



A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society

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The Trønders in the northwest part of Norman County, Minnesota and the southeast part of Trail County, North Dakota

Some years later a group from Eau Claire, Wisconsin came and settled at the Red River south of the Værran settlers. They were bachelor Bernt Pederson, Christian Næsvold and family from Inderøen and Johannes Lyng and family from Værdal. In the same party were Jacob Hovd from Værran and the Nordlander John Kulstad.

In the summer of 1872 Peter Øien, father of Ole, Hans, Magnus, Margrethe and Ragnhild came from Houston Co. Peter Øien immediately claimed land in section 24 in the fractional town of Shelly. In the same company were Zefanius Rognlie and the widow Anne Sirum with the children Ingebrigt, Ole and Anne, later Mrs. Theodor Stennes. The Sirum people were from Sælbu. They had a temporary home with Engel Løvsnes who was married to the previously mentioned Mali, the daughter of the old Anne Sirum. The Sirum people claimed land a ½ mile north of Engel Løvsnes.

For some years after 1872 there was a steady immigration to west Norman County.

Alexander and Tale Nilsen from Værran claimed land in the town of Shelly.

Alexander had a large family: Nils who married and moved to Montana; Thore has run and still runs a hotel in Halstad; Jørron, married to M. A. Opgrand; Pauline, Married to B. M. Øien; Trine, married to a Haugan, a Bynæssing in Montana; Kristine, married to Paul Jacobson living at Red River in Traill Co. and Anna, married to Charley Miller in Shelley.

Almost at the same time as Alexander Nilson came Morthinus, Albertinus, Johannes and Ole Opigrand. They were from the large Opigrand farm in Mosviken. This is a large family spread over the western part of the town of Halstad and partly in Traill Co. Morthinus Opigrand, as mentioned, was married to Jørron Nilson. They first took a piece of land in the town of Shelly but later bought the farm of Johannes Opigrand, who had bought a piece of land north of Halstad. Johannes Opigrand was married to Margrethe Vinje from Mosviken. Albertinus and Ole Opigrand were married to daughters

of Mathias Sliperdal from Mosviken. All these Opigrand men have had many children so there is a large number of them.

Early in the 1880s the Skavdal family from Værran came up to the Red River Valley. The two boys Gunnerius and Karelius came first. A little later their parents came along with a daughter and likely two sons. As with many newcomers they were afflicted by typhoid fever and it was quite severe. Johannes, the old father, and one of the sons died. The others escaped with their lives. Old Mrs. Skavdal reached a rather great age. The previously mentioned brothers live and farm on land in the town of Halstad while their brother, Peter Lorens had land a little further south but being unmarried stayed with his brother Karelius. The latter is married to Marie Norvik and has four children. He has been for some time been the sexton for Marsh River Parish and is the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bethesda Hospital in Crookston, Minnesota.

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The Trønders (continued from page 1)

“Johan Blomseth lost his life in a dynamite explosion while he was blowing up stumps.”

Gunerius is married to Jette Norvik, a side branch of the Opigrand family. Their aforementioned sister, Anna, married L. W. Pederson (Kvistad), father of the Lake Park Children's Home, but she died some years ago.

Of Trønders who later moved into the town of Shelly and the town of Halstad we can name Nils Nilsen from Jemtland but his wife was from Jørstadsjøen, Ytterøen. They live in section 25 in the fractional town of Shelly. Nilsen has four sons of which two, Nicolai and John served in the war. Then there is Mrs. Loraas who lives somewhat south at Red River. She was born on a cotter's place under the Stordal farm in Mosviken. Also there is Mrs. Følstad with her two sons, Julius and Manfred. Mrs. Følstad was born at Jørstadsjøen, Ytterøen and is a sister of the aforementioned Mrs. Nilsen. Mrs. Følstad's husband was called Kristoffer and was a son of Søren Følstad in Værran and Kristoffer's mother was a sister of Rakel Rognlie who was married to sexton Nils Rognlie, Værran. She was a distant relation of Pastor Dons, once a priest in Ytterøen parish and for a time secretary for 'Det Norske Missionsselskab' (Norwegian Mission Society). Kristoffer Følstad's grandfather was

Kristoffer Nyland or Buret but was best known as Burskal'n. He lived in Lexviken, was a lay preacher and well known throughout Inner Trøndelag.

