered were, "And you can speak Norwegian too, though you were born in America. Oh! so many times I have longed to see some of my American relatives. I had almost given up the hope, it is so long since they all went away." The tongue-tied spell was broken, and my visit with Uncle Halvor was on in earnest. That I enjoyed all the pleasures of old-time Norse hospitality administered with that unconscious glow of love and friendship that the bond of kinship guarantees to all Norsemen, goes without saying.

Several days after our first meeting, he apologized for his "childish behavior" at my first greeting, by telling me of seeing my name in the list of arrivals at the Hotel Skandinavie, in Christiania. He told his folks "that must be a son of my brother, Ole from America, and he will undoubtedly make us a visit. What can we do? Most likely he cannot speak our language, and certainly we will not understand him."

When he heard me speak his own dialect like a native home-grown Nummedöl it was such a surprise—"he could not help it, he was childish—he had to cry." Aye, but I felt proud to be able to call that big-hearted, good, honest old Nummedöl my uncle.

After a three months' most delightful and pleasant sojourn in the land of our forefathers, I again called on Uncle Lande, to bid him good-bye, and carry his greetings to his kin in far-off America. Hard as he strove to repress his emotions, moisture again came to his eyes as he thanked me for my visit, and said, "You will probably be the only one I will ever see of my American relatives. I am get-

ting old and my time here may not be so very long—fare you well, and carry my heartfelt greetings and God's blessings to all the Skavlems in America.”

Two years later I received word that Hr. Lande had passed to the world beyond.

OWEN BENJAMIN SKAVLEM.

Owen Benjamin was born in Fergus Falls, Minn., March 18, 1887, moving with his parents to Stoughton, Wis., in 1900; graduate of the Stoughton High School; then attended St. Olaf College at Northfield, Minn., for two years, returning to Stoughton, he entered the hardware business with his father where he still is engaged.

REBECCA JANET SKAVLEM.

Rebecca Janet, born October 29, 1888, in Fergus Falls, Minn.; resides with her parents; graduate of Stoughton High School; attended the State University at Madison for two years; is now a teacher in the Stoughton public school.

MABEL CAROLINE SKAVLEM.

Mabel Caroline, born July 9, 1890, in Fergus Falls, Minn.; graduate of Stoughton High School; also graduate of State Normal School, at Milwaukee, Wis.; is now teaching at Stoughton, Wis.

JOHN HARVEY SKAVLEM.

John Harvey, born in Fergus Falls, Minn., December 20, 1893; graduate of Stoughton High School—valedictorian—received a scholarship to St. Olaf's College at Northfield, Minn., where he attended one year, then entered the Wisconsin University at Madison, where he is now a junior in the Medical Course.

CHATER XI.

Gullik Halvorsen's Branch of Skavlem Family

Gullik Halvorsen's branch of the Skavlem family. Gullik assumes the name of Blakestad. Early settler on Rock Prairie. Rumpus in the cornfield. Gullik's mistake. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Blakestad. Home in "Prairie Schooner." Large family. Blakestad children.

GULLIK HALVORSEN SKAVLEM.

(GULLIK BLAKESTAD.¹)

Gullik Halvorsen Skavlem, born May 8, 1801, and educated at the parochial school of the parish, and grew to manhood at the parental home of Nordre Skavlem. He served his four years of military training, and in 1831, married Barbro Olsdatter,² of the Blakestad farm, Rollaug Parish, Nummedal, Barbro being the only child and heir. After his marriage Gullik took charge of the Blakestad farm, and according to the custom of the country assumed the name of Blakestad.

In 1839, he, with his family joined the Nattestad emigrant party for America, and in the fall of that year arrived at Jefferson Prairie, Rock County, Wis. Providing accommodations for his family at Jefferson Prairie, he soon thereafter selected the place for his future home, locating about two miles northwest of the little village of Beloit on government land, being the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, T 1, N., R. 12 E.

Louis O. Blakestad, under date of January 11, 1915, Lyle, Minn., gives the following as the "best recollections" of his mother Bergit Blakestad of their first winter in America:

"Mother says grandpa rented a house the first winter they lived on Jefferson Prairie. There were other people living with them

¹ In J. W. C. Dietrichson's book entitled, "Travels Among the Norwegian Emigrants in the United States," published in Norway in 1846, he speaks of Gullik Halvorsen Skavlem, from Rollaug Parish, as the first Norwegian settler on Rock Prairie, and gives the date as 1839. This date is incorrect. The only Norwegian settler on Rock Prairie, in 1839, was Gullik Gravdal, but Gullik Blakestad (Skavlem) may have been the second settler, early in the spring of 1840.

We also find Gullik Skavlem referred to in "Hist. Norw. Immigration,"—Flom, on pages 143, 144, in "De Norske Settlementer's Histori,"—Holand, we find Gullik H. Skavlem, p 128. and p. 403. From this it will be seen that Gullik must have answered to both the names Skavlem and Blakestad after he came to this country, in the records of the land office we find his name as Goelik Halvorsen, with both Skavlem and Blakestad left out.

²Barbro Olsdatter Blakestad was born on the Blakestad homestead, Rollaug Parish, Nummedal, Norway, January 1, 1796, and died in Mitchell County, Iowa, December 3, 1854.

during the winter, among whom she remembers the names, Gulbrand Froegne, and Gunuld Vindeg—she thinks that Gjermund Skavlem also lived there at least a part of the time.” (Gjermund spent at least the forepart of the winter in Chicago.—H. L. S.)

“Mother cannot say for sure what time in the spring they moved into their new home; probably May or first part of June. She thinks the size of the house was 14x16, with a loft for a sleeping room; there were two windows and a fire-place in one corner. She says the first house that grandfather built was not exactly a dugout, but it was dug into the sloping hillside about three feet, and then built of logs. She says the men that helped grandpa build the house, worked part of the time for Mrs. Odegarden, and part of the time for grandpa, as they both built at the same time. Grandpa had one ax, and Mrs. Odegarden had only one, so for convenience they worked the two together, a spell at each place, as most needed.

“The only wagon they had was one made by grandpa; this was called a “kubberulle,” it was entirely homemade, the wheels being five or six inch cuts from the butt end of a large log. With this they did all their hauling after the snow went off.”

It is now impossible to settle definitely as to the priority of Gullik Blakestad or Gunil Odegardens moving into their new homes on Rock Prairie in the spring of 1840. Mrs. Odegarden was undoubtedly the second settler in the town of Newark, while either Blakestad or Hallan was the first *Norwegian* settler in the town of Beloit, the same spring.

Mr. Blakestad's house may have been the second Norwegian home in the Rock Prairie settlement, giving Odegarden and Hallan the benefit of the doubt, it still ranked as the fourth Norwegian home in the Rock Prairie settlement.

This unpretentious pioneer home had a wonderful capacity for accommodating those of his countrymen who as yet had no shelter of their own.

Pioneer hospitality required no modification of Norwegian ideas of helpfulness. They were always glad and willing to share their homes with those in less fortunate circumstances. Gullik Blakestad was no exception, strong in physique, and a true Norseman in his rugged character of absolute honesty, he always gave and demanded a “square deal.”

Hon. H. H. Peterson (Halvor Pederson Haugan), who has written some very interesting reminiscences of the old Rock Prairie settlement,³ gives us this bit of a character sketch of Gullik Blakestad.

“Among the additions to the Blakestad neighborhood was a

³ Dr. J. S. Johnson's collection of manuscript notes on Rock Prairie Settlement. Dr. J. S. Johnson, St. Paul, Minn.

man who had the reputation of being unable to distinguish his neighbor's property from his own.

In the fall Blakestad noticed that the corn was disappearing from his cornfield, and he had a pretty fair idea where his corn went to.

One evening when it was quite dark he heard some one stumbling about in the cornfield, and concluded that it must be his neighbor who had mistaken his (Blakestad's) cornfield for his own. He decided then and there to cure his neighbor of this hallucination, and forthwith made for the cornfield. He soon got his man, and immediately proceeded to give him a double dose of Norwegian and pioneer justice. The man yelled all kinds of "bloody murder," and begged piteously for mercy, but Gullik was determined to administer a dose sufficient to warrant a cure, and so was rather slow to let up.

When he had given the intruder a real good trouncing he discovered much to his surprise, that he had the wrong man. It was not his neighbor with the shady reputation, but "Tullingen," a half-witted, harmless character, that subsisted on the charity of the settlement. Apologizing to the "tulling" for the awkward mistake, he took him to the house, washed him up, brought out the liniment bottle (turpentine), and ordered his wife to give the man the best supper the house could furnish, then fixed him up a good bed to sleep in. In the morning the "tulling" got up, thanked his host for "good cheer and a comfortable bed," and started out to warn everybody to steer clear of Blakestad's cornfield after dark.

Next day the neighbor's boy met Blakestad's daughter, and asked, "Who done that awful hollering in the cornfield last night?"

A-w, she said, "It was the 'tulling.' Pa gave him a licking."

"Why did he lick the 'tulling?'" said the boy.

"A-w," said the girl, "Pa made a mistake. He thought it was your father stealing his corn." Blakestad missed no more corn.

By 1851 Blakestad's prosperity had outgrown the semi-dug-out, and he built a good sized two-story stone house, and made other substantial farm improvements.

In 1853, Rev. C. L. Clausen led a large party of emigrants from Rock Prairie, to Mitchell County, Iowa.

With this party was Ole Blakestad,⁴ who went out to investigate the prospects of the Iowa settlement, returning to Rock County in the fall with a favorable report of the new colony. Gullik Blakestad disposed of his farm in the spring of 1854, and accompanied his son-in-law to Mitchell County, Iowa, where he joined the Clausen colony, locating again on government land. Gullik Blakestad and his son-in-law, Ole Blakestad, again took up the pioneer task of building a home in the wilderness. Mrs. Ole Blakestad, daughter of Gullik Blakestad, now in her 80th year, speaking of the incidental hardships of those pioneer days says: "After arriving at our destination in Mitchell county, we lived in our emigrant wagon

during the summer, until the forepart of September, when we moved into our new home. We did all our cooking over an outdoor camp-fire, similar to the neighborly Indians, who were always friendly, and often brought us fresh venison in trade for bread and other delicacies that we could offer in exchange. (The Indians were Winnebagoes, that had but a few years before been removed from Southern Wisconsin, and undoubtedly some of these had been Mr. Blakestad's Indian neighbors during his pioneer days in Wisconsin—H. L. S.)

Mrs. Blakestad says their prairie-schooner home was quite comfortable during the dry weather, as the outside bedroom was roomy, and they had no trouble with opening the windows for fresh air. The upper berth—in the wagon—was dedicated to the ladies and children, consisting of Mrs. Ole Blakestad, her two little children, and her mother, while the lower berth, generally under the wagon, was the sleeping apartment of the two Blakestads, Ole and Gullik. During stormy weather there wasn't much spare room when all six were at home in the upper story. During the latter part of September Ole Blakestad's family was increased by the arrival of another son, Olaus (Louis, my valued assistant in the collection of data for these memoirs.) The elder Mrs. Blakestad was not destined to long enjoy the comforts of the new home. Shortly after its occupation she was taken sick, and on December 3, 1854, the strenuous life work of this pioneer in two states was closed.

After his wife's death, Gullik Blakestad continued to reside with his son-in-law, Ole Blakestad and assisted in the building up and improvement of the farm jointly located by them in 1854; with but short intervals, this continued to be his home until the time of his death which occurred, June 6, 1864.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad were among the first members of the Lutheran congregation at Rock Prairie, and when they came to Mitchell County, Iowa, they there found their old pastor, Rev. C. L. Clausen, and again joined his church of which they were active and honored members until the time of their death.

BERGIT GULLIKSDATTER BLAKESTAD

(Mrs. OLE O. BLAKESTAD)

Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad had one child, *Bergit*, born in the sub-parish of Veggli, Nummedal, Norway, July 6, 1835. With her parents she came to America in 1839, living with her parents until 1849, when she married Ole Olson Narum⁴.

⁴ Ole Olsen Narum was born on the farm Narum in Gol Parish, Hallingdal, Norway, September 4, 1820; emigrated to United States in 1845, coming to Rock Prairie the same year, and made his home with Kleofas Halvorsen Hansemoen most of the time until 1849, when he married Bergit Gulliksdatter Blakestad, and went to live with his father-in-law, Gullik Blakestad. After his marriage he adopted the name of Blakestad.



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Blakestad and Family

Barbro
Halvor

Gullik

Louis
Mina

Andrew

Julia
SophiaEdward
Oliver

(Grouped from Photos '68 to '90.)

With her husband she continued to reside with her parents until 1854, when they, accompanied by her parents, moved to Mitchell County, Iowa, as previously stated in the sketch of her father, Gullik Blakestad. It appears that Gullik Blakestad merged all his property, with that of his son-in-law, Ole O. (Narum) Blakestad;⁴ Mrs. Ole Blakestad being his only child and heir, and so the title to the Iowa homestead was taken in the name of Ole O. Blakestad. This was located in the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 21, T. 100, R. 18, W., on the banks of Cedar River, Mitchell County, Iowa. Here Mr. and Mrs. Ole Blakestad continued to reside and raised their large and interesting family. To Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad eleven children were born—one dying at the age of nine years, the others attaining the age of maturity.

Barbro Oline, born in Rock County, Wis., June 22, 1850; died April 4, 1888.

Gullik, born in Rock County, Wis., March 15, 1852; died April 13, 1906.

Olaus (Louis), born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1854.

Andrew, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Aug. 1, 1857; died Nov. 20, 1890.

Julia Rosina, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, March 18, 1859.

Edward, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Nov. 16, 1861.

Halvor, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Jan. 17, 1864.

Ambjör Sophia, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Nov. 18, 1866.

Mina Regina, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, March 30, 1869.

Geo. Oliver, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Oct. 19, 1871.

Bernt Oscar, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Sept. 19, 1874; died May 9, 1885. *died*

Ole Blakestad ~~met with an accidental death on the 8th day of August, 1887, being run-over by a train of cars, he being in the latter years of his life, totally deaf, and thus unaware of the approach of the moving train.~~ * Mrs. Blakestad continued to reside on the old homestead until 1907, when she moved to Lyle, Minn., where she now makes her home with her son, Louis O. Blakestad, enjoying good health for a person of her advanced years, and rich in memories of that pioneer life in which she so faithfully acted her part.

** Mistaken identity cause of this error
Blakestad died a natural death*

CHAPTER XII.

The Blakestads Continued

Barbro Blakestad-Anderson. The Andersons—Henry O. Anderson-Everson. The Ever-
sons—Anna Marie Anderson-Hunter—The Hunters—Bertha L. Anderson-Robert-
son. The Robertsons—Ida E. Anderson. Ralph A. Anderson. G. Rufus Anderson-
Hanson. The Hansons—Gullik O. Blakestad, farmer, G. O. Blakestad-Jeglum. The
Jeglums—child-ren, Mrs. Laura Buringsrud, Otto George Blakestad, farmer, O. G.
Blakestad-Rust. The Rusts—children, Louis Blakestad, Andrew Blakestad, banker
and merchant, A Blakestad-Marsh. The Marshes—Imo Dell Blakestad, Julia R.
Erickson. The Ericksons—daughter, Edward Blakestad, merchant, E. Blake-
stad-Simpson. The Simpsons—children, Moves to Texas, Manufacturer, Oscar,
Viola and Anna Blakestad, Halvor Blakestad, farmer, H. Blakestad-Jacobsen. The
Jacobsens—Ambjõe Sophia Blakestad-Olsen. The Olsens—children, Ruth Irene-
Carlson. The Carlsons—Mina Regina Blakestad-Gaarder. The Gaarders—children,
Geo. Oliver Blakestad, merchant, G. O. Blakestad-Williams. The Williams—children.

BARBRO OLINE BLAKESTAD.

MRS. BARBRO O. (BLAKESTAD) ANDERSON.

Barbro Oline was born on the Blakestad farm in the town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., July 22, 1850. With her parents she moved to Mitchell County, Iowa, in the spring of 1854, there she grew to womanhood in her father's home, receiving the usual public school education of those pioneer days.

At the age of twenty-one she married Andrew H. Anderson,¹ of Washington County, Nebraska, where she assumed the duties of a homesteader's wife. Mr. Anderson prospered in business, and soon changed from the pioneer farmer to that of a more mercantile life. For several years they resided at Wahoo, Neb.; from there they moved to Lyle, Minn., which place continued to be their home until the time of their death. Both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were members of the Lutheran Church, and were liberal in their aid and support of the same.

¹ Anders Halvorsen Lysager (Andrew H. Anderson), was born at the Lysager farmstead in Eker Parish, near Drammen, Norway, Nov. 15, 1842. He emigrated with his parents, Halvor Anderson and Anne Marie Haagensdatter Lysager to the United States in 1853, first locating in Racine County, Wis. The next spring they moved to Otranto, Mitchell County, Iowa, where they continued to reside until their death. Andrew H. Anderson lived with his parents until of mature age. He commenced business for himself as a homesteader in Washington County, Nebraska, in 1868. Later on we find him a lumber merchant in Wahoo, Nebraska, and from there he moved to Lyle, Minn., where he spent the balance of his life as merchant and banker. Mr. Anderson was a conservative, reliable and successful business man, in whom the public and his large circle of business associates had implicit confidence.

Mr. Anderson died at Lyle, Minn., October 29, 1910.

Mrs. Anderson died at Lyle, Minn., April 4, 1888, leaving a large family and circle of friends to mourn the loss of a good mother and pleasant companion.

To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, seven children were born.

Henry Oliver, born in Washington County, Neb., Dec. 29, 1872.

Anna Maria, born in Washington County, Neb., May 24, 1875.



Andrew H. Anderson's family. (Photo 1889)

Ida

Oliver

Maria

Bertha

Arthur

Rufs

Bertha Louise, born in Washington County, Neb., Aug. 18, 1877.

Ida Emilia, born in Wahoo, Neb., April 14, 1880.

Carl Arthur, born in Lyle, Minn., Jan. 11, 1883; died Jan. 22, 1883.

Ralph Arthur, born in Lyle, Minn., March 13, 1884.

Guy Rufus, born in Lyle, Minn., Jan. 23, 1887.

HENRY OLIVER ANDERSON.

Henry Oliver, was born in Washington County, Neb., Dec. 29, 1872. With his parents he came to Lyle, Minn., in the year 1880. While a young lad Henry O., when not in school, assisted his father in the hardware store. After finishing his public school education, he attended the Valder Business College, at Decorah, Ia., where he graduated in the Commercial Department after which time he assisted his father in the bank at Lyle, Minn.



Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Anderson and Family

Evelyn Russell Merle

In 1894, in company with his uncle, Louis Blakestad, he engaged in the hardware business in Blooming Prairie, Minn. After several years he disposed of this business and moved to Crookston, Minn., where he was engaged for a time in the lumber business, and afterwards dealt in farm implements and fuel for a number of years. Then he disposed of this business and accepted a position as traveling salesman for the Superior Manufacturing Company, Superior, Wis., and remained with them for nearly two years. At present he is employed as book-keeper for the Merchants' National Bank,

Crookston, Minn. His residence is Crookston, Minn., where he has resided for the past twelve years.

On September 2, 1896, he was married to Maline Gunelia Everson,¹ of Mitchell County, Iowa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Anderson four children were born.

Russell Othello, born at Blooming Prairie, Minn., Oct. 15, 1897.

Evelyn Laurretta, born at Blooming Prairie, Minn., Aug. 2, 1899.

William Merle, born at Blooming Prairie, Minn., Sept. 9, 1902.

Iver Andrew, born at Crookston, Minn., May 7, 1908. (He does not appear in the family picture, as the group picture was taken before his arrival.)

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the English United Lutheran Church. Mr. Anderson is also a member of the Masonic Order and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mrs. Anderson is a member of the Eastern Star Order.

¹ Maline Gunelia Everson was born in Mitchell County, Iowa, February 18, 1878. Her parents are Iver and Anne (Björndal) Everson.

Iver Everson was born in Gol Parish, Hallingdal, Norway, Aug. 4, 1839, and came to the United States with his parents in 1845, his parents first locating in Rock County, Wis. In 1849 they moved to Clayton County, Iowa, and in 1854, again moved to Mitchell County, Iowa, where they engaged in farming until death. Iver Everson's parents names were Knut and Gunil Olsdatter Hustad; both were born in Gol Parish, Norway. Knut was born December 1, 1813; died in Mitchell County, Iowa, April 29, 1884. Gunil—born May 25, 1816; died in Mitchell County, Iowa, April 18, 1888. This is another instance of the loss of old pioneer records to their descendants by the unfortunate changing of names. Knut Hustad is referred to in Flom's History of Norwegian Emigration, p. 364. See also Holand's "Norske Settlementer Historie," p. 331.

Anne Björndal, born in Mower County, Minn., September 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Everson now reside in Mitchell County, Iowa.

ANNA MARIE ANDERSON.

(MRS. ANNA M. HUNTER.)

Anna Marie Anderson, born in Washington County, Neb., May 24, 1875, came with her parents to Lyle, Minn., in 1880, received a common school education at Lyle, Minn., and later attended Carlton College, at Northfield, Minn., for a short time. Worked in stores as saleslady at Blooming Prairie, Minn., and Kensett, Iowa, working at the latter place until time of her marriage. Married to William Ralph Hunter,¹ Dec. 28, 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter established their home at Kensett, Iowa, where Mr. Hunter was in the newspaper business, where they resided until October, 1903, when they moved to Lyle, Minn., where they still reside.

Mrs. Hunter is a member of the Congregational Church at Lyle, Minn.

Mr. Hunter is a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias fraternal orders.

Mr. Hunter has always affiliated with the Republican party.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have two children.

Barbara Belle, born at Kensett, Iowa, July 19, 1899.

Palma Frances, born at Lyle, Minn., April 18, 1904.

¹ William Ralph Hunter was born in Kensett Township, Worth County, Iowa, the 18th day of August, 1874. His parents were Kate Belle Woodward, born at Jasper Corners, New York, Nov. 18, 1856, and Gaylor Graves Hunter, born at Whitewater, Wis., July 16, 1853. They now reside at Minneapolis, Minn. The Woodwardes were of English and French descent, and the Hunters were of Scotch descent. When about four years of age he moved to Northwood, Iowa, with his parents. He entered the public schools at that place, graduating from the High School in 1891. He then served an apprenticeship as a printer, which he followed for three years. For two years he was in the employ of the United States Express Company, at Decorah, Ia., Burlington, Ia., and Cedar Rapids, Ia., after which time he came back to Kensett, Iowa, where he was editor and publisher of the *Kensett News* for five years. Moving to Lyle, in 1903, where for a year and a half he was engaged in real estate and insurance business, afterwards entering the employ of the Lyle Corrugated Culvert Company, as traveling salesman and office man, which he followed until Sept. 1, 1913, when he entered the Shoe and Gents' Furnishing business which he is still conducting.

BERTHA LOUISE ANDERSON.

(MRS. BERTHA L. ROBERTSON.)

Bertha Louise Anderson, was born in Wahoo, Saunders County, Neb., August 18, 1877; moved with her parents to Lyle, Minn., in 1880; grew to womanhood in the parental home. She received her early education in the public schools at Lyle, Minn.;



Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Robertson and Family
Merwyn Marlus

spent one-half year at the Lutheran Normal School at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and one year at Valders Business College at Decorah, Iowa. She taught school in the Pleasant Prairie School in Mitchell County, Iowa, during the years 1895 and 1896; was employed as Assistant Postmaster at Lyle for about five years. She was married

to B. J. Robertson.¹ on Nov. 11, 1903, who was then postmaster at Lyle.

Two children have blessed this union.

Merwyn A., born at Lyle, Minn., May 28, 1909.

Marlus Nona, born at Minneapolis, Minn., June 26, 1913.



Ida Emelie Anderson

IDA EMELIE ANDERSON.

Miss Ida Emelie Anderson was born in Wahoo, Saunders County, Neb., April 14, 1880; moved with her parents to Lyle, Minn., when a few months old, and grew to womanhood in the parental home. Received education in the Lyle public school; later specialized in piano, studying at Carlton College, Northfield, Minn., and at Northwestern Conservatory, at Minneapolis. She later studied with Mrs. Katherin Gray, of St. Paul. Taught music in Lyle and surrounding towns until 1904; employed as assistant

¹Burton J. Robertson was born in Mower County, Minn., May 3, 1882. Father, Geo. Robertson (Scotch), born near Janesville, Wis.; Mother, Sarah Marsh (German-English), born near Waupun, Wis. Mr. Robertson was postmaster at Lyle, Minn., and manager and secretary of the Lyle Telephone Company from 1903 to 1912. He resigned and moved with his family to Minneapolis, Minn., to complete education as electrical engineer at the University of Minnesota, which degree he will receive in June, 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson are members of the Congregational Church.

postmaster at Lyle for about five years. In the fall of 1911, went to Los Angeles, Cal., studying piano there with Mr. W. T. Spangler, returning to Minneapolis in 1914, to make her home with her sister, Mrs. Robertson. At present she is coaching in piano with Miss Helga Olson, of Minneapolis. Confirmed in Lutheran Church.

RALPH ARTHUR ANDERSON.

Ralph Arthur, born in the village of Lyle, Mower County, Minn., March 13, 1884. Attended the public school until the age of fifteen, when he went to work in his father's bank, the "Exchange



Arthur Anderson

Bank of Lyle." In 1901, the bank was reorganized and became the "First National Bank of Lyle." R. A. Anderson then accepted a position with the Bank of Rose Creek, Minn., which he filled until 1903. He then located in Crookston, Minn., where he was employed in Christianson & Strandens' abstract office, until the spring of 1905, when he accepted a position as bookkeeper in the First National Bank at Crookston, Minn. He held this position until 1910, when he resigned to return to his home town, and accepted the position of cashier of the First National Bank of Lyle—the bank in which he first commenced service at the age of fifteen years, and which position he still occupies. Ralph Arthur is a member of the Lutheran Church—single.

GUY RUFUS ANDERSON.

Guy Rufus, born January 23, 1887; resided with his parents, and attended the public school at Lyle, Minn. This was supplemented with a year's training at the Valders Business College, Decorah, Iowa, and for some time thereafter he assisted his father in his business at Lyle, Minn.

In 1905 he went to Los Angeles, California, where he secured a position in the Merchants' National Bank, where he is at present employed as teller.

In 1910, Mr. Anderson married Genevieve Hansen,¹ of Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two children.

Genevieve June, born at Los Angeles, May 31, 1911.

Marjory, born at Los Angeles, Oct. 11, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are members of the Episcopal Church.

GULLIK O. BLAKESTAD.

Gullik O., born in the town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., March 15, 1852, came to Mitchell County, Iowa, with his parents in the spring of 1854; received a common school education, and grew to manhood on the old Blakestad homestead in Mitchell County, Iowa. He assisted his father in the management of the farm, and later on purchased the old family home where he continued to reside until his death, April 13, 1905.

In 1875, he married Ingeborg Jeglum,² and she took up the management, and became the mistress of the old Blakestad home.

Mr. Blakestad was a thrifty and successful farmer, a respected and useful member of the community in which he lived.

To Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad three children were born.

Sophia Bertina, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, 1875; died Dec. 19, 1891.

Laura Otilia, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Jan. 22, 1878.

Otto George, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Aug. 10, 1879.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad were members of the Lutheran

¹ Genevieve M. Hansen, born in Merrill, Wis., May 20, 1886. Her parents are Charles Fredrick and Julia Frances (Perkins) Hansen. Charles Fredrick, born in Maine, 1854. Julia Frances Perkins, born in Wisconsin, 1858. They are now living in California.

² Ingeborg Jeglum was born in Allamakee County, Iowa, Oct. 11, 1853. Her parents were Lars K. and Sigri (Narum) Jeglum. They emigrated from Gol Parish, Hallingdal, Norway, in 1845, first locating in Rock County, Wis.; later moved to Allamakee County, Iowa, and in 1897, moved to Worth County, Iowa. Lars Jeglum was born in Gol Parish, Hallingdal, Norway, Feb. 16, 1816; died in Worth County, Iowa, May 27, 1904. His wife, Sigri, was born in Gol Parish, Hallingdal, in 1824; died in Worth County, Iowa, Jan. 22, 1899.

Church, always ready to do their share in the upbuilding and support of the same.

Mrs. Blakestad is now living at the old homestead with her daughter, Laura Otilia.



Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Blakestad and Family (Photo about 1890)
Otto Sophia Laura

LAURA OTELIA BLAKESTAD.

(MRS. LAURA BURINGRUD.)

Laura Otelia, was born in Mitchell County, at the old Blakestad homestead, January 22, 1878. She received a common school education and continued her residence at the parental home, assisting her mother in the care and management of the household duties of the farm. In 1897, she married Theodore S. Buringrud of Allamakee County, Iowa, and they continued to make their home with her parents for over a year thereafter.

To them one child was born.

Gaylor Joseph, born Dec. 31, 1897.

The husband failing to support the family, Mrs. Buringrud

sought and secured a decree of separation in 1898. Since that time she has lived with and kept house for her mother. Her son lives with her and is now attending school.

OTTO GEORGE BLAKESTAD.

Otto George, born August 10, 1878, received a common school education, and also two years in the high school; grew to manhood on the Blakestad homestead, and now has the control and management of the same. Mr. Otto Blakestad is extensively engaged in stock raising. The farm is now known as the "River View Farm." Blakestad is a practical and up to date farmer, and successful in his chosen line of business.

In 1902, he married Betsy Gunelia Rust.¹ They have five children.

Sophos Gilmore, born in Mitchell County, Ia., Aug. 23, 1903.

Grace Inez, born in Mitchell County, Ia., May 11, 1906.

Beatrice Ophelia, born in Mitchell County, Ia., Sept. 19, 1907.

Norman Conrad, born in Mitchell County, Ia., Dec. 8, 1908.

Loreen Clarissa, born in Mitchell County Ia., Sept. 9, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad are members of the Lutheran Church.

OLAUS BLAKESTAD.

(LOUIS BLAKESTAD.)

Olaus (changed to Louis), was born on the Blakestad homestead in Mitchell County, Iowa, September 25, 1854.

There had been some hurry up work on the new house so as to have it fit for occupation by the fore part of September, on account of the anticipated addition to the family, and it was but a few days after his parents had vacated their summer home in the emigrant wagon for the comparatively luxurious accommodations of the new log cabin, that Olaus announced the first arrival of a "Hawkeye"² into the Blakestad family group.

In due course of time, Olaus developed into a husky pioneer lad. He grew strong and waxed fat on the wholesome fare of potato-mush and "flatbröd" with plenty of "gammelost" and "prim" as every day luxuries, with now and then a shoulder of venison from

¹ Betsey Gunelia Rust was born in Mitchell County, Iowa, Sept. 25, 1877. Her parents were Stengrim H. and Gunbjor (Rauk) Rust.

Stengrim Rust was born in Gol Parish, Hallingdal, Norway, Dec. 3, 1840; emigrated with his parents to the United States in 1852. They first located in Rock County, Wis., and in 1853, moved to Mitchell County, Iowa. In 1868, Mr. Rust married Gunbjor Rauk, of Mitchell County, Iowa. She was born in Rock County, Wis., Feb. 21, 1850, and is now living at St. Ansgar, Iowa. Stengrim Rust died in Mitchell County, Iowa, Feb. 8, 1914.

² Sobriquet for a native of Iowa.

the Indian meat shop, while an unlimited supply of fresh fish could always be had from the nearby banks of the Cedar River.

Excepting the time spent at the public school, he devoted his time and energies in assisting the family in the development and improvement of the homestead, until he was of age, when he entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, Andrew H. Anderson,



Louis Blakestad

at Wahoo, Nebraska, in the lumber business. He was successfully engaged in this business for a number of years, when he disposed of his interests in the same and entered the hardware business at Blooming Grove, Minn., with his nephew, H. O. Anderson, as partner. After several years of prosperous business in this line, he again made a change; this time moving to Lyle, Minn., where he formed a partnership with his brother, Geo. Oliver, and established the O. G. Blakestad & Co., Furniture and Undertaking firm of Lyle, Minn., in which business he is at present engaged.

He and his brother are also interested in farming, being owners of considerable farm property. Mr. Blakestad is well and favorably known as a successful and reliable business man, in whom the public have the utmost confidence. Mr. Blakestad is unmarried, being the only batchelor "uncle" of the large Blakestad tribe, and right well is he entitled to the endearing designation of "Uncle Louis." He has spent much time in collecting data and material for these sketches, and his valuable aid and assistance has made it possible for the editor to present these—necessarily brief but complete—records of the large and widely dispersed Blakestad family, for which the Blakestads, one and all, owe "Uncle Louis," a debt of gratitude, which I am confident they fully appreciate.

Mr. Blakestad is a valued member of the Lutheran Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Blakestad and Daughter
Imo Dell

ANDREW BLAKESTAD.

Andrew was born in Mitchell County, Iowa, at the Blakestad homestead, August 1, 1857. He grew up at the parental home, receiving the ordinary educational training of a farmer's boy. He assisted the family in the various departments of farm labor until he arrived at the age of maturity. In 1875 he left his parental home to seek his own fortune, first locating at Wahoo, Nebraska, where he secured employment in a dry goods and clothing store. After several years' experience in this business, he established himself in the lumber business, which he conducted for some time with marked success. Disposing of his lumber business, he then acquired an interest in the First National Bank of Wahoo, of which he held the position of president for several years. Resigning his position in the bank, he again took up the mercantile line of business, and became a hardware merchant, which business he was successfully conducting at the time of his death, which occurred at his home in Wahoo, Nebraska, November 20, 1890.

In 1886, Andrew Blakestad married Ida May Marsh,¹ of Wahoo, Nebraska. To them one child was born, Imo Dell, born in Wahoo, Nebraska, March 2, 1887.

IMO DELL BLAKESTAD.

Imo Dell, born at Wahoo, Nebraska, March 2, 1887. The first nine years of her childhood were spent in Nebraska, when her mother moved to Chicago, since that time Miss Blakestad has made that city her home. She was educated in the public schools of Chicago, the Northwestern Academy at Evanston, Ill., La Salle Seminary at Boston, Mass. She also completed a course of laboratory work at the Chicago Polyclinic Laboratories; also one year's study at the Art Institute in Chicago.

Single—and has spent most of her life in Chicago, where she now resides.

JULIA ROSINA BLAKESTAD.

(MRS. JULIA R. ERICKSON.)

Julia Rosina, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, March 18, 1859; received a common school education; she resided at the parental home until 1895, when she married Peder Erickson,² of Ramsey County, North Dakota, and assumed the duties of a farmer's wife, at their home near Fox Lake, where they have continued to reside up to the present time.

To Mr. and Mrs. Erickson, one child was born.

Emma Sophia, born in Ramsey County, North Dakota, April 30, 1898. She resides with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Erickson is a Republican.

¹Ida May (Marsh) Blakestad was born at Dunning, Pa., Dec. 25, 1864. Her parents were Peter and Laura M. (Stevens) Marsh, both natives of Pa.

Peter Marsh, born at Stroudsburg, Pa., June 26, 1814; died at Wahoo, Neb., April 6, 1886.

Laura M. Stevens, born in Lackawana County, Pa., Sept. 7, 1829, died at Wahoo, Neb., May 23, 1893.

²Peder E. Erickson was born in Bindalen Parish, Søndre-Helgeland, Norway, April 27, 1860. His parents were Erick Jorgenson and Sophia Hansdatter Kaalden, of Bindalen, Norway. Peder Erickson emigrated to America in 1854, and first located in Olmsted County, Minn., where he continued to reside for three years, then moved to Ramsey County, North Dakota, and located a homestead near Fox Lake, Ramsey County, which he has built up and improved, and is now the owner of a fine home and farm.



P. E. Erickson Family and Nephew
Mrs. Erickson Sophia



Mr. and Mrs. E. Blakestad and Family
Blanch Oscar Viola

EDWARD BLAKESTAD.

Edward, born at the Blakestad homestead in Mitchell County, Iowa, November 16, 1861. He spent his younger days at the parental home, received a common school education, supplemented by a year's course at the Breckenridge Business College, Decorah, Iowa. In 1883, he went to Wahoo, Nebraska, where first he was occupied in the services of a lumber company. Later on he moved to Cresco, Nebraska, and engaged in the hardware business, which he continued for several years, suffering a severe loss by fire. He moved to Bode, Iowa, where he again engaged in the hardware business, later moving to Lyle, Minn., where he established himself in business, but soon on account of failing health, he was advised to seek a milder climate, and moved to Beeville, Texas, where he is now located, engaged in the manufacture of brooms.

In 1884, Mr. Blakestad married Anna Maria Simpson,¹ of Saunders County, Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad, three children were born.

Oscar, born at Wahoo, Neb., Aug. 23, 1886.

Viola, born at Cresco, Neb., Oct. 3, 1890.

Blanche Josephine, born at Bode, Ia., Sept. 16, 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Blakestad is a Republican.

OSCAR BLAKESTAD.

Oscar, born at Wahoo, Neb., August 23, 1886, resided with his parents; received a common school education, and in 1907, graduated from Elliot's Business College, Burlington, Iowa; spent a year in California; is now book-keeper for a lumber company at Beeville, Texas.

VIOLA BLAKESTAD.

