



*A Newsletter of the Norman County Genealogy Society*

## One Man's Decision

In May, we observed Memorial Day, a time to honor our fighting men and women killed in war. When you think about it, even in the relatively short history of the United States, we've fought many wars.

It all started with the Revolutionary War. We don't think of America's War of Independence as a civil war between the colonists, but history shows that it was.

The population of the Thirteen Colonies was far from homogenous, particularly in their political views and attitudes.

Loyalties and allegiances varied widely not only within regions and communities, but also within families and sometimes shifted during the course of the Revolution.

My ancestor, Abraham Lingenfelder, came from Germany in 1752 when he was 22 years old and settled near Frederick, Maryland where he bought 100 acres of land, married and started a family. By trade, Abraham was a tailor, a merchant, a farmer and a land speculator. By ideals, Abraham was a Patriot.

The Patriots viewed independence as a means of freeing themselves from British oppression and taxation without representation and, above all, reasserting what they considered to be their rights. The richer and better educated were more likely to become officers in the Continental Army. However, yeomen farmers, craftsmen, and small merchants joined the patriot cause as well, demanding more political equality.

The Revolutionary War Records of Maryland show that Abraham Lingenfelder took the "Oath of Fidelity and Support to the State of Maryland" and fought for Frederick County's Colonial Muster.

When he went to fight the English at the age of 46, he left a wife and eight children behind and early records note that Abraham lost much, financially, during the years of the American Revolution.

But he came home from the war and died in Pennsylvania on his son's farm at the age of 84.

I wonder how Abraham felt when Germany's Hessian army came to fight for Britain's King George? Did he know anyone that he faced?

One German recruit to that army writes: "Recruiting officers were active all over Germany. Spendthrifts, loose livers, drunkards, arguers, restless people, and such as made political trouble, if not more than sixty years old and of fair health and stature, were forced into the ranks. Together with this mixed rabble served the honest peasant lads of Germany, forced from their ploughs."

I also wonder if I have other ancestors in the Thirteen Colonies who refused to take an oath of fidelity. Historians have estimated that about 15 to 20-percent of the population remained loyal to the British Crown.

Loyalists were typically older, less willing to break with old loyalties, often connected to the Church of England, and included many established merchants with strong business connections in Britain.

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## **Salt Lake City Research Trip**

**Ancestor Seekers 2009 Salt Lake City  
Research Trip**

**AUGUST 31 through SEPTEMBER 5, 2009  
10% Discount for Early Registration**

Join others from throughout the U.S.A. and Canada for the dream genealogy vacation. Spend a whole week at the Family History Library, accessing the world's largest collection of genealogical records with help and advice from accredited genealogist professionals. Opening and closing socials, theater trip, and other optional activities!

For more information, call TOLL FREE at  
**877.402.6846**

## **Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference**

**September 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Mark your calendars for the national  
Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) 2009 Annual Conference  
Little Rock Convention Center  
Little Rock, Arkansas

With the theme "Passages Through Time," this year's conference offers 160 lectures and workshops by nationally distinguished genealogists and experts in local history. Topics range from African-American family history to frontier religion, research in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region, and the land records of Oklahoma territory.

**Early registration has been extended to July 1!**

For more information about the conference, including the conference program, visit their website at: <http://www.fgs.org/2009conference/>

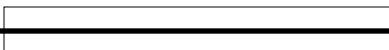
## **One Man's Decision (continued)**

After the war, most Loyalists chose to leave the new United States of America for a life in Canada.

I will never know why Abraham Lingenfelder chose the path he did. But I do know that what applies in war applies in

life. In any issue before us, each man and woman must ask themselves if they will fight, and if so, on which side – then devote themselves to their answer.

*Marijo Vik*



## District #83, Lincoln School in Good Hope Township

For nearly 100 years, a tiny wooden structure known as Lincoln School has withstood the test of time. Blizzards, hail, tornadoes and lightning have all challenged this haven of education and failed. Having conquered all challenges, Lincoln School, District #83, remains a landmark in Good Hope Township.

