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1848-1998

T O W N O F

SPRINGDALE

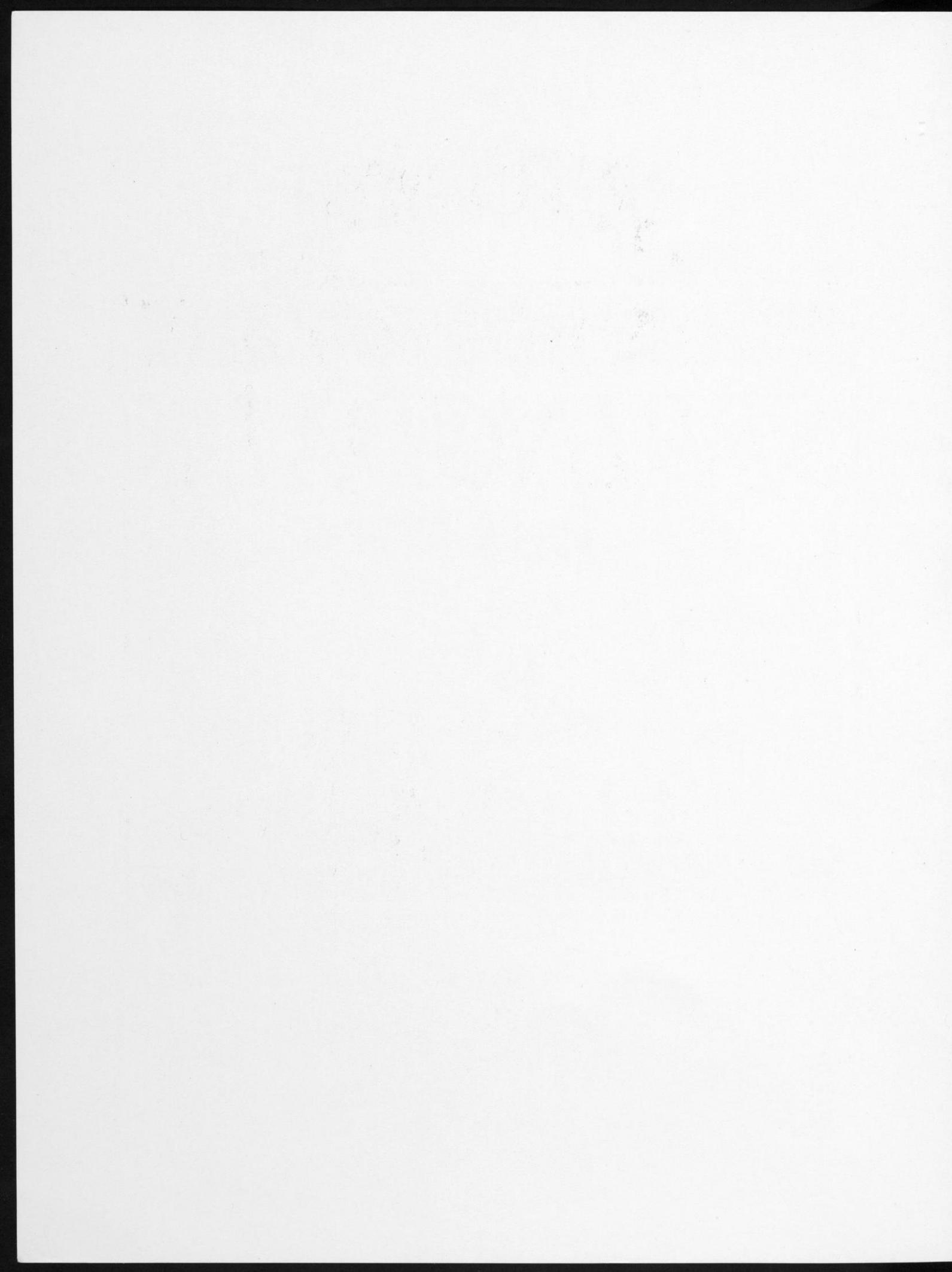


DANE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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WISCONSIN







DEDICATION

On April 23, 1997, the Sesquicentennial Committee for the 150th anniversary of the Town of Springdale met for the first time at the Springdale Town Hall.

In attendance were Walter Brink, Ben Goebler, Marlyn Grinde, Karl Hacker, Elmer Magnuson, Richard Schwenn, Pat Simms and Carol Statz.

When we started, we had no idea what a wonderful project this would become. As we went along, other people joined us who were extremely helpful in the process of gathering information for this book. Donald and Gertie Henderson and Gaylord and Shirley Martinson attended most of our meetings. When they came, they brought with them stories, pictures and memorabilia. The Hendersons have a wealth of interesting collectibles from pictures to newspaper clippings to old train tickets. Gaylord and Shirley Martinson made cheese factories their mission. They took all the photographs of the cheese factories and Shirley wrote up the articles detailing the histories of the factories. Marvin Bakken stepped in to help by writing some articles about his family and his area, Klevenville. Jennifer Goebler, daughter of Ben Goebler, was very helpful with sales of shirts, caps and books, as well as providing very helpful information on different entertainment resources for the celebration on September 19 and September 20, 1998. Kristin Mitchell, daughter of Carol Statz, did not attend committee meetings, but designed the logo which adorns the shirts and caps being sold. She is also responsible for putting this book together.

I have read all of these stories. They are heartwarming, stirring, sad and informative. This book could not be written without the help of everyone who took time from the busy lives we now lead in the 1990s to put down on paper something of value for all of us.

It is with heartfelt thanks that this book is dedicated to the hardy pioneers who walked miles, worked extremely hard and sacrificed immeasurably so that we could live the life that we now live in the Town of Springdale.

On behalf of the Sesquicentennial Committee, I thank all of those pioneers and all of those who contributed to this book to remind us that we are all in this together. ●

Carol Riley Statz, Chairperson/Secretary



NOTES

DEDICATION

On April 23, 1997, the Departmental Committee for the 150th anniversary of the Town of Springdale met for the first time in the Springdale Town Hall.

In attendance were Walter Firth, Ben Coobler, Marilyn Clarke, Karl Hansen, Betsy Firth, and myself.

When we started, we had no idea what a wonderful project this would become. As we went along, other people joined us who were extremely helpful in the process of gathering information for this book. Friends and family members who helped with photos, interviews and attended most of our meetings. When they came, they brought with them stories, pictures and paper clippings to add to the book. Carolyn and Shirley mentioned that they had their first mission. They took all the time they could to help by visiting some of the factories, the houses of the factory workers, and to help by visiting some of the houses about his family and his own. My mother, Jennifer Coobler, daughter of Ben Coobler, was very helpful with some of the information on September 19 and February 22, 1997.

I just, but designed the layout. It takes me a while and says, "Well, the book is also reprinting the old book layout."

I have read all of these stories that are heartwarming, exciting and interesting. The book could not be written without the help of everyone who took time from the busy lives we now lead in the town of Springdale.

It is with heartiest thanks that this book is dedicated to the hard workers who worked with me and helped me in the process of gathering information for this book.

On behalf of the Departmental Committee, I thank all of those who have helped me in this book. I hope you will find it as helpful as I did.

Who contributed to this book is listed in the back of the book.

Cindy Hill, Chairwoman



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Town of Springdale</i>	5
<i>Communities and Businesses</i>	9
<i>Organizations</i>	17
<i>Cheese Factories</i>	21
<i>Churches and Cemeteries</i>	29
<i>Schools</i>	34
<i>Memories and More</i>	46
<i>Recreation</i>	52
<i>Family Histories</i>	57
<i>References</i>	115
<i>Contributors and Credits</i>	117



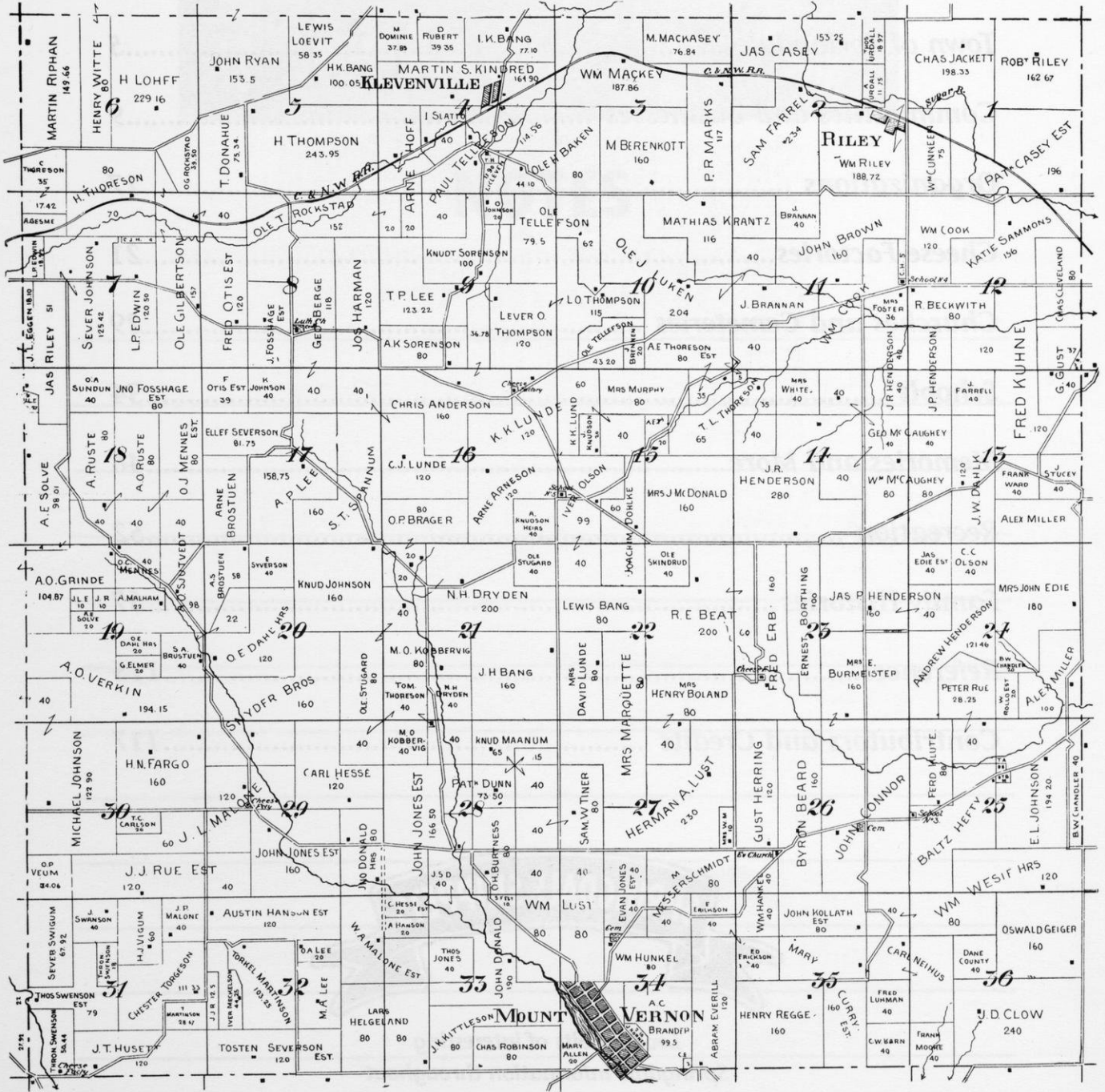
*Look for bits of interesting
Springdale information throughout
the book.*



SPRINGDALE

Township 6 North, Range 7 East
of the Fourth Principal Meridian.
DANE CO. WIS.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.





TOWN OF SPRINGDALE



TOWN OF SPRINGDALE

TOWN OF SPRINGDALE

The territory constituting the Town of Springdale included Township 6 north of Range 7 east of the U.S. Survey. It consists of 22,887-16/100 acres.

The first settler in the town was John Harlow, who came and built a log cabin in 1844. In 1845, the northeast corner was settled by Perry Munger, Thomas Bently, Wyatt Perkins and Michael Jackett. In 1846, other parts of the town were taken up by Axiom Malone, Thomas Miles, Thore T. Spaanem, N. H. Dryden, Hawley Childs, Morgan L. Curtis, John S. Berge, Martin Nash, Henry Boland and Michael Johnson.

The first town meeting was held at the home of Morgan L. Curtis in 1848. The first election of town officers was held the second Tuesday of April in 1848. Twenty-one votes were cast, and as many officers were elected. Martin Nash was elected Chairman; Thomas Bently and Wyatt Perkins were elected Supervisors; Robert N. Ashmore was elected Town Clerk, Morgan L. Curtis were elected Treasurers; Perry Munger and Thomas Miles were elected Assessors; Axiom Malone was elected Collector; Martin Nash and Morgan L. Curtis were elected Justices; Thomas Bently, N.H. Dryden and Robert Ashmore were elected Commissioners of Highways; Hawley Childs and Thomas B. Miles were elected Assessors; Michael Jackett and Hawley Childs were elected Fence Viewers; Axiom Malone and John I. Berge were elected Constables and William A. Dryden was elected Sealer of Weights and Measures.

From 1848 to 1852, the population increased through immigrants from eastern and midwestern states, and from England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany and Norway. There were five whole school districts and three joint school districts. There were six school houses, two stone and four frame.

In 1859, George West opened a store in Section 11 near what was the Clantor Post Office. After George West left the store, it was run by Peter Quigley, John C. Thompson and Thomas Managan.

According to the *History of Dane County*, published in 1906 by Western Historical Association of Madison, the people of the town of Springdale, at that time, were chiefly employed in dairying and in grain raising. In

1905, the town had 2,735 head of cattle, 403 sheep, 810 swine and 436 horses. It produced 40,255 bushels of corn, 55,100 bushels of oats, 10,461 bushels of barley, 300 bushels of wheat, 2,912 bushels of potatoes, 4,400 pounds of tobacco, 3,577 tons of hay, 33,500 pounds of butter and 145,910 pounds of cheese. The total taxable property in the town was worth \$694,415.

Among the early settlers of the town was William W. Abbott, who was born in 1810, in Maine, the son of Michael and Alice Abbott. In 1852, he came to Wisconsin and settled at Mt. Vernon in 1854. He was a blacksmith and general repairer. His wife was Elizabeth Guggil with whom he had five children.

John Beat was born November 22, 1826, in Perthshire, Scotland, the son of David and Janette (Watson) Beat. At the age of 18, he emigrated to America and settled on a farm near Janesville, Wisconsin. Two years later, he moved to Verona and in 1856 he came to Springdale and purchased a farm in Section 23. His wife was Mary Ann Edi, daughter of James and Mary Edi. She was a native of Perthshire, as well. Their children were Mary Ann, David, James, John, William #1, William #2 and Robert.

John I. Berge was born in Norway. He emigrated to America in 1845 and settled in the Town of Springdale in Section 5. He was one of the first settlers and assisted in organizing the town. His wife's maiden name was Julia Lee and they had seven children.

Michael Brown was born in 1823 in Kings County, Ireland. When he was 21 years old, he came to America and settled in Westchester County, New York. A year later he moved to Ohio. In 1849, he purchased a farm in the Town of Fitchburg. Two years later he located in the Town of Springdale in Section 11. His wife was Margaret Lynch. They had 11 children.

Patrick Carr was born in 1833 in Tyrone County, Ireland. At the age of 23, he emigrated to America and settled in Springdale in Section 12. In 1864, he opened a 24'x60' store, was a general merchant and the postmaster at Clantor. His wife was Elizabeth, with whom he had 10 children.

John Dick was a native of Ebershire, Scotland, the son of James and Elizabeth (Thompson) Dick. In his homeland of Scotland, he learned the trade of shoe-



TOWN OF SPRINGDALE

making. In 1843, he came to Wisconsin and settled in Green County. Twenty four years later, he came to Springdale and settled in Section 34. Mr. Dick served throughout the Civil War in Company F, 31st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. His wife was Sarah Lawler, a native of Ireland. They had eight children.

N. H. Dryden was born in February of 1820 in Bedford County, Tennessee, the son of William and Abigail (Henderson) Dryden. When he was 26, he came to Wisconsin and purchased a farm in the Town of Springdale in Section 21. Mr. Dryden was one of the organizers of the town. For several years, he held the office of Town Supervisor. His wife was Martha Balch, a native of Lawrence County, Alabama. Her parents were Theron and Alpha (Boyd) Balch. Their children were Elizabeth, Abigail, John, Albert, W.I. and Nathaniel.

Hugh Eadie was born in 1814 in Perthshire, Scotland, the son of William and Margarette (Davidson) Eadie. In 1851, he emigrated to America and settled in Verona. Six years later, he purchased a farm in Section 19 in Springdale. That same year he married Christina Black of Glasgow, Scotland.

Stephen W. Ellis was born in 1812 in Wolfborough, New Hampshire, the son of Joseph and Mary (Willey) Ellis. In 1869, he came to Madison and settled at Windsor. Ten years later, he started a store in Mt. Vernon. His wife was Louisa Lyford. They had two children.

H. N. Fargo was born in 1819 in Erie County, Pennsylvania, the son of Robert and Ellen (Randall) Fargo. In 1854, he emigrated to Wisconsin and settled on a farm in Section 30 in Springdale. Mr. Fargo held the offices of School Treasurer, Clerk and Director. His wife was Hannah Spence of Pennsylvania. Their children were Eugene, Ambrose, George, Eunice, Jessie, John, Harvey, Ralph and James.

James P. Henderson was born in 1842, in Arbroath, Forfarshire, Scotland, the son of William and Hannah (Peters) Henderson. When he was two years old, he came to America with his parents and lived in New York City until 1851, when they moved to Wisconsin and purchased a farm in Section 23 in the Town of Springdale. He married Ellen Brown of Jersey, with whom he had six children.

Furman Housel was born in 1815 in New Jersey, the son of Jacob and Ose (Hull) Housel. At the age of 39, he came to Wisconsin and purchased a farm in Springdale in Sections 24 and 25. For 18 years, he was School Treasurer and served one term as Town

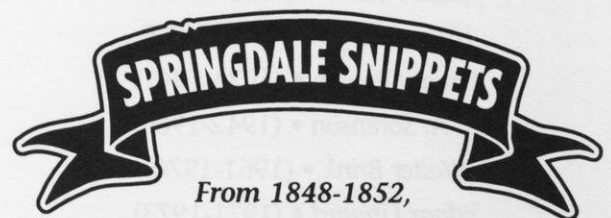
Supervisor. In 1840, he married Margarette Carpenter, with whom he had 12 children.

Michael Jackett was born in 1820 in Washington County, New York, the son of Abraham and Rachael (Stockwell) Jackett. At the age of 27, he came to Wisconsin and located on a farm in Section 1 in the Town of Springdale. He was one of the first organizers of the town. He was a Supervisor and held school offices for years. His wife was Mary Knapp of New York. Together they had six children.

Michael Johnson was born January 4, 1832 at Bergen Stift, Norway. When he first came to America, he settled in the Town of Windsor. For several years he lived in the Town of Vienna. In 1856, he moved to Section 30 in the Town of Springdale. He held numerous offices, including Justice of the Peace, Town Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of County Supervisors and was a member of the State Assembly.

James P. McPherson was born in Dundee, Forfarshire, Scotland. In 1850, he emigrated to America and settled in the Town of Springdale in Section 25. He was a prominent man in public affairs and politics, being elected Chairman of the Board, County Clerk, Chairman of the County Board, one of the first County Superintendents of the Poor, Justice, Town Clerk and Clerk of the School District. He was also appointed postmaster in 1866. His wife was Mary Burns, a native of England. They had nine children.

Ever Thorson was born in 1818 in Norway. When he was 21, he came to America and settled in Wiota, Wisconsin and the next year came to Springdale and settled in Section 10. His wife was Annie Thorson. Their children were Andrew, Thore, Thomas and Caroline. ●



*From 1848-1852,
the population increased through
immigrants from Eastern and Midwestern
states and from England, Scotland,
Ireland, Germany and Norway. There were
five whole and three joint school districts.
There were six school houses,
two stone and four frame.*



TOWN OF SPRINGDALE CHAIRMEN

- Martin Nash • (1848-1850)*
- John Harlow • (1849)*
- Robert Ashmore • (1851)*
- Hawley Childs • (1852)*
- James McPherson • (1853 and 1856-1871)*
- Richard Blackburn • (1854)*
- Axiom Malone • (1855)*
- William Whalen • (1864)*
- Michael Johnson • (1872-1878 and 1881-1882)*
- John Fosshage • (1879-1880)*
- James Henderson • (1883-1884)*
- Andrew Grinde • (1885-1886)*
- Lewis Edwin • (1887-1891)*
- Joseph Henderson • (1892-1894 and 1896)*
- A. K. Sorenson • (1895 and 1897-1898)*
- John Donald (1899-1901)*
- A.K. Sorenson • (1902-1904 and 1909-1910)*
- Robert Beat • (1905-1908)*
- Henry Thompson • (1911-1913)*
- T. S. Spaanem • (1914-1915)*
- G.O. Rockstad • (1916-1920)*
- Jake Stolen • (1921-1924)*
- Albert Baker • (1925-1926)*
- Harvey Fargo • (1927-1933)*
- Oscar Oimoen • (1934-1941)*
- C. A. Sorenson • (1942-1960)*
- Walter Brink • (1961-1970)*
- Edgar Lingard • (1971-1973)*
- Robert Murray • (1973-1977)*
- Philip Esser • (1977-1979)*
- Karl Hacker • (1979-1986 and 1991)*
- Roger Ringgenberg • (1987-1991)*

SPRINGDALE TOWN HALL

On July 22, 1915, Anton and Inger Field, for the sum of \$1, sold land to the town of Springdale for the purpose of building a town hall, which stands at the corner of Town Hall Road and Offerdahl Road. There was a provision in the contract between the Fields and the Town of Springdale that "the said premises shall never be used for dancing in any form." A request was made on April 6, 1915 to build the town hall for the sum of \$1,600.

In 1980, the present town hall was built. It is currently used to house the equipment for the Town of Springdale's road maintenance. There is an office and a large meeting room where town meetings are held, and the Springdale 4-H uses it for their meetings. ●

1976 ICE STORM

In 1976 there was a big ice storm in which the power was out for a number of days for many Springdale residents. Some places were without power for as long as 12 days.

Generators were scarce, but those who were fortunate enough to have access to a generator used it to do their farm work, heat their homes and were able to stay in their homes.

Significant damage was done to trees and power lines. Life came to a standstill for many people, travel was nearly impossible with ice covered roads, downed power lines and tree branches.

It was a time for friends and neighbors to pull together to help each other through the ice storm of 1976. ●



*The first official
post office was the Springdale Post
Office, where the mail came in by
stage. The Springdale Post Office
was on Highway G.*



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

KLEVENVILLE

Submitted by Marvin Bakken

This small village was once known as "Bluff." It owes its present name to Iver Kleven, who settled here in 1869. He had arrived in Madison in 1867, with his wife and two sons, Knute and Gilbert. Mr. Kleven was a carpenter, and in 1874, he built a large building which served as a hardware store, with living quarters on the second floor. It burned down in 1915 and was rebuilt.

The building next to it was built in about 1890. This eventually became a grocery store. It was run by Mr. and Mrs. Swenson. Mrs. Inger Swenson was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kleven, and became Postmistress after her father retired. Mrs. Swenson ran the grocery store and post office until 1941. The building was sold to Bill and Clara Reisdorf, who later remodeled it into living quarters. Since they passed away, the family has maintained it as rental property.



Klevenville General Store and Post Office.

When Mrs. Swenson retired as Postmistress, Mrs. Peter Riphahn held the position until 1952, when the post office was discontinued by the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. and Mrs. Riphahn's house, which was built by Mr. Kleven, was purchased by them from Carl Dalby. After Mr. Riphahn died, Mrs. Riphahn kept the home until 1991. Their family was Mary Lou, Peter, Jr. and Helen (Gerber). This home was purchased by Christopher and Betty Frost.

During his life in Klevenville, Mr. Iver Kleven and his two sons, Knute and Gilbert, built many houses in the area. He had his own lumber yard, and when the railroad came through in 1881, he built the depot. It was at this time the name was changed from Bluff to

Klevenville. The railroad came through Klevenville, instead of Pine Bluff, which was the original plan.

In addition to the stores and the lumber yard, there was also a stock yard, a blacksmith shop and a creamery. The creamery closed in 1895. No doubt, this is about the time the Klevenville Cheese Factory came into being.



Klevenville Cheese Factory, farmer at left on wagon is Halvor Bakken.

The blacksmith was Jim Hughes, who with his wife, Sarah, lived at the site where Hugo and Marie Fink now reside. Hugo and Marie purchased this house from Stanley Starczynski, who had succeeded Mike and Myrt Starczynski when they moved to the house north of Klevenville, now owned by Mark and Mona Haglund. Myrt Starczynski is Marie Fink's grandmother, and at the age of 102, lives in Black Earth.

The house next to the original store was the Dollhausen home. Mr. Nick Dollhausen died from injuries received when he was trampled by his horses in the barn. Later, this was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCaughey. In 1951, it was sold at auction to settle their estate. It was purchased by Marvin and Eunice Bakken. In 1969, they sold to Anna Doodla when they moved to their new home on Highway P. This is now the home of Albert and Ruth Bosshart, who purchased it in 1987. The house in Klevenville was bought by Jeff and Heidi Buttchen, the present owners.

The house across the street was the Moen home. The Marty family lived there at the time of Nick Dollhausen's tragic death. There have been several changes in the occupants of the Moen house, including Pepper and Diane Fink. It is now the home of Frank and Nancy Jo Daniels.

Next to the Moen house was a large, two-story shed, which Rueben Lee used as a garage and gas station for many years. It was also a great place for the young men of the neighborhood to "hang out." Rueben lost his life in an accident at the sand plant.



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

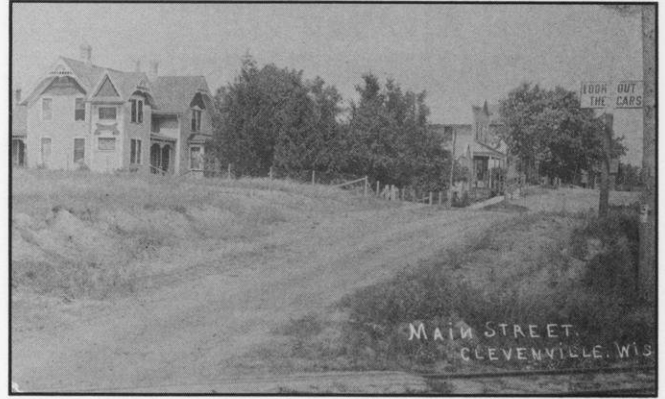
East of the road was a small farm now owned by Bob and Jean Mueller. Their son, Paul, lives in the house, and another son, Charles, and his wife, Denise, have built a house on the land. This small farm had been occupied in the past by the Johnsons, Martys, Ole Dahlbys and the Bert Hansons.

In the late 1920s, John and Perdella Marty purchased the house across the road from Perdella's parents, the Rob McCaugheys. This house had been the home of Harold Atkinson, who was the Depot Agent at that time. The Marty children were, Harold, LaVonne, Shirley (Martinson), "Bill", Wanda (Kahl), Robert, John, Jr. and Darlene. In 1951, Robert and Sophie Bakken bought the house. They, in turn, sold it to Steven and Mary Bollig in 1988.

There were two houses south of the railroad tracks. One is now the residence of Curtis and Carmen Maher. This house had been the home of Christ Olson, and later it was the home of Marie Fink's parents, Foster and Eva Odegard. The other home is that of Stephen and Barbara Hubred. This is a new house built some time in the 1970s. The old house had burned down quite a number of years earlier.

New homes built in recent years are: Michael and Judith Sullivan, 3145 Highway P; Dennis and Elaine Shaw, 3149 Highway P; Robert and Diane Krantz, 3151 Highway P; John Schuchart at 811 Zander Road. The house, where the Klevenville School was, is now occupied by the daughter of Ted and Audrey Zander, Patty Esser.

Now to go back in time to the coming of the railroad in 1881. The freight trains were usually pulled by two engines to make the grade to Mt. Horeb. They would usually come through in the morning and return from Lancaster in the afternoon. There was also a passenger train that made the trip the same way. This was a gas



Klevenville in the 1890s.



Klevenville today.

engine with one passenger car and a caboose. It brought the mail bag, and from 1937-1941, served as my transportation to high school in Mt. Horeb. Doris and Marc Deneen (from Riley) and I were almost always late to school, and had to leave school at 2:00 p.m. for the return trip home. The cost was 10 cents each way.

There are many fond memories of Klevenville, and it is still a nice place to live and raise a family.

I hope I have covered most of its history without slighting anyone. There are, no doubt, some omissions and errors. For this, I apologize.

Thanks to Shirley Martinson, the Riphahns, Julie Vasen, Marie Fink and others for their help, and for the old pictures. ●



Klevenville Depot.



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

MT. VERNON BUSINESS DISTRICT

Submitted by Ben Goebler

Previous and current owners of what currently is the **J&W Bar:**

- Louise Eggiman, 1932-1962
- Virgil and Millie Ketelboeter, 1962-1981
- Kelly, Miller & Durst, 1981-1983
- Wally and Juanita Anderson, 1983 to present time



From left to right: J & W Bar, General Store and apartments.

Previous and current owners of what currently is **Sparky's Tavern:**

- Eli Kobbervick, 1945-1948
- Vic Torterice, 1948-1954
- Len and Audrey Marty, 1954-1972
- Les and Alice Shutvet, 1972-1976
- Don and Francis Way, 1976-1977
- LaVerne "Sparky" Hermanson, 1977 to present time
(currently operated by William and Jeanie Kraus)



Sparky's Tavern.

Previous and current owners of Mt. Vernon Mill:

- Stuessy Feeds, 1947-1952
- Waldo Disch, 1952-1978
- Mt. Vernon Feed & Seed, Ken Seston, Owner, 1978-1980
- F & H Mill, Fugate-Hanson, Owners, 1980-1986
- Sher-Feeds, Steve and Kris Sherven, Owners, 1986 to present time



Mt. Vernon Mill.

Previous owners of **General Store and apartments:**
(see picture at left)

- Andrew and Lucey Nelson, 1942-1947
- Wallace & Westby, 1947-1949
- Sam & Betty Bieri, 1949-1950
- Ray Davis, 1950-1952
- Ben and Darleen Goebler, 1952-1959
- Amos Austin, 1959-1969
- The store was closed and converted into apartments in 1961

Previous and current owners of **Mt. Vernon Garage and Filling Station:**

- Rodney Kollath, 1934-1950
- Orville Showers, 1950-1957
- Adolph Fredrickson, 1957-1959
- Harland Erfurth & Gerald Trainor, 1959 to present time

Jerry Erfurth owned Jerry's Bulk and Fuel Service Trucks from 1961 until he passed away in 1976. Records are still kept by his wife, Freida Erfurth. The gas



Mt. Vernon Garage and Filling Station.



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

delivery truck is at the present time operated by Harland Erfurth and Gerald Trainor, owners of the Mt. Vernon Garage and Filling Station.

Mitchell's Dance Hall and Tavern were closed in 1940. It was then remodeled to family living quarters. In the 1970s, the building was renovated by removing the upstairs dance hall and it was made into a one-story home by Donald Way.



Formerly Mitchell's Dance Hall and Tavern.

The **Mt. Vernon Telephone** switchboard and office were located in this building until 1959, when the company introduced the dial system, with the first automation building being located behind the building in this picture. In later years, with the Mt. Vernon Telephone Company being sold to TDS, a new automation building was built at the present site on the corner of County Trunk G and Penn Street.



Previously Mt. Vernon telephone switchboard and office.

Miscellaneous Businesses in Mt. Vernon (both provided by Gerald "Jerry" Erfurth):

Watkins Products Sales from 1936 to 1946

Fire Fryter Sales & Service from 1960 to 1976

Beard's Dairy:

Owned and operated by Otto Beard, who delivered bottled milk to the residents in Mt. Vernon during the late 1920s until the mid-1940s.

Piano Lesson Teachers:

• *Bernice Moore, 1920 to 1960*

• *Nona Erfurth, 1970 to the present time*



Miner Marty owned the Black Smith Shop until 1955. Harland Erfurth from 1955-1959.



Mt. Vernon Barber Shop 1939-1949.



Previously Mt. Vernon Grade School.

Dates to Remember:

- 1932 – Louise Eggiman, wife of Alfred Eggiman, opened a restaurant and tavern in the same building with her husband, Alfred, and to this date it still is operated as a tavern and restaurant, but the garage no longer exists.
- 1949 – The mill pond was drained and no longer used for water power.
- 1957 – The Mt. Vernon Fire Department was dissolved.
- 1962 – Eggiman Garage operated by Alfred Eggiman (owner) closed. ●



COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

RILEY

Submitted by Carol Riley Statz

The Sesquicentennial Committee divided the Town of Springdale up into school districts, and a person chose a school district upon which to report. Since I was a "Riley from Riley," I, of course, chose Riley to research. Simple enough, I thought. After all, there was this great tradition of being a "Riley." The first thing I learned was that the story I had always heard about the Rileys homesteading this land was inaccurate, since the Homestead Act did not go into effect until May, 1862, and William Riley moved to Wisconsin from New York in 1850. There are still Rileys in Riley, which does give it special meaning, since seven generations of Rileys have lived in this small town.

Probably because of the Sugar River running through it, Riley was chosen as a location through which the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad would run its tracks. A railroad station was established at "Sugar River Station" in 1882. A depot and water tank

were built. With the coming of the railroad, through land owned by William Riley, it became known as Rileys Station, which was then, at some later time, shortened to Riley.

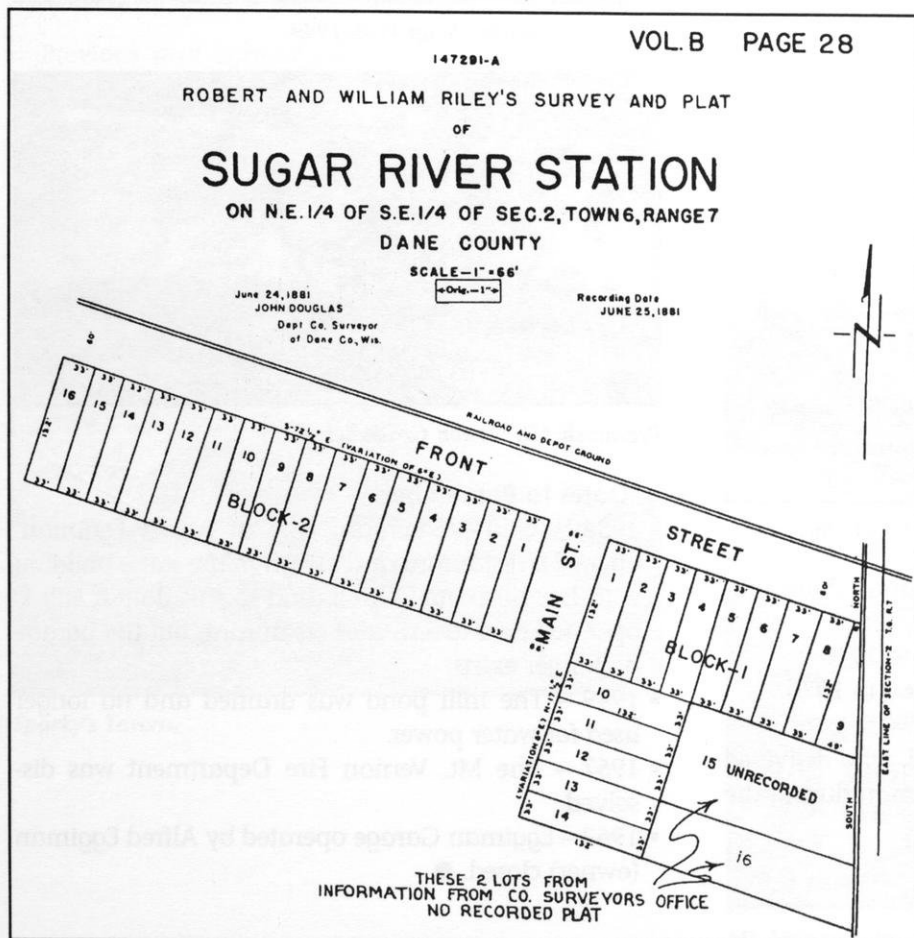


Depot and Water Tank No. 4, Riley Wisconsin, 1908.

One of the first two villages established in Springdale was Clantorf, which is one mile south of

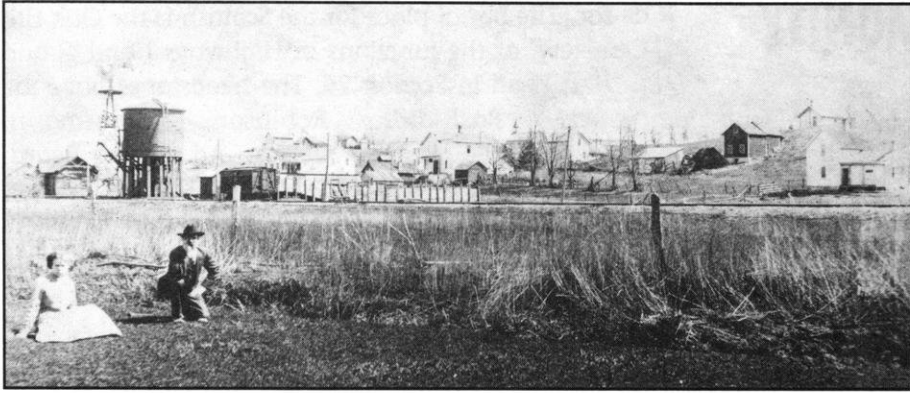
Riley. That is where the first post office, general store and school was located. After the railroad came through, Rileys Station became the hub of activity. In 1884, there were three saloons in Riley. In April of 1884, John E. Brown opened his general store in what is now the Riley Tavern. He carried groceries, staples, wire, shoes, boots and clothing, just about anything a rural farmer could want or need. His motto was "Quick sales and small profits." Also in Riley at that time was a blacksmith, William Henrich, who specialized in horse-shoeing and general repair.

Passenger trains went through Riley several times a day, with the schedule being printed in the *Blue Mounds Weekly*, later the *Mt. Horeb Times* and eventually the *Mt. Horeb Mail*. An extra passenger train was added in 1884 for travelers to journey to the World's Fair in Chicago. In 1909, there were four passenger trains a day going west through Riley and two trains going east, as





COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES



Riley shown from the North, early 1900s.

well as many freight trains that stopped there. The water tank that supplied the water to the trains used water from a well 18 feet in diameter and 28 feet deep.

By 1900, Riley was a busy place. There was now the Woodmen Hall, a dance hall, which also became a basketball court with the removal of the second floor, leaving the only access to the upper level by ladder. The hall was located directly east of the Marc Deneen residence running west and east. Rudy Schaller and his wife, Tina, provided entertainment. Rudy, the cheesemaker at the Riley Co-Op, played accordion, and his wife played the piano. Forest Henderson and Charles Himsel ran the hall, with Charles' wife, Mary, organizing programs. The hall also served as a rifle range for shooting competitions. The building was shorter than the 50 feet required to shoot, so they shot into the cloak room at the end of the building to accommodate the 50 foot requirement.



Building addition to Riley Hall, 1913.

There were stockyards in Riley. Before Oscar Mayer Company came to Madison, farmers sent their livestock to Chicago to market. People would herd their animals to Riley through the woods and on the roads,

so they could send them on the train to Chicago to sell. Someone would accompany the animals to collect the money from the sales.

There was a creamery just west of the Riley Tavern. There are still concrete remnants of its foundation there. By 1900, Riley had a new blacksmith, Sam Ireland, a colorful character.

The post office was established in Riley, on May 3, 1882. Prior to the post office moving to Riley, the post office had been at the corner of Highways PD and J, at a village called Clantorf. There was also a Baptist Church, built in 1896. It was struck by lightning and burned in 1920; however, services had not been held in it for many years.



Riley was quite an athletic area, having a baseball team, a basketball team and a rifle shooting team. Their teams were very popular and drew crowds to watch the farm boys play sports. They played basketball in the Riley Hall, which had been modified for basketball. The Riley team could beat anyone in their own Riley Hall, but couldn't find that success when they played at other teams' halls.

Presently, Riley has one tavern, the Riley Tavern. Its popularity has increased over the years with a Bluegrass Festival held there and the access to the Military Ridge Bicycle Trail, which is on the former railroad bed.