Viola, born at Cresco, Iowa, Oct. 3, 1890; lived with her parents; received a common school education, graduated in 1907, from Beeville High School, attended Stanley Hall College at Minneapolis, Minn., 1912, and 1913, Sam Houston Normal at Huntsville Texas, graduating in 1914 from the Domestic Science Department. Is now teaching at Oakville, Texas.

¹ Anna Maria Simonsdatter Krogstad (Simpson), born in Eker Parish, Norway, July 31, 1864. Emigrated with her mother, then a widow, to the United States in 1874, and located in Saunders County, Nebraska, where she resided until her marriage to Mr. Blakestad. Her parents were Simon and Maren Krogstad, of Eker, Norway. Simon Krogstad died in Norway; her mother, Maren Krostad, died at Bode, Iowa, February, 1898.

BLANCH JOSEPHENE BLAKESTAD.

Blanch Josephene, born September 16, 1896; educated at Beeville public schools, and is now staying at home with her parents.



Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Blakestad (1915)

HALVOR BLAKESTAD.

Halvor was born at the old Blakestad homestead in Mitchell County, Iowa, January 17, 1864. He lived at his parents home until the age of 21, when he went to Cass County, North Dakota, and engaged in farm work.

In 1901, he married Inger Jacobsen,¹ of Cass County, North Dakota, and soon thereafter purchased a farm in Mitchell County, Iowa, to which place they then moved, and where they still reside. Farming has always been Mr. Blakestad's occupation, and he now has a well tilled and up-to-date farm and comfortable home.

¹ Inger Jacobsen was born in Eker Parish, Norway, December 26, 1866. Her parents were Rasmus Jacobsen Knive and mother's, maiden name, Maren Kathrine Larsdatter. Have no date of their birth or death. They died when she was a little girl. They resided in Eker, Norway. In 1894, she came to the United States, and located in Cass County, North Dakota, where she resided until married.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad have no children. They are members of the Lutheran Church.

In politics Mr. Blakestad is a Republican.



Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Olson and Family
 Raymond Ruth Stella
 Clifford Viola

AMBJÖR SOPHIA BLAKESTAD.

(MRS. AMBJÖR SOPHIA OLSEN).

Ambjör Sophia, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, November 18, 1866; received the ordinary education of a pioneer farmer's daughter; resided with her parents, and assisted in the work and management of the parental home, until her marriage to Christian K. Olsen,¹ in 1892, when she assumed the duties of a farmer's wife, at

¹ Christian K. Olsen was born in Næs Parish, Hallingdal, Norway, November 8, 1854. His parents were Kittil and Karine Störksdatter Olsen. Kittil Olsen was born in Flø Hallingdal, Norway, and died at Ulen, Minn., 1898. Karine Olsen was born on a farm named Stubberud, near Drammen, Norway, and died at Sioux Rapids, Iowa, 1895. In 1871, Mr. Olsen emigrated to the United States, and first located in Green County, Wis., where he lived for five years, then spent one year in Rock County, Wis.; from there he went to Cass County, North Dakota, where he took up a homestead. In 1906 he moved with his family to Holdfast Sask., Canada, his present home.

their home in Cass County, North Dakota. In 1906 Mr. Olsen, with his family moved to Holdfast, Saskatchewan, where Mr. and Mrs. Olsen again took up the pioneer's life on a homestead. Industrious, thrifty and hard-working people, they now enjoy the fruits of their labors in a comfortable home surrounded by a bright and interesting family of five children, namely:

Raymond Arthur, born in Cass County, N. D., July 29, 1894.

Ruth Irene, born in Cass County, N. D., Jan. 18, 1898.

Stella Caspara, born in Cass County, N. D., Aug. 6, 1899.

Alice Viola, born in Cass County, N. D., March 15, 1902.

Clifford Oscar, born in Cass County, N. D., March 21, 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Olsen are members of the Lutheran Church.

RUTH IRENA OLSEN.

(MRS. RUTH IRENA CARLSON).

Ruth Irena, born in Cass County, North Dakota, January 18, 1898; received a common school education; resided with her parents, and moved with them to Holdfast, Sask., Canada, in 1906, where she continued to make her home with her parents until 1914, when she married Archie Carlson,¹ of Marine Mills, Washington County, Minn. They then moved onto a homestead in Alberta, Canada, near Spennymore P. O., where they now reside.

MINA REGINA BLAKESTAD.

(MRS. MINA R. GAARDER).

Mina Regina, born in Mitchell County, Iowa, March 30, 1869; received a common school education, residing at the parental home until 1898, when she was united in marriage to Edmund Gaarder,² of Kensett, Iowa.

¹ Archie Carlson was born at Marine Mills, Minn., in 1892. His parents are Edward and Mary (Peterson) Carlson.

Edward Carlson was born in Sweden in 1855, and came to Minnesota in 1865.

Mary Peterson was born at Star Prairie, Wis., in 1875, and married Edward Carlson in Minnesota.

They are now residing in Minnesota.

² Edmund Gaarder was born in Rock County, Wis., April 12, 1868. His parents are Hans and Kari (Husemoen) Gaarder. Hans Gaarder was born in Land, Norway, May 11, 1834, and came to the United States in 1843, with his parents. They located in Rock County, Wis. His father, Peder Gaarder, was a highly respected and prominent pioneer in the old Rock Prairie settlement.

Kari Hansdatter Husemoen was born in Hallingdal, Norway, April 6, 1837, and came with her parents to the United States in 1846. Her father, Hans Halvorsen Husemoen, located in Rock County, Wis. He also was among the leading men in both church and local affairs in the early days of the Rock Prairie settlement. Mr. and Mrs. Hans Gaarder, were married in Rock County, Wis., on the 5th of November, 1858, moved to Worth County, Iowa, in 1874, and engaged in farming, where they resided until the death of Mr. Gaarder, May 14, 1914. Edmund Gaarder is a farmer by occupation; has accumulated a comfortable competence and enjoys the quiet pleasures of rural life.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaarder are members of the Lutheran Church, and prominent in all the church and social functions of their community. Their family consists of three children.

Evelyn Henrietta, born in Kensett, Ia., Oct. 5, 1903.

Harvey Edmund, born in Kensett, Ia., June 12, 1905.

Luella M., born in Kensett, Ia., April 9, 1909.



Mr. and Mrs. E. Gaarder and Family

Harvey
Luella

Mabel

Evelyn

GEORGE OLIVER BLAKESTAD.

George Oliver was born October 19, 1872, in Mitchell County, Iowa, and lived at the Blakestad parental home, receiving the ordinary common school education, available to a farmer's boy, until of age. In 1883 he went to Cresco, Nebraska, where he entered the employ of his brother, Ed. Blakestad, in the hardware and furniture business. In 1896, with his brother, Edward, they engaged in the furniture business at Bode, Iowa,—firm's name, Blakestad Bros. In the spring of 1899, sold out and moved to Mentonville, Iowa, and again engaged in the hardware and furniture business, but soon



Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Blakestad and Family

Myrtle

Mable

Raymond

Lewis

Esther

Lenore

Laurine

changed again, and moved to Adams, Minn., where he entered in the hardware business in partnership with his brother, Louis Blakestad—firm's name being O. G. Blakestad & Co.,—and continued in the hardware business until in 1903; sold out and moved to Lyle, Minn., in 1904; bought out Mr. Omath, furniture dealer at Lyle, and again entered the furniture business with his brother, Louis Blakestad—firm's name O. G. Blakestad & Co.,—which business they are still engaged in.

In the spring of 1897, Mr. Blakestad married Lona Malvina Williams,¹ of Bode, Iowa. To Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad, seven children were born.

Raymond Donovan, born in Bode, Ia., March 29, 1898.

Mable Janette, born in Meltonville, Ia., May 22, 1900.

Myrtle Edris, born in Adams, Minn., July 3, 1902.

Lenore Bernette, born in Lyle, Minn., Oct. 9, 1904.

Larene Thelma, born in Lyle, Minn., Feb. 25, 1907.

Esther Carene, born in Lyle, Minn., June 14, 1909.

Lewis Gilmore, born in Lyle, Minn., Oct. 17, 1912.

Mr. and Mrs. Blakestad are members of the Lutheran Church.

¹ Lona Malvina Williams, born March 29, 1876, in Bode, Humboldt County, Iowa. Her parents are Tideman and Bergit (Nordhagen) Williams.

Tideman Williams, born in Rock County, Wis., Dec. 11, 1848. Bergit Nordhagen was born in Hallingdal, Norway, Feb. 10, 1851. Emigrated to Beloit, Wis., when but 15 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Williams now live at Lyle, Minn.

Tideman Williams' parents were from Hallingdal Norway, and immigrated to the U. S. in the "Forties," locating in Rock County, Wis. His father's name was William or Wilhelm Langeslet, a well known Rock Prairie pioneer.

CHAPTER XIII.

Paul Halvorsen's Branch of the Skavlem Family

Paul Halvorsen's branch of the Skavlem family. Paul. Typical Norse home. Handy with tools. "Kubbestol." "Bastaug." "Ol skaal." Paul's Mill. "Pikluve." Children. Bergit Skavlem-Gravdale. The Gravdales—Gilbert Gravdale-Gesley. The Gesleys—Henry Gravdale-Goesen. The Goesens—Nelly Gravdale-Hanson. The Hansons—Blaine Hanson-Turner. The Turners—Mary Gravdale-Inman. The Inmans—Kari Skavelem-Johnson. The Johnsons—children. Ellen Johnson-Moe. The Moes—children. Alma C. Moe-Sheldon. The Sheldons—Gertrude Moe-Ulrich. The Ulrichs—Anna Johnson. Hilda Johnson-Neilson. The Neilsons—Viking Ship. Alvin Johnson-Gabrielson. The Gabrielsons—Caroline Johnson-Mattison. The Mattisons—Peter Skavlem. Soldier boy, pioneer of Kansas. P. Skavlem-Rockney. The Rockneys—Walter Skavlem-Wilson. The Wilsons—Odeen-Skavlem, Tollev Skavlem, Colorado. Kansas. Early death. Gunil Skavlem-Stordock. The Stordocks—children. Minnie Stordock-Gilbertson. The Gilbertsons—Dr. Perry G. Stordock. Gilman L. Stordock, Edna Stordock.

PAUL HALVORSEN SKAVLEM.

Paul was born at Norde-Skavlem, Veggli, Nummedal, Norway, November, 1803. From the records of Rollag Parish we learn that at the time of his emigration to America, 1841, his wife, Gunhild, Pedersdatter (Brekke), was then 27 years of age. They had two children, Halvor and Bergit, aged respectively 4 and 2 years. From records made in this country, Gunhild (Brekke) Skavlem's birth date is given as September 22, 1816. This year date is in all probability an error, and should be 1814, as given in the church records of Rollag Parish. She died in Town of Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., in January, 1850.

As given in the sketch of his parents, Paul was the owner of the old Skavlem homestead in Norway, which was disposed of when they decided to seek their fortune in America.

Father's occasional reminiscences of his early recollections of life in Norway, conveyed the impression that his brother Paul was unmistakably a "chip of the old block,"—a large, robust, powerful man. In his younger days he was not all averse to accepting a challenge to a champion bout, according to the ancient Nummedal code, and had destiny cast his lot in similar lines as that of his ancestors he would have been a worthy representative of the sturdy race.

Already having a family, and starting a home of his own immediately on coming to this country, soon becoming surrounded by Norwegian neighbors, he came but little in contact with the Americans, thus becoming less Americanized, and remaining more fully Norwegian in his family life and surroundings than any other of the Skavlem immigrants. Like the rest of the Norwegian pioneers he

was handy with tools. He not only built his house, but also made the necessary furniture and furnishings for the inside of the same, beds and benches, stools and tables, and even the "kubbestol." This was a log set up on end and hollowed out in the form of an arm chair. All was home-made, and the handiwork of Uncle Paul, even to the wooden ladles and spoons, and receptacles for various kitchen provender, wooden bowls, from the finely carved or painted "Öl Skaal" (ale cup) down to the less pretentious potato dish, and "grautefad"



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Skavlem and Family (about 1863)

Kari

Bergit

Peder

Tollev

Gunil

(mushbowl); also the large coopered or stave made tanks for the proper manipulation of the home-made malted barley to its final destination as foaming ale in the beautiful Öl Skaal, and a hearty "Skaal" with Uncle Paul, all were home-made.

While making our survey of the old homesites two years ago, I stood in the depression in the hillside where fifty years ago stood Uncle Paul's "bastaug" (the malting house), where he prepared the malt not only for himself but for many of his neighbors. I looked anxiously for any relic of the old malt-mill that was used to crush the malt and which was also utilized to help out in case of shortage in the flour or meal chest. Uncle Paul was the manufacturer of several

of these mills. Father had one, and I believe he made one for his brother, Ole.

I have been trying to resurrect one of these mills for our State Historical Museum, but yet without success. I know where the "upper mill stone" of father's mill is, but it is hardly available, as it is in the bottom of a 45-foot well that is filled up. I put it there myself about fifty years ago. These mills were a very valuable asset to any early pioneer home, as with them they could make their own meal when the flour supply gave out, and the roads to the often far distant custom mill were impassible.

The material for the mill stones was found in the northern parts of Plymouth and Springvalley Township. While the material is far from being a good "mill grit," it was much ahead of the Indians' stone pestle and mortar for grinding purposes. The principal objection to Paul's mill for grinding meal was the grit, that would get loose from the stone, and mix with the meal. For that reason this kind of meal was generally utilized for mush that did not require chewing. These mills were patterned after a type of primitive home grinding mills used in the old country. The run of stone was something like 16 to 20 inches in diameter, and as I recollect it about six inches through. They were adjusted something like the old custom mill run of stones, and were placed on a stout made table with at outside circular lose ring around the mill stones. This ring or collar was about six inches wider than the stones, and was made from a long strip of basswood bark about eight inches wide, the ends sewed together with bast—the fibrous inside lining of the bark. This large ring or collar resting on its edge on the table around the millstones formed a receptacle for the meal as it worked out from under the revolving stone. When a quantity of meal had accumulated in this receptacle it was brushed around to one side where it disappeared down a spout into a bag or box placed under the table of the mill. The motive power was a man with a straight handle bar about five feet long widened and flattened at one end so as to permit of an inch hole through the flat end; this was slipped over a projecting pin fastened in a hole drilled in the top side of the upper millstone near its outer edge, thus forming a pitman head connecting the motive power of the man with the mill and producing a rotary motion by a push and a pull, as the pin revolved around the center of the stone. I have devoted considerable space to the description of Uncle Paul's primitive mill, as it illustrates the remarkably resourceful capabilities of those people for real pioneer life.

During his early years in America he was a strong and robust man, and accomplished an immense amount of hard work. Overwork and exposure resulted in failing health, and as I recollect him, he was a kind and pleasant, feeble old man, always wearing the regu-

lation Norwegian "pikluve" (tobogen cap), as shown in his family group picture.

In 1852 he married his second wife, Gunil Knudsdatter Björnsrud.¹ With his second wife he had five children, three died in infancy; two lived to maturity; only one is now living, the youngest, Mrs. Gunil Stordock. They were:

Halvor, died in infancy; no date.

Knut, died in infancy; no date.

Ole, died in infancy; no date.

Tollev, born in Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., April 3, 1857.

Gunil, born in Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., July 16, 1859.

With his first wife he had four children:

Halvor, born in Norway, in 1837; died in Rock County, Wis., in 1846.

Bergit, born in Norway, Sept. 26, 1839.

Kari, born in Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., July 11, 1842.

Peder, born in Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., May 25, 1845.

Paul Skavlem and his family were members of the Lutheran Church. Paul was one of the organizers of the first Lutheran congregation at Rock Prairie. A dispute soon arose between Mr. Skavlem and Rev. J. W. C. Dietrichsen. Dietrichsen insisting that his daughter, Kari must be rebaptized, as the first baptism was not by him considered valid. Mr. Skavlem refused a second baptism for his daughter, whereupon the Rev. Dietrichsen erased Skavlem's name from the membership roll of the church. After that Paul and his family affiliated with, and were strong supporters of the Elling Eielsen church party.

Paul Halvorsen Skavlem died at his home in Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., Jan. 10, 1866.

BERGIT PAULSDATTER SKAVLEM.

(MRS. BESSIE SKAVLEM GRAVDALE).

Bergit was born in Nordre-Savlem, in the Sub-Parish of Veggli, Nummedal, Norway, September 26, 1839.

She came to the United States with her parents who located at Rock Prairie, Rock County, Wis., in 1841. She lived with her

¹ Gunil Kundsatter Björnsrud was born in the Sub Parish of Opdal, Nummedal, Norway, Jan. 16, 1818. She came to Rock County, Wis., in 1842, where she resided until she married Paul Skavlem. Shortly after the death of Mr. Skavlem she moved to North McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa, where she lived for five years, then returned to her old home in Rock County, where she lived until the death of her son, Tollev, after which she moved to the home of her daughter, Mrs. Stordock, where she died, Sept. 18, 1884.

father most of the time until her marriage to Tolle Gullik Gravdale.¹

Nov. 1857 she attended the Norwegian parochial school under the tutorship of Iver Ingebritson. She also had limited opportunities of attending the public school where she acquired the rudiments of an English education.

In 1854 her father sent her to live with her uncle, Rev. C. L.



Mr. and Mrs. Tolle Gravdale and Family

Henry

Mary

Gilbert

Nelly

Clausen,² who had, the year previously, founded the large Norwegian colony at St. Ansgar, Mitchell County, Iowa. For two years she lived as a member of Rev. Clausen's family, finishing her religious instruction under him. He confirmed her in 1855.

¹ Tolle Gulliksen Gravdale was born in the Parish of Rollag Numedal, Norway, Sept. 23, 1833.

He came to the United States with his parents in 1839. His parents were Gullik Olsen and Margit Tollevsdatter (Haugerud) Gravdale. They were the first settlers in town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., taking up their residence there in the fall of 1839. Gullik Olsen Gravdale is prominently mentioned in all the histories of pioneer Scandinavian immigration (see "Norwegian Immigration," *Anderson*, 258-59, 366, 430; "History of Norwegian Immigration," *Flom*, 138-40, 144, 222; "De Norske Settlementers Historie," *Holand*, 128, 132; also "History of Rock County," 1908, Vol. 1, Chapter XVIII, *Skavlem*).

² Mrs. C. L. Clausen and Paul Skavlem's first wife were sisters.

In 1856 she returned to her father's home where she remained until her marriage to Mr. Gravdale, when she assumed the duties of a farmer's wife at the old Gravdale homestead in the town of Newark, Rock County, Wis. (Tolle Gravdale had bought his father's farm.)

To Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale five children were born.

Gilbert, born Oct. 7, 1858.

Peter Henry, born Oct. 29, 1860; died April 23, 1902.

Genelia, born Sept. 26, 1862; died Dec. 4, 1863.

Nellie, born Nov. 24, 1863; died June 19, 1903.

Mary Jane, born Feb. 4, 1868.

Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale lived on the farm until 1894, when they moved to Beloit. M. Gravdale died at his home in Beloit, Sept. 18, 1903.

A pioneer in every sense of the word himself, he learned to know by experience what a glad hand and a welcome word meant, and he was ever ready to extend the same to any stranger in a strange land. Kindhearted and sympathetic he was loved by all who knew him. A man who knew no fraud, his word was ever his bond. Coming from a country where freedom is breathed in the mountain air, he valued the freedom which he found here. Ever interested in the welfare of his common country, he strove to do his duty to that country, as God gave him power to read that duty right.

Mrs. Gravdale is still a resident of Beloit.

Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale were members of the Lutheran Church.

In politics Mr. Gravdale was a Republican.

GILBERT GRAVDALE.

Gilbert was born on the Gravdale farm in the town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., Oct. 7, 1858.

He received a common school education and was trained in the pursuit of farming on his father's farm. He lived with his father and assisted him with the farm work until March 10, 1892, when he married Miss Minnie Estella Gesley.¹ With his wife he lived on the Gesley farm for two years.

In 1894 he purchased seventy acres in section 12, Newark, adjoining the one hundred and twenty acres he previously owned. Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale lived in a small house for three years when they erected a larger house in which they now reside.

In March, 1903, Mr. Gravdale purchased an additional forty acres of land. On March 28, 1908, he purchased the old Gravdale farm in section 1, town of Newark, where his grandfather built the

¹ Minnie Estella Gesley was born January 2, 1871.

For record of Gesley family see Chapter XIX

first log house in 1839. Mr. Gravdale has added to his holdings until his farm now consists of three hundred and ninety acres, with commodious farm buildings, all equipped with modern improvements and conveniences.

Mr. Gravdale is a thrifty and prosperous farmer; is one of the



Mr. and Mrs. G. Gravdale and Family
Elmer Sable Margerette

Guy

substantial and honored citizens of the old settlement, upholding the dignity and respect of his ancestral name Gravdale.

Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale have four children:

Elmer Gesley, born Jan. 8, 1893.

Bessie Marguerite, born Feb. 12, 1895.

Guy Toley, born Sept. 21, 1897.

Sabel Caroline, born Nov. 13, 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale are members of the Lutheran Church.

In politics Mr. Gravdale is a Republican.

PETER HENRY GRAVDALE.

Peter Henry was born on the old Gravdale homestead, Oct. 29, 1860. He received a common school education, and was employed on his father's farm until he became of age.

In 1886 he went to Ashby, North Dakota, where he engaged in

mercantile business for four years. He then returned to the old home farm in Newark, Wis., of which he had the charge and management until 1898. He then bought a farm of his own in the town of Newark, and there established his home where he continued to reside until his death, April 23, 1902.



Mrs. Ella Gravdale and Family 1915
Gertie Grace

(Insert) Henry Gravdale (1894)

Tilmer

On June 6, 1894, Mr. Gravdale was married to Isabel Ella Goeson,¹ of Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis.

¹ Isabel Ella Goeson was born in the town of Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis., June 3, 1872.

She received the common school education of a farmer's daughter, residing with her parents until her marriage to Henry Gravdale in 1894. Her parents were Endre Goeson and Gunel Larsen (Dahlen) Bjõno.

Endre Goeson Bjõno was born in the Sub-Parish of Opdal, Nummedal, Norway, May 27, 1826. He came to the United States with his parents in 1839, and located in Rock County, Wis. His father, Goe Bjõno, came with his sister-in-law, Gunil Odegaarden, his wife being Helga Odegaarden, a sister of "Widow Odegaarden."

Goe Bjõno and his wife lived for many years in the town of Spring Valley, Wis., and died there years ago.

Endre Goeson also lived in Spring Valley, and died there, Oct. 11, 1889.

Gunel Larsen Dahlen was born in Nore Parish, Nummedal, Norway, May 17, 1831. She came to the United States and located in Rock County, Wis., in 1853.

She married Endre Goeson, and lived on the Goeson farm in the town of Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis., until the time of her death, Sept. 23, 1891.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale three children were born:

Tilmer Alvin, born June 5, 1895.

Grace Bertena, born March 6, 1897.

Gertie Lillian, born April 23, 1899.

After the death of Mr. Gravdale, Mrs. Gravdale, with her family moved to the home of her brother, Goe Goeson, in the town of Spring Valley, where she now makes her home.



Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Hanson and Family
Waldo Blaine Charles
(Grouped from photos taken about 1900)

NELLIE GRAVDALE.

(MRS. NELLIE GRAVDALE HANSON).

Nellie was born on the Gravdale homestead, Nov. 24, 1863. She received a common school education and lived with her parents

until her marriage to William O. Hanson,¹ in 1889. Mr. Hanson was a resident of Beloit, Wis. He was a blacksmith and iron-worker by trade. For eleven years he served as instructor of Forge and Foundry work in the Chicago Manual Training School. On his return to Beloit he was employed for a number of years in the Beloit Savings Bank, where he now holds the position of teller.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hanson four children were born:

Blaine, born Nov. 21, 1890.

Waldo Gravdale, born Feb. 13, 1892.

Charles Louis, born April 13, 1894; died June 10, 1910.

Edward William, born Sept. 19, 1902; died June 19, 1903.

Mrs. Hanson died at Beloit, Wis., June 19, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson were members of the Lutheran Church.

BLAINE HANSON.

Blaine was born November 21, 1890, in Beloit, Wis. He was educated at the Beloit public schools. He is now engaged in newspaper work, being editor and manager of the "*Garfieldian*," a weekly publication published in Chicago, Ill. He resides in Chicago.

Blaine Hanson was married in Virginia, Ill., on November 30, 1914, to Miss Ruth M. Turner, of Beardstown, Ill., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Turner. She was born in the little town of Petersburg, Ill., on June 13, 1892; graduate of Beardstown High School, and was a student at the University of Illinois.

John B. Turner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker Turner, was born December 25, 1862, in Petersburg, Ill. The town of Petersburg was laid out by Abraham Lincoln as a surveyor. Mr. Turner's mother, Mrs. C. W. Turner, who passed away in her ninetieth year, July 9, 1914, was personally acquainted with Abraham Lincoln. Her ancestors emigrated to Illinois from Virginia, at an

¹ William O. Hanson was born in the city of Beloit, Wis., Oct. 7, 1860.

He served one term as a member of the assembly in the 1905 Wisconsin legislature, representing the Third District of Rock County. He also served six years as alderman of the Third Ward, city of Beloit. For two years he was president of the council. His parents were Carelius and Guri (Aas) Hanson.

Carelius Hanson was born in Grue, Solør Parish, Norway, Jan. 6, 1830. He came to America in 1853, and located in Beloit, Wis., in 1854, at which latter place he has since resided. For many years he was engaged as a blacksmith. In 1855 he was married to Guri Aas, of Janesville, Wis.

Guri Aas was born in Tolgen, Hedemarken, Norway, Feb. 18, 1831. She came to America in 1851, and settled at Koshkonong, Wis., but later moved to Janesville. From the time of her marriage until her death she resided at Beloit, Wis.

Guri Aas Hanson died at Beloit, Wis., March 14, 1901.

Carelius Hanson is now the only member of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Beloit, who dates his membership from the beginning of that organization. He has retired from active business life, but at the age of eighty-three years is still an active and energetic citizen.



Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Hanson (1915)



Waldo G. Hanson

early date, having come from England before the revolutionary war. They claim to be lineal descendants of Sir Francis Drake.

The Turner family emigrated to Illinois from Kentucky at a very early date.

WALDO HANSON.

Waldo was born in Beloit, Wis., February 13, 1892. He was educated in the Beloit city schools; graduating from the high school there, he attended the Beloit College for a year and a half. He is now attending the University of Wisconsin.

Waldo Hanson is a First Sergeant of Co. "L," First Regiment, Wisconsin National Guards.

MARY JANE GRAVDALE.

(MRS. MARY GRAVDALE INMAN).

Mary Jane was born on the old Gravdale farm in Rock County, Wis., February 4, 1868. She received a common school education and resided with her parents until her marriage to Clarence Evert Withington Inman,¹ June 16, 1896. Mr. Inman was engaged in the mercantile business at Marengo, Ill., where they made their first home.

From Marengo, Ill., they moved to Beloit, Wis., where Mr. Inman engaged in the manufacture of concrete machinery, and also in mercantile pursuits. He has built up a prosperous business; is an earnest promoter of the business interests of the city in which he

¹ Clarence Evert Inman was born in the town of Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., March 5, 1865. His parents were Jonas and Harriet (Withington) Inman. They were of English and Dutch descent.

Jonas Inman was born in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, April 7, 1827.

Harriet Withington was born in Akron County, Ohio, Nov. 30, 1837. She moved to Rock County, Wis., with her parents in 1848, and in 1864 she married Jonas Inman.

After their marriage they moved to a farm in the town of Plymouth, where they continued to reside until they moved to Beloit.

Mr. Inman died in Beloit, Wis., Oct. 10, 1905.

Mrs. Inman still resides in her Beloit home.

The Inman family has a long list of American pioneer ancestors. Their earliest ancestors in America came here in 1648. Four of the later generations were victims of the Wyoming Massacre.

In 1842 the Inman family, consisting of the parents, Caleb and Elizabeth Inman; Jonas, and his brothers, Lyman, Harrison, Thomas, and Edward; sisters Margaret and Mary, left Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

On April 7, of that year, they started by ox cart for Rock County, Wis., where a brother of Caleb Inman, John Inman, with three others had located on Rock River in the fall of 1835, and erected the first log cabin (opposite the "Big Rock" south of Janesville), in the southern part of what is now the city Janesville, Wis.

lives, and has also taken an active part in its government, having served several terms as an alderman.

Mr. Inman is a member of the Masonic Order.

In politics he is a Republican.

To Mr. and Mrs. Inman one child was born, Clarence Evert Gravdale, born March 10, 1902.



Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Inman and Son (1915)
Clarence, Jr.

KARI SKAVLEM.

(MRS. CARRIE SKAVLEM JOHNSON).

Kari (Carrie) was born on the Paul Skavlem farm in the town of Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., July 11, 1842. She received religious instruction in the Norwegian parochial school, and attended the English public schools where she acquired the average common school education of that day. She lived in her father's home most of the time, being occasionally engaged in domestic ser-

vice for others, until her marriage to Ole Jacob Johnson,¹ of Beloit, Wis., in 1864.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson established their home in Beloit. Mr. Johnson was an iron-worker by trade and carried on a profitable business as a horse-shoer, and conducting a general repair shop for all kinds of farm implements. He also manufactured wagons and sleighs for many years.

In 1903 he retired from active business, and is now enjoying the fruits of his labors in the peace and quiet of his comfortable home.



Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Johnson and Family

Bertha	Alvin	Hilda	Ellen	Anna	Millie
			Carrie	(1887)	

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson eight children were born:

Ellen Marie, born Nov. 7, 1865.

Anna Pauline, born Jan. 1, 1868.

Hilda Georgina, born July 22, 1871.

Alvin Bernhardt, born March 20, 1873; died July 12, 1907.

Millie Clara, born Sept. 15, 1876; died July 29, 1906.

Bertha Johanna, born May 9, 1878; died Jan. 1, 1901.

Gertie Geneva, born Oct. 7, 1880; died Nov. 11, 1881.

Carolyn Geneva, born Feb. 4, 1885.

¹ Ole Jacob Johnson was born in Östre-Brenden, in Grau Parish, Hadeland, Norway, May 22, 1834. He came to the United States in 1853, and first located in Milwaukee, Wis., but later moved to Beloit, Wis. His parents were John and Anna (Blakestad) Anderson. They were both natives of Hadeland, Norway and came to the United States some years after their son Ole Jacob had emigrated. They located in Green County, Wis., and died there many years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Lutheran Church, of which Mrs. Johnson has always been very active in the social and charitable work.

ELLEN MARIE JOHNSON.

(MRS. ELLEN JOHNSON MOE.)

Ellen Marie was born in Beloit, Wis., November 7, 1865. She graduated from the Beloit High School and resided with her parents until her marriage to Bernt Peterson Moe,¹ April 7, 1885.



Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Moe and Family (1895)

Alma

Gertie

Mr. Moe was engaged in the wagon and carriage business, and made his home in Beloit until shortly after his marriage, when he established himself in the carriage and wagon business at Watertown, South Dakota, whither he and Mrs. Moe moved, and have since resided. Mr. Moe is a successful business man, and has accumulated some fine property.

¹ Bernt Peterson Moe was born in Næs, Romerike, Norway, Oct. 7, 1858. He came to the United States in 1880, and located at Beloit, Wis. His parents were Peder Pederson and Anna Marie (Dysland) Moe.

Peder Pederson Moe was born May 15, 1829. He married Anna Marie Dysland in 1850. Peder Pederson Moe died March 10, 1910.

Anna Marie Dysland was born in 1825, and is still living at Moe, Næs, Romerike, Norway.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moe two children were born:

Alma Caroline, born Feb. 1, 1888.

Gertrude Malinda, born Nov. 27, 1889.

Mr. and Mrs. Moe are members of the United Lutheran Church.

Mr. Moe is a member of the Elks, the A. O. U. W., and of Sons of Norway.

In politics he is a Progressive Republican.

ALMA CAROLINE MOE,
(MRS. ALMA CAROLINE SHELDON.)

Alma Caroline was born in Watertown, South Dakota, February 1, 1888. She was educated in the Watertown High School and in St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. She resided with her parents until she married Palmer D. Sheldon,¹ of Watertown, S. D., June 17, 1914. They now reside in Watertown, South Dakota. They are members of the Episcopal Church.

GERTRUDE MALINDA MOE.
(MRS. GERTRUDE MALINDA ULRICH.)

Gertrude Malinda was born in Watertown, South Dakota, November 27, 1889. She was educated in the Watertown High School and St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and in the University of South Dakota. She resided with her parents until her marriage to Roy Benjamin Ulrich.² Mr. Ulrich is a cigar maker, and is a professional musician in Watertown, South Dakota, where Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich now reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich are members of the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Ulrich is a member of the Masonic Order.

¹ Palmer D. Sheldon was born in Chicago, Ill., Feb. 8, 1878. Parents Mr. and Mrs. John Carl Sheldon, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota (both living).

Father born in South Dover, Dutchess County, New York, Aug. 23, 1849.

Mother born in Providence, R. I., April 25, 1853.

Father—National descent—English.

Mother—National descent—English and French. They were married in Providence, R. I., April 25, 1867.

Palmer served in the Spanish War, where he was Captain of Co. K, First South Dakota Infantry.

He is a member of the Elks, A. O. U. W., and the Spanish War Veterans. In politics he is a Democrat.

² Roy Benjamin Ulrich was born in Blue Mound, Ill., April 5, 1885. He was educated in the public schools of Blue Mound, and in Sullivan, Ill. He is a cigar maker and professional musician. His parents were Benjamin David and Mary Ellen (Riggs) Ulrich.

Benjamin David Ulrich was born in Canton, Ohio, Dec. 25, 1833. He was of German descent.

Mary Ellen Riggs was born near Charlottville, North Carolina, July 13, 1848. She was of English descent. Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Ulrich were married in Blue Mound, Ill. They now reside in Sullivan, Ill.

ANNA PAULINE JOHNSON.

Anna Pauline was born January 1, 1868. She attended the Beloit High School and resides with her parents.

HILDA GEORGINA JOHNSON.

(MRS. HILDA NEILSON.)

Hilda Georgina was born July 22, 1871. She was educated at the Beloit High School and resided with her parents until her marriage to Eigil Neilson,¹ of Beloit, Wis., in 1891. Mr. Neilson is a



Mr. and Mrs. Eigil Nielson and Family (1915)
Orsen

Harlow

¹ Eigil Neilson was born in Sandefjord, Norway, April 29, 1864. He arrived in America on June 5, 1883. His parents were Ole and Ida Marie (Larsen) Neilson.

Ole Neilson was born in Sandefjord Norway, March 17, 1828. He was a ship owner and bank cashier.

Ida Marie Larsen was born in Norway, Nov. 28, 1822

The interesting archaeological relic known as the "Gölgstad Viking Ship" was found partly on Mr. Neilson's property at a place called "Kongshaugen" (the King's Mound), at Gölgstad. The "King's Mound" was about one hundred and fifty feet in diameter and fifteen feet high. In the center of this mound was the viking ship which is described to have been of total length seventy-five feet; broadest part fifteen and one-half feet. It is supposed to have been buried at least eight centuries. It was a medium-sized viking ship, being a sixteen seater (having sixteen pairs of oars). Round about the ship were found the skeletons of twelve horses. A mortuary chamber had been built inside the boat, inside of which the warrior reclined on a couch. Many valuable relics in bronze and iron were found.

The dividing line of Mr. Neilson's property cut through the center of the large mound, so that one-half of the relic was on Mr. Neilson's land, and the other half on the adjoining land owner's.

The ship was carefully cut in two and transported to Christiania where it was restored to its original condition and placed in the museum with its many interesting relics.

dry goods clerk in Beloit. Mr. and Mrs. Neilson own a fine home on Bluff street, Beloit, Wis.

To Mr. and Mrs. Neilson two children were born:

Orsen, born Sept. 22, 1893.

Harlow, born Oct. 10, 1900.



Mrs. Johnson and Family (1915)

Marie

Alvin

(Insert) Alvin Johnson (1902)

Mr. and Mrs. Neilson are members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Mr. Neilson is a member of the Modern Woodmen.

In politics he is a Republican.

ALVIN BERNHARDT JOHNSON.

Alvin Bernhardt was born in Beloit, Wis., March 20, 1873. He was educated at the Beloit schools; was an iron-worker by trade and worked in his father's shop until failing health compelled him to quit that work.

In 1903 he married Marie Christina Gabrielson,¹ of Beloit, Wis., where Mr. and Mrs. Johnson established their home.

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson two children were born:

Bertilla Marie, born June 11, 1904.

Roy Alvin, born January 11, 1906.

Mr. Johnson died July 12, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were members of the Lutheran Church.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mattison and Family (1915)
Philip Mildred

Alan

CAROLINE GENEVA JOHNSON.

(MRS. CAROLINE MATTISON).

Caroline Geneva was born February 4, 1885. She was educated at the Beloit High School and resided with her parents until her marriage to Arthur Mattison,² of Beloit, Wis., 1895.

¹ Marie Christina Gabrielson was born in Beloit, Wis., March 1, 1880. She was educated in the Beloit schools and resided with her parents until her marriage to Alvin Johnson in 1903. Her parents are Elias Johan and Mary Augusta (Ledell) Gabrielson.

