



A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society

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The Trønders

Mali Løvsnes, born Sirum was the first of Trønder ancestry who settled in Norman County, then Polk County. She came with her husband Engel Løvsnes from Wilkin County, Minn.

Accompanying Engel Løvsnes were Rasmus Haga and his wife, Nils Haga, unmarried, a Thom Olson, Henry Henderson, unmarried and L. B. Larson who had a wife in Norwegian Grove, Wilkin County living with Lars Kollenes, L. B. Kollenes, L. B. Larson's brother-in-law. This group built the first bridge over Wild Rice River.

Engel Løvaas claimed land 2½ miles north of where the town of Halstad now lies. They settled there in the last half of May, 1871.

The 2nd June the same year O. P. Øjen came accompanied by Anders Gulbrandsen (Andrew Gilbertson) and Kristian Bergjerdet, Landsem, all three from Houston Co., Minnesota. Øjrn was from Mosvik and Kristian Landsem from Lexviken. They went by foot from Riceford, Houston Co. to Winona, took a steam boat to St. Paul and the train from there to Benson, the

in the northwest part of Norman County, Minnesota and the southeast part of Traill County, North Dakota

end of the line for the railroad. From Benson they went by foot to Norwegian Grove, Wilkin Co. and came to Halvor Berg or Landsem, a brother to Kristian Bergjerdet, on Whit Saturday, the 27th May. There they heard Pastor Vetlesen of the Synod who preached about Pastor Johan Arnt Berg of the Conference. The first mentioned dwelled especially on that the latter went around and criticized the Synod.

On the morning of the 29th May they went on foot to Red River. The first night they stayed in the north of Clay County with a new settler, a Swede by the name of Anderson. He and his wife were ambushed not long after by Indians. The second night they stayed among some large elm trees, seven, eight miles east of Georgetown, not far from Buffalo River. The third night, the 31st May, they came to Martin Skau, who lived a bit north of Georgetown, and stayed there until 2nd June. From there they followed the Red River and crossed the Elm River on a toll bridge for 25 cents a head. Then they came

to where the Grandin farm no. 1 now lies, then owned by Mike Shelly, and set off across the Red River on some rotten logs and came to where Halstad now lies on the 2nd June as previously mentioned.

The land where Halstad now lies was claimed by two Swedish boys Carl Holmberg and G. Oberg. These boys then gave them directions to where Engel Løvsnes lived who gave them lodging under his wagon box. He had taken it off his wagon and placed on some rather large oak stumps.

"One night while we were there we were awakened by bad weather, a rainstorm with thunder and lightning. In the morning when they got up Mrs. Løvsnes sat with a dead child on her lap. Engel and Mali had a little child and it died during the night. They buried the little girl right by a big tree east of the buildings on Engel Løvsnes' farm. This was the first burial in the now town of Halstad."

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The Trønders (continued from page 1)

“...people could not live up there because of grasshoppers, mosquitoes and weeds and they frightened the whole group so L. B. Larson had to continue alone to his land. The others went up to Dakota and stumbled around for three weeks....”

As previously mentioned, L. B. Larson left his wife in Wilkin County and after having taken land he went back to fetch her. Eleven covered wagons of people from Fillmore County were there waiting to join him on the trip to the Red River. Most of them were Trønders.

There were the brothers Ole and Sivert Paulsen from Strinden near Trondhjem with Sivert's son Peter. Also Ole's sons, Paul, Anders and Johan and a daughter called Inger who later married Peder Tønder. There was also Ole Halstad from Mostadmarken, married to a daughter of Ole Paulsen and also Laurits Hauske, also married to a daughter of Ole Paulsen. In the same group was John Grøttte with his sons Johan, Nikolai, Peder, Ingebrigy and Kristian as well as his three daughters, Beret, later married to John Gjertsen near Moorhead, Oline married to Peder Efteland and Karen married to Nikolai Hagen.

As mentioned, they were waiting to accompany L. B. Larson to Red River. They joined him until they came almost to Georgetown. There they met a couple of men who had been up at Red River and told them that people could not live up there because of grasshoppers, mosquitoes

and weeds and they frightened the whole group so L. B. Larson had to continue alone to his land. The others went up to Dakota and stumbled around for three weeks and then the whole group came and settled at Marsh River in Halstad Township.

O. P. Øjen claimed land at Red River in section 25 in the present town of Shelly but when the land was surveyed this was shown to be railroad land. He later moved a little further north to section 24.

These were the Trønders who settled a Marsh River and Red River in 1871.

During the winter of 1871-1872 Øjen lived in a little log house on section 25. Early in the spring of 1872 while there still was snow but otherwise fine weather he became aware of a skier who came across the prairie from the southeast. It was Bertinus Rognlie who came from Audubon, Becker County, Minnesota. With his family and a little older brother, Peder and wife had come up from Houston County, Minnesota in the summer of 1871 but he had been up to Red River and claimed land on the Dakota side in Traill County in the fall of 1871.