Shortly before the general store closed, May Deneen, who lived in the brick house just east of the store, opened a little grocery store in one of the rooms in her home. About 1950, the old general store became a tavern and the little grocery store was very handy for the residents of Riley. ●



SCOTCH LANE COMMUNITY

Some of the earliest settlers in Springdale were Scottish. These early settlers started the Scotch Lane area. The Scotch Lane community started west of Verona and included the Sugar River area from the junctions of Highway G and 18-151 over to the crossroads town of Riley and west into the Town of Springdale.

The first known settler was Andrew Patton, who came in 1840 to the Verona area. Other pioneers who settled in the area were Andrew Henderson in 1854 and Henry Nimmo, a civil war veteran. Land was purchased for \$3 an acre. Andrew Henderson's farm was located at the intersection of Highways J and 18-151 in Section 14. Henry Nimmo's farm was located in Section 36. He had the first stone house in the Town of Springdale.

The Hendersons had a post office station, which apparently was never officially recorded, although there was a hand stamp for that post office. The Henderson post office existed from 1896 to 1900. Amond Iverson was the first postmaster and Ole Skinrude carried mail from the Henderson Post Office to Klevenville.

The Scotch Presbyterian Church, built in 1861, was located in the Town of Verona, at the intersections of Highway 18-151 and G, an intersection which is no longer there since the bypass went through. It stood on the hill behind and to the south of the former cheese factory building, which is currently at the end of a cul-

de-sac. The burial place for the Scottish is the Oak Hill Cemetery, at the junctions of Highways J and G and Kollath Road in Section 26. The headstones have the names, Rashford, Robinson, Gausmann, Messerschmidt, Regee, Niehus, Adamson, Beard, Brink, Miles, Henderson, Morch, Kollath, Weise, Wright, and Lester. ●

NORSK GOLF BOWL

Submitted by Marvin Bakken

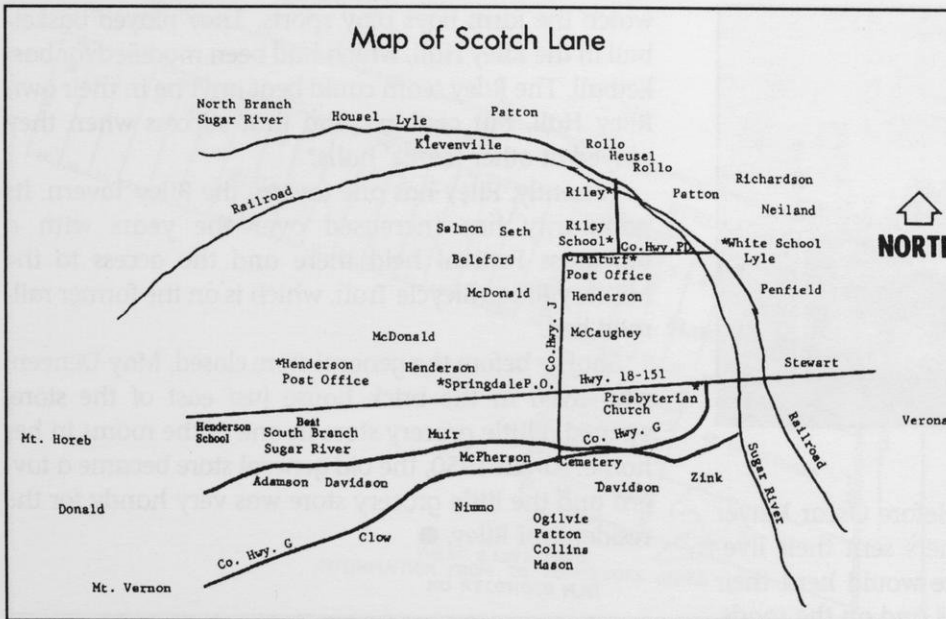
Until 1995, the golf course was in the Town of Springdale. It was started in 1926 when some Mt. Horeb residents each put up some money to buy land and build tees and greens. At the beginning, it consisted of just five holes. All tees and greens were made, but the fairways had to wait until the corn and hay fields were cleared and seeded. Ollie Statz was there to collect the greens fees and sell pop and candy.

The first individual owner was Mr. Lawrence Anderson. In 1940, or thereabouts, it was sold to Ken and Margaret Yost. Ken had been the golf pro at Brodhead. He was a friend of Lyle Johnson, and that is really how that came about. Ken and Margaret maintained possession until Walter Wirth bought it in 1957. Walt's son, Ron, came back to Mt. Horeb to manage the course and act as golf pro.

In 1958, Walt built the new Club House, and in 1960, added the eight-lane bowling alley. In 1965, Walter Wirth sold it to Duncan McDougall, with Dick and Betty Grosse as managers.

Dr. Clarence Gonstead, Ned and Polly McGinley and Jim and Toni Adams acquired possession of the "Norsk" in 1971. Subsequent managers have been Jim and Toni Adams, John and Marie McGinley and Jack and Connie McGinley.

Jim and Toni Adams sold their share in 1994. The "Norsk" is now owned by Polly McGinley and her two sons, Dennis and wife, Kate, and Ned, who is the golf pro, and manages the course with his wife, Kerry. ●





ORGANIZATIONS



ORGANIZATIONS

RILEY GAME COOPERATIVE

Aldo Leopold established the Riley Game Cooperative in 1931. A game cooperative is an organization of farmers, working with town sportsmen to build up game in a particular area. Aldo Leopold, after visiting with Rueben Paulson, who lived on what is now Paulson Road, suggested that the Riley area would be a good place to try game management. The area became licensed as a preserve in 1931 after passage of the "Shooting Preserve Law," authorized by the Conservation Committee to license pheasant shooting preserves on which special seasons and bag limits may be obtained. Riley became one of Leopold's favorite hunting spots.

The Riley area was, at that time, dairy country, closely grazed and cultivated; therefore, deficient in both winter food and winter cover. The average farm comprised 160 acres and maintained 25 cows and 35 hogs. Pastures occupied the creek bottoms which were too wet, and ridges which were too stony to plow. The only ungrazed cover consisted of wood lots isolated by fields, bogs too soft for cattle to enter and odd corners. To these areas, a system of small fenced evergreen plantations were added.

Willow plantings for cover were tried in pastures as early as 1931, but all succumbed to browsing. In 1934, a C.W.A. crew planted 1,300 plants, mostly white and Norway spruce, red cedar, grape, viburnums and mulberry. All succumbed to the 1934 drought. The weak fences built of scrap wire were all breached by cattle.

In 1933, Leopold was appointed Chairman of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin. The area served as shooting ground for members and an experimental area for the University of Wisconsin. Graduate students were assigned to Riley each year to make censuses and conduct experiments in feeding and banding and supervising plantings. Technical records were kept.

In 1936, a volunteer crew of students from the University of Wisconsin and farmers built five units of good fence. Fortunately, no plantings were made, for this year brought the most intense drought in local history.

In 1937, the Soil Conservation Service provided a CCC crew to plant the new units, and to build and plant eight others totaling seven acres. In 1938 and 1939, the farmers did their own planting, built their own fences, and some even hoed the trees throughout

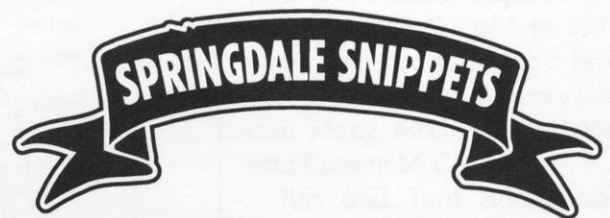
the summer. Good rains fell in 1938. Despite a considerable drought in 1939, losses were negligible.

After 10 years of work, Riley had 18 fenced areas of young evergreens, mostly red or Norway pine, aggregating 12 acres.

Riley was a farmer-sportsman shooting preserve for which farm members furnished the land and town members furnished the cash. Both contributed to the labor and shared in the shooting. In the beginning, the cooperative was a simple effort to increase game by quick and easy measures like restocking and winter feeding. When the University of Wisconsin became involved, it expanded its aims students used it as an experimental area. With the exception of one stray cock seen in 1930, Riley was devoid of pheasants until the Cooperative stocked the area in 1931. Students from the University of Wisconsin tagged the pheasants and evidenced that their numbers increased, along with Bob-white Quail. Hungarian Partridge had never been seen at Riley until 1937. Also inhabiting the area were Prairie Chicken and Cottontail Rabbits.

The farmers involved with the Riley Game Cooperative were: J. L. Brannon, O. Hub, Wesley Riley, Albert Bohle, L. C. England, W. Cook, M. G. Thompson, J. L. Henderson, R. J. Paulson, and a McCaughey. It also included "Brown's Woods" which was east of the Paulson farm.

In a letter to Rueben Paulson on September 8, 1931, the purpose of the cooperative was stated, "Riley Game Cooperative — The purpose is 1. to control hunting and prevent trespassing by non-members; 2. to propagate pheasants and to furnish shooting for its members of up to 75% of the pheasants annually released, in accordance with the new "Shooting Preserve law"; 3. to furnish food, cover and protection for other game and beneficial wildlife, especially quail and prairie chickens." ●



In May of 1884, the pile drivers of the C&NW Railway Company completed the new bridge east of the Rileys depot in hopes that the farmers would not be flooded with water in the lowlands of the Sugar River.



ORGANIZATIONS

SPRINGDALE 4-H

Submitted by Norma Baker

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Baker became Springdale 4-H Club leaders in 1942. The Club was then known as the Springdale Center 4-H Club and held its meetings in the homes and in the Springdale Center School.

In 1944, the Club's name was simply the Springdale 4-H as it remains to this day. The meetings were then held in the old Springdale Town Hall until 1959 when the Club began meeting at the newly erected Ridgeview School. Some time after 1980, the meetings were held in the new Springdale Town Hall.

Mrs. Baker was leader of the Berg 4-H Club in 1928, 1929 and 1930.

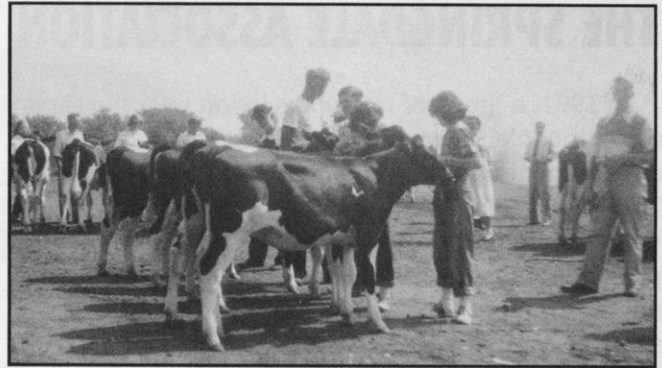
The Springdale 4-H Club has had many awards which include Key Awards, Secretary Awards, P.V. Hurley Awards and public speaking. The Club has had representatives at the Wisconsin State Fair Dress Revue, at the Tri-State and Dane County Black and White Show and Bowman Dairy Trips.

Two members were selected to go to Club Congress in Chicago, and one went to 4-H Club Center in Washington, D.C.

On December 3, 1961, an open house was held at the Springdale Lutheran Church honoring Mrs. Baker for her 20 years of leadership. Over 200 people attended the open house. During those 20 years, there had been 229 4-H members. At one point there were 37 families and over 80 members. Mrs. Baker continued as leader until 1978.

From 1978-1980, the organizational co-leaders of the Club were Mary Mackler and Marian Ringgenberg. The 4-H Club was fortunate in that many of the parents involved chose also to be leaders in the different project areas.

Since 1981, Mary Mackler has been the



Five calves from Springdale 4-H, July 1950.

organizational leader. The Club has decreased in numbers, partly due to families retiring from the family farms. Membership has increased since 1990 with the influx of new homes and people moving into the township.

The 4-H Club was started in the rural areas so those families could be involved in projects related to the farming community. The Club has now expanded the program to include projects for a wide variety of interests, ranging from Dairy Cattle to Rocket Science.

The Club continues to meet in the Springdale Town Hall and to exhibit their projects at the Dane County Fair. ●



Back row (left to right): Ruth (Dolly) Dettweiler, Jean Dettweiler, Dawn Field, Patricia Johnson, Carla Frye, Sharon Hefty, Judy Martinson. Front row (left to right): Dorothy Schwarz, Jacki Heuser, Dorinda Phillmore, JoAnn Kirch, Darlene Frye, Marie Wittwer, Susan Greve.



ORGANIZATIONS

THE SPRINGDALE ASSOCIATION

In 1991, a group of neighbors living near the center of Springdale Township were concerned about the environmental impact of a proposed land use change. They discovered there were many people in the township who had little knowledge of the decision making processes of town government. With land use being an important topic in Springdale, as well as other townships in a rapidly growing Dane County, a group of caring citizens, who wished to educate themselves about town government, became the nucleus of people who organized the Springdale Association.

Chartered as a community service organization by the State of Wisconsin on November 18, 1992, the following goals were established:

- To maintain the rural character of Springdale for future generations by perpetuating an agricultural economy, including non-traditional agricultural uses compatible to a rural area;
- To support township-wide agricultural zoning that keeps residential density low and preserves farmland and greenspace;
- To promote the protection of the town's natural resources through increased citizen awareness;
- To encourage citizen participation and representation in major decisions affecting the community, and
- To sponsor social and cultural activities which promote the sense of community and enhance neighborliness and friendships.

Since its inception, the Springdale Association has become a great asset to our community. A volunteer steering committee, which meets monthly at members' homes provides the leadership. There is a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer, a newsletter editor and a person who takes responsibility of mailings. The principal expense is the newsletter printing and mailing. Instead of dues or membership fees, donations from over 200 past, present and future "Springdaliens" have allowed this non-profit association to survive from newsletter to newsletter.

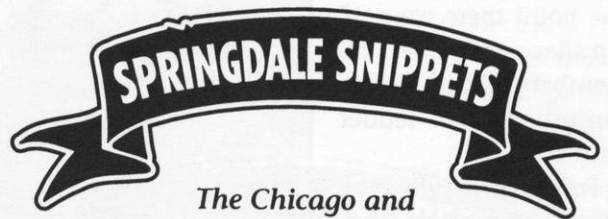
The major achievement of the association is the bi-monthly newsletter. In addition to the popular historical features, the newsletter provides detailed and current information on town government concerns and actions, local news items, and announcements of forthcoming events within the township.

Other activities sponsored by the association include:

- Several educational forums, which have attempted to enlighten residents of the complexities of agricultural zoning and land use.
- A newcomer's packet for new residents to help them become aware of local activities and resources.
- A number of residents have participated in the "Adopt A Highway" movement, which helps in keeping our roadside clean.
- Social functions which have been very popular and attracted large attendances.

Especially since 1961, when the rural schools of the township became consolidated and several mothers' clubs dissolved, there has been a need within the township for a new community organization which promotes friendships and cultural sharing. The Springdale Association now provides that, and it is certain to enhance our community for tomorrow and many years ahead.

Current volunteers on the steering committee include: Aimee and Steve Gauger, Tim and Karen White, Vicki Anderson, Jackie Geimer, Pat Hitchcock, Robert Klebba, Guiliana Mioli, George Hagenauer, Gene and Linda Farley, Sandy Turnipseed, Jim Skiles, Marty Richardson, David Lawrence, Wayne and Shirlene Hefty, Chuck DeMets, Steve and Beth Albert and John and Olive Thomson. ●



*The Chicago and
Northwestern Railroad established
a station in Riley in 1882.*



CHEESE FACTORIES



CHEESE FACTORIES

CHEESE FACTORIES

As of June 19, 1913, there were 11 cheese factories or companies listed as being in business in the Town of Springdale. There was also a creamery, which was in Klevenville. The Cheese Companies were as follows:

SECTION 4

Klevenville • *Owner, A. P. Sletto,
Cheesemaker, Fred Winger*

SECTION 12

Meadow View • *Owner, R. W. Gust, Cheesemaker, Joe Nef*

SECTION 16

Prairie Ridge • *Owner, Ed Magnuson,
Cheesemaker, Jacob Voramwald*

SECTION 21

Brager • *Owner, Ed Offerdahl, Cheesemaker, Fred Ingold*

SECTION 23

Gausman • *Owner, R. E. Beat, Cheesemaker, G. Schwart*

SECTION 25

Holum • *Owner, H. Stugard,
Cheesemaker, Walter Scheidegger*

SECTION 27

Springdale Center • *Owner, Sam Wittwer,
Cheesemaker, Emiel Roder*

SECTION 29

Malone • *Owner, Ed Lewis, Cheesemaker, Fred Erb*

SECTION 31

Swenson • *Owner, H. O. Edseth,
Cheesemaker, Jacob Hefty*

SECTION 32

Sharpes Corner • *Owner, T. Martinson,
Cheesemaker, Jacob Willie*

SECTION 34

Kelly Hill • *Owner, Carl Messersmith,
Cheesemaker, Otto Urben*

The one creamery had 76 patrons in 1912. The creamery received 648,000 lbs. of milk out of 1,200 contributing cows resulting in 265,200 lbs. of butter made and a total of \$74,556. received in revenue for that year.

For the 11 cheese factories, there were 102 patrons. The total of milk received by all the factories in 1912 was 6,632,037 lbs. from 1,600 contributing cows. Out of that, 600,424 lbs. of butter was made and a total of \$70,064.75 was received in revenue.

The small factories went out of business when farmers put in bulk tanks at home and the milk was picked up and delivered to larger receiving plants.

When the cheese market was at its lowest, the price a farmer would receive for his milk was less than \$1 for every 100 pounds delivered.

In the McPherson School District, at one time, there were approximately 25 family farmers who had a milking herd. Today, there is only one farmer, Roger Ringgenberg, who has a milking herd of cattle. In 1995, he and his wife, Marian, hosted the "Dane County Breakfast on the Farm." ●

BRAGER CHEESE FACTORY

Submitted by Shirley Martinson

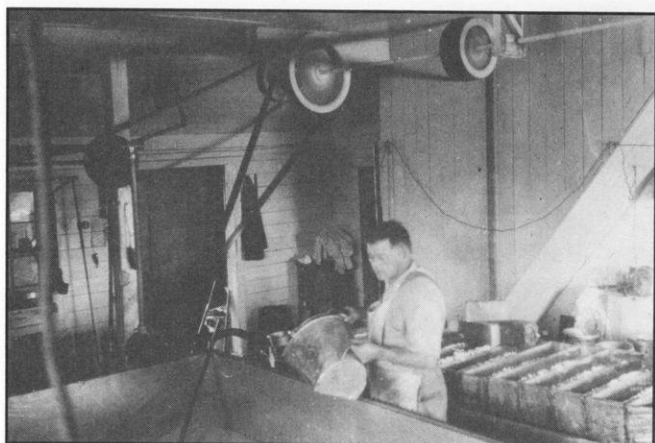
On November 30, 1888, Julia Haraldson did "lease, demise, and let" a parcel of land in Section 21 to N. H. Dryden, Hans Evanson, Knut Lindelien, Swain Thoreson, Martin O. Kobbervig, Ole P. Brager and Thom E. Thorson for the purpose of erecting and operating a cheese and butter factory. The lease was for 99 years. The rent was \$1 for the entire term. The lessees were to pay the taxes levied on the property and to build and maintain all the fences. The leased property "shall be used for no other purpose than those necessary for a cheese and butter factory." At the expiration of time, the property was to be given back to the lessor. The lease was signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Lewis P. Edwin, Dane County Justice of the Peace.

The factory was to be 60 feet long and 20 feet wide. The property was divided into 25 shares and was assigned as follows: 4 shares each to N. H. Dryden, Hans Evanson, and Arne Brosteun, guardian for Swain Thoreson and 3 shares each for K. J. Lindelien, Ole P. Brager, Martin Kobbervig and Thom Thoreson. All work, money, assessments and taxes were assessed according to the number of shares.

The first record of an annual meeting was January 21, 1899. Stockholders were John Dryden, Ole Stugard, Ole Brager, Thom Thoreson, Martin Kobbervig, Knut Lindelien, and Thore Spaanum. Outsiders were C. Anderson, L. Thomson, C. Lunde, K. Maaneum, A. Lee, A. Brosteun, and J. Hamerly. Outsiders were to pay one cent a hundred in rent and their share in paying the salesman who was paid \$10. The statement for the



CHEESE FACTORIES



Rudy Stampfli inside Brager Cheese Factory.

year, 1899, read 757, 473 lbs. of milk, 77,394 lbs. of cheese, cost of making cheese \$860.88, sale of cheese \$7,167.15, average price for 100 lbs. of milk \$.8325.

Records show in 1906 patrons were to furnish one cord of good wood for every eight cows. Factory operations discontinued in the winter, and would begin in the spring when patrons could furnish 700 pounds of milk. In years to follow, a sewer was put in, a new cement floor was laid, a new boiler was installed, a cream separator was purchased, the building was painted, a new tin roof was put on, plus all other necessary repairs. In 1924, all patrons had to have milk coolers. Through the years, the cheesemaker was paid from 12 to 13 percent of the gross pounds of milk, plus payment for making butter. Cheesemakers were: John Schmidt, John Wyss, Fred Ingold, Rudy Schaller, John Amports, John Hermans, Fred Gilgen, Fred Meier, Carl Kilcherman and Rudy Stampfli.

On October 8, 1940, a special meeting was held at the Springdale Town Hall for the purpose of closing the Brager Cheese Factory, and ownership reverted back to the original farm, now owned by Norman Rick.

The statement for the closing year, 1940, showed 1,235, 103 pounds of milk, 104,787 pounds of cheese, money received for sale of cheese \$14,111.87, money for cream \$1,393.75, average price per 100 lbs. of milk \$1.09. Patrons that year were Clement and Harvey Field, George Brager, Frederick Heuser, Otto Brager, Will Kahl, Clifford Syvrud, Milo Grundahl, Fred Zweifel, Wallace Peterson and John Bigler.

The factory was located 1½ miles south of Highway 18-151 on Town Hall Road. After 1940, the factory was rented out as a residence, and in 1978 was torn down. ●

GAUSMANN CHEESE FACTORY

Submitted by Doris Daniels

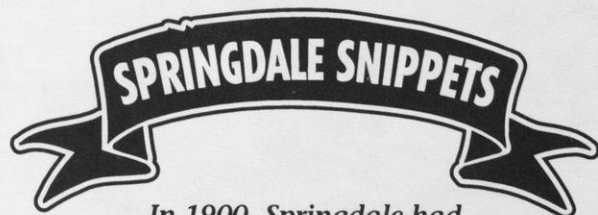
The Gausmann Cheese Factory is located on Erb Road, south of Highways 18-151. In the late 1800s, Albert Gausmann donated an acre of land from his farm for a cheese factory. The local farmers built the factory, hired a cheesemaker and brought their milk to be made into cheese.

Some of the early cheesemakers were John L. Erb and Werner Staufer. They made limburger and block cheeses. The cheesemaker who worked at the cheese factory in 1940 spent a lot of time at the tavern in Mt. Vernon. As a result, the cheese was of poor quality and, in August, farmers only received 50 cents for 100# of milk. The blame went to the cheesemaker.

After the factory shut down, Walter and Irene Bieri, Irvin, Duane, Lavon and Royle rented the living quarters. The Bieri children walked through the field to McPherson School. Alvin Mickelson was a later tenant. ●



Gausmann Cheese Factory, 1995.



*In 1900, Springdale had
nine cheese factories, compared
with two in Verona and three
in Middleton.*



CHEESE FACTORIES

HOLUM CHEESE FACTORY

Submitted by Shirley Martinson

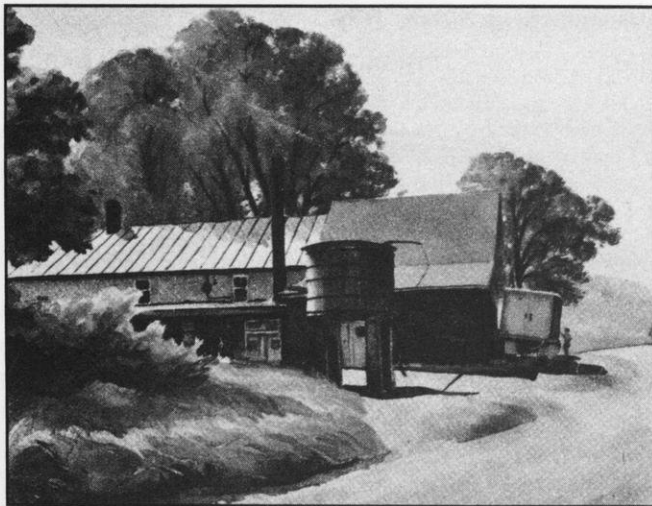
The Holum Factory, located on Springrose Road, was built in 1895 on one acre of land leased from the Adolph Schmid farm. Some of the cheesemakers were Adolph Schmid, Sr., Walter Scheidegger, Eugene



Holum Cheese Factory, 1998.

Scheupp and G. Bigler. It was remodeled for making Swiss cheese in 1948. Armand Pulver was one of the last cheesemakers. It closed in the late 1950s or early 1960s. It was bought by Borcharding and is now owned by Steve Ottman.

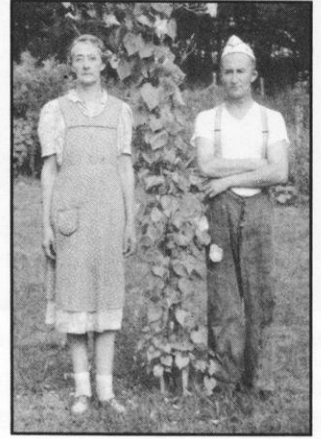
The picture below is a painting by John Warren, featured in *Ford Times* magazine in April, 1955 for an article called "The Vanishing One-Man Cheese Factory." ●



KELLY HILL CHEESE FACTORY

Submitted by Shirley Martinson

In 1926, Simon Zwald and his family moved from the Schied Factory, west of Blue Mounds to the Kelly Hill Factory at which his brother, John Zwald, was already making cheese. They were together only a short time when Simon took over the factory. John Zwald then moved to Seattle, Washington to be married.



The Kelly Hill Factory started out with about 15 farmers bringing milk, morning and night. Cheese was made twice a day in summer. Most of the farmers hauled their milk in horse-drawn wagons in the summer, and sleighs in winter. The whey was saved and taken home by the farmers in milk cans and fed to the pigs. In the winter, when milk production was down, the cheesemakers did not make cheese. They started in the spring again.



Kelly Hill Cheese Factory, 1926.

At that time, in the winter, the cheesemaker would go to the woods to cut wood. This wood was used for the fire wagon, which was passed under the cheese kettle on a rail track. Later, they went to an upright steam boiler. The wood was harvested in the woods, then hauled to the factory grounds and sawed in blocks and later split into small pieces and piled. The wood was also used for heating the living quarters and cooking.

Time and conditions were not easy in a small factory in those days. Mrs. Zwald always planted a large garden and canned vegetables for the family. She also kept a beautiful flower garden and a nice, neat looking lawn.



CHEESE FACTORIES



Kelly Hill Cheese Factory, 1997.

In December of 1941, Mr. Zwald was called out one evening to help someone who had run into a ditch right near the factory. He was a kind and helpful person, but he was run over and injured. He lived in the hospital about a month and passed away. The family continued making cheese with the help of their son, Edwin Zwald, who came home from college. He made cheese until January of 1944. He then returned to college to finish his education. The factory did operate a few more years. The factory then closed and was remodeled into a home. ●



Otto Bendicks at the Malone Cheese Factory.

.736. The cheesemaker was paid \$698.98 and patrons paid 37 cents a pound for cheese bought at the factory.

The milk haulers in October of 1956 were: Elmore Berry (L. Bang Estate), Bert Evanson (E. Mauer), George Webber (D. Woodburn), John Lewis, Mike Jolly, W. Judd (A. S. Docken), Norean Overland, Henry Anderson, Kjorlie Bros. (Mrs. Milo Aslakson), Kate Shutvet, Ivan Best, Delbert Bollig (Nels Docken Estate), J. Eggimann (G. Eggimann), G. Kittleson and Orvin Hanna (J. Haakness).

The property was bought in 1990 by Joe Malsch. ●

MALONE CHEESE FACTORY 1888-1957

Submitted by Shirley Martinson

Built in 1888, the first cheesemaker was a man whose last name was Schaller, who began operation in 1889. In January, 1902, it became the Springdale Cheese Company. After an addition was built, it incorporated as Vernon Valley Factory on May 29, 1925. G. Gammeter was the cheesemaker from 1919-1925. On March 23, 1929, the name was again changed, this time from Vernon Valley to Malone Cheese Factory. Carl Amport was the cheesemaker in 1930.

From the mid-1930s to 1953, Otto & Elsie Bendicks were the cheesemakers and Bruno Schrade was the hired man. Otto died suddenly at the age of 53 in 1953. Eddie and Elsie Loeffel took over as cheesemakers until 1957. On October 17, 1957, a meeting was held regarding the closing of the factory. From 1957 to 1990, it was the private home of Ed and Elsie Loeffel.

The last receipts for June cheese in 1957 were: Average price for milk \$2.35 and average price for fat



Malone Cheese Factory, 1930s.



Malone Cheese Factory, 1990s.



MT. VERNON CHEESE FACTORY

Submitted by Ben Goebler

Following is a list of the owners of the Mt. Vernon Cheese Factory located at the intersection of State Highway 92 and County Trunk G.

- Mike Gisler, 1933
- Andrew C. Nelson and Lucille Nelson, 1947. It was operated as a tavern and a store, where they sold cheese, liquor, groceries and other retail merchandise.
- Gerald E. Gilden, 1972. It was used as a residence for him and his family, and retail store space was used as rental property.
- Bernhardt T. Goebler and Darleen E. Goebler, 1974. The retail business continued until 1978, when the business was closed. The building was then remodeled into a duplex. The Goebler family lives there at the present time. ●



Mt. Vernon Cheese Factory today.

PRAIRIE RIDGE CHEESE FACTORY

The Prairie Ridge Cheese Factory, located at 8776 Highway PD, was opened on April 22, 1934, by Walter and Minnie Mueller. When they began, they made Limburger Cheese. They later switched to producing Brick Cheese and eventually specialized in Cheddar Cheese, producing two tons a day. At its height, the factory had three trucks and employed eight people.

The Muellers closed the factory in 1967, but continued to sell Wisconsin-made cheese from their store on the factory premises.

Walter worked until the age of 83, and passed away soon after his retirement in 1988. Today, Andrea Mueller, granddaughter by marriage, continues the



Prairie Ridge Cheese Factory today.

family tradition in the same store, filling orders from loyal customers locally and throughout the United States. It is still a family business, as family members help out during the busy times, such as Christmas. ●

RIDGE CHEESE FACTORY

The first meeting of the Ridge Cheese Company was held November 20, 1912. A motion was made and accepted to reappoint all officers, until the annual meeting held the first Tuesday in January of 1913. Motions were also made to accept the offer of T. G. McCaughey for a half acre of land for the purpose of building a cheese factory, and that J. Segessenman get a lease or deed from T. G. McCaughey for said land.

A building committee was appointed, which consisted of S. Hoffman, Carl Rettenmund, and L. Stuessy. In December of 1913, Frank Wittwer was hired as cheesemaker for \$1.45 per hundred lbs. of cheese and 2.5% for cream. Each shareholder was to haul a load of gravel and to get all the sand from L. Stuessy for the amount of \$5. Every milk hauler was to haul a cord of wood for every 20,000 lbs. of milk.

T. G. McCaughey was made President. Carl Rettenmund was Vice President, J. Segessenman was Secretary and H. Strassman was Treasurer. Frank Wittwer was the cheesemaker from 1914-1917, Gottfried Schwartz from 1917-1924 and Adolph Schmid from 1924-1927. In 1928, Jake Blaser was hired as cheesemaker. In the early 1930s, Carl Rettenmund was first President of the Corporate Board. Jake Blaser was cheesemaker until 1943. From 1943 to 1954, Fred Stuber was cheesemaker. Carl Minning made cheese from 1954-1965, when it closed. Frederick Wittwer, who was born in the factory in 1914, was President



CHEESE FACTORIES



Ridge Cheese Factory, 1940s.



Ridge Cheese Factory today.

from 1951-1965 and John Strassman was Treasurer until it closed in 1965.

A meeting was held in January of 1965 for the purpose of selling the factory to Carl Minnig for \$5,500. In June, 1965, a special meeting was held to dissolve the corporation.

Carl Minnig's grandson, Bill Garfoot, owns the factory, and it has been made into two apartments. It is located on Dairy Ridge Road. ●

RILEY/SCHALLER CHEESE FACTORY

This cheese factory was not included in the list of cheese factories active in the town of Springdale in 1913, for whatever reason. It was a cooperative built by the farmers in the area. It was built on a half-acre of land in Section 1 and opened for business in 1900. At the time it was built, Oscar Hub was living on the farm from which the half-acre was bought.

Rudy Schaller was the cheesemaker there, and he and his wife, Tina, lived there until they sold the factory in 1955. Tina was the daughter of Robert and Lucy



Riley/Schaller Cheese Factory today.

Jackett Riley. Tina and her brother, Earl, were long-time residents of Riley, having been descendants of Richard Riley.

Rudy and Tina raised their two children, Robert and Lucy, at the cheese factory, which had living quarters above the factory. The cheese factory specialized in brick cheese.

Richard and Karen Phillips are the current residents. ●

SWENSON CHEESE FACTORY

Submitted by James Huseth

As far as I can go back is by hearsay. The land that the factory is built on, as they would say, is leased to the company known as the Swenson Cheese Factory by Thron Swenson, I think, or his father. I do not know, but when the factory ceased to make cheese anymore, it was to be sold and moved, and the land would go back to the Swenson farm, which was owned by Mrs. Charlotte Edseth at that time.

Mr. Cadmus talked to her before the sale and made out that if he bought it, he would pay her so much to lease 10 feet around the building so as to let it stand



Swenson Cheese Factory today.



CHEESE FACTORIES

and then when they decided to move again, I bought it and I had it until about 1977, when my wife was killed in a car accident. Then I decided it did not do me any good, so I gave it to my daughter.

As far as I can go back is to about 1933. I have two ledger books that were used by the secretary/treasurer for figuring, and it shows who were patrons of the factory at that time. The farmers received about 10 to 11 cents a pound for their cheese. The ledger book says that the farmers ate more cheese because you could get a 5 lb. brick of cheese for 50 cents.

The factory did burn down about 1930 or 1931. I'm not sure. It was rebuilt at that time. Robert Ast was the cheesemaker then. When he left and did not come back, George Schaak started to make cheese until about 1943. John Graf made cheese for some years until he retired. Then Gottfried Scheuts came in and that was when the inspector came in and closed the place down in 1947, according to what I can make out of the ledger book, which is not in good shape.

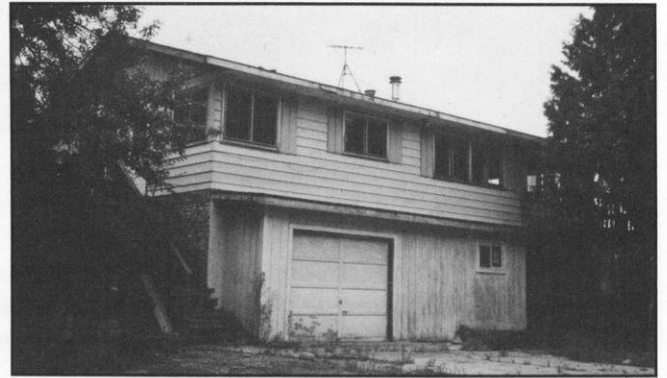
The Swenson Cheese Factory is located on Lewis Road. ●

WITTWER-SPRINGDALE CENTER CHEESE FACTORY

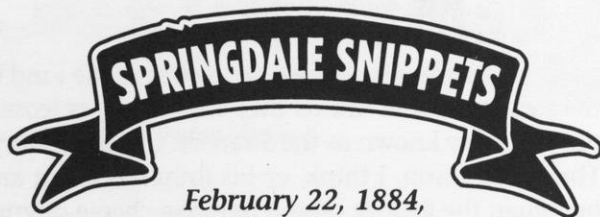
Submitted by Shirley Martinson

In February, 1911, Halvor Bang, Ole Lingard, William Lust, Matt Marty, Otto Marquardt and Carl Hagaseth contracted land from Samuel Wittwer's property located two miles north of Mt. Vernon, in Springdale township, to build the Springdale Center Cheese Factory, where Samuel continued to make cheese until another cheesemaker was hired.

Before the factory was built, there was a small building near the original farm house where Samuel made cheese. Neighbors brought Samuel their milk and they took home the byproduct, whey, in wooden barrels. He built a cement cellar to store the cheese. ●



Wittwer/Springdale Center Cheese Factory today.



February 22, 1884,

Patrick Carr has removed his stock of goods from Rileys to Pine Bluff Station. He has rented his store for saloon purposes. It will open March, 1, giving Riley three saloons.



CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES



SPRINGDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Submitted by Norma Baker

The first Norwegian Lutheran religious service in Springdale was held at the home of Thore Spaanem in an outdoor meeting under a large tree on March 27, 1850, with the Reverend J. W. C. Dietrickson from Koshkonong conducting the service to an audience which had gathered from great distances. The service was largely attended by Norwegians in the surrounding settlements.

At this first meeting, 18 children were baptized. Among them were Andrew Grinde, Betsy Grassdalen, Halvor Sorenson and Soren Sorenson. Older children also were catechised at this service.

Ole and Knud Sorenson were among the charter members of the Springdale Lutheran Church, which organized on December 1, 1852. The first church building was erected in 1861; the spire and bell were added

in 1877, which remain today. The present church was built in 1895.

When the present Springdale Lutheran church was built, Andrew Grinde drove a team of horses to Milwaukee, and brought back the church bell. In 1883, the Springdale congregation became a member of the then organized parish of the Springdale, East Blue Mounds and Vermont congregation until 1963.

Affiliated with the church during the past years have been the Springdale Ladies Society, the Young Ladies Aid, later reorganized as the Luther League and sectional Dorcas societies.

During 1853-1888, the congregation was a member of the Norwegian Synod, and from 1888 to 1890, a member of the Anti-Missouri Synod. From 1890 to 1917, the congregation was a member of the United Lutheran Church, and in 1917, became a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. On June 14, 1946, the name was changed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

On January 1, 1961, Springdale became a member of the American Lutheran Church because of a merg-



The Springdale Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, early 1950s. Front row (left to right): Irene Haugland, Goldie Swiggum, Mabel Soper, Ragnhild Magnuson, Caroline Olson, Marit Brager, Minnie Mueller, Luella Hanson, Evelyn Monum, Marie Johnson. Second row (left to right): Annie Thompson, Sarah Sorenson, Lena Monum, Marie Garfoot, Rachel Lunde, Mildred Baker, Alena Bang, Helen Lunde. Half row center (left to right): Agnes Brager, Geneva Ewing, Erna Olson, Eda Lee, Alice Bohle, Esther Bakken, Inger Anderson, Helen Moen. Third row (left to right): Susie Eggum, Cleo Julson, Annie Bang, Georgia Himsel, Rosena Field, Hazel Hanson, Eva Grimstad. Back row (left to right): Cora Sorenson, Carrine Thorson, Mary Himsel, Ann Gunderson, Clara Anderson, Lillian McCaughey, Regina Brostuen, Inger Bohle, Hilda Lunde, Ida Odegard, Hazel Stenseth, Ludell Heuser, Pearl Magnuson.



CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES

er of several Lutheran synods. In 1963, the association of Springdale Lutheran Church with Vermont Lutheran and East Blue Mounds came to an end. East Blue Mounds closed its doors, and Vermont realigned with Black Earth. Springdale then joined with Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb on January 31, 1963.

On January 1, 1988, Springdale became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with the uniting of several Lutheran churches into a new Lutheran Church body.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Reverend A. C. Preus, 1850-1856; Reverend H. A. Preus, 1850-1856; Reverend P. M. Brodal, 1856-1868; Reverend Abraham Jacobson, 1868-1878; Reverend A. Bredesen, 1878-1881; Reverend P. Isberg, 1881-1883; Reverend O. P. Syftestad, 1883-1890; Reverend S. Gunderson, 1890-1930-1932, Pastor Emeritus; Reverend Hector D. Gunderson, 1930-1932, Assistant Pastor; 1932-1954 Pastor; Reverend Oliver Solbert, 1954-1962; Reverend Bill Redman, 1963-1967; Reverend Arnold Athey, 1967-1971; Reverend Gary Burkum, 1971-1990; Reverend Herbert Lang, Interim Pastor, 1990-1991; Reverend Mark Sabin, 1991-1996.