Elias Johan Gabrielson was born in Halfjeldalens Parish, Vefsen, Norway, Feb. 27, 1847. He came to the United States in 1872, located at Beloit, Wis. Carpenter by occupation; still residing in Beloit.

Mary Augusta Ledell was born in Norway, July 7, 1853; married Gabrielson in 1875; died in Beloit, Wis., in 1913.

² Arthur M. Mattison was born in Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 18, 1881. His parents were Christen and Mary (Dokken) Mattison.

Christen Mattison was born in Norway, Sept. 30, 1856.

Mary Dokken was born in Norway, Oct. 12, 1856. They came to Beloit, Wis., where they now reside, March 1, 1893.

Mr. Mattison is engaged in the manufacture of wood-turning machinery.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mattison three children were born:

Allan Christen, born Jan. 24, 1907.

Phillip Laurence, born Feb. 3, 1909.

Mildred Carolyn, born Oct. 23, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Mattison are members of the Lutheran Church.

Mr. Mattison is a member of the Masons and of the Elks.

In politics he is a Republican.

PEDER PAULSON SKAVLEM.

(He writes his name PETER H. SKAVLEN).

Peder was born in Plymouth Township, Rock County, Wis., May 25, 1845. He remained on the home farm until 1862, when he went to Beloit, Wis., to learn the blacksmith trade at the shop of John Thompson. He enlisted September 2, 1864, in Co. "D," Forty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry,¹ and served until the close of the war, being mustered out, June 24, 1865.

After his discharge from the army he returned to Wisconsin, but soon after went to Minnesota, locating at Rochester, where he remained until 1869, thence returned to Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1870 emigrated to Kansas.

Arriving at Big Caney River (then called the "Osage Diminished Reserve"), March 2, 1870, he located a claim March 11th, which subsequently proved to be in Section 11, Township 34, Range 8, east, Howard County, which was later changed to Chautauqua. When he arrived there the county had but five settlers. The county was not organized and the survey was not completed. He was one hundred and twenty miles distant from the nearest railway.

When the town of Cedar Vale was laid out the platting took two acres of his claim. Later he platted an addition to Cedar Vale of twenty-two acres which was known as the "Skavlen Addition." He also gave a water company water rights and a site for a pumping station.

He built the first ice house in that section and furnished the city with ice for about thirty years. He erected a building in the city, and was in business there for three years.

He was married November 20, 1872, at Beloit, Wis., to Martha

¹ Mr. Skavlem's name appears on the official government roster as Peter H. Halvorsen, the Skavlem part being omitted.



*Peter H. Skavlen + Family
Cedar Vale, Kansas.
Photo Taken About 1910*

Odeen

Walter

Mrs. Walter Skavlem

Waldo

Norleen

Erickson Rockney,¹ of Dodge County, Minn., the Author (H. L. Skavlem), then justice of the peace, performing the ceremony.

¹ Martha Erickson Rockne (changed in spelling to "Rockney") was born Feb. 14, 1851, in the town of Christiana, Dane County, Wis.

Her parents were Knut Erickson Rockne and Cherstie Juulsdatter Hamre (or Buin). They were married Oct. 15, 1844, in Dane County, Wis., the ceremony being performed by Rev. Clausen.

Knut Erickson Rockne was born in Vos, Norway, 1820, and came to the United States in 1840. He died in Kasson, Dodge County, Minn., Oct. 16, 1879.

Cherstie Juulsdatter Hamre was born in Flesberg Parish, Nummedal, Norway, 1823, and came to the United States in 1842.

After his marriage Mr. Rockne purchased a farm near Cambridge, Dane County, Wis., and with Mrs. Rockney, lived there until 1855, when he disposed of his holdings and joined a colony of emigrants for Dodge County, Minn., where they again became pioneers in building up a new country.

Mr. Rockne engaged in farming and stock raising at which he prospered, and became one of the substantial men of the county. He continued his residence there until his death, Oct. 15, 1879.

The widow, Cherstie Juulsdatter Rockne subsequently made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Peter H. Skavlen, at Cedar Vale, Kan., where she died, Feb. 28, 1905.

They have had six children, of whom four died in infancy. Those living are:

Walter P., born Oct. 27, 1874.

Norlen Odeen, born Dec. 26, 1881.

Mr. and Mrs. Skavlen are still living on their old homestead, which Mr. Skavlen has given the name "Valhalla" (the hall to which Odin invited those slain in battle—Norse mythology).

Mr. Skavlen is a member of Cedar Vale Post, No. 99, G. A. R. In politics he is a Republican.

WALTER P. SKAVLEN.

Walter P. was born October 27, 1874. He was married November 25, 1897, to Maggie L. Wilson,¹ They have two children, Norlen P., born September 11, 1898, and Waldo O., born July 13, 1900.

Walter P. Skavlen resides in Cedar Vale, Kan., and has the management of his father's farm.

NORLEN ODEEN² SKAVLEN.

Norlen Odeen was born December 26, 1881. He is a photographer on the Pacific Coast. and has conducted studios at Los Angeles, San Diego and Portland. He is now located in San Francisco.

TOLLEV SKAVLEM.

Tollev was born on the Paul Skavlem homestead in the town of Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., April 3, 1857. After the death of his father in 1866, he went with his mother to North McGregor, Iowa, where they lived for five years, then returned to the old home in Plymouth, Wis., where he assisted his mother in the farm work while not attending school. He received the ordinary common school education. For several years he had charge of the farm for his mother, and then purchased the same.

In 1881 on account of failing health he was advised to seek a change of climate and spent some time in Colorado and in Kansas. Returning home in 1883, without the hoped for improvement in health, he was soon taken seriously ill, and died, September 9, 1883.

¹ Maggie L. Wilson was born Feb. 13, 1879, in Graysville, Monroe County, Ohio. Her parents were S. M. and Luyzette (Moore) Wilson.

S. M. Wilson was born at Graysville, Ohio, March 31, 1850.

Luyzette Moore was born May 18, 1855, in Graysville, Ohio. She is of English and German descent.

In 1878 Mr. and Mrs. Wilson left Ohio for West Virginia, where they resided until 1888, when they moved to Cowly County, Kan., and in 1897 to Cedar Vale, Chautauqua County, Kan., where they now reside.

² "Odeen" is undoubtedly improper spelling of the old Norse name "Odin:" Al-father of Gods in "Valhalla"—Norse Mythology.



Tollev Skavlem

GUNIL SKAVLEM
(MRS. NELLIE STORDOCK).

Gunil, changed to Nellie, was born on the Paul Skavlem homestead in the town of Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., July 16, 1859. She received a common school education, and after the death of her father in 1866, moved with her mother to North McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa, where her mother lived for five years. She then returned to the old home in Plymouth where she resided with her mother until March 7, 1879, when she was married to Lars Stordock,¹ and commenced housekeeping at the Stordock farm in Newark township.

¹ Lars Stordok (changed to Lewis Stordock), was born in Winnebago County, Ill., May 25, 1854. He received a common school education and was trained to the vocation of a farmer on his father's farm. He continued to assist his father in the supervision and management of his father's farm until his marriage, when he assumed the entire management, and later became its owner. His parents were Gunnuld Halvorson Stordok and Margit Larsdatter (Nestru) Stordok. They were natives of Nummedal, Norway. Gunnuld H. Stordok was born Oct. 12, 1809, and Margit was born March 11, 1819. They were married in the Rollaug Parish Church, Nummedal, Norway, just before they started on their long journey to America, in the spring of 1839. They were members of the immigrant party conducted by Ansten Nattestad to Rock County, Wis., the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Stordok were energetic and enterprising people, and were prominent workers among the early pioneers of Rock County. In 1843 he sold his farm in Rock County and moved to Winnebago County, Ill. There he developed a fine farm, which he sold in 1870, and returned to Newark, Rock County, where he purchased a 200-acre farm in Section 9. There he resided until his death, Aug. 9, 1898. His wife died in the same place, Nov. 10, 1893.



Edna

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Stordock and Family
Gilman Perry

Minnie

Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Stordock (the "dock" part of the name is Americanized spelling), lived on the Stordock farm until the spring of 1912, when they retired from active farm work and moved to Beloit, Wis., where Mr. Stordock purchased a fine home in which they are still living. They have four children all of whom are living. They are:

Minnie Geneva, born March 20, 1880.

Perry Gilfred, born March 24, 1882.

Gilman Llewellyn, born April 23, 1885.

Edna Beatrice, born June 22, 1890.

Mr. and Mrs. Stordock are faithful church workers and are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Stordock has always supported the Republican party.

MINNIE GENEVA STORDOCK.

(MRS. MINNIE GENEVA GILBERTSON).

Minnie Geneva was born in the Stordock home, March 20, 1880. After graduating from the common school, she attended the Beloit High School, after which she attended Pleasant View Luther College, Ottawa, Ill., where she graduated from the Academic Course in 1901. On August 7th of the same year she married Prof. Geo. H. Gilbertson.¹

Prof. and Mrs. Gilbertson have four children all of whom are living. They are:

Lyle Ithiel, born July 10, 1903.

Gladys Thelma Beatrice, born Oct. 24, 1904.

George Herman, Jr., born Dec. 12, 1909.

Vera Lucile Geneva, born Feb. 10, 1914.

¹ George Herman Gilbertson was born near Black River Falls, Jackson County, Wis., Sept. 5, 1874. After graduating from the common school, he attended Augsburg Seminary, Minneapolis, Minn. Later he attended St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., where he graduated from the Academic Course in 1893, and from the College Department in 1897. The following year he attended the Northern Illinois Normal School, Dixon, Ill., where he graduated from the Stenographic and the Post Graduate Business Courses in 1898. In 1899 he accepted a position as Principal of the Commercial Department at Pleasant View Luther College at Ottawa, Ill., which position he is still holding. For several years Prof. Gilbertson also acted as business manager of the school, and did much toward building it up to its present prosperous condition. His parents were Iver Gilbertson (Aasen) and Beret Lilleaastad, both of whom were born in Ringebo, Gulbrandsdalen, Norway. Iver Gilbertson was born on March 4, 1843, and was the fifth child of Gulbrand and Anna Hanson (Aasen), and came with his parents to Jackson County, Wis., in 1864. Beret Gilbertson was born Sept. 29, 1840. She was the daughter of Engebret and Kari Gunderson Lilleaastad, being the second of the family of five daughters. With her father and sisters she came to Black River Falls, Wis., June 24, 1866. Mr. and Mrs. Iver Gilbertson were married, Aug. 29, 1867. They moved to their farm in the town of Irving, where they lived until Mr. Gilbertson's death, Nov. 8, 1901. After her husband's death, Mrs. Gilbertson moved to Black River Falls, Wis., where she resided until her death, Jan. 25, 1911. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbertson were among the pioneers of that part of Wisconsin, and were among the first members of the Lutheran Church of that place.



Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Gilbertson and Family (1915)
Lyle George Gladys
Vera

Politically Prof. Gilbertson is a Republican, and is also an active temperance worker, being at the present time President of the Civic Federation of Ottawa, Ill., an organization affiliated with the Anti-Saloon League of Illinois.

DR. PERRY GILFRED STORDOCK.

Perry Gilfred was born on the Stordock farm, March 24, 1882, and received his early education in the common school. Later he attended Pleasant View Luther College, Ottawa, Ill., where he graduated from the Academic Course in 1902. In the fall of the same year he entered the Dental Department of the Wisconsin College of Physicians and Surgeons in Milwaukee, Wis., which he attended one year. The following year he entered the Chicago College of Dental Surgery in Chicago, Ill., from which he graduated in 1906. Dr. Stordock located in Ottawa, Ill., in 1906, where he has built up an enviable practice. He has been prominently identified with the Illinois State Dental Society, also with the La Salle County Dental Society, of which he has been President. He is also a member of the National Dental Society. At present he is located at Suite 302, Central Life Building, Ottawa, Ill. He is making his home with Prof. and Mrs. Gilbertson.

GILMAN LLEWELLYN STORDOCK.

Gilman Llewellyn was born on the Stordock farm, April 23, 1885. After graduating from the common school he attended Pleasant View Luther College, Ottawa, Ill., where he graduated from the Academic Course in 1904. In 1905 he entered St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., which he attended two years. He was a member of the St. Olaf Band, and accompanied them on their tour to Norway. Later he attended the University of Wisconsin, and graduated from the course of Pharmacy in 1911. He is now engaged as a druggist in Milwaukee, Wis.

EDNA BEATRICE STORDOCK.

Edna Beatrice was also born on the Stordock farm June 22, 1890. She received a common school education. Later she attended Pleasant View Luther College, Ottawa, Ill., where she graduated in 1909 from the Academic and Musical Courses, besides receiving a Music Teacher's Certificate. She is now engaged in teaching music, and resides with her parents at 985 Portland Ave., Beloit, Wis.

CHAPTER XIV

The Weglie Branch of the Skavlem Family

Kari Skavlem Weglie—The Wegley branch of the Skavlem family. Kari at Galena. Madison. Gov. Doty. Wedding journey. Aunt Wagley's eatables. Niels Weglie. Ole Wagley, prominent Mason. O. Wagley-Bowen. The Bowens—Halvor Wagley, traveling salesman, business man. H. Wagley-Haugen. The Haugens—Ernest and Carl Wagley.

KARI HALVORSDATTER SKAVLEM

(MRS. KARI WEGLIE.)

Kari was born at Nordre-Skavlem in the Sub-Parish of Veggli, Nummedal, Norway, January 23, 1808. She came with her parents to America in 1841, and soon thereafter secured employment as a domestic in American families, being thus employed at Galena, Mineral Point, and Madison. At Madison she was for some time in the family of James Duane Doty, then governor of the territory of Wisconsin.

In 1845 she married Niels Olsen Weglie,¹ of the town of Plymouth, Rock county, Wis.

There had been some question of the legality of some of the early marriages in the settlement. The authority of some of the perambulating missionary clergy to perform the ceremony had been seriously questioned, and several parties were twice married to make "assurance doubly sure." Niels and Kari would take no chances in such an important transaction, as it was only about thirty miles across country to Koshkonong Prairie, where the Rev. I. W. C. Dietrich-

¹ Niels Olsen Weglie was born at the Veggli parsonage in the Sub-Parish of Veggli, Nummedal, Norway, September 17, 1819; came to America with the Skavlem immigrants in 1841, and located in the town of Plymouth, Rock county, Wis., the same year. At first he was a joint owner with Paul Skavlem in some of the land which was subsequently divided so they owned adjoining farms.

He was one of the most methodical and particular men I ever knew in the farm management, and the same in family and house affairs. Everything had to be "just so." There was no such a saying with Niels Weglie as "most anything will do"—if anything was worth doing, it must be done right, and consequently his farm, building, equipments, everything about the place was well kept and in perfect order. He was a successful farmer, a kind and helpful neighbor, whose word was as good as his bond.

After the death of his first wife in 1882, he again married in 1884. His second union being with Mrs. Maren Ringen. Having disposed of his farm to his son, Halvor, in 1882, he retired from active work, bought a place near the Luther Valley parsonage, where he spent his remaining days in the well earned comforts of a happy home. He died at his home, February 17, 1892.

son—a real and in fact the only Norwegian parson then in America—was located. They planned their wedding trip accordingly.

There were no improved country roads those days, not even an Indian trail from Uncle Paul's place in southwestern Plymouth, to the log cabin in eastern Dane county where the Norwegian parsonage was located jointly with several immigrant families in a single roomed cabin. The unbridged streams were easily forded, and their thirty mile walking match duly accomplished.



Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Weglie and Family

Ole
Halvor

Halvor
Ole

Their wedding solemnized by a real "Prest" duly gowned and fully authorized to perform the ceremony according to the ritualistic requirements of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, they returned by the same route and conveyance to Mr. Weglie's house—one of the best in those pioneer days. (See p. 29). Here Aunt Weglie was installed as the mistress of the Weglie home at the Rock Prairie settlement, where the last thirty-seven years of her life were spent in a pleasant, happy and contented home.

The early day memories of annual visits to Aunt Weglie's by her many nieces and nephews are still cherished by the gray haired survivors of the cousins-german of the Skavlem tribe. She was an expert in the preparation of all kinds of Norsk eatables.

Aunt's "Lefse," "Prim," and "Ost" were just a little bit ahead of even what "our mothers used to make;" even her "Spichi pölse" and "Jommegraut" had a flavor and richness, that our good old mothers could barely duplicate,—and her "Grynveling"—superlative!—liberally sprinkled with brown sugar on top, with just the proper dusting of powdered cinnamon—in the center of the dish a tiny lake of melted butter.

Talk to me about modern cooking schools, salads and greens, pumpkin-pie, and Boston baked beans,—now that we are thoroughly Americanized, we manage to live on "grass and such things," but when it comes to the "really and truly" goodies, give me Aunt Weglie's Lefse and "fattigmansbakkels," Prim and Ost, etc. Talking about "Ost," why her "Gammelost" had a flavor and aroma that put the modern Limburger out of commission.

Mr. and Mrs. Weglie were members of the Lutheran Church from its first organization in 1845. The Luther Valley congregation had none more faithful in its support than the Weglie family. Mr. Weglie being prominent in the councils of the church during his active life.

To Mr. and Mrs. Weglie five children were born.

One child still born, 1850; no date.

Olina, born June 2, 1846; died Sept. 2, 1849.

Ole, born Feb. 2, 1848; died Sept. 2, 1849.

Ole, born Oct. 26, 1849.

Halvor, born July 20, 1852.

On the 27th day of February, 1882, Mrs. Weglie died at her home in Plymouth, and was tenderly placed by the side of her kin and pioneer neighbors in the Luther Valley cemetery.

OLE NIELSON WEGLIE

(CHANGED TO OLE N. WAGLEY)

Ole N. was born in the pioneer log house on the old Weglie homestead in the town of Plymouth, Rock county, Wis., October 26, 1849.

He describes his early school facilities as follows: "My first schooling was received in a perambulating parochial school (Norwegian). This school was distributed about the neighborhood, being held at conveniently located farmhouses throughout the settlement. The terms in each locality varied from a few days to several weeks at a time.

"After I was properly instructed and confirmed in religious faith,

I spent the balance of my school years in the Johnson and Smiley schoolhouses.

"While I was acquiring the average education available to the farmer's boy of those days my jack-knife was deepening the notches other seekers after education had cut in the desks. That was in the old-time county schools."

Up to the age of twenty he assisted in the farm work at the old homestead.

In 1870 he attended the preparatory department of the State University, and in 1871, was fairly started in the Freshman class when he was prevailed upon to take charge of a district school near Madison. He found this work congenial and continued at it until 1874, when he entered the Normal School at Whitewater, and graduated with the class of 1878.

After graduation he accepted the position of Superintendent of Schools at Necedah, Wis., holding that position for three years.

In the fall of 1881 he was elected to a similar position at Brodhead, Wis., and continued in the same work until 1884, when he resigned to take charge of a drug and wall paper store at Newton, Iowa, which he had purchased the same year.

On June 18, 1884, Mr. Wagley married Gertrude A. Bowen,¹ of Brodhead, Wis. Soon after their marriage they established their home at Newton, Iowa, where they have since continued to reside.

Mr. Wagley has been successful in business and together with Mrs. Wagley are prominent in the social life and activities of their home town, particularly so in all efforts for the moral and intellectual uplift of the community.

Since 1890 Mr. Wagley has been a prominent and active member of the Masonic Order, in which he has been honored with many offices and positions of trust. He held the office of Senior Deacon for four years; one year as Junior Warden; and four years as Master. In 1903 he was commissioned District Lecturer, and in 1906, was elected Grand Custodian, which position he still holds. In 1912 he was elected Senior Grand Warden.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagley are members of the Eastern Star, and

¹Gertrude A. Bowen was born in Albany, Wis., April 9, 1862, where her father was engaged in the mercantile business. Later her parents moved to a farm near Albany, Wis., but in the '70's removed to Brodhead, Wis., where Miss Bowen attended school, graduating from the high school in 1879.

She taught school in the country, and also at Brodhead until a short time before her marriage.

Mrs. Wagley's father, Justus Bowen, was born in East Collins, New York. He moved to Wisconsin when a young man, and was married at Albany, Wis., in 1861, to Sevilla A. Case.

Sevilla A. Case was born in the state of New York, and is a descendant of Revolutionary stock.

Mr. Bowen died at Brodhead, Wis., March 17, 1911, and Mrs. Bowen died there, January 29, 1913, having survived her husband less than two years.

both served two years as Patron and Matron, respectively, of their local chapter.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagley have one adopted daughter, Hazel Lucile, born February 9, 1898.

Mr. Wagley is not a member of any church. In belief he is a Unitarian, but attends the Congregational church.

Mrs. Wagley and Hazel are members of the Congregational church.

In politics Mr. Wagley is a Republican.



Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Wagley and Family
Ernest

Carl

HALVOR N. WEGLIE—CHANGED TO HALVOR N. WAGLEY.

Halvor N. was born in the old log house on the Weglie farm in the Town of Plymouth, Rock county, Wis., the 20th day of July, 1852. He attended the English common school, first in the Johnson stone schoolhouse, and later in the Fisher schoolhouse;

also attending Norwegian Parochial School held in private houses by I. Ingebretson.

At the age of fifteen he was confirmed in the Lutheran faith by Rev. C. L. Magelson, then going to Beloit he attended school for one year at the Beloit College Preparatory. However, at the end of one year he went back to the farm to assist his father on the farm. Besides helping with the farm work, he managed an apiary of over 100 swarms of bees, making the hives and boxes himself in the winter, and attending to the bees in the summer.

In 1882 he bought his father's farm, which he managed for three years. In the spring of 1885 he rented the farm in order that he might have a chance to travel and see more of this country than his immediate surroundings. He started on the road as a traveling salesman, and continued in that business for the greater part of three years. In 1889 he started in the machinery business, locating in Orfordville, where he is still engaged in the same business. He still owns the farm, on which he has had tenants since 1885.

October 24, 1895, he was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Haugen,¹ of the Town of Plymouth, Rock county, Wis. The first winter after their marriage they lived on the farm, and in the spring

¹ Caroline Haugen, was born in Plymouth, Rock county, Wis., Sept. 26, 1862. Educated at the public schools and attended Milton College two years. She then engaged in school teaching, and had charge of the Haugen School in Plymouth for four years. Her parents were Erik N. and Cecilia (Medgaarden) Haugen. They were married in the Town of Plymouth in 1861. Mrs Haugen died several years ago. Mr. Haugen now resides at Orford, Rock county, Wis.

Erik N. Haugen was born in Hallingdal, Norway, June 2, 1838; came with his parents to the United States in 1846, and they located in the Town of Plymouth, Rock county, Wis., the same year, and established what has ever since been known as the Haugen farm. There the large, well and favorably known family of "Haugen boys" grew to manhood.

The Haugen family of Plymouth, Wis., was one of the early pioneer families of Reck Prairie, whose record is an honor to the old pioneer community, and a credit to its members, whose success and achievements are now permanently recorded in the annals of several states, and even in our National legislative records.

The immigrant family consisted of Nils and his wife, Kari Haugen, natives of Hallingdal, Norway. They came to this country and located in Rock county, Wis., in 1846.

Several of the oldest children were born in Norway, while the younger contingent of the "Haugen boys" are natives of the Badger state. They all did their share in building up the old homestead, and as they arrived at the age of maturity, sought their fortunes in the adjoining new states of Iowa and Minnesota, where they prospered and soon became leading members of their community.

One of the younger members of the family is the Hon. Gilbert Haugen, member of Congress from Iowa, who is now ranked among the old and experienced legislators at Washington. Several of the older members of the family have been valued members of state legislatures, while Erik, the oldest of the family, and the only remaining resident of Rock county, has for near half a century been favorably known and identified with the town and county legislation of Rock county. The Medgaarden family were also early pioneers of Rock Prairie, coming from Norway, in the early forties.

of 1895, they bought a home in Orford and moved there. In 1909 they built a new residence in which they are now living.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagley have two children:

Ernest Norman, born Nov. 14, 1896.

Carl Sylvester, born Feb. 18, 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Wagley are members of the Lutheran Church.

In politics Mr. Wagley generally sides with the Republican party; being a very strong temperance advocate, he is ever ready to aid and assist any movement tending to restrict or eliminate the liquor traffic.

ERNEST NORMAN WAGLEY.

Ernest Norman, was born in Orfordville, Wis., November 14, 1896. After having graduated from the village school, and been confirmed in the Lutheran faith by Rev. O. J. Kvale, he attended the Beloit High School in the year 1911, and from which school he graduated in June, 1915.

CARL SYLVESTER WAGLEY.

Carl Sylvester was born in Orfordville, Wis., February 18, 1900. He graduated from the village school in June, 1915, and was confirmed by Rev. O. J. Kvale, in May, 1915.

CHAPTER XV

Gjermund Halvorsen Skavlem

Gjermund Halvorsen Skavlem. Uncle Gjermund. A bachelor's life. Folk lore and ballads. Dr. Johnson's sketch. Chris. H. Tollefsrud's contribution. Mail carrier. Vast fund of information. Always reading and remembering.

Gjermund was born on the farmstead of Nordre-Skavlem in the sub-Parish of Veggli, Nummedal, Norway, January 27, 1815. He came to the United States with his brothers, Lars and Gullik, in 1839. The first winter of his arrival he secured work near Chicago. Moved to Rock county, Wis., May, 1840. For several years he made his home with his brother, Lars.

In 1844 he purchased of Gulbrand Olsen the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 5, Town of Newark. In 1846 he added to his holdings by the purchase of, at government entry, the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ —N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 6, thus giving him a little farm of sixty acres.

As "Uncle Gjermund" lived in bachelorhood there are no offspring to perpetuate his memory.

Nevertheless, we believe that his simple life was not altogether in vain. Taking up the work of "mail carrier" for the "Emigranten" in the early '50's, he was undoubtedly one of the first "newspaper solicitors" among the Scandinavians of this country.

"Uncle Gjermund," ante-dated "Uncle Sam" by nearly half a century in the establishment of rural mail service. I believe he also inaugurated a "parcels post" service between Simon Straus' store at Orfordville and his mail route patrons.

Though without children of his own "Uncle Gjermund" still enjoyed the society of young folks. His folk-lore stories and occasional snatches of old Norse ballads were much enjoyed by his young friends.

Two of his most intimate "boy friends" have kindly sent me brief character sketches of "Old Gjermund."

The first is from the pen of Dr. J. S. Johnson,¹ St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dr. Johnson's sketch follows:

"Gjermund Skavlem was the nearest neighbor to my father's home, and he was very often at our place while I recollect many pleasant hours spent at his cabin.

¹ Dr. Johnson is a well known Norse-American whose remarkable faculty of character sketching is making him an enviable reputation in this line of literary work.

"He was considered a trifle 'odd' and eccentric by most of his wide circle of acquaintances. His education, undoubtedly, was limited to the parochial school facilities of his native parish in Norway, as they existed some eighty years ago. Notwithstanding, however, he was well-read in both the English and Norwegian languages, and he seemed always to have unlimited time to devote to his books and



Gjermund Halvorsen Skavlem

papers. Possessed of a good memory, it was admitted that he was well informed on all current events, on general history, politics and church matters, although he was never known to crowd further forward in the sanctuary than just inside the threshold.

Humboldt's "Cosmos" was his secular Bible. "Liberty and Equality for All Men" his political platform, and the Golden Rule his religious creed.

"He had been a "skræppe-kar" in his younger days in Nummedal. In his wanderings there, with his knapsack (skræppe) of knick-knacks and notions, he had received his first lessons in the study of human nature, and at the same time, formed certain lasting habits of life which he seemed unwilling or unable to break away from. He, therefore, seldom indulged himself in the experience of

the dignity of arduous toil, but lived a life of unrestraint and his excursions around the neighborhood were limited only by the number of miles which could be comfortably covered in a day's journey on foot.

"As pack-peddling was neither very dignified nor remunerative in the settlement, he substituted United States mail for the knives, wooden spoons, horn combs and kerchiefs his knapsack once contained, and carried the mail from Orfordville down into the settlement. He was invariably well received wherever he came with his "skræppe," his good-humored fund of news and his silver snuff box. His life flowed smoothly along, apparently but little disturbed by the troubles and trials to which the average person is certain heir. As his life was untainted by the breath of reproach, so was his person and dress clean and well kept. In the same manner as he constructed his own creeds and shaped his life according to his own tastes and desires, so he also kept his own house and did his own culinary work to suit his own demands and inclinations.

His house was small and simple, but like his life, was always clean, orderly and humbly dignified, and when he departed this life he left nothing but good will and pleasant memories of his sojourn on earth."

J. S. JOHNSON.

In 1866 Gjermund Skavlem disposed of his property to Hans C. Tollefsrud, receiving in return a life annuity or contract, stipulating that Mr. Tollefsrud was to furnish him the comforts of a home for the balance of his days.

Thenceforth he became a member of the Tollefsrud family, moving with it to Pocahontas county, Iowa, in 1878. He continued his residence with Mr. Tollefsrud until a short time before his death, when he returned to Rock county, and made his home with Mrs. Vaalhovd in the Town of Plymouth. He died May 25, 1884.

C. H. Tollefsrud, of Rolfe, Iowa, a son of Hans C. Tollefsrud, has kindly furnished the following interesting data concerning "Skavlem's Rural Mail Route in Rock county, established in 1852." It is a very interesting bit of pioneer history, and I am pleased to give it a place in this record.

"* * * Now, in reply to your request for some information as to *how* and *when* Gjermund became rural mail carrier, I give you the following data:

"Emigranten" ¹ was established at 'Törkop' ² early in 1852,

¹ "Emigranten." At a public meeting in the Norwegian Settlement at Rock Prairie, November 15, 1851, a "Press Association" was organized with a capital stock of \$730, consisting of seventy three shares of \$10.00 per share. The first issue of "Emigranten" is dated January 12, 1852, C. L. Clausen, editor. (In my article, Chap. XVIII, History of Rock County, 1908, a typographical error makes this date 1853; it should be 1852.—H. L. S.)

² In the southwest corner of Sec. 33, Town of Plymouth, the village of

the local postoffice was *Inmansville*, at the home of Jacob Fisher, on southeast corner of Section 29, Plymouth, a mile north. I think Gjermund became the paper's carrier in the spring of 1852, continuing as such, with slight intermissions, until the outfit was moved to Madison, about 1856. Two or three trips were made weekly. When the weather and the roads were good he used a wheel-barrow in transporting the paper. He also had charge of mail coming and going to the printing office. It was during this carrying service that Gjermund became proficient in reading English. The editor, Mr. Fleischer, gave him the use of many of his English exchanges, and Gjermund made good use of them.

"If I remember correctly, Gjermund told me that his compensation was thirty cents per trip. This would be a pittance now, but in the '50's was perhaps pretty good pay. But the work was congenial, suited his taste, and afforded necessary exercise.

"Orfordville was started in 1857, and about 1859, Gjermund commenced carrying mail from there for "Springbygden,"¹ Rev. Magelson and others near the church. He carried no mail for us or those in our neighborhood until 1862; then he brought it for all—east and west—going to Orfordville fixed days, twice a week. The day following his trip to Orfordville he took the *east bound* mail to the old printing office at Törkop, which became a sort of a sub-station.

"At his home he left the mail on a shelf in the northwest corner of the cabin, where on mail days when he was absent, patrons could sort out their mail. I often got my mail from this shelf. He had tenants always, and some one at the house.

"What "Springbygden" paid him I don't know, but in our neighborhood one dollar, or probably one dollar and twenty-five cents per family, per year. The patrons fixed the compensation and Gjermund was satisfied.

"In this work he had no authority from the postoffice department or local postmaster; no carrier's oath; no bond. Simply recognized by the postmaster as the agent for anybody for whom he requested mail. No mail matter he ever handled went amiss and the mail was never robbed.

"After moving to father's in the fall of 1866, he continued for some time, when weather and roads permitted, to carry mail for the the neighborhood—and even for Törkop for a short time. But be-

"Bornitz" was platted by C. L. Clausen. Here the parsonage was located; also a building was erected for the "printing office," and therewith the growth of the village of "Bornitz" ceased. It soon became better known as "Törk-op," a Norwegian appellation signifying "dried up" and "Törk-op" or "dried up" it remains to this day.—H. L. S.

¹ "Springen" neighborhood.

fore coming to Iowa, in 1878, he had for some years gradually ceased his regular trips.

“Now, I have written much more than I intended to, or that might be called for; but permit me to add that I thought a good deal of Gjermund; he did me many favors, and we were always friends. Aside from his peculiarities he had a good head and lots of good sense. He had a vast fund of information—he was always reading and remembering. He was always serious and honest, despising trickiness and dissimulation.

C. H. TOLLEFSRUD.”

CHAPTER XVI

Lars Halvorsen's Branch of the Skavlem Family

Lars Halvorsen's branch of the Skavlem family. First winter in Chicago. Rock County, 1840. Third house in Newark. A man of influence. Active in religious organizations. Character sketch. An Abolitionist. Individual freedom of thought. Well informed man. Benjamin Brown. English papers. Receipt for subscription for New York Evangelist. 1846. American Tract and Bible Society. "Bibel Ola." "Per Mehus." English books. Was a councilor. Pontopidans. Pastors. Groe Aae-Skavlem, large family. Betsy Cevents. H. K. Stjernes. Rev. Gustav Stearns. Sophia and Kaia Stearns. Halvor Nilssen Aae. The Aae family. Hangianers. A "Traveling Library."

LARS HALVORSEN SKAVLEM

Lars born in Nordre-Skavlem, Veggli, Nummedal, January 17, 1818, reared to agricultural pursuits at the parental home at an early age he started out for himself and spent several years as a "Skreppekar" (pack-peddler), traveling over the country selling goods. In 1839 he emigrated to America, spending the first winter in Chicago, and in the spring of 1840, he came to Rock county, Wis., where he located on government land in Sec. 11, T. 1, R. 11, E.—now Town of Newark—his was the third house built in the Town of Newark. He added to his holdings until his farm consisted of 215 acres of well improved land with suitable farm buildings to make a comfortable home, residing there until the time of his death, September 2, 1879. Lars H. Skavlem was a prominent citizen among the pioneers of Rock county, particularly so with his own countrymen. Strongly religious, but bitterly opposed to church intolerance and ecclesiastical domination, he took an active part in the religious contentions of those early times. He was an active promoter of the more liberal Americanized Lutheran Church organizations of that day. His home was the accepted headquarters of all religious and missionary activities, and his house was used for church services before there were schoolhouses or church buildings. As a bit of character sketch, at the same time tending to explain why those early Norse pioneers could not easily be herded into one flock by the Norwegian missionaries, I transcribe here a few paragraphs from an article written for the "Rock County History," 1908, Chap. 18, pp. 438-439. "We have already recorded the arrival of Dietrichson at Koshkonong, in 1844, and listened to the words of warning in his first sermon.

He came as a missionary of his church—not as an immigrant—



Mr. and Mrs. Lars H. Skavlem and Family (1869)
 Bessie Halvor Julia

Caroline

Helen

he had no idea of becoming an American. He loved his native land and its institutions with the strength of a young patriot, and above all he had just dedicated his young life, his all, to his great mother, the church. He found his countrymen here in a strange land, scattering flocks without a shepherd, under the influence of men whose proper place from his viewpoint, was the prison and not the pulpit. Many had already been led astray by Americans into the "many other erroneous sects found among the Americans." Surely here was work to do, and that of the strenuous kind. Here was the opportunity, and he was the man of the hour, and he went at it like the Viking that he was with sledge hammer blows. He warned his hearers to beware of the false teachings of Eielsen and his fanatical associates, to keep clear of the Americans and their many heresies, and especially to guard their children from the bad influence of the godless common schools. He urged the Norwegians to organize and support their own parochial schools, and send to Norway for good orthodox teachers.

The first church organization on Rock Prairie was the one organized by Dietrichson, in 1844-5, and Lars H. Skavlem was one of its members; all went smoothly for a while.

Then came the parochial school organization, with C. L. Clausen as their pastor. This was slow and up-hill work, but it was finally launched, and the school circulated from house to house, so many days at each place. In due time it came to Mr. Skavlem's house. This was in the '50's, after Clausen had moved to Iowa.

The scholars were all seated on benches around the room, when the teacher discovered that "Bergit"¹ was missing. He questioned Mr. Skavlem as to the whereabouts of the missing scholar, and Skavlem replied that the Yankee school had just begun and that he had sent her there. The good teacher took Mr. Skavlem to task for his carelessness of the spiritual welfare of his ward. Skavlem retorted that fortunately he was now in a country where he had a right to his own opinion on such matters. The arguments grew long and waxed warmer until the scene which stamped itself indelibly upon my memory—though I was then a mere child—was enacted.

I can still see that cold steel blue glint in his eye as my father looked the pedagogue squarely in the face and slowly said in the Norwegian language, which translated would be:

¹ Bergit Cevatsdatter (Betsy Cevets) was an orphan waif who found a home in the family of Lars H. Skavlem. She was brought up and educated as one of the family. Married Halvor K. Stjernes (Stearns), who also made his home at Mr. Skavlem's being a cousin of Mrs. Skavlem. She is now the aged mother of Rev. Gustav Stearns, for many years the popular pastor of the Church of the Ascension, Milwaukee, Wis. Her two daughters are both ladies of marked ability. Miss Sophia Stearns, of Minneapolis, being a woman of unusual executive ability, having successfully managed various enterprises. Her daughter, Kaia, is a successful educator by profession.