Then we come to the Trønders at Red River in the town of Halstad. First we have Oliver Serum, the eldest son of Ingebrigt Serum. Oliver Serum is married to Josephine Rognlie, the youngest daughter of Peter Rognlie. He lives on the old Jacob Hesby farm right by the Red River. Next to him in the south we find his father A. O. Serum, baptized Ingebrigt. He was previously mentioned as one of the earliest settlers in Norman Co. Mr. Serum has regularly held positions of trust in the town and the school board, has been secretary for several companies and has been chorister and secretary for his own parish for over 45 years. He was married to Anna Røstvold, also a Trønder, in 1877. They had 9 children. Mrs. Serum died in 1897. The two youngest daughters, Minnie and Annie are school teachers in public school and live with their father. About a mile east of Oliver Serum is Edward T. Stennes. He is the son A. O. Serum's sister and lives on his father's farm that he became owner of a few years after his father's death. He is a skilful farmer. A bit south

of O. A. Serum we have Mrs. Berg from Værdalen and her daughter, married to well digger Aadne Waag. Mrs. Berg's husband, Lorens Berg died a few years ago. Nearer the Red River lives Mrs. Blomseth, the widow of Johan Blomseth. They were from Værran. Johan Blomseth lost his life in a dynamite explosion while he was blowing up stumps. South of Mrs. Blomseth lives Lars Wolseth, also from Værran. He is a brother of Mrs. Næsvold and lives on the Minnesota side of the Red River, right across from Ole Rognlie's farm. On Engel Løvsnes' old farm, now owned by L. W. Pederson of Halstad, lives Carl Haga, a son of Edvard Haga. Carl's mother was a daughter of Peder Jermstad, a brother to Johannes Lyng. Carl is married to Petra Grande, a daughter of Kristian and Ragnhild Grande. Ragnhild is a daughter of Peter Øien.

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

ANCESTOR SEEKERS EIGHTH SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TRIP-- THE IDEAL GENEALOGY VACATION!

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO DIGITIZE GENEALOGY BOOKS

The Library of Congress just announced that it has received 2 million from the Alfred P. Sloan foundation to digitize thousands of books. Among those to be digitized are "U.S. genealogy and regimental histories. The former includes many useful county, state, and regional histories, while the latter includes histories, memoirs, diaries and other collections from the Civil War period."

Read the whole press release at <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2007/07-020.html>

Ancestor seekers Eighth Salt Lake City Research Trip – The Ideal Genealogy Vacation!

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RootsWeb Review: 28
March 2007, Vol. 10, No.
13.*

Library of Congress to Digitize Genealogy Books

*Previously published in
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Review: 07 February
2007, Vol. 10, No. 6.*

Honor Your World War II Veterans

By Regina Peck Andrus

While reading Kathy Dracup's posting (<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/review/20070117.txt>) concerning finding out about her father's service in the Navy during World War II, I thought readers might like to be reminded about the official National Park Service website honoring veterans of World War II.

This website is connected to the World War II Memorial that opened on 29 April 2004 on the mall in Washington, D.C.--right between the famous Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Memorial. Unknown to

most Americans, there are very few surviving records concerning World War II veterans--most of them where lost in a storage warehouse fire decades ago. The government has records on service men who died during the war, but almost no records on who fought and survived the war. This site allows family members to register their veterans by following simple guidelines posted on the site. It is free to register veterans. The only cost is \$10 if you would like to upload a picture of the veteran to the site. The site can be accessed and searched by anyone from either the Internet or from a kiosk right at the Memorial in Washington, D.C. Except for registering at this website, there is no other way that their service

will be officially remembered as the records are gone. We are losing hundreds of veterans every day. Their sacrifices for our freedoms were and still are important. It is very important to not let those sacrifices be forgotten after they are gone.

To register a World War II veteran or to look one up, go to <http://wwiimemorial.com> and follow the simple instructions. You will need to know their full name, their home state, and something about when, what branch (Army, Navy, etc.), and where they served.

Your submission will be reviewed and needs to be approved before it is posted to the site. To upload a picture for \$10 you will need a credit card. Pass the word. Most people have no idea there are no surviving government records of World War II servicemen who lived through the war. It is a simple, but meaningful way to say thank you. *Previously published in
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Marijo Vik, Secretary
2230 – 160th Ave
Ada, MN 56510

HOME PHONE:
(218) 784-3794

E-MAIL
mvik@loretel.net

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 Rasmusson, 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