In March of 1996, Pastor Mark Sabin tendered his resignation to the parish, and on July 1, 1996, Springdale Lutheran Church took a giant step forward by voting to dissolve its 33-year partnership with Immanuel Lutheran Church, be self-sufficient and hire its own pastor.

Pastor Matthew Dollhausen accepted our call, and became our new pastor on August 25, 1996, with the rite of ordination and installation held at Springdale.

In July of 1997, the congregation voted to purchase five acres of land adjoining the present church property to the north and east from Norman and Gwen Basthemer.

May Springdale Lutheran Church continue to grow and proclaim God's love, being a constant voice for Christ into the 21st Century. ●

ZWINGLI UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Submitted by Walter Brink

The Mt. Vernon Swiss Reformed Church and its congregation date back to 1888. In February, 1912, under the leadership of Reverend Elliker, the Zwingli Mt. Vernon congregation, consisting of about 20 families, mostly Swiss farmers and cheesemakers, was formed. In the spring of 1912, Reverend Fred Hoernemann accepted a call to serve Mt. Vernon, in addition to two other churches. He lived in Belleville. An old horse, Billy, provided the transportation. Reverend Hoernemann's yearly salary was \$700, and he was supplied with living quarters.

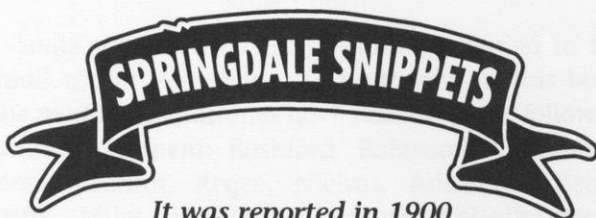
Without a suitable place to worship in Mt. Vernon, the first services were held in the church of the Evangelical Association, which was located two miles east of Mt. Vernon at the intersection of County Highway G and Messerschmidt Road. On July 13, 1913, the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. For the next year, the Zwingli congregation used the Baptist Church, which had been organized in 1869 to worship in, on Jackson Street in Mt. Vernon. The Baptist Church was destroyed by fire in 1954. (Note: A marker was erected at the site.)

On November 16, 1913, the Zwingli Swiss Reformed congregation voted to build its own church. In the spring of 1914, construction began on the land which had been donated by August Koch. With the donated labor of church members and \$5,437, the church was built and completed in February of 1915.

Reverend Hoernemann was followed by pastors Walter Grosshuesch, George Grether, Herman Lehman, Walter Clausing, Zane Pautz, George Bohner, Terry Williams, Paul Scheele, James Eckblad, Brooke Wichleff, Douglas Pierce, Barbara Rudolph (from Germany) and the present pastor, Jeff Sartain.

After several denominational mergers had taken place, on June 25, 1957, the Mt. Vernon Church became known as Zwingli United Church of Christ. The church presently draws its members from Mt. Vernon and the surrounding communities.

The congregation of Zwingli United Church of Christ observed its golden anniversary on October 20, 1963, with Zane Pautz as the pastor. A dinner was served by the Women's Guild after the morning service. Mrs. Lawrence Anderson, Blue Mounds, made the "church cake."



*It was reported in 1900
that the Riley Church collected money
to convert Italy to Protestantism.*



CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES



The Women's Guild serves dinner after the morning service. From left to right: Mrs. Henry (Alma) Moe, Mrs. Carl (Eleanor) Erb, Mrs. Carl (Clara) Wittwer, Mrs. Arthur (Louise) Kollath, Mrs. Violet Bigler, Mrs. Marion (Mary Ann) King, Mrs. Noel (Audrey) Way, Mrs. Mound (Emma) Sowl, Mrs. Frieda Schmid, Mrs. Garfield (Delores) Stamm, Mrs. Walter (Hilda) Losenegger, Mrs. Herbert (Hedwig) Hankel and Mrs. Walter (Ruth) Brink.

On July 29, 1979, an addition was built onto the original church. In 1940, because of deterioration, the original steeple had to be removed. In the summer of 1995, an entirely new roof was added to replace the old tin roof, and in September a beautiful new steeple was built and mounted onto the new roof of the church. The steeple was built by a 35-year member of

the church, John Beutler. On September 12, 1995, Dave Nelson hoisted the new steeple up with his crane and Wayne Klosterman and Doug Dahlk placed and secured the new steeple. The project was the last work of John Beutler, who passed away on March 27, 1996. ●



OAK HILL CEMETERY

The Oak Hill Cemetery is located at the southwest corner of the intersections of Highways G and J and Kollath Road in Section 26 in the Town of Springdale. The cemetery is the original site of the first McPherson School. In 1847, the acre of land was deeded to the cemetery association. The cemetery used to be referred to as the "Scotch Cemetery." There had been a Scotch Presbyterian Church about 2½ miles east of the cemetery on Highway G.

Previous to 1994, the last burial had been in 1952. Recently, lots have been sold in the cemetery. There have been four burials in the last three years, one in 1994, one in 1995 and two in 1997.

In 1996, the Dane County Historical Society erected a sign honoring the Scottish settlers. This sign reads:

PIONEER SCOTTISH SETTLEMENT

"Highland Clearance" and 300% hikes in farm rent prompted many Scottish farmers to sail to America in the mid-1800s. Some displaced Scots settled in Springdale and Verona townships on both sides of the Military Ridge. This rural community known as Scotch Lane established a Presbyterian Church, a post office, and the Henderson and McPherson/McGregor Schools. Nearly 100 families had settled here by 1870, some of whom rest in this early "Scottish Cemetery."

Members of this community were prominent in state and county government, including County Board Chairmen James McPherson and Frank Stewart; State Legislators Thomas and John Stewart and Joseph Henderson; State Senator and Secretary of State John S. Donald, the "Father of Wisconsin's Roads Law."

In later years, neighboring Swiss, German and Norwegian families acquired many of these farms. Few Scottish descendants remain on the home sod.

*"From scenes like these, old Scotia's grandeur springs
That Makes her lov'd at home, rever'd abroad."*

Robert Burns -

Some of the names of the families buried in this small country cemetery are appearing in this book. The readable headstones have names for the following families on them: Rashford, Robinson, Gausmann, Messerschmidt, Regee, Niehus, Adamson, Beard, Brink, Miles, Henderson, Morch, Kollath, Weise, Wright and Lester. ●

SPRINGDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY

Submitted by Norma Baker

The first Norwegian cemetery in Springdale, and the oldest in Western Dane County, is located in Section 8 on a high elevation in the northwestern section of Springdale, and at that time, close to the first Norwegian settlement of the township.

This cemetery was established in 1847, a year after the first Norwegian settlement had begun. It is unknown who was the first person buried there. The first interment record is that of Ingebret Berge who died September 7, 1849. He was the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John I. Berge. There are more than 50 members of pioneer families interred there.

The location of many of the graves was originally marked with simple wooden markers that soon decayed and gradually disappeared, and with the tilling of the soil over this burial ground, the exact location of the graves is unknown. This burial place continued in use until the year 1863, when a cemetery was established adjoining the Springdale Lutheran Church, located about one mile south.

In 1900, a movement was started by A. K. Sorenson to establish a permanent monument to be erected at the original burial place. Funds were raised and a monument was erected there on September 15, 1901. The monument is 17½ feet high. On the east face of this monument is engraved the following Biblical passage, "I am the resurrection and life. He that believeth in me, though he die, yet shall he live." On the north side is found the following inscription, "The first Norwegian Cemetery — Erected in 1901 to the memory of those buried here from 1847 to 1863." On the west side is the inscription, "Among the fifty or more dead buried here are the following:"

Kari Berge Sorenson • Harald Brager • Soren Sorenson
• Kari Lunde • Gustave Sorenson • Anton S. Lunde •
Ingebret Berge • Tore Grasdalen • John Berge • Dora
Kalsket • Johanna Urdahl • Ole A. Lee • Kari Bingham
• Anna Levorson • Marie Bingham • Marie Levorson •
Annie Bingham • Ole M. Skindrud • Ole D. Shutvet •
Olea M. Skindrud • Ole Thompson • Olene Skindrud •
Hermond Soron • Andrew Bohle • John Nelson • Johan
H. Hoff • Knud Spaanum • Arne Roang • Ole
Spaanum • Halvor Roang • Aslang Spaanum • Beota
Roang • Marget Grasdalen • Knut E. Bang
Halvor Grasdalen ●



CHARTERED JANUARY 1848



SCHOOLS

BERG SCHOOL –1856-1959

John Berg emigrated from Norway to Wisconsin in the spring of 1845 and settled on the farm currently owned by Edmund Chancellor, 2936 Town Hall Road. Mr. Berg was one of the first settlers and organizers of the Town of Springdale.

On May 10, 1850, J. L. Foster, Town Superintendent of Schools, formed a school district in the Town of Springdale, consisting of the north-west quarter of the town, which was to



Berg School built in 1856.

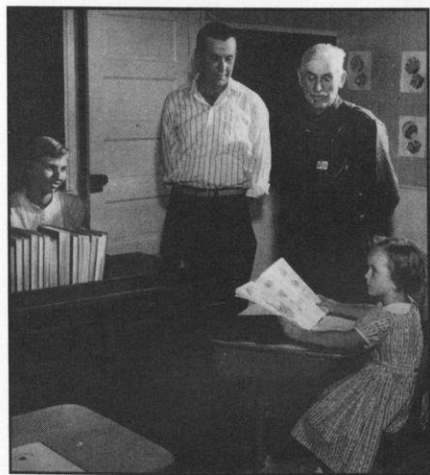
be District No. 1. In 1856, District No. 1 built a school house on the John Berg farm.

The school board consisted of Nels Halvorson, Director; Aslak Lee, Clerk; and John Berg, Treasurer.

On May 27, 1874, District No. 1 bought land from Mr. and Mrs. Nels Halvorson, whose farm was adjacent to the John Berg farm, for \$1. The school was moved to higher ground and its final site.

At one time, the enrollment reached 50 pupils, and, some time later, the only pupil of school age was Grace Thompson, so no school was held that year.

The coming of the railroad in 1881 created excitement for the children, but problems for the teachers who were their own janitors. They found on many cold mornings that their supply of kindling had been used by overnight guests.



In 1956 the third generation of the Basthemer family attended Berg School. From left; teacher, Inez Oimoen, Norman Basthemer in 1931 and Edward Basthemer in 1904. And seated is Leanette, the third generation of Basthemers to attend.

Only the necessary improvements had been made in the 103 years of the Berg School. The road



*Berg School Children from 1959, the year the school closed. Back row (left to right): Donald Field, *Mike Exner, Donald Cliff, Jacqueline Heuser, *Mary Holler, *Mike Worell, Dawn Field, *Royce Bare, Jane Hughes, teacher-Shirley Rhiner, Marvin Lamberty. Second row (left to right): Monica Lamberty, Rosemary Hughes, Harley Cliff, *Gerald Gates, Charles Jones, Linda Jones, Leanette Basthemer, David Hughes, Donna Field, Deborah Hanson. First row (left to right): David Jones, Terry Kahl, Christine Brey, Janet Hanson, Toni Jones. *Klevenville transfer students.*

had been changed and made into a town road. An oil space heater replaced the wood burning stove. The old lights had been replaced by fluorescent light fixtures and the walls and ceiling had been paneled. For many years, the children carried the water from a neighbor, but in later years, the water was hauled to the school in milk cans.

On July 12, 1958, Berg School consolidated with Klevenville and Springdale Center Schools. These schools continued to operate the following year, until the new school was built. Dawn Field and Jacqueline Heuser, who had spent all eight years at Berg, were the last graduates, along with Klevenville pupils, Mary Ann Holler and Mike Worell, who spent the last year at Berg because of the many pupils at Klevenville. The teacher at Berg was Shirley Rhyner.

In 1959, an auction was held at the schools to dispose of the school houses, land and furnishings. The Berg School building was bought by Arne Solbert for \$300 and was later torn down. The land was bought by Orrin Bergey and Vernon Lunde for \$55. Orrin Bergey sold his share of the land to Vernon Lunde, and Arnold Miller purchased it from Mr. Lunde and built a home on the old Berg School site.

The first annual Berg School reunion was held in the Springdale Town Hall on May 26, 1996. In attendance were 29 former students, four teachers and numerous guests. Alice Monum Julseth was the oldest former student present, having attended until the spring of 1922. ●

TEACHERS AT BERG SCHOOL

Submitted by Ludell Heuser

Adeline Thompson, John Callahan, Nora Callahan, Lawrence Murphy, Edward Murphy, Ella Ward, Ella Edwin, Celia Treveitt, Hatti Fitzgibbon, Geneva Mickelson, W. E. Harmon, Margie Collins, Inger Skindrud, Timothy Ryan, Nora Ryan, Mary Ann Ryan, Nellie O'Connor, Clara Lueck, Edna Lewis, Neva Turk, Bertina Mennes, Ella Thorson, Agnes Skindrud, Johanna Lingard, Bertha Hageseth, Paul Brink, Clara Kittleson, Jeannette Rue, Mildred Gust, Pearl Thousand, Alice Bjelde, Viola Topper, Mabel Espeseth, Irene Gust, Kathleen Sulland, Florence Inverson, Lucille Neve, Lois Bayles, Mildred Thronson, Gunhild Boswell, Sena Hauge, Virginia Campbell, Inez Oimoen and Shirley Rhyner. ●

KLEVENVILLE SCHOOL

Submitted by Marvin Bakken

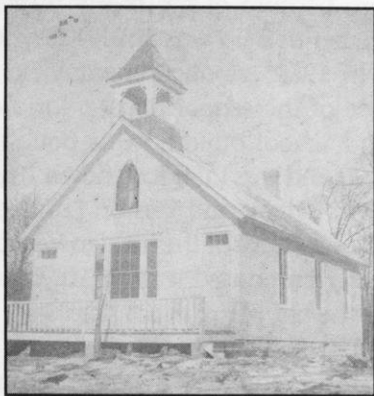
On October 16, 1899, a meeting was called by G. W. Swenson. It was held at the A. K. Sorenson store in Klevenville. At this time, Joint District #9 of the Town of Cross Plains and Springdale was organized.

The first officers were: Tollef P. Lee, Martin E. Skindrud and Gabriel O. Anderson. It was voted to borrow \$800 from the State Fund to build a school house on land donated by Martin E. Skindrud. The loan would be paid back in 10 years at \$80 a year.

On October 31, 1899, a contract was let to the Kleven Brothers to construct a building 24' by 36' for the sum of \$729, to be completed November 28, 1899. A furnace was installed in 1917.

The first teacher was Rosena

Anderson, at a salary of \$23 per month. Other early teachers were: Emma Thorson, Mae Webber, Lena Guthaug, Sadie Murphy, Cora Sorenson, Roxie Bolar, Lucille Sutcliffe, Gwen Ulsrud and Nora Kittleson.



Klevenville School class, taught by Mrs. Rosena Bakken, seated at desk.

(Rosena Anderson became Mrs. Halvor Bakken and Mae Webber became Mrs. John Deneen.)

A Mothers' Club was first started in 1925 and continued on for about 10 years. In 1928, they were responsible for adding a kitchen to the school building. Officers at this time were: Mrs. Arnold Lee, Mrs. Clifford Bakken and Mrs. Otto Brager.

The Mothers' Club was revived in September of 1941, with officers: Mrs. Lloyd Julson, Mrs. Floyd Hurlbut, Mrs. Bert Hanson and Mrs. John Marty. Subsequent officers were: Mrs. Stanley Ayers, Mrs. Vale Beard, along with others who had previously served. The teacher in the early 1950s was Miss Marilyn Menke.

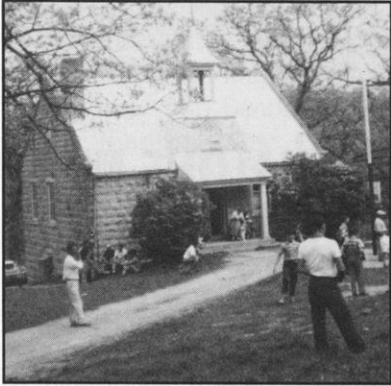
There is an interim, from 1937 to 1958, that is not well recorded, although our two sons, Rod and Jeff, attended Klevenville School from 1955 to 1958. During this time, the district purchased a small school bus to pick up children in Pine Bluff and areas outside of town. The bus driver was Eunice (Mrs. Marvin) Bakken, accompanied by her daughter, Susan, who was too young to go to school or stay home alone.

In 1958, the students transferred to Ridgeview School, which had four classrooms and a gymnasium. It was quite a transition from the one-room school, where there was no indoor plumbing, where water was carried from neighbor's wells for drinking, and where there wasn't a level spot larger than 10 square feet for a playground (good sledding in winter). The old school in Klevenville was remodeled into a home.

P.S. In case you missed it, the first teacher was my mother. ●

MALONE SCHOOL

The Malone School was constructed around 1905. Prior to that time, the former Malone School, a white frame, one-room unit, located a quarter of a mile to the north, was used. The original school was on Malone property. The newer one was built on the former John S. Donald property, but the name remained the same. When the school was constructed, the stone was from Malone property.



Early history of Springdale township tells that children from the school often visited a nearby Indian residence. If the children were not welcome at the time, a hand holding a knife would be extended through the doorway. Historians recall, too, that Indians washed their clothes and cleaned themselves in the small brook at the base of the Malone School hill.

In 1904-05, in the original white frame school,



Rose Wittwer's class at the Malone School in 1940.



Lavon Marty's class at the Malone School in 1948.

Albert Shutvet was the teacher, with 49 pupils. The school board was: J. S. Donald, clerk, L. Dahl, director and Torkel Martinson, treasurer. As shown in the souvenir booklet from 1909, the teacher was Nettie Hook, with 47 pupils. J. S. Donald was clerk, John Schneider was director and Torkel Martinson was treasurer. The teachers' names and number of pupils throughout the years were as follows:

- 1915 – Clara B. Kittleson, 35 pupils
- Board Members: H. B. Fargo, clerk; Torkel Martinson, treasurer; J. Malone, director
- 1916- Clara B. Kittleson, 36 pupils
- Board Members: Same as 1915
- 1917-1918 – Bessie Barlow
- 1920-1921 – Stella Osmundsen
- 1922-1925 – Josephine Bartels
- 1925-1926 – Mrs. Jack (Josephine) Schenk
- 1927 – Sylvanus Aavang
- 1939-1941 – Rose Wittwer
- 1941-1942 – Mildred Nygard
- 1942-1943 – Lavon Marty
- 1943-1945 – Elaine Midthun
- 1945-1947 – Cleo Julson
- 1947-1950 – Lavon Marty
- 1950-1952 – Mabel Hannah
- 1952-1953 – Rose Einerson
- 1953-1958 – Florence Gilbertson
- 1958-1959 – Mrs. Ringhand
- 1959-1969 – Mrs. Keiffer
- 1961-1962 – Isabel Leinau

The school closed in 1962, with a total of 27 pupils. The school board was: Walter Schwarz, Art Sutter and Herman Frye.

Eventually, the school was sold and remodeled into a private residence. The present owner is Tim Hartin. ●

MALONE MOTHERS CLUB

Submitted by Elsie Crimmins

The first record we have for the Malone Mothers' Club was for the year 1925-26. Two meetings were held at the school in November. After that, the meetings were held in the homes. A quilt was raffled that year, with proceeds of \$34.70. The Club bought items for the school: magazines, indoor ball, baseball and bat, basketball outfit and a teeter-totter. In later years, they bought other playground equipment and had a stage



Malone Mother's Club pictured here in 1946.

built that could be put up to be used for the programs at the school. The Mothers were always ready to buy equipment for the school children to use at noon and recess.

In 1927-28, the Club presented some plays that brought in \$34.75. In 1928-29, a phonograph was purchased for \$35, and three records, which cost \$2.75. The Mothers went to the school and planted shrubs and flowers, bought things to brighten up the school room and kept the school children supplied with softballs and other playground equipment through the years. In 1930, a new cupboard was built to hold the dishes and, in 1931, a water cooler was purchased to have in the school room. There was no refrigeration then.

In the years, 1925-26, meetings were held in the homes of Ed Anderson, A. Kobbervig, O. Shutvet, S. Brostuen, R. Schwarz, A. Lust, F. Fankhauser, M. Martinson, C. Amport, H. Fargo, Brager and A. Johnson. In 1926-27, other names were E. Mauer, M. Kobbervig and L. Hustad. Later names were J. Malone, S. Hodgson and N. Docken. In 1954, we started having the meetings at the school with two members serving the lunch. The school children liked that, as they were all served lunch, too. In the winter months, the children could bring something for a hot lunch, with the teacher supervising the heating on a stove. There were tables at which the children ate. The basement was also their recreation room during bad weather. A wood furnace heated the building and also dried out the mittens after the children had played in the snow.

On the last day of school each year, the parents and younger children would all gather at the school. There would be ball games, visiting and a big picnic at noon. The Malone School closed in 1962, at the end of the school year. The Club is still going, with 13 members

meeting in the homes for social get-togethers to keep in touch with the families. The current members are: Doris Fargo, Marlyn Grinde, Pat Hitchcock, Sena Lewis, Shirley Martinson, Mary Powell, Marilyn Ryman, Jean Stark, Charlotte Sutter, Lola Kvamme, Sophie Johnson, Benunie Berge and Martha Steinhauer. Friendships have continued over a span of many years. ●

MALONE NEWSLETTER

This was taken word for word from a newsletter written, typed and printed by students at the Malone School in 1948.

SOCIETY***NEWS AND VIEW*****

The Mt. Horeb Carnival was all the boys and girls could talk about at the beginning of school. Those who went are: Rosann, Owen, Sonja, Charles and Leslie, Irvin, Jay, Jimmy, Robert, Marilyn, Judy and Jim Bigler.

During the past summer many Malone District people went on vacations. Sonja Lien and her parents went up to Northern Wis. for a week before school started. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Steinhauer went on a trip to Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Martinson visited Michigan, Indiana and Southern Wis. Owen Coring spent four weeks in South Dakota with his mother.

Many of our same families spent some days at the State Fair. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schwarz spent a night with Mr. Schwarz's sister in Milwaukee, on their visit to the fair. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Steinhauer and the Richard Grindes also visited the Fair.

Miss Marty has been busy attending meetings of teachers in this district. Monday, there was a meeting at Springdale Center School. Thursday, at Middleton, and this coming week, there will be an all day meeting at the Mt. Horeb High School. All teachers are required to attend.

Wanda Fargo spent the past weekend with her Grandmother in Black Earth. She also visited the dentist on this trip.



SCHOOLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMING EVENTS

By Wanda and Rosann

The Malone Mother's Club met at the home of Mrs. Geo. Webers, on Thursday Sept. 16, 1948, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Mothers that attended were Mrs. Fred Bigler, Mrs. Otto Shutvet, Mrs. Elmer Barry, Mrs. Sever Brostuen, Mrs. William Steinhauer, Mrs. Wallace Fargo, Mrs. Walter Schwarz, Mrs. Otto Bendicts, Mrs. Lon Corbin, Mrs. LaVerne Johnson, Mrs. Gaylord Martinson, Mrs. Eric Lien, Mrs. Adolph Sutter, Mrs. Walter Zweifel.

We hope all the names are there and if not, they will appear in the next issue.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. George Fargo, Blue Mounds, Wis. on October 7, 1948.

There will be hot lunches at school this year. Thanks to the School Board for repairing the old cook stove.

Many of the homes of our district are getting in the water system. A pleasure for you, aren't they mother?

The Lower Graders are planning a trip to the Zoo and Arboretum. Those who will be going are Jimmy Crimmins, Jim and Judy Bigler, Robert Zweifel, Marilyn Anderson, Irvin Steinhauer, Leslie and Charles Johnson, Joyce and Stephen Fargo, and Jay Moore. The exact date has not been set.

By the way, any news items you parents wished to add, send them to your editors above.

The rest of the seats have been ordered and are expected in a few weeks.

That's all for today.

Wanda and Rosann

SPORTS

by Donald Moore

MALONE LOSES LUKKEN

On September 16, 1948, we had a visiting team of ball players from Lukken School. They were visitors and were treated as such. They won the game 21 to 9.

We gave them a return game on Thursday and this time the score was more even. Yes, they won, but only the first.

The last game we won by a large score. Miss Marty pitched for us. Mrs. Johnson hit a triple. Come again Mrs. Johnson.

We want to thank Mrs. Corbin for coming along and cheering for us. It helps a lot.

Mt. Horeb Football Team played an interesting game against Middleton Friday evening. The score was

7-6 which tells us that Middleton must have given our home team a hard time. The team won its second victory at Mineral Point last week. We understand the team isn't strong this year, but they seem to be doing fairly well.

Wisconsin Team was a sorry sight after the game on Sat. against Indians. The score 35-7 sounds bad.

If the weather continues we hope to schedule ball games with Berg, Springdale, and Mt. Vernon Schools. Stay nice weather!

Midget Auto Races have again started in Chicago at Soldier's Field. They are really exciting so Miss Marty says.

Here are some tips about our softball team. We have a good first baseman, Rosann; our pitcher, Owen is something to mention, Donald, yours truly is playing second base and center field. Third is covered by Sonja. Wanda and Shirley, with Charles never missed a ball in the field yet.

At the time I would like to thank the School Board, Mr. Schwarz, Mr. Corbin, and Mr. Steinhauer for the new bat and ball. That's all for now.

Donald Moore

OUR NEW CURTAINS

The last article is going to be set aside for a description of our new curtains.

As all of you know, the Mother's Club bought them for us.

They have a white background with red roses and green leaves. Come down and see them.

The hems were used for short curtains in the basement.

Thanks again, Mothers.

CARD PARTIES

We will be giving card parties at school in a few weeks. Please attend these if you care to have fun. It is through things like this that the Mother's Club will be able to get the school things we could not otherwise get.

Thank You. ●

MCPHERSON SCHOOL

Submitted by Karen White

Located on Highway G, near the intersection of Highways G and J, in Section 25 of the Town of Springdale, is the McPherson School. The McPherson School was founded in 1850 and was named after James P. McPherson, who donated one acre of land upon which the school was built.

The first school house stood in the portion of what is now known as the Oak Hill Cemetery, about ¼ mile west of the present school building. The land was deeded to the cemetery association in 1847.

The second school building, built in 1880, was constructed of limestone and was built on the site of the present school. When this building gave way to the present building, the limestone was crushed for its foundation. In July of 1916, it was voted that the building committee, which was comprised of Charles Colby, Christ Bringold and H. Stugard, would apply for a state trust fund loan of \$3,000 to build a new school, which was approved. Many people in the school district helped with the construction of the school. The job paid 25 cents per hour for man labor, the same for a team of horses, plus 10 cents per 100 pounds of materials hauled from Verona. Since construction was still underway in the fall of 1916, classes were held at the Christian Zurbuchen farm house until December 31, 1916. The new school was opened on January 1, 1917, with Agnes (Skindrud) Brager teaching classes. In 1919, a well was drilled for the school by Knute Boe at a cost of \$350.

The terms were not always for nine months. As late



Students outside the McPherson School in 1940. The teacher Ruby Howery of Black Earth is shown in the top left corner.

as 1909, teachers were hired for a term of 2 or 2½ months in the fall and again in the spring. At that time, the terms went to four months, and then to nine months. The teachers' wages kept up with the times, and they received \$33 to \$60 per month. The need for fuel in the winter was also present at that time. In 1884, the cost of wood for the stove was \$14 for 5½



Back row (left to right): Georgie Way, Ida feller, Art Z., Edy Zwald, Noel Way, Harold, Sanford S., Rag S., Donald E. Middle row (left to right): Esther Brink, Clara Feller, Dorothea S., Pearl S., Rosie S., Rosie Zwald, Ernie Zwald, Gilman Harry. Front row (left to right): Walter S., Delmer S., Howard S., Glenn S., Glenny Lingard, Clayton Harry, Sonny Zahler, Kenneth Z.

cords of wood. In 1908, the fuel for the winter rose to a cost of \$23.10. Over the years, at least 60 women and men taught at the McPherson School. The last teacher was Myra Reagles, who was in charge when the school closed on May 30, 1965.

Neighboring farm wives came in the mornings to cook lunches in the basement of the school, which was equipped with a kitchen and tables for serving.

On August 28, 1988, a reunion of past teachers and students was held at the school. The two oldest students present were Arthur Kollath and Margie (Way) Weber. Some memories were gathered from this reunion. Some of the memories were typical one-room school memories, such as starting the fires to heat the school, sweeping the floors, dusting, cleaning the blackboards and carrying the water to a bubbler. Other memories consisted of playing softball with other one-room schools in the area. There were Play Days and Christmas Programs.

McPherson was one of the last one-room schools in Dane County to be closed. It was sold and converted to single-family housing, and is currently the residence of Tim and Karen White. ●

MT. VERNON SCHOOL



Mt. Vernon School, 1922.



*Alice Bang (Brager),
Mt. Vernon School
teacher, 1922.*



*Helen Rue and another student out-
side the Mt. Vernon School, 1920s.*

RIDGEVIEW SCHOOL

The three consolidated school districts, No. 1 Berg School, No. 5 Springdale Center School and No. 9 Joint Klevenville School, formed the new No. 3 School District in 1958.

The first meeting of the newly formed district No. 3 of Springdale and Cross Plains was held at the Mt. Horeb High School on July 14, 1958. The board salaries were set as follows: Clerk, \$125 per year plus per diem, Treasurer, \$75 per year plus per diem and three directors paid on a per diem basis. The rate per diem as \$5.



Ridgeview School today.

The School Board was elected. Fifty-one votes were cast with the following results: Frederick Heuser, Clerk for three years; Tenny Midthun, Director for three years; Elmer Baker, Director for two years; David Connors, Director for one year and Alvin Dettwiler, Treasurer for two years.

The School Board, Mrs. Wesley (Crystal) Bakken and Mrs. Walter (Leona) Frye formed the building committee.

The meeting was postponed to August 1 to be held at the Mt. Horeb High School. At this meeting, the budget was set for the year at \$18,000. Free textbooks and work books for the children were furnished by the district. The Board was authorized to hire an architect and to purchase a school site, with a minimum of six acres.

The meeting was postponed to August 22, at which time the district met at the Klevenville School. Discussion was on the plans for the new building. The majority favored four rooms, plus kitchen, gym and office. The building committee was to decide on an estimated cost. A treasurer's report on the schools was read:

\$ 5,340.34 from Klevenville
\$ 2,647.08 from Berg
\$ 3,297.89 from Springdale Center
\$11,285.31 total in Treasury

The meeting was postponed to September 12 and was held in the Springdale Town Hall. Mr. Kyser of Kyser and McCloud Architects was present with the plans for the new school, which were accepted.

The next meeting was held on September 19 at the Springdale Town Hall. Mr. Kyser estimated the building program at \$85,000 to \$90,000. Surveying the site and architects' fees were discussed. The money was to be borrowed from a bank, and later the loan would be transferred to the State.

The name of the school was selected by listing names on the board and ballots cast. The three high vote getters were: Ridgeview 16, Prairie View 14 and Fair View 6. The meeting adjourned.

Six acres of land was purchased from C. A. Sorenson for \$3,000. Construction began April

6, 1959. School opened on September 8, 1959. The cost of the building was \$87,500. Dave Connors and Frederick Heuser went to Milwaukee to bring back two new 48-passenger buses, which transported the 79 students to the new school. Vernon Edseth and Roman Lamberty were the school bus drivers, with Rosella Lamberty as substitute.

The three schools were auctioned off at a public sale on June 4, 1960. Arne Solberg purchased the Berg School building, subject to it being removed from the land. Vernon Lunde and Orrin Bergey bought the Berg School land. Wesley Topper purchased the Springdale Center School, and Robert Booth bought the Klevenville School.

Mrs. Gudrun Haglei was hired as cook, and served until January, 1961, at which time Pearl Magnuson was hired. She served the district until it was dissolved into the new integrated K-12 District Jt. #6, and continued until May, 1978, as cook at the Ridgeview School.

In the summer of 1965, the district voted to build a two-room addition to Ridgeview School, and to add Kindergarten to its curriculum. A Kindergarten class was started in September and was held in the gym until the new rooms were completed in January, 1966.

By order of the Joint County School Committee of the Counties of Dane and Iowa, dated August 10, 1965, effective September 13, 1965, Ridgeview School District was dissolved, along with several others and a new integrated K-12 District Joint #6 was created. Ridgeview School continued as part of the new district until it was closed in 1981.

An auction was held in October, 1982 at the Ridgeview School of surplus books and equipment of the new district.

But, in the 1983-1984 school year, classes resumed at Ridgeview, with fourth graders attending the school, and sharing the building with the District Office. There were four classrooms being used during that school year. During the years from 1986 to 1989, there were fourth grade classes held at Ridgeview and an additional class held at the Mt. Horeb Middle School. In 1990, there were 137 fourth graders predicted, so six sections were set up at Ridgeview. In 1991, small classes for Emotionally Disturbed (ED) children were added at Ridgeview when the small room off the gymnasium was made into a classroom. In 1992, one class of kindergarten students and five classes of fourth-graders attended Ridgeview. In 1993, Ridgeview became the Early Learning Center with six half-day kindergarten

classes and two half-day programs for children with exceptional educational needs (EEN).

During the 1997-1998 school year, classes at the Early Learning Center were estimated to have 158 students. ●

RILEY SCHOOL

The school building was built in 1868 in one of only two villages in the town of Springdale, at that time, Clantorf. One source says the school was called Clantorf, but other records simply referred to it as Joint District #4. On August 31, 1865, a Treasurer's Report was given to the Annual District Meeting. Money on hand, as of August 31, 1865, was \$56.75. \$1,278.95 had been levied as a tax for building a school house, \$78.25 was levied for school apparatus, \$20 for district library, \$140.50 for teachers' wages and \$435.21 for school appendages. Of the money levied, \$1132.64 was to be used for building the school house. \$100.20 was to be used for fencing the school grounds and \$156.29 was to be used for building out houses.

Prescot Woodbury was the first teacher, receiving \$160 on March 17, 1868, for four months of teaching. The second teacher was Emma Malone, who was paid \$60 on July 24, 1868. Thomas Thomson was the first clerk and received \$5 a year. The operating budget for 1867 was \$1,220.22, and that included \$600 borrowed for building the school. The 1868 budget was \$761.32 and in the 1869-1870 school year, it was \$397.62.

Items purchased to build the school included: Patrick Carr, Sundries, \$2; Bunker & Vroman, Lumber,



The original Riley School.



Class picture from Riley School.

\$19; Francis Thomson, Drawing Lumber, \$3; Knud Knudson, Wood, \$30; William Riley, Lumber for School House, \$2; Charles Weingberg, 220 lbs. Nails, \$13.75; Andrew Severson, Lime for Basement of School House, \$4.55; Thomas Thomson, Building Basement of School House, \$28.10; Bunker & Vroman, Bill of Lumber, \$190.52; Paul Gollipin, Painting of School School, \$18 and Bills of Labor from: John McKechnie, \$14; Abram Jacket, \$13; William Jacket, \$1.25; Henry Allen, \$1.25; Paul Torison, \$4; William Riley, \$3.75 and Thomas Thomson, \$7.25.

Wood was purchased from area farmers to heat the school. People were paid to chop up the wood, light the fires and clean the school. In those days, expenses were few. No electricity bills, no telephone bills to pay. Occasionally, someone would have to be hired to come in and paint the black boards. In 1878, five cords of wood were sold to the school for \$1.75, but by 1880, the price of five cords was \$18. In 1877, the decision must have been made that the building might be worth something, because the Riley School purchased insurance from Joseph Henderson.

Over the years, the Riley School hired over 55 teachers. In the early years, contracts were only for a few months at a time, instead of nine months, which resulted in two teachers teaching at separate times in the course of one school year. The traditional school year as we know it now didn't apply then, as young people had farming chores to do, and school did not automatically start in September and end in June.

On August 10, 1950, the original Riley School was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire at 2:30 in the morning. Some of the equipment was saved, such as textbooks, seats and the piano. Dorothy Turner was the teacher at the time, and the enrollment was 25. Frederick Wittwer and George McCaughey were two of the men who went shopping for a school building, thinking that it would be cheaper to buy an unused school than it would be to build. They found one out near Blue Mounds, and had it moved to the current site. However, what wasn't anticipated

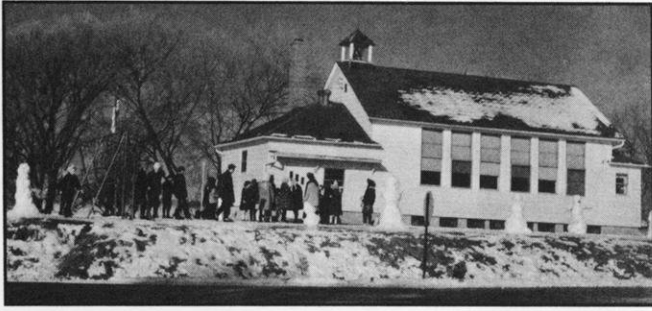
was that modifications would have to be made to the basement and State regulations had to be met, so it became more involved than planned. The students were taken by bus to the Mt. Vernon School until the new school was ready.

Like the other country schools, Riley had a Mothers' Club which sponsored a card party once a month during the school year. The money collected for playing cards was used by the Mothers' Club to purchase items for the school. The card parties were held in the basement of the present building, with a lunch being served afterward.



Lunch at the Riley School, 1956.

A sense of community was one of the advantages of the rural schools. In addition to the monthly card parties, families got together for the Christmas Programs and the potlucks that were held at the end of the school year.



Riley School, January 1964.

The Riley School had a school song written by Cy Henderson for Play Days, which were held with other schools. It was sung to the tune of Battle of the Republic's "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" refrain.

Riley, Riley, Always Riley
 If you cheer, just cheer for Riley
 Because Riley's sure to win
 We'll outjump Mt. Vernon
 And Springdale we'll surely outrun
 With Berg School and Klevenville
 We'll have a lot of fun
 Malone School may be tougher
 And McPherson may be, too
 But, we'll take them just the same

The following is taken from a newspaper clipping:

"The Springdale Play Day held at Mt. Vernon on April 26, was a very exciting day. The following schools took part in all activities: Mt. Vernon, Berg, Klevenville, Malone, McPherson, Springdale and Riley. The contests commenced at 10:30 o'clock with the usual tug-of-war. In all events from the beginning Riley school had the lead which in the end finished with Riley ahead by a score of 141 points. The dinner was enjoyed by all and everyone returned home satisfied with the days outing."

Carol Leopold was the last teacher of the Riley School. Frederick Wittwer was the last clerk, taking over after Wesley Riley. Leslie Karn was Treasurer at that time, and Harold Hansen was also on the board. Classes ended permanently in May of 1966. The school districts in the Town of Springdale were consolidated into the Mt. Horeb School District and all the rural schools were closed.

After the school was closed, Frank Schmitz purchased it. It is now owned by his daughter, Roxanne Schmitz, and it is a rental property. ●

SPRINGDALE CENTER SCHOOL

(FORMERLY HENDERSON SCHOOL)

Submitted by Hazel Bang Stenseth and
 Cora Spaanem Bilse

The acre on which the building stands was bought for \$30 in 1866. A frame building was built in that year, which cost \$200. This building stood for 27 years. In 1893, a brick building was built, which was used until May, 1959.



Persons who taught school those 93 years were: John Mitchell, Hattie Pease, Hugh Stephens, Mary Lewis, George Chandler, Mathilda Malone, O. T. Jeglum, Dorothea Murphy, Mary Malone, William Campbell, Sarah Miles, H. J. Miles, Isaac Grannum, Abbie Ingalshe, Joseph Henderson, Grace Henderson, Ole Huset, Esther Meredith, Julia Foye, Mary Torvey, Lillie Beecroft, Jenny Neil, Nellie Murphy, Betsy Dahle, Doris Casey, Belle Leislie, Jennie Collins, Michael Hobbs, Katie Murnen, Laurie Katchim, Maude Collins, Nora Ward, Ole Stugard, Mattie Newman, Albert Thompson, Anna Bryan, Myron Henderson, Betsy Dahl (Mrs. T. S. Spaanem), Johanna Lingard, Anna Skinsrud (Mrs. Martin Bang), Norman Byrge, Hattie Milam, C. L. Colby, Emma Thorson, Millie Moen, Thor O'Horn, Maude Manwaring, Blanche Gray, Arthur Sorenson, Ruth



Students at Henderson School/Springdale Center, early 1900s.