Mrs. Stearns resides at Northfield, Minn.

"You cannot plant Norway on these Wisconsin prairies," and his fist came down on the table with such a force that it would have been destruction to anything but a home-made piece of furniture. "If this is your religion, I'm done with you and your church." This was the first and last Norwegian parochial school in Mr. Skavlem's house, and the first serious clash between the two contending forces, destined to a long and bitter struggle, the outcome of which has never been in doubt. Nobody now wants to build Norway on the Wisconsin prairies. The conservatism and ultra Norse-Nationalism of that portion of the Scandinavian immigrants, completely dominated by the so-called State Church, can only retard the complete Americanization of its members for perhaps another generation. And this may be a "blessing in disguise." True evolution is slow of growth, and too rapid changes are apt to produce many freaks and abnormal individuals.

The early pioneers were more than half Americanized before they left their native land. Not so with the mass of the later arrivals. The longer time in transition may be necessary to the best results. My father was a persistent advocate of the thorough Americanization of all foreigners, and looked upon the public school system as the most efficient means towards that end. A constant member of the local school board, he always favored good teachers, good pay, and longer school terms. In politics he first identified himself with the Abolition or "Liberty Party" in 1840, and cast his first ballot for James Birny for president. He was bitterly opposed to slavery, and when the Republican party was organized to prevent its further extension he joined its ranks and continued a strong supporter of its principles during the balance of his life.

Being prominent in the early organization of the more liberal and Americanized faction of the Norwegian Lutherans, he was one of the leading workers, and served as an officer in their church organizations continuously during his life time.

Both in religion and politics he was broad and liberal in his views, tenaciously insisting on his rights to exercise his own judgments, he consistently conceded to others the same privilege. He never sought controversy, but was ever ready to defend his own opinions. Considering his opportunities, he was a remarkably well informed man. He found time during the busy days of early home-making, to acquire a fair knowledge of the English language. How early he became a subscriber to an English newspaper, I am unable to state. I recall his telling us of walking to Beloit of a Sunday (seven miles), to visit with Benjamin Brown, who loaned him papers to read, and as I understood also aided him in reading them. As far back as I can remember, father and mother both read the English newspapers. The following copy of a receipt in my possession shows that in 1846, he was not afraid of American influence in religious matters:

"Received of Lars H. Skavlem two dollars and fifty cents to be forwarded to the *New York Evangelist*, to pay for the present year.

\$2.50.

D. CLARY.¹

Beloit, Sept. 24, 1846."

In the early days our home was also a sort of sub-station for the American Tract and Bible Society. Ole Olsen Hetletvedt was the first Norwegian colporter. He was not known by the name of Hetletvedt nor Olsen, but was generally spoken of as Ole Middlepoint. This appellation was given him from the fact that he lived at or near a place called Middlepoint, in Illinois; usually, however, he was simply designated as "Bibel Ola" (Bible Ole). He would leave a part of his supply of Bibles and tracts with father for later distribution; thus our home was early supplied with English or American religious publications. On the death of "Bibel Ola," 1849 or '50, Peter Asbjørnsen² (Per Mehus), took his place as Bible agent or colporter, and for a time made his home at our house. I can distinctly recollect his wife, Guri, being very sick while they lived at our home. I have in my possession a "Forklaring." (Explanation of Luther's catechism) with the following inscription:

"Foræret Halvor Larsen, af,
P. Asbjørnsen,
Town of Newark,
den 20de June, 1850."

I was then less than four years of age.

Father gradually accumulated quite a respectable collection of English, or as he termed it "Amerikanske bøger" (American books). That these would hardly be placed in the list of juvenile books in a modern library, may be inferred from this partial list of books that I had access to, and not a few of which I read from title page to finis, when I was yet a small boy: Daubigne's History of the Reformation, Paley's Natural Theology, The Christian Philosopher, by Thomas Dick, The Philosophy of Religion—Thos. Dick, The Force of Truth—Thomas Scott, The Difficulties of Infidelity—George S. Faber. Then in General History there were Goodrich's History of all Nations, and Goldsmith's Rome; also Moral and Intellectual Science—George Combe, and Combe's Constitution of Man.

These books were not purchased as ornaments, but were read and diligently studied, and I think I am not misstating the facts,

¹ Rev. Dexter Clary was the first minister of the first Congregational Church of Beloit (1840-1850). Father used to walk to Beloit to attend his services.

² Peder Asbjørnsen was an eloquent lay preacher and revivalist. He later was ordained a Lutheran minister, and was a popular and active worker in the missionary field in the Norwegian pioneer settlements.

when I say that he was a remarkably well informed man considering the opportunities he had; diffident and unassuming he seldom took part in public discussions. He was a counselor, not an orator. The following incident was recalled to my memory by a friend a short time ago, while discussing the work of collecting these memories:

He asked me if I remembered the quick time made by father from the Luther Valley Church to his home (3 ½ miles distant), and back to church with a book for Rev. C. L. Clausen, wherewith the latter figuratively unhorsed one of the ablest disputants of the opposition—Rev. B. J. Muus. This was away back in the '60's when C. L. Clausen, was carrying on a controversy with his church associates, he being almost alone in opposition to certain doctrinal declarations of his associates regarding the slavery question that originated at the opening of the Civil War. Father was a great admirer of Clausen, and I believe that Clausen reciprocated the same feeling for father. Clausen was battling against great odds, the whole array of ministers were against him, although a large majority of the lay members of the local congregation sided with Clausen, but they were no aid when it came to doctrinal arguments, and hair splitting definitions of certain words. During the discussion some reference was made to "Pontopidans Pastorale"

Rev. Muus referred to the statement as a wild assertion that could not be substantiated, that Pontopidans Pastorale was a book so rare that he doubted there being a copy outside a Theological School in this country, and as it was written in Latin and only intended for ecclesiastics, he rather sarcastically insinuated that Clausen's version, even had he seen one, might easily be faulty. Whereupon Clausen replied, that the book could easily be brought in evidence; that his friend at his side, Lars Skavlem was the owner of the book, that it was not only in Latin, but was a polyglot edition, with the original Latin text rendered into Norwegian. Father quietly arose, and speaking to Clausen in a low, but audible tone, he said: "Aa ja, Me ha no Muus i knipâ" (we have a Muus-mouse—in the trap). His team was hitched outside, he jumped into the lumber wagon, and the rattle of that lumber wagon going and coming seriously rattled the Rev. Muus' arguments. The "Pastorale" was placed in evidence, showing that Clausen's version was correct, but then they questioned the authenticity of this particular edition, and father was asked for a history of the book. Well father, or rather mother got it from her father, Halvor Nilsson Aae. He brought it with him from Norway in 1842, he having acquired it from Rev. Winsnes or Vigsnes, resident "Sogneprest" Nore parish, Nummedal. It was this same book that mother used to study when she was a little girl in Norway, whereby she gained a slight knowledge of Latin, which she always claimed aided her materially in acquiring the English language.

On the twenty-third day of May, 1844, Lars H. Skavlem was

married to Miss Groe Halvorsdatter Aae.¹ Mrs. Groe Skavlem was a woman of model Christian character, a devoted wife and mother. She bore the hardships and privations of a pioneer's life with that bravery and unflinching devotion to duty characteristic of her race and people.

During her long and active life she was a prominent worker and liberal supporter of the Lutheran Church of which she was an honored member.

Twelve children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Skavlem, five of whom grew to mature years; only two are now living. Halvor L. Skavlem, the oldest of the surviving, now a resident of Janesville, Wis., and Mrs. Caroline Thompson, widow, the youngest of the family, residing at Beloit, Wis. Mrs. Skavlem survived her husband twenty-eight years, and died at Beloit, Wis., July 23, 1907. Of their children—

Bergit was the oldest, born March 24, 1845; died, aged 2 years and 3 months.

Halvor, born Oct. 3, 1846.

Nils, born Dec. 4, 1848; died March 31, 1856.

Guri, born Nov. 14, 1850; died 1871.

Ole, born Oct. 8, 1852; died April, 1853.

Child still born, April 4, 1854.

Bergit, born May 8, 1856; died Dec. 10, 1888.

Nils, born Feb., 1858; died aged 12 days.

Child still born, Sept., 1860.

Helen, born May 2, 1863; died July 4, 1909.

Child still born, Jan. 18, 1866.

Caroline, born Dec. 26, 1866.

The children were all born at the Skavlem home in the Town of Newark, and those that grew to maturity all had the pleasure and benefits of a Christian and happy home under the parental roof.

¹ Groe Nilssen Aae born in Nore Parish, Nummedal, Norway, January 13, 1827. She was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Nilssen Aae, and emigrated with her parents to this country in 1842. (See paper by Hannah Skavlem:). Halvor Nilssen Aae located on a piece of government land in Sec. 11, Town of Newark. This he improved and occupied until his death, which occurred in August, 1856. His wife, Guri Frygne, born in Nore Parish, August, 1793, survived him, and died in Beloit in her ninety-first year, April 14, 1886. They are buried at the Luther Valley Cemetery, Newark, Rock county, Wis. They were religious people and great admirers and followers of Hans Nilsen Hauge, a noted religious reformer of Norway.

Mr. Nilssen or old "Halvor Aae" as he was familiarly called by his countrymen, had the most complete set of Hauge's writings—and they were many—then in this country. This was used as a "Traveling Library," and visited almost every Haugianer's hamlet in the Norwegian settlements. Their log house alternated with Mr. Skavlem's in furnishing church room for the itinerant lay preachers before better accommodations could be secured.

CHAPTER XVII

Lars Halvorsen Branch of the Skavlem Family. (Con.)

Halvor L. Skavlem, sketches of, published, H. L. Skavlem-Olmsted. The Ommelstads—children. In politics, Progressive. Still on the firing line. Good roads. Librarian. Man of many sides, old time Naturalist. "A little of most everything, not much on any one thing." Unique library. The "old Canoe." Hannah Luella Skavlem. Literary ambition. Short stories. Early death. "A Tale of the Old Year." Louis Norman Skavlem. Gertrude, librarian. G. J. Skavlem-Holmes. The Holmes—Henry G. Skavlem, Colorado School of Mines. Mining Engineer. Cobolt, Porcupin, Canada. Superintendent of Acma Gold Mines. Ontario, Canada. H. G. Skavlem-Richardson. The Richardsons—Guri (Julia) Skavlem-Chantland. The "Tjentlands"—Lieut. P. W. Chantland. William Thomas Chantland, Ph. B., LL. B., University of Iowa, county attorney, special assistant to Attorney General, United States, "Trust Buster." Spanish War Captain; Colonel Iowa National Guard, W. T. Chantland-Sherman. The Shermans—of Revolutionary fame. Grandma Tjentland's military chart. Bergit (Bessie) Skavlem, school teacher at the age of sixteen years. Normal School, principal of Beloit schools; California, teacher; early death. Helen Skavlem-Johnson. The Johnsons—Helping to bear the burdens of others. Children. Gertrude Johnson-Woskie. The Woskies—Olga Johnson, Caroline Skavlem-Thompson. The Thompsons—children, Margurite, Laura, John, Elizabeth.

HALVOR LARSEN SKAVLEM.

(Several brief sketches of the "editor" of this work are published in county and state publications, and I much prefer to let others do "the talking," when the subject is yours truly, H. L. S. The following is from Usher's History of Wisconsin, Vol. VI, 1914:)

"The editor's insert here a more individual account of the career of Mr. H. L. Skavlem whose scientific and literary attainments are well known in many quarters of both his home state and the nation. He was born October 3, 1846, in the Town of Newark, Rock county, Wis. He lived the life of the ordinary pioneer farmer's boy. The working hours were from sun-up to sun-down, with plenty of chores before and after. He got all there was to be acquired in the common school education of that day. This he has supplemented by judicious study and investigation for half a century.

Although his early opportunities were limited compared with that of the present day, he made good use of them, and like so many self-made men, he became a school teacher, combining farming in summer and teaching in winter.

In December, 1873, he was married to Miss Gunnil Ommelstad¹ (Cornelia Olmstead), and they settled down to a farm life on a farm he had previously purchased near his father's home in the Town of Newark. There they resided until 1880, when he was

¹ Gunil Omelstad (Cornelia Olmstead), was born in the Town of Plymouth, Rock county, Wis., March 30, 1851. Her parents were Hans and Gjertrud (Odegarden) Ommelstad, For ancestral record, see Gjertrud Odegarden,



Louis

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Skavlem and Family

Henry

Mr. Herbert Holme
Mrs. Herbert Holme

elected sheriff of the county. They then removed to Janesville where they have since resided.

Mr. and Mrs. Skavlem are the parents of four children:

Hannah Luella, born in Newark, Oct. 13, 1875; died in Janesville, Dec. 2, 1898.

Louis Norman, born in Newark, Oct. 19, 1877.

Gertrude Juliana, born in Newark, Feb. 15, 1880.

Henry Gilman, born in Janesville, Jan. 31, 1885.

In politics Mr. Skavlem has always affiliated with the Republican party. Lining up with the Progressive wing of that organization, he has never hesitated to champion Progressive ideas that met his approval.

In his younger days during the "Farmers' War on Monopolies," generally designated as the Grangers' movement, of the early seventies, Mr. Skavlem was a consistent and persistent advocate of the leading reform measures that at that time were sneeringly referred to as socialistic propaganda.

With voice and pen he contributed to the discussions of the day, and some of his addresses are permanently preserved in the state publications. He now looks back across the space of nearly half a century, and is pleased to see that nearly every important reform measure that he then espoused has now been written into the laws of the state and nation. He is still on the firing line of progress, and rather likes to be referred to as "unsafe and dangerous" by the "moss-backs." Optimistic in his views, he believes in a slow but sure evolutionary progress of man. The world is better now than it ever was before, and to his view the time is gradually nearing when people will, shall, and must rule.

Mr. Skavlem has long been identified with movements tending to the betterment of the community in which he lives. The good roads movement found in Mr. Skavlem an earnest and able advocate.

As a leading member of the county board, he did much to line up his associates in favor of the movement. As fast as the state legislated in favor of road improvement, the county was ready to adopt the new system. Mr. Skavlem was urged to accept the new office of county highway commissioner. At the end of his term of office the county had eighty miles of improved county roads, and was conceded the banner good roads county in the state.

Since living in Janesville, Mr. Skavlem has taken great interest in the public library. He was librarian for three years, and for many years served on the board of directors. He promoted and helped organize the State Library Association. He advocated and assisted in introducing needed reforms in library administration; open shelves and children's room found in him a strong supporter. He has always been interested in the early and contemporary history of his native state of Wisconsin, as well as in the pre-historic ages of this region.

By nature and training a careful and critical observer, he has done valuable historical work for his county and state. He is a valued member of the State Historical Society; also a leading member of the State Archaeological Society, and has added valuable contributions to our knowledge of this interesting study. For many years he has been an active field worker and member of the Wisconsin Natural History Society. As an ornithologist and botanist he has contributed valuable papers of original scientific research that are real additions to scientific knowledge, and as a scientist he has more than a local reputation.

Of his many popular and technical articles it is impossible to mention even the title in this brief sketch.

Concerning his work as a collector of birds, a Wisconsin paper recently said editorially: His private collection includes fine specimens from every family known to the Badger State records, excepting the Carolina paroquet, which has not been seen by any reliable observer since the late '40's. The exhibits are grouped in their respective families, and the latter arranged in the order of evolution from the imperfectly formed diving birds, which are most closely related to the reptiles from which they sprang to the so-called perching birds—the larks, finches, thrushes, woodwarblers and flycatchers—which are recognized as the most highly developed of the bird family.

There are nearly 300 of the 357 species in the exhibition, including some birds now almost extinct in Wisconsin—the wild turkey of the pheasant family and the passenger pigeon.

Faternally Mr. Skavlem is a member of the Knights of Pythias. In religious matters he is inclined to do his own thinking, being more in harmony with the Unitarian belief than any other.

Mr. Skavlem wields a ready and versatile pen, and his literary field ranges from the technical, scientific paper to the lighter shades of magazine contributions in both prose and verse. He has a wonderful fund of all around knowledge. As he himself puts it, he is "one of the last of the old time 'naturalists' who knew a little of most everything, and not much of any one thing."

In his well chosen library—a unique collection of scientific, philosophical, literary and religious treasures—he enjoys the calm of life's evening as he writes to me and you, sentiments inspired by the "*Old Canoe*."

"MY OLD CANOE"

BY "CARCAJOU"¹

Yes, I'm old and out of fashion,
And my hand is shaky too.
Yet with Springtime comes a longin'
For my battered old canoe.
For my battered old canoe:
Yet with Springtime comes a longin'
For my battered old canoe.

Old time mem'rys cluster round it,
Days and scenes of long ago;
Shades of friends now long departed
Hover round my old canoe;
Hover round my old canoe;
Shades of friends now long departed
Hover round my old canoe.

Down life's stream we're slowly drifting,
Drifting slowly, I and you;
Time the scene will soon be shifting
For our battered old canoe;
For our battered old canoe;
Time the scene will soon be shifting
For our battered old canoe.

Aye, the shadow's growing longer,
Yet the sky is bright and blue,
And I see Nirvana yonder—
For my battered old canoe,
For my battered old canoe:
Yes I see Nirvana yonder—
For my battered old canoe.

¹ "Carcajou", is the pseudonym under which Mr. Skavlem is best known as a writer of popular "Nature Studies" and stories of "Out-door Life."

HANNAH LUELLE SKAVLEM.

Hannah Luella was born in the Town of Newark, Rock county, Wis., October 13, 1875. She came with her parents to Janesville, Wis., in 1880. She was educated in the Janesville public schools and for a time served as assistant in the Janesville public library. Having a decided literary bent of mind, she was from childhood a great lover of good books. Already at her young age she was familiar with the best of modern literature. Her ambition was that of a literary ca-



Hannah Luella Skavlem

reer, having already made her first bow to the reading public, by the publication of several of her short stories in some of the popular magazines. Just at the opening of what appeared to be a most promising and happy career, a severe cold developed into pulmonary troubles, which in spite of all that could be done, finally terminated her young and promising life. She died at the home of her parents in Janesville, Wis., December 2, 1898, and is buried in the family lot in the Janesville cemetery.

IN THE SLEEP OF ETERNITY.

MISS HANNAH L. SKAVLEM.

In the white-walled grave at Oak Hill cemetery, all that was earthly of Miss Hannah L. Skavlem was laid to rest yesterday afternoon. On a slightly knoll, covered with the pure white mantel that well

symbolized the young life that had been cut short, the interment was made, and as the summer suns shine on that pretty spot, the gentle breeze will whisper, forever and anon, "not dead, but gone before."

The funeral services were held from the family residence on Prospect avenue, at 2 o'clock, Rev. Arthur H. Barrington, rector of Christ Church, officiated, and his remarks were feeling. Mrs. Christine Hawley sang "We are Waiting By The River." There was a touch of pathos in her voice that brought tears to the eyes.

Rev. Mr. Barrington referred feelingly to the last message Miss Skavlem left for her friends. When she knew that death was but a few moments distant, she began to repeat the last verse of *Thanatopsis*, but physical strength failed, and she asked her father, who sat beside the couch to finish the quotation for her. He did so, and she whispered "yes, that is it—my last message to my friends."

After the casket was lowered into the grave, four school friends of Miss Skavlem placed flowers on the cover, the blooms nearly filling the opening.

The pall bearers were Edward E. Spaulding, Frederick L. Clemons, William W. Watt, Walter S. Fifield, and Burton F. Nowlan.

At the request of several friends, and as a tribute to her memory, I am glad to give place for this touching "pen picture" of the tragic lives of some of the early immigrant families. The narrative is substantially true as I heard mother relate it when I was a child, though names, dates and personelle, have been modified by the license of the story writer. The story was first published as a Christmas story in the *Janesville Gazette*, 1897, and later copied by several other papers:

A TALE OF THE OLD YEAR.

Dec., 1810. BY HANNAH L. SKAVLEM.

The children always considered it a treat to be allowed to visit grandma's room, and they were all there now, grouped before the huge fireplace in whose cavernous mouth crackled and blazed a rousing log fire.

No lamps desecrated the wavering, mystical glow of the fire-light which streamed forth a great ruddy circlet of light, reaching far out into the room. In the darkened corners strange eerie shadows played at hide and seek with the illusive flame phantoms. Bright and cheery within; without the wind howled and raged with the fury of a December blizzard.

It was just a few nights before Christmas, and the air was rife with a pleasurable excitement.

Two little girls seated on stools at grandma's feet, were busily putting the last touches to their Xmas gifts,—folding them away in silken tissue paper, then tying each delightfully mysterious little bundle with

bands and bows of rain-bow colored daisy ribbon. The little tots, Lou and Ned, were as deeply interested in the popping of corn and the roasting of chestnuts.

Grandma was seated in her favorite chair, a tiny white-capped sombre-draped figure lost in its capacious depths. Her eyes were closed and her knitting needles clicked a harmonious accompaniment to the shadow pictures that flitted across her face. Lost in reveries of the past, she did not seem to hear the murmuring voices about her.

Oh, Dear Grandma! Was there ever, I wonder, another one to compare with you?

"Put away your fixings, fussbudgets," said Lou to his busy little sisters, at the same time emptying his last popper full of corn into the pewter bowl heaped to overflowing with the fluffy white and gold kernels. "We will now indulge in some refreshments." With much hustling alacrity and sniffing of the aromatic fumes wafted about them the little maidens hastily disposed of their bundles.

Returning to the fireplace they were drolly welcomed by Ned, who with sundry graceful flourishes of his shovel of roasted chestnuts, besought them with a comical politeness to "spesa (eat) and be morosam" (merry).

HEAR "NECKEN'S HARP."

The refreshments seemed to have a most enlivening effect upon the hitherto quiet little people. The mirth and hilarity of the feasting children waxing louder and noisier until at length it disturbed the quiet flow of grandma's meditations.

"O harken!" suddenly whispered that good dame, her face turned in a listening attitude toward the windows, "Can any one hear Necken's harp tonight, I wonder?"

Necken is a Norse merman, a spirit of the water, living in the wildest cataracts where he plays the most wierdly enchanting music upon his harp, and grandma always referred to the splashing cadence of Glen Falls as Necken's harp.

A profound silence settled upon the room. The moaning and shrieking without grew more distinct and fearful. An incessant tattoo beat against the window panes like the tap-tapping of so many icy finger tips. Amidst all this wild tumult Necken's harp remained mute, or if it sounded, its fainter strains were swallowed up in the angry seething of the storm. Then as grandma turned and glanced into each intense listening face, the least bit of a smile peeped forth from her eyes at having thus quickly restored the quiet and order she loved without arousing the suspicions or hurting the feelings of her little ones.

"Oh gram, tell us a story, won't you please, gram?" teased Lou. "Yes do, do grannie dear, something about trollds, hulders,

and the hill people chimed in Agnes, hopping about like an animated jack-in-the box.

Now these trolls, huge wicked ogres together with hulders—a kind of wood nymphs and ugly pygmies—are a few of the strange beings whose marvelous exploits are immortalized in Norwegian Folklore.

"Oh no, gram. Those are only fairy tales about make believe people. Tell us instead something about the jolly scrapping Vikings you know," said Henry.

"What would you like Meta?" asked grandma of the quietest and youngest of her little folks, her eyes resting tenderly upon the childish face still haunted with the rapt wistfulness that had come over it when she listened for Necken's harp.

"A Christmas story, if you please, grandma," she answered softly, as she cuddled down in grandma's lap.

"Well, well, Trolls, Vikings or Santa Claus, which shall it be?" and then after a few minutes of silence "Bestemor" (grandmother) said:

TRUE TALE OF 1840.

"My dears (and her voice had grown strangely sad and low), 'I shall tell you tonight a Yule story of my own life, my first Christmas in America, the cold, dreary, cheerless December of 1840.'"

Grandma then resumed her knitting, her eyes fixed upon the dancing fire light as if she saw in its fantastic shapings a panorama of the scenes she described.

"How vividly it all comes back to me, those never to be forgotten weeks of our long tragic voyage across the stormy Atlantic. The Svanen (swan) on which we sailed carried one hundred and fifty passengers mostly emigrants. Among us were men young and daring, whose restless roving natures had led them to seek new sights and adventures in a far-off land. Others again, old men and women, crippled by age, sorrow and poverty, having heard of the wonderful resources of this much talked of America, took up anew the ambitions of their lost youth and bravely set forth to make for themselves new homes and greater fortunes in this land of promise. We were a joyous, hopeful company, steering blindly into unfamiliar channels of life with an exultant light heartedness pathetic now to recall. Past joys and sorrows forgotten, we lived only in the excitement of the present. And the near future? Was it not always before us hovering low down on that far western horizon? The mirage of land all green and golden bathed in the bright glow of rose tinted hopes. After many a night when the others were dancing, singing and making merry, Eirik and I would steal away to the upper deck and wrapped in our warm furs for it was already winter, we would walk for hours up and down in the moonlight.

"Then it was that I heard of the new house awaiting us. A little log cabin on the edge of a small clearing far distant from the haunts of men and civilization; surrounded by prowling red men and wild beasts.; one's nearest neighbors miles away, separated by intervening forest, marsh or grassy plain; one's only visitors the straggling trappers or traders chancing to pass our way. For your grandfather, my dears, had already been two years in America, only returning to "Gamle Norge" (Old Norway) for his babies and me.

STORM BREAKS LOOSE.

"But these happy days were soon ended. The sky became overcast. In nature's great heart a storm was brewing. A sullen waiting hush hung over all then, filling the air and ocean with agitated mutterings. An impenetrable film as cold as a grave cloth unfurled itself from the greyness o'erhead, wrapping us closer and closer in its winding sheets.

"Winter's gloom crept chilly into our lives, and the first shadows of new trials blotted out the sunshine in our hearts. Then the storm broke. The sea, like some great monster at bay, howled and writhed in impotent fury, lashed into huge mountainous waves by the fiendish shrieking winds. A stinging hail beat incessantly down upon us while the cannons of the deep boomed their awful menace of destruction.

"'We are doomed! We are lost!' wailed the panic-stricken people as our little ship plunged blindly through the icy fogs, the blinding snow and swirling waters that beset us on all sides. Driven far out of our course by the gale, our ship disabled and leaking, we were in a sorry plight. Our food supplies grew scanty, sickness fell upon us. Misery, death and gaunt despair stalked abroad in our midst. Sad and terrible were the scenes enacted upon that drifting wreck. But one day, a day sacred to memory, we sighted land. And early one morning, four months from the time we left Bergen, we dropped anchor in New York harbor.

WAS A SAD LANDING.

"Oh, but how sad a landing was ours! Where now were all the gay and robust men and women who had embarked so gladly? Many were buried in the sea. And the rest—see them as they staggered down the gang-plank in the ghastly dawn of a cold winter morning, orphaned children, widows, husbands desolated, sweet-hearts and friends torn asunder, rescued from one unknown depth to be dropped into another. Pitifully grief-stricken with haggard faces, the wrecks of what they once had been. Just before we landed the captain called us all on deck and told us we would be quarantined two weeks in New York, and that those too ill to care for themselves would be taken to the hospital for treatment. Before we

half realized in our benumbed minds what all this meant, we found ourselves before a great iron gate, behind which we disappeared into quarantine. Morning passed. The afternoon wore on into early dusk and we had not yet heard news of our sick at the hospital. My anxiety as to the welfare of my husband grew hourly more distressing. Death, always death! Would it never cease to trouble my thoughts?

"Oh Eirik! Eirik! Where are you? Who cares for you now; who cares for you now; who smooths away the pain from your brow; who is always beside you watching, caring and praying for you?" At last almost frantic from such thoughts as these I made a desperate resolve.

FOUND IN THE HOSPITAL.

"Unseen and unsuspected, with my children close to my breasts, I slipped out in the night and walked the desolate gloomy driveway of the station. A closed carriage drew up to the curbing a short distance in front of me from which an elderly man alighted, a man of noble commanding presence. I would ask him. He would help me, I felt sure. Timidly I accosted him, and in a few broken words that I knew, told him my trouble. I feared I had not made him understand, he stood so long silently regarding me. But suddenly placing his hand on my head, speaking in my own language, he said in a voice I love always to remember:

"Dear heart may God send many others like you to this land, my brave, loyal little woman.' Then he put me in his carriage, gave some directions to the driver and we whirled away.

"I stood upon the threshold of the sick room. It was so bare and cold, so still, white and comfortless, like a place for the preparing of the dead, with its white covered cots and strange floating odors. Faint and sick at heart, blinded by tears, I followed unseeingly down the long white line.

"'Karen!'"

"It was only a whisper, but it was your grandfather's voice. There on the little white pallet I had just passed, he lay, smiling up at me."

There were tears in grandma's voice when she began again:

HEARD SISTERS SING.

"The doctor had said 'some time before midnight,' and together we awaited the last. Then suddenly upon the hushed silence came the sound of far distant singing. Nearer, nearer swelled the invisible chorus. A door swung wide and the room was flooded with a subdued soft melody. It was a Christmas eve custom, and these were the Norwegian Sisters of Charity of the Sailors' Mission. Their sweet voices thrilled the air with softest music, like the cadence

of silver toned bells chiming an angelus of the soul, as in our dear old Norse they sang:

“O, ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low,
Who waft along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing,
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.”

“‘Hear the angels sing’ echoed through our listening hearts. Over the faces of these weary pilgrims so near the end of their life's journey dawned a calm joy and peace, ‘the peace that passeth all understanding.’

“Again the chorus soared on high, growing fainter and sadder, most solemn and mournful, as the Sisters moved slowly from our sight:

“Then, too, the old year dieth,
And the forests utter a moan
Like the voice of one who crieth
In the wilderness alone:
Farewell! Farewell!

“These were the last words wafted back to us. Then all was silent again. Farewell—‘Farvel’ how like these words. With a sudden rush of memory there flashed before me with all the vividness of reality, the wharf, the sea, the ship, the goodbyes on the eve of my husband's first departure for America. And I know he too beheld the vision, drawing me closer, he whispered again the same sad words of parting:

“‘Farvel! Farvel! Min Kjaere, Farvel!’”¹ Then as though speaking to unseen spirits, Grandma softly whispered the following lines:

“Ja skilles vi maa, ja skilles vi maa,
Dog vi samles igjen, naar vi maalet opnaa,
Vi samles hos vor Fresler kjæer,
Vort hjem er der, vort hjem er der.”

Thus ended Grandma's story of the old life and the old year in that long past, bleak December of 1840.

LOUIS NORMAN SKAVLEM.

Louis Norman born in the Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., October 19, 1877, has continually resided with his parents; was educated in the Janesville public schools, graduate of the Janesville High School, class of 1896, was for several years employed as a bookkeeper for the Badger Coal Co., later purchased the Myers'

¹Farewell! Farewell! Dearest, Farewell!

Music and Art store, No. 11, South Main St., Janesville, which he conducted for several years, then he disposed of his interests in the store, and has since devoted his time to the sale of musical instruments, making a speciality of the Baldwin pianos. He resides with his parents at 605 Prospect Ave., Janesville; single.



Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Holme

GERTRUDE JULIANA SKAVLEM.

(MRS. GERTRUDE SKAVLEM HOLME.)

Gertrude Juliana born in Newark Rock County, Wis., February 15, 1880; educated in the Janesville High School, and graduated in the class of 1897; also attended the State Library School at Madison, Wis.; engaged in library work, and was for five years librarian of Janesville Public Library. She made her home in Janesville with

her parents until November 15, 1910, when she was married to Herbert Holme.¹

For two years they lived in Janesville, and since that time have spent the winters in Los Angeles, California.

HENRY GILMAN SKAVLEM.

Henry Gilman born in Janesville, Wis., January 31, 1885; graduate of the Janesville High School class of 1903, he soon there-



Henry G. Skavlem



Mrs. H. G. Skavlem

after entered the service of S. B. Heddles, of Janesville, Wis., and for a time served as foreman in his large tobacco packing warehouse. In 1905 he entered the Colorado School of Mines, located at Golden, Colorado, where he spent four years, graduating with the class of 1910, receiving the degree of M. E. (Mining Engineer.) His first engagement in his chosen profession was at Cobalt, Ontario, Canada, where he filled the position of mining engineer in the Meteor Silver Mining Company, Limited.

¹ Herbert Holme born in Blackburn, Lancashire England, October 5, 1871. His parents were George and Ellen Holme

George Holme was a merchant, born in Blackburn, in 1834. and died at Blackburn in 1894.

Ellen (Walmsley) Holme was born in 1833, in Blackburn. and died in Clitheroe, Lancashire, in 1911.

Herbert Holme was the youngest of three sons, and came to the United States in 1884. when he spent two years in Texas. He returned to England, and after making his home in London for some time, returned to the United States in 1894. Since that time he has been principally engaged in mercantile business. For eight years he conducted a dry goods business in Janesville, which he disposed of in 1912. Since that time Mr. Holme has not been actively engaged in business. Mr. and Mrs. Holme spent some time in Europe, and in later years have spent their winters in California, and summer season in Wisconsin. They have no children.

In 1911 he entered the service of the Hollinger Gold Mines, Limited, at Porcupine, Ontario, Canada. He was first employed as mining engineer of the Hollinger Mines. In 1912 he entered the service of the Canadian Mining and Finance Company, limited, and is still in their employ; at present he is superintendent of the Acme Gold Mines, Limited, of Timmins, Ontario, Canada.

Of fraternal orders he is a member of Tau Beta Pi and Theta Tau (American engineering fraternities); also a member of the Canadian Mining Institute, and associate member of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, of London, England; also a member of the Masonic Order.

On the 6th of February, 1915, Mr. Skavlem married Emma Theresa Hanks Richardson,¹ of Janesville, Wis., and they immediately thereafter took up their residence at Timmins, Ontario, Canada. Mr. Skavlem has already attained an enviable position in his profession, and is at present intrusted with the management of one of the most valuable mining properties in the Dominion of Canada.

GURI SKAVLEM.

(MRS. JULIA SKAVLEM CHANTLAND.)

Guri (Julia) was born on the old Skavlem homestead in the Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., November 14, 1850. She received a common school education, residing with her parents until 1868, when she married Peter William Chantland,² of Webster

¹ Emma Theresa Hanks Richardson was born in Janesville, Wis., July 29, 1889; graduate of the Janesville High School, then spent two years as a pupil at Sacred Heart Convent, Montreal, Canada, then entered the Wisconsin State University, and graduated in 1913. Her parents are Victor P. and Mary Emma (Dimock) Richardson; both were born in the city of Janesville, Wis.

Victor P. was born June 10, 1859. He has for many years been identified with the manufacturing and business interests of the city, having been called upon to fill many important positions of trust, including that of mayor of the city. His father, Hon. Hamilton Richardson was one of the successful pioneer business men of the city. A prominent citizen, he served in the state legislature both as assemblyman and state senator.

Mary Emma Dimock was born July 27, 1859. Her father also was one of the pioneer business men of Janesville, locating there in 1845, where he first engaged in the mercantile business, and later on conducted an extensive insurance business. He was one of the early mayors of the city, and was active in the promotion of all interests tending to the upbuilding and advancement of the young city.

² Peder Wilhelm Tjentland (changed to Peter William Chantland) was born at Tjentland, Hjelmeland Parish, Norway, October 11, 1840. He came to the United States with his parents in 1853, and with them at first lived in the Town of Primrose, Dane County, Wis. In early life he started out to shift for himself, working at farm work until 1861, when answering the call of his adopted country for volunteer troops, on December 8th of that year, he was mustered into the United States service as first sergeant of Co. E, 15th Wis. Inf., Vol. He participated in all the battles and campaigns of that regiment until the fall of 1863.

On April 10, 1863, he was appointed by the governor of Wisconsin as sec-

County, Iowa, where they were first located on a farm, but soon moved to Fort Dodge, Iowa. In this city, Mr. Chantland, in partnership with his brother-in-law, H. L. Skavlem, engaged for some time in the hotel business.



Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Chantland
William

and lieutenant of his company, to rank as such from April 9, 1863. On November 6 1863, he tendered his resignation on the grounds of ill health, and it was accepted November 11, 1863, pursuant to which he was honorably discharged from the service. After returning to Wisconsin, and partially regaining his health, he spent some time at Albion Academy, Dane County, Wis., and afterwards engaged in school teaching and farming. In 1867 he moved to Webster County, Iowa, where he had previously purchased a farm. This was the first land owned in Webster county by a Scandinavian, and was the commencement of the large and thrifty Norwegian settlement in the northern part of Webster and the southern part of Humboldt counties, Iowa.

"Pete" Chantland soon moved to Fort Dodge, the county seat of Webster County, where he lived the balance of his life, and was a prominent and influential citizen, filling many positions of honor and trust, and was very helpful in the development of the new country. He was probably more than any other person, the one Norwegian consulted on all matters in general by his countrymen, and any man who has had the opportunity to help as many as he did has made the world better for his activity. He was elected sheriff of Webster County in 1877, and served eight years in that office.

He became captain of Company F. 9th Iowa National Guard in 1881, and lieutenant colonel on the staff of the governor of Iowa, in 1888.

He was a member of the Loyal Legion, I. O. O. F., was a thirty second degree Mason, and several times served as Commander of the Fort Dodge Post, G. A. R.