The Lincoln School was one of three country schools in Good Hope Township. The schoolhouse was built in 1896. It is located seven miles east of Shelly, MN along County Road 3 in Section 20 and across from the Bethany Lutheran Church. From 1905 to 1932, the school doubled as a church. The school was the home of the Bethany Lutheran Congregation until 1932, when the church was built and dedicated.

Grace Knudtson tells that there was no well at the school. All the water needed to be carried in buckets from the Grosfield farm; this was where many of the teachers stayed. Later, water was carried from the Andrew Olson farm, just south of the school. Grace says that one of the drawbacks of teaching in a country school was the lack of indoor facilities. A water cooler with cups was used.

There was also a wash dish and paper towels in one corner in the hall.

The Lincoln School was not only a place of activity during the school term. Once public school was dismissed for the summer, children attended Parochial or Bible School. The one room school was also a location for social gatherings and 4-H club meetings. Some fund-raisers were held to generate money for extra playground equipment or library books.

With an enrollment of just five, Lincoln School closed its door in 1958. The five students, Hazel Morehart, Sharon Morehart, Loretta Morehart, John Knudtson and Sharyn Knudtson, were bussed to Halstad.

Despite the public closing in 1958, students continued to attend Parochial School at Lincoln until the 1970's. Presently the schoolhouse is home to the town hall. Township meetings and local, state and Federal elections still gather local citizens to Lincoln.

For the past thirty-nine years, silence has become a reality at the Lincoln School, but there are still reminders of the past. Children can almost be heard learning their three R's and calling at recess from the school yard...

"Anti-I-Over" and "Pigtails" (when the ball did not go over.)

The desks, now decades old, remain lined in neatly placed rows. They sit almost in anticipation of once again holding young and eager minds. These wooden structures with holes for ink wells are securely fastened to one another have only a seat in the front, no desk top. The desks are sturdy and unfailing, their simplicity a reminder of basic education when students were prepared for life, not only through reading and writing, but values, respect, family and patriotism.

For over sixty years, scores of children have proudly proclaimed Lincoln School as their alma-mater. Over one hundred years after the school's beginning, former students held an all-school reunion at the Bethany Church and Lincoln School on August 14, 1994 to rekindle fond memories of Good Hope's first and last one room school. The Lincoln School will continue as long as these cherished memories are shared.

**Reprinted from**

*"This Is Our Story  
Shelly, Minnesota  
1897-1997"*

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*"The desks, now decades old, remain lined in neatly placed rows."*

## More on District #83 – Lincoln School

### SOME LINCOLN SCHOOL STUDENTS

#### 1911

Minnie Solem, Teacher; Ernest Knudtson; Alvin Borgen; Elmer Knudtson; Odin Aamodt; Ethel Aamodt; Charlotte Flikka; Anna Borgen; Leon Nelson; Gina Knudtson; Josie Flikka; Carl Flikka; Clara Libak; Helen Aamodt; and Alice Borgen

#### 1926-27

Esta J. Bond, Teacher; Leif Ruud; Gusta Knudtson; Ervin Dybing; Alice Dybing; Janice Jacobson; Roy Dybing; Margaret Ruud; Florence Knudtson; Selma Tox; Mae Adkins; Charles Adkins; Gladys Knudtson; and Arthur Tox

#### 1951

Esta (Bond) Hansen, Teacher; Ronald Orvik; David Knudtson, Gladys Flikka; Sheryl Schuman; JoAnn Hetland; Walter Nelson; David Ward; Janice Hetland; Alton Flikka; Gene Ueland; Eleanor Flikka; Mary Knudtson; Carol Flikka

### LINCOLN SCHOOL TEACHERS

It has been difficult to find the names of the teachers who were at Lincoln during the first years, from 1895 – 1906. We were fortunate to have the help of Elmer Knudtson and his sisters who moved to Good Hope from Southern Minnesota with their parents, Louis and Louise Knudtson, not long after the turn of the century. Along with the records that were at the school, we have the following list:

1906-07 Henry Megrund  
 1910-11 M. H. Mauritsen  
 1911-12 Minnie Solem  
 1912-13 Mary Kilterie  
 1913-14 Ruth Arnestad  
 1914-15 Olga Natvik  
 1915-16 Ruth Arnestad  
 1916-17 Agnes Scheie  
 1917-20 Harriet Geddes  
 1920-22 Ida Gunnifson  
 1922-23 Clara Reseland  
                   Bertha Ramstad  
 1923-24 Jacob Ulvan  
 1924-25 William Klask  
 1925-26 Agnes Nornes  
 1926-27 Esta Bond  
 1927-28 Agnes Nornes  
 1928-29 Sarah Flikkie  
                   Esta Bond  
 1929-31 Esta Bond

1931-32 Emilia Aamodt  
 1932-33 Esta (Bond) Hansen  
 1933-37 Emilia Aamodt  
 1937-38 Selma Tox  
 1938-39 Tallie Langhus  
 1939-40 Emma Aamodt  
 1940-42 Helen Efteland  
 1942-45 Esta Hansen  
 1945-46 Thelma Gerber  
                   Martha Colbank  
 1946-47 Hilda Fynskow  
 1947-48 Lillian Palm  
 1948-49 Lillian (Palm) Stene  
 1949-53 Esta Hansen  
 1953-54 Delores Gullickson  
 1954-56 Anna Lee  
 1956-57 Myrtle Lomsdalen  
 1957-58 Grace Knudtson

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## District #104 – Wakeville School

Wakeville School, or District #104, was organized and built in Good Hope Township, southeast of Shelly, in the early 1900s. The school building accommodated students living the the southern end of Good Hope. It was in Section 26 on land owned by Lauritz Nelson and later owned by Carl and Ella Nelson.

Although a number of families attended Wakeville, no single family contributed so heavily to its population as the Nickolai Nelson family with their twelve children.

Often the teacher would stay with the Nelsons. On winter storm days when children were unable to make it to school, classes were held at the Nelson farm. After all, a majority of the students lived right on the Nelson farm.

Wakeville School eventually closed in 1941, leaving Lincoln school as the only functioning educational facility in Good Hope Township. The Wakeville School was moved to Shelly and became the barbershop.

Some Wakeville students included: Delores Nelson;

Nordal Nelson; Ruthie Nelson, Lois Nelson; Wallace Nelson; Albert Scheff; Carolyn Nelson; Mabel Nelson; Theone Torkelson; Dale Hess; Kenneth Nelson. Their teacher was Esta Hansen, who also taught at Lincoln School off and on over the years.

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## District #101 – Wilson School

Wilson School, located at the northern end of Good Hope Township in Norman County, was only in existence for a short twenty-five years. Wilson was the final school built in Good Hope, which at that time could brag of having three one-room schools in the township.

Wilson was built in 1914, right at the beginning of World War I. The school closed in 1939. Although its construction followed that of Lincoln and Wakeville schools, Wilson was the first of the three

Good Hope Schools to close. Wilson was located in Section 11 of Good Hope Township, about eleven miles northeast of Shelly. It stood near the farm now owned and lived on by Doug Nelson. Doug’s father, Lloyd, went to Wilson School and Doug is the third generation farmer on the Nelson farm first owned by his grandfather, Edwin Nelson.

Students in 1927 included: Ruth Treichel; Alvin Foss; Annie Foss; Verna Foss; Marie Treichel; Ruby Foss;

Gustave Foss; Howard Clayton; and Fred Clayton. The teacher that year was Alice Hanson.

School Board Members in 1927 were: Richard Clayton; Mrs. Arne Aafgaard; and Mrs. Nick Nelson.

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## 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
- Other newspaper articles of interest
- 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 a.m. in the Summerfield Apartments Meeting Room or at the Norman County Museum (summer months only), 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:

Ardis Horn  
100 1<sup>st</sup> Street East  
Ada, MN 56510