SCHOOLS

Cavanaugh, Thea Thorson, Eva Melby, Ella Thorson, Erwin Wall, Viola Ray, Elizabeth Heckman, Myrtle Bang, Mabel Penn, Bernice Zepplin, Dora Rindy, Catharine Thousand, Mrs. Ruth Cotham, Laura Wittwer, Mrs. Elaine Midthun, Mrs. Mildred Collins, Elizabeth Cline, Mrs. Uren and Mrs. Nortie Espeseth. There were 68 teachers in the 93 years.

An organ, costing \$45 was bought by the District in 1911. In 1925, a well was drilled at the cost of \$132.



Springdale Center School Mothers Club, 1950. Front row (left to right): Melissa Gentz, Sadie Hefty, Esther Peterson, Kay Uren (teacher), Leona Midthun, Meryl Schmid, Delores Hanson, Cora Bilsse. Back row (left to right): Erna Olson, Ruth Olson, Pearl Magnuson, Minnie Mueller, Rosena Field, Leona Frye, Julia Syverud, Geneva Dettweiler, Hazel Stenseth, Agnes Brager.

The Mothers' Club was started in 1925, when Miss Myrtle Bang was the teacher. The purpose of the Club was to purchase the necessary, less expensive items for the school. It would also bring parents in closer contact with the work of the pupils and teacher. A cement basement had been put in that year. The lawn was leveled off with excavation from the basement. A stack furnace, costing \$406 replaced the old, smoky, pipeless furnace. New single, adjustable seats replaced the old-fashioned double stationary ones. The school ranked 10th among 500 schools entering a "Better Rural School" contest sponsored by the Wisconsin Farmer in 1926. It was for any school in the State that had a desire to enter. Our prize was the picture, "The End of the Trail." A piano, costing \$100 was purchased by the Mothers' Club that year.

On July 4, 1926, a reunion for all former teachers, pupils and people of the community was held on the school house grounds. A program was given, and pictures taken with many people attending this event.

Through the years, the Club purchased cabinets, a globe, a temporary stage, window curtains, song books and playground equipment. An oil stove and cooking utensils were purchased for the basement. Some years later, an electric stove replaced the oil stove and a

refrigerator was purchased because of the hot lunch program.

The monthly Mothers' Club meetings were held at school, except the yearly Christmas party, which was held at the home of a member of the district. The basement had undergone more improvements in 1951, so it was voted to have the Christmas party at school that year. Two fully equipped washrooms were installed that year and all the walls and furniture were painted in rose, green or cream. The work, except for plumbing and a new stairway (done by two hired carpenters), was done by men and women of the district. A record player, radio, projector and screen were purchased.

Fifteen former pupils took part in World War II. Ten were in the Army, three in the Merchant Marine, one in the Navy and one in the Waves.

Mrs. Fannie Steve of Madison began teaching music in 1946, and taught for several years. The reason for her retirement was her advanced age. She was admired by everyone.

The Mothers' Club was a member of "The Homemakers' Club" for many years. The Dane County Home Agent came to Mt. Horeb once a month and gave a demonstration on the problems of the housewife. Two representatives of each district attended these meetings, and brought back information and booklets to members at their future Mothers' Club meetings.

In May, 1959, Springdale Center School closed its doors because of consolidation with Berg and Klevenville Districts. The school building was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Topper and family for \$5,500. They remodeled it and it is used as their dwelling. ●



Springdale Center School students, 1940-41. Front row (left to right): Gordon Peterson, Douglas Showers, Ted Johnson. Middle row (left to right): Vivian Field, Robert Mueller, Robert Stampfli, Elmer Magnuson, Jr., Margaret Stampfli, Verna Field, Beverly Brager. Back row (left to right): Roger Field, Donald Oimoen, Herbert Niebuhr, Adolf Zurbruegg, Dorothy Olson, Delmer Showers, Vernon Niebuhr, Doris Magnuson, Delma Peterson, Catharine Thousand (teacher).



MEMORIES AND MISCELLANEOUS



OUR HERITAGE—FAMILY FARMS

By Connie Jo Henderson Zwettler

Written for the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society 1976

In 1776, 90 percent of the 2.5 million Americans lived on farms, and most families owned their land. In England where jobs were scarce each person had a certain task to do and if another independent soul tried to get ahead by doing his own plus other tasks he could be prosecuted. The scarcity of people in the frontier didn't allow for specialization. A farmer had to be a jack-of-all-trades.

The man coming to America as a servant for wealthier planter, worked off his debt and labored to find his own land on which to build his own house and scratch out a living for his family. Parents depended on their children

to take on some of the chores early in their lives.

The other side to colonial farming was the wealthy plantation which abundant land and forced (slaves) made possible. But for every big plantation there were numerous small family farms.

These colonial farmers saved their money, acquired more land, and helped their sons find farms. Most of these farmers took the Patriot side and were instrumental in achieving independence from England.

In the January, 1976, issue of *Dairy World* we can read about a dairy farm in Sutton, Massachusetts that has remained in the King family for nine consecutive generations — longer than the 200 years of our country's existence.

Many of the farms in the Mount Horeb area were settled in the middle of the nineteenth century. We can see farm signs showing pride of family ownership: the Thompson Farm since 1885, the Donald Farm since 1855.

Family farming has been idolized as the backbone of America since colonial times. It has been a tradition sacred to the American way of life. Now we see a combination of technology, economics and politics squeezing out the farm family who can do little to resist if there is a lack of capital to expand.

William H. Alexander writing in the August 25, 1975 issue of *Hoard's Dairyman* calls the exodus from

America's dairy farms a "Quiet Revolution." The professor of agricultural economics at Louisiana State University says, "This quiet revolution is in part, a rebellion by farmers against government and consumers for the lack of appreciation for their efforts in providing an adequate supply of high quality food at low prices."

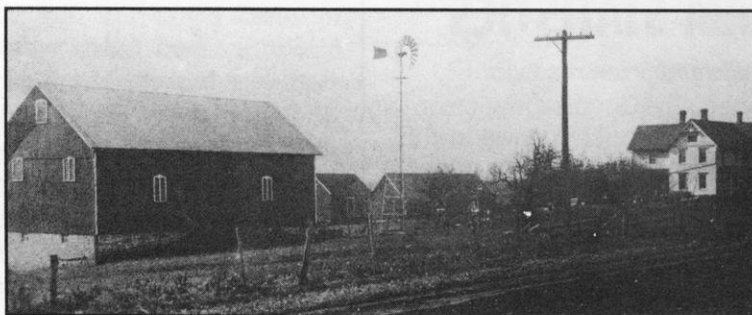
We can see the revolution as we drive throughout the countryside and find abandoned homesteads and once productive farms turned into pleasure farms.

Some say the disappearance of the family farm just makes way for a more efficient food producing system and it's all in the name of progress.

Others look back and ahead and say the tradition of family farming must be continued to insure an adequate food supply for our country.

Governor Lucey's acknowledgement of March 22 as Agricultural Day included a tribute to farm families who contributed so much to the economy of the state in a very economically depressed period.

Will family farms be only a part of history at our country's next birthday? ●



FARMING

Submitted by Walter Brink

Since oats and barley were raised by every farmer, it means that the grain had to be threshed. The Holum farmers purchased a "Red River Special" to use cooperatively, and the Kelly Hill Farmers purchased a McCormick Deering. Each farmer had to furnish his own belt power when at home. It was a cooperative service — you help me, I help you.

The highlight of the work was when the hostess farm wife prepared a meal to behold on her finest linen. After the meal, all the men went out under a shade tree to relax until the "separator-tender" uttered these words, "Start the machines, we're back to work."

Perhaps the most unwanted job while threshing was to build the straw pile — one that would hold its shape and shed the rain. It was in a half-moon shape with a



compact center. When the straw was all in the stack and the grain was in the bin, the thresher was put under cover until another season arrived.

With the loss of the family farm, the closing of the local schools and cheese factories, the cooperative labor force having ceased, the party line telephone system no more, and the local functions coming to an end, we ask, "What will the next 50 years bring to the McPherson District that our offspring can relate to their children?" ●

CURRENT FARM STATISTICS

Submitted by Richard Schwenn

There were around 125 farms milking cows in the Town of Springdale in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1998, there are about 12 farms milking cows. There is a lot of land being worked by crop farmers and some also feed out steers or pigs.

AG STATISTICS

- 8/21/1880 Assessment valued at \$385,723.00
- 8/12/1913 Assessment valued at \$1,954,751.00
- 650 Horses, Mules & Asses
- 666 Horses, Mules & Asses
- 2,071 Neat Cattle
- 3,237 Neat Cattle
- 2,096 Sheep
- 200 Sheep
- 2,169 Swine
- 889 Swine
- 306 Wagons, Carriages & Sleighs
- 354 Wagons, Carriages & Sleighs
- 32 Gold and Silver Watches
- 15 Automobiles
- 1 Other Motor Vehicle

Crops Growing in Springdale in 1879

- 2,380 Acres of Wheat
- 2,424 Acres of Corn
- 2,149 Acres of Oats
- 432 Acres of Barley
- 178 Acres of Rye
- 52 Acres of Potatoes
- 10 Acres of Flax
- There were 45 acres of apple orchards, with 707 bearing trees, 1,194 acres of cultivated grasses and 5,522 acres of growing timber. ●



HARVEST TIME A HAIBUN

*By Steve Edwards
(About Stanley Weise and threshing)*

Stanley had fallen while pruning an apple tree. Both legs broken. The versions of the story floated in and out of the feed mill all day, each with its own variation on the them. Lay there two hours. Crawled to the house. Demanded that he drive himself to the hospital. But in each story, there was always the fall from the apple tree. Always the breaking of both legs. And always the thirty acres of standing, ripe oats.

morning milking finished
empty barn hot
cicadas earlier today

After some discussion, it was decided to haul the old community threshing machine from its shed. Do it the old way one last time. And on that day, there were forty men and teen-aged boys hauling bundles of oats off the thirty acres to the roaring metal monster. Wives bringing food on the seats of pickup trucks. The growing pile of straw. Adolescent girls constantly rounding up their assigned broods of toddlers and young children.

on each cheek
a river delta
of dust and sweat

Stopping on the shoulder of the road by the field many years later is to lose one's perspective on time. Seemingly, one day, golden oat stubble in the afternoon light. The next, not even the brightest of suns can push its light to the ground beneath the evenly-planted rows of thirty foot pines where the straw pile had been. In the subdivision across the road, houses on two-acre lots, high fences between the yards.

for a moment
a light breeze
the rustle of swaying oats



"GOOD NEIGHBORS"

Submitted by Donald and Gertie Henderson

"Good fences make good neighbors," wrote poet Robert Frost. But, in the Township of Springdale, 100 years ago, good neighbors didn't need fences.

The Hendersons and McDonalds came from Scotland and settled in Springdale. The path between the two farms was well worn as they visited back and forth, sharing good times, bad times and hard work.

Joseph M. Henderson was born in 1884, and remembered his father, Joseph R. Henderson, and grandfather, Andrew Henderson, in many a discussion with John McDonald and his father, Dan McDonald. These Scottish immigrants met at their woodlots many times to trade stories, plan community events and discuss political issues of the time. Joseph R. Henderson (known throughout the area as "Uncle Joe") recorded many of these stories and discussions as verses and published two books of his poems under the title, "Thoughts at Random," one in 1896 and the second in 1911.

Joseph M. Henderson recorded on tape an often-told story about the relationship between the neighboring families.

He recalled that the McDonalds were the first farmers in the area to have pigs, and there were no fences at that time. When Dan McDonald's pigs got into Andrew Henderson's corn, McDonald went and got his gun, shot his own pigs, butchered them, and brought half of the meat over to fill the Henderson's pork barrel. McDonald said, "They won't bother you anymore."

This sense of responsibility and respect for one another was the rule, and not the exception of the time. ●

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGDALE 1848-1998 • 150 YEARS

Submitted by Pat Simms

The last history of the township of Springdale was written at the centennial in 1948. A lot has happened since then, both in the township and the world.

Springdale was built around the family farm, small cheese factories, rural schools and churches.

Today, the cheese factories are gone, victim to better machinery and increased demands. The tiny schools have closed, beaten by the efficiencies of consolidated school districts.

Family farms are dwindling dramatically, the cost of acreage soaring. Developers have carved subdivisions from the land, and new people have arrived to share our way of life. They bring with them new views and opinions. Local politics is, as always, feisty.

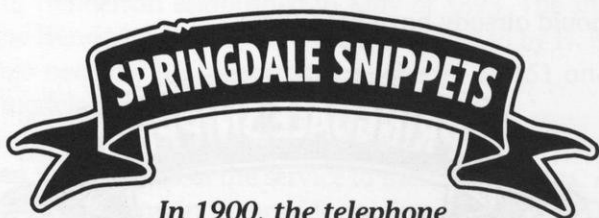
The churches remain — in the cemeteries are familiar family names: Henderson, Berges, Skindruds and Bangs.

But now, even the families are different. Early Springdale families tended to have eight, 10, 12 children. Many died from diseases like diphtheria or tuberculosis. Many stayed within a stone's throw of the family homestead, marrying or not. Some died at birth.

Today, the norm is two or three children. Rural Free Delivery and World War II exposed younger generations to the wideness of the world. These youngsters are more likely to live in places like Seattle or St. Paul.

The histories in this book, told by people who live in the township now, reflect the change, the pain and the difficulties. They also reflect the strength of our rural heritage, our love of the rich earth and our faith in ourselves.

"I remember the summertime," Lucille Stugard McKee writes, "with Dad working late in the field and Mom milking. You could hear her yodeling and singing to the cattle... I would go sit on the porch steps and listen to her. She had a way about her that she just enjoyed life." ●



In 1900, the telephone line from Riley to Clantorf on the Madison Road was connected to the line running from Madison to Mt. Horeb.



MEMORIES OF MALONE AND SPRINGDALE CENTER SCHOOLS

(Excerpted from a letter written by Myrtle Bang Barton (1902-1996) to Olive Bang Skindrud in July, 1995)

Malone School

"I remember that Delma Donald had such a beautiful doll at our Christmas program. I was most impressed by the beautiful things that she had. Tommy Martinson, about 12, was my companion. He would wait for me each morning at a fence between our farms and then we would walk over the pastures and through the woods until we came into the clearing above the Lust farm barn and could then see the school. It was wonderful that Tommy, youngest brother of Martin, Sever, etc. would assume this responsibility of guiding me through this shortcut across the pasture and through the woods. Jesse Smith (Mrs. Skiner Swenson) was a most motherly teacher for this timid country girl who knew no one. I remember that Hilda and Anna Anderson were helpful, and when I felt confident with them, I followed the road due south until I came to our road that led straight to home (later the Lowell Hanson farm)."

Springdale Center School

"I had my first school days at Malone in September, and we moved to the Berg farm (now Stenseth farm) in March. Then I was to go to Springdale Center School, with Arthur Sorenson, the teacher. Mabel Anderson, Helen Magnuson (Lunde), Mabel Offerdahl (Lukken) and Rosena Thorson (Field) were the big girls and Harvey Field, Edwin Offerdahl, Otto Brager, Lawrence Iverson and Elmer Lunde the big boys. These boys all came to school on skis and during noon hour, we younger ones would stand behind on their skis and go down the hill on the Bohle property. The noon hour was always too short. I remember that Harvey Field would always do such a good job sharpening my pencil, before pencil sharpeners. He had a good whittling knife and so he did a very smooth job. The next teacher was Thea Thorson. Alice Bang (Brager), George Spaanem, Della Thorson and I were the four graduates. After school, on a Friday in late May, Alice, George and I walked to Mt. Horeb." ●

OUR HERITAGE – POSTMARKS

By Connie Jo Henderson Zwettler

*Written for the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society
March 18, 1976*

Farmers in their fields this Bicentennial year can judge the time of day by watching for the mail carrier. The mail car stops at the same boxes at nearly the same time every day. It wasn't always this way.

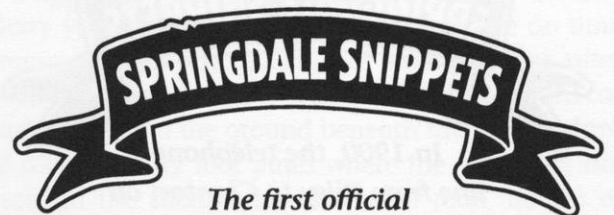
The government's monopoly on carrying the mail is a carry-over from the British control of mail during the colonial period. The leaders of our young nation realized the importance of the postal system to a democratic government. How could people govern themselves if they were not informed?

The demands of the people were great. Each year hundreds of people moved farther and farther west. Congress was obliged to map out new post roads to answer the petitions for mail. The problem of getting mail at the post office in Philadelphia, a city of 150,000 people in 1825, was so great that mail delivery to homes was started. At first mail carriers did not receive a salary but were paid by those to whom they delivered letters.

By 1863, congress accepted the Postmaster General's recommendation that the mail should be delivered to private homes free of charge and the carriers should be paid by the government. A town of 10,000 was eligible for the service by the year 1887.

But in 1890 the majority of people in America still lived in the rural areas. Of the 76 million people in the country, only 19 million had their mail delivered.

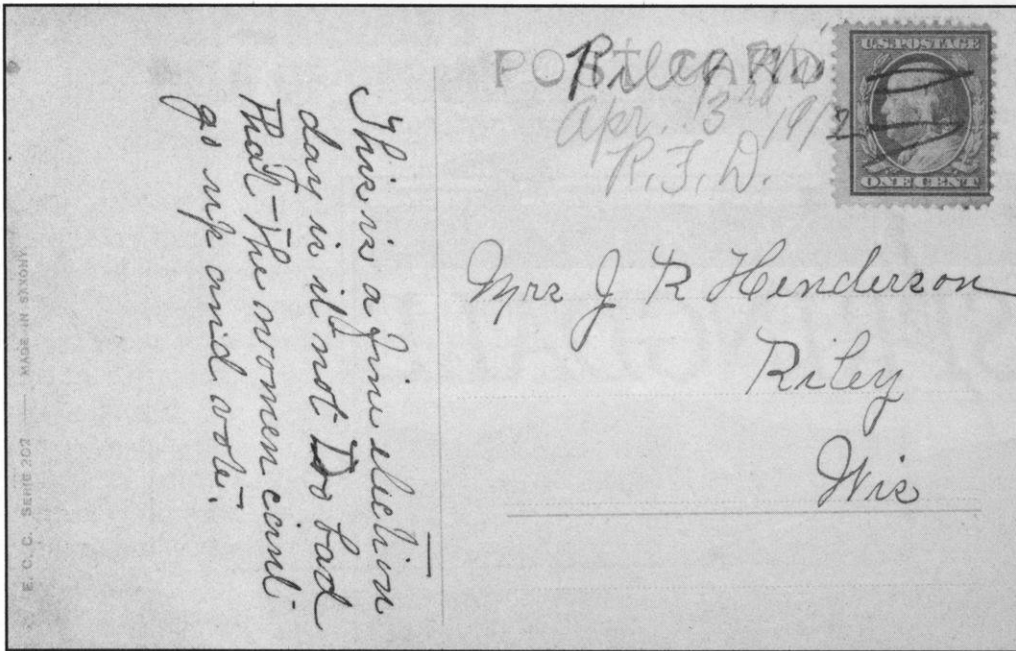
Rural post offices were by today's standards numerous and therefore close together. At the crossroads, corners of general stores, creameries and the like were set aside for postal business. Farmers would come to the crossroads when they could to wait for mail that should already have been there.



*The first official
post office was the Springdale
Post Office, where the mail came
in by stage. The Springdale Post Office
was on Highway G.*



MEMORIES AND MISCELLANEOUS



Postcard sent April 3, 1912. Note the message and the amount of postage on this card.

The Township of Springdale had at least six rural post offices at various times before 1900. The Springdale post office was established in 1850, Thomas B. Miles first postmaster. Mt. Vernon was established in 1854 and Hall C. Chandler was the first postmaster. Clantorf opened in May of 1867 with Patrick Carr as postmaster. This building can still be seen at the junction of County Highway PD and County Trunk J which runs north to Riley. The former post office is now the home of Richard and Judy Schwenn and family.

Riley was granted its post office in 1882 and continued business until 1940. George Clayton was the first postmaster. Bluff post office established also in 1882 had its name changed to Klevenville in 1891 and served the area until 1952. Albert K. Lorenson was first postmaster. Joseph R. Henderson was the first postmaster at Henderson established in May of 1893. The site of the Henderson office was a creamery owned by H. B. Dahle near the junction of U.S. Highway 18-151 and Springdale Center Road.

Farmers were eager for mail delivery to their homes when they learned of the service to their city cousins. A woman speaking in favor of Rural Free Delivery, RFD, at a National Grange meeting in 1891, said, "I am a woman nearly 70 years old, running a farm of 75 acres ...To my mind...free delivery and collection of mail matter in rural districts would be an inestimable boon to everyone...Our men and boys would not so often be

tempted to spend time and money in the billiard rooms and other similar places while waiting for the mail."

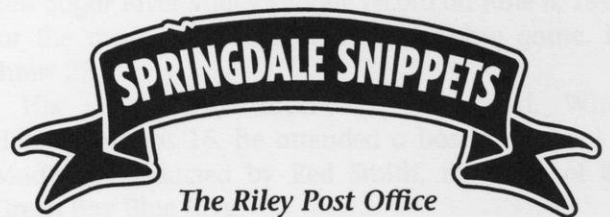
Despite much opposition from merchants who made money while farmers waited for the mail and from those who thought RFD would put the country into bankruptcy, RFD began in October of 1896 with five routes in West Virginia.

RFD caused a social revolution on the farm. The farmer learned from his newspapers, journals, and catalogues about the rest of the country and indeed the rest of the world from

which he had been so isolated.

The farmer learned of new methods in agriculture which allowed him to continue to feed a nation despite the cultivation of fewer acres by fewer men.

Farm boys and girls learning of city life found it very attractive and the country lost many future family farmers. The RFD greatly contributed to the decline of rural America's small neighborhoods and with them the loss of a unique part of our heritage. ●



*The Riley Post Office
was established May 3, 1882,
and was discontinued about 1941.*



RECREATION



SPRINGDALE'S FIELD OF DREAMS

Submitted by Martha Zwettler Martin

He grew up a farm boy in Springdale Township. Later, Don Henderson went on to play in the farm leagues of two major league baseball teams.

For Henderson, 74, baseball was a family affair. His father, Forest, started tossing around the ball with Don and his older brother, Norman, at an early age.

"I played so long, I don't even remember when I started," Don says, shaking his head.

Forest, known to many baseball fans as "Pops," managed several successful ball teams from the small town of Riley, located just a few miles from the Henderson farm. "Pops" not only included his sons on the roster, but his nephews and brother, as well.

Baseball coursed through the Henderson blood so strongly, in fact, that the ball clan even had their own baseball diamond in a farm field not far from the house.

"We'd always have a mitt and a ball. We'd practice for an hour every day, even if hay was down. We always took an hour at noon," Don says.

The Sugar River Valley Baseball League, formed by Don's father, used that diamond for league games for two or three years, he says. The games drew a crowd, and "the old neighbor advertised 'ice-cold' pop that was as warm as could be," he chuckles.

With a strong dedication and desire for the game inspired by his father, and holes in the old house siding from fast-pitched balls to prove it, Don went into high school with something to share.

He attended Mt. Horeb High School from 1937-1941, and was successful with any ball that he

touched, except football. His father never let him play that game.

"He wouldn't even let me play football in high school because I had a baseball future," he says.

The lanky Henderson helped the basketball team make it to the State Tournament. And in 1939, the Mt. Horeb Cardinals Baseball Team won the State Tournament held in Platteville.

"My brother pitched against Prairie du Chien. I pitched against Fennimore. We won both games," Don boasts.



"Tied for League Championship," 1939. Standing (left to right): Jay Henderson, Norm Henderson, Don Henderson, Milton Kahl, Willy Doyle, Forest Henderson, Windy Herman, Arnold Bohle, Donald O'Connor. Seated (left to right): Lester Henderson, Charlie Himsel, Thomas George McCaughey, Ray Henderson.

Walter Roeck coached Don during his first two years of high school. Roeck, now 85, says, "He was one of the top cogs in the wheel. He was one of the best boys we had."

Throughout his high school pitching career, Henderson never pitched a losing game. His powerful arm swept the competition away again in 1940, when he pitched a

perfect game in league play against Verona. He set a new Sugar River Valley League record on June 8, 1941, for the most strike-outs in a nine-inning game. He threw 22.

His strong arm didn't go unnoticed. When Henderson was 16, he attended a baseball school in Madison conducted by Red Smith, manager of the Green Bay Blue Jays.

"I was only 16 years old and I pitched in there for him. He told me, 'You've got a tremendous baseball career ahead of you, but you're too young. We'll see you in a bit.'"

Smith held true to his word and recruited Henderson after his high school graduation. Before his first season, he worked at Ray-O-Vac Battery Corp. for a while, then quit to get ready for baseball.

"I had to get myself in shape. I had a contract," he says.



RECREATION

He would be playing for a Class B team in Green Bay, part of the Northern League. That contract was worth \$75 a month.

"You laugh, hell, I made money on that!" he snaps as his face, leathery like an old ball mitt and tanned from hours on the field (baseball and farm), reveals his pride.

He played for the Green Bay Blue Jays, a farm team for the Chicago Cubs, for a month. He moved on to the Oshkosh Giants, part of the New York Giants team. Things were going pretty well, until World War II caused teams in the Southern League to fold. The higher ranked players traveled up north, and gradually Henderson was forced out.

Undaunted, he came back and played ball in Sauk City. And this was where he met Gertie, his bride of 54 years. She lived near the ball park and worked in a soda shop downtown. She walked to work about the same time he left practice.

"She always made it a point to be right there when I went home," he says.

Henderson practiced hard every night. "I pitched and ran around the diamond 30, 40, 50 times before I went home for supper."

His hard work allowed him to play with and against some big-name players. He played with Butch Perkins on the Sauk team. The coach drove down to Dodgeville to pick Perkins up on Sundays, so he could play first base. Perkins went on to play football for the Chicago Bears.

Henderson moved on to play ball in the Madison Industrial League for a team called "Huegel, Hyland-Riley." Here he went up against some of baseball's greatest, players like Bobby Feller, Mickey Cochrane, Ted Fritsch, Jug Gerard and Elroy (Crazylegs) Hirsch.

But in 1942, arthritis set in. "That's when things started to go to hell," Henderson admits. Even with the pain, he kept on pitching. His courage and stubbornness let him play what is probably the most memorable game of his career.

It was July 25, 1946, and the Kansas City Monarchs team played against the Industrial All-Star team. The Monarchs brought along one of the best — Satchel Paige. When asked which team won, Henderson proclaims, matter-of-fact, "Ol' Satchel was pitching. I don't think we won."

When Henderson played in Madison, he was no longer earning a living off of baseball. He had a wife and family to support. He took over the family farm,

and during the baseball season, would go straight from one field to another, oftentimes not even stopping for a bite to eat.

"We'd be threshing and had to milk and didn't have time to eat before the games at 7:00. The fans brought hamburgers into the stands for us," he says. He adds that the Riley team always drew the biggest crowds because they liked the hard-working farm boys that made up the roster.

For Henderson, playing ball in front of those fans fulfilled some of the dreams he had as a farm boy. But he can't help but speculate on how far he could have gone if arthritis hadn't gotten in the way.

"I think I would have made it, except arthritis set in. I'm pretty sure I'd have made it," he says, giving a wink. ●

RILEY'S SQUAD, 1943

The lead-off man, husky Ray
plays at third, at second is Jay.
The first sacker, Odegaard, was badly injured.
He led the hitters, so I've heard.
Lumbering Gust is held in high esteem;
He's the key to a successful team.
To the service must go the shortstop Bill,
To fill his place comes lanky Phil.
Smied and Dan and Norm catch flies;
A miss is a tragedy, also a surprise.
Paulson and Stuessy and also Steve
Come in to play when others must leave.
Burgenski, occasionally on the mound
Recently to a lifemate got himself bound.
Don Henderson, too found his way to the altar,
And proceeded to put on the matrimonial halter.
At managing his players, Forest has made a success,
And he still can play, we must confess.
The man behind the plate is the best of all
At snapping the ball, Fassbender beats 'em all.

— by a Riley Fan

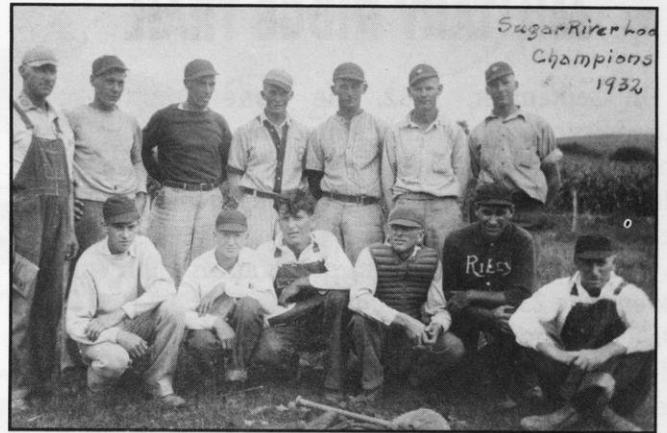


RECREATION

AS ONE SPECTATOR SEES THE GAME OR RILEY'S BASEBALL NINE JULY 14, 1943

Riley's Victory was truly great.
 To Kennedy's Nine, 'twas a sorrowful fate.
 Interest was keen as Gust reached the mound,
 Faced six batters, but none made the round.
 Lautenbach allowed three to reach base,
 Two of them scored, to set the pace.
 Yearning for revenge, the opponent team
 Retaliated with ease, it surely did seem.
 Scores were tied in this our third inning,
 Two Strike Outs! Oh! The fun's beginning.
 Through error and hit two men reached base
 But fate did not change our interesting race.
 Two attempts were made by Kennedy's Nine,
 Six "fans" for Gust! Isn't that fine?
 Another scoreless inning for Riley, too.
 One struck out, of infield flies there were two.
 Everyone's admiring the farmer boys.
 The fans are thrilled and making plenty noise.
 The top of the order again, swing the bat.
 Only three face the pitcher — that's that.
 Identical treatment to Riley is shown,
 Only one connects and is easily outthrown.
 (Time out)
 Lautenbach leaves for the Navy on the morrow
 Bringing to his teammates a deep, sincere sorrow.
 Losing a pitcher on whom hopes held high,
 Burdens our soul with a heavy sigh.
 (Sixth Inning)
 Two men are now put in scoring spots,
 As Riley made two errors (not to be forgot).
 Ideas for victory are very, very remote.
 Extra innings would have been the spectator's vote.
 (7th Inning)
 Kennedy's Nine again face Gust.
 Down One, Two, Three without any fuss.
 With Norm on base, the end came at last,
 With Gust's terrific, victory blast

— by a Riley Fan

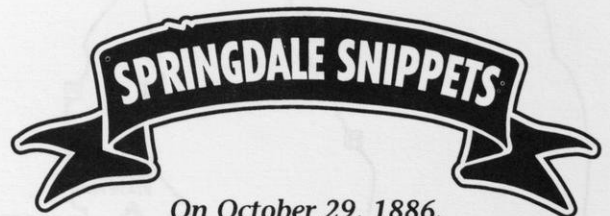


Standing (left to right): Forest Henderson, Julian Johnson, Palmer Johnson, Ted Spaanem, Delphin Bakken, Art Thompson, Harold Monum. Kneeling (left to right): Glen Johnson, Howard Himself, Jerome Brown, Lawrence Iverson, Leo Coyle, Cy Henderson.

BASEBALL BENEFIT PROGRAM
 Sponsored by the Riley Baseball Team
RILEY HALL — RILEY, WIS.
Thursday, April 28th, 1938
TICKETS—10c; 3 for 25c

This ticket entitles holder to one chance on
 tickets to be given away to holder of lucky num-
 ber, but is not good for admission to program.
ADMISSION TO PROGRAM—25c

No. 150



*On October 29, 1886,
 the passenger train left Mt. Horeb
 going east at 11:55 a.m. It collided
 with a wild engine in the deep cut
 between Riley and Pine Bluff Stations
 and one man was killed and several
 were injured. The engine was going to
 Pine Bluff to help a freight going east
 and ran by Riley, contrary to orders.*



RECREATION

MILITARY RIDGE TRAIL

In September, 1982, the Dane County Park Commission approved a state plan to purchase 16 miles of railroad right-of-way between Mt. Horeb and Highway PD (McKee Road) in Fitchburg for an outdoor recreation trail.

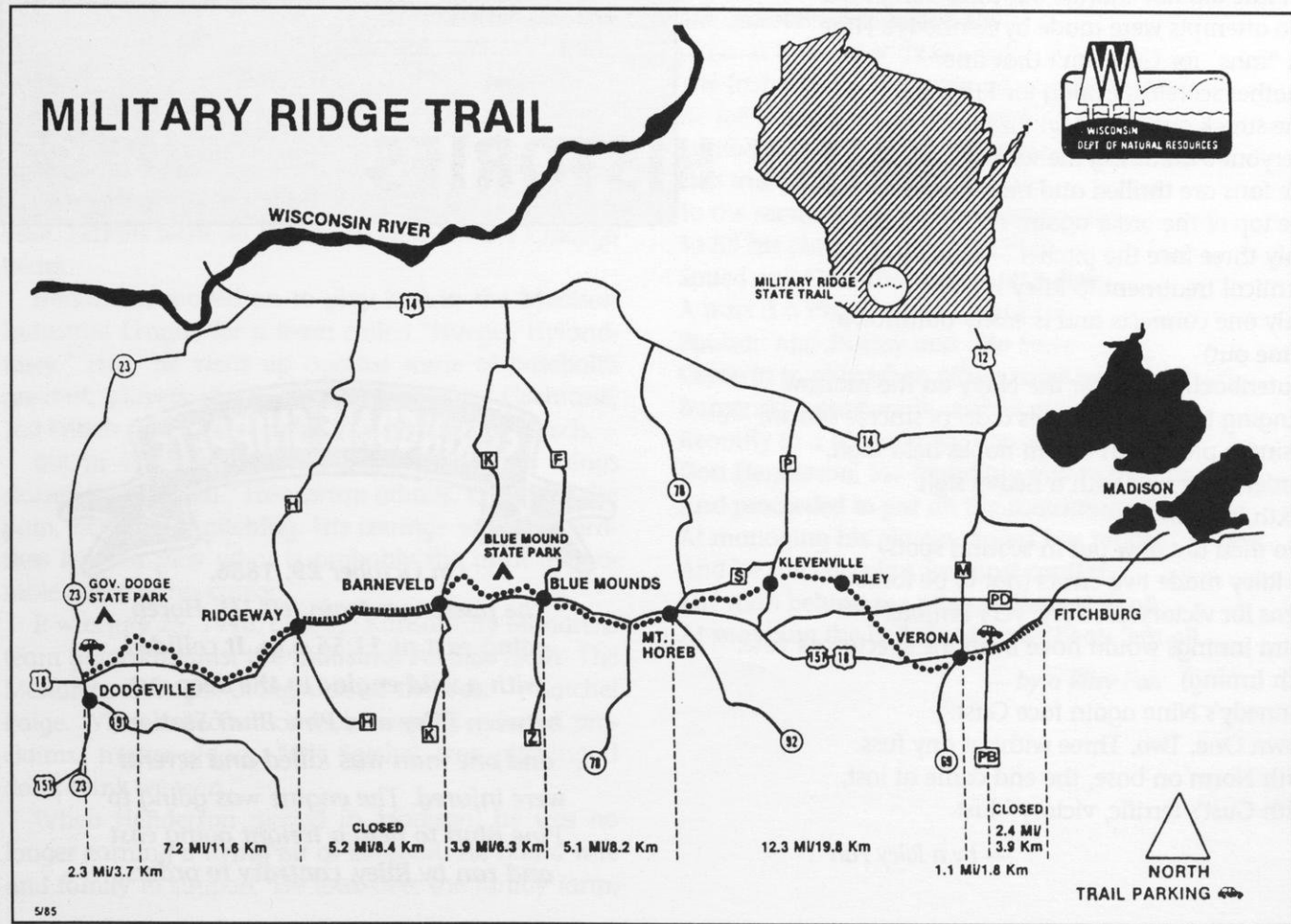
The Department of Natural Resources' plan was to extend the 23.5-mile Military Ridge Trail. In 1981, the DNR had bought the Chicago and Northwestern right-of-way between Dodgeville and Mt. Horeb and was developing it into a trail for bicycling and other outdoor activities. The Mt. Horeb-to-Fitchburg track was abandoned by the railroad in 1982, allowing the link.

The route between Mt. Horeb and Verona has a good, scenic quality, especially where it gets away from the highway, with geological points of interest in a driftless, unglaciated area west of Verona. It was anticipated that the trail will be used for bicycling, snowmobiling, hiking and bird watching.

The 39.6-mile Military Ridge State Trail was dedicated in June of 1990, with a ceremony held at 11:30 a.m. at Barneveld Memorial Park. The trail allows bicyclists to pedal uninterrupted from Verona to Dodgeville, through the Springdale villages of Riley and Klevenville. Where once people and families rode together by train, they now bicycle, snowmobile, hike and watch birds together. ●



The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad established a station in Riley in 1882.





FAMILY HISTORIES

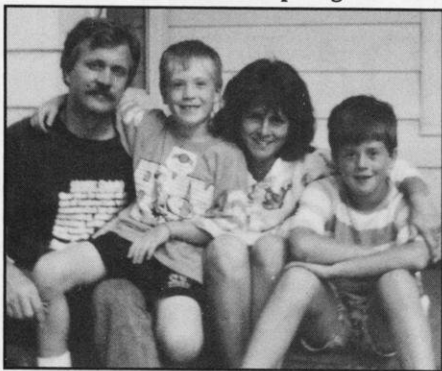


CONRAD AND VICKI ANDERSON FAMILY

Submitted by Vicki Anderson

Conrad and Vicki Anderson and their sons, Nathan and Matt, arrived in the Town of Springdale on September 6,

1989, after a two-day journey from Massachusetts. The Andersons, Grandpa Bill McCool and the family dog, Kelly, made the trip in a truck and a van. After 12 years



Conrad, Vicki and their sons Nathan and Matt.

in Massachusetts, they were pleased to be back in the Midwest, closer to their families from Cedar Rapids and Ames, Iowa.

These Andersons were only the second family to own the Bakken farm house, which was built in 1920 by Halvor and Rosena Anderson Bakken. The Bakken descendants, still in the Mt. Horeb area, graciously welcomed the Andersons, sharing their family history, stories and pictures with the newcomers. It was hoped that Rosena's Norwegian ancestors were related to Conrad's forefathers, but that was not the case.

These past nine years have passed quickly as the Andersons have worked to be members of the community, at school and in sports, 4-H and town government, and have tried to be good stewards of the land. On their 20 acres, it seems that fencing is never done, as pasture is sectioned off to improve grazing for three horses and the flock of 20-30 Cheviot sheep, raised for meat and wool. Five acres in hay is cut and baled by Mike and Bernice Lamberty in exchange for unloading hay wagons at their place.

The Andersons will always remember and appreciate the welcome extended by the Bakkens and their neighbors up the road, the Harold and Pat Crabb family. On one of their first Sundays in town, the Crabbs stopped on the road, the whole family hopped out of the car, and welcomed the Andersons to Springdale. What an introduction to a great place to raise a family! ●

EDWARD H. ANDERSON FAMILY

Submitted by Ludell Heuser and Bev Schwierske

Ed Anderson (1870-1947) and his wife, Caroline Kittleson (1871-1948), began their married life on February 17, 1891, on the Anderson homestead in Primrose township. They farmed there for ten years before moving to Perry township on Sutter Road, where they farmed for eight years.

In 1909, Caroline came home from town and announced, "I traded farms today!" Was that the beginning of women's lib?



Caroline Kittleson and Ed Anderson on their wedding day, February 17, 1891.

The farm she spoke of was the Michael Johnson farm of 360 acres in Section 30 of the Town of Springdale. The Andersons had seven children when they came to Springdale, Alpha (Albert) Johnson, Mabel (William) Smith, Ella (Christ) Swiggum, Hilda (Clarence) Lunde, Annie (Oscar) Swiggum, Evelyn (Leonard) Hustad and Hendrick (Palma). Thor (Ethel) and Nona (Mel) Harris were born in Springdale.