Mr. Chantland died at Fort Dodge, Iowa, July 11, 1905.

In 1871, while Mrs. Chantland was on a visit to her old home in Rock County, Wis., she contracted pneumonia through unavoidable exposure to a storm, and died. She was buried in the family plat in Luther Valley cemetery.

Early in life Mrs. Chantland became devoutly religious, a member of the Lutheran Church. She was an earnest and untiring



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Chantland and Family
Grace Sherman

worker in all church and religious activities that made for the uplift and betterment of the community.

To Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Chantland was born one child:
William Thomas, born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, June 22, 1870.

WILLIAM THOMAS CHANTLAND.

After the death of his mother, William T. remained in the family of his grandfather, Lars H. Skavlem, until 1876, when his father took a second wife, Anna Natesta.¹ William T. then returned to his father's home in Fort Dodge.

William Thomas Chantland graduated from the Fort Dodge

¹ Anna Natesta was the daughter of Ansten Natestad (Natesta), a man very prominent in the history of early Norwegian immigration to the United States. He was the organizer and leader of the first colony of Norwegian settlers in Wisconsin, located in Rock county, in 1839.

High School in 1887; from the Liberal Arts College of the University of Iowa, Iowa City, in 1892 (Ph. B.); and from its Law Department in 1894 (LL. B.).

He engaged in the practice of law at Fort Dodge, Iowa, and was elected county attorney or prosecutor, for two terms, 1897-1901. On March 15, 1911, he was appointed special assistant to the Attorney General of the United States and moved to Washington where he now resides. His work is that of "Trust Buster," and he has had charge of some important and technical cases, among them the Aluminum Trust, the Brazilian Coffee Valorization Scheme, the Tin Can Trust, and the Smelter Trust.

His military ancestry ¹ seemed to have its influence for William Thomas began his military career by leading his class for three successive years in the Cadet Battalion at Iowa University. While still a student there he helped to organize a company of National Guard at Fort Dodge, becoming its first lieutenant, and later its captain. As captain of Co. G, 52d Iowa Infantry Volunteers, he served in the Spanish-American War, April 26, 1898, to October 30, 1898, when his regiment was mustered out of the service.

In 1903 he re-entered the Iowa guard service as a private, but was almost immediately chosen captain of his old company. In May, 1904, he was chosen major of the then 56th Iowa Infantry, and on October 26, 1907, he was chosen colonel of the regiment, in which position he served until after his removal to Washington, D. C., when, being then the senior colonel of the Iowa National Guard, he resigned August 26, 1912, and was placed on the Roll of Retired Officers of Iowa.

William Thomas Chantland was married September 12, 1900, in

¹ The grandparents of paternal Col. Chantland were Torbjorn Torbjornson, born in 1804, and Ellen Christina Tjentland, born in 1818. Torbjorn T. was of the common people—a peasant. Ellen Christina belonged to a branch of a distinguished old Norse-Danish military family by the name of Weltzin on her mother's side. Her father's name was Tjentland, and on her marriage, her husband adopted the wife's family name, a practice common in Norway, when the husband becomes the occupant of the wife's home.

(Col. William T. Chantland has kindly furnished me with a copy of the "Military Chart" of his paternal ancestors and relatives, as given to him by "Grandmother Tjentland," and I take pleasure in giving it a place in our records.—H. L. S.)

Branches of the Weltzin family are also prominent in German military records. The "Dutch Recruit" and soldier of fortune Lieutenant Diedrich Von Weltzin of Co. F., 11th New York Cavalry (War of Rebellion) was probably a distant cousin of the two "Norske" lieutenants, Iver William Tjentland and Peter William Chantland, of Co. E., 15th Wis. Vol.

As previously stated, Mr. and Mrs. Tjentland came to the United States in 1853 and located in Dane county, Wis., and in 1867 moved to Webster county, Iowa, where Torbjorn T. Tjentland died February 4, 1896, and his wife, Ellen Christina, died January 21, 1908. They were remarkably well informed, refined, religious people who held the unquestioned esteem and respect of all who had the pleasure of their acquaintance.

Omaha, Nebraska, to Angeline L. Sherman.¹ Mr. and Mrs. Chantland began their homemaking at Idaho Falls, Idaho, but soon returned to Fort Dodge, Iowa, where Mr. Chantland was engaged in law practice. They continued their residence there until 1911, when they moved to one of the suburbs of Washington, Virginia, Highlands, Virginia, where they now make their home, on ground formerly part of the historic Lee-Curtis-Washington estates.

Mrs. Chantland is very popular and active. She was "Daughter of the Regiment" while her husband was its colonel. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and eligible to membership in the Colonial Dames.

Mr. and Mrs. William T. Chantland have two children, both born at Fort Dodge, Iowa:

Grace Corinne, born May 11, 1903.

Sherman Augustus, born July 28, 1906.

Mr. Chantland is a member of the following fraternal societies: Military Order of the Loyal Legion.

Sons of Veterans.

United Spanish War Veterans.

Naval and Military Order of the Spanish-American War.

B. P. O. E.

M. W. A.

In the latter, he was, for many years, Assistant Adjutant General of Foresters.

In politics he has been a Progressive Republican one of the original "Iowa Idea" type which promulgated the famous "Anti-Shelter to Monopoly" plank in 1898. So his trust-busting proclivities are of long standing and rooted conviction.

Angeline L. Sherman was born in Cherokee, Iowa, January 19, 1880. She was educated at Cherokee and at the Iowa State Normal at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and lived at her father's home until 1900, when she married William T. Chantland.

Her parents were Major and Mrs. James Augustus Sherman, of Cherokee, Iowa.

Mrs. Angeline Sherman Chantland is a descendant of the Shermans of revolutionary fame, of whom, Roger Sherman, of Connecticut, was a signer of all three of the great documents of American Liberty, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution of the United States. Mrs. Chantland is, therefore, a second cousin of the late vice-president, James A. Sherman, General William T. Sherman, United States Senators John Sherman, and George Frisbee Hoar.

GRANDMA TJENTLAND'S MILITARY CHART.

Military Chart showing actual War services, either for their native or adopted country, of the Paternal Antecedents and Relatives of Colonel William Chantland, as told him by his Grandmother, Ellen Christina Tjentland (Chantland).

1. Grandma Chantland's
Grandfather..... { Major William Magnus Weltzin,
Major in Danish Army during Na-
poleonic Wars. (Rank of Major
then about equivalent to Brig. Gen.
modern regulations.)
2. Grandma Chantland's
Uncle..... { Lt. Col. Ludwig John Weltzin,
Commanding "Bergen Brigade"
War of Norwegian Independence,
1814.
3. Grandma Chantland's
Uncle..... { Captain Joachim Caspari Weltzin,
Captain, War Norwegian Inde-
pendence.
4. Grandma Chantland's
Uncle..... { Lt. Johan Ludwig Weltzin,
Inspector of Engineers, War of
Norwegian Independence. After-
wards Chief of Customs, Christiania.
5. Grandma Chantland's
Uncle..... { Andrew Tjentland,
War of Norwegian Independence,
1814. (Died in hospital.)
6. Grandma Chantland's
Uncle..... { Thomas Tjentland,
War of Norwegian Independence,
1814. (Died in hospital.)
7. Grandma Chantland's
Brother..... { 1st Lt. Iver William Tjentland,
Co. E, 15th Wis., War of Rebel-
lion. Had been sergeant in Nor-
wegian Army.
8. Grandma Chantland's
Nephew..... { Ole Storland,
Private Co. E, 15th Wis., War of
Rebellion.
9. Grandma Chantland's
Son..... { Peter William Chantland,
Lt. Co. E, 15th Wis., 1861-3,
War of Rebellion.
10. Grandma Chantland's
Son..... { Thomas Chantland,
Sergeant Co. K, 28th Wis., 1861-3,
War of Rebellion.

11. Grandma Chantland's Grandson..... { William Thomas Chantland,
Captain Co. G, 52d Iowa., Spanish-
American War, Major and Colonel
56th Iowa, National Guard,
1905-12.
12. Grandma Chantland's Grandson..... { Thomas Amos Nelson,
Private Co. G, 52d Iowa, Spanish-
American War.



Ellen Christina Tjentland



Col. W. T. Chantland

BERGIT SKAVLEM.

(BESSIE SKAVLEM.)

* Bergit Skavlem was born May 8, 1856, on the Skavlem homestead in Rock County, Wis. She received her education in the common schools and in Mrs. Kendall's private school in Beloit. At the age of sixteen she taught her first term in the country schools near her home. After teaching a few years, she resumed her studies



Bessie Skavlem

at Whitewater Normal, being a graduate of the class of 1878. She then took up her profession of teaching in the city of Beloit, serving one year, 1878-79, as principal of District No. 2, and then for one year as principal of District No. 1. In 1882-83, she taught at the Beloit High School. Then later, in 1885, on account of ill-health, she went to California, there teaching in the public schools and also acting as a private teacher. She returned to Beloit in the spring of 1887, and died of tuberculosis, December 10, 1888, at her mother's home in Beloit.

HELEN SKAVLEM.

(MRS. HELEN JOHNSON.)

Helen was born on the Skavlem homestead in Newark, Rock County, Wis., May 2, 1863. She received a common school education.

With her mother she moved to Beloit, Wis., where she resided until April 27, 1887, when she married Bernt O. Johnson,¹ and moved with him to a farm near Richland Center, in Richland County, Wis. She resided there sixteen years when, in 1903, Mr. Johnson sold his farm and with his family moved to Beloit, Wis., where the family continued to reside until the death of Mrs. Johnson, which occurred at her home on Elm street, Beloit, July 4, 1909.

Mrs. Johnson's life seemed predestined to the care and assistance of the aged and helpless. During her girlhood she devoted several years to the constant care and nursing of her aged grandmother, Mrs. H. Nilssen Aae.

After marriage, while tending to the duties of her own family, she had the care of her husband's aged parents and gave them not only a pleasant home for their declining years, but the unstinted love of a devoted daughter.

The last years of her life were spent with her aged mother who, weighed down with the decrepitudes of old age, required—and received—the constant care and tender ministrations of a patient and loving daughter.

Mrs. Johnson bore the trials and troubles of her own life with uncomplaining Christian fortitude—forgetting her own troubles by helping to bear the burdens of others.

¹ Bernt O. Johnson Hullet (changed to Ben Johnson). was born in Land, Norway, July 4, 1859. With his parents he came to the United States in 1866. They first located in the town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., where Bernt grew up and was educated to the pursuit of farming. In 1887 he married Helen Skavlem with whom he moved to a farm near Richland Center, Richland County, Wis. In 1903 they moved to Beloit, Wis. Mr. Johnson is now living in Lincoln County, Wis. His parents were Ole Johnson and Marit (Tollefsrud) Hullet.

Ole Johnson Hullet was born in Land, Norway, February 4, 1819.

Marit Christophersdatter Tollefsrud was born at Tollefsrud, Land, Norway, April 19, 1826.

Mr. and Mrs. Hullet were married in 1845, and came to the United States in 1866, first locating in Rock County, Wis., but soon moved to Richland County, Wis., where they bought one hundred acres of land, improved the same, and made this their future home. They sold the farm to their son, Bernt, but continued to reside on it for the balance of their days.

Mrs. Hullet died in 1899, and Mr. Hullet followed in 1902. Mr. and Mrs. Hullet were both life-long members of the Lutheran Church, and honored members of the community in which they lived.



Mr. and Mrs. B. Johnson and Family
Olga Gertrude

"The heart—the heart! Oh! let it spare
A sigh for other's pain
The breath that soothes another's care
Is never spent in vain.
And though it throbs at gentlest touch.
Or sorrow's faintest call.
'Twere better it should ache too much,
Than never ache at all."

To Mr. and Mrs. Johnson three children were born:
Mina Gertrude, born July 22, 1890.
Olga Luella, born August 22, 1894.
Louis Oliver, born July 30, 1889; died August 13, 1889.

MINA GERTRUDE JOHNSON.
(MRS. GERTRUDE JOHNSON WOSKIE.)

Mina Gertrude was born in the town of Akan, Richland County, Wis., July 22, 1890. She received her education in the Beloit city

schools, and also took a short business training in one of the business colleges.

In 1903 she moved with her parents to Beloit, Wis. She made her home with her mother until 1909, when she married Roger William Woskie,¹ of Chicago, and moved with him to Chicago, where they have since continued to make their home.



Miss Olga Johnson

OLGA LUELLA JOHNSON.

Olga Luella was born in the town of Akan, Richland County, Wis., August 22, 1894. She was educated in the Beloit city schools.

After the death of her mother she made her home with her aunt, Mrs Caroline Thompson, Beloit, Wis., excepting for a short period when she resided with her cousin, William T. Chantland, living first at Fort Dodge, Iowa, and then moving with Mr. Chantland and family to Washington, D. C.

In 1912 she returned to Beloit, Wis., where she has since made her home with her aunt, Mrs. Thompson.

¹ Roger William Woskie was born in Winona, Minn., May 4, 1887. He received a common school education, and three years in the high school.

In 1906 he secured a position as brakeman (passenger), on the C. & N. W. R. R., and has since continued in its employ. His parents were Henry and Effie C. (Rogers) Woskie.

Henry Woskie was born in Wisconsin, Oct. 6, 1855.

Mrs. Woskie was born in Winona, Minn., Aug. 25, 1860. They now reside at Sleepy Eye, Minn. Mr. Woskie has been in the R. R. employ for thirty three years. Mr. Woskie is of German descent; Mrs. Woskie is of English descent.

CAROLINE SKAVLEM.

(MRS. CAROLINE SKAVLEM THOMPSON.)

Caroline was born December 26, 1866, on the Skavlem homestead in Rock County, Wis. She attended common school, and in 1882, moved with her mother to Beloit, where she was graduated from the Beloit High School in 1887. In 1888 she attended Mount Holyoke College. July 2, 1890, she was married to Edmund Thompson,¹ of Beloit. Mr. Thompson died May 16, 1909. Mrs. Thompson still makes her home in Beloit.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thompson seven children were born, three of whom died in infancy. The four now living are:

Marguerite Gladys, born June 19, 1891.

Laura Josephine, born June 6, 1892.

John Waldemar, born Nov. 28, 1895.

Ruth Elizabeth, born Aug. 6, 1907.

MARGUERITE GLADYS THOMPSON.

Marguerite Gladys, born June 19, 1891. She received her education in the Beloit public schools, being a member of the high school class of 1910. At present she is at home with her mother.

¹ Edmund Adolf Thompson was born in Beloit, Wis., October 31, 1866. He attended the Beloit public schools and the Beloit College Academy. At the age of sixteen he entered his father's shops. Later he was made a member of the firm of John Thompson & Sons' Manufacturing Company, being vice-president at the time of his death which occurred May 16, 1909. Mr. Thompson's parents were John and Martha (Walleswerd) Thompson.

John Thompson was born in Moen, Birkenes Sogn, Norway, July 15, 1828. He came to the United States in 1850, and first located in Whitewater, Walworth County, Wis., but soon came to Beloit, where he found employment at his trade, blacksmithing. A little later he secured employment at the Skinner Plow Works at Rockford, Ill., and while there made the first plow that was turned out of that factory. He remained there until 1852, when he again returned to Beloit. In 1856 he opened up a shop of his own, manufacturing plows and other farm implements. The business prospered, and in a short time he became the head of the John Thompson & Company manufacturing concern. Through various changes Mr. Thompson continued in the control and management of the business until 1902, when he retired from active work, turning the management over to his sons.

Mr. Thompson was identified with the manufacturing interests of Beloit, for half a century, and his thrift, enterprise and skillful management did much in building up Beloit as a manufacturing town, in its early days. He was also identified with the public affairs of the city serving nine years as a member of the Beloit City Council. He died, July 24, 1914, at his home in Beloit.

Martha Walleswerd, was born at Walleswerd, Hovaag Sogn, Norway, June 16, 1837. She was a daughter of Christen Walleswerd, a member of the Norwegian "Storting" or Parliament. In 1857 Mr. Thompson went back to his native land, and on May 13th, married Miss Walleswerd. She then came to Beloit with Mr. Thompson where she continued to reside until the time of her death, which occurred April 16, 1915. An old resident of Beloit, she was loved and respected by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. Attaining the fullness of years, she left the record of a beautiful life and pleasant memories behind.



Mrs. Caroline Thompson and Family
John Marguerite Laura
(Insert) Edmund Thompson Elizabeth

LAURA JOSEPHINE THOMPSON.

Laura Josephine, born June 6, 1892. She was graduated from Beloit High School in the class of 1910, and from Beloit College in 1914. She is now teaching in the high school at Menomonie Falls, Wisconsin.

JOHN WALDEMAR THOMPSON.

John Waldemar, born November 28, 1895. He was graduated from Beloit High School in the class of 1913, and is now a student at Beloit College.

RUTH ELIZABETH THOMPSON.

Ruth Elizabeth, born August 6, 1907. She is attending the graded schools of Beloit. The children all make their home with their mother.



A. Holverson's Family. 1913

Cornelia

A. Holverson

(Early Family Group see Chapter 19)

Tosten

Hannah

Caroline

Henry

Rebecca

CHAPTER XVIII

The Abram Holverson Branch of the Skavlem Family

Herbrand Halvorsen Skavlem (changed to Abram Holverson). The Abram Holverson branch of the Skavlem family. Herbrand, Voyage of the "Emelia," arrives at Chicago. Learning English. To Rock County. Locates home. H. Skavlem-Odegarden. Odegarden family. Buys more land. Large family. Pioneer of Kansas. Tostens' recollections. Holver A. Skavlem, shifting of name, H. A. Skavlem-Allison. The Allison (Hesla), farmer, traveling salesman, deputy sheriff, gas works, prominent Mason, K. P. and I. O. O. F. Geneva Skavlem-Hook, Dr. Charles O. Hook. The Hooks—Tosten Holverson, soldier boy, merchant, Kansas, Oregon, California. T. Holverson-Leedy. The Leedys—Gertrude Holverson-Sroat. The Sroats—Elizabeth Holverson-Evans—The Evans. Fifty years ago—Ole Holverson, a pioneer Kansas farmer, O. Holverson-Schatz. The Schatzes—Geo. and Herman Holverson. Myrtle Holverson-Youngman. The Youngmans—Caroline Holverson-Gesley. The Gesleys—Minnie Gesley-Gravdale. The Gravdales—Geo. Gesley-Eldridge and Springen. The Springens—Sabel Gesley-Bredeson. The Bredesons—Cornelia Holverson-Smith. The Smiths—Minnie Smith-Burkett. The Burketts—Henry Holverson, Kansas, Oklahoma, California. O. Holverson-Johnson. The Johnsons—Fred. A. Holverson, Helen Holverson-Kelly. The Kellys—Ed. M. Kelly-Stout. The Stouts—Ella Kelly, Helen Kelly-Saunders. The Saunders—Rebecca Holverson-Leedy. The Leedys—Abram Leedy-Thomson. The Thomsons—Homer Leedy-Smith. The Smiths—Rollin Leedy. Hannah Holverson-Hines. The Hines—Charles Hines, Earl Hines-Doolin. The Doolins—Thomas, Harry, Helen, Mildred Hines.

HERBRAND HALVORSEN SKAVLEM.

(CHANGED TO ABRAM HOLVERSON.)

Herbrand was born at Nordre Skavlem, in the sub-parish of Veggli, Nummedal, Norway, October 3, 1822. He came to America in 1839.

He took passage on the "Emelia" which sailed from Drammen to Gothenburg where it took on a cargo of Swedish iron as ballast. A big storm was encountered near Lindesness on the coast of Norway. A pilot came out to the vessel and asked the captain if he wanted to go into the harbor. The captain put the proposition to the passengers that if they would pay a part of the expenses of the pilot the ship would be taken into the harbor. They agreed to do so, and the amount was readily made up, and the vessel sailed into the harbor and remained there one week.

On the way across contrary winds were encountered and slow progress was made. The drinking water got very low and bad, and had to be boiled before it was fit to drink. At the banks of New Foundland they stopped to fish. They caught an immense flounder which required the strength of the captain and three men to land on the deck of the ship. As the flounder lay on the deck "Blind Andrew" (son of Goe Bjöno), one of the passengers, wanted to meas-

ure it with his hands in order to get an idea of how large it was. No sooner had he laid his hands on the fish than it gave a flop which sent the blind boy sprawling on the deck—but fully satisfied as to its size.

The "Emelia" reached New York, August 23d, having been at sea about nine weeks. Herbrand made his way to Chicago, arriving there with just one-half of a sovereign in his pocket. He soon obtained work at the "United States Hotel." At this hotel were three Irish girl employees who took an interest in the youthful Herbrand, and taught him to speak English fairly well. After several months he quit the employ of the hotel and engaged with a German doctor named Brinkerhoff.

Herbrand H. Skavlem remained in Chicago and vicinity a little over one year, and then went to Jefferson Prairie, Rock County, Wis., where he made his home for a short time with Ole Natesta. He then went to Rock Prairie, Wis., and took up a piece of land in Section 19, Township of Beloit.

While improving his land he made his home with Widow Gunnil Odegarden and family. He soon became engaged to one of the daughters, Gunnil,¹ whom he married in 1843, and moved into the log house built the same year. He purchased an ox team for which he paid forty dollars, including the yoke. He also bought a milch cow for ten dollars. (Harvest hands received fifty cents per day, and hired girls fifty and seventy-five cents per week. A washer-woman's wage was one shilling per day.)

In the early days he hauled his wheat to the Milwaukee market, a distance of eighty miles, the price he was paid being fifty cents, and some times less, per bushel. Several of the neighbors would make the trip together; but with the slow-moving oxen they would be gone from home for fully a week. He raised some hogs and at first received three cents per pound for dressed hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Holverson—he had already changed his name to Abram Holverson—lived in the log cabin until 1850, when it was torn down and moved to a new location but a short distance from the old. It was then remodeled and enlarged, all the logs from the old cabin being used in the new building. It was boarded inside and out, with a new frame kitchen built on. A further addition to the building was made in 1853, when a stone or "grout" house was built, the work being done by Tolle Gravdale.

In 1852 Abram Holverson purchased the Widow Odegarden's place, which adjoined his, and she with her two remaining daughters made their home with him. (The two daughters were Astrid and

¹ Gunnil Tostensdatter Odegarden was born in Nore parish, Nummedal, Norway, January 1, 1825. With her mother and three sisters she came to the United States in 1839. Gunnil at once sought employment in American families in order to learn the English language. For a time she worked for Mr. Washburn, then living near the present village of Afton. There she met with an accident which lamed her for life. (For record of her parents, see Odegarden.)

Guri. Astrid married Björn Swenson Löken and moved to Iowa. Widow Odegarden died of cholera in July, 1854. Shortly afterwards Guri married Ole Gulack Gravdale.)

Mr. Holverson bought a piece of land, consisting of forty acres from Arne Gullicksen Rondehaug, making his farm consist of three hundred and twenty acres.

In 1869 Mr. Holverson again became a pioneer. In the spring of that year he left Wisconsin to look up a new home in Kansas. He and his son, Ole, in company with Ole Skofstad and Andrew Johnson, of Jefferson Prairie, made the trip with wagons. He took with him about five hundred sheep and several cows and horses.

The emigrants arrived at their destination in southeastern Kansas, Howard County (now Chautauqua County), in the latter part of August. Abram Holverson located a claim on Sec. 1, T. 24, R. 8. This land had been purchased by the United States government from the Osage Indians, but was not surveyed until nearly two years later.

There were but few settlers in the country at the time, the nearest neighbor to the north was thirty miles distant, and the nearest railroad was 175 miles distant; nothing in the shape of supplies could be obtained nearer than at Eureka, eighty miles distant; for a time the latter place was the nearest postoffice.

Mr. Holverson built a log house and lived in it until 1874, when a large, substantial stone residence was built. The work was done by William M. Kelly, who afterwards became a son-in-law, marrying Helen Holverson.

In the fall of 1871 his sons, Henry and John, and his daughters, Nellie, Helen and Rebecca, joined him; and in the fall of 1874 his wife and youngest daughter, Hannah came.

To Mr. and Mrs. Holverson eleven children were born:

Halvor, born Nov. 6, 1844; died Oct. 9, 1907.

Tosten, born June 4, 1846.

Ole, born May 11, 1848; died Dec. 4, 1907.

Bergit Caroline, born April 9, 1850.

Cornelia, born May 20, 1853.

John, born Dec. 25, 1854; died May 2, 1857.

Henry, born Feb. 2, 1857.

Helen, born Feb. 27, 1859; died Aug. 6, 1882.

Rebecca, born Aug. 18, 1861.

John J., born May 6, 1863; died Sept. 10, 1882.

Hannah, born Oct. 2, 1866.

Mrs. Holverson died at Cedar Vale, Kansas, March 26, 1888, and rests with others of her family in the cemetery at Cedar Vale. She was a life-long member of the Lutheran Church.

In 1890 Mr. Holverson went to San Diego, California, remaining there until 1906, when he returned to Cedar Vale, Kansas, where

he has since made his home with his youngest daughter. Hannah Holverson Hines.

He is still living, and at ninety-one years of age is quite active, enjoying working among the trees and flowers. He reads a great deal and keeps well posted on current events.

In politics he has been a life-long Republican.

He is a member of the Lutheran Church.

Tosten Holverson has contributed some recollections of pioneer days in Wisconsin that will be of interest. They are as follows:

"My earliest recollection of our Rock County home is that of living in the little log cabin, and is quite distinct.

"It was a one room house, with two windows and a door. The loft was reached by a ladder. At one end was a large stone fire-place where all the cooking for the family was done. There were three of us children in the family at that time; Holver, the oldest; Tosten (myself) and Ole, then a baby. We slept together in a trundle bed which, in day time, was pushed back under the larger one occupied by the parents.

"I remember in winter the snow would drift in between the cracks in the logs and pile up in miniature drifts on the floor. The cold at times was intense, and we children would huddle together in front of the fire-place to keep warm. We would amuse ourselves at times by making snow-balls of the snow that blew in between the logs of the cabin.

"In summer we were left much of the time alone, as mother would help father at work in the fields. They suffered considerably those days from fever and ague, but they kept resolutely at work. While on a visit last fall to 'the scenes of my childhood,' H. H. Husemoen, of Beloit, Wis., related to me the following:

"'It was 'way back in the early days, I was just a boy then and was driving the cattle (oxen) for your father who was breaking a piece of land. He did'nt wear any foot covering—worked barefoot. He came down pretty bad with the 'ager' (ague), and once when the shaking spell came on I had to stop the cattle, and he lay down in the furrow to shake it out. When 'shook out' he'd get up again and I'd start the cattle and the breaking would go on again. He was a big, powerful man and he did not seem to mind any kind of hardship.

"I have heard mother relate that when I was a little toddler, I ventured too near the spring and fell in, and would have drowned, had she not come to my rescue.

"I remember well the Sunday morning in the early spring of 1850, when father announced that he was going to look up a new spot for the location of a new home. Brother Holver and I went with him.

We ran on ahead and as we came to a clear place among the hazel brush one of us would cry out, 'Her ska nu huse staa,' and the other would yell; 'Nei. Her ska nu huse staa.' With father's assistance we finally decided on the exact spot. The family was moved the same week into a house owned by Halvor Kjorn, and located on his farm adjoining ours. There were already two families occupying this house. They were brothers, known as Knute and Hans Snikkern—(Carpenter)—they were carpenters, and this is an instance where the vocation made the name.

They made room for us, and I can remember that the house was very much crowded, but in those days such an inconvenience was not considered at all. Every one wanted to help every one else. Selfishness was not in the make-up of any of those kindly Norse pioneers. In this house my sister Caroline was born, April 9, 1850.

"The cholera epidemic of the summer of 1854, I well remember. A party of Norwegian immigrants came to our house one evening in July, some of whom were ill of the disease. Father and mother took them in and made them as comfortable as possible. One man died that night, and father and a hired man made a coffin of plain rough boards and buried him in the little Luther Valley cemetery, they digging the grave themselves.

"This same task was necessary every day for six days. Six trips to the cemetery—each one accounting for the remains of a loved one being borne to its last resting place. Five of the immigrants were victims of the disease, and my grandmother was the sixth and the last. In the afternoon before her death she was walking about the yard picking up stray feathers, gathering material for a feather bed. Suddenly I saw her stagger and fall to the ground. I ran quickly to the house and called mother who immediately came out, and with the assistance of aunt Guri, carried her into the house. She passed away about six o'clock the next morning.

"My father was a large, robust man, always enjoying good health. He was a hard worker and strictly temperate, never tasted liquor nor used tobacco. He would not drink cider if it were a little old. He was a remarkably even-tempered man, nothing seemed to disturb or worry him. Only on one or two occasions, as I remember, was this trait varied. One was when my sister Nellie ventured too close to the heels of one of the horses. It kicked out with one foot and toppled her over. She was not hurt, however, but father was mad through and through. He hastily put a bridle on the old mare and with a sheepskin for a saddle he jumped on her back and away they went, father constantly hitting her with the bridle reins and digging his heels into her flanks. John Gilpin's famous ride was clearly outclassed. He rode her too and fro through the boggy meadow, water and mud flying in all directions. Finally, when the old mare was

nearly worn out by the enforced violent exercise and covered with foam, he rode to the barn and hitched her with the remark, 'Well, I guess this will cure you of kicking.' The sheepskin was lost early in the race.

"The other occasion was on a Thanksgiving day. A number of the neighbors' boys¹ had gathered at our house and we were amusing ourselves in various ways. We were standing in front of the house watching the antics of a turkey gobbler on the roof trying to walk on the gable. It made considerable noise clawing the shingles to keep from falling off. Father was sitting in the house reading his favorite paper, '*The New York Tribune*.' The racket finally seemed to grate on his nerves, and thinking some of the boys were throwing stones on the roof, he came out in a hurry to stop such proceedings; but seeing us all looking at the roof glanced up and spied the turkey near the chimney. He grabbed a convenient club and with all his might hurled it at the offender. It missed the mark, but hit the chimney square at the top with the result that the bricks flew in all directions. He surveyed the wreckage for a moment and then simply said, 'Huh!' walked back into the house and resumed his reading.

"Father was of a religious nature, always attending meetings, but never taking any active part in any of them. When he did not go to a meeting on Sunday, mother would read a sermon from the 'Postil' (Book of Sermons). We children used to think some of those sermons were unnecessarily long.

"We were, on the whole, a happy and contented family, with seldom any discord to mar our serene and even lives. We were obedient to our parents and seldom disobeyed. Mother always did the correcting. A threatened switching was nearly always effectual in enforcing obedience.

"My mother was a small woman weighing scarcely more than one hundred pounds, and lame; but she was a tireless worker and never complained. From early morning until late at night she was busy with her household cares.

"There remains with me today a sweet and blessed memory of a dear mother who did her part in life faithfully and well, and passed on."

December 1913.

T. HOLVERSON,
Portland, Oregon.

¹ I was one of the boys and can vouch for the absolute correctness of this story—H. L. S.

HALVOR HERBRANDSON SKAVLEM
(CHANGED TO HOLVER A. SKAVLEM.)

Mr. Skavlem's father seems to have changed (supposedly in translation) his Christian name, Herbrand to "Abram" before he came to Rock County. That is, he was always designated "Herbrand" in Norwegian; but "Abram" was considered a translation of "Herbrand" into English. And like others of the earliest Norwegian settlers, he was first known and designated by his English-speak-



H. A. Skavlem Family
Photo about 1895

ing neighbors by his Christian name which was changed to "Abram"—Mr. "Abram."

His children were registered at the country school as "Holver Abram," "Tosten Abram," and "Carrie Abram." When his oldest son, Halvor (changed in spelling to Holver Holverson, *alias* Holver Abram), decided to have his name changed legally back to the old family name, Skavlem, he retained the initial of Abram "A," which had then become his surname—Holver Abram—while Holver Holverson was what may be termed his "signature name," his father having adopted the name of 'Holverson,' and leaving off the farm name "Skavlem."

Thus we have traced the changes his name underwent; his

baptismal name, which was undoubtedly registered as "Halvor Herbrandson" in the old family Bible; its first change in phonetic spelling, H-a-l-v-o-r to H-o-l-v-e-r, and H-a-l-v-o-r-s-e-n to H-o-l-v-e-r-s-o-n; then the assumed translation of Herbrand to Abram, the substituting of *Abram* for *Holverson*; then finally, by legal act of the County Board of Rock County, Wis., changing Holver Holverson (*alias* Holver Abram) to Holver A. Skavlem, but even this was not permanent, as he wrote "Scavlen" in place of Skavlem.

Holver A. Skavlem was born on the old farm, near Beloit, Wis., November 6, 1844. He was educated at the common schools; attended Beloit College for a short time; and in 1863-4. attended Bryant & Stratton's Business College, in Chicago. In 1866 he was employed as a clerk in a grocery store in Beloit, Wis.

In 1872 he married Randine Hesla,¹ (changed to Rachel Allison), of Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis. Shortly after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Skavlem took charge of the old Holverson homestead in the Town of Beloit, Wis., where they lived for several years. Leaving the old homestead they moved to a farm near Orford, and later to the village of Orford, Rock County, Wis.

In 1875-6 Mr. Skavlem was employed in a dry goods store at Brodhead, Wis. In 1876 he resigned this position and engaged as traveling salesman until 1882, when he was appointed deputy sheriff under the administration of then sheriff H. L. Skavlem, of Rock County.

On the expiration of his term as deputy sheriff he again resumed the road as traveling salesman until 1885, when he and his family moved to Cherokee, Iowa, to accept a position in the dry goods store of Allison Bros., which place he held for ten years, when again he answered the call of the road and resumed traveling which he kept up for two years. He then acquired an interest in the Chero-

¹ Randine Hesla (changed to Rachel Allison), was born in the town of Spring Valley, Rock County, Wis., in 1852. She received a common school education and made her home with her parents until the time of her marriage to Holver A. Skavlem, in 1872.

After the death of her husband she remained in Cherokee, Iowa, to wind up his business affairs, and then moved to Rockford, Ill., where she made her home with her son-in-law, Dr. Charles O. Hook, until 1908, when she moved to Fort Worth, Texas. Here she remained until 1913, when she moved to Pasadena, California, where she now makes her home. Her parents were Asle and Anna (Coldjörnson) Hesla.

Asle Hesla was born in Hallingdal, Norway, 1811.

Anna Colbjörnson was born in Hallingdal, Norway, in 1812.

Mr. and Mrs. Hesla were married in Norway. They came to the United States in 1846, and located in Rock County, Wis., in the Town of Spring Valley.

They were prominent and respected members of the old pioneer settlement of Rock Prairie. Mr. Hesla was the owner of a fine farm near the Village of Orford, Rock County, Wis., where he continued to reside until his death?

Mrs. Hesla survived her husband three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Hesla were members of the Lutheran Church.

kee Gas Works and took up work in connection therewith which he continued to the time of death, October 10, 1907.

To Mr. and Mrs. Skavlem two children were born:

Genevra Adella, born in Orford, Wis., October 8, 1875; and an infant died at birth in 1884.

Mr. Skavlem was a prominent member of the Masons, of the Knights of Pythias, and of the I. O. O. F.



Dr. Chas. O. Hook Family (1912)

Mildred

James

Mrs. Hook

GENEVRA ADELLA SKAVLEM.

(MRS. GENEVRA SKAVLEM HOOK.)

Genevra Adela was born at Orford, Wis., October 8, 1875. She was educated at the Cherokee High School, graduating in 1895. She resided with her parents until the time of her marriage to Dr. Charles Otis Hook,¹ October 18, 1899.

¹ Charles Otis Hook was born at Greencastle, Missouri, December 6, 1876. He was educated at the Greencastle public schools; Northern Missouri State Normal, 1894-5-6; graduated from American School of Osteopathy, 1898; Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital, 1903; Medical Department of Loyoloe University, 1913. He continued in the practice of his profession and has a large and successful practice.

He is a member of the Masons, Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias,



T. Holverson Family 1913 (Grouped from previous photos)
 Paul Shroat T. Holverson Joseph Evens
 Mrs. Shroat Mrs. Holverson Elizabeth Shroat Mrs. Evens

Dr. and Mrs. Hook resided at La Salle, Ill., until September, 1905, when they moved to Rockford, Ill. Here they resided until 1908, when they located in Fort Worth, Texas, where Dr. Hook is engaged in the practice of his profession, and has gained a prominent place in the local profession.

To Dr. and Mrs. Hook two children were born:

Mildred Sarah, born Sept. 17, 1900.

James Holver, born Dec. 9, 1903.

Dr. and Mrs. Hook are members of the Methodist-Episcopal Church.

TOSTEN HOLVERSON.

(THOMAS HOLVERSON.)

Tosten was born on the old farm homestead near Beloit, Wis., June 4, 1846. He attended Beloit College in 1861-2-3. Enlisted in Co. "D," 43d Wis. Vol. Inf., August 30, 1864, and served to the close of the war. Was discharged at Nashville, Tenn., June 24, 1865; final payment and discharge, Camp Washburn, Milwaukee, Wis., July 6, 1865.