Bertinus came early in the spring because he wished to have a house built when his family

came. He lodged with Øjen on the Minnesota side. The ice on the Red River was then passable and he could cross on foot at first but later when the ice broke up they had no choice but to use a long hollowed log. Then Bertinus built a fine little raft of logs and rowed across the Red River with it but each time he crossed the stream took him further and further down the river and finally he had to completely give up the raft.

Not long after the ice was gone Peter Rognlie came with his family as well as his old mother, Johanna Rognlie. The whole family settled at Red River: Christine married to Ole Bjøre furthest north, then Zefanias with his mother Rognlie, then Bertinus and furthest south Peter. Settling south of Peter was Peter Wigen, a brother of Peter Rognlie's wife and south of him Ole Rognlie, a fosterson of Johanna Rognlie. They were all from Værran and came over in a group to Houston Co., Minnesota.

THE TRØNDERS
in the northwest part of Norman County, Minnesota and the southeast part of Traill County, North Dakota. as written by O.P. Oien, 1921
Translated by Olaf Kringhaug, Vernon, BC, Canada 2006

Genealogy News

SOME SITES WORTH SEEING

Documents Online at the British National Archives Search the Domesday Book (with modern English translations) and service registers of more than 500,000 Royal Naval seamen. <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/>

18th- and 19th-century American Nicknames <http://www.cslib.org/nickname.htm>

Behind the Name (etymology and history of first names) <http://www.behindthename.com>

1883 Atlas of the German Empire <http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/>

IRRC (Iron Range Research Center in Minnesota) has an online index of about 1.5 million names. Minnesota focused, but has material several from Upper Midwest states also. <http://www.ironrangeresearchcenter.org/>

REQUEST A SEARCH FOR YOUR ANCESTORS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

ANCESTOR SEEKERS researchers at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City will search this vast collection for your ancestors from the USA, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Germany, Poland, Russia,

Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Italy. If you commission the work (there's no obligation to do that!) prices start from \$55 (US). For a FREE! initial e-mail consultation visit <http://www.ancestorseekers.com/research/rwr/>

For help in finding ancestors from England or Scotland request a FREE e-mail assessment from <http://www.britishancestors.com/>

Some Sites With Seeing and Request a Search for Your Ancestors at the Family History Library
Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 18 October 2006, Vol. 9, No. 42 and 25 October 2006, Vol. 9, No. 43.

Obituary – Iris L. Duklet

Iris Louise Duklet, 66, Halstad, died Tuesday, October 31, 2006 in Halstad Living Center.

She was born July 7, 1940, to Bennie and Bella (Neprud) Gilbertson. She graduated from Halstad High School and attended Interstate Business College, Fargo, ND. She then began working as a secretary at Halstad High School.

On July 4, 1966, she was united in marriage to Daniel R. Duklet in Halstad, and they made their home there. She worked as a teller for the Red River State Bank for many years, then as a secretary at Wang Oil.

She was an active

member of the Halstad Community Club and the Sentential Committee, assisting with genealogy. Halstad Lutheran Church was also important as she participated in Circle, Ladies' Aid, taught Sunday School, and sang in the choir. She also worked part-time as a secretary for the church.

Survivors include her husband, Dan; one son, Chris (Jill), Watertown, SD; one brother, Lionel (Raeann), Sentinel Butte, ND; and two grandsons.

Funeral Services were held on Thursday, November 2, 2006, at 2:00 pm at the Halstad Lutheran Church, Halstad.

Burial is in the North Halstad Lutheran Cemetery.
(Korsmo, Moorhead)

On-line guest book at www.korsmofuneralservice.com

Note: *Iris Duklet was a charter member of The Norman County Genealogy Society when it was formed on February 27, 1997 in Ada, MN.*

We will miss our friend, Iris, and remember her fondly.

Obituary – Iris L. Duklet
Previously published in Norman County Index, Ada, MN

Prairie Roots
is published by the
Norman County
Genealogy Society

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Attach Address Label Here

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rootsweb.com/~mnnorman

About Our Organization...

The Norman County Genealogy Society was formed on February 27, 1997 in Ada, MN for the purpose of assisting persons interested in research family histories and sharing information.

Charter members of the society were Roland Carpenter, Iris Duklet, Colleen Goltz, Ardis Horn, Sharon Larson, Roger Niebeling, Gladys Prussia, Ronald Rasmuson, Christine Roesch, Ronald Roesch, DeFloren Rude, Edna Rude and Kathleen Skaurud.

A few resources available include:

- Obituaries taken from area newspapers.
- Cemetery records
- Marriage records
- Death records from 1871 to 1981
- Census records
- Civil War Veterans
- 1883 Pensioners on the Roll
- Churches and Towns

Much of this information is posted on our website.

The Society meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 am in the Dekko Center or Norman County Museum, Ada, MN.

Annual Dues are \$10.00 for a family membership (local) and \$5.00 for an associate membership (out of area.) Dues should be sent to the Treasurer in January but will be accepted throughout the year.

Send to:
Ardis Horn
Treasurer
100 1st Street East
Ada, MN 56510