One hundred and ten acres of the farm were sold to their son-in-law, Albert Johnson, about 1912. Johnson built all the buildings there.

The Andersons moved to Mt. Horeb for a time in the 1920s, while Hendrick farmed. They returned to the farm until Mabel and William Smith took over farm-



Old home on Ed Anderson farm.



FAMILY HISTORIES

ing there in the 1930s. The Eggimann family bought the farm in 1938.

Caroline and Ed celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1941 with a huge celebration at their home on North Second Street in Mt. Horeb. Shortly after, Ed suffered a stroke, which confined him to bed until his death in 1947. Caroline spent any free time quilting. She had made hand-stitched quilts for all 24 grandchildren at the time of her death in 1948. ●

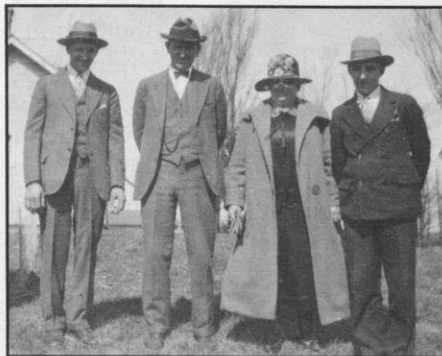


The Edward and Caroline Anderson family, 1930. Back row (left to right): Annie (Swiggum), Ella (Swiggum), Mabel (Smith), Hilda (Lunde), Alpha (Johnson, Gilbertson), Evelyn (Hustad). Front row (left to right): Thor, Edward, Henrick, Caroline, Nona (Harris).

ELMER BAKER PROGRESSIVE DAIRY FARM

Submitted by Norma and Elmer Baker

Progressive Dairy Farm is a four-generation family farm, having been purchased by Albert James Baker and Elizabeth Erfurth Baker in 1913. This family, consisting of the parents, Albert J., Elizabeth and their two sons, Curtis and Arthur, farmed it until Curtis was married in 1925. Then Curtis and his wife, Mildred Gust Baker, and their son Elmer, farmed it until the sudden, unexpected death of Curtis in 1945, at which time Elmer, then 13, and his mother continued to operate it with some outside help until Elmer's mar-



Albert and Elizabeth Baker with sons Curtis (left) and Arthur (right).

riage in 1954. It was then operated by Elmer and his wife, Norma Fosshage Baker, and their six children, Susan, Sally, Sonia, Cynthia, Julie and Albert John (AJ). At various times throughout the years, two daughters and sons-in-law and their son have all operated it in partnership with their parents, the two daughters moving on to purchase their own farms.



Mildred Gust Baker and Curtis Baker with Elmer (center).

The farm was officially named and recorded in May of 1928. The name "Progressive Dairy Farm" came about because of Albert J. Baker's (Elmer's grandfather) involvement in the Progressive Party in Wisconsin, representing the area in the State Assembly under Governor Bob LaFollette.

The first registered holsteins were purchased in 1925 by Curtis Baker, when he purchased three heifers from August Gerke of Blue Mounds. In the beginning, the acquiring of a registered herd was a slow process. When Elmer reached 4-H at the age of 10, his father purchased a heifer calf from Norman Peterson of Perry for a 4-H project. The herd has been a completely registered holstein herd for many years, as the grades were sold as soon as a good registered animal had been raised to replace her.

Artificial insemination sires have been used since Southern Wisconsin Breeders Co-Op began offering services. Only the very best sires were used from several breeding co-ops.

This fourth-generation family farm is one of the oldest registered holstein breeding establishments in Wisconsin. For more than 70 years, registered holsteins were part of the operation. Standard DHIA testing was begun in 1930. The herd was eventually put on official DHIR, and it is believed to be one of the longest continuous herds on test in Dane County. Animals were placed in the Dane County Holstein Breeders 50-50 calf club program since its beginning. Young stock has been sold for both



FAMILY HISTORIES



The Progressive Dairy Farm, June 3, 1950.

breeding purposes and replacements to several states, as well as exported to many foreign countries.

"Progressive Dairy Farm" has received the prestigious Progressive Breeders Registry award three times. This award is the highest honor given by the National Holstein Association. Several requirements must be met, including 75% of the registered females in the herd must have been bred by the applicant.

In the fall of 1968, the Baker family was selected by a Japanese television network to produce a film on the daily activities of an average American farm family.

Elmer graduated from the University of Wisconsin Farm Short Course in the spring of 1951 and was the first local FFA member to receive the American Farmer Degree, also in 1951. Two of their daughters and their son received the Wisconsin State Farmer Degree and all



Back row (left to right): Julie (Bryan) McVeigh, Susan (Randy) Docken, Sally (Wayne) Faust, Sonia (Duane) Hustad, Cynthia (Chris) Hanson. Front row (left to right): Norma Fosshage Baker, Albert John (AJ) and Elmer Baker.

six of the children were recognized by the Dane County Holstein Breeders for their 4-H project work with registered holsteins.

Following the destruction of the main farm by the Department of Transportation in 1956, and again in 1986, the Bakers were able to purchase the estate farm next door to the east of them, so the present farm now consists of 240 acres, of which 220 are tillable.

At the time of the Baker's "Progressive Dairy Farm" complete dispersal on February 28, 1996, the herd carried a rolling herd average of over 22,000 lbs. of milk and 800 lbs. fat on two-times-a-day milking and a classification of 103.8% BAA.

The farm is still owned by Elmer and Norma, but the buildings are rented out. ●

THE BAKKEN FARM ON BAKKEN ROAD

Submitted by Marvin Bakken and June Underwood

The farm is located in Sections 3 and 4 of the Town of Springdale. Ole Bakken came from Valdres, Norway, in 1851 at the age of 14. He worked as a carpenter until he married Ingeborg Rockstad in 1869 and settled on the farm near Klevenville. His wife came from Norway as a young girl with her mother and her sister, Anna. Their name was Lyshaugen, and was changed to Rockstad. Anna married Iver Kleven. Iver and his brother were carpenters and built many houses in the area, as well as the Klevenville School house. The town was named after them. It had previously been known as Bluff.

Ole and Ingeborg Bakken had three children. Carrie married Knute Bangs and moved to North Dakota. Inger married Gabriel Anderson and moved to Mt. Horeb, and Halvor married Rosena Anderson. They began farming the homestead in 1901 when Ole and Ingeborg moved to a home in Mt. Horeb.

Halvor and Rosena had 11 children; Robert, Clifford, Irvin, Delphin, Forrest, Marie, Hector, Eleanore, Wesley, Evelyn and Marvin.

The original farm house was torn down in 1920 and a new one was built in its place. All the oak lumber for the house was sawed from timber on the farm. The barn was built in 1914.

In 1925, Halvor and his family moved to the Christian Anderson farm on Highway 18. Mr.



FAMILY HISTORIES



New house built in 1920.

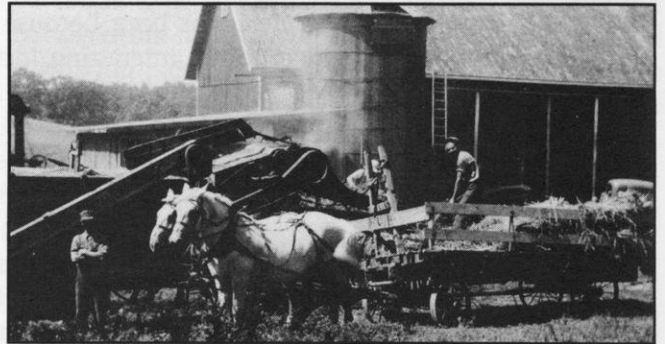
Anderson was Rosena Bakken's father. Her mother had been killed by lightning and her father needed them to maintain the farm and take care of him. At this time, their son Clifford and his wife, Margie (Offerdahl), moved to the homestead and maintained in until 1934. Clifford and Margie had two daughters, Reba June (Mrs. Donald Underwood) and Mary Ellen (Mrs. Martin Tollefson).

In 1934, Oscar and Annie Swiggum rented the farm until 1936, when Halvor and Rosena moved back to the farm with Wesley, Evelyn and Marvin. Rosena passed away in February, 1941 at the age of 60. Although she had suffered many years with acute arthritis, there was always a smile and no complaints.

Wesley went into military service in 1942. Evelyn and Marvin stayed on the farm with their father. In 1945, Evelyn married Arthur Basthemer and moved to Mt. Horeb. In 1945, Marvin married Eunice Field and they stayed on the farm until 1948. At this time, Wesley and his wife, Crystal (Swiggum), moved to the farm and continued its operation with Halvor. In March of 1958, Halvor died as the result of a car accident. Wesley and Crystal continued to rent the farm until they purchased it in 1961 from the estate. They had two children, Eileen (Mrs. Jeff Mahn), now living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Keith, now living in LaCrosse with his wife, Karen (Lund).

Crystal Bakken died of cancer in 1971, and Wesley died in January, 1974, from a heart attack. Eileen and Keith kept the farm for a number of years. Keith pur-

chased his sister's share, and eventually sold the farm in two parcels. The land north of Bakken Road was sold to Susan Bakken, Marvin's daughter, and the land and buildings on the south of Bakken Road were sold to Conrad and Vicki Anderson.



The farm, as such, is gone, but the memories linger on. We can go back a number of years and cover some of the conditions that existed in regard to farming in the "old days." Horses were used for everything. Barns were cleaned with a fork and shovel, hauled out on the field by hand and spread.

Winter time was spent cutting wood and hauling it by bobsled to a stockpile for the following year. Grain threshing was a neighbor-to-neighbor talk. Halvor Bakken and "Gabe" Anderson owned the "Rig," which was a large threshing machine and a two-cylinder Rumley Oil Pull Tractor used to do custom work for from six to 10 neighbors. The ladies supplied huge meals. It was hard work and there were some "run-away" teams to add to the excitement.



After Gabe quit, the machinery was maintained by Halvor Bakken, with the help of Gust Haugland. Later it was Halvor, Wesley and Marvin. It meant getting up early to milk by hand, getting home late and doing the same tasks again. Each farmer was charged according to the number of sacks of grain threshed. Some cheated by sewing an extra six inches to the top of the sacks. Most of the time, the straw was blown on a stack where two men would level it off and then round the top to help shed the rain. The old Rumley was sold to Bethel Horizons to provide power for their thresher. ●



MARTIN BANG

Submitted by Olive (Bang) Skindrud



Olive Bang Skindrud, daughter of Martin and Anna Bang.

I feel it is of interest to write a history of the farm where I was born because I have found interesting facts of its beginnings. This is purely a farm history, and not a genealogy, yet it does show how closely it is interwoven with our ancestry and the hardships which these Norwegian immigrants endured to establish a home here in Wisconsin.

For this then, we go back to December 15, 1838, to Nordre Nrdal, Norway, where Beret Syverud was born to Knute and Astri Syverud. When she was just a young girl of 11, she came to America with her parents, two sisters and four brothers. After spending nine weeks on a sailboat crossing the ocean, they landed in New York. Then they came by canal boat on the Great Lakes to Milwaukee. From Milwaukee, they traveled by oxen and "kubberulla" (log wagon) to the Township of Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. This seemingly short distance to us in our lives must have taken them many days with no roads, no eating houses or motels. Near Blue Mounds, they settled on a 40-acre farm, which was all in timber. They built a log cabin for their home. Blue Mounds was a settlement of Norwegians, so I imagine they were welcomed here and had help, which historical accounts have related to us many times.

Beret Syverud is listed as being in the first Confirmation class in the East Blue Mounds School house by A.C. Preus, in the summer of 1852. We can see that the Syveruds took care of the religious training for their children, in spite of the work to be done in building their home. Also in this class of confirmands was Siri A. Ruste, grandmother to Eric Skindrud.

About this time, there was a young man, by the name of Harald Haraldson Stugard, who was homesteading a piece of land in the township of Springdale, some seven miles from Mt. Horeb. (This was to become the Martin Bang farm in 1902.) Now Harald must walk to Mineral Point, about 40+ miles to do his business at the land office. On his trek to Mineral Point, he must have traveled near the Syverud farm and became

acquainted with Beret. On October 18, 1856, at the age of 18, she married Harald Haraldson Stugard at Brodal Prestegard, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. (Prestegard meaning parsonage.)

Beret and Harald settled on Harald's homestead in Springdale. On this farm can be seen two cellars or dugouts, used as homes for Harald and many Norwegians who were coming to seek their homes nearby. Harald now built a two-story log dwelling for their home. This area had good timber and a fresh water creek, which supplied their needs.

Beret and Harald became charter members of Springdale Lutheran Church, and Beret became a charter member of Springdale Ladies Aid.

Years of hard work went by, but Beret and Harald were blessed with seven children. Their names were Rachel, Anna, Knute, Mary, Olene, Harald and Ole. Here is where our ancestry touches. Rachel married Tor S. Thorson, whose sister was Anna Thorson (Bang). Anna married John H. Bang (my grandfather).

In 1875, Harald H. Stugard passed away. Beret was now 37. In 1882, Reverend Iceborg performed the marriage of Beret and Hans Evanson. Children born to this union were Clara and Henry. In the year of 1896, the Evanson family left the farm and moved to Mt. Horeb to a comfortable new home.

Beret lived to be 82, Hans lived to be 96. Their children, Clara and Henry never married and continued to live in this home. Clara was a dressmaker and would come to our home to do sewing for my mother.

Beret sold her farm to her son, Ole Haraldson Stugard. I have a \$1,000 note from Ole and Harald Stugard to their mother, dated April 5, 1895, showing that they paid 6% interest on that money and that they cleared the note in 1902.

The *Mt. Horeb Mail* of September 17, 1902, states that a Henry Lee sold the Stugard farm to Martin J. Bang. The farm contained 80 acres and the consideration was \$4,500 "Mr. Lee had bought the farm two years before, paying \$40 per acre, thus realizing a snug profit," so states an item in the local weekly news reports. The farm was in much need of repair, as I have heard Mother and Dad talk about the condition of the buildings. But they were hard-working, determined people and were willing to sacrifice much to make it a very livable, profitable, lovely farm home, expanding its acreage and building all new buildings during their years on the farm.

In another story, I have related the building of a new house in 1918. The old log house was torn down,



FAMILY HISTORIES

and the two-story part moved off its foundation to a nearby spot where it has been used for storage. We lived in this part of the old house while a new house was built on the old foundation.

Mother and Dad lived on this farm until 1938, when they bought a home in Mt. Horeb.

My sister Alice, and her husband, Otto Brager, and their daughter, Beverly, lived on the farm, but not for long, as Alice died in 1941. So for a few years, Otto continued to farm until John and Leona Bigler rented the farm from Dad. They continued to farm and improve the farm. They were excellent farmers, which pleased my Dad as he did not see any deterioration of the land or buildings. The Biglers sold the farm in 1980 to the Gary Lutz family. The Biglers retired and moved to Mt. Horeb. ●

BASTHEMER FARM

Nicolaus Basthemer bought his farm in 1901. In 1914, Edward, Norman's father, bought the farm. In 1972, Norman became owner. (see picture page ??)

Norman remembers his father telling him how his Grandfather Nick, his Dad and two uncles, William and Jacob Basthemer, took their livestock to market.

One would ride horseback ahead and shut gates and warn the people in town they were coming and the others rode behind, driving the animals. When a bull was sold, they would hobble his front legs and one would lead him while two others followed, each with a rope. If the bull charged the lead man, they would pull on the ropes and the bull would fall to his knees.

In those days, there were no milk trucks. Each farmer separated his milk and hauled the cream to the Mt. Horeb Creamery with milk rigs.

The roads were dirt. In 1914, when Model Ts were sold, after a rain, they would mire down and if you got out of the wheel track, you were in trouble. So, the state paid one half and the township the remaining half for the gravel. In 1928, old Highway 18 was cemented. Edward used his horses and slush bucket to help grade the road before the cementing was done. For their

pay (the team and man), it was taken off their taxes. Edward had a granary full of oats, enough to feed all the working horses, thus leaving his granary empty.

There were no snow plows, so in the winter when the roads were filled with snow, they went across fields and cut fences to get to town to obtain supplies. To keep the bobsled from tipping over from the big drifts, they tied a walking plow on the back runner of the sled. That would also make better walking for the horses. Straw was put on the floor of the sled to make it warmer.

The patrolman for the township got 50 cents an hour for him and his team. The township furnished the team, mower and grader. ●

JAMES BEARD

James Beard bought 160 acres from the U.S. Government for \$1 in 1850, which he sold to his son, Byron, in 1884. The land was in Section 29 of Springdale township. James died in 1885 and his wife, Saloma, died in 1891. They are buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery at the Junctions of Highway G and Highway J.

In 1907, Byron sold the farm to this brother, Raymond, and his wife, Emma (Burmeister). They had eight children, Clara, Belle, Otto, Nellie, Mabel, Earl, Myrtle and Viola. Myrtle Starczynski is the only one living and resides at the Black Earth Manor. Most of the family was born in the log house.

Raymond built the new home and an addition on the barn. In 1915, they rented the farm to their



Back row (left to right): Viola (Bonner), Myrtle (Starczynski), Belle (Kobbervig), Nellie (Lust). Front row (left to right): Otto Beard, Mabel (Way), Emma (Burmeister), Raymond Beard, Clara (Goodwin, Graff).



FAMILY HISTORIES

daughter Mabel and her husband, George Way. Raymond and Emma purchased a home in Mt. Vernon next to the church. Raymond passed away in 1932 and Emma in 1942. They are buried in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery. ●

PETER BRAGER

Submitted by Beverly Brager

Peter Haroldson Brager was born at Hedalen, Norway, on September 15, 1827. He, with his brother, Knut, came to America in 1850. He landed in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He remained there for about two years and married Guro Olsdatter Skindrud in 1853. Peter and Guro moved to "take up land" in Vermont township and lived there for about seven years.

On September 23, 1861, Peter and Guro purchased 80 acres in the southwest quarter of Section 16 in the Town of Springdale. Peter did not homestead the land because it had been first purchased in parcels from the State of Wisconsin by patents in 1858 and 1859 by John Knudsen and Gulbrand Olsen. Another portion of the Brager farm was acquired in 1929, after Peter's death.

In November of 1888, a parcel of the land that he had purchased "commencing in center of highway 33½ rods SE of NW corner of Section 21, Town 6N, Range 7E; then NEly 11 rods, thence SEly 7 rods; then SWly to center of highway 11 rods; then along center of highway to beginning 7 rods" was leased for 99 years for a cheese and butter factory.

Peter and Guro lived the rest of their lives on this Springdale property in a one-room log house that he had built. There they raised four children, Olia Pettersdatter Thorson (1854-1940), Serina Lukken (1860-1936), Maria Anderson (1863-1944) and Ole Peter Brager (1866-1941). Their oldest son, Ole, born in 1857, died in infancy.

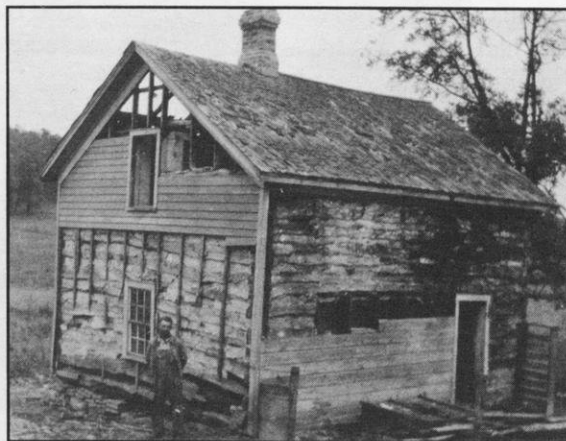
In 1864, Peter left Springdale for a year when he was drafted for the Union Army. He was a private attached to the 17th Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry,

but was temporarily assigned to the 15th Connecticut Infantry. His regiment was captured at Kinston, North Carolina, and Peter was sent to Libby Prison. After his discharge in 1865, he returned to operate the farm in Springdale. Guro and Peter were charter members of the Springdale Lutheran Church. In 1892, Peter, who was 64, and Guro negotiated a contract with their son, Ole, to provide for maintenance in their old age. The provisions of the contract were as follows:

In consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) paid to Ole, he bound himself and his heirs to furnish his parents with annually or per year during their lives, (1) a clean, warm, comfortable and sufficient room to live in; (2) sweet milk from two good cows, brought to their room or to the cheese factory as they may direct; (3) the wool from three sheep and one good sheep for mutton; (4) one pig, not less than 200 pounds; (5) two bushels of wheat and 400 lbs. of good flour; (6) 25 bushels of corn and sufficient quantity of potatoes; (7) forty dollars (\$40) in U.S. money on or before the first day of December; (8) the privilege to keep one dozen of chickens; (9) conveyance to their church and back when they desire it; (10) to wash and care for them in every respect when they are unable to care for themselves; (11) to furnish them with medical aid, give them a decent burial and erect a respectable monument over their graves. "To secure the faithful performance of this contract...a real estate mortgage is given as collateral security bearing even date herewith."

Guro died on September 14, 1894, and Peter continued to live in the old log house until his death on July 28, 1915. They are buried in the Springdale Lutheran Cemetery.

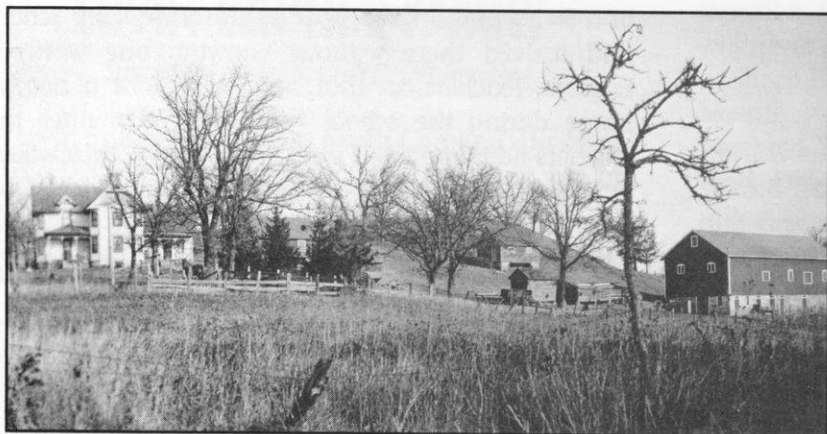
Ole and his wife, Marit (Thompson), assumed ownership of the farm in January, 1892. Ole built a house to accommodate his family of six children, George, Otto, Myrtle (Duerst), Lawrence, Alice (Thompson-Collins) and Alvin. The farm prospered and increased in acreage. After 29 years in the valley, Ole and Marit retired to the village of Mt. Horeb. In 1921, the eldest son, George, and his new wife, Agnes (Skindrud), "took over" the farm and lived there until his death in 1951, the result of an automobile



George Brager standing in front of Peter Haroldson Bragers' house on the Brager farm.



FAMILY HISTORIES



Ole P. Brager farm in Springdale, 1912.

accident. His daughter, Ardis (Knutson), was the only great-grandchild of Peter to grow up on the Brager Farm.

When Ole died in 1941, his wife, Marit, became the owner until her death in 1959. The farm then passed to their children. It was managed by a son, Otto, and rented by Leo Ryan. After 102 years in the Brager family, it was sold to Tenny Midthun in 1963. It is now the home of Norman Rick who purchased the buildings and surrounding land in 1968. ●

BRINK FAMILY

Submitted by Walter Brink

The Brink family has been a part of Springdale for many years, with the exception of a few, at the turn of the century.

My grandfather, Joseph Brink, was born on July 4, 1851, in Springdale township in a log house. Soon after, the farm was purchased by Christ Bringold. It was located south of Kollath Road. The next owner was Frank Blaha and the present owner is Keith Miller.

Joseph attended school at the intersection of Highway G and Kollath Road, where a log building served as a school house. Later, one acre was purchased for a cemetery by the Scotch settlement. It is now called the Oak Hill Cemetery and is cared for by the Town of Springdale. (Note: The school house was replaced by moving it ¼ mile east on Highway G on

land donated by Pete McPherson and giving it the name McPherson School.)

The late Joseph Brink also lived on a farm on Erb Road. The farm is now owned by Verlyn Lingard.

In 1914, my father, David Brink, and his wife, Rosena, purchased 119 acres of land, adjacent to the cemetery and on both sides of Highway G, from the late John Herman. Three children, Walter, Laona and Esther became a part of the family for David and Rosena.

In 1943, Ruth and I, and our two children, Donald and Elizabeth, rented the homestead from my parents and they moved to Mt. Vernon. In 1959, we purchased the farm and raised our two children. Both of our children and myself attended the McPherson School. Ruth attended school in Monticello.

In 1973, Ruth and I sold the farm to our son, Donald, and his wife, Karen. They occupied the home until 1981 when his work as an administrator of senior nursing housing compelled them to move. At that time, Ruth and I moved back to the dwelling place. By this time, parcels of land were sold and the farm now has diminished to 95 acres.

In 1997, Ruth and I moved to New Glarus, and Jeff and Allison Yapp, with their two boys, occupy the house. Duane Garfoot has rented all of the crop land for 1998.

The farm name and sign "Return Acres" was Ruth's idea, since some of the time in 84 years, four generations of Brinks have left footprints on the land given by God Almighty. It is a home on earth that Ruth and myself will long remember and cherish, and memories will never fade away. ●



The Brink homestead since 1914.



MICHAEL BROWN

Submitted by Phillip Brown

Michael Brown was born in 1823 in Kings County, Ireland, the son of John and Mary (Martin) Brown. When he was 21, he came to America and settled in Westchester County, New York. A year later, he moved to Ohio, and in 1849, he purchased a farm in Fitchburg. Two years later, he moved to the Town of Springdale. He married Margaret Lynch of St. Lawrence, New York. They had 12 children. Their children were Peter, Patrick, John, who was a general merchant and postmaster at Riley, owning the general store and the Riley Creamery, Joseph who farmed in Section 11, James, Ellie (Hobbs), Margaret (Ryan), Peter, Mary (Farrell), Theresa, Tom, a cartoonist, and Annie (Laufenberg).

Joe married Catherine Muriam of Primrose in 1897. He had bought a 160-acre farm for \$5,000 from his brother John. They raised cows, pigs, horses and sheep to begin with. Later on, they milked more cows and raised horses and sheep to sell. They had 10 children, Mary, Joe, Helen (Coyle), Jerome, Margaret (Marks), John, Phillip, William, Francis and Donald. Joe died in 1932, and Catherine died in 1935.

Jerome bought the farm and Phillip worked with him there after serving 3½ years in the Army in England. Jerome died in 1957, and Phillip then bought it. Phillip rented out the farm to Richard Schwenn, who bought it in 1987. It was then bought by Richard's son, Steve.

Phillip Brown, who currently lives in Verona, has some interesting memories of when he was a boy. When the Browns couldn't get out because of the snow, Phil would ride a horse to Riley for groceries, using 50# flour sacks to carry his supplies home. He recalls a little girl who was a daughter

of a Swiss cheesemaker who went to the Riley School and arrived there without knowing one word of English. Teachers, at that time, stayed at a nearby home during the school year. Generally, after the teachers had graduated from grade school, they would attend one year of college and return to teach. One year, the Riley School had a teacher who was about the same age as two of its students, Hillary McCaughey and Marlin Deneen.

It was a big deal to go to the town of Riley. When Phil was in the 7th or 8th grade, he and his classmates went to Riley and caught the train to Madison to see the Capitol. John Riley, formerly of Riley, was the policeman there, and he allowed all the students to go way up to the top of the Capitol. One of the school teachers, Mary Garfoot, lived in Mazomanie and took the kids on the train to Mazomanie. In the winter, farmers would bring their children to school in sleighs pulled by horses. On the cold days, when fewer students showed up, Phil remembers being able to sit by the stove. Once a week, the teacher would make lunch. Every student would bring an ingredient to make the meal. ●



The Michael Brown family.



ERVIN BRUNER FAMILY

Submitted by Ervin and Helen Bruner

Ervin Bruner was born in North Carolina. His father was a U.S. Forester from Kentucky. His mother was the daughter of a Methodist minister in North Carolina. He spent his early childhood in Puerto Rico, where his father was the director of a national forest.

Erv graduated from the University of Wisconsin and enrolled in the law school. He and Helen, then a senior at the university, were married in 1942. Erv's law school attendance was interrupted by World War II, in which he served as a lieutenant in command of an infantry platoon in Europe. After the war, he finished law school, practiced law in Madison and Verona and was manager of the Madison Consumers' Co-Op.

Erv and Helen were active in the revival of the Democratic Party in Wisconsin, and Erv was elected Assemblyman for Western Dane County for three terms. In 1957, he was elected judge and served until he retired in 1983. After retirement, he served for many years as a reserve judge. His success in politics, he says, was due to having his wife as campaign manager.

In retirement, he has been a volunteer at the University Arboretum and for the County Parks Department. His current activities include supervising the farm operation, restoring a relic prairie on the farm and planting a new oak savanna and prairie, gardening and supporting social and environmental causes.

Helen grew up in a small city in Massachusetts where her father was a doctor. She attended Wellesley College for two years, transferring to the University of Wisconsin as a junior. While Erv was overseas in World War II, she worked in New York City as an editorial researcher for Time Magazine. In more recent years, she has had a variety of jobs. She has been on the staff for a governor's committee, an instructor in University Extension and an aide to a legislator.

In 1953, they left Crestwood, a Madison suburb, for a farm southeast of Verona. Four years later, in Springdale, they found an appealing farm with a stream running through it, which could be dammed for a pond. It was still owned by members of the Thorson family, whose ancestors had acquired it in land grant days. The house was solid, although it lacked some necessities. There was no plumbing and light was provided by bulbs hanging from the ceiling, but they could fix it up. And they did, with major con-

struction, for the next seven years. Actually, they say it will never be finished.

Sheep had been their cash crop on their first farm. Now they were going to try beef cattle, buying eight purebred Shorthorns from their neighbor across the road, Don Hurlbut. For the next 20 odd years, they raised lots of calves, enduring the trauma that farmers do, drought, debt, ice storms, strenuous labor, long hours, low prices, but also exciting births and beautiful calves. Their son, Jeff, as a teenager and beyond, made a major contribution, and they hired some local teenagers part-time.

The first year they lived in Springdale, their daughters attended the Riley School a mile down the road. Mary was in the sixth grade and Cathie was in the fourth grade. The following year, Mary started riding into Madison with Erv to Wisconsin High on the University campus, which she attended until college. When Cathie reached 7th grade, she, too, went to Wisconsin High, continuing in Madison until college. Five years later, Jeff went to the Riley School, stayed for six years, then went to the newly constructed Ridgeview School for one year and then to Mt. Horeb High School. Ervin was on the Riley School Board until, like all country schools, it closed. Helen took her turn, like other mothers, providing refreshments for the monthly euchre party. With the proceeds collected from card playing, they paid the school phone bill.

By 1981, they decided they had raised cattle long enough and took part in two auctions, one in Fennimore for the cattle and the other on the farm for the substantial amount of machinery they had acquired over the years. It was not the best of times for farmers then, since interest rates were as high as 20%.

In their growing up years, each child had a horse to ride. They even had a donkey. All three of the children showed a calf at the Dane County Junior Fair and won some prizes. Lots of children's parties were held at their farm. They had the pond for swimming and the barn with hay for climbing. They had an annual barn dance, scheduled for the first Saturday in June because the hay would be gone. They raised chickens and Helen had an egg route.

They had a variety of dogs, the last being beautiful Brook, a golden retriever, who died at 18. A kitten, Muffin, which came from a litter produced in the barn by a roving cat stayed with them for 19 years.

All of their children are married. Jeff has two children, is a stockbroker in the Seattle area and spends free time on family ski trips to Sun Valley, where he has



FAMILY HISTORIES

a second home. Cathie is a horticulturist and has a job with the University Arboretum caring for the campus natural areas. Mary has two children, is on the Columbia University Medical School faculty and is a practicing physician in New York City.

Erv and Helen who have long since retired, still live on the beautiful 185 acres, but have no animals. Over these past 40 years, they have seen lots of changes in Springdale, many of which make them apprehensive.

At this late age, they are in reasonable health, although Helen has late-blooming Multiple Sclerosis, which interferes with her gait, but she is still on her feet. They cherish their place at 8495 Highway PD in the Town of Springdale, and hope they can continue to live there. ●

JOHN COOK FAMILY

Submitted by Betty Cook Raimond

In 1853, John Cook purchased 40 acres of land that now border Highways PD and J. He purchased an additional 80 acres in 1859. This was adjoining property that borders Highway J and Paulson Road. The property is now owned by Al and Jean Freitag.

John, his wife, Margeth Ingles Cook, and daughter, Margeth, came from Scotland. John was born in the Highlands and Margeth was born in the city of Edinburgh. They were married in their native land and came to America in 1850. They had a son, William, born in 1852. John froze to death in December of 1865 returning from Verona in a blizzard. He went there for medicine for their daughter Margeth. He was 39. Their daughter, Margeth, died in March of 1866 at the age of 16.

Margeth rented the farm out for three years after her husband's death. Then 16 year-old William purchased a team of horses and took the responsibility of cultivating and managing the farm. In later years, he also engaged in the business of buying and shipping grain at Rileys Station.

William married Nancy Jane McCaughey. Her parents were James and Maria McCaughey, both natives of Ireland. They emigrated to America and located in the Town of Springdale. Nancy's father gave her and William a farm on the corner of Highways PD and J, across the road from the Brown farm, now owned by Steve and Denise Schwenn.

William and Nancy had nine children; Sarah Jane Krueger, John, James, William, Margeth Salmon, Marie Quale, Agnes Syvrud, Marjorie McDonald and an infant who died at birth.

William and John purchased the home farm and farmed it together until William married in 1928. William married Jessie Reed from Boscobel. Her daughter, Ruth, was three years old at the time. William and Jessie had five children, Kenneth, Betty Raimond, Shirley Gulvik, Audrey Theobald and Joyce Utter. They also raised Ruth's son, Richard.

William died in 1954, and Jessie kept the farm until 1966. She died in 1986.

"We all attended Riley School and high school in Mt. Horeb. Gayhart Steensrud taught at Riley School in 1936. He was my first grade teacher and I met him again at Mt. Horeb High School where he was a coach."

"That farm in Riley will always be my home. There are great memories there and at the Riley School. My father loved farming. His team of horses was his pride and joy. We never had running water in the house, but the cows had drinking cups in the barn." ●

MORGAN CURTIS FAMILY

Submitted by Elmer Magnuson

To trace possible descendants of Morgan Lewis Curtis, who in 1846, bought the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 15 in a township founded by him in 1848 and later called Springdale.

The Springdale census of 1850 lists:

- *Morgan Lewis Curtis, age 45*
- *Julia Curtis, his wife, age 21*
- *Anson, son by previous marriage, age 15 (died before 1860)*
- *James, son by previous marriage, age 12 (died 1855 and lies buried in the cemetery of the then Curtis farm)*
- *George, son by previous marriage, age 11*
- *(A son, Francis, died in 1849 at 1 year and 2 months and lies buried in the cemetery of the then Curtis farm)*

The Springdale census of 1860 lists:

- *Morgan Lewis Curtis, age 55 (he died in 1863 and lies buried in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery)*
- *Julia, age 31*
- *George, age 21*
- *Anson II, age 11*



- Theodore, age 9
- Theda E., age 8
- Mary F., age 6
- William S., age 4
- Geneva L., age 2
- Helenth, age 10 months

The Curtis farm was sold in August of 1881 to John Bride for \$400. Papers signed by the following:

- Julia A. McCord of Butler County, Kansas
- Anson C. and Abbie E. Curtis of Greene County, Iowa
- George G. and Martha Curtis
- Theda E. and Lewis N. Ellexson of Greene County, Indiana*
- William S. and Amanda Curtis
- Geneva L. and Frank Gordon
- Julia A. and Richard Letzker of Crawford County, Kansas
- Theodore D. and Josephine M. Curtis of Washington County, Nebraska**
- Emma and Ellis W. Stevens of Washington County, Nebraska
- Martha S. Curtis (single) of Woodbury County, Iowa
- James G. Curtis (single) of Wisconsin

*Florence Ellexson was married to John Blesdoe January 11, 1898, and Jessie A. Ellexson was married to William Wilson on April 16, 1905.

**In Omaha, near Washington County, there now lives Charles L. Curtis, 5904 N. 39th Street and Kathryn Curtis, 2717 Z Street. ●

OLE DAHL PIONEER FAMILY FARM

Submitted by Cora Bilse

Ole and Kari Dahl and their family were pioneer settlers in the Town of Springdale. Kari was born in Tin Telemarken, Norway. In 1850, she emigrated with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lars Stenson, to America.

Their farm was located in Section 20 on Highway 92. Ole died in 1894 and Kari died in 1925. They had seven children, Gunhild, Erick (who died young), Erick (who died at 6), Lewis, Carrie, Elisa (Mrs. Lewis Bang) and Betsie Ann (Mrs. Thore Spaanem).

The Dahl house has since been torn down and a new home built. ●

JOHN DENEEN FAMILY

Submitted by Marc Deneen

Before I write the history of the John E. Deneen family, my family, I think it is only fitting to give a short history of Patrick T. Dinneen and the Marlin Cleveland Webber families, the parents of John E. Deneen and May Bell Webber Deneen.

Patrick T. Dinneen, my grandfather, was born in County Cork, Ireland, in the early 1820s near the Town of Ballavarney. My grandmother, Ellen (Donavan) Dinneen, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, probably in the 1820s and came to this country prior to the arrival of Patrick T. They were married in Newberry Port, Massachusetts on October 7, 1849. It was possible they knew each other in Ireland, since the eastern boundary of County Kerry is adjacent to County Cork and only a short distance from the Town of Ballavarney. They lived for a short time in Newberry Port where he was a laborer. They left Newberry Port and settled in Janesville, Wisconsin. Later they moved to Blue Mounds. In 1859, they moved to a farm on Zwettler Road in the Township of Arena, in Iowa County, where he farmed until his death in 1910. Gramma Ellen died there in 1908. They are both buried in St. James Cemetery in the Township of Vermont.

They had the following children: Jeremiah (Jerry) 1854, Ellen (Lynch) 1857, Mary Ann (Tobin) 1861, Anna (Kiley) 1863, Daniel 1865, Patrick H. 1868 and John E. 1871.



Back row (left to right): John E. and Patrick H. Deneen. Front row (left to right): Anna Deneen Kiley, Ellen Deneen Lynch, Jerry Deneen and Mary Ann Deneen Tobin. Missing from the picture is Dan Deneen, 1925.



FAMILY HISTORIES

Marlin Cleveland Webber 1822-1900 Cynthia (Holden) Webber 1835-1914

The Webbers homesteaded and farmed in the Township of Primrose. Grandfather Webber served in the Civil War for the North. They had the following children: Rufus, who served in the Army in the Spanish-American War, Albertie (1859-1950), Henry, James, Alva S. (1876-1960), Orel (Webber) Pickard, Hannah (Webber) Lindsay, May Bell (Webber) Deneen (1880-1965), Willie (1894-1914).

The three male members of the Marlin Webber family who show dates are buried in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery.

Grandfather Webber was a second cousin to Grover Cleveland. The Webbers were of English origin, but my mother never claimed to be English. She always said she was Yankee and Irish (this was probably in respect for my Dad's feelings toward the British).

John Edward Deneen Family

John E., in his young days, was a buttermaker. May Bell Webber was a school teacher. She graduated from Mt. Horeb Academy and taught at the Klevenville School. Somewhere around the late 1800s, John E. Deneen was a buttermaker at the Klevenville Creamery. I understand that they both roomed at the same establishment. The story has been told that my mother, a tall, slim young lady, had her doubts about the buttermaker in the same house. The buttermaker could hear her in the evenings moving the furniture around the room, probably to block the door. However, that did not last long. The short little 135-pound Catholic buttermaker married the beautiful, slim

Baptist school teacher on July 3, 1900. The following is the result of that union: Ruth Deneen Donahue (1901-1976), Marlin (1901-1929), Juanita Deneen Connor (1904-1980), Vivienne Deneen Martin (1906-), Cynthia (1909-1914), Edward (1910-1986), Eunice Deneen Kevern

(1919-), William (1916-1992), Esther Deneen Walsh (1918-), Mary Eileen Deneen Dean (1922-1975), Doris Deneen Trader (1923-) and Marc D. (1925-).