He secured a position in the dry goods store of Heivly & Babbitt, Beloit, Wis., in 1866, and a short time later when they retired from business, accepted a position with H. R. Moore & Sons (dry goods; same place) where he remained until the fall of 1870. In that year he went to Eureka, Kansas, and in partnership with Ira P. and Joseph C. Nye, under the firm name of Nye Brothers & Holverson, engaged in the dry goods and clothing business. Their place of business was known as the "Badger Store"—the three members of the firm being from the Badger State. In 1874 he sold his interest in the business to his partners and returned to Wisconsin. Here he farmed the old home place for one year, and after a few months' residence in Beloit, returned to Eureka, Kansas, where, with his brother-in-law, Joseph H. Leedy, they purchased the D. C. Amberg dry goods stock and engaged in that business for many years. The firm was Holverson & Leedy. Later J. H. Leedy transferred his interest to his brother, Charles A., the firm name remaining the same. In the fall of 1888 he sold out his business in Eureka and moved to the Pacific Coast, locating at Salem, Oregon, the capital city of that state.

Here he engaged in the dry goods business, prospered, and

Modern Woodmen, Woodmen of the World. In politics he is a Progressive Republican. His parents were James H. and Sarah Anne (Morris) Hook.

James H. Hook was born at Grassy Creek, Kentucky. His parents were of Hollandish descent. He died in 1907.

Sarah Morris Hook was of Hollandish descent. She died in 1905.

Mr. and Mrs. Hook were married in 1844, and resided at Grassy Creek, Kentucky, later moving to Greencastle, Missouri.

built a beautiful home. Selling his interests in Salem, in 1903, he removed to San Diego, California, and with his brother, Henry, conducted a feed and fuel business; returned to Oregon in 1907, locating in Portland, where he engaged for a time in the real estate business.

He was married March 17, 1872, to Emma J. Leedy.¹ She was born in Eaton, Ohio, May 27, 1852: To Mr. and Mrs. Holverson two children were born:

Gertrude R., born at Eureka, Kansas, Feb. 9, 1874.

Elizabeth L., born at same place, Dec. 31, 1876.

Mr. Holverson and family were members of the First Congregational Church at Salem. At Portland, Holverson and his wife became members of the Hawthorne Park Presbyterian Church, of which church Mr. Holverson is still an honored and active member.

While residing at Salem, Oregon, Mr. and Mrs. Holverson were prominent in the social life of the city. State officials and men of note were often guests at their beautiful home.

Mrs. Emma Leedy Holverson died at the family home in Portland, Oregon, January 20, 1913, and rests in Mount Scott Park Cemetery near that city.

Tosten (Thomas) Holverson is making his home with his daughter at 569-571 East Main street, Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Holverson has always been a Republican in politics, and now registers as a "progressive" of that party. He is also a member of the G. A. R.

GERTRUDE R. HOLVERSON.

(MRS. GERTUDE HOLVERSON SROAT)

Gertrude R. Holverson was educated at Williamette University, Salem, Oregon, and Rockford Seminary, Rockford, Ill. She married Paul Harper Sroat,² October 17, 1894.

¹ The Leedy family occupy an honorable and prominent position in Kansas history. Ex-Governor Leedy of Kansas was a cousin of Mrs. Holverson. Her parents were Abraham and Rebecca (Taylor) Leedy.

Abraham Leedy was born in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, in 1811. Was of German descent. His father had many slaves on his plantation. Emigrated to Ohio when a young man; married Rebecca Taylor, June 28, 1840; moved to Indiana in the later '50's; laid out and named the town of Antioch, Indiana (afterwards changed to Andrews); engaged in farming and in the milling business; during the war bought a great many horses for the government. He was a republican, and a life-long member of the Dunkard or Brethren Church; died at Eureka, Kansas, June 9, 1880. Buried at Eureka, Kansas.

Rebecca Taylor born in Eaton, Ohio, in 1820. Was a cousin of President Zachary Taylor. Died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. T. Holverson, Salem, Oregon, Dec. 2, 1893. Buried at the side of her husband at Eureka, Kansas. She was a life-long member of the Dunkard Church.

² Paul Harper Sroat's parents were George and Georgena (North) Sroat. George Sroat was born in Kentucky in 1831, and was of German descent. He moved to Nebraska City, Nebraska, in its early pioneer days; was the first

Mr. and Mrs. Sroat now reside at 569-571 East Main street, Portland, Oregon. They have one child, Elizabeth Emma Sroat, born in Salem, Oregon, July 19, 1903.

ELIZABETH L. HOLVERSON.

(MRS. ELIZABETH HOLVERSON EVANS)

Elizabeth L. Holverson received her education at Williamette University, Salem, Oregon, and Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. She was an accomplished musician.

Elizabeth L. was married October 14, 1903, to Joseph G. Evans, Jr.³

Mr. and Mrs. Evans had no children. They resided at Portland, Oregon, where Mr. Evans still continues to make his home. Mrs. Evans died at Portland, Oregon, April 16, 1914.

sheriff elected in Nebraska; engaged in the real estate business and accumulated considerable property. Married Georgena North in 1857. Died in Nebraska City, Nebraska, in 1887.

Georgena North was born in Ireland in 1841, and came with her parents to the United States when a young girl. (They were also pioneer settlers in Nebraska City.) Her father was a jeweler by trade, and was engaged in that business until his death. Mrs. Georgena North Sroat is now living at Pasadena, California. Mr. and Mrs. Sroat were members of the Baptist Church.

Paul Harper Sroat was born in Nebraska City, Nebraska, January 13, 1871; went to Oregon, in June, 1889; for several years was employed by the Capital National Bank of Salem, and later associated in business with his father-in-law, T. Holverson. In 1896 he moved to Portland and engaged in life insurance. Is now a member of the firm of Sroat, Evans & Martin, General Insurance.

Mr. Sroat was the nominee of the Democratic party for secretary of state in 1906, but was defeated. (The only successful candidate on that ticket was Governor Chamberlain, now United States Senator from Oregon.)

Mr. Sroat is a member of the Masonic Order and of the Elks' Society.

In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party.

³ The parents of Joseph G. Evans, Jr., were Joseph G. and Eliza (Vincent) Evans.

Joseph G. Evans, Sr., was born near Longpoint, Ontario, Canada, in 1839. He engaged in farming; married Eliza Vincent in Brussels, Canada in 1866, and came to Salem, Oregon, in 1868; is at present living in Salem, Oregon.

Eliza Vincent was born near Canthill, in Ireland, 1842; came to Canada in 1850.

Mrs. Eliza Vincent Evans died in Salem, Oregon, February, 1911.

Joseph G. Evans, Jr., was born in Salem, Oregon, July 22, 1875. Enlisted for the Spanish American War, April, 1898, in Co. "B," 2d Regt. Oregon Vol.; saw service in the Philippine Islands; was mustered out with the regiment at Presidio, California, August 7, 1899. He then engaged as a clothing salesman; moved to Portland, in 1906, and continued in the same business until 1909, when he took up life insurance as a business. He is now a member of the firm of Sroat, Evans & Martin, offices in the Spalding Building, Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Joseph G. Evans, Jr., is a member of the Fraternal Order of Elks; and in politics is a "Progressive Republican."

MET IN BELOIT FOR FIRST TIME IN FIFTY YEARS.

FRANK PECK AND THOMAS HOLVERSON CLASP HANDS—MET
FIRST IN NASHVILLE HOSPITAL DURING THE WAR.

Two elderly men yesterday gazed into each others' eyes and shook hands, this being their first meeting in fifty years. When last they met they were in a Nashville, Tenn., hospital, where both had gone to recover from injuries sustained in battle.

The two men were Frank Peck, of this city, and Thomas Hol-



Fifty Years After

T. Holverson
Co. D. 43rd Reg., Wis.
Vol. Inf. 1864

T. Holverson
Retired Merchant
Portland, Oregon 1914

version, of Portland, Ore., who is visiting H. L. Skavlem, in Janesville. Mr. Skavlem and Mr. Holverson came to Beloit, yesterday, to transact business, and while here stopped to talk with some acquaintances. In the company was Mr. Peck who was introduced to Mr. Holverson. The latter looked searchingly at the Beloit man, and finally reached forward and taking hold of his right hand, looked at the thumb. It was crooked.

"Frank Peck, as I live!" exclaimed the Oregon man.

"Tom Holverson!" responded Mr. Peck.

"The last time we saw each other, Frank, was when we were in that hospital at Nashville, wasn't it?" inquired the westerner.

"You're right."

Then ensued a long conversation between the two, during which old times were thoroughly discussed. Both men were in the civil war, and although they were in different regiments, they became well acquainted due to being in the hospital with injuries at the same time. It is needless to say that the meeting yesterday was a delightful surprise to both, and as the mists of fifty years rolled away, each saw the other as he was back in those stirring times. The old men made a



Ole Holverson Family (1899)

Herman
Mr. Holverson

George
Mary

Mrs. Holverson

vow that they would hereafter keep in touch with one another, and when they said goodbye tears stood in their eyes.—*Beloit Daily News*, July 29, 1913.

OLE HOLVERSON.

Ole was born on the old Holverson homestead, in the town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., May 11, 1848. He received a common school education, working on his father's farm until the spring of 1869, when he joined his father's emigrant party for Kansas.

In Kansas he located a homestead on Caney River, in Howard County (now Chautauqua County). This land had been purchased by the United States government from the Osage Indians, but the survey was not made until two years later. Ole Holverson's claim was in Secs. 1 and 2, T. 34, R. 8.

It was a fine piece of land, having an abundance of timber and rich bottom-land, the grass standing considerably higher than a man's head. The country abounded in game of all kinds.

The nearest point for mail and supplies was Eureka, eighty miles distant.

With thrift and industry Mr. Holverson transformed the wilderness into a comfortable home, and on February 22, 1880, married Frances Agnes Schatz.¹

Mr. and Mrs. Holverson were industrious, hard-working pioneers contributing their share to the upbuilding of the community. Mr. Holverson engaged in general farming and stock raising. He acquired some fine property and "Oakwood Farm," located a mile and a half from Cedar Vale, is a pleasant and beautiful homesite.

To Mr. and Mrs. Holverson three children were born:

George Sylvester, born June 18, 1882.

Herman Henry, born June 16, 1884; died June 27, 1912.

Myrtle Mary, born May 26, 1887.

Ole Halverson died Dec. 4, 1911.

At the age of seventeen years he was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He was a quiet, unobtrusive and temperate man; living an honorable life and attending strictly to his own business. He was sincerely mourned by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

Mrs. Holverson now resides at Cedar Vale, Kansas. She and her children are members of the Roman Catholic Church.

¹ Frances Agnes Schatz's parents were of German-French descent. Her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Greiner, came with her husband and children from Strasburg, Germany, to the United States in 1810, and located on a farm near the small village, which is now the city of Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Greiner died in 1815, leaving a widow and seven children.

In 1817 Mrs. Greiner married Schatz, the paternal grandfather, who was also a native of Strasburg, Germany, and at the time a widower with one son, George.

In 1818 the Schatz family moved to Canada and settled with a French colony in the pine forests of Ontario, near the hamlet of Morristown. Here the father and son erected a saw mill and also laid out the town of Schatzville, later changed to Aberfoyle. They prospered and engaged in a number of enterprises, including the building of a shingle mill, foundry, tannery, brickyard and a large hotel.

In 1840, the elder Mr. Schatz was accidentally killed in the millyard by the rolling of a huge log on him. His widow lived to the age of 105 years.

The son, George Schatz, married his step sister, Elizabeth Greiner. Mr. Schatz fell a victim to the cholera epidemic of 1840, that carried off many persons. He left a widow and eight children.

Mrs. Schatz then moved to Guelph, Ontario, where she died in 1867. After her death, the daughter, Frances Agnes, came to the United States to make her home with her brother, Frank J., at Cedar Vale, Kansas, where she resided until her marriage with Mr. Holverson.

Frances Agnes Schatz was born in Aberfoyle, Ontario, Canada, August 29, 1855.

(Earlier records of the Schatz family show connection with the Rotshchilids; also their participation in the formation of the banking system which laid the foundation of the enormous Rothschild fortunes.)

GEORGE SYLVESTER HOLVERSON.

George Sylvester was born on the family homestead, Cedar Vale, Kansas, June 18, 1882. Received a common school education at Cedar Vale, Kansas; attended the "Immaculate Conception" parochial school at Cleveland, Ohio, one year; graduated from Cedar Vale High School in 1902.

For some time he was engaged as agent and solicitor for various manufacturing concerns; but at present is salesman for the Winona Mills, Winona Underwear Co., New Haven, Conn. His home is with his mother.

He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

In politics he is a Republican.



Mrs. Frances Holverson Family 1913

Geo. Holverson

Orval Younkman

Mrs. F. Holverson

Mrs. Younkman

Dolores Younkman

Bernadine Younkman

HERMAN HENRY HALVERSON.

Herman Henry was born on the family homestead, Cedar Vale, Kansas, June 16, 1884; died June 27, 1912. He received a common school education, and also attended the St. Joseph's parochial school at Fremont, Ohio.

The greater part of his life was spent at home with his parents, except when at school in Fremont, Ohio. For the last six years of his life he was in the employ of the Colorado Southern Railway

Company; but was at home assisting in haymaking on the farm when an accident occurred that resulted in his death. He was assisting stacking hay with a stacker, and the team that operated it became frightened and lunged forward at the moment he stooped down to pick up the reins; the single-tree broke, permitting the double-trees to fly back, striking him on the head, and resulting in a fractured skull from which he died twelve hours later.

He was a young man of much promise. Supt. Henritzy, of the Telegraph Department of the C. S. R. R. under whom he was employed, speaks of him as one "whose character was irreproachable and conduct and capabilities of the first order. A conscientious and indefatigable worker."

He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

In politics he was a Republican.

MYRTLE MARY HOLVERSON.

MRS. MYRTLE HOLVERSON YOUNKMAN

Myrtle Mary was born on the family homestead, Cedar Vale, Kansas, May 26, 1887. She received a common school education; also one year in the Commercial Course at the Notre Dame Academy, at Cleveland, Ohio, and made her home with her parents until her marriage. She was married December 31, 1907, to Orval Younkman,¹

Mr. and Mrs. Younkman have two children:

Dolores, born April 16, 1909.

Bernadine, born August 14, 1912.

Mr. and Mrs. Younkman now reside at "Oakwood Farm" near Cedar Vale, Kansas, and have the management of the old Ole Holverson homestead.

Mrs. Younkman is a member of the Roman Catholic Church.

¹ Orval Younkman was born in Allen County, Ohio, near the town of Lafayette, December 28, 1880.

When Orval was ten years of age his parents died and he made his home with an uncle, William Cotner, living near Beavertown, Ohio, until he reached the age of twenty years. He then went to the oil fields at South Lima, Ohio, and was employed in that industry until the year 1904, when he moved to the new oil region at Ramona, Oklahoma, and engaged in the same business.

In 1907 he met Miss Holverson, and on December 31st of that year, they were married.

Mr. Younkman is a member of the Modern Woodmen and of the A. H. T. A. In politics he is a Democrat.

His parents were Daniel and Sydney B. (Hall) Younkman.

Daniel Younkman was born in Stark County, Ohio, November 17, 1852. He taught school and also engaged in farming. He died in Allen County, Ohio, March 18, 1891.

Sydney B. Hall was born in Allen County, Ohio, May 15, 1856. She died in Allen County, Ohio, March 2, 1890.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Younkman were both of German descent.

BERGIT CAROLINE HOLVERSON.

(MRS. CARRIE HOLVERSON GESLEY.)

Bergit Caroline (Carrie) was born on the old Holverson homestead near Beloit, Rock County, Wis., April 9, 1850. She received a common school education, and resided with her parents until her marriage to Saber Gesley,¹ August 29, 1870, when she assumed the management of the old Gesley homestead, her husband having charge of the farm.

To Mr and Mrs. Gesley three children were born:

Minnie Estella, born June 2, 1871.

George Herbert, born Nov. 11, 1875.

Sabel Caroline, born March, 6, 1886.

¹ Sebjørn Gisleson Hallan (changed to Saber Gesley) was born on the old Gesley homestead, in Sec. 6, Town of Beloit, Wis., February 24, 1842. He received the education afforded by the common schools of that early period. He was a man of strong mental activity; was the inventor of many valuable improvements in farm machinery, and was one of the earliest inventors of corn-husking machinery. He had both stationary and transportable husking and harvesting machines with which he did experimental work.

Early death, however, ended his promising career as an inventor. Others took up the same line of study and brought Mr. Gesley's ideas to successful terminations.

His parents were Gisle Sebjørnson and Margit Knudsdatter (Nöstrud) Hallan. They were born in the parish of Nore, Nummedal, Norway. Gisle Sebjørnson Hallan was born June 24, 1809. He died at his home in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., March 17, 1861.

Margit Knudsdatter Nöstrud was born March 21, 1814, and died at Beloit, Rock County, Wis., August 27, 1902.

They were members of the "Emelia" party, and came to the United States with Ansten Natestad in 1839, and to Jefferson Prairie, Wis., in September of that year.

Soon after coming to Jefferson Prairie, Mr. Hallan located his farm in Sec. 6, Town of Beloit. He assisted Gullik Gravdal in building the first house in the Town of Newark, Sec. 1, the same fall, and when the house was ready for occupancy, Mr. Hallan sought his prospective life partner, Margit Nöstrud, at Jefferson Prairie.

After securing Miss Nöstrud's consent, Mr. Hallan sought a person to tie the knot, and on inquiry learned that the nearest parson was at Rockton, Ill. The season was late fall, and as there were no roads nor bridges on the way to Rockton, the young couple must needs wait for colder weather to harden the swamps and bridge the streams with ice.

When cold weather had come and made the journey possible, Gisle and Margit started afoot on their journey from Jeffereon Prairie to Rockton in search of the parson who was necessary to make them one.

The quest was successful and the ceremony soon performed. They started for home immediately—afoot as they had come—and in crossing one of the streams on their route met with an accident that would have resulted seriously to less hardy people. In mid stream the ice broke and precipitated them into the water below.

They reached shore safely, however, and their icy bath was an incentive to make faster time for their home on Jefferson Prairie, which they reached warm and comfortable, "their clothes almost dry." The Gesley family have all been "cold water" advocates ever since.

Mr. and Mrs. Hallan lived the winter of 1839-40 with Mr. Gravdale in his new house in Newark. During the winter Mr. Hallan was busy getting out material for his own home to be located a mile east of the Gravdale place. This was finished in the early summer of 1840, and Mr. and Mrs. Hallan moved into their new home.

Mr. Gesley was an energetic farmer and business man and became owner of the old Gesley farmstead, consisting of over three hundred acres. He also engaged in the manufacture of farm implements in the city of Beloit, Wis. He was the inventor of various improvements in farm machinery, some of which he manufactured



Mrs. Carrie Gesley and Family (1915)

Saber Gesley (Insert)

George

Sabel

Minnie

and placed on the market. He continued to make his home on the farm until his death, January 7, 1886.

After his death Mrs. Gesley assumed the management of the large farm and was successful with it. In 1900 she relinquished the management of the farm to her son, George, who later became its owner.

On giving over the management of the farm in 1900, Mrs. Gesley removed to Beloit, where she now resides.

MINNIE ESTELLA GESLEY.

(MRS. MINNIE ESTELLA GESLEY GRAVDALE.)

Minnie Estella was born on the old Gesley homestead, near Beloit, Rock County, Wis., June 2, 1871. She received a common school education, and resided with her parents until her marriage to Gilbert T. Gravdale,¹ March 10, 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale began housekeeping on the Gesley farm where they resided two years when they moved to Sec. 12, Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., where they now reside.



Mr. and Mrs. George Gesley and Family
Ruth Carolyn

To Mr. and Mrs. Gravdale four children were born:

Elmer Gesley, born Jan. 8, 1893.

Bessie Marguerite, born Feb. 12, 1895.

Guy Toley, born Sept. 21, 1897.

Sabel Caroline, born Nov. 13, 1900.

GEORGE HERBERT GESLEY.

George Herbert was born on the Gesley homestead, November 11, 1875. He received a common school education, and also attended the short course in agriculture at the University of Wisconsin. His whole training was directed towards farming, and he as-

¹ A sketch of Gilbert T. Gravdale and family will be found on p. 87. For a sketch of his parents, see p. 86.

sisted his mother with the management of the Gesley farm and later became its owner.

George Herbert Gesley married Alice Edna Eldridge,¹ September 4, 1901. To Mr. and Mrs. Gesley one child was born, Fay Alice, March 26, 1903; died September 26, 1903.

After Mrs. Gesley's death in 1904, Mr. Gesley moved to Beloit, Wis., where he resided until 1911.

On January 3, 1911, Mr. Gesley took a second wife, Luella Springen.² They moved back to the Gesley farm where they now reside.

By Luella Springen Gesley he has two children:

Carolyn May, born Jan. 15, 1912.

Ruth Marien, born Jan. 20, 1915.

Mr. and Mrs. Gesley and family are members of the Lutheran Church.

In politics Mr. Gesley is a Republican.

SABEL CAROLINE GESLEY.

(MRS. SABEL GESLEY BREDESEN.)

Sabel Caroline was born on the Gesley homestead, March 6, 1886. She received a common school education, and graduated from the Beloit High School, after which she taught school for one year. She made her home with her mother until her marriage to Martin Alfred Bredesen,³ October 28, 1908.

¹ Alice Edna Eldridge was born in the Town of Rock, Rock County, Wis., July 15, 1880. She received a common school education, and also attended the Beloit High School. She resided with her parents in the Town of Rock until her marriage to George Herbert Gesley.

² Luella Springen was born in Buena Vista County, Iowa, October 16, 1881. She received a common school education, and lived with her father until her marriage to George Herbert Gesley, January 3, 1911.

Her parents were Ansten G. and Sophia (Heyerdahl) Springen.

Ansten Gulliksen Springen was born on the old Gullik Springen homestead, in the Town of Newark, July 27, 1850.

Sophia Heyerdahl was born in Madison, Wis., June 23, 1860. Both Mr. and Mrs. Springen are of Norwegian parentage, their families being early pioneer settlers of Rock County.

Ansten Gulliksen Springen and Sophia Heyerdahl were married in Buena Vista County, Iowa, November 3, 1880. Soon after marriage they returned to Rock County, Wis., and lived on the old Gullik Springen farm in the Town of Newark. This property later became that of Ansten Springen, and is still owned by him.

Mrs. Springen died January 23, 1890. Soon after her death, Mr. Springen moved to Beloit, where he now resides.

³ Martin Alfred Bredesen was born in the City of Beloit, Wis., August 9, 1881. He was educated in the Beloit schools; also attended a business college at Beloit. He later taught in the Baraboo Business College.

His parents were Halvor and Anne Mathea (Olsen) Bredesen.

Halvor Bredesen was born at Brandvold, Solør, Norway, March 21, 1835. He came to the United States in 1862, and located at Beloit, Wis.

Mr. Bredesen conducts an office supply and stationery business at Beloit, Wis., and owns a fine home on Tenth street, where they reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Bredesen have two children:

Dorothy Anne, born May 23, 1911.

Richard Gesley, born May 16, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. Bredesen are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Bredesen is a Republican.



Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Bredesen and Family
Dorothy Richard

CORNELIA HOLVERSON.

(MRS. NELLIE HOLVERSON SMITH.)

Cornelia (changed to Nellie) was born on the farm home, near Beloit, Wis., May 20, 1853.

Anne Mathea Olsen was born in Lier, near Drammen, Norway, March 19, 1856. She came to the United States in 1872, and located at Alpena, Michigan. She moved to Beloit, Wis., in 1874; married Halvor Bredesen at Beloit, June 10, 1877.

Halvor Bredesen died at Beloit in March, 1896.

Mrs. Bredesen still resides at Beloit.

In 1872 she went to Cedar Vale, Kansas, and was married to Jesse Freemont Smith,¹ September 16, 1880.

In 1881 Mr. and Mrs. Smith took up a homestead near Cedar Vale and engaged in farming and stock raising. Subsequently they added to their original holdings by the purchase of one hundred and fifty acres of land, and on this land now known as "Walnut Grove Farm," they resided until 1910, when they moved to Cedar Vale.

Mr. Smith died at Cedar Vale, February 24, 1913. Mrs. Smith continues her residence at Cedar Vale and attends to the management of the farm.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of whom only one is now living. The children:

Carrie Mabel, born March 19, 1881; died May 17, 1882.

Hattie Gunile, born Dec. 9, 1883; died Oct. 11, 1885.

Ruby Etta, born June 9, 1886; died Aug. 20, 1906.

Minnie Estella, born Dec. 13, 1889.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were members of the Lutheran Church.

¹ Jesse Freemont Smith was born at Ottumwa, Iowa, October 14, 1856. He moved to Kansas in 1871. Mr. Smith was a member of the I. O. O. F.; the A. H. T. A.; and of the United Workmen. In politics he was a Republican. His parents were John Milton and Jemima (Soddith) Smith.

(Major U. S. A.) John Milton Smith was born in Culpepper County, Virginia, in 1819. When quite young he migrated with his parents to Ohio, locating in Logan County, where he remained until 1846. He then went into the Mexican War as Major of the Second Ohio Regiment, serving eighteen months, and was in the battle of Buena Vista and at the capture of the City of Mexico, besides many other smaller battles. After leaving the army he returned to Logan County, Ohio, where he remained until 1851, when he moved to Atchison County, Missouri. In 1856 he moved to Iowa, living there for two years, and then returning to Missouri in 1858, locating at Independence; from there he moved to Texas, but in 1860 he removed to Jefferson, Kansas, where he built a flouring-mill and remained five years. He then moved to Medina, Kansas, taking his mill with him and adding a carding mill to it. His mill having been burned he engaged in the building and superintending of several mills until 1870, when he moved to Howard (now Chautauqua) County, Kansas, for the purpose of erecting a mill. Being pleased with the country, he located a claim on Section 5, Township 33, Range 9. When first located Major Smith's claim was one hundred and twenty miles distant from the nearest railroad, and there were but few settlers in the township. His farm contained one hundred and sixty acres, seventy acres of which were put under cultivation, enclosed by good fences. Some of the land was laid out in orchards, etc. To some extent he was engaged in dairying.

In 1840 he was married to Miss Jemima Soddith, of Logan County, Ohio.

Mrs. Smith was killed in a boiler explosion in 1859 in Texas, leaving three children: Dulcena, Millard F., and Jesse Fremont. Mrs. Jemima Soddith Smith's parents were German and French.

In 1863 Major Smith remarried, this time to Mrs. Melissa F. Atkins, by whom he had one child, William L.

Major Smith's parents were Scotch-Irish and Dutch.

John Milton Smith died at Cedar Vale, Kansas, June 14, 1886.

MINNIE ESTELLA SMITH.

(MRS. MINNIE ESTELLA SMITH BURKETT.)

Minnie Estella was born on "Walnut Grove Farm," near Cedar Vale, Kansas, December 13, 1889. She received a common school education and resided with her parents on the farm until 1908 when she was married. She married Orval Burkett,¹ September 23, 1908. Mr. Burkett is in the live stock business at Cedar Vale, Kansas, where they now reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Burkett have one child, Erma Maxine, born November 22, 1911.



Mrs. Nellie Smith's Family (1913)

Mrs. Smith Mr. Smith (Insert)

Mrs. Burkett Erma N. Burkett Orval Burkett

HENRY HOLVERSON.

Henry was born on the farm home near Beloit, Rock County, Wis., February 2, 1857. He removed to Kansas in the fall of

¹ Orval Burkett was born near Cedar Vale, Kansas, January 21, 1886.

His parents were Rudy Francis and Laura Eunice (Ketchum) Burkett. They were of German descent.

Rudy Francis Burkett was born in Putnam County, Indiana, March 23, 1848.

Laura Eunice Ketchum was born in Newberry, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, September 24, 1845

Mr. and Mrs. Burkett moved to Kansas in 1871. They now reside at Cedar Vale, Kansas.

Orval Burkett is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the A. H. T. A.

1871. On May 5, 1889, he married Minnie Johnson.¹ He followed the occupation of farming until 1893, when he moved to Ponca City, Oklahoma, and embarked in the feed and fuel business. He remained at Ponca City until the fall of 1897, when he sold out and moved to San Diego, California. In 1899 he quit San Diego to return to Cedar Vale, Kansas, but again directed his steps to the California city, and in 1901, returned to San Diego, and engaged in the feed and fuel business which he continues to conduct.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holverson Family 1914
Frederick

One son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Holverson, Frederick A., born March 8, 1891.

Frederick A. Holverson is a student at Stanford University, California; his course is electrical engineering.

¹ Minnie Johnson was born in the Town of Clinton, Rock County, Wis., April 19, 1865. With her parents she went to Kansas in 1869; they were accompanied by Abram Holverson and his party.

Her parents were Anders Johannes and Karine (Olsen) Lysen. They were natives of Norway, and were married in 1840.

Anders Johannes Lysen (name since changed to *Andrew Johnson*) was born at Hadeland, Norway, in 1816. He with his family, came to the United States in 1848, and first located near Racine, Wis. About 1858, they moved to Jefferson Prairie, Rock County, Wis.; thence to Kansas. Mr. Johnson died at Cedar Vale, Kansas, in 1890.

Mrs. Johnson (Karine Olsen), born near Christiania, Norway, in 1820; died at Winfield, Kansas, November 8, 1903.

Mr. Holverson and family are members of the Episcopal Church.

Mr. Holverson is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of Maccabees. He is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce of San Diego, California.

In politics he is a Republican.

HELEN HOLVERSON.

(MRS. HELEN HOLVERSON KELLY.)

Helen was born on the farm home near Beloit, Wis., February 27, 1859, and went to Cedar Vale, Kansas, in 1871. She was married to William McDonald Kelly,¹ in 1878, and they took up their residence at Cedar Vale, where they continued to reside until the time of her death which occurred, August 6, 1882. To them three children were born:

Edward Michael, born in Cedar Vale, Kansas, April 29, 1879.

Ella, born in Cedar Vale, Oct. 19, 1880.

Helen Gunnill, born in Cedar Vale, Aug. 23, 1882.

EDWARD MICHAEL KELLY.

Edward Michael born April 29, 1879; spent his boyhood days at the parental home at Cedar Vale, Kansas, and Blackburn, Oklahoma. For a time he engaged in the hardware and farm implement business with his father at Blackburn, Oklahoma, and at the age of twenty-one established a general store at that place. From 1901 to 1907, he was engaged in the mercantile and lumber business at Blackburn; from 1907 to 1910, he was cashier of the German-American Bank at Blackburn; from 1910 to the present time he has held the position of clerk of the District Court, 21st Judicial District, Pawnee, Oklahoma.

¹ William M. Kelly was born in West Troy, New York, August 17, 1849. As to the parents of William we are unable to give much information, except that they emigrated from Ireland, his mother being a McDonald. At the age of 14 years William enlisted in Co. K, 4th Ohio Cavalry; date of enlistment being January 7, 1864; served through the War of the Rebellion, and was discharged at Marshall, Tenn., on July 15, 1865. Soon thereafter he enlisted in the 18th U. S. Regulars, and served three years. He then came to the Osage Agency (now Pawhuska, Oklahoma) in 1872, where he worked as a stone mason up to 1875, then he spent several years in the Black Hills during the gold excitement of 1876-7, returning in 1878 to Cedar Vale, Kansas, where he married Helen Holverson the same year. For the next fifteen years he was engaged as a building contractor, some of the buildings he erected being the Catholic School, also the Government School building of Pawhuska, Oklahoma. Mr. Kelly was married a second time, his wife being Julia (Rusk) Kelly. With her he had four children: Elizabeth, Tom, Max and Hazel. Mr. Kelly died in Oklahoma in 1909, and is buried by the side of his first wife, Helen Holverson Kelly, in the cemetery at Cedar Vale, Kansas.

In politics Mr. Kelly is a Republican, and has the distinction of being the only Republican elected in the county at the last election.

On January 6, 1901, Mr. Kelly married Grace Stout,¹ of Stockton, Mo. To them five children were born, as follows:

Margaret Me-tsa-he, born Oct. 9, 1901, at Blackburn, Okla.

Edward Michael, born Jan. 4, 1903, at Blackburn, Okla.

Ruth Helen, born Nov. 26, 1907, at Blackburn, Okla.

William MacDonald, born Dec. 12, 1910, at Pawnee, Okla.

Ira Eugene, born Sept. 11, 1913, at Pawnee, Okla.



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McDonald Kelly

Photo 1880

Photo 1909

ELLA KELLY.

Ella, born October 19, 1880; has been of late engaged in newspaper work as a reporter at Cedar Vale, Kansas; resides with her aunt, Rebecca Leedy,—single.

¹ Grace Stout was born in Moniteau County, Mo., September 20, 1879. Her parents were Ira and Sarah Elizabeth (Smith) Stout.

Ira Stout was born in Greene County, Ill., in 1846. Served in the Civil War, Battery B, 2d Reg't, Illinois Light Artillery, participating in the engagements at Pittsburg Landing, siege and battle of Corinth, and Gunton, Miss. He joined the service in March, 1862, and served to the close of the war. He now resides at Cushing, Oklahoma.

Sarah Elizabeth Smith, born in De Kalb County, Ill., in 1843; died in Pawnee, Oklahoma, February, 1914.



Margaret

Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Kelly and Family 1915

Ruth

William

Ira

Edward

HELEN GUNNIL KELLY

(MRS. HELEN GUNNIL KELLY SAUNDERS.)

Helen Gunnil, born May 1, 1882, at Cedar Vale, Kansas; received a common school education, supplemented by other educational facilities, fitting herself for the profession of teaching. She taught school at Blackburn, Oklahoma, Cedar Vale, Kansas, and at the Pawnee City schools, Oklahoma.

August 23, 1908, she married Dr. Lindsey Perry Saunders,¹ of



Ella Kelly

Pawnee, Oklahoma, where they have since continued to reside. They have four children:

Wilma Joyce, born January 10, 1909, in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

Patience Gunnil, born April 22, 1912, in Pawnee, Okla.

Helen Mathel, born June 22, 1913, in Pawnee, Okla.

Martha Grace, born Oct. 16, 1914, in Pawnee, Okla.

¹ Lindsey Perry Saunders, born in McNairy County, Tenn., December 23, 1869. His parents were Stanford Landers and Mary Jane (Williams) Saunders. Stanford L. Saunders, born in McNairy County, Tenn., in 1837; died in same county in 1877.

Mary Jane Williams, born in McNairy County, in 1846; died in same place in 1886. Both the Saunders' and Williams' families are early pioneer families of McNairy County, Tenn.

Dr. Saunders is a dentist by profession, and enjoys a large and lucrative business.



Patience

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Saunders and Family

Helen

Wilma

Martha

REBECCA SOPHIA HOLVERSON.

(MRS. REBECCA SOPHIA HOLVERSON LEEDY.)

Rebecca Sophia was born on the old homestead near Beloit, Rock County, Wis., August 18, 1861. She went to Kansas in 1871, and was married to Joseph H. Leedy,¹ April 17, 1881.

In 1890 Mr. Leedy purchased the homestead of his father-in-law, Abram Holverson, situated near Cedar Vale, Kansas, and re-



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leedy Photo taken 1899

moved with his family to that place. This farm consists of two hundred and eighty acres, and is now known as "Hillside Farm."

¹ Joseph H. Leedy was born at Eaton, Ohio, October 17, 1849. He removed to Eureka, Kansas, with the family from Andrews, Indiana, in the fall of 1870, and engaged in farming and stock raising. In the fall of 1876 he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Thomas Holverson, and under the firm name of "Holverson & Leedy" engaged in the mercantile business. In 1890 he purchased the homestead of his father-in-law, Abram Holverson, near Cedar Vale, and removed his family to that place. He resided there until 1905, when he moved into the fine house he had built in Cedar Vale. Mr. Leedy was a shrewd business man and accumulated considerable means. He was prominent as a stock raiser and shipper, and also served as director of one of the banks.

He was a member of the I. O. O. F., and of the Woodmen.

In religion he was a Spiritualist.

In politics he was a Republican.

He died October 5, 1907. For sketch of Leedy family, see p. 168, note 1.

The family resided on the farm until 1905, when they built a fine house at Cedar Vale and removed there.

Mr. Leedy died October 5, 1907. His widow, Rebecca Holverson Leedy, now resides at Cedar Vale.

Three sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. Leedy:

Abram H., born Jan. 7, 1882.

Homer H., born Feb. 29, 1884.

Rollin H., born Dec. 9, 1893.

ABRAM H. LEEDY.

Abram H. was born January 7, 1882. He received a common school education. For a time he was engaged in the lumber business in connection with stock raising and the buying and shipping of cattle. He is now devoting his entire attention to the management of his stock ranch of over one thousand acres, located about three miles from Cedar Vale, Kansas, and the buying and shipping of cattle. He married Gertrude Thomson,¹ November 3, 1907. They have two children:

Aileen, born October 12, 1910.

Ruth Afton, born Aug. 21, 1912.

Mr. and Mrs. Leedy are now living at their farm called "The Maples."

Mr. Leedy is a thirty-second degree Mason, and also a Woodman.

In religion he is a Spiritualist.

Mr. Leedy is a Progressive Republican.

HOMER H. LEEDY.

Homer H. was born February 29, 1884. He received a common school education. He is in partnership with his brother, Abram, in the cattle business, and is now the owner of "Hillside Farm." He married Janet Smith,² October 23, 1908. To them two children have been born:

Joseph H., born Dec. 19, 1909.