Shortly after they were married, my dad and mother moved to Pine Bluff, probably because there was more available housing for rent in Pine Bluff. But, since Riley was becoming such a metropolis, and there was a new creamery there, built by the man who ran the general store, John E. Brown, there was an opening for a buttermaker. My dad moved to Riley, bought 6½ acres of land just west of the general store and adjacent to the creamery. I do not know if the house was on the property or not, but the main part is still there. My dad moved in some other buildings and attached it to make more room, and that is where the last 10 children were born.

A short time later, the railroad was looking for someone to work on their water supply system for the steam engines operating on the west end line, operating through Riley to Lancaster, Wisconsin and Galena, Illinois.

John Deneen got the job of servicing the windmills and pumps, traveling on the west end where needed. He gave up the buttermaking trade at that time. About 1906, he got the job of Railroad Agent at Rileys Station, which he held until the position was discontinued some time in the 1920s.

In 1923, Mr. John E. Brown built the brick house in Riley next to his general store. Mr. Brown died in 1925. My dad and his sister, Mary Ann Tobin, who had been recently widowed, purchased the brick house from Mrs. Brown in 1927. My aunt, Mrs. Tobin, had the right to live there with us until she died. She passed away in 1933 at the age of 72.

Our family was not without tragedy or heartaches. In 1929, Marlin, at age 27, drowned while swimming in the Mississippi River at Galena Junction Beach, southwest of Galena, Illinois. Cynthia died in 1914 at the age of 5. Our mother had nearly died of blood



The John Deneen Family pictured on John E. and May Bell Deneen's 25th wedding anniversary.



FAMILY HISTORIES

poisoning while pregnant with Cynthia. She was never a strong, healthy baby. Juanita Deneen Connor had two boys and a girl and lived on a farm southwest of Galena. In the 1920s, their younger son, David, 7, and their daughter, Marleen, 3, died just one month apart due to pneumonia. On March 5, 1945, their son, John, was killed in Germany. He was serving with the 8th Armored Division as a tank driver during World War II.

Another member of our family, Mary Eileen Deneen Dean, suffering from cancer, died in 1975 at the age of 53.

All three of the males left at the time during World War II served in the military. Edward joined the Navy in 1929, retiring in 1949, living mostly in the San Diego, Los Angeles area of California. He was serving on a battleship during World War II and was just one day out of Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombed on December 7, 1941. William (Bill) joined the Army June 1, 1940. He was given a Field Commission in 1943 and was assigned to the Combat Medical Group. On D-Day, his unit was assigned to the 5th Engineers Special Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division and was among the first to land on Omaha Beach. Although he was in combat only a short time, he was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf and French Croix DeGuerre medals.

Last, and probably least, I joined the Army on August 23, 1944. I went to Radio School at Camp Crowder, Missouri. They closed the school out when they thought they were losing the battle when the Germans broke through the lines at the Battle of the Bulge in December, 1944. I then went to Camp Livingston, Louisiana, for a refresher course in Infantry Combat and was shipped overseas on the Queen Mary to Scotland. From Scotland, I went to Southhampton by train, nonstop. I took a boat across the channel to LaHavre, France, through replacement depots from LaHavre to Roermond, Holland. I then crossed the Rhine River with the 5th Armored Division as a private in the 47th Armored Infantry. I got blown off a tank on April 11, 1945. I made my way through Army hospitals in Europe, England and the United States. My last one was at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, on January 26, 1946.

I have lived in Riley all my life with the exception of a few years after I got married. I retired from the railroad in 1986, after 43 years of service. Life has been good to me, and I hope I can remain in Riley in the brick house until I shut my eyes for the last time.

I have been advised to go a little further into my family and the families of my brothers and sisters, but at the time, I think this is far enough. Perchance there may still be some member of the John E. Deneen family still in Springdale 50 years hence; that will be their duty to write about the family — I will have given them a good start.

Your friend and neighbor, Marc D. Deneen ●

NELS DOCKEN FARM

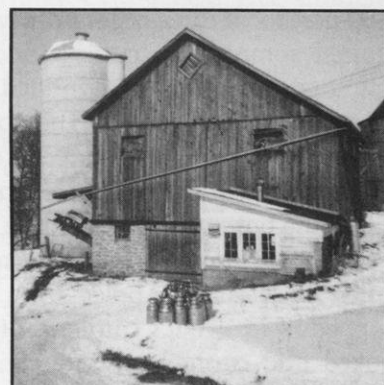
Submitted by Norma and Elmer Baker

Elmer and Norma Baker bought the farm from Helen Docken in 1962. The farm joined land with Baker's "Progressive Dairy Farm" to the north.

Several young couples rented the farm until it was sold to the Baker's daughter

Cindy and her husband, Fritz Mani, in 1988. Cindy became sole owner of the farm in 1992 and eventually sold the buildings and 15+ acres to Paul Hodgson, Jr. in 1995.

Cindy and her husband, Chris Hanson, built a new home to the east of the buildings keeping the rest of the farm. This is where they presently live with their family. ●



Docken Farm, 1963.



Docken Farm, 1963.



FAMILY HISTORIES

ADOLF EBERHARDT FAMILY

Submitted by Edna Aavang

Adolf Eberhardt was born January 11, 1852. When he was 40 years old, working at the Engen Cheese Factory, he had a slow time of milk and decided to go back to Mettlen, Switzerland in 1892. He met a young lady 20 years old. He convinced Helena Mehrlich to come to America with him. When they arrived in New York, in pouring down rain, he could not take her off the ship. Since she was so much younger than Adolf, it was thought that he was kidnapping her. So, they were married in the rain on April 7, 1893.

He made cheese for many years when he purchased a 160-acre farm three miles from Mt. Vernon. The land required some wood cutting and clearing of land. Fortunately, there was a spring-fed creek near the barn and water for the livestock. The house was of logs that had been added to, but not nearly enough for the family of seven. So, more rooms were added. A factory was built in the basement of the house. The basement consisted of three large rooms. In one room was storage for garden vegetables. Apples from the orchard were wrapped in last year's catalogs. Meat of all kinds was smoked and canned any way that it could be preserved.

Another large room was for the furnace, which heated the house and kept the basement warm enough to keep above freezing so nothing would spoil, wood would be kept dry and, most of all, the cellar was warmed for making cheese. In the cellar was a large copper kettle to hold the milk and make the cheese. A steam boiler was used to heat the milk and all the tools connected with making and stirring the milk. There was a water supply for cleaning the tools, as well as the floor, which was kept spotless.

The additions to the house were constructed and the logs covered with sheeting because in those days it was frowned upon as not being modern. The additions included a living room, downstairs bedroom, kitchen, summer kitchen and pantry. The summer kitchen was used for storing clothes, boots and, also, for baths in a wash tub. In addition, a second story had to be built for the bedrooms for a growing family. There were several rooms there under the roof. There was a screen porch on the east side of the living room and another porch on the side of the house. By 1913, there were 10 children and their parents living on this farm.

Adolf Eberhardt, along with other farmers, decided they needed a church. They constructed a very nice church in Mt. Vernon where the preacher was required to preach English and German. Adolf was a charter member. The church is still active.

A farmer approached Adolf about an 80-acre farm bordering each of their farms. This was the Monum place that contained 40 acres, and a house adjoining Adolf's land, and the other 40 joined land with Lingard's farm. So, the deal was made and Eberhardts then had 205 acres. It was then that the house was moved to the north of the present buildings of the Eberhardt farm. He then split the farm in two parcels. The one with the original buildings contained 95 acres. The new farm had 105 acres. The house was moved over a mile to the new farm across a creek and over other obstacles. It was all done on time with round logs between them and the house floor. Moving it was done with a team of horses and a winch to pull it along. After setting up all the timbers, the horses walked in a circle to pull the house along with the use of a rope. After the basement was done, the house was moved onto it.

Then there was the need for other buildings to be built. A barn, chicken house, log house, machine shed, wood shed, and, of course, an outhouse were built.

In 1921, John Bigler and Bertha Eberhardt rented this farm. Later, they bought the farm. They cleared a lot of land to have more crop land. The Bigler family lived there for 20 years. A daughter and son were born there.

The farms today belong to Marty and Peggy Martin and Wayne and Leona Syvrud on Town Hall Road. ●

HARLAND AND NONA ERFURTH FAMILY

Harland Erfurth's great grandfather, Carl "Charlie" Erfurth, homesteaded the original Erfurth farm, east of Mt. Vernon. It was later farmed by Herman, Harland's grandfather, then his father, Gerald.

Nona Moore's paternal grandmother, Lillian Brader Moore, was the daughter of Alfred C. and Ella Chandler Brader. Ella was the daughter of John T. and Aprinda Foye Chandler, all well-known residents of the area.



FAMILY HISTORIES

The merger of these two long-time Mt. Vernon families occurred on May 12, 1956, when Harland Erfurth (born 3/24/35 to Gerald and Frieda Goeldner Erfurth) married Nona Moore (born 12/17/35 to R. Earl and Elsie Scheidegger Moore) in Mt. Vernon.

They established their first home in the house owned by his parents on the corner of Highway 92 and Davis Street in Mt. Vernon. A few years later, they moved to the Erfurth farm home east of town. In 1965, they moved to the brick home they had built on the hill overlooking Mt. Vernon, where they still reside.

Harland and Nona are parents of four children: Kay Gladys (2/21/57), Jay Harland (10/24/58), Gay Robert (11/10/60) and May Evelyn (11/10/63). Kay (Mrs. Mitchell Compton) is the mother of Erica Marian Dill (12/19/81) and Dustin Harland Dill (5/9/83). Jay married Diana Hagen and they are the parents of Alex Jason (7/14/87). Diana also has a son, Scott Schwartz (3/27/67), who is married to the former Dawn Warren. They have two sons, Benjamin Warren (12/18/95) and Dylan Scott (5/5/97). They live in the Milwaukee area. Both Kay's and Jay's families reside in the Madison area. Gay married Marijean Hill, and they are the parents of twins, Jacob Robert and Jaimee Renee (4/8/92). They reside in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. May married Gregory McKinney, and they are the parents of Jason Paul (3/14/90) and Adam Michael (8/2/93). They reside in West Salem, Wisconsin.

Extended family includes Harland's sister, Geraldine Evelyn Erfurth (1/19/39), who married Gerald T. Trainor on May 12, 1959. Nona has two brothers, Richard Earl Moore (12/31/40), who married Karen Avant on September 5, 1964, and resides in Mt. Horeb, and Ronald Robert Moore (4/12/44), who resides near Mt. Vernon on a part of the original Moore farm.

Harland has owned and operated a blacksmith shop/service station business in Mt. Vernon since 1956. He began his operation in the old blacksmith shop, formerly owned by Minor Marty, and in 1959, purchased the garage on the corner of Highway 92 and Davis Street from Orville Showers. In 1970, his brother-in-law, Gerald Trainor, became his partner and the business became known as Erfurth-Trainor Citgo. After Harland's father died in 1976, they purchased his bulk delivery service, known as Jerry's Bulk Service, and continue to operate it as another phase of their business.

Harland has served as treasurer of the Mt. Vernon Park Board and is presently serving as president of the Mt. Vernon Cemetery Board. He also serves on the

Memorial Committee of the Zwingli United Church of Christ in Mt. Vernon. In the late 1960s, and early 1970s, he was a member of the Mt. Vernon Tug-O-War Team, which erected the shelter house in the Mt. Vernon Park in 1971. Playing softball and bowling have long been favorite sports of Harland's. He has served as president of the Mt. Horeb Golf Bowl City League for many years. He was the owner of the first snowmobile in Mt. Vernon, in 1968.

In addition to bookkeeping responsibilities for Harland's business, Nona began serving as the Town of Springdale Treasurer in 1967, and continues in that position today. She has served as church pianist and organist at Zwingli United Church of Christ in Mt. Vernon, and at Mt. Horeb Evangelical Free Church, where she is presently employed as part-time church secretary. For the past 27 years, she has taught piano privately. Over 140 young people and adults are numbered among her present and former students. Presently, she serves as a regional representative for Stonecroft Ministries, an international outreach organization headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri. Both Harland and Nona are avid supporters of this ministry, along with several others, including the local Young Life chapter, which they established in the mid 1970s. ●

JOHN AND MARTHA EGGUM FAMILY

John L. Eggum was born June 10, 1829, in Lekangen, Sogn, Norway. He emigrated to America in 1859. It took 12 weeks for the little sailboat he came on to cross the Atlantic Ocean. He first came to Norway Grove, Dane County, Wisconsin. In 1865, he was married to Martha Eggum (no relation). In the spring of 1868, he and his brother-in-law, Mons Berdahl, together bought the Bill Dryden farm in Springdale, where he lived until his death in 1904. His wife passed away in 1896. Nine children were born to them, two girls and seven boys. All have passed away; Ben Eggum, the last of the family passed away June 7, 1986.

John Eggum was an ardent reader and a charter member of a library started in Mt. Horeb, as well as the Mt. Horeb Academy when it was built. He was School Clerk for nine terms, Church Trustee and Town



FAMILY HISTORIES

Treasurer for many years. He took great interest in church affairs, as well as the betterment of social conditions in the community. ●



John and Martha Eggum family. Standing in back (left to right): Herman, Ole, Lewis and Carrie. Front row (left to right): Joseph, Martha, Andrew, John L., Eric and Susie. Ben not yet born

CARL ERB, JR. FAMILY

Submitted by Doris Daniels and Marian Schey

The Ed Erickson farm on Kelly Hill Road was purchased in 1939 by Carl and Eleanor Erb. The farm had electricity at the time of purchase. They had a dairy operation, along with hogs and chickens. Carl also did custom work with his machinery. His favorite piece of machinery was the threshing machine. He had two threshing routes, one in the neighborhood, and the other in Primrose township. With his sawmill, he sawed the lumber for the buildings he built on the farm. He was one of the first to have a two-man chain saw, owned jointly with Stanley Weise, a neighbor. In 1940, the Erbs purchased one of the first combination refrigerator/freezers that Sears and Roebuck sold.

Eleanor grew huge vegetable and flower gardens, along with a large strawberry and red raspberry patch. She canned and froze the fruits and vegetables they ate. She made homemade soap with lye and tallow from the cattle they butchered. Most all the clothes for their two daughters, Doris and Marian, were hand-made. Her hobbies were quilting, knitting, crocheting

and, in later years, making crafts with Vi Ryan from Mt. Vernon.

Carl lived his entire life in Springdale, with the exception of one year when they moved to Verona. The farm is owned by the family. Eleanor lives at Ingleside Health Care Center in Mt. Horeb and Carl is deceased. ●

FRED ERB, SR. FAMILY

Submitted by Doris Daniels

In 1899, Fred Erb, Sr. and Katherine Erb purchased a 160-acre farm from Albert Gausmann. The farm is located on Erb Road, which is named after the family. The Erbs came from Diemtigen, Switzerland, Canton Bern, at a young age. There were five children in the family, Fred, Jr., Anna, John, Lena and Carl.

In the 1920s, the Erbs had the first electricity in the neighborhood, powered by a Delco plant. It was an engine-like generator that was operated in the basement of the farm house.

Fred, Sr. was a cheesemaker by trade and made his own cheese on the farm. The building is used today as a tool shed. They also had several bee hives and extracted honey, along with raising geese and ducks, which they butchered and sold in time for the holidays. The down feathers were used for feather ticks and pillows.

Fred, Jr. moved to Verona, and later to Belleville. Anna married and moved to Postville. John, Lena and Carl remained in Springdale on the farm. After the death of Fred, Sr., John and Lena took over the farm and continued the dairy operation. John and Carl





FAMILY HISTORIES

crushed lime and operated the gravel pit, which was located on the farm, and is now owned by Roger Ringgenberg. Carl married Eleanor Hellpap, the hired girl, and moved to the farm on Kelly Hill Road. The dairy operation ended around 1955, when John was killed in a car accident. After Lena's death, Carl and Eleanor took over the farm and sold 80 acres to Bill and Elizabeth Ringgenberg. Later, they sold 30 acres to Roger and Marian Ringgenberg. Norbert and Diane Scribner and family lived in the farm house for 13 years.

Today, the 43-acre farmette is owned by Beecher and Doris Daniels, granddaughter of Fred, Sr. and Katherine Erb. The farm house, barn and buildings have been restored. The farm has been in the family for close to 100 years. ●

PHILIP ESSER FAMILY

Submitted by Delores Esser

The Philip Esser farm, located at 8854 Offerdahl Road, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin lies directly east of the Springdale Town Hall. It is composed of 163 acres with Offerdahl Road running down the center of the acreage. This farm has only been in four different families since it was purchased from the U.S. Government in 1841 by Jonathan Dryden. It was in the Dryden family for 60 years, until 1901. It was then purchased by Ed Offerdahl. He lived there for 26 years, leaving in 1927. Then Halvor J. Bang became the owner. This farm was rented by Lowell and Delores Hanson when we came to rent it in February, 1954, as newlyweds.

Our older daughter, Debra, was born January 28, 1955, and exactly four weeks to the day, Philip was drafted into the Army, leaving me with a farm to run and a new baby to take care of. I managed with hired help for 14 months, when I got Philip out on a hardship discharge. It was quite a challenge. I had never lived a day on a farm before I got married, and after living there only one year, I had to take over.

Philip returned to the farm in April, 1956, having spent the last nine months in Germany. Our son Kevin was born the following January. In November, 1957, we bought the farm from the Halvor J. Bang estate.

In September, 1958, our younger daughter, Marla, was born. As the family grew, Philip kept renting more work land.

Then we started building up our farm. The large corn crib was built in 1960. The lumber was sawed from our woods, and Philip designed the crib and built it. The first addition we put on the barn was put on in 1962. We also built our first Harvestore (20x50). In 1966, we put up the large machine shed west of the barn and also the second Harvestore (20x60). In 1968, we got our new home, which I had designed. It was built by Howard Strassman and Philip's brother, James Esser. In 1969, the third Harvestore (20x30) was erected. The second addition was put on the barn in 1971. The big calf barn was put up in 1979, but was destroyed by fire in January of 1994. We have invested a lot of money in this farm, but we also put a lot of hard work into it, too. We were a great team.

The 62+ acres that we own on Erb Road were rented by us from John Swineburne in 1971. According to the abstract, this farm located in Section 26, near the corner of Highway G and Messerschmidt Road was bought from the U.S. Government by Josiah Matts in 1849. In 1850, it was sold to John F. Morig (Morick). In June, 1884, it was transferred to Robert Morig, a son. It was sold in September of 1886 to Gustav Herring, and in March of 1900, a son, Abert Herring inherited it. In October of 1900, it was sold to Fritz Pokmaier. Fritz Pokmaier only had it until March 10, 1903, when it became the property of Herman Lust. At the death of Herman, his son Irvin Lust became the owner (1914). For the next 48 years, it stayed in the Lust family until 1962. Irvin died and left the farm to this nephew Lawrence Thies, and he became the new owner in 1963. Lawrence was single, and he only lived six years after that, dying in December of 1969. He left it to his brothers, Alvin and Leonard. In March, 1970, it was sold to Rueben and Mary Zahler and Burr and LaMae Weiland. They, in turn, sold it on a land contract to Hugh and Maria McNaughton and after nine months or so, they must have decided they didn't want it because in October of 1971, it was sold to John and Lillian Swineburne.

In December, 1975, Philip bought 40 acres. John Swineburne had developed quite a few 10-acre lots directly above this piece of land. The other 22+ acres were bought by me, Delores Esser, in May, 1981.

It is on these acres that our son, Kevin, built a new log house in 1991. Next door, we decided to build a new home. It was started in May, 1995. We moved into it in July of 1996. The project was done mostly by Kevin, Philip and me. It means so much to be able to look at your home and realize how much time, work



FAMILY HISTORIES

and love that went into it. The hearthstone in the living room was the large stone above the door in the old stone house that we tore down after we built the new house on the farm.

None of our children were interested in becoming farmers, so we had to rely on hired help from 1976 to 1993. On May 1, 1993, we rented our barn and house trailer and sold our cows on a land contract to our neighbor's son, Doug Syvrud, and his wife, Laurie.

In the spring of 1994, we had rented our work land on Erb Road and Offerdahl Road to Tom and Kory Kalscheur, who are still renting it.

We are planning on selling our house and 10 acres of land to the people who are leasing our house at present.

Our children are living in different places now. Our older daughter, Debra, lives in Oregon, Wisconsin, with her husband, Alvin Jeffson. Both are 20+ year employees of Wisconsin Power and Light. Debra just accepted a new position, Cash Specialist, in December, 1997. They have two children, a son, Jeremy, who is a freshman at Madison Area Technical College (MATC), and a daughter, Tia, who would have been a junior at Oregon High School, but left in August of 1997 to be a foreign exchange student in Jaraqua Do Sol, Brazil. She is expected to be back home in July of 1998.

Kevin, our only son, is a contractor specializing in log homes. He lives next door to us. Marla, our baby, lives in San Diego, California. She sells real estate and has a degree in Interior Design. ●

HARVEY B. FARGO FARM

Submitted by Verna Fargo

Horiato and Hanna Fargo came to Wisconsin from Fairview, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1854. There were 12 children in the family. Harvey, John and Ralph, came with them and they purchased the Thomas Bently land in Section 30, in Springdale township. This was the first farm in this section.

The land was mostly timber and had many black walnut trees. These were cut and the logs were sold for making furniture.



Horatio and Hanna Fargo.

This was their income until 1887, when they opened a lime kiln, which used heated limestone until it crumbled into a powder that was used in the same manner as cement. This was used for building purposes. It did not stand the changes in temperature, but served its purpose until cement was made. People came from miles around to the Fargo Lime Kiln to get their lime for building purposes.



Picnic at Lime Kiln.

They later opened the rock quarry and the buildings on the farm were built of stone. Harvey always told how the stone in the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pine Bluff came from the Fargo Quarry. The buildings on the farm were a smokehouse, barn and hog house; but the most unusual structure on the farm was called the creamery, which was used for making butter and maple syrup. It has a first floor of quarried stone and a second floor of timber construction. An imposing chimney of stone and firebrick stretches from ground to roof line on one end of the structure. The brick for the chimney came from the lime kiln. The stone from the quarry was tested for making tombstones, but it did not hold up. The quarry was leased out and reopened in 1946. The farm was also used as a dairy farm.

In the early years, the Indians came from the north and made their wigwams in the Fargo Valley. The boys, Harvey and Ralph, played with the Indian children, and they taught the boys to hunt and fish.

In March, 1894, Harvey married Maria White McCaughey, who was the daughter of George McCaughey from Riley. He brought his bride to the Fargo Farm, where they spent their entire life. They had four children, Preston, Eunice, George and Wallace. When Wallace married



FAMILY HISTORIES



Harvey B. Fargo.

Doris Hodgson in 1933, he brought his bride to the Fargo Farm. Doris still lives on the farm.

Harvey was one of the township's most progressive leaders. He was Town Chairman, on the Dane County Board, a member of the Malone School Board and a promoter of many farm organizations.

The scene in the valley today is one of peace and rustic beauty, leaving only the remnants of a business and farm, a monument to persons who once labored there, hidden from public view, with the exception of a town road marker, which simply states, "Fargo Road." ●



Pictured (left to right): Wallace, George, Preston and Eunice Fargo.

THE ANTON FIELD FARM

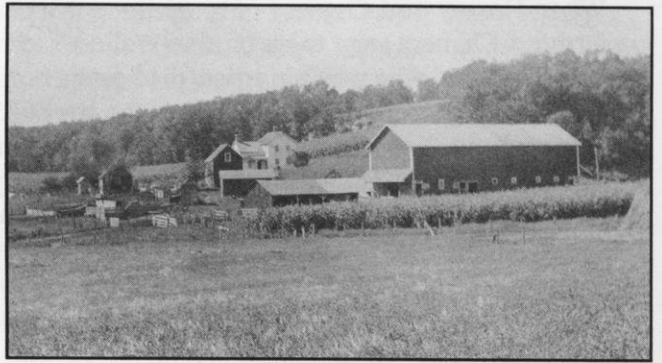
Submitted by Eunice Field Bakken

Anton Field was born October 7, 1857, in Bang, Southern Aurdale, Valdres, Norway. He emigrated to America in 1883 at the age of 26. He first made his home with the Ole Bakken family in the Klevenville area.

His parents, Christopher and Sigried Fjeld, along with his sisters and brothers came to America in 1885, and made their home in the Mt. Horeb area.

Anton was a stone mason and bricklayer, working with Ole Bakken, Ole Rockstad and Iver Kleven in construction of many area homes and buildings. He was among those who built the Pine Bluff Catholic church. He later built the original Springdale Town Hall on land donated from his farm.

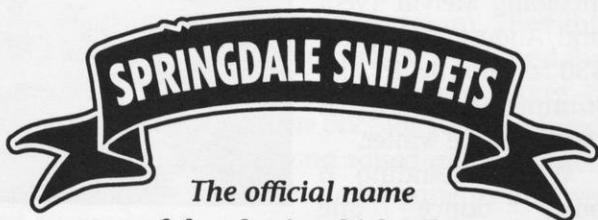
On February 16, 1891, Anton and Inger Erickson were married at the Gunderson parsonage by Reverend S. Gunderson. They resided in Mt. Horeb until October, 1899, when they purchased the farm on Town Hall Road, known then as the "Lindelein Farm." The family, at that time, consisted of Clement, Edgar and Harvey. Ethel (Clarence) Syvrud, Wallace and Julia (Clifford) Syvrud were born on the farm.



Anton Field farm, early 1900.

As mentioned earlier, it was at this time Anton donated land and built the original Town Hall. This gift had stipulations, quoting from the deed, "This is given for the purpose of being used for town hall purposes and if ever discontinued for that purpose, it shall revert back to the original owners." It also stated that "said premises shall never be used for dancing in any form." The present town hall is also on land purchased from the Field farm.

Anton and Inger farmed here until 1920, when they moved to their home in Mt. Horeb. Anton Field passed



The official name
of the plat in which Riley
was located was "Sugar River Station."



FAMILY HISTORIES



Anton Field farm, 1937.

away in July of 1947 at the age of 89. Inger continued living at their home until her death in January of 1958 at the age of 87.

Harvey Field had entered military service in 1918, during World War I, and served in France as Military Police. He returned from duty in 1919. On October 28, 1919, he married Rosena Thorson at Springdale Lutheran Church. In 1920, they, along with Harvey's brother, Clement, bought the farm from their parents.

They were good farmers and were one of the first farmers in the early 1930s to have a Delco light plant. In 1937, an easement was granted to Wisconsin Power and Light to cross their land and bring electric power to the countryside. Harvey was a staunch supporter of the Farm Bureau and could foresee the need for contour practices and proper use of fertilizer.

When Harvey and Clement gave up the dairy part of farming, Clement went to his brother Wallace's farm to help. Clement, who never married, died as the result of an auto accident in January of 1968 at the age of 75.

Harvey and Rosena had seven children, Doris (Russell) Marquardt, Eunice (Marvin) Bakken, Wesley, Dawn (who died in a farm accident when she was one year old), Roger, Verna (Richard) Sharp and Vivian (Richard) Means. All of the "kids" were born on the farm, and all attended Springdale Center School, which their parents had also attended.

Harvey and Rosena continued to farm the land until March of 1958, when Harvey was stricken with a



fatal heart attack at the age of 61.

Rosena moved to an apartment in Mt. Horeb. A son, Wesley, rented the farm until 1969. Thereafter, the house was maintained as rental property and the land rented to Wayne and Leona Syvrud. In 1972, a "tornado force" wind destroyed the barn full of hay and cattle. Some of the cattle were killed, others were removed by volunteers, using chain saws and tractors. A large steel barn was built in its place.

Rosena maintained possession of the farm until her death in April of 1990 at the age of 92. To settle the estate, the 210-acre farm was sold to M. L. Richardson. For 91 years, this had been the "Field Farm." ●

WALTER FRYE FAMILY

Submitted by Elizabeth Chapman

Walter's parents, Christian (1858-1944), and Mary (1877-1918) Frei, came to the United States from Switzerland and were married in 1897. Christian was a cheesemaker in the Monroe area for two years before he started farming. He and Mary were the parents of six boys and six girls. Walter was born September 2, 1915. His mother passed away when he was three years old. He attended schools in Attica, near Evansville, Dayton and Monticello. At 12, he lived with his oldest brother, John, and drove the Model T Ford (Flivver) to Monticello to school and to haul milk. In 1930, he came to the Mt. Horeb area to live with his brother Bill. He worked as a hired man for farmers in the area, including Melvin Tvedt and August Becker, for \$30 a month in the summer and \$15 a month in the winter.

While attending a barn dance one evening, he met his future wife, Leona. On



Walter C. Frye and Leona Gausmann married on December 18, 1935.



FAMILY HISTORIES

December 18, 1935, Walter married Leona (1916-1993) Gausmann at Perry Lutheran Church in Daleyville. The Reverend I. A. Lavik performed the ceremony. Her parents were Carl (1890-1940) and Caroline (1894-1973) Gausmann. Leona was born in Primrose township. She attended schools in the New Glarus area and graduated from Mt. Horeb High School in 1934. Walter and Leona lived with her parents on the Dahl farm on Highway 92 (presently Charles Shaefer), where their first daughter, Elizabeth Ann, was born on December 10, 1936. In 1937, they rented the Tom Ayen farm by the Springdale Lutheran Church (presently William Meylor). Their next move was to the Lottie Edseth farm on County Trunk JG (presently Glenn Schwoerer) in 1939, where their second daughter, Darlene Gelaine, was born on April 6, 1940.



Standing (left to right): Elizabeth, Darlene and Carla. Seated (left to right): Leona, Walter and Charles.

The price for milk at this time was \$1.25 per cwt., hogs – 2 cents per lb., cattle – 3 cents per lb., eggs – 12 cents a dozen, flour – 5 lbs. for 25 cents, corn flakes – 15 cents, oatmeal – 5lbs. for 25 cents, candy or gum – 3 pks/10 cents, overalls – 98 cents, work shirts – 50 cents, work shoes – \$1.50, gasoline – 5 gal./\$1.00, cigarettes – 12-15 cents/pk.

When 1941 rolled around, they rented the farm owned by Ted and Sophia Lingard on Springdale Center Road (presently Donald Hartman). Their third daughter, Carla Joy, was born May 9, 1946, and their son, Walter Charles (Chuck), was born August 27, 1950. During those years, the price for 100 lbs. of chicken feed was \$1.75 and Leona raised many chickens. The chicken feed sacks had pretty patterns and were used to sew pinafores and dresses for the three girls. The price of milk now was \$3.50-\$5.00 per cwt. Walter also worked at Ellis Manufacturing in Verona.

In 1954, Walter and Leona purchased the “Cozy Wood Dairy Farm” at 2010 Springdale Center Road from Ray and Margaret Sims. They milked cows until 1967, when they decided to just raise beef. For three years, Walter drove bus for Mt. Horeb Schools, and he worked 10 years as a janitor in the Verona Area Middle School. Leona was employed at the Wisconsin Department of Taxation and as a secretary at St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Mt. Horeb. After farming for 56 years, they sold the farm to John and Mary Kellor in 1992 and moved to Verona where they purchased a home.

History of the farm:

1853 — Andrew Merritt

1863 — William Schettler

1895 — Sam Wittwer purchased 120 acres and enlarged it later by adding another 40 acres

1911 — Springdale Center Cheese Factory (presently owned by Don Bednarek)

1923 — Carl Wittwer

1927 — Sam Wittwer

1935 — Original farm house in valley burned down

1937 — Present farm house was built

1949 — Ralph Allain

1950 — Ray and Margaret Sims

Over the years, Walter and Leona were involved in many community activities. Leona was a member of the Springdale Center School Mothers' Club, Springdale Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, Ridgeview Building Committee, Portal Foster Board in Madison and the Dane County Junior Fair Superintendents. Walter was a member of the Springdale Center School Board, a Springdale township Supervisor for 27 years, Dane County DeKalb National Corn Growing Contest winner in 1945, Coach of 1951 Springdale 4-H Softball Team, Captain of Sugar River Euchre League for 15 years and a member of the Mt. Vernon Softball Team. Elizabeth, Darlene



Darlene and Carla Frye in the Mt. Horeb Centennial Parade, 1961



FAMILY HISTORIES

and Carla were active members of the Springdale 4-H Club for 20 years.

Their oldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Dale Chapman on July 7, 1956, and they live on Springdale Center Road. They have two sons, Kevin (5-19-66) and Kent (8-5-68). Kevin married Andrea Caddy. They are the parents of Weston (7-14-92) and Alyssa (5-27-94), and their home is in San Antonio, Texas. Kent resides in Franklin, Tennessee. The Frye's second daughter, Darlene, married James Groenier on April 14, 1962, and their home is in Oregon, Wisconsin. They have four sons, Scott (1-17-63), Jeffrey (9-11-64), Mitchell and Michael (10-13-67). Scott lives in Vernal, Utah. Jeffrey married Rebecca Bomkamp, and they are the parents of Christopher (10-8-92) and Charlie (2-11-95). They live in Oregon, Wisconsin. Mitchell resides in Delafield, Wisconsin. His twin brother Michael married Laura Krelwitz and their home is near Columbus, Wisconsin. The Frye's youngest daughter, Carla, married James Raatz on September 9, 1967. They have two sons, Benjamin (11-18-78) and Nicholas (10-1-81), and they reside in Middleton, Wisconsin. Walter and Leona's son, Chuck, lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

"Congratulations to the Town of Springdale on its 150th anniversary! Springdale Township, Dane County, Wisconsin, USA is a great place to live! Thanks for the memories." ●

BEN GOEBLER FAMILY

Submitted by Ben Goebler

Ben T. Goebler was born January 20, 1926 in Primrose township. Darleen (Trainor) Goebler was born December 24, 1930 in Springdale township. They married June 30, 1951 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Perry township. They have lived in Mt. Vernon for 47 years.

Ben was caretaker of the Forest of Fame Park in Mt. Vernon for 35 years. He was also president of the Park Board and a director. He was the assistant fire chief of the now defunct Mt. Vernon Fire Department.

Darleen worked as a nursing assistant at Four Winds Manor Nursing Home in Verona for 15 years. She has been with the A&W Family Restaurant for 11 years.

They purchased the Nelson/Gilden Factory residence in 1974. They operated a grocery and liquor

store named "The Shamrock Corner Quick Stop" in 1974. They closed the store in 1978. They still reside there and are now retired. They operated "Benny's General Store" in Mt. Vernon from 1952 to 1959.

Darleen and Ben have three children. Jeffrey Francis was born in September of 1956. He married Deborah Disch in November, 1983. He is employed at the Sub-Zero Freezer Company as a Service Technician Advisor. Debbie is an Optometric Technician at Group Health Cooperative. They reside in the Verona area. Joleen Mary Goebler Elsing was born in February of 1959. She married Daniel Elsing in October, 1992. Joleen is employed at Equifax in Middleton. Dan is a farmer. They reside in the rural Belleville area with their daughter, Rachel Darleen. She was born June 3, 1997.

Jennifer Renee was born in September of 1962. She is employed at Paine Webber, Inc. as a stockbroker. She resides in Madison. She is engaged to be married in April, 1999 to Kevin Helt of Ashton.

This family has a great love for and has many fond memories of Mt. Vernon and the Town of Springdale. ●

RICHARD AND MARLYN GRINDE FARM

Submitted by Richard and Marlyn Grinde

On October 2, 1854, the farm land, where Richard and Marlyn Grinde currently reside, was purchased from the State of Wisconsin by Axiom Malone. It was recorded on June 4, 1860, in the township of Springdale. The land remained in the Malone family for three generations, until 1930. Jim and Josephine Malone lost the farm while building the present brick house. The house was built in 1923 and 1924. In January of 1930, Richard Grinde and his wife, Elsie, purchased the farm at a Dane County Court House auction.

They were courageous to buy a farm at the time of the big depression. They started out with 17 milk cows, 5 heifer calves, 5 brood sows, 4 work horses, a Fordson tractor and some miscellaneous machinery. There were no fences on the property, a cow yard full of manure, and the lawn had never been landscaped. The farm consisted of 179.5 acres of land.

Stone from the quarry that is located on the farm was used to build the Malone School and the base of the Malone Cheese Factory. It was also used in con-



FAMILY HISTORIES

structing the Cy Burns Studio in Mt. Horeb, known at that time as a filling station.

In 1889, some of the land was loaned as an easement to build the Malone Cheese Factory, at that time, known as the Vernon Valley Cheese Factory. This is in the southwest corner of Section 29. In the northwest corner of the same section, the first Malone School was built.

The valley located behind the barn used to be an Indian camp. A number of artifacts, including arrowheads and projectile points, have been found in that area.

Richard and Elsie Grinde owned the farm until 1971, when the farm was sold to their son, Richard M. Grinde. Once Richard and Marlyn purchased the farm, they incorporated a number of conservation practices, including strip-cropping, tree planting and building waterways. In 1984, Trout Unlimited fenced the creek that runs through the property, enabling trout in Deer Creek to thrive by not letting the cattle disturb the creek.



Richard and Marilyn Grinde.

In 1996, six acres of land were sold to their daughter Lisa Grinde, and her husband, Glen Schult, to build a home. 1997 was the last year of milking cows since the farm's very beginning.

We enjoy living in the Malone area. We have been blessed with many beautiful neighbors, with whom we have worked, laughed and cried. We have acquired many lasting memories and friendships which we value highly. ●

JOHN HAAKNES

Submitted by Lucille K. Stugard McKee

John Haakness farmed about 230 acres in Section 31 on Lewis Road. John married Benora Jelle, date unknown. Benora was related to me on my great grandmother, Berit Syverud's, side of the family. Berit's sister, Marie, was Benora's grandmother. Marie's son, Knute #2 married Anna Dahlen. They were Benora's parents. I don't remember the year John died, but Benora lived to be 102.

John and Benora were my baptismal sponsors. ●

KARL HACKER FAMILY

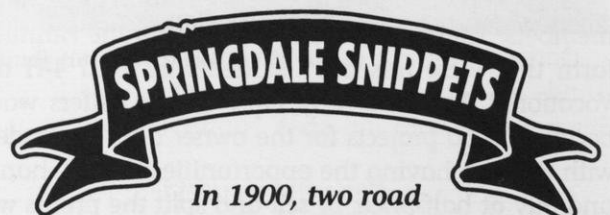
Submitted by Karl and Judy Hacker

The family of Melvin and Verna Brockmann Hacker moved from the Sauk City area to a farm owned by William and Paula Hefty on Highway G, in the Town of Springdale in 1963. They farmed there for three years with their children, Karl, David and Linda.

Karl Hacker and Judith Alt were married in 1964, and built a home on three-quarters of an acre of land across from the Hefty farm at 8050 Highway G. They have two daughters, Kristin, born in 1971, and Kari, born in 1973.

Karl has been active in town government for many years, beginning with his election as Town Constable in 1975. He was Town Chairman of Springdale from 1979 to 1987, then re-elected again in 1991, and is still serving in that position. He has also been a member of the Town Planning Commission, first from 1977 to 1987, then from 1991 to the present.

Karl and Judy added acreage over the next few years, bringing their total to 61 acres adjoining the original property. Karl farmed the acreage with his father for many years. He is currently renting out the land. ●



In 1900, two road graders were bought by Springdale



FAMILY HISTORIES

HAMILTON FARM

Submitted by Sharon Hamilton Theobald

The John and Ruth Hamilton Farm is located at 2808 Gust Road, Verona, Wisconsin. They began renting the farm from Richard Lietch on March 1, 1939, and purchased the 120-acre farm from the Lietch estate in March of 1942 for a price of \$7,500. They farmed this property with their children, Theresa (Herman) Gerhke, Robert (Joanne) Hamilton, Margaret (Edward) Ford and Sharon (Lane) Theobald until their retirement in March of 1976.



John graduated from the University of Wisconsin short course in Dairy Herd Management in 1935. He was very progressive in developing and maintaining a Registered Holstein Herd, which began with the purchase of a registered holstein heifer calf for Robert in 1946.

Over the years, the Hamilton children were all active in 4-H, collecting numerous blue ribbons at the Dane County and Stoughton Fairs, as well as Grand Champion ribbons at the Milwaukee State Fair. One of the last shows for John was parading a select 2 year-old heifer at the Kentucky National Black & White Show in Louisville in 1975. She placed 4th in her class and certainly was one of the highlights of the Hamilton's last years of farming.

John was very active in favoring young junior dairy members. There were many calves from the Hamilton farm that were raised by students in local 4-H and Vocational Agricultural groups. Donor heifers would become 50-50 projects for the owner and the student, with the kids having the opportunities to feed, handle and buy at half-price, or sell and split the profits with the owner. It was well-known that John was the only

farmer who would allow the kids to come in and "take their pick" of any calf that he had on the farm for their project.