Nondes Pauline, born Jan. 5, 1913; died Nov. 12, 1913.

¹ Gertrude Thomson was born in Ray County, Missouri, July 19, 1887. Her father, Robert Allen Thomson, of Dutch Irish descent, was born in Ray County, Missouri, October 3, 1853. Her mother, Sophia (Depenbrink) Thomson, of pure German descent (both of her parents having emigrated from Germany), was born in Lafayette County, Missouri, May 6, 1859. Mr. and Mrs. Thomson moved with their family to Chautauqua County, Kansas, in 1890, and in 1911 to Blackfoot, Idaho, near which place Mr. Thomson is still engaged in farming.

² Janet Smith was born in Sedan, Kansas, March 10, 1890. Her father, Thomas Edgerton Smith, was born in Laurence, Douglas County, Kansas, January 10, 1861, of Irish descent. Her mother, Nannie (Baker) Smith, was born in Clinton, Lewis County, Missouri, November 15, 1864, of Irish Dutch descent. Both parents are residing at Pawhuska, Osage County, Oklahoma.

ROLLIN H. LEEDY.

Rollin H. was born December 9, 1893. He was educated at Cedar Vale, graduated from the high school in 1913, taking a Farmer's Short Course at Manhattan, Kansas, in 1914; lives with his mother at Cedar Vale, when at home. Politics—Progressive Republican. Religion—Spiritualist. Expects to make the cattle industry his business. He is interested in the cattle raising business in the Panhandle, Texas.



Mrs. Rebecca Leedy and Family 1915

Group at right. A. Leedy, wife and two Children. Group at left. H. Leedy, wife and child. Center top. R. Leedy. Bottom. Mrs. Rebecca Leedy.

HANNAH LOUISE HOLVERSON.

(MRS. HANNAH LOUISE HOLVERSON HINES.)

Hannah Louise, was born on the old homestead near Beloit, Rock County, Wis., October 2, 1866. In the fall of 1874 she moved to Kansas. She was married October 27, 1886, to Hugh R. Hines.¹

¹ Hugh R. Hines was born in Muncie, Indiana, October 24, 1861. He moved to Chautauqua County, Kansas, in 1880, where he engaged in farming and stock raising. He was successful in this business having become the owner of a well-stocked farm of over six hundred acres—known as the "Sunnyside Farm."

Mr. Hines was accidentally killed at the Kansas City Stockyards, while there with a shipment of cattle, December 15, 1905.

His parents were William and Harriet (Reynolds) Hines. William Hines was born at Muncie, Indiana; was of Scotch-Irish descent; died at Wichita, Kansas, November 13, 1906.

Harriet Reynolds was born in West Virginia; Dutch descent. Died at Cedar Vale, Kansas, January 9, 1909.

There were seven children born of this union, of whom six are now living:

Charles A., born Nov. 16, 1887.

Earl, born Feb. 8, 1890.

Ethel, born Feb. 8, 1890; died Feb. 19, 1890.

Thomas, born Feb. 29, 1892.

Harry, born Nov. 17, 1894.

Helen, born June 29, 1900.

Mildred, born Nov. 6, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Hines' children were all born on "Sunnyside Farm," Chautauqua County, Kansas, where the parents established their home at the time of their marriage.

In 1905 Mr. Hines lost his life in an accident at the Kansas City Stockyards.

Since his death Mrs. Hines has assumed the active management of the extensive cattle and farm business built up by him, buying and selling stock herself. She has proved herself a successful business woman.

Hannah Holverson Hines is living with her son, Thomas, and her two daughters on their "Sunnyside Farm" near Cedar Vale, Kansas.

CHARLES A. HINES.

Charles A., was born November 16, 1887, on "Sunnyside Farm," Chautauqua County, Kansas. He received a common school education. He has been engaged as lineman and various other kinds of work in connection with railroading and telegraphy.

Mr. Hines is a member of the Modern Woodmen.

In politics he is a Republican.

EARL HINES.

Earl, was born February 8, 1890, on "Sunnyside Farm," Chautauqua County, Kansas. He received a common school education. His training was directed to farming and stock raising on his father's farm.

In 1912 he married Hazel Doolin;¹ established a home of his

¹ Hazel Doolin was born May 11, 1892, at Cedar Vale, Kansas. Her parents were Joseph and Lenora (Richardson) Doolin.

Joseph Doolin was born in Missouri, Aug. 19, 1850, of French-Irish descent. He moved to Howard County, Kansas in 1872.

Lenora Richardson was born in Hancock County, Illinois, December 6, 1857, of Scotch English descent. She moved to Cowly County, Kansas, in 1871, and married Joseph Doolin in 1875.

Mr. and Mrs. Doolin are now living at Kaw City, Oklahoma.



Mrs. Hannah Hines' Family 1914

Charles	Mr. Hugh R. Hines (Insert)	Thomas	Earle
Harry	Helen	Mrs. Hannah Hines	Mrs. Hazel Hines
		Mildred	

own, and is now engaged in farming near Cedar Vale, Kansas. In politics Mr. Hines is a Republican.

THOMAS HINES

Thomas was born on "Sunnyside Farm," Chautauqua County, Kansas, February 29, 1892. He received a common school education. He was trained in farming and stock raising on the old homestead, and is now assistant to his mother in the management of "Sunnyside Farm."

Mr. Hines is a member of the Modern Woodmen.
In politics he is a Republican.

HARRY HINES.

Harry was born on "Sunnyside Farm," Chautauqua County, Kansas, November 17, 1894. He received a common school education. His early training was in farming and stock raising, similar to that of his brothers, and he is by occupation a farmer.

HELEN HINES.

Helen was born on "Sunnyside Farm," Chautauqua County, Kansas, June 29, 1900. Miss Hines makes her home with her mother and assists with the various household duties connected with a large and well-kept farm.

MILDRED HINES.

Mildred was born on "Sunnyside Farm," Chautauqua County, Kansas, November 6, 1903. She makes her home with her mother, assisting with her sister.

CHAPTER XIX

The Ødegaarden Family in Amerika

The Ødegaarden family in America. "Widow Gunnil." Four little girls. Rock County, 1839. D. B. Egery. "Rich Widow." Assisted many people. Second in Rock Prairie Settlement. Early spring of '40. Religious home. Cholera, 1854. The Mother of the Settlement. Mrs. Abram Holverson. Gjertrude, Omelstad Lofthus. The Omelstads—Tosten Lofthus, Anna Olmsted-Springen. The Springens—Sophia, Henry, Gunder Springen-Helgeson, Hans Springen-Anderson, Cornelia Olmsted-Skavlem, Thomas Olmstad, Gilbert Lofthus. Astrid Odegaarden-Svenson, Björn Svenson Löken, Sven and Tosten Bennetson, Louis Swenson, farmer and stock raiser, L. Swenson-Sando. The Sandos—Julia Swenson-Hamre. The Hamres—Andrew Swenson-Kolsrud. The Kolsruds. Isabell Roldson. The Roldsons. Guri Ødegaarden-Gulack. The Gulacks. Gunnil Gulack-Helgerson. The Helgersons. Ansten. Ole Morten. Julia Helgerson-De Groff. The De Groffs. H. G. Helgerson-Moore. The Moores. Abner N., Fred, Arthur, Gilbert Gulack. — Goes west, successful in business. G. O. Gulack-Fossum. The Fossums. State Senator, retires from business. California. Gulack—children, Pearl Gertrude Gulack—Anderson, Theodore Gulack, successful business man, Minneapolis, Minn., in the banking business. T. O. Gulack-Riedell. The Riedells. Mary Gulack-Larson. The Larsons. Moves to California. Helen Gulack-Olsen. The Olsens. Early pioneers, Henry Olsen. Two daughters, Alma and Mildred.

GUNNIL GJERMUNSDATTER ØDEGAARDEN.

("WIDOW GUNNIL")

Gunnil Ødegaarden, born in Nore parish, Norway, in 1796, was the widow of Tosten Ødegaarden, of Nore parish, Nummedal, Norway. Her husband was lost in crossing the mountains of Norway, and perished there. She was left with a family of six girls. At the time she emigrated to America her two oldest daughters were married and remained in Norway.

With her four younger daughters who were named Gunnil, Gjertrud, Astrid and Guri, she joined the Nattestad emigrant party in 1839, coming to Rock County, Wis., in the fall of that year. Mrs. Ødegaarden and her daughters and several other Norwegian families spent the first winter at D. B. Egery's place in Sec. 26, Town of Turtle. Mr. Egery had some spare buildings that were temporarily fitted for occupation by the newcomers. He was very accommodating and helpful to the newcomer Norwegians, and his many acts of kindness and material aid were never forgotten by the old pioneers.

Mrs. Ødegaarden was the possessor of considerable means, enough at least to be designated as the "rich widow" by her associates, a number of whom she assisted in the payment of their passage to this country, among these was her brother-in-law, Goe Bjöno, who was married to her sister, Helga, Bjöno in return, assisting her

in locating her land, and the erection of suitable buildings for her new home. She selected her homesite in the Town of Newark in the fall of 1839, it being the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 24, T. 1, R. 11 E. This, however, was not the first land purchased by her as the records show that her first purchase was the N. $\frac{1}{2}$, N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 23, date of purchase November 29, 1839. The homesite or place where she built her house during the winter of 1839-'40, was not purchased of the government until October 12, 1840. In the later part of March, 1840, Mrs. Ödegaarden moved into her new home in the Town of



Ödegaarden, Nore Parish, Norway. From Photo about 1869

Newark. My authority for giving the time as March for her settlement in Newark, is the distinct recollection I have of father, and I think Gravdale, or it might have been Gesley, speak of the remarkably early spring the first year they were in this country, and as fixing the unusually early date for green grass, they spoke of the fact that when Gunnil Ödegaarden moved over from Jefferson Prairie the last of March there was green grass along the water runs and sunny hillsides. This early spring was mentioned at various times in speaking of their first impressions of this country. They thought the winters were much shorter than they proved to be.

Mrs. Ödegaarden's house was the second house built in the Town of Newark. It was spoken of as a large house, and this meant



Mr. and Mrs. Abram Holverson and Family 1867

Caroline

Ole

Holver

Tosten

Rebecca

Nelly

Baby Hannah not in picture

Henry

Helen

that it was something more than the regulation 16x16 ordinary log cabin. It gave shelter to many people in the early days of the settlement. She was a remarkably energetic and self-reliant individual of strong religious convictions. An ardent "Haugeaner," her home was the meeting place for religious services until the schoolhouse and church took its place. She was ever ready to render substantial aid and advice to those in trouble and distress. Her daughters appeared to have inherited much of their mother's sterling qualities, and the zealous Christian training of their home life was reflected in each of their individual homes. Her daughter Gunnil was the oldest of the four girls, born at Ödegaarden, Nore parish, Nummedal, Norway, Jan. 1, 1825; died Sept. 25, 1888.

Gjertrud, born Jan. 1, 1827; died May 30, 1884.

Astrid, born April 14, 1828; died Sept. 29, 1875.

Guri, born March 31, 1832; died May —, 1906.

In 1852 Mrs. Ödegaarden sold her farm to her son-in-law, Abram Holverson, and with her two unmarried daughters, Astrid and Guri, made her home with Mr. Holverson, where she continued to reside until the time of her death, which occurred July 16, 1854. She was the sixth and last victim of cholera at Mr. Holverson's home. Consecutively for six days, Mr. Holverson made a trip to the cemetery with a cholera victim for burial. That cholera epidemic of '54 carried many of the first settlers to an untimely grave, and blotted out whole families.

At one time the deaths were so numerous that volunteers were called on to excavate graves, and in several instances the digger of the grave was himself the occupant thereof the next day.

Mrs. Ödegaarden seemed to be specially equipped with those qualities that go to make up the ideal pioneer; though small and rather frail in physique, she was one of the most resourceful, energetic and industrious members of the community, and well may she be termed the mother of the settlement. When she passed away the whole settlement mourned the loss of "Widow Gunnil."

GUNNIL TOSTENSDATTER ÖDEGAARDEN.

(MRS. ABRAM HOLVERSON.)

For sketch of her and her family, see Herbrand Halvorsen Skavlem family, page 157.

GJERTRUD TOSTENSDATTER ÖDEGAARDEN.

(MRS. GJERTRUD OMELSTAD LOFTHUS.)

Gjertrud, born in Ödegaarden parish, Nummedal, Norway, January 1, 1827; came to America with her mother in 1839; made her home with her mother, but was employed most of the time as a

domestic in American families, where she soon acquired a knowledge of the English language, and in a comparatively short time was able to read and write the same fairly well.

In 1847 she married Hans Haraldson Omelstad,¹ and shortly thereafter they began the making of their pioneer home in Sec. 30, Town of Plymouth, Rock County, Wis., where she continued to reside until the time of her death.

Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Omelstad:

Anne, born in Plymouth, Rock County, Jan. 28, 1848.

Gunnil, born in Plymouth, Rock County, March 30, 1851.

Hanna Karoline, born in Plymouth, Rock County, Dec. 1853; died, 1854.

Hanna Karoline, born in Plymouth, Rock County, Jan. 6, 1856; died, 1862.

Thomas Henry, born March 6, 1859; died May, 1885.

Hans H. Omelstad, died at his home in Plymouth, July 1, 1860. After the death of her husband she had the management of the farm until 1865, when she married Tosten Reiersen Lofthus.² By him she had one child: Gilbert Reinhart, born Aug. 20, 1866; died July 7, 1913.

Mrs. Lofthus was a person of exceptionally kind and sympathetic disposition, always ready to aid in sickness and distress. She was the volunteer nurse of the neighborhood. Her kind and unselfish life gave her the love and admiration of all her associates. She bore the trials of a slow and lingering disease with Christian fortitude, and passed to her final rest May 30, 1884, and was buried where so many of her pioneer companions are at rest.

In the little Luther Valley churchyard the silvered locks and palsied hands of old pioneers performed the last rites for their old companion. They tenderly laid her away 'neath the prairie flowers

¹ Hans Haraldson Omelstad was born in the parish of Land, Norway, September 28, 1820. With his parents he came to America in 1843. They located in the Town of Newark, Rock County, the same year. His father, Harald Omelstad was the first chorister and parochial school teacher in the Luther Valley congregation—first Norwegian Lutheran parochial teacher in America. Rev. I. W. C. Dietrichsen (1844), speaks of him as a "remarkably fine old man that leads in the song service, and conducts the religious instruction of the children." Harald Omelstad was a native of Land parish, Norway, born March, 1790; died in Newark, Rock County, Wis., September 25, 1891.

² Tosten R. Lofthus was a native of Nore parish, Nummedal, Norway; came to America in the late '50's, and first made his home with Lars H. Skavlem, and later on with Paul Skavlem, until he married Mrs. Omelstad. He was a widower when he came to this country, having a daughter living in Drammen, Norway. After the death of his second wife, he disposed of the old Omelstad farm and soon thereafter returned to Norway, where he died shortly after his arrival.



Mrs. Gjertud Omelstad Lofthus and Family 1870
 Gamil Thomas Omelstad Anne
 Gilbert Lofthus Mrs. Lofthus

Insert: Mr. and Mrs. Hans Omelstad. 1858

and wildwood bloom that still lovingly linger round the graves of the old pioneers, who years ago,

Of gathered fresh courage
Communing with God,
By the soft soothing spirit
Of Nature's bright sod.

ANNA OMELSTAD.

(CHANGED TO ANNA OLMSTEAD)

(MRS. ANNA OLMSTEAD SPRINGEN.)

Anna, born January 28, 1848. She was educated at the little country schoolhouse, and also attended the Lutheran parochial school where she acquired a fair knowledge of the Norwegian language. During her girlhood days she was occupied in the usual domestic and household work common to the farmers' girls of that period. She made her home with her mother until December 28, 1871, when she married Knud Gunderson Springen,¹ and assumed the duties of a busy farmer's wife at the old Springen homestead in Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis.

¹ Mr. Springen's parents were Gunder Knudson Laugen, born in 1812, in Nummedal, Norway. While in Norway he married Sigri (Sarah) Nelsen, a widow with three children. They came to the United States in 1843, locating in the Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., near the large spring that gave origin to the Springen family name. There were four Laugen brothers who located close to one another. Their names were: Gullik, Gunder, Halvor, Jens. The families of Gullik and Gunder have adopted "Springen" as their family name, while the families of Halvor and Jens still retain the "Laugen" or "Logan."

Knud Gunderson Springen was born at the old Springen homestead in Newark, August 2, 1844. He had the usual education and training of the hard-working farmer boy of those days, work occupying most of his time and schooling was a secondary consideration, only indulged in when there was spare time. However, he managed to get enough education so as to be able to take care of himself and successfully compete with those who had the opportunity of better educational equipment.

From early boyhood he showed a remarkable talent for the management and handling of horses. He was a horseman and horsetrader by instinct, and many are the stories still told of how "Young Knud" 'got the best' of some professional 'David Harum.'

The buying and selling of live stock was early added to his regular farming occupations, and for a number of years he was in partnership with his brother-in-law, H. L. Skavlem, in the horse business at Mayville, North Dakota, where they built and conducted a sale stable.

Mr. Springen had the faculty for making good in anything he undertook, and consequently was successful in business. He accumulated a goodly competence and is now largely engaged in banking. Is president of the First National Bank at Mayville and of the Citizens' National Bank at Northwood, and holding large interests in several banking institutions in North Dakota and Montana; serves on several boards of directors.

Although he admits that he has now enough worldly goods to enable him to rest from his labors, he occasionally picks a car load or two of horses "just for fun."

In politics Mr. Springen has always been a Republican.



Mr. and Mrs. K. G. Springen and Family (Photo about 1895)

Gauder

Henry

Sophia

Hans

Mr. and Mrs. Springen lived the busy and strenuous life of the ambitious young couple starting out to provide for a future home and competence.

Mr. Springen succeeded to ownership of his father's farm, and improved it by the erection of fine buildings and the addition of modern equipment.

October 2, 1883, Mr. and Mrs. Springen moved to Mayville, North Dakota, and still reside there.

Mrs. Springen has a remarkable talent for social functions and her home has been the center for hospitality and good cheer since its establishment. Few, very few, have entertained more friends and neighbors in their over forty years of married life than Mr. and Mrs. Springen—none with more genuine old fashioned Norse hospitality.

Mr and Mrs. Mrs. Springen are life-long members of the Lutheran church, Mrs. Springen being a faithful worker in all social and benevolent church work.

Four children have blessed their home. All were born at the old homestead in Newark, Wis. They are:

Sophia, born Dec. 8, 1872.

Henry, born Aug. 17, 1874.

Gunder Alfred, born May 6, 1877.

Hans Gerhard, born July 23, 1881.

SOPHIA SPRINGEN

Sophia, born December 8, 1872. She was educated at the State Normal School, Mayville, North Dakota. She has always made her home with her parents, assisting her mother with the household duties and the many social functions at which both she and Mrs. Springen were always in demand. In the various Ladies' Societies Miss Springen is always counted on as necessary to the success of any undertaking.

HENRY SPRINGEN.

Henry, born August 17, 1874. He was educated at the Mayville High School and at the Curtiss Commercial College, Minneapolis, Minn. In 1895 he formed a partnership with Jens Grinager, Mayville, North Dakota, and engaged in a general merchandise business.

The venture proved successful and Mr. Springen continued in the business for fourteen and one-half years when, in 1910, he disposed of his interest in the store to engage in banking and the management of an automobile business, and is now associated with his

brother Gunder as representatives of the Ford Automobile Company at Mayville, North Dakota.

Henry Springen has never married and makes his home with his parents.

In politics he is a Republican.

He is a member of the I. O. O. F., B. P. O. E., and Woodmen orders.

GUNDER SPRINGEN.

Gunder, born May 6, 1877. He was educated at the Normal School, Mayville, North Dakota. For a number of years was associated with his father in the lumber business, but now he with his brother Henry in the automobile business. In 1907 Gunder Springen married Miss Matilda Helgeson.¹

Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Springen now reside at Mayville, North Dakota, where they have a comfortable home of their own. They have three children:

Erma May, born March 14, 1908.

Helen Irene, born Oct. 12, 1910.

Ray Everette, born March 2, 1912.

Mr. and Mrs. Springen are members of the Congregational Church.

In politics Mr. Springen is a Republican.

HANS SPRINGEN.

Hans, born July 23, 1881. He was educated at Mayville Normal and took a business course in Fargo, North Dakota. He worked in his father's bank at Mayville, and later became cashier of the Citizens' National Bank at Northwood, North Dakota. In 1906, he married Hilda Anderson.²

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Springen lived for one year at Mayville, and then moved to Northwood, North Dakota, where they lived five years when Mrs. Springen died, leaving three children:

Kenneth George, born Oct. 19, 1907.

Ruth Carolyn, born Dec. 17, 1909.

Howard Anderson, born Sept. 2, 1912.

These children now live with their grandparents at Mayville, North Dakota.

¹ Matilda Helgeson was born at Grafton, North Dakota, in 1884. She was educated at Fargo High School and at Mayville Normal. Took up the profession of school teacher and taught for a number of terms. Is of Norwegian descent.

² Hilda Anderson was born in Hillsboro, April 16, 1884. She was educated at the Mayville Normal, and taught one year at Portland, North Dakota. Is of Norwegian descent.



Ray

Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Springen and Family

Erma

Helen



Carolyn

Insert: Mrs. Springen

Hans Springen and Family

Howard

Kenneth

Mr. and Mrs. Springen were members of the Congregational Church.

In politics Mr. Springen is a Republican.

GUNNIL OMELSTAD.

(CHANGED TO CORNELIA OLMSTEAD.)

MRS. CORNELIA OLMSTEAD SKAVLEM.

For sketch of her and family see Halvor L. Skavlem. p. 128.



Thomas Olmstead

THOMAS HENRY OMELSTAD.

(CHANGED TO OLMSTEAD.)

Thomas Henry was born at the Omelstad home in Plymouth, March 6, 1859. He was raised in his mother's home, receiving a common school education and assisting in the farm work until the age of 16, when he attended a business school at Janesville; from there he took a Course in Telegraphy at the Valentine School of Telegraphy at Janesville, after which he went to Chicago, where he secured a position as telegraph operator, in which business he continued until the time of his death, which occurred at Chicago, May, 1885.

GILBERT REINHART LOFTHUS.

Gilbert Reinhart was born Aug. 20, 1866; lived with his parents until he was sixteen years of age; he received a common school education and took a business training at Sillsbee's Business College, Janesville, Wis. Shortly thereafter he went to North Dakota and spent some time in the employ of the Gulack Bros., at McIntosh County; from there he went to Traill County, N. D., where he was engaged in various occupations for some time. He then moved to near Grand Forks where he was engaged in farming for several years; after that variously employed in a variety of work in Northwestern Minnesota; the later years he lived in Grand Forks, N. D., where he married



Gilbert R. Lofthus

and had a home of his own. In the spring of 1913, he went to Edmonton, Canada, where he was engaged in some building operation; there he met with a fatal accident by the breaking of the staging on which he was at work. He was crushed beneath some of the falling timbers, and died from his injuries, July 7, 1913. His family, consisting of wife and one little daughter, are still living at Grand Forks, N. D. I have made diligent efforts to secure more definite data for his family, but have failed to receive any response to my inquiries. His wife signed her name as Emma Lofthus, and my impression is that the little girl's name was Christina; her age at the time of her father's death was about fourteen months.

ASTRID TOSTENSDATTER ÖDEGAARDEN.

(MRS. BJÖRN SVENSON LÖKEN, CHANGED TO BENNETT SWENSON.)

Astrid was born April 14, 1828, at the Ödegaarden homestead in Nore parish, Nummedal, Norway. With her mother she came to the United States in 1839, making her home with her mother, and later with her brother-in-law, Herbrand Skavlem, until 1854, when she married Björn Svenson Löken,¹ name changed to Bennett Swenson. The same year they moved to Allamakee County, Iowa, where



Swenson Family Grouped from Old Pictures

Bennet Swenson	1863	Tosten Bennetson and wife	Mrs. Swenson	1863
Isabell	Andrew	Tosten	Louis	Sven
			Julia	1898

they located on government land and soon took rank as one of the leading and substantial pioneer families of that locality, where they continued to reside for the balance of their lives.

Although educational opportunities were very limited in those early pioner days, Mrs. Swenson was well equipped in her knowledge

¹ Björn Svenson Löken, changed to Bennett Swenson, was born in Gol parish, Hallingdal, Norway, December 25, 1824. He emigrated to the United States in 1845, and made his home in Rock County, Wis., until 1850, when he joined the Gold seekers for California, going by way of New York, by ocean passage through the "straits" to Sacramento, Cal., where he engaged in mining until 1853, when he returned by way of Panama and New York, to Rock County, Wis., in 1854. He married and moved to Allamakee County, Iowa, where he continued to reside until his death. May 18, 1897.

of both Norwegian and English. E. J. Johnson, the old retired choirister of the parish church in which Mrs. Swenson was a much valued and able worker during her active life, speaks of her in very complimentary terms, as being remarkably well posted on all religious questions pertaining to their church, both doctrinal and otherwise. In the early days of the settlement, she was considered one of the "best" in the English language.

An untiring worker and solicitous of the welfare—not only of her own family—but of all with whom she came in contact, she held the respect and was honored and cherished by all of her acquaintances. She died at her home in Allamakee County, Iowa, September 29, 1875, leaving a devoted husband and six children to mourn her loss.

Mr. and Mrs. Swenson's children were:

Sven and Tosten, twins, born in Allamakee County, Iowa, July 4, 1855.

Olavus, born in Allamakee County, Iowa, Aug. 14, 1859.

Julia, born in Allamakee County, April 14, 1864.

Andrew, born in Allamakee County, Iowa, June 29, 1866.

Gunnil Isabell, born in Allamakee County, March 30, 1868.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Swenson were prominent and influential members of the Lutheran Church.

SVEN SWENSON.

(CHANGED TO SVEN BENNETSON.)

Sven was born at the Swenson homestead in Allamakee County, Iowa, July 4, 1855; received a common school education, and spent his minor years assisting his father on the home farm. About 1877-'8 he made a tour of inspection through Nebraska, Dakota Territory and Minnesota, for the purpose of locating a permanent home. He decided to locate on a place then known as the "College Homestead," near Appleton, Swift County, Minn., which became his home for the balance of his life.

Sven Bennetson—which was the name he had now adopted—came to Swift County with limited means; by hard work and economy he accumulated a fine property, and became the owner of much real estate, and at the time of his death ranked as one of the wealthiest men of the community.

In 1880 he was united in marriage to Anna Thompson. To them were born four children; the children are: Astur, Louise, Isabelle and Mildred. (I have been unable to get into communication with this family, and consequently am unable to give age or birth date of children, neither any data concerning Mrs. Bennetson; the only available data is an obituary notice of Mr. Bennetson's death.) Mr. Bennetson is spoken of as a public spirited and influ-

ential man in the county, taking special keen interest in school matters and all other interests pertaining to the public welfare.

Mr. Bennetson died at his home in Swift County, Minn., December 9, 1904. He and his family were members of the Lutheran Church. The Rev. Abel Anderson, of Montevideo conducted the funeral services. He was followed to his last resting place by a large concourse of friends and neighbors.

TOSTEN SWENSON.

(CHANGED TO TOSTEN BENNETSON.)

Tosten was born on the old Swenson homestead in Allamakee County, Iowa, July 4, 1855. He received a common school education and was trained to the pursuit of farming on his father's farm, working there and residing there until of mature years. He was continually engaged in farm work in various places until 1889, when he married Sanna Johnson Risvig,¹ and they began housekeeping on a farm.

In 1891 he purchased a farm near Fertile, Minn. (in Polk County) where they still reside.

Mr. Bennetson is a thrifty and prosperous farmer, and is now the owner of a well-tilled and up-to-date farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennetson have no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennetson are members of the Lutheran Church.

In politics Mr. Bennetson is a Republican. (Family Photo see p. 207)

OLAVUS² SWENSON.

(CHANGED TO LOUIS SWENSON)

Olavus (Louis) was born on the old Swenson homestead, in Sec. 11, Painted Creek Township, Allamakee County, Iowa, August 14, 1859. He received a common school education, and spent his early days in farm work with his father. For several years he and his brother, Andrew, engaged in threshing grain in the fall, and in winter sawed hardwood lumber on the farm.

In 1901 he married Bertha Sando,³ and together they took up their home at the old Swenson farm where they still continue to reside. Mr. Swenson is owner of the old homestead and carries on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of registered Aberdeen Angus cattle. He has been very successful in his business and is now enjoying the reward of his labors.

To Mr. and Mrs. Swenson seven children were born. Six now survive.

¹ Sanna Johnson Risvig was born in Trondhjem, Norway, June 11, 1855. She came to the United States in 1884.

² Mr. Swenson's baptismal name is O-l-a-v-u-s, but common usage has rendered it into Louis.

³ Bertha Sando was born in Allamakee County, Iowa, June 17, 1875. She 15—S.



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Swenson and Family 1914

	Bernice	Stella	Irene	
Julia		Myrtle		Alma

Irene Amanda, born May 19, 1902.

Bernard Theodore, born July 9, 1904; died July 2, 1906.

Bernice, born Sept. 2, 1906.

Stella May, born May 2, 1908.

Myrtle, born Jan. 27, 1910,

Julia Isabell, born Nov. 9, 1911.

Alma, born Sept. 26, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Swenson are both active members of the Lutheran Church, and each do their part in the social and benevolent activities connected with the church.

received a common school education and lived the life of the ordinary farmer's daughter until she married Mr. Swenson, since which time she has faithfully filled the responsible place of wife and mother of a happy family.

Her parents were Torkel and Ingeborg (Haga) Sando.

Torkel Sando was born in Aals parish, Hallingdal, Norway, May 17, 1831. He came to the United States in 1850, and located in Allamakee County, Iowa.

Ingeborg Haga was born in Gol parish, Hallingdal, Norway, November 15, 1840. She came to the United States in 1860, and in 1863 married Torkel Sando.

Mr. and Mrs. Sando took up a homestead in Allamakee County, Iowa, where they have since resided. Mr. Sando died January 19, 1910. Mrs. Sando still resides on the old homestead.

They were members of the Lutheran Church.

In politics Mr. Swenson acts on his own opinions and judgments, unhampered by party lines. Independent in thought and action, he is one of the reliable men of the community in which he lives.

JULIA SWENSON.

(MRS. JULIA SWENSON HAMRE.)

Julia was born at the old Swenson homestead, Allamakee County, Iowa, April 14, 1864. She received a common school edu-



Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Hamre and Daughter Esther

cation and lived at the parental home assisting with the household work of the farm until December 24, 1898, when she married Erik Johnson Hamre,¹ and took up her new home at Fertile, Minn., where Mr. Hamre had purchased a farm in 1887. They were engaged in farming until 1908, when Mr. Hamre sold his farm and moved to Galata, Montana, where he engaged in business until 1910, when he again changed his home and located at Crookston, Minn.

¹ Erik Johnson Hamre was born in the parish of Sogn, Norway, October 4, 1864. He came to the United States in 1883, first locating in Dane County, Wis., where he remained for one year, then moving to Rice County, Minn. At this place he remained three years and then moved to Fertile, Polk County, Minn., and bought a farm.

His parents were owners of two farms in the parish of Sogn, Norway. They were John Johanneson and Kari (Huseby) Hamre.

John Johanneson Hamre was born in Norway, and died at his home in Sogn, Norway, June, 1900.

Kari Huseby Hamre was born in Norway, and died in Sogn, Norway, in 1898.

They now reside in this city. Mr. Hamre is engaged in the meat business, and they have a very comfortable home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamre have one child, Esther Bertina, born December 12, 1900, in Fertile, Polk County, Minn.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamre are members of the Lutheran Church.

ANDREW B. SWENSON.

Andrew B., was born on the old homestead, June 29, 1866. He received a common school education and was trained in the duties of practical farming. After the death of his father, Andrew and his brother Louis took charge of the old homestead, and together carried on the farm work for some years. Subsequently they divided the old homestead into two farms, Louis retaining the original homestead, and Andrew erecting a set of new farm buildings, and he now has a well-equipped, up-to-date model farm. He has been a successful farmer and contemplates soon to retire from the strenuous work of the farm and take life a little easier as he can well afford to do. He married Toren Kolsrud,¹ November 20, 1903, and they soon commenced housekeeping in their new home. They have no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Swenson are active members of the Lutheran Church and contribute their share in its support. In politics Mr. Swenson supports the Republican party.

GUNNIL ISABELL SWENSON.

(MRS. GUNNIL I. ROLDSON.)

Gunnil Isabell was born at the old Swenson homestead, Allamakee County, Iowa, March 30, 1868. She received a common school education and lived at the parental home, assisting with the household work connected with a farmer's home until 1902, when

¹ Toren Kolsrud, born June 6, 1882, in Allamakee County, Iowa. She received a common school education; lived the ordinary life of a farmer's girl, and since her marriage has been the efficient helpmate of her husband in building up their comfortable home.

Miss Kolsrud's parents were Salve and Anna Christine (Ekedal) Kolsrud. Salve Kolsrud, born in Gol parish, Hallingdal, Norway, April 21, 1849. He came to the United States with his parents in 1855.

Anna Christine Ekedal, born in Nordre-Land parish, Norway, December 15, 1859. She came to the United States in 1875.

Both families located in Painted Creek Township, Allamakee County, Iowa, and it was at this place that the marriage of Salve Kolsrud and Anna Christine Ekedal was performed in September, 1881. They have continued their residence in Allamakee County, and have built up a comfortable home. Mr. Kolsrud engages in farming.

she married Peter Roldson,¹ and commenced housekeeping for herself.

Mr. Roldson is a carpenter and builder and owns a very fine home of his own in Waterville, Allamakee County, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. Roldson have no children.

They are members of the Lutheran Church.

GURI TOSTENDATTER ODEGAARDEN.

(MRS. GURI GULACK.)

Guri was born in the parish of Nore, Nummedal, Norway, on the Odegarden farmstead, March 31, 1832. She came to the United States with her mother, "Widow" Gunnil Odegarden, in 1839, and with her mother moved into the second house built in the Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., early in the spring of 1840. Later she made her home with the family of her brother-in-law, Herbrand Halvorsen (Abram Halvorson), until her marriage to Ole Gulack,² in 1855.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gulack began housekeeping on their own farm in Sec. 5, Town of Beloit, where they continued to reside until 1868 when Gulack moved to the adjoining Township of Newark, where he had purchased another farm. This farm he improved with substantial farm buildings and continued to reside on it until 1887, when he purchased a fine home in the City of Beloit, to which home Mr. and Mrs. Gulack retired from a long, active and strenuous pioneer life.

Mr. and Mrs. Gulack were ambitious, thrifty and hard working people and accumulated, what was then considered, for their pursuit and time, a comparatively large fortune.

Mr. Gulack was one of the most substantial men of the community, honest and absolutely square in all dealings with his fellowmen.

Mr. Gulack died at his home in Beloit, Wis., July 25, 1904.

¹ Peter Roldson was born in Allamakee County, Iowa, October 22, 1869. He received a common school education, and by occupation is a builder and contractor.

His parents were Paul and Karen (Anderson) Roldson. They were married in Norway and came to the United States in 1868, locating in Allamakee County, Iowa, where they engaged in farming and built up a comfortable home.

Paul Roldson, born at Strinden, Norway, November 24, 1829; died in Allamakee County, August 13, 1897.

Karen Anderson was born at Oskedalen, Norway, September 19, 1828, died in Allamakee County, Iowa, August 30, 1902.

They were members of the Lutheran Church.

² Ole Gulliksen Gravdale (Ole Gulack) was born on the Gravdal farmstead, Nummedal, Norway, November 16, 1829. He was the oldest son of Gullik Olsen Gravdale, with whom he came to the United States and located in Rock County, Wis., in 1839.

(For sketch of his parents, see p. 86.)



Mr. and Mrs. Ole Gulack and Family about 1875

Gilbert

Theodore

Mary

Helen

Gunil

Mrs. Gulack died in May, 1906.

They were both interred in the Luther Valley Cemetery, Newark, Rock County, Wis.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gulack five children were born. They are all living; have married and reared families of their own. The children:

Gunil, born June 21, 1857.

Gilbert O., born May 10, 1859.

Mary, born Sept. 7, 1860.

Theodore O., born Nov. 7, 1865.

Helen, born Oct. 27, 1871.

Mr. and Mrs. Gulack were both active and prominent members of the Lutheran Church.

(Mr. Gulack's father was the first settler in the Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis., and Mrs. Gulack's mother was the second settler in the same town. Therefore this family stands at the head of the list of Norwegian pioneers in the Rock Prairie Settlement.)

GUNIL GULACK

(MRS. GUNEL GULACK HELGERSON.)¹

(Note that Mrs. Helgersen spells her name Gunel.)

Gunel, born in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., June 21, 1857. She received a common school education. In 1868 her father moved to a farm in Newark Township, where her girlhood days were spent. She resided with her parents until her marriage to Tolle Helgersen,² of Inwood, Iowa, February 4, 1879. She was married at the home of her parents. After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Helgersen moved to Inwood, Iowa, where they made their future home.

To Mr. and Mrs. Helgersen eight children were born:

Ansten Theodore, born Feb. 22, 1880.

Ole Morton, born Nov. 22, 1881.

¹ Helgersen is properly Helgeson, but has been Americanized by inserting the "r."

² Tolle Helgersen was born on a farm near Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa, June 5, 1856. 1876 or 1877, he moved to Inwood, Iowa, near which place he located on a farm where he spent most of his life. He died at Parma, Idaho, at the home of his son, Ansten, February 1, 1910. His remains were shipped to Beloit, Iowa, for interment. Mr. Helgersen was a member of the Lutheran Church.

His parents were. Tolle and Margit Helgeson, both natives of Norway. They came to the United States in 1839, and first located on land in Sec. 4, Town of Newark, Rock County, Wis. Later they moved to the farm near Clermont, Iowa, where there son, Tolle was born.

Tolle Helgeson, born in Nummedal, Norway, February 11, 1811; died in Lyon County, Iowa, in 1875. His wife, Margit Helgeson, born in Nummedal, Norway, December 31, 1819; died in Lyon County, Iowa, March 3, 1891.



Mrs. Gunel Helgerson and Family 1914

Ansten

Fred

Julia

Henry

Morton

Abner

Insert: Tolle Helgerson

Grouped from Separate Photos

Infant, born May 28, 1883; died May 29, 1883.

Julia Helena, born Sept. 22, 1885.

Maggie, born Oct. 22, 1887; died July 13, 1889.

Henry Gulack, born Nov. 9, 1889.

Abner Nichols, born July 27, 1892.

Fred Arthur, born Jan. 6, 1895.

Mrs. Helgersen moved to Beloit, Wis., in the fall of 1903, and has since resided there. She and her family are members of the Lutheran Church.

ANSTEN THEODORE HELGERSON.

Ansten Theodore was born February 21, 1880, on a farm near Inwood, Iowa. Was educated in the common schools, and completed a preparatory course in the Augustana College at Canton, S. D., in 1896. Returned to his father's farm after graduation, remaining there for five years, and then completed a course of stenography at the Iowa Business College, Des Moines, Iowa. In June, 1902, accepted a position as bookkeeper and stenographer in the Farmers' Bank at Inwood, Iowa, and since that time has been engaged in bank work almost continuously. In 1904, was made assistant cashier of the Farmers' Bank, which position he held until August, 1905, accepting the cashiership of the Bank of Davis, at Davis, S. D. In September, 1907, disposed of his interests in the Bank of Davis, resigned his position as cashier, to accept a similar position in the First National Bank of Gettysburg, S. D. Before leaving for Gettysburg to take charge of the bank there, he was married at Inwood, Iowa, to Miss Lillian M. Jensen,¹ daughter of Conrad Jensen, a retired farmer of that place. Miss Jensen had been engaged in teaching in the public school at Inwood for several years prior to her marriage.

Mr. Helgersen remained at Gettysburg until June, 1909, when he resigned his position and disposed of his interests in the bank, feeling the need of a change and rest. The health of his father at this time also became a matter of grave concern, consequently in the fall of 1909 he removed to Parma, Idaho, hoping that the change in climate would benefit his father's health. These hopes were not to be realized, as Mr. Helgersen, Sr., died there February 1, 1910. While in Idaho Mr. Helgersen was not engaged in the banking business, but made some real estate investments, and still has some interests in that locality. In the fall of 1911 he left Idaho, and in December of that year, purchased a controlling interest in the Citizens' State Bank of Bathgate, N. D., assuming active charge of the

¹ Lillian Jensen's parents are now living at Platte, South Dakota.
Mr. Jensen is Danish descent.
Mrs. Jensen, of Pennsylvania Dutch.

same on January 1, 1912, and is still located at that place, holding the position of president of the bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Helgersen are the parents of two children:
Donald Theodore, born Nov. 8, 1908, at Gettysburg, S. D.
Dorothy Lillian, born Dec. 18, 1912, at Bathgate, N. D.



Mr. and Mrs. Helgersen Family 1915
Dorothy Donald

OLE MORTON HELGERSON.

Ole Morton, born on the home farm near Inwood, Iowa, November 22, 1881, where most of his boyhood days were passed. Since 1907 he has lived in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, from which two cities he has conducted extensive and successful real estate operations in various parts of western Canada.

JULIA HELENA HELGERSON.

(MRS. JULIA HELGERSON DE GROFF.)

Julia Helena, born at the Helgerson home near Inwood, Lyon County, Iowa, September 22, 1885; came to Beloit, Wis., with her mother in 1903. She was educated at the Beloit public schools, and resided with her mother until February 14, 1911, when she married Harry Arthur DeGroff,¹ of Beloit, Wis. They moved to Janes-



Mr. and Mrs. H. A. DeGroff

ville, Wis., but soon returned to Beloit, where they now reside. Mr. DeGroff is a draftsman by occupation, and is employed by the Fairbanks-Morse Company.

Mrs. DeGroff is a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

¹ Harry Arthur DeGroff, born in Beloit, Wis., April 25, 1886; educated at the Beloit public schools, then entered the Fairbanks-Morse Manufacturing Shops where he learned the trade of draftsman.

His parents are Lorenzo and Charlotte (Hart) DeGroff.

Lorenzo DeGroff was born in Beloit, October 21, 1848.

Charlotte Hart, born in Beloit, October 22, 1850. They were married at Beloit in 1869. They are now residing at Beloit, Wis.

Mr. DeGroff is of French descent.

Mrs. DeGroff is of German descent.

Lorenzo DeGroff is a veteran of the Civil War. He was a member of the 17th Illinois Cavalry, Co. K; served one and one-half years, and was mustered out at the close of the war; enlisted at Marengo, Ill.

HENRY GULACK HELGERSON.

Henry Gulack, born on a farm near Inwood, Iowa, November 9, 1889. Here he lived until the family moved to Beloit, Wis. He was then fourteen years of age. He was educated at the Beloit public schools, and made Beloit his home until November, 1909, when



Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Helgersen and Son Henry

he moved to Prince Rupert, British Columbia. There he entered the real estate business, and is still operating in that line.

On November 7, 1912, he married Margaret Agnes Moore,¹ at Bangor, Maine. To Mr. and Mrs. Helgersen one child was born, Henry Morton, born October 16, 1913.

Henry Gulack Helgersen resides in Prince Rupert, B. C.

¹ Margaret Agnes Moore was born in Bangor, Maine, December 12, 1889. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Richard Peter Moore.

ABNER NICHOLS HELGERSON

Abner Nichols, born on the home farm near Inwood, Iowa, July 27, 1892. His boyhood days were spent there and at Beloit, Wis. He is now residing near McGee, Saskatchewan, where he is conducting farming operations.

FRED ARTHUR HELGERSON.

Fred Arthur, born in Beloit, Wis., January 6, 1895. Here he spent the greater part of his life. He still calls Beloit his home. His occupation is that of clerk.

GILBERT O. GULACK.

Gilbert O., born in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., May 10, 1859. In 1868, his father moved to the adjoining Township of Newark, and there Gilbert lived his boyhood days assisting his father in building the new homestead. He received a common school education, and continued with his father until he reached the age of twenty-one years when, with the spirit and energy characteristic of his ancestors, he left the parental roof to make his own fortune. Seeking the then new frontier settlements in the rapidly developing territory of Dakota, he first located at Canton, Lincoln County, in 1880. Later on he spent some time at Mayville, Traill County, where he combined the buying and selling of horses with general farming.

In 1887 he married Julia Gustava Fossum,¹ of Beloit, Wis. They immediately moved to Ashley, McIntosh County, Dakota Territory, where he established himself in the mercantile and agri-

¹ Julia Gustava Fossum was born in the Town of Avon, Rock County, Wis., May 31, 1862. She received a common school education and also graduated from the Beloit High School in 1884; she taught school three years, the last year at Beloit. She made her home with her parents until September 2, 1887, when she married Gilbert O. Gulack.

Her parents were Niels Christian and Petronille Guldbrandsdatter (Lunde) Fossum.

Niels Christian was born October 1, 1837, at Fossum, in the parish of Land, Norway. He came to the United States with his parents in 1848, and located in Rock County, Wis. In 1849 his parents bought a farm in Avon, Rock County, Wis., which became the property of Niels Christian, and is now owned by his son, C. F. Fossum.

Petronille Guldbrandsdatter Lunde was born March 18, 1838, at Lille-Odness, parish of Land, Norway. She came to the United States in 1857, and to Rock County in the same year. In 1861 she married Niels C. Fossum and, as owners, they assumed the management of his parents' farm.

In 1874 they moved to Pocahontas County, Iowa, where they engaged in farming until 1878, when they purchased the H. C. Tollefsrud farm in Newark, Rock County, Wis., where they made their home until 1886, when they bought a home in Beloit, and retired from active farm work.

N. C. Fossum died at his home in Beloit, October 16, 1899.

Mrs. Fossum died at her Beloit home, November 5, 1914.

cultural implement business. He was a very energetic and hard working business man, and soon built up a large and profitable business.

Mr. Gulack was a public spirited man and soon became a prominent and influential member of the community in which he lived. It was not long before his sterling qualities were recognized and he was called upon to serve as a legislator in the infant state of North Dakota. In the fall of 1898 he was elected as a member of the lower house of the state legislature and was re-elected in 1900.



Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Gulack and Family
 Gertrude Orrin Mildred Marion
 Clarence Florence

In the fall of 1902 he was elected to the legislature as a member of the senate, which office he held until failing health compelled him to seek a milder climate.

In 1905 he retired from active business life and, with his family, moved to San Diego, California, where he resided until 1911, when he moved to Pasadena, same state where he now resides.

From 1905 to 1912 Mr. Gulack's health was very poor—in fact, during all this time he was an invalid. In 1912 he experienced a marvelous recovery of health, which he attributes to the divine efficiency of prayer according to James v. 13, 14, 15; Mark xvi, 15, 18. I Peter 2:24.

Mr. and Mrs. Gulack are members of "His Church". 1 Cor.

12, 27. They are earnest and enthusiastic supporters of its teachings and practices. They enjoy the blessing of good health; are a happy, contented family in a pleasant home.

To their union seven children were born, all at the old home in Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota.

Oscar Norman, born June 27, 1888; died September 23, 1893; buried at the family burial place, Luther Valley Cemetery, Rock County, Wis.

Pearl Gertrude, born Nov. 6, 1889.

Ellen Mildred, born Aug. 5, 1892.

Nellie Marion, born July 22, 1896.

Orrin Harold, born Feb. 24, 1899.

Clarence Allison, born Jan. 11, 1901.

Florence Mae, born June 8, 1903.

PEARL GERTRUDE GULACK.

(MRS. PEARL GERTRUDE ANDERSON.)

Pearl Gertrude, born November 6, 1889, in Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota. Education, common schools of North Dakota and California. Graduated from the San Diego State Normal School, 1899; pupil in Bible Institute, Los Angeles, Cal.

Residence, 1098 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena, Cal. Vocation, etc., home duties and church work.

Married Alfred B. Anderson, of Pasadena, Cal., June 24, 1914.

NELLIE MARION GULACK.

Nellie Marion, born July 22, 1896, in Ashley, McIntosh County, North Dakota. Education, common schools of California. A pupil in Pasadena High School.

Residence, 1098 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena, Cal.

ELLEN MILDRED GULACK.

Ellen Mildred, born August 5, 1892. Education, common schools of North Dakota, and at the San Diego, Cal., High School. Graduated from the high school at Pasadena, Cal., 1913.

Residence, 1098 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena, Cal. The other children are at home attending the city schools. Orrin is in the high school.

INGEBORG MARY GULACK.

(MRS. MARY GULACK LARSON.)

Ingeborg Mary, born in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., September 7, 1860. She spent her girlhood days with her parents on their farm in Newark Township, and in 1887 moved with them to Beloit Rock County, Wis. She remained with her parents until her marriage to David Larson,¹ October 5, 1896.



Mrs. Mary Larson and Daughter Gertie
Insert: Mr. Larson

Shortly after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Larson moved to Boone County, Ill., where they lived about two years, when Mrs. Larson

¹David Larson was born in Boone County, Illinois, March 11, 1868. He died in Rock County, Wis., January 3, 1905. His parents were Gulik and Sønneva Larson. They were both born in Voss, Norway. They came to the United States many years ago and located in Boone County, Illinois. They still live on their farm in Boone County, Illinois.

moved back to Beloit. Mr. Larson's health having failed, the remainder of his life was spent under the care of physicians. He died in Rock County, Wis., January 3, 1906.

In 1905 Mrs. Larson and daughter, Sadie, moved to San Diego, Cal., where she resided until 1907, when she moved to Alpine, Cal., where she was for some time engaged in the hotel business. In 1909 she moved to Pasadena, Cal., where she now resides.

To Mr and Mrs. Larson two children were born:

Orrin George, born July 31, 1897; died Sept. 1897.

Gertie Sadie, born January 13, 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Larson are members of the Lutheran Church.

THEODORE O. GULACK.

Theodore O., born in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., November 7, 1865. He received a common school education, and also took a business course at Beloit College Academy.

In the spring of 1885, he went to McIntosh County, North Dakota, and engaged in the mercantile and later in the agricultural implement business. He served as county treasurer of McIntosh County two terms. He moved to Eureka, South Dakota in 1898, and engaged in the agricultural implement business. In 1900 he married Sarah Christie Riedell,¹ of Minneapolis, Minn. They made their home in Eureka, South Dakota, until 1902, when they moved to Anamoose, North Dakota, where he engaged in the agricultural implement and grain business, and later quite extensively in the banking business. He moved to Minneapolis, Minn., in 1906, retaining his business interests in North Dakota. In 1913, he assisted in organizing The Citizens' State Bank of Minneapolis, of which he is now vice-president.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Gulack are:

Howard Riedell, born Dec. 20, 1902, in Minneapolis, Minn.

¹ Sarah Christie Riedell was born in Owatonna, Minn., August 4, 1876. She moved with her parents to Minneapolis in 1884, and here received her education. She attended the grade school; also graduated from the Central High School of Minneapolis in 1894; after which she taught two years. She made her home with her parents until May 29, 1900, when she married Theodore O. Gulack. Her parents were Edwin Henry and Emma (Howard) Riedell.

Edwin Henry Riedell was born in Douglass, Mass., June 6, 1850. He came to Faribault, Minn., with his parents in 1855, when Faribault was nothing but an Indian settlement, both sides of the main street being lined with their teepees. Most of the trip west of Chicago was made by boat and by stage. His father built the first saw mill in Faribault.

Emma Howard was born in Amherst, Mass., August 4, 1854. She moved with her parents to Minnesota in the early sixties. September 1, 1874, she married Elwin Henry Riedell, at Faribault, Minn. She moved with her husband and family to Minneapolis, Minn., in the spring of 1884. Here she died the following winter, January 23, 1885.

E. H. Riedell is still living in Minneapolis, Minn.



Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Gulack and Family

Donald

William

Gordon

Howard

Alice

William Henry, born Aug. 3, 1904, in Anamoose, N. Dakota.
Donald Paul, born May 26, 1905, in Anamoose, N. Dakota.
Alice May, born Sept. 14, 1906, in Minneapolis, Minn.
Gordon, born Nov. 20, 1907, in Minneapolis, Minn.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Olsen and Family

Insert: Alma

• Mildred

HELEN GULACK.

(MRS. HELEN GULACK OLSEN.)

Helen, born on the Gulack farm in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., October 27, 1871. She received a common school

education and lived with her parents until her marriage to Henry Olsen,¹ in 1887.

Mr. Olsen was a resident of the Town of Beloit, and a farmer by occupation. After marriage he continued to engage in farming for some years. Retiring from the farm they moved to Beloit where they now have a comfortable home, and enjoy ease and comfort as the fruit of their years of hard toil.

To Mr. and Mrs. Olsen two children were born:

Alma Geneva, born Feb. 19, 1890; died April 2, 1915.

Grace Mildred, born January 21, 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Olsen are members of the Lutheran Church.

ALMA GENEVA OLSEN.

Alma Geneva, born in Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., February 19, 1890. She graduated from the Beloit High School and also attended St. Olaf's College, Northfield, Minn. She resided with her parents. Miss Olsen was a very faithful church worker, and took great interest in the Sunday school work; of a pious and lovable disposition, she was a much valued member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and her death, April 2, 1915, was a loss keenly felt by the whole congregation.

GRACE MILDRED OLSEN.

Grace Mildred, born in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., January 21, 1892. She graduated from the Beloit High School, and also attended St. Olaf's College, Northfield, Minn. She now resides with her parents.

¹ Henry Olsen was born in the Town of Beloit, Rock County, Wis., April 15, 1856. His parents were Torkel Olsen and Anna Wammen (pronounced *Gwammen*).

Torkel Olsen Wammen was born in the Sub-parish of Opdal, Nummedal, Norway, in 1813.

Anna was born in the Sub parish of Opdal, Nummedal, Norway, in 1813.

Mr. and Mrs. Wammen were married in Norway, and with their family emigrated to Rock County, Wis., in 1842. Here they lived the first winter with "Widow Odegarden" and Torkel used to relate years after how easily he paid his winter's rent. By agreement he was to give a week's work in the spring for his winter's accommodations. Mr. Wammen was one of the best marksmen and hunters in the settlement, and easily kept the larder well supplied with fresh meat and game during the winter.

In the spring when the time was at hand to plan for salt meat and jerked venison, he had the good luck to kill seven deer in one day. These he turned over to his landlady who said seven deer was the equivalent of a good week's work, and therefore called the account square.

Mr. Wammen was best known to his English speaking pioneer neighbors as "Mr. Torkel" or "Turtle." In 1843 he located on government land in Sec. 18, Town of Beloit, Rock County, where he developed and built up a fine farm where he continued to reside until his death in 1898.

Mrs. Wammen died in 1897.

APPENDIX

(The two following short papers are given place here, believing the glimpses of early pioneer days therein sketched will be interesting—especially to the younger members of our families.—H. L. S.)

Interesting Facts About Scandinavian Pioneers

BY MRS. GROE SKAVLEM.

Written down by her granddaughter, Hannah Skavlem, and read before the Old Settlers Reunion, at Janesville, January, 1897.

“The Early Settlers’ Reunion and Banquet suggested the idea of jotting down some of grandma’s interesting recollections, as she told them to her grandchildren. This is the way she begins:

“Away back on the title page of memory’s album, almost three score years and ten ago, I see the quaint homestead of my father, Halvor Nilsson, situated on the rocky bank of a mountain stream, where it makes its final plunge into the quiet waters of the lake below.

“Near the little parsonage of Nore, in the southern part of Norway, my childhood days were spent. Father possessed considerable mechanical ingenuity (he was a goldsmith and clockmaker by trade.) In addition to his regular work he had built himself quite a shop, or factory. By the arrangement of a large water wheel he secured the power to drive his machinery, all of which he himself made. I remember he had some contrivance for fulling and finishing the cloth that every housewife then made on a hand loom. Then there were the wire making machines. From the wires he made needles.

NEIGHBORS THOUGHT HIM WISE.

“In his younger days the itineracy of his trade had given him a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, principally among the wealthy and better informed classes. By these associations he became conversant with the activities of the outside world. Consequently he was looked upon as a man of more than ordinary learning. His stay-at-home neighbors sometimes forgot themselves so far as to assert that the goldsmith knew more than the preacher!

Among my pleasant recollections were my oft repeated visits to the kind hearted parson, where I would get a bundle of missionary papers, as well as the regular weekly Christiania newspapers. These I would read to father while he worked.

“Among the very earliest emigrants to America from our neighborhood were the brothers Ole and Ansten Natesta. In 1837 Ole had found his way to the then much talked of Rock River Valley. Ole built his first cabin on the place still known as the Natesta farm,

situated several miles south of the village of Clinton, in this county.

"Ansten, returning to Norway in 1838, spent the winter in relating to his friends and neighbors the wonderful advantages and resources of 'Nord America.' People came long distances to hear and see the man who had been to "Oiskonsin."

LEFT FOR AMERICA.

"The next spring Mr. Natesta returned to America, accompanied by a number of his friends. Among these were the Skavlem brothers, Lars, Gjermond and Herbrand.

"I remember father saying that if he had been a younger man he would have gone with them. How vividly it all comes back to me. Those never-to-be-forgotten evenings when, the day's work finished, mother and I would draw our wheels before the fireplace and by the light of the blazing logs sit spinning far out into the night. At a short distance from us, surrounded by a confused assortment of tools, sat father. A host of tiny candles burned blinkingly all about him, throwing stray gleams upon the spoons with filigree handles, the quaint brouches and other articles of dainty filigree, which he fashioned with such delicate skill. As we worked we talked of America and conjectured as to the possible fate of our many friends who had gone to make for themselves on its vast, unsettled prairies new homes and greater fortunes.

"But only three years intervened before we, too, father then sixty-one years old, accompanied by wife and only child (I was fifteen years of age), embarked upon the vessel *Eleida*, commanded by Captain Johnson, outward bound for New York.

"We left Drammen in May, 1842, arriving at New York the following September—four long and weary months on the sea. Our food supplies grew scanty. The ship leaked. To add to the general misery, sickness attacked the passengers. Out of 120, twelve were buried at sea.

ESCAPED STRIKING AN ICEBERG.

"Did we have any remarkable adventure on the ocean?

"Well, yes. But for the inquisitiveness of Haakon Paulson, who called the officers' attention to something spectre-like, dimly visible through the enveloping fog, the *Eleida* with all on board would certainly have gone to the bottom. Without replying to Mr. Paulson's question the mate gave a series of sharp, incisive orders. Before we realized what had transpired we found ourselves sliding along, close to the side of an enormous iceberg. Then we saw a sight that filled us with awe mingled with thanksgiving, as we realized the hair-breadth escape of our little vessel from a similar fate to the one that had overtaken that other, whose mast, with penant still flying, was projecting above the icy slush. The unknown vessel was

either wedged in or lodged upon a projecting shelf of ice so far below the water line that nothing but the top of the masts, with their little streamers still fluttering in the breeze, remained to tell us of the probable fate of its crew. Yes, Emma Paulson, one of your high school teachers, is a daughter of this same Paulson.

"Five days from the time of our landing found us already started upon our westward journey in search of far off Wisconsin.

REACHED MILWAUKEE BY WATER.

"We went up the Hudson river, and then through the Erie canal to Buffalo by means of canal boats. From Milwaukee our journey was to be overland. We wished to reach Jefferson Prairie, which lay somewhere along the Rock River Valley. Father hired a team to convey us and our baggage to our destination. The huge unwieldy chests, containing all our worldly possessions were tumbled together upon the wagon. Atop this wobbly pile, elevated to an unapproachable and uncomfortable state, sat mother and I. Father would walk beside the team with the driver, traveling the eighty miles or more to our journey's end on foot.

"The first four miles lay through woods and swamps. The swamps would have been impassable save for the rude roads built over them. Forest trees stripped of their limbs and branches were used in the making of these. Of various sizes and lengths these logs placed thus in close juxtaposition afforded unlimited opportunities for trying the spring and tempers of both conveyance and travelers. Weak and enfeebled from our recent illness, mother and I suffered untold tortures as we bumped and jostled over these corduroy roads. Farther on there were neither roads nor bridges; we had to get out and wade the streams and swampy places in order to reduce the load as much as possible. In wading the wet marshes, we experienced considerable inconvenience from the sharp, cutting edges of swamp grass, which then grew from four to six feet high.

ARRIVED AT DELAVAN.

"We had now reached a comparative wilderness. Our driver knew as little about the country as we did. Nevertheless we plodded onward.

"Eventually we reached a sort of habitation, dwelling house and hotel combined. This, together with an adjoining stable, was graced by the name 'Delavan.' The night spent at this tavern was without exception the most dismal one of our whole journey.

"The inmates refused us admittance into their house. When we asked for lodgings they pointed to the road. They would give us nothing to eat or drink. The driver, however, fared better; he was one of their own people.

"In one of our chests we had some 'flatbread' and butter which we had brought with us from the old country. Father managed after considerable trouble to raise the lid, and so we got something to eat. As night drew on our driver came to us bringing some fresh water with him; under his arm he carried a bundle of straw. He motioned us toward the stable—our communications carried on chiefly by signs and unintelligible murmurs—signifying that we might sleep there in an empty stall, where he threw the straw. Then he left us.

"Tired, humiliated and homesick, mother and I presented a most dejected pair. But father's intrepid spirit and courage buoyed him over these petty misfortunes. He was not to be disheartened, and set about trying to cheer and comfort us. Listening to him we forgot our disappointments, and dreamed only of what the future had in store for us.

NEXT STOP AT BELOIT.

"From Delavan to Beloit was the next stage of our journey. Beloit then consisted of one or two stores and quite a number of houses. We crossed the river by means of boats. The bridge was not yet built. Here we chanced upon friends and from them learned that it would be nearer to reach the settlement west of town than to retrace our steps to Jefferson Prairie. So we at last ended our Gypsy-like roving. We stayed for a short time with the 'Widow Odegarden, whose cabin was the second one built in what is now the township of Newark. Father soon made arrangements with Lars Skavlem and Knudt Chrispenson to occupy their house with them during the winter. We were soon comfortably settled, and father busy getting out logs to build a house of his own on an adjoining piece of land, which he purchased from the government. During the winter months we kept great logs burning continually in the fireplace. But on the mornings following extra cold nights we would find the milk frozen into solid cakes of ice. The milk was kept on hanging shelves. These swung directly over the fireplace. The warm clothes and bedding we had brought with us from our northern home protected us well from the cold.

THE LUXURY OF TODAY.

"In striking contrast of these cheerless surroundings are the luxury and ease which encompass the children of today—the grandchildren of these early pioneers. Father still continued to make clocks and silverware. In 1845 he perfected the first clock made in Wisconsin. It was one of those old fashioned kind, the case of which reached from the floor to the ceiling. One of them still remains in tact in the Chrispenson homestead in the township of Newark. In these early days we were very careful of our food supplies.

We went to Beloit only two or three times a year, to replenish our stock of provisions. I recollect we brought with us from our old home a little sack of coffee and a bag of fine flour. We were so choice of these that they lasted us for over a year. In the meadows we found an herb we called slough-tea (probably mountain mint), the leaves of which we steeped into a kind of tea. The flour we used was a very coarse meal. This disguised in numerous mixtures of a pudding-like consistency, together with potatoes, occupied a most prominent place in our larder.

FEW INDIANS REMAINED.

"As to the Indians when we came to Wisconsin only a few stragglers remained upon their hunting ground. We could see them in twos and threes noiselessly slipping about the woods. They were an agreeable disappointment to us. Before coming to America we had read in the missionary papers of the depredations committed by the savage red men. For them we had cultivated a feeling of fear and horror, which vanished, however, when we had once stood face to face with the originals. One evening—it was about dark—mother sent me upon an errand to the underground stable, which was built a short distance from the house. When ready to return I pushed the door back and stepped out upon the ground. There, directly in front of me, gun in hand and a dog beside him, stood an Indian. I think he was as startled at the apparition of a young girl springing suddenly from the ground, as it were, as I was frightened by being thus confronted by the actual living presence of one of those beings my imagination had distorted into a terrifying bugbear. For a moment we looked steadily at each other. Then a faint grin dispersed itself over his countenance as he slowly backed off in the direction of the woods, while I as deliberately retreated toward the house.

WOLVES WERE PLENTY.

"The wolves had not yet been frightened away from their favorite haunts. Civilization had no terrors for them. With a most contemptuous disregard of the respect due us in our role of conquering invaders, they held nightly vigils in the woods behind our house with old time energy and vim. Their unearthly wailing cries were not the most pleasant of serenades. I do not remember of their making any very savage attacks upon the settlers. In those early times the woods and prairies swarmed with foxes and wild game; prairie chickens, quails and wild turkeys were numerous.

"I was now married and lived with my husband, Lars Skavlem, in our own cabin. We had a chore boy living with us. He had just come over from Norway and belonged to the more ignorant and superstitious class of emigrants. The first Sunday he took his hymn

book and strolled off into the woods. Before very long we saw him coming across the opening at a break-neck speed, evidently laboring under some great excitement. When he reached us he was all out of breath.

THOUGHT HE SAW THE DEVIL.

“ ‘What’s the matter?’ asked my husband. ‘I have—have seen the devil,’ gasped the terrified boy. ‘I was lying on the ground reading my hymn book when I heard a slight noise which caused me to look up, and there he stood, more terrible than I have ever seen his picture. He was green, blue, yellow, black, and a great red thing hung down from his neck, and such claws, I know it was the devil.’ And he really did believe he had caught a glimpse of his Satanic Majesty. My husband tried to explain to him that it was undoubtedly a wild turkey gobbler he had seen, but he ever insisted that he had seen the devil in the Skavlem woods.

“Father lived fifteen years after coming to this country. Mother died when she was ninety. She is still remembered by her great-grand-children. In the little girl of these rambling notes I am now the old grandma of seventy. As we grow older memory waves her kaleidoscopic garments before our dreamy eyes and we live over again the scenes of other days. In the words of Diderot, ‘My dear friends let us tell tales. While we are telling tales the tale of life approaches its end and we are happy.’ ”

Recollections of Bird-Life in Pioneer Days

BY H. L. SKAVLEM.

Some of the most lasting and vivid impressions of my boyhood, —I may well say childhood days,—relate to and recall pictures of bird-life in Southern Wisconsin, somewhat more than half a century ago.

We hark back to the time of the ponderous slow moving, breaking team, consisting of five to seven yoke of oxen, hitched to a long cable of heavy logchains attached to a crudely but strongly built “Breaker,” with a beam like a young saw-log, and a mould-board made of iron bars that turned over furrows two feet or more in width.

Those great unwieldy breaking teams, consisting of ten to fourteen large oxen, are yet distinctly outlined on memory’s page, and reminiscently, I see them crawling like some huge Brobdignagian Caterpillar around and around the doomed “land”—“land,” in breaking parlance, being that piece of the wild selected for culti-

vation,—leaving a black trail behind, that day by day, increased in width, bringing certain ruin and destruction,—absolute annihilation,—to the plant habitants who had held undisputed possession for untold centuries.

The mild-eyed, slow-moving ox teams were not only instruments in the destruction of the centuries old flower-parks of the wilderness, but with them came tragedies in bird-life, resultant from the inevitable changes from nature's rules of the wild, to man's artificial sway. Often in preparing or planning for the breaking of a new piece of land, the same was guarded from the prairie fires of the fall and early spring, so that it could be "fired" at the time of breaking. This would commence the latter part of May and continue on through June and July, covering the nesting season of the numerous species of bird-life, that had for untold generations, made this beautiful park region of the Rock River Valley, their summer home.

It was in the early fifties that I, then a little tow-headed tot, chased butterflies and gathered arms full of prairie flowers, at the same time "spotting" birds nests of many and various kinds, on a piece of land destined to be civilized by the big plow that very season.

I distinctly remember the large eggs of the "Prairie Snipe" and the still larger ones of the "Crooked-bill" or "Big-Snipe." The former I later learned to know as *BARTRAMIA LONGICAUDA*, and the latter, long after they had entirely disappeared, I found had the book name of *NUMENIUS LONGIROSTRA*, or *LONG BILLED CURLEW*. These snipe were so numerous at this particular season, that a bird student might have been misled to the conclusion that they were nesting in colonies. But, undoubtedly, the true explanation was that this protected piece of prairie with its dead grass unburned, was the ideal condition for the ground-nesting prairie birds.

The snipe were not the only birds that appeared in unusual numbers, but all bird-life seemed to regard this particular piece of land as a perfect paradise for a summer home.

Bob-White would mount the top of a dead sumach and call to his mate,—“Wheat—most—ripe,” “Wheat—most—ripe,” while she sat patiently brooding the nest full of snow-white eggs in the thick bunch of dead grass nearby.

Near the little knoll at the farther side of the prairie, where earlier in the season the Prairie Chicken clan held their camp-meeting when many a lively scrap between the gallants of the company was settled to the entire satisfaction of the coy hens who would always give expression of their approval with a timid “ye-e-s—ye-e-s—yes, yes, yes,—ye-es,” these same matronly hens were now quietly tending their domestic duties, silently slipping off and on their well-filled nests ever so cunningly hidden under the tufts of the dead grass. Some of the nests were already far advanced towards that stage when the peeping egg should announce the arrival of the covey of

young chicks; indeed, some of the most enterprising ones had already added their quota to the bird census of the season.

The patches of hazelbrush that looked like tiny islands of green set in a field spangled with the many colored gems of Painted-cups, Pinks and Blazing stars, were densely populated with a variety of bush-loving birds. Conspicuous among these were the Brown-thrashers and Cat-birds, who opened the morning services at day-break with bird melody rivaling the overrated Avian Opera of the old world.

Evening vespers were softly chanted by the Robin and the "Vesper-bird;" "Cheewinks" rustled in the dead leaves that mulched the hazel-groves, while untold and unknown varieties of just little "ground-birds" and "bushtits" animated every nook and corner of this bird paradise, during the long June days away back in the early fifties of the last century.

This is but a repetition of the annual picture of this favored locality,—during the preceeding years, decades and centuries,—when nature's rules were supreme, before the Paleface's Art and greed and their Chief Manito, Mammon had invaded the sacred precincts of this part of the natural world.

A slow-moving monster comes creeping up the trail over the picture of this pleasant June day. It is the great breaking team slowly and solemnly approaching the new-made home of the pioneer settler. The patient-looking oxen are unyoked and the driver with his great long whip playing a snapping tune that sounds like a scattering volley of pistol shots, "herds the cattle" with many a "haw" and "gee" to a nearby part of the common, where there is good "feed" and restful shade until they are "rounded-up" the next morning to continue their work of breaking the wilderness.

The time has now come to "fire the land." All conditions are favorable for a good "burn;"—a clear, warm afternoon, a gentle breeze away from the homestead;—the dry grass under the flower spangled green and dead leaves that mulch the hazelbrush will burn like powder.

All hands now set to work starting the fire,—pulling up great bundles of dry grass, they ignite the outer end of the bundle, and then run along the edge of the "land" scattering the ignited grass as they go, down one side and up the other. The little boy is all excitement helping pa with little bundles of dead grass, because he too must act his part in the new order of things; and soon the land is all encircled with flame and great clouds of vapor-like smoke roll upwards and onwards signaling distant neighbors that they are burning breaking-land" where new fields are being born.

But what of our bird friends the old habitants of the land, Bob-White and his interesting family, the Priarie Snipe and their big eggs or their curious, odd-looking long-billed babies, the Brown-thrashers,

Cat-bird, Bobolink and Lark, that filled the morning air with their songs of happiness and swelled with bird pride in anticipation of happy little families? What of the hundreds of happy bird homes that the morning sun brightened and warmed? All,—all are gone. A black, scorched and desolate scar profusely sprinkled with wrecks of nests, scorched eggs and charred bodies of little baby birds, disfigure the face of Mother Earth. Oh, could I but command the language of "Christopher North" or John Muir in word painting, I would BURN this horrible bird-tragedy into the brains of my readers,—young and old,—so they would never consent to the burning of grass or brush during the nesting season.

I doubt if any one of the human agents of this pathetic bird-tragedy gave a single thought to the bird victims of their fire, or even noticed a single distressed and bewildered mother bird hovering over the smoking ruin of her family home.

It was not until the next day that the little boy realized the loss of his flowery play-ground and the many bird-nests that he had "spotted" with boyish ingenuity. He started for the "Big Snipe" nest, but where was it? All his marks were gone, some of the large green plants were still standing, but scorched, blackened and wilted, DEAD, all DEAD. Here comes the big snipe, with silent but graceful motion she sails a circle around the distracted child, then utters her harsh call, indicating both anger and distress. Soon her fellow sufferers respond from all points of the compass, and the air is full of the big long-billed birds angrily screaming and scolding now and then making threatening dives at the thoroughly sacred and crying lad. Grandpa comes to the rescue, and to soothe the troubled child he tells him he may pick all the eggs he wants. With his little home-made cap for basket, he starts his collection with the baked eggs of the big snipe and,—though his little bare feet are sorely pricked by the sharp stubs of the burned grass,—he soon fills his cap with eggs—baked and burned,—large and small,—spotted, speckled and white. Grandpa now directs the way to the house and in his eagerness to show his treasure the boy starts on the run, stubs his toe and falls. Memory fails to tell what became of the eggs and cap, but I distinctly remember that Grandpa wore a blue peaked knit cap, doubled over on the side with tassel dangling from the tip end,—you can see a picture of it in Ross Brown's "Land of Thor."—*By the Wayside.*

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Amended Records and Corrections

There are undoubtedly many errors in this voluminous collection of dates and data. With the utmost care there is likely to be some errors in the figures, possibly some dates as given to me may be found to be incorrect.

I have, therefore, provided space here for the recording of any corrections of the same.

It is hoped that the head of each family who possesses one of these records will see to it that such corrections are made, and where important data can be added, to record the same, in so far as their immediate family is concerned, thereby adding to the historical value of this work, and materially aiding the future historian of our people.

H. L. S.

Amended Records and Corrections

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Continued Family Records

MARRIAGES.

Continued Family Records

MARRIAGES.

Continued Family Records
BIRTHS.

Continued Family Records

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Continued Family Records

DEATHS.

Continued Family Records
DEATHS.

The task is done—
The time has come
 To say the last farewell,
Kind greetings send
To kin and friend,
 Kind greetings, all—*farewell*.
 H. L. S.

“So live that when thy summons come to join
The innumerable Caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

—Bryant.

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