John was a strong advocate for artificial breeding and developed his own "Jonenham" Registered Holstein line based on some of the most famous sires, including Pabst Comet, one of the greatest bulls of his time! When John first began artificial breeding, he paid \$5/service. In later years, he would pay up to \$100/service.

John was influential in forming the Tri-State Breeders Cooperative, and was one of the first members. He also served two three-year terms on the Board of Directors of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

In 1948, the Wisconsin Dairy Association began publishing the 500 or more pounds of butterfat/year herd average. By 1960, John had sold the last of his grade cattle and had reached his goal of being on that 500/year herd average list — once he attained that honor, he never missed! His herd bowed out with an average of 642 pounds of butterfat per cow when the cattle were sold in 1976. The Hamilton Farm was the location of one of the best herd averages in Dane County, as well as one of the best bloodlines of registered cattle.

As the Jonenham Registered Holstein Cattle became more and more well known in the 1960's, through recognition in the Holstein World magazine and the Holstein Registration Office of Brattleboro, Vermont, dairymen from all over the country began coming to the Hamilton farm to purchase cattle. DHIA records were excellent, and this brought Holstein breeders from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Japan, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Cuba (before Castro). Cattle were routinely flown to their new homes. It was a source of pride for the Hamiltons to be able to sell cattle abroad, as not all breeders were accredited to have their cattle shipped to other countries.

John also raised one of the largest Holstein cattle, weighing in at 2,170 pounds at a consignment sale. She was too large to fit comfortably in his small barn. She brought laughs from some Japanese men looking at her, as they were unable to see over the top of her. She was sold to an Argentinian buyer.

John and Ruth sold their cattle in 1976. Piper Sales Company from Lakes Mills, Wisconsin, contracted to handle the final dispersal. Advertising in the Holstein World and Wisconsin Holstein News was required. A catalog of pictures of the sale animals with all of their

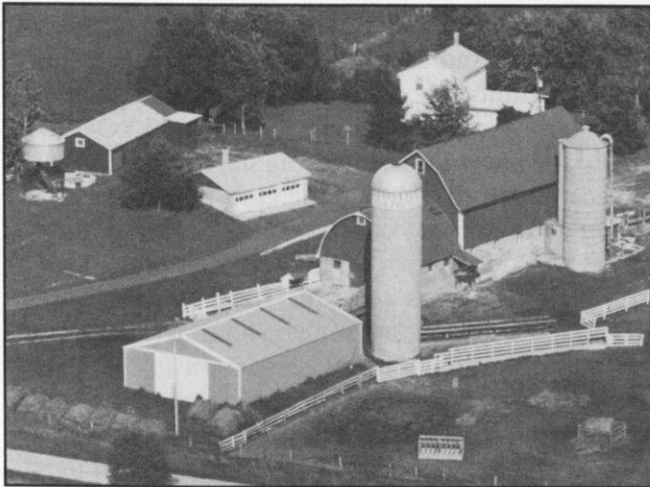


FAMILY HISTORIES

production statistics was produced by Piper's with a picture of the Hamilton Farm on the cover.

Several days before the sale, the huge loafing shed was cleaned, a professional sales arena was set up, with a raised sale circle sprinkled with generous wood shavings, waiting for the "dressed up" cattle to be led one by one into the arena for bidding. Piper Auction Service revealed later that the sale was one of their top dispersals ever held, with the top cow selling for \$5,000, a four-day old calf for \$400 and the top 30 cows averaging over \$2,000 each.

The farm machinery was sold the following year, and the land and buildings in 1978. This officially marked the end of the Hamilton Family Farm as a working dairy farm. The Hamiltons built a home on 40 acres across Highway PD, a portion of the farm which had been purchased by their daughter, Sharon, and her husband in 1966. John and Ruth built the home on an acre of land given back to them by the Theobalds with an option for them to purchase the home when they no longer wanted to live there.



Ruth developed Alzheimer's disease in the early 1980s and was living in Ingleside Nursing Home in Mt. Horeb from December 28, 1989, until her death on December 6, 1997. John sold the home to the Theobalds in 1995, and moved to an apartment in Mt. Horeb in 1996. He passed away on June 5, 1997.

The remaining 80 acres of the Hamilton farm was sold to a developer. Russell and Loretta Docken purchased the buildings and 10 acres, which is home to Docken Landscaping Company. A portion of the land bordering Highway PD is the home of a development named for the Hamiltons, "Hamilton Farm Meadows." ●

GERTRUDE HAUGEN 1821-1921

Submitted by Gertrude Kahl

Gertrude Guttenberg was born in Ettendel, Norway, on February 17, 1821. In 1849, she married Gulbrand Haugen. He passed away in 1875.

Two years later, at the age of 56, she came by sailboat, together with three of her four children, to America where she settled in Klevenville, Wisconsin.

One of her granddaughters, Bertha Skogstad, came to visit her grandmother and met Martin Skindrud. They were married and remained in Klevenville.

There are several great-grandchildren living in various parts of the country. One great-granddaughter, Gertrude Kahl, remains in Mt. Horeb.

In her later years, Gertrude Haugen's son, Ole, took care of her until she passed away in 1921 at the age of 100. She is buried in Springdale Lutheran Cemetery.

The Haugen home is located on Sletto Road, just off Highway P. The house was recently bought and remodeled by Walter Wirth. The present owners are Kevin and Debbie Hoffman. ●



Gertrude Haugen from Klevenville.



Gertrude Haugen's home in Klevenville.



DAVE AND RUTH HEFFRON

Submitted by Dave and Ruth Heffron

In 1969, we purchased one acre of land from Dan Lamb in Section 2 in the township of Springdale. This land was located at the junction of Highway J and North Riley Road. In 1971, we built our present home. We also bought one acre to the north of us. At that time, we paid \$2,000 per acre. That was expensive for that time. About 1975, we purchased another additional 7.5 acres from Jim Watts. We split that land with our neighbors, Jerry and Anne Mosser. We now both have a little over five acres. This property was originally part of the Richard Riley farm until it was sold in 1950.

In 1975, we adopted our first child, Michael David. In 1978, we adopted our daughter, Heidi. We still live in our original home. We have had a very good life in the township of Springdale. ●

MILTON HELGESEN

Submitted by Maxine Helgesen

In the year of 1937, Milton Helgesen moved his family from Madison to a house off of Highway 92, on the former Luverne Johnson (Harker) farm. One night the next year truly epitomized a city family's nightmare as the Stamm bull bellowed around the house.

Needless to say, country school, farm life and a country lifestyle fit us to a tee, and after buying the Kelly Hill Cheese Factory, north of Mt. Vernon, we proceeded to fill it with the other three children, Lynn, David and Beth. Their older brothers, Marv and Mel, with Sharon's help, made gardening, berrying and daily chores a busy time for all. McPherson School, Mt. Vernon, Zwingli Church, Verona High School and the New Glarus doctors, who occasionally made a house call for emergencies, rounded off this small corner of our world.

The Helgesens are still around, Maxine in the "House that Milt Built," David and family in Verona, and Beth Colello atop Sharpes Corners. ●

LINUS AND CHERE HELLENBRAND FARM

Submitted by Chere Hellenbrand

What was known as the Wittwer Brothers Farm became known as the Hellenbrand Brothers Farm in March of 1980. Linus Hellenbrand and his wife, Chere, and their five children, Gary, Carmen, Bryan, Ingrid and Raymond, along with Linus' brother, Clyde, then unmarried, bought the approximately 415-acre farm from the Wittwer Brothers.

At that time, the number of cows was around 60, with two small silos and two sheds. Within the next 10 years, the Hellenbrand Brothers added three new silos, replaced the brick block shed, added two combination loafing/machine sheds and added an addition to the main barn for an additional 30 cows. They also added pigs, sheep, chickens, geese, ducks and beagle dogs.

Clyde married his wife, Cindy, and they have three children, Angie, Monica and Kurt. In 1989, Linus bought out Clyde's half of the farm.

The orchard and marsh on the farm have provided many deerhunting experiences for the Hellenbrand family and friends. Today, in 1998, the milk cows are gone for the first time, but they are still raising beef cattle, feeder pigs and cropping the land, which has been reduced to around 385 acres. Another brother, Wilfrid, and his wife, Mary, own around 40 acres of the lower farm overlooking the orchard. Three private 2-acre parcels have been sold to families wanting to get away from the urban life, and six acres went to the Dane County Conservation League for the popular pheasant farm. In the near future, Linus' oldest son, Gary, is planning to build a home for his wife and soon-to-be family on part of a 40-acre parcel of the farm bordering County J. ●

JOE AND DORIS HELT

Submitted by Joe Helt

Doris and Joe Helt bought their farm just east of Riley on January 30, 1964, and moved onto it September 1, 1964. They bought the farm from James and Alice Rolstad, who, in turn, had bought it from Rueben and Meta Paulson just 11 years before.



FAMILY HISTORIES

It was from the Paulsons that Paulson Road received its name.

Doris and Joe raised four children who attended the one-room Riley School until it closed. They then went to Ridgeview Elementary School and they all graduated from Mt. Horeb High School. The Helt children are Rod, who is an architect, Laurie, who is a financial officer for the State of Wisconsin, Cheryl, a Sales Associate for ladies wear at J.C. Penney and Joanne, who is a manager of recycling grants for the Department of Natural Resources.

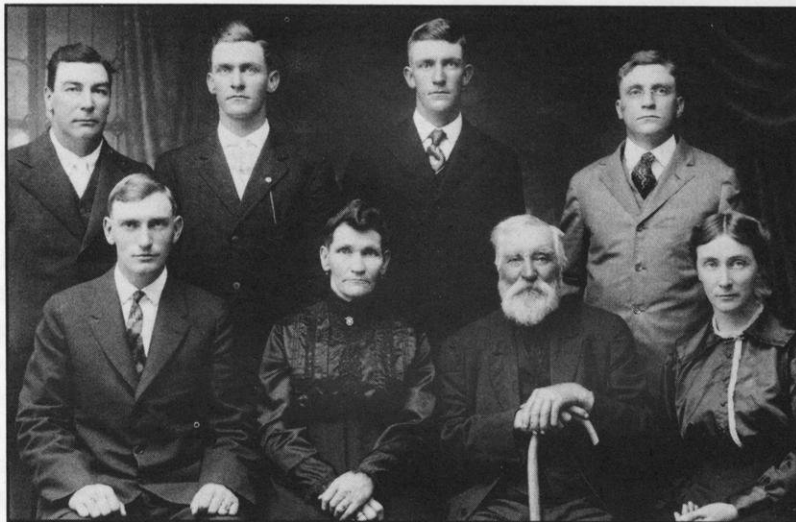
The Helts retired from farming in 1995 and still live in the house they built in 1969. There is a red barn on the Helt farm that was built with wood from the neighboring Goth farm. ●

THE ANDREW AND MARGARET HENDERSON HOMESTEAD

Submitted by Connie Jo Henderson Zwettler

This Scottish farmer and his family came to North America in 1854. They arrived in Quebec, Canada, and came to the United States by way of the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. They came to Madison, Wisconsin by rail. While his family waited at the depot, Andrew Henderson walked to Verona to buy a team of horses and a wagon for transportation. They first settled in Section 25, but soon bought property in Section 14.

Margaret Henderson died in 1859 at the age of 49, and left her husband with six children. Their son, Joseph R. Henderson, who was six years old when they arrived in Wisconsin, stayed in the area all of his life. His sister, Katherine, died when she was 16, and the other siblings moved to Minnesota and Nebraska.



Standing (left to right): Andrew, Forest, Lester, Joseph. Seated (left to right): Clarence, Maggie, Joseph R. and Mary.

Joseph R. married Margaret (Maggie) Nimmo of Springdale in 1876, the same year he became a citizen of the United States. The Nimmos had also emigrated from Scotland, and Margaret was born in Section 36 of Springdale township.

Citizenship was very important to Joseph R., and his love for his new homeland was expressed in poetry:

*"Come friends now and listen
While a song I will sing,
And pleasure to each one
I am sure it will bring
I will sing of my birthplace
And to my heart's filled with joy,
To say Wisconsin the state,
And I a true Badger boy."*

So wrote Joseph R. Henderson in his poem, "Song of the Wisconsin Boy," for the 50th anniversary of statehood in 1898. He was very proud of his adopted homeland, and even though he was not born here, he wrote for those who were.

Not only did he write poetry for special events of the community, but also to honor the people of the area for whom he had great affection.

Joseph R. served his community as Clerk of the School District for 21 years, a member of the Board of Supervisors for seven years and as a Chairman of the Town Board for four years. He also was the Town Assessor for five years and represented his district in the State Legislature for one term.

The building known as the Henderson School on Springdale Center Road still stands and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Topper. The Henderson Post Office

and Creamery, which no longer stands, was in the same area.

The Hendersons farmed 200 acres in Section 14, and with good fortune and plentiful hay, Joseph R. was able to trade hay stacks for additional parcels of 40 acres each. He acquired a total of 160 acres in the corners of Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14.



FAMILY HISTORIES

PAT HITCHCOCK FARM

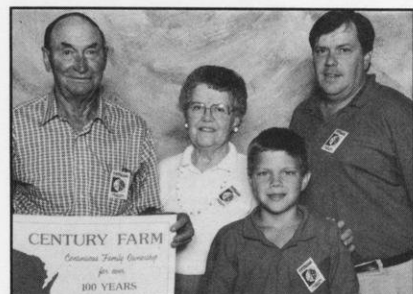
Submitted by Pat Hitchcock

Eight children were born to Joseph R. and Maggie. Their oldest son, Andrew, took over the original 200 acres when he married Springdale girl, Lizzie McCaughey. Joseph R. and Maggie moved to the 160 acres in the valley. They continued to live there even after their youngest son, Forest, took over the farm with his wife, Nora, and their three children, Myrtle, Norman and Donald.

Three generations under one roof was quite a challenge. Don Henderson believes his mother to be a saint, as she cared for her in-laws until their

deaths, worked outside on the farm as well as any of the men, and raised their children.

Says Don, "Because my grandfather, Joseph R., was so well-known, people



Don and Gertie Henderson with son Tom and grandson Mike Henderson.

were always stopping by to see him and hear his stories and verse. Mother always had extra people to feed. I never heard her complain."

The 160 acres in the valley is know as Scotch Lane Farm, and is the present home of Don and Gertie Henderson. They have three children, Karen Ranum of Mt. Horeb, Connie Jo. H. Zwettler of Blue Mounds and Tom of Mt. Horeb. ●



Standing (left to right): Connie Jo Henderson Zwettler, Tom and Karen Henderson Ranum. Seated (left to right): Gertie and Don Henderson.

With no homestead family records in my attic to make the writing of this history colorful, as well as factual, I turned to the only records I could find that might prove what happened on this farm in the last 100 years, the Abstract. And this is what I found.

Abstracts can stir your imagination, but they certainly aren't accurate, sequential, for the uninformed or easy to read. My first stumbling block came on the very first page when I couldn't make the picture (outline of the farm) that looked like the 140 acres we bought from Harold Larson in 1967 match the description. The northeast quarter and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter and all the other quarters didn't add up. Sometimes the entries listed the acreage. Sometimes they didn't. As I moved down through the Final Judgments, the Satisfactions, Mortgages, Foreclosures and the Certificates of Descent, all in beautiful handwriting, I found slices of the farm seemed to be coming and going. There were Warranty Deeds for 20 acres, 40 acres, 120 acres. How did it ever return to the original configuration? I found a notation on page 7 that said the land was "granted by the United States to the State of Wisconsin September 4, 1841." I thought Wisconsin became a state in 1848!

The first name to show on the Abstract, Christian Sommerlade (sometimes spelled Sommerdale, but it didn't seem to matter) was said to get his land from the United States, not Wisconsin, in 1854. Though the change of hands and the land descriptions were getting very confusing, my interest began to peak over the drama. Sommerlade got the land in 1854 from, let's say, one of the governments. He mortgaged it to Townsend Glover in 1859. The next entry, 1862, showed a foreclosure, Glover vs. Christina and John C. Sommerlade. The underlining of the vs. suggested an intriguing turn of events, especially with the entrance of the sheriff of Dane County in 1864. His record shows a Sheriff's Deed to James Hopkins for all the land that Glover and Sommerlade were quarreling about. The next entry showed Sommerlade giving a Warranty Deed to C. J. Agrelius in 1859! How could that be? I gave up.

I decided to settle for listing the names of all the people who had something to do with this farm, knowing some of the names would be of interest to the old-timers. Then I would go on to what I knew.



FAMILY HISTORIES

Two things I picked up right away that could not be denied. Typewriters came to the Dane County Title Companies around January 1, 1923, and electricity came to this farm in 1937.

People who had deeds on this farm throughout its history listed from the first family, Christian Sommerlade in 1854 were C. J. Agrelius, James Hopkins, Charles Hebby, Ingebor Syverson, Christine Spaanum, Ole Foss, John and William Malone, Michael Johnson, Austen Hanson, W. H. Goyne, Mary Austin and son, Henry, Mrs. Caroline Malone, Frank Malone, Henry and Ralph Fargo, Martin Sponem, Anna Hanson, Alva and Anna Malone, Mike Starczynski, Edwin and Martha Rashford, Roy and Lurene Nye, Waldie and Mary Bohn, Peter and Hilda Larson, Harold Larson, Alice Jolly, Eunice Gudgeon, Mae Judd, John and Patricia Hitchcock.

It can be said that in 100 years between Christian Sommerlade, 1854 and Peter Larson, 1955, the farm, or parts of it, changed hands on the average of every five years.

Straining the Abstract as much as I could to make sense of it, without going to law school, I decided to seek out my neighbor, Art Sutter, whose family has been here for some 60 years. Maybe he could add some human interest to the early days. I was surprised to discover the 20 additional acres we bought from his uncle, Odillo, in 1973, to add to our 140, were part of Art's grandfather's original farm purchased in 1910. Though separated at some distance from the main Sutter holdings by land owned by the Donalds, they were able to use this 20 acres for pasture because Deer Creek ran along the north side.

Art remembered a Pierce family, who must have been tenants on our farm in the 1930s. He said the family was "so poor they didn't have anything to eat." The father used to come up to Art's for a meal. Art's Dad let him do a little plastering job to earn some money. Pierce painted it blue. When he finished, he asked Art how he liked it. Art, with 6 year-old frankness said, "It looks like an ocean." That was evidently not what Mr. Pierce wanted to hear because Art said, "He got very mad."

Art used to play with the Nye boy, Jimmy, who lived on our farm. Jimmy's grandfather, who was an officer in the Civil War, made a big impression on

the boys. He had a very fine collection of Civil War mementos they admired: swords, scabbards, derringer pistols and bridles that looked neatly oiled, like new. Art remembers the difficult days he had to face when his friend Jimmy died of pneumonia at age 13.

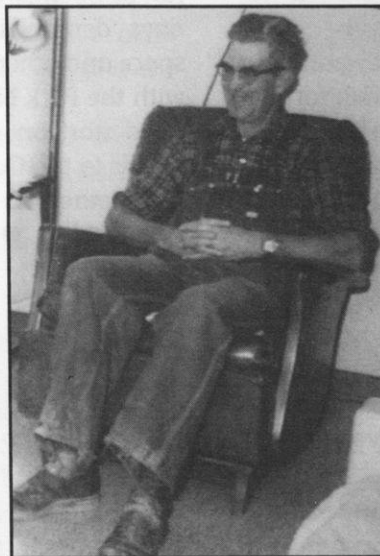
He remembered the Bohns. "They were good farmers," he said. Art's family used to churn ice cream and set the pail out in the snow. One noon they went out to get it and it was gone. Several days later they saw the pail down at the Bohn's. "Yes," Wesley said, "our dog came home with it on his head." "It could have happened that way," Art laughed, "but we will never know. They were great practical jokers."

How did we come to what we have named Prairie Oak Farm? John and I had farms in our childhood, and we knew what we were missing. I was 12 when my father had to bow to foreclosure and moved us into the second floor apartment of a house in the village. Pangs of deep sorrow surfaced every time I saw a name in the Abstract connected to that word. I used to take my father's scythe and mow the grass that grew beside the road the led out of our village. Then I would load it in an old red wagon and pull it back to a shed my father used as a garage. Dad let me store it there, for what I didn't know. We didn't have a horse or a cow anymore. I didn't have a pony. We didn't even have a chicken. Today we'd call it therapy. Then, my Mom and Dad just knew that I needed to be close to the land.

There were many "For Sale" signs on farms in Wisconsin in 1967. We had been warned not to buy one from a bachelor. The house "would be a mess." By the time we had visited 12 or so, I had seen enough

farms for sale by couples that were cluttered both inside the house and out. So, I was ready for anything when we came to Harold Larson. Harold was a bachelor. He had farmed with his father until he died and continued to care for his mother until she died. Harold was ready to quit. He was lonely. He wanted a little house in town that he could leave to go fishing without having to get back to milk.

On our first visit, Harold was in the kitchen preparing his dinner, meat loaf with peeled potatoes and fresh vegetables. He was listening to a ball game on the radio. Violets sat on a rack by the window. Everything was as neat as my grandmother's parlor, and it



Harold Larson, October, 1966.



FAMILY HISTORIES

smelled just like the old days back in our farm kitchen.

I had learned that the basement produced the telling evidence. Basements varied from OK to piles of old rags, various unpleasant odors, rats scurrying here and there, four inches of water, light between the joists and the foundation or a huge old furnace that fed clanking radiators.

I went down into Harold's basement expecting to find combinations of any of the above and couldn't believe what confronted me. There was a neat, fairly new little gas furnace with bright metal pipes making trails along the ceiling. I could have sat, relatively untarnished, on the floor. Over against the wall was a tier of shelves laden with jams, pickles and brightly colored jars of vegetables and fruits all "put down" by Harold. The stairs were steep, but I bounced up, smiling.

It didn't take long for us to decide this was the farm we were looking for. The house and buildings were in the middle of the land. No highway out front would steal our animals or make us wish the traffic would go away. Nor would it separate us from the rest of the farm on the other side. We'd had friends who had bought land under such conditions, and two years later faced a drive-in theater right across from their driveway. There was a wide variety of pasture, meadow and open space surrounded by hills and woods to give us pleasure and privacy. Some of the pines had been planted by the CCC in the 1930s and were already grown to cathedral proportions. We could bike and ride and ski and explore on our own land to our hearts' content. The buildings and fences were in good shape, suitable for the small-scale family farming we felt we could manage. And, to top it off, all along the north side of the property was what we New Englanders called a "brook." What more was there to wish for?

In the days to come, when we returned to walk over the land and to dream, we would find Harold out on his old John Deere or in the barn with his radio turned up so he could hear the ball game above the sounds that go with milking. From then on, I grew to know Harold Larson as a very special person. He was a man of simple tastes, truly appreciating all that had come his way. He was strong, shy, gentle and caring, a man who loved the soil and his animals. His greatest pleasure was to take a few hours from the ever-present demands of farming to go down to the creek with his fishing pole. Whenever I hear, "Blessed are the Meek," I know Jesus was talking about Harold.

There haven't been many changes since we came to live here, but in 1969 we added an extra room to the house to accommodate my parents. The next year, we had a field, too wet to plow when the time was right, turned into a pond that we stocked with bass, and I enjoy knowing Harold thought that was an idea worthy of consideration.

I tried to keep the farm going for eight years, the last two alone, building up a beef herd and doing the field work that could be done with small equipment. But a confrontation with a cow and a cement floor left me with two broken wrists going into the winter feeding season. That meant too long a recovery to depend on the good-natured help of my neighbors. So, I sold the herd.

I continued to do some cropping, mowing the trails and the meadows wherever box elders and thistles wanted to intrude. Then I began to see how the farm could be shared with friends and young people who needed a place in the country for some of the same reasons I did.

In 1996, I sold the farm to Dane County to extend the acreage Delma Woodburn had given the County along my line fence for a park.

It makes me happy to know this property will be open to friends and neighbors, their children and grandchildren and my grandchildren's children, in perpetuity. They will be able to pick berries, slide, cross country ski, hike, go down to the pond with their fishing poles or go up on the high rock on the west side of the farm with their dolls, as Delma used to do.

Because of limited funding resources, the farm will not be open to the public for some time. Liability these days demands plumbing, shelter houses, parking space and other amenities. But, I am enjoying working with the Park Naturalist and volunteers trying to get a head start on restoring the fields to prairie and the woods to the Oak Savannas they once were.

Whether the world has come to an end or not, the Abstract has. ●



MELCHIOR JENNI FARM

Submitted by Lucille K. Stugard McKee

Henry Nimmo came to this country from Edinburgh, Scotland, in the early 1850s looking for a homestead. He found this knoll in a winding valley with a nearby spring in Section 36 of the township of Springdale. He decided it was a place for his home and then set out to file a claim, walking 40 miles to the land office in Mineral Point. Henry Nimmo and his wife, Margaret, married in 1854 and originally lived in a log house. Soon he started to build a stone house. After finishing the foundation and three sides, the Civil War started. His family lived in the basement of the house until he returned. The house was completed in 1868, adding a kitchen wing to the main building.



Melchior Jenni farm.

The stone house still stands today, but it has been completely remodeled. Later, Nimmo built a stone barn and milk house. In 1890, he sold the 160-acre farm to Oswald Geiger, who bought 40 more acres from Dane County. In 1909, Oswald Geiger sold the farm to Melchior Jenni.

Melchior Jenni and Elsbeth Thoni were both born in Switzerland. They were married in 1908 and came to America the same year.

In 1914, Jenni built a new barn and silo. In 1928, a tornado came through and destroyed the barn, silo and windmill. Most of the feed in the barn was lost. They used the old stone barn to do the milking until the new barn was built.

The Jennis farmed for 37 years and raised seven children, Fred, Elizabeth, Ida, Hilda, Sylvia, Warner and Doris. In 1945, their son, Fred, and his family rented the farm until it was sold in 1962 to Nels and Florence Dahlgren, who later sold it to John and Connie Barnes, the present owners. ●

ALBERT C. JOHNSON FAMILY

Submitted by Ludell Heuser

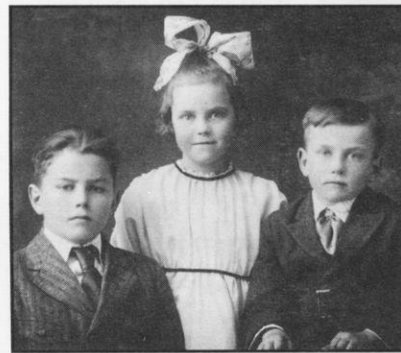
Albert Johnson (1881-1933) bought 110 acres from his father-in-law, Edward H. Anderson's, 360-acre farm in Section 30 of Springdale township. Ed had purchased his farm in 1909.

Albert built a barn and house on his land, and moved there in 1913 with his wife, Alpha (1892-1970), and their children, LaVern (1909) and Beulah (1911). In 1913, Ernel was born, followed by Lester (1916) and Sylvan (1921).



Alpha Gustava Anderson and Albert Christian Johnson married on February 17, 1909.

Albert was a farmer, carpenter and electrician, and dehorned cattle for his neighbors. He was even known



Lavern, Beulah and Ernel Johnson.

to take his clippers and go to a neighbor's home and give him a haircut. (Albert had expressed disgust at sitting behind this man in church viewing his long, dirty hair.) He also built the barn on the

Heuser (C. J. Lunde) farm.

This family suffered many heartbreaks. Lester drowned in the farm water tank in 1918. Ernel was killed in a car-train accident in 1930 and Albert was killed in 1933 when a runaway team became frightened when the pole on the hay rake broke.

The farm later was rented to Otto Hanson for one year, followed by LaVern taking over the farm and marrying in 1939. His bride was Sophie Poppe, of Neillsville. In 1980, the farm was sold to Larry and Audrey Dietrich.

Beulah had married Melvin Knudson in 1929, and they moved to their Blue Mounds farm on March 1, 1930. Sylvan spent part of his seventh and eighth



FAMILY HISTORIES



Albert Johnson farm on Malone Road. Buildings occupied 1913.

grade school years at Melvin and Beulah's farm before finishing his grade school education at Malone.

Sylvan, as a young man, worked for various farmers in the area before beginning his trucking career. He married Dorothy Mickelson of Blue Mounds in 1946, and they worked for the Baker family for one year before returning to trucking jobs with Wittwer Trucking, AMPI, Hartland-Verona, Capital and Madison Redi-Mix.

Alpha left the farm in the mid 1930s to care for Mrs. Hans Gilbertson of Vermont. On January 1, 1938, she married G. Seymour Gilbertson, son of her patient. They farmed the Gilbertson homestead until 1957 when they moved to their home in Mt. Horeb. Alpha died in 1970. ●

OLE LINGARD

Submitted by Edgar and Clara Lingard

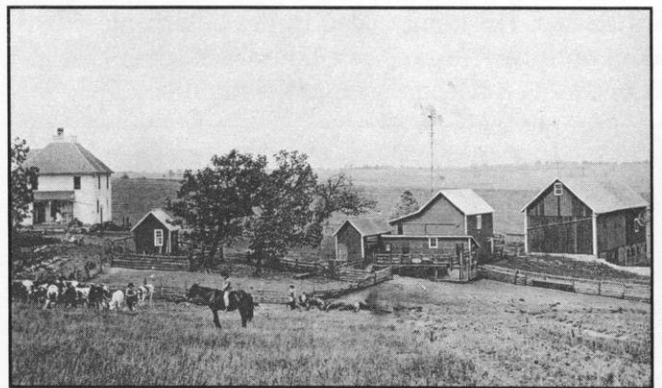
On April 26, 1899, Oliana Sophia Amundson Thorson and Ole Lingard were married at the Springdale Lutheran Church by Reverend Severin Gunderson. Sophia had emigrated from Norway at the early age of six months. Ole was born and raised on a farm in Primrose, now owned by Wayne Austin. Ole's



Oliana Sophia Amundson Thorson and Ole Lingard married on April 26, 1899.

parents, Jorgen and Ingabor Thompson Lindgjerde, emigrated from Luster, Norway. They first came to Stoughton, then to Primrose, at which time the name was changed from Lindgjerde to Thompson to Lingard.

In 1899, Ole and Sophia purchased the then Inos Shettler farm on Springdale Center Road, now owned by Donald Hartman. They had nine children: Joseph, Teddy, Irene, Ann, Henry, Victor, Melvin, Norman and Edgar.



Lingard Homestead.

Along with farming and lumber sawing, the records show that in 1924, Ole was appointed Supervisor of Highways in Springdale township by the Town Board. He took the oath of office as duly qualified supervisor of highways for the township over all the districts at that time, now known as sections.



Grading in 1924.



Grading in 1990.

During this time period, funds in the amount of \$1,600 were reserved for the whole district. The tax mill rate was one mill on the dollar valuation. Lingard was bonded and allowed to use \$1,000 for grading the different roads in this district. Grading was done according to mileage. Six hundred dollars was allowed for perma-



FAMILY HISTORIES

ment improvements under the direction of the supervisor. In 1933, the Board decided to hire four patrolmen: Hub, Brown, Guyer and Moore. Five other men were hired to care for stub roads: Nye, Fargo, Martinson, Swiggum and Witte.

Lingard also owned a lumber mill until he had the misfortune of losing most of his right hand in a sawing accident. The Lingards moved to Mt. Horeb in 1933. Sophie Lingard maintained the farm until 1965. Norman and Edgar are the only living members of the Ole Lingard family. Norman lives in Florida with his wife, Mabel. Edgar did a wide range of custom work for area farmers over the years, and was also Town Chairman of the Town of Springdale.



Lingard Lumber Saw Mill.

Edgar and his wife, Clara, still own the land in Springdale where they lived for 44 years. They now reside in the City of Verona. They have one daughter, Patricia, who was born and raised in Springdale. She now resides in the City of Verona with her husband, Kenneth A. Anderson, and their daughter, Ginger. ●

JON K. LUNDE FAMILY

Submitted by Ludell Heuser

Jon and Kari Lunde homesteaded a 120-acre farm in Section 16, in the Town of Springdale, some time after they arrived in Wisconsin in the 1850s. Jon Knutson Lunde (1826-1916) was



Jon and Knut Lunde.

born in North Aurdahl, Valdres, Norway. He married Kari Oihusie (1823-1897) in 1849. Jon, Kari and their one-year-old daughter, Dorothea, along with Jon's brothers, Knut, Andres and Syver, came to America in 1851. After settling in Springdale, eight more children were born to Jon and Kari: Christine, Knut, Osten, Inger, Tonetta, Karine, Ragnild and Christopher. Two daughters never left Springdale. Karine remained with Christopher until she died, and Tonetta died at the age of 20 from tuberculosis.

During the Civil War, Jon was drafted in the Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers. In September of 1864, he was ordered to Company K, the 37th Regiment. He served as Jon Knutson.

Christopher J. Lunde (1866-1936), the youngest of the nine children of Jon and Kari, married Rachel Bang (1869-1946). They farmed the Duffy farm for two years before they took over the family farm after Jon and Kari moved to Pigeon Falls to live with their daughter, Ragnild, due to Kari's failing health. Christopher (CJ) and Rachel had four children: Alma, Clarence, Howard and Jimmie. In 1913, Alma married Selmer Huseth, and they began farming on a farm



Christopher Lunde and Rachel Bang.

across the valley on Town Hall Road in Section 17 that Christopher had purchased from Sever Brostuen in 1912. After a year, they moved to Selmer's father's farm on Lewis Road in Springdale. They had two children, James and Beulah (Muehlemann).

For two years, Clarence and Howard worked the



Back row (left to right): Howard and Clarence. Front row: James and Alma.



FAMILY HISTORIES



Home in Springdale Township. James, Howard, Clarence and Alma Lunde.

farm that Alma and Selmer vacated. In 1916, Clarence married Hilda Anderson, and they continued on this farm. When Howard married Mildred Olson in 1917, they became the third generation to farm the Jon Lunde homestead. Christopher and Rachel moved to Mt. Horeb and entered into the coal and ice business. Howard, Mildred and their son, Sylvanus, moved to Madison in 1926, and the farm became rental property.

The Lunde families were members of the Springdale Lutheran Church. The children attended the Henderson (Springdale Center) School. Milk was hauled through Ole Brager's fields to the Brager Cheese Factory. Christopher served as Treasurer of the Town of Springdale in 1898, 1899 and 1902, and was assessor in 1912, 1913 and 1914.

Jimmie served with the Army in World War I with the Motor Transport Corps Company 792, stationed in Alabama. He married Helen Magnuson in 1925, and joined his father in the coal and ice business in Mt. Horeb. They had two daughters, Kristine (Jenson) and Joan (Zuehlke).

Clarence and Hilda had four children: Raymond, Clinton, Ludell and Vernon. Raymond joined the U.S. Navy in 1939, and remained with the armed services until retirement. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. While in service, he met and married a WAVE, Audrey MacDonald. Clinton died at birth. In 1939, Ludell married Frederick Heuser, and they farmed her home farm. Her parents moved to Mt. Horeb, where her father established an insurance business. Vernon enlisted in the Army and was on active duty in Germany. In 1958, he joined his father in the Lunde Insurance Agency. Besides the insurance office, Vernon and Jeanne (Kruger) operate the Fly Fishing Chalet on

Highway 92 in Springdale. Ludell and Frederick had three children: Jean (Schulz), Jacqueline (Sale) and Joseph. Frederick served as Clerk of Springdale for 22 years. Frederick died in 1989.

In 1982, Joseph married Patti Brink, and Joseph became the third generation on the Clarence Lunde farm at 2521 Town Hall Road, and the fifth generation of the Jon Lunde family continuously farming in the Town of Springdale since Jon and Kari homesteaded in the 1850s. Joe and Patti have three children: Matthew, Lindsey and Kenzie.

The house, built in 1890, on the Jon Lunde farm on Lunde Lane, was purchased by John Kollath in 1946, torn down, and the lumber used to build his home in Mt. Vernon. After a few real estate transfers, the original 120 acres was ultimately split. Forty acres went to a neighboring farm, and in 1970, the rest to a developer. The William Wittenmyers, Philip Hendricksons, Richard Knitter, Dennis Arneson, Jim Tracy, Edwin Eloranto, David Becker and Evelyn Fennell are the homeowners on the remaining 80 acres of the original farm homesteaded by Jon and Kari Lunde. ●

KNUT K. LUNDE FAMILY

Submitted by Elmer Magnuson

Knut K. Lunde (1830-1914), aka Knud Knudson*, was born at Goplerud in the Valdres region of Norway, Oppland County, Sor-Aurdal Township. He came to the United States in 1851, accompanying his brothers, Anders, born 1817, Syver, born 1824, and Jon, born 1826, settling in the Town of Springdale. In 1857, he was married to Kjersti Evenson (1842-1921) of Springdale. Ten children were born to this union, three of whom died in infancy. Those who grew to adulthood were David, born 1858, Inger, born 1860, Carrie, born 1861, Hans, born 1864, Andrew, born 1866, Annie, born 1869 and Kristie (Stena), born 1875.

By 1861, Knut K. Lunde had



Andrew and Hans Lunde.



FAMILY HISTORIES

acquired 120 acres in the northeast quarter of Section 16 in the Town of Springdale. This land straddled the "Prairie Ridge" watershed east of the intersection of the "Military Road" (U.S. 18-151) and the "Riley Road" (County PD), where the Prairie Ridge Cheese Factory is located. The Knut Lunde homestead was sited alongside the road to Riley, with the house on the north side of the road and the barn and outbuildings across the road. During the 1880s, Knut Lunde enlarged the farm with the addition of an adjacent 180 acres in the northwest and northeast quarters of Section 15. This land comprised the "Little Prairie Ridge" and included the former holdings of the Curtis families, who pioneered the area, together with the abandoned "Curtis Settlement" and homestead of Morgan Lewis Curtis (1805-1863). The Curtis homestead was the historic site of the organizational town meeting and election of officers held April 4, 1848. The Curtis family cemetery, where the earliest known white settler burial in Springdale occurred in 1849, is also located there.

During the 1890s, the Knut Lunde farm of 300 acres was reduced by the subdivision of 100 acres in Section 15, where his sons, Hans (Rhoda Bohle) Lunde, who died in 1941, and Andrew (Constance Murphy) Lunde, who died in 1914, subsequently settled and resided. Upon his retirement in 1908, Knut K. Lunde sold the remaining 200-acre farm to Edward Magnuson of Perry township. In the 1920s, the Magnuson farm was divided between Edward's sons, Bernhard and Elmer. At the present time, these two farms continue to be owned and operated by descendants of the respective Magnuson families. In the 1950's, both the former Hans Lunde and Andrew Lunde farms were also bought by Bernhard and Elmer Magnuson respectively. In 1972, part of the Hans Lunde farm was bought by Harald Naess.

Knut K. Lunde moved to Mt. Horeb ("retired farmer's paradise and widow's haven") in 1908 and dwelled in the large cream brick house on East Main Street (later known as the Birrenkott house and demolished in 1975 to make way for the National Savings & Loan building, currently AnchorBank). Unfortunately, his well-deserved retirement was sadly perturbed by the notorious "Brophy Case," the only authenticated incidence of poltergeist phenomena in Dane County, involving his young grandson, Henry James Brophy, who was born in 1898. (For a full account, see Robert E. Gard's *Haunted Wisconsin*. Madison: Stanton and Lee, 1980.) Knut K. Lunde died in 1914 and is buried in Springdale Lutheran Cemetery.

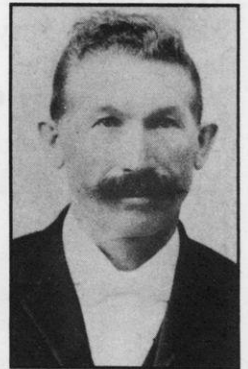
**Knut K. Lunde took title to his land in Springdale township as Knud Knutson, using the patronymic as a surrogate surname. This practice was fairly common among immigrants from Norway at that time, apparently considering it a means to promote assimilation. Later on it became popular to reassume the traditional Norwegian family names derived from farm/place names of former residences in Norway. This trend was encouraged by such ethnic cultural leaders in Wisconsin as Professor Rasmus B. Anderson (see his autobiography) and coincided with the rise of the Bygdelag (Old Homeland Society) Movement and the advent of Norwegian independence in 1905, as well. In this way, the tripartite personal name was restored, consisting of the classical nomen (first name), patronymic (middle name) and cognomen (last name). ●*

ADAM LUST FAMILY

Adam Lust and his wife, Martha, left the province of Saxony, Goraleben, Germany, in a sailboat for America in 1850. They were 40 days crossing the ocean with 10 children. They arrived in New York City, and hired a man with a team of horses to take them to Milwaukee.

Adam had the first blacksmith shop in Mt. Vernon. They bought land from the government, and in 1851, he walked to Belmont to have President Fillmore sign the deed to the land he homesteaded. They cleared the land and built the buildings.

Two of the children died shortly after they came to Springdale. The family grew up and scattered to different areas. A son, William, remained on the farm and married Pauline Hankel. They had 13 children. Five of them died of diphtheria. Pauline died when Hattie (Schettler) was born. All eight remaining children received their diplomas from Mt. Vernon School. They had to walk to Black Earth to receive their diplomas. Their son, Alva, married Nellie Beard and



William Lust



Pauline Hankel



EDWARD MAGNUSON FAMILY

Submitted by Elmer Magnuson



First Prize team, 1912.

they rented the Sweet Farm from J. S. Donald in 1912. Alva was a great lover of horses and had the Grand Champion team at the Dane County Fair. They lived on the farm for more than 30 years when he passed away. They had five children, Alton, Verna (Fargo), Edna, Thelma (Stankey) and Wayne. Alva died April 13, 1942, and Nellie died May 6, 1986. They are buried in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery. ●



Alton (4) and Verna Lust (2) on Dannen farm where Verna was born.

Edward Magnuson (1860-1944) was born at Gjesvold in Hole Parish, Ringerike Township, Buskerud County, Norway in 1860. He emigrated to North America with his brothers, Ole, Hans and Christian in 1883 and came to Wisconsin, settling in the Town of Perry. In 1888, he was married to Ragnhild Turina Jeglum (1869-1960) of Perry, where they remained on the 80-acre farm in Section 20 off of Highway 78, south of Daleyville. There were five children born to this union, Helga, born 1889, Bernhard, born 1892, Rosa, born 1896, Helen, born 1899 and Elmer, born 1903.

In 1908, wanting more land for his growing family, Edward Magnuson bought the Knut K. Lunde farm, consisting of 200 acres in Sections 15 and 16 of the Town of Springdale. The family resided there until 1922, when the oldest son, Bernhard, was married to Mae Skuldt of Primrose township and took over the farming operation. The Edward Magnuson family then lived in Mt. Horeb until 1925, when they returned to Springdale and built the house on the west half of the farm, along U.S. 18-151 (2623 Prairie Ridge Road). Soon the barn was built there, and in 1930, when the youngest son, Elmer, was married to Pearl Schmid of Primrose township, the farm was divided in two, providing a place for each son. The aging parents then moved again to Mt. Horeb where they retired and remained for the rest of their lives in their home, the former Hulvein house on Alaska Avenue.

The former Knut K. Lunde farm, divided between the two sons of the Edward Magnuson family, remains in possession of descendants of the respective Magnuson families at the time of this writing. Magnuson family members who have resided there over the past ninety years (1908 to present) are:

- Edward and Ragnhild Jeglum Magnuson and children (above)
- Inger Hansdatter Gjesvold (mother of Edward)
- Birgit Ellingsdatter Jeglum (mother of Mrs. Magnuson)
- Hans and Helle Halvorsdatter Magnuson



Lust family from about 1920. Back row (left to right): Oscar Lust, John Schettler, Robert Davis, August Hankel, Sidney Foye, Emil Koch, Herman Hankel and Alva Lust. Front row (left to right): Hattie Lust Schettler, Lydia Lust Davis, Pauline Lust Foye, Louise Lust Koch, Mrs. Herman Hankel and Nellie Lust.



FAMILY HISTORIES

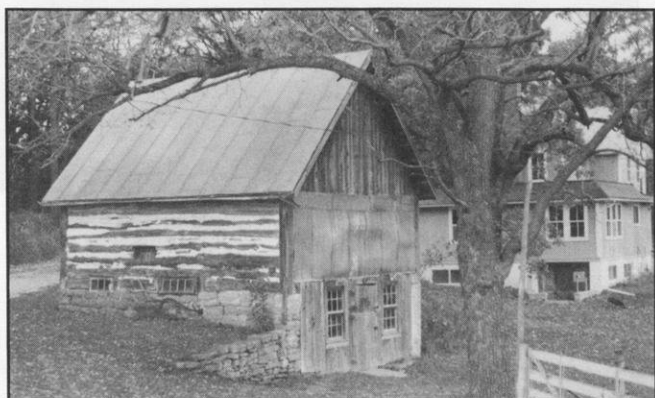
- Bernhard and Mae Skuldt Magnuson and children, Russell, born 1923 and Doris, born 1927
- Russell and Janice Nelson Magnuson and children, Donald, born 1951, Mary, born 1953 and Tom, born 1957
- Tom and Penny Rufener Magnuson and children, Paul, born 1990 and Shane, born 1994
- Elmer and Pearl Schmid Magnuson and children Elmer, born 1934, Dale, born 1938 and Edward, born 1948
- Dale and Linda Semrad Magnuson and children, Gwen, born 1967 and Aaron, born 1971
- Dena Stewart Magnuson (second wife of Dale) ●

RUSS AND VERGEANE MARTIN

Submitted by Vergeane Martin

In 1854, Lars Stensen and wife, Gunuld (Julia), bought 80 acres of land in Section 32 from the government at 75 cents per acre. They also purchased additional land in Sections 31 and 32. They built a two-room log cabin, adding two more rooms later, and a small log barn, and raised their family of five children, Caroline (Ole) Erickson, Harriet (John) Thompson Rue, Barbro (Jens S.) Shelstad, Anna (Iver) Mikkelson and Ole Stensen.

Upon Lars' (c 1866) and Julia's deaths (c 1876), their children inherited the property, and it was operated as two separate farms. Anna's portion was about ¼ mile south of the original homestead. The Mickelsons probably built the present farm house in the early 1900s, and in 1928, it was moved from the valley to its present location. Berry Brothers of Madison did the mov-



Lars Stensen's original log barn. Later used as a stable and as the stripping shed for tobacco by Torkel Martinson.

ing with a team of horses and a stump puller. It took three days. The Emil Diems, Senior and Junior, dug the basement, and the Swenson Brothers laid the stone wall.

Barbro inherited the log house and barn and 10 acres, valued at \$250. The Shelstads had six children: Lewis (Christina), Jens (Alpha), Susan Kittleson, Betsy Barton, Julia Solve and Samuel, who died at 19. After Jens died (c 1881), Barbro (Barbara) married Torkel Martinson (born in 1854 in Telemark, Norway). They also had six children: Martin, Olaus, Sever, Mary (Anderson), Thomas and Clara, who died as an infant in 1894.

In the Mt. Horeb newspaper, January 28, 1903, it states, "Torkel Martinson, Springdale, possesses the distinction of carrying home with him the largest check issued for a crop in this section this year, if not in the history of the tobacco industry in these parts. He had planted about nine acres, which brought him the snug sum of over \$1,100." His tobacco barn (approximately 26 x 104) still stands and must be one of the last in this area. Barbara died in 1923 and Torkel in 1930.

In 1946, the Martinson heirs sold to Henry I. (Clara) and Albert E. (Thelma) Anderson. Russ and Vergeane Martin bought this 189-acre farm in 1970 on Sharpes Corner and Lewis Road and live there today. ●

MARTIN AND CLARA MARTINSON 1912-1982

Submitted by Shirley Martinson

Martin and Clara Martinson purchased 160 acres of land from Arne S. and Gurine Brustuen in February of 1912. This land was originally granted to the State of Wisconsin by an Act of Congress on September 4, 1841. The first owner recorded was John A. McFarland in 1854. In 1943, the Martinsons purchased another 22 acres from Henry O. Kittleson. The resulting 182-acre Martinson farm is located 2½ miles south of Mt. Horeb on Highway 92. Martin and Clara farmed this land for 32 years, until Gaylord Martinson married Shirley Marty in 1944. The elder Martinsons then moved to Mt. Horeb, and Gaylord and Shirley continued farming for another 38 years before retiring.



FAMILY HISTORIES



Dairying was the main emphasis for both generations of Martinsons, but pigs and chickens were also an important part of the farming operation.

Within one year after purchasing the land, Martin built a new barn, but it wasn't until 1936, when the high line came through, that major improvements in farming took place. These included indoor plumbing and running water in the house in 1950, followed by a barn cleaner, silo unloader and bulk milk cooler in the barn.

Improvements to the land mainly involved rotating crops and contour stripping to conserve the soil, beginning in the late 1940s. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) installed a dam to prevent soil erosion.

Two generations of Martinsons were born and raised on this farm. One year after Benunie (Schwarz-Berge) was born in a log house on the Torkel Martinson farm at Sharpes Corner, Martin and Clara bought this farm and proceeded to have eight more children. They are: Geneva (Dettwiler), Verna (Bennie Grundahl), Gaylord, Alma (Jerome Skindrud), Helen (Alfred Abplanalp), Myrtle (Milton Showers), Harland (Martha Lisser) and Martin, Jr. (Lois Brattlie).



Standing (left to right): Verna, Helen, Geneva, Myrtle, Alma and Benunie. Seated (left to right): Harland, Martin Sr., Martin Jr., Clara and Gaylord.



Kneeling (left to right): Joan, Jerrold and Gaylord. Sitting (left to right): Jan, Shirley Judith and Joy.

In 1944, Gaylord and Shirley began renting the farm from his parents who moved into Mt. Horeb. In 1946, Martin passed away at the age of 62. Clara, who passed away in 1981, at the age of 90, continued renting the farm to Gaylord and Shirley until 1955 and then sold it to them. They raised a family of five children and farmed until 1982. The five children, who all live in the area are: Judith (Steinhauer), Joan (Sholdt), Jerrold and twins Joy (Green) and Jan (Feller).

After retiring, the original 160 acres was sold to O. J. and Jane Ginther. Gaylord and Shirley retained 22 acres of land, which was purchased in 1943, and built a new home on it. ●



House built in 1982 on 22 acres purchased in 1943.



CARLTON MIDTHUN FARM

Submitted by Leona Midthun

Carlton Midthun and Leona Duerst were married September 1, 1946. To them four children were born: Gary, Marcia Kiel, Dennis and Donna. After 64 years, the Midthuns were blessed with three granddaughters: Sara, Rachel and Madeline Midthun.

Carlton and Leona farmed at 2342 Highway J, Verona for many years. The house and barn on the farm is stone. Half of the house was built in 1880 and the second half in 1889. There were two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. The downstairs had a fireplace for heat. This was all built with hand labor.

The barn was also built in 1880. Limestone was taken off the farm for the house and barn. The walls in the house are two feet thick. Lumber from oak trees off the farm was used for the buildings.

Limestone was taken off this farm to be used in the construction of the first capitol.

The farm was first owned by Creag Peter. He sold it to William Henderson in 1850. In 1877, William Henderson sold it to James Henderson. James Henderson sold the 200-acre farm to Fred Feller, Sr. in 1899 for \$1,160. In 1915, Fred Feller, Sr. built a small cheese factory, with two small rooms, an outlet to take large cans of milk into the factory (which still stands and had a large cement water tank to hold the milk to cool). Milk was hauled twice a day. Several small patrons broke away from a large cheese factory, which prompted the building of this particular factory. Block cheese was made and brought into the cellar of the house to age on cement blocks. Fred Feller, Sr. made cheese and also farmed, with the help of Fred Feller, Jr. Mr. Feller sold the farm to Olaf Ankaltrud in 1920, who in turn sold it to Carlton Midthun in 1950 where Mrs. Midthun still lives. ●

JOHN AND LENA MONUM

Submitted by Elmer and Norma Baker

John P. Monum and his wife, Lena, bought the farm in 1919 from the widow of Henry Dahle. It was named "Prairie Lawn Farm" and contained 176 acres. On this farm, John and Lena continued to raise their five children: Garnet, Harold, Alice, Arthur and Jeanette, rang-



Garnet, Harold, Jeanette, Arthur and Alice Monum.

ing in ages from two years old to 13 years old, moving here from Blue Valley.

John and Lena's son, Harold, and his wife, Evelyn Thronson Monum, started farming on the farm in 1935 and lived there until 1948, when they bought a farm south of Mt. Horeb. Then their son, Arthur, and his wife, Ruth Gerke Monum, moved onto the farm. When Art and Ruth bought a farm on JG, south of Mt. Horeb, Lowell and Dolores Hanson farmed it until 1962 when they bought a farm southeast of Mt. Horeb.

John and Lena had sold the farm to Harold and Evie in 1959, so they moved back to the farm in 1962 and farmed it until 1967, at which time they had a sale and sold the farm to Leo and Alice Barth, who then cash rented the land to Kenneth Laufenberg.

Following the tragic death of Leo and Alice Barth in Florida in 1975, it became the Barth estate.

Elmer and Norma Baker purchased the farm from the Barth estate in 1981. They farmed it in conjunction with the Baker farm next door and are the present owners of the farm. ●



Back row (left to right): Ruth (Art) Monum, Alice Monum Julseth, Jeanette Monum, Garnet Monum Baker, Evelyn Thronson (Harold) Monum. Front row (left to right): Harold, John, Lena and Arthur Monum.



MOORE-STAMN FARM

Submitted by Dolores Stamm

Gregory L. Stamm is the fifth generation to live at "Rose Dale Farm," which he purchased from his parents, Garfield and Dolores Stamm in 1992. His grandparents, Gerhard and Mabel Moore Stamm, Frank and Mary Moore and George and Anne Moore were previous owners dating back to 1860.

The name for this farm was selected because portions lie in Primrose and Springdale townships. ●

ARNE AND ZELMA NIELSEN

Submitted by Alice Nielsen York

Zelma Silenee Nielsen was born April 3, 1902, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She was the third child in a family of eight children. Her mother was German and her father was English, Welsh and mixed. His family dates back to colonial times. Zelma was raised in Marshalltown, Iowa. She took "teaching" as her primary subject in high school and, after her graduation from high school in 1920 and summer school, she started teaching in a small town in Iowa. She received a diploma from Iowa State Junior College in 1922 and a certificate to become a critic teacher in 1924. She taught in Des Moines, Iowa. In 1928, she received her bachelor's degree from Iowa University in Cedar Falls, Iowa. In 1930, she received her Master's degree from Columbia University in New York City.

In the early 1930s, she was a "Demonstration Teacher" at the Milwaukee State Teachers College (now the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee). In 1936, she married Arne J. Nielsen and continued teaching in Madison.

Arne J. Nielsen was of Danish descent. He was born and raised in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He was seventh in a family of nine children. His mother died when he was ten years old. The Danish language was spoken in their home.

Arne and Zelma had two children, Nancy was born in 1938. She attended first and second grades in Verona. Alice was born in 1941.

Between 1945 and 1948, they went to school in Madison and spent summers and weekends on the farm in Springdale on Springrose Road in Section 36.

About 1948, the farm was sold to Melvin Johnson.

The farm was purchased from the Schmids, according to Lucille McKee.

Zelma wrote her autobiography in later years in a series of letters, one of which follows.

Seasons on the Farm 1936-1948 Autumn or Fall

Autumn was the time for harvesting, gardening, canning, winterizing, silo filling, corn picking and shredding.

In the fall, we dug the onions and potatoes and pulled the beets and gathered the pumpkins. These pumpkins were generally grown in the corn. We put the carrots and turnips down in the sand in the cool basement.

The wild asters were in bloom and the blackbirds were gathering in flocks, in preparation for their trip south, we observed, as we cut the cabbage to make sauerkraut. Wild grapes were along the road, and we harvested some to make jelly while Arne used some for making wine. Wild plums made good jelly, too. Cucumbers ripened if we did not pick them for pickles. Wild cherries made good wine. Melons were ripe in the fall. We bought peaches in town to can. The early ones were from Michigan, but the later ones were from Colorado. We bought pears to can, too.

Tomato vines kept producing until frost. Many quarts of juice had to be canned to supply our Vitamin C during the winter. We didn't have the citrus that we have in Florida. Another canned product in the fall was called corn salad or corn relish. Arne called it "silage." Before the first frost, the house plants had to be taken in. Wild crabapples made good jelly.

Winter on the Farm

Winter was the time for butchering, baking, sewing, churning, reading, sleeping and card playing.

When we butchered a pig, we cut up pork chops, loins, roasts, etc. Then we put the hams and bacon in a 20-gallon crock of brine in the basement. We cleaned the head and made head cheese. The heart and tongue were boiled and pickled. Next we ground the scraps for sausage. I learned how to cook the kidneys, but never liked them. We canned quarts of the meat to eat in summer. A piece of fat went on the top of each can and we ground the balance of the fat for lard. When it was time, we took the hams and bacon out of the brine and smoked them. The last thing was to collect the used fat to make soap.



FAMILY HISTORIES

Wood cutting was done in winter. One December, when we were bringing in a load of wood, I said, "We are bringing in the Yule." Arne said, "You mean we are bringing in the fuel."

Weather would get nasty in December, and we would have a blizzard. Once, when the gas engine that pumped the water froze, we spread a tarpaulin on the kitchen floor and brought the gas engine into the kitchen on a slab to thaw out.

Winter was the time to haul grain to the grist mill to be ground for feed. Every day the barn had to be cleaned and the manure hauled out to be spread on the frozen fields. Arne did that, but I occasionally cleaned the hen house. We left the lights on in the chicken house so that the hens would eat and lay eggs day and night.

Winter was the time to go to auction sales. We always thought the winter was half over on Groundhog's Day (February 2). If we had not fed one half of the hay and grain by then, we knew we would have enough to last all winter without buying any.

One day we had a heavy snowstorm while we were shopping in town. When we returned, we couldn't find the ax to split some wood to start a fire. It was critical. We shoveled and swept until we found it. Later, we put two kerosene burners in the kitchen range in order to have heat day and night. In the days of the old wood box behind the range, we always carried in a load of wood on our return from "the little house." That is why the woodpile is always located between the house and "the little house."

Winter was the time to study the seed catalogs. They always arrived in the mail shortly after January 1.

Spring on the Farm

Spring was the time for raking, plowing, planting, house cleaning, mowing, pruning, fencing and fixing.

All winter, we had grackles, sparrows and starlings, and a stray bluejay or two. There was even a covey of quail in the woods to which I carried chicken feed when the snow was deep because they were too shy to come to the barn yard to eat. Then we would hear the honking of geese and we knew it was spring, as they flew north in a V-shape. In March, we would hear the cheery songs of meadowlarks. Then the bluebirds and robins and maybe a wren or two would come. About the middle of March, the temperature might rise to 60 degrees one afternoon with a late blizzard the next day.

Calves were born in spring and had to be fed. Pigs were born, but sows fed most of them. If Arne brought me a runt to nurse in a basket behind the kitchen range, it invariably died. Some days were for spreading lime and buying alfalfa seed. The tractor must be torn down and overhauled.

We took off two storm windows to make a hotbed, usually before Easter, and then transplanted tomato and cabbage plants when they were big enough. We usually had radishes and lettuce in the hotbed by Easter. On nice days, we cleaned the house and on bad days, we mended fences. Spring was the time for dandelion greens.

In April, we plowed and planted a few things in the garden. Puppies and kittens were born. The lawn must be mowed after it is raked. Radishes, lettuce, onions and potatoes were generally planted first. Then came beets, Swiss chard, spinach and carrots. Beans and corn were planted after danger from frost, and cucumbers were planted on the longest day of the year in June.

We pruned the trees and grape vines and took some calves to market and others to pasture. Rhubarb pie was good. By May, we usually had the storm windows off and screens on the doors and windows.

Wild flowers would bloom in the woods. There were violets, buttercups, spring beauties, dog-toothed violets, bloodroot and May apple.

Our chicken farming is a story in itself, how we set a hen on two and graduated to kerosene-heated brooder houses and finally to electric batteries. These made it possible to raise 5,000 at a time.

Before we can seed the oats, the ground must be prepared. One night, after milking, Arne took the tractor out, with the headlights on, to finish discing a field before planting, and I went to bed. When I suddenly awoke about midnight, I couldn't hear the tractor and Arne was not in bed. In my white nightgown and shoes, I ran out into the moonlight and didn't hear the tractor until I reached the top of the hill. I had envisioned Arne lying under an overturned tractor, but he saw me and thought I was an apparition. He was just finishing, and we both rode home on the tractor.

Summer on the Farm

Summer was the time for weddings, mowing, haying, canning, cultivating, freezing vegetables, cooking, weeding, hoeing, herding cows and threshing.

We were busy in spring, but busier in summer. Except for excessive heat, it was a wonderful time of the year.



FAMILY HISTORIES

It was a time for picking wild blackberries, dewberries, Queen Anne's Lace, chickory and ox-eye (wild) daisies.

Until better farming practices, it was a time for cultivating corn. We were usually haying twice, for a first and second crop of alfalfa.

The first time we threshed grain, I fed 18 men with the help of a neighbor girl. I asked her what I did wrong, and she said I hung out my best white bath towels on the clothesline for the men who washed up outside before eating. I should have used feed sacks for them. Later, when the combine was used, there was no need to feed such a big gang of men. There was always silo filling, but in dry weather, we often cut corn to feed if the pasture became dry.

Much of the summer was spent in getting ready for winter. I canned sweet corn, berries, Swiss chard, beets, beans, tomato juice, peaches, pears and blue plums. Elderberries made good pie and wine.

At first, it was difficult to raise enough to last all winter. It wasn't until we got 4½ tons of 45% phosphate and spread it that we had good crops. That summer, the alfalfa was so thick that it smothered the Canadian thistles that had blossomed like a snowstorm the year before. Arne offered the neighbor's son \$1 for every Canadian thistle he found in the field, and he couldn't even collect a penny.

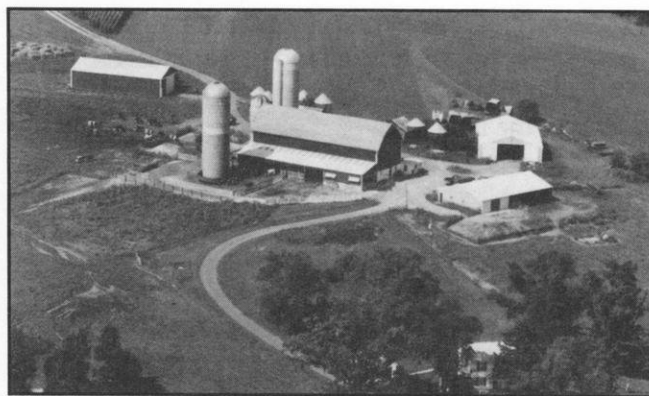
It was good to be on a farm during the depression and World War II. We always had plenty to eat and were not shot at. Besides, we felt very patriotic because we were told, "Food will win the war and write the peace." ●

DAVID AND MARY POWELL SKYVIEW FARM

Submitted by David and Mary Powell

This farm was the homestead of Andrew O. Grinde. After Andrew and his wife, Dorothea, died, the farm was divided into interests to each of the remaining family members. It then became known as the A. O. Grinde Estate.

On May 1, 1966, David and Mary Powell moved on the farm and rented from the A. O. Grinde Estate. In 1969, the Powells purchased the buildings and land in Section 19 in Springdale, and Section 24 in Blue Mounds. The Powells have kept this farm as a dairy



operation, also including raising crops for the dairy.

Throughout the years, conservation practices that were implemented on the farm were contour strips, waterways, creek fencing and a barnyard runoff project. The Powell's son, Marc, with sponsors, started a project, the first in the state, called Operation Green Stripe. The Stripe reduces runoff into creeks and streams and controls erosion. The project has been carried out throughout most of the United States.

The Powells have made many improvements to the buildings, constructed new buildings and have made a major improvement to their driveway.

David and Mary raised two children, Melanie and Marc, on the farm. ●



Mary, David, Marc and Melanie Powell.

THE RICHARD RILEY FAMILY

Submitted by Carol Riley Statz

There has been a Riley family living in Riley since 1850. The first Riley family members to live in Riley were Richard and Mary Nichols Riley, who were natives of New York. John Stockwell, Mary Nichols' father, served in the Revolutionary War. Richard, born in 1782, took part in the War of 1812. When they came here from New York, they brought with them their sons, William and Robert. They also had a daughter, Lucinda. Richard and Mary were listed on the July 22,



FAMILY HISTORIES

1850 census. Mary was originally from Canada. Richard, who died on November 5, 1866, and Mary, who died on January 6, 1886, are buried in the Verona Cemetery. Robert married Mary Bride. They are both buried in the Union Cemetery in Mt. Horeb, as are William and his wife, Margaret Bride.

In 1859, William married Margaret Bride, a native of Philadelphia, and resident of the Town of Springdale. William was Chairman of the School Board that signed the Treasurer's Report at the annual meeting on September 28, 1868, and helped in building the first school in the Riley area, which was located at the village of Clantorf, one mile south of Riley at the intersection of Highways J and PD. To William and Margaret were born six children: Robert, Mary (Charles Auringer), James, John (Margaret Marks), Jennie (William Carden) and Margaret (Jesse Sutton). Mary Riley Auringer, John, Jennie Riley Carden and Margaret Riley Sutton are buried in the Mt. Horeb Union Cemetery.

John Riley bought his father William's farm in Section 2 in the Town of Springdale in February of 1902. John married Margaret Marks on April 12, 1904. Margaret was the daughter of Patrick and the late Ellen Whalen Marks, who had been residents of the Town of Springdale. John and Margaret had three children: Wesley, Ellen and Margaret.

Wesley married Tressa Benesh of Lodi, Ellen married Joe Schroeder of Madison and Margaret lived with her parents in Madison until their deaths. Wesley died in 1985, Ellen died in 1994 and Margaret died in 1995.

Wesley and Tressa farmed the 200-acre Riley farm until it was sold to the Henry Zweifel family in November of 1950. At that time, Wesley and Tressa moved into a house at the top of the hill in Riley on Highway J. Wesley and Tressa had four sons and one daughter. All five of the children attended the Riley School. John,



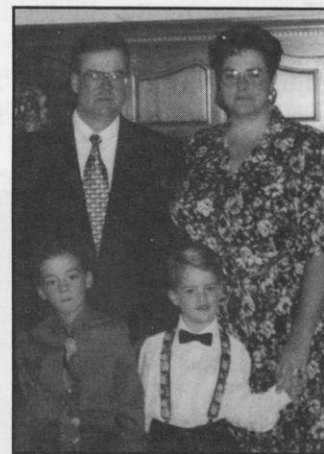
Wesley and Tressa Riley at the Riley Homecoming in 1935.



The Riley Farm.

James and Thomas attended the original school, and Dennis attended both the original school and the one which replaced it after it burned in 1950. They all graduated from Mt. Horeb High School.

After serving in the Army, their oldest son, John, married Florence Way from Mt. Vernon. Florence died in June of 1994. John lives in Mt. Vernon in the home they built in 1964. Their daughter Kathleen is married to Carl Silbernagel, whose parents at one time resided near Riley. Kathleen and Carl live in Rhinelander, with their daughter Geneice. John and Florence also have a son, John Richard Riley III, who married the former Karen Zingg of Verona. They now live with their two sons, Justin and Joshua, in Wesley and Tressa's former home on Highway J. Justin and Josh are the seventh generation of Rileys to live in Riley.



John, Karen, Justin and Josh Riley.

James moved to Arizona for health reasons in 1948, after high school graduation. There he married Nina Barber, who was originally from Arkansas. They lived and worked in the Phoenix area most of their married life. They have two sons, Mark and Tim, and five grandchildren. James died in Phoenix in February of 1969.

Thomas lives in Verona and is married to the former Lila Nelson of Stoughton. Tom has two sons, Mike and Chris, and one daughter, Sue. He has five grandchildren. Mike lives near Belleville, as does Chris, his wife



FAMILY HISTORIES

Susy and their three children. Sue and her two sons live near Sun Prairie.

Dennis, the youngest son of Wesley and Tressa, lives in Colorado and is married to the former Wanda Weiland of New Lisbon. They have one son, Jason, who lives with them in Colorado. Dennis and Wanda have a married foster daughter in Colorado, as well. Dennis' three oldest children, Dennis Wesley, Jr. (Jay), Bill and Jill live in Minnesota. Dennis has two grandchildren in Minnesota and three granddaughters in Colorado.

Wesley and Tressa's daughter Carol, is married to Tim Statz, son of Ollie and Kay Statz of Mt. Horeb. They live in the Town of Springdale. They have five grown children and one grandson. Their oldest daughter, Kristin is married to Jon Mitchell of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, and they have a son, Caleb. Their older son, Chad, is married to the former Jennel Basler of Wisconsin Rapids, and they live in Plover, Wisconsin. Their daughter Shannon lives in Middleton. Their two youngest children are in college. Meghan graduated in May of 1998 from UW-LaCrosse, and Seth attends UW-Platteville.

Tressa currently resides in Verona at the Sugar Creek Apartments. After Wesley died, Tressa remained in Riley for a year. She then sold their house to their grandson, John, and she moved into Verona in 1986. ●

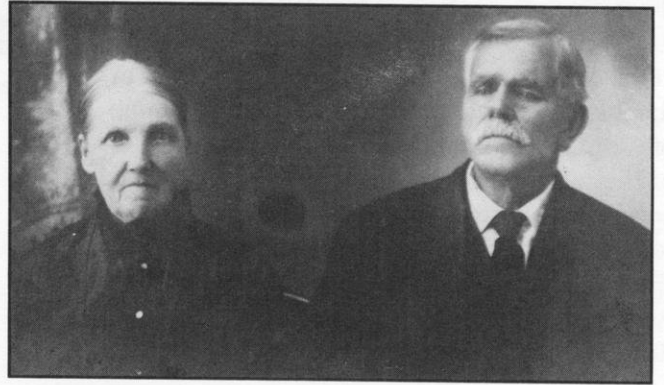


Standing (left to right): Chad, Seth, Jon Mitchell, Kristin (Statz) Mitchell, Shannon and Meghan. Seated in front: Tim and Carol (Riley) Statz.

BETSY ANN RUE

Submitted by Lucille K. Stugard McKee

Betsy Ann Rue was born April 11, 1880, in Primrose Township, Dane County. Her parents were John and Helga Rue. She had a sister, Julia, and three brothers, Henry, Charles and Lewis. Betsy lived on a 120-acre farm behind Malone School on Lewis Road in Section 30.

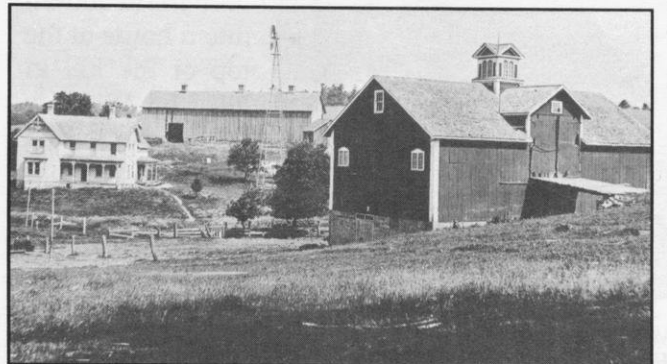


John and Helga Rue.

This is another set of my great grandparents. John died in 1888 and, really, from there, I don't know too much history. Our family attended Malone School. I have a lot of pictures, but nothing written.

Grandma Betsy married Harold #2 Stugard on February 2, 1899. Reverend Thore Eggen of Madison performed the ceremony. Five children were born to them, Harry, John, Banford, Helen and Delma.

They farmed, then moved to Mt. Horeb, then moved back to the farm and farmed until 1930. After Granddad passed on, Betsy worked in Madison, later on moving to Madison. She worked at Baron's Department Store, in the office, giving out Eagle Stamps. I remember her as always being a very pretty, neatly dressed person. She loved hats and loved wearing them. She passed away on June 17, 1958. ●





WALTER SCHMID

Submitted by Lucille K. Stugard McKee

Walter Schmid was born to Gottfried and Sophie Schmid on October 20, 1922. His family bought the Erb Farm, five miles west of Verona on Highway 18/151 about 1920, and Walter was born there.

In 1923, they moved on to the Gerber Farm near Mt. Vernon, next to Herman Erfurth. Walter attended the Mt. Vernon School for one year in 1929. Then the family moved to one of John Schmid's farms, and Walter then went to the McPherson School in 1930.

Their neighbors were Fred Jenni, Henry Rickey and Edgar Nadler. About 1933, his family, including his sister, Rose (Schmitz), and brother, Robert, moved to the old Arnold farm south of Mt. Vernon. ●



cheesemaker. For 15 years, from 1907 until 1922, Rudy and Rose operated the Spring Valley Cheese Factory in Perry township.

One son and three daughters were born to the family and helped with the business: Ida (Schoeben), Walter, Mathilda (Gust) and Huldah (Pick).

In 1921, the family made the change from cheesemaking to farming. They purchased their farm on Malone Road from the Fargo family.

In 1940, Walter, who was buttermaker at Evans Creamery in Mt. Horeb, and who had married Benunie Martinson in 1932, took over operation and later purchased the farm. Rudy and Rose retired to Mt. Horeb.

During their years, Walter and Benunie expanded the farm operation, putting all of the acreage into contour strips. They moved and rebuilt the farmstead, including a new farm house.



Dorothy, Rosann, and Donald holding Russell, Christmas 1949.

Walter and Benunie had two sons and two daughters to assist them. Donald lives in Waukesha County. Rosann (Jorns) lives in Door County,

Dorothy (Bliskey) lives in Fond du Lac and Russell lives in Charles City, Iowa.

Dairying was discontinued shortly after Walter's death in 1969. Crop farming has continued since that time. Benunie now lives at the Ingleside Nursing Home in Mt. Horeb. The farm is now owned by Mike Stieghorst. ●

WALTER SCHMID FARM

Submitted by Delmer F. Schmid

Adolph and Elizabeth Schmid bought the farm from Henry Altman on December 1, 1904 for \$10,500.

William and Clara Schmid bought and operated the farm from December 9, 1940, until they moved to Verona.

William, Clara and their five children operated the farm before and after they bought it. The Schmid farm was the first farm to have electricity on that road. A new house and barn were built in the 1920s.

The farm was rent to Glen Schmid until it was sold to the Casey family in June of 1965. The house has been restored, and the barn has been repaired. All the other buildings have been destroyed. ●

SCHWARZ FARM

The Schwarz family owned and operated their farm on Malone Road for 75 years, from 1921 to 1996.

Rudy and Rose Schwarz emigrated to the United States from the village of Utzigen, canton of Bern, Switzerland in 1906 to 1907.

Having apprenticed as a cheesemaker in Switzerland, Rudy quickly found employment as a



RICHARD SCHWENN FARM

Submitted by Judy Schwenn

Our farm is known as "the farm close to the road on that sharp curve." That road, Highway PD, was part of a Wisconsin Territorial Road in 1848, known as the Madison to Blue Mounds State Road, or Stagecoach Road.

John Foster was the first owner of this 120 acres. In 1849, he was appointed the first superintendent of schools in the town. He also was elected town constable.

On the plat map of 1861, Foster still owned 117 acres, having sold three acres north of the highway to Michael Brown for \$4 per acre in 1853.

On the plat map of 1873, John Foster owned 36 acres. The other 80 belonged to William Jackett. That same plat included the Clantorf Post Office and General Mercantile, which is currently our home. It is said to have been built in 1867 by Patrick Carr. The Springdale Centennial Book of 1948 refers to the store, and being able to buy a gallon of whiskey for .15 to .20 cents during harvest. When the train came through, the post office and store moved 1½ miles north to Riley.

On the 1899 plat map, it shows John Foster still owned 36 acres and Mary, his sister, and brother-in-law, Robert Beckwith owned 80 acres. John Foster's trade was laying foundations in this area. By 1911, the Beckwiths owned the 117 acres. A dairy barn was built and it became a farm. Mary Beckwith was widowed. Lester Karn was her son. Lester and his wife, Bertha, became owners in 1930. During their ownership, it was farmed, but they also used the shed by the road for dances and had a bar there. Old timers remember good times! Those buildings were still there when we were introduced to this farm in 1961.

We recall Lester Karn standing on the fence, his eyes scanning across the land, and his heart full of pride. He pointed out all the pasture land, with a creek running the full length of the farm, a 33-stanchion barn, a hog house and fields you could plow all day and not hit a stone! Of course, we bought it. It turned out the pasture, with creek water, isn't important any more, and that thing about not finding a stone wasn't quite right either.

The old shed that was the dance hall is gone now. We have built new sheds and barns. The front door of the Clantorf Post Office, with the four-inch key, and

thumb press, has been removed. The building has been re-sided and is still standing strong.

There have been many changes and hardships, with weather and prices, and yet it is interesting to note the Brown Farm, the Cook Farm and Karn Farm once supported three families and each had a heard of 30 to 40 cows. Today those same three farms support two families and 90 cows.

Richard and Judy Schwenn started cash renting the Brown Farm in 1984. They rented it until 1986, when in May of that year they asked the owner, Phillip Brown, if he would be interested in selling the farm to them. He said he would be interested in selling it and we agreed on a price. We started the paperwork and signed the papers in July, 1986. They purchased the farm with their son, Steve.

In April of 1992, Richard and Judy decided to sell their half of the farm to Steve and his wife, Denise. Steve and Denise live on the former Brown Farm with their two children, Philip and Anna. The Schwenns work the two farms as a family farming operation. They have the milk cows and calves at Richard and Judy's farm, and the dry cows and breed heifers at Steve and Denise's farm.

Richard and Judy Schwenn have five children: Dale, Ella, Trudy, Steve and Kristi and eight grandchildren. ●

SHERRY SINCLAIR JIM BUCHANAN FAMILY

Submitted by Sherry Sinclair

On New Year's Eve, 1987, Sherry Sinclair and Jim Buchanan purchased the 5¼ acre farm at the end of Bakken Road in the Town of Springdale. Their dream was that they would be able to purchase a home in the country which would allow them to provide for their family on one income. They planned on having children soon and wanted to spend as much time as possible with them while they were young.

So, when the realtor told them about the farm, sitting beneath a beautiful rock outcropping, with a price they could afford, they had to check it out. The original home had burned down long ago, but the owners had converted the inside of the farm's granary into a liveable space for their daughter. From the outside, the granary looked like a tin and tarpaper shack, but as soon as Sherry and Jim stepped inside, they knew that



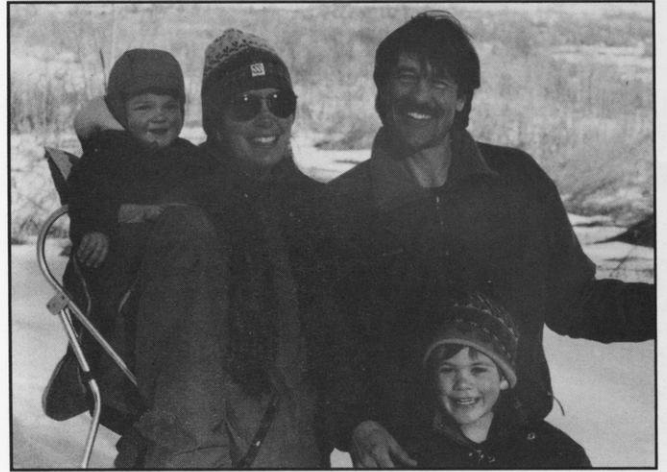
FAMILY HISTORIES

this was home! The living space was small, about 800 square feet, but the owners had done lots of work and the loft where the grain had been stored had been converted into a cozy bedroom. "The setting was beautiful and the dead-end road so peaceful...we just knew we had to make an offer." Their offer was accepted, and after three months of work (there was a lot of wood rot, and carpenter ants had infested the walls between the kitchen and the bathroom), they finally moved in on a warm spring day.

The work continued over the years while they added a deck, wood molding, a wood floor, a cupola, a living room with closet space, a window alcove and cedar siding. Cleaning out the barn has been an ongoing process. "We've found old bottles, letters, a child's toy tractor...all kinds of interesting things in the buildings and around the yard."

Jim, an avid gardener, has planted flowers, shrubs, trees and vegetables to the landscape. Most of the work took place from 1988-1992 while they were both working and trying to get pregnant. "When our first baby finally arrived, our work on the house significantly slowed down...children will do that!"

Their first child, Ryley James Sinclair Buchanan, was born during a snowstorm on February 15, 1992. Sherry retired from teaching to be a full-time mom (and office worker for Jim's landscaping business). Four and a half years later, on September 14, 1996, Braeden Alexander Sinclair Buchanan was born after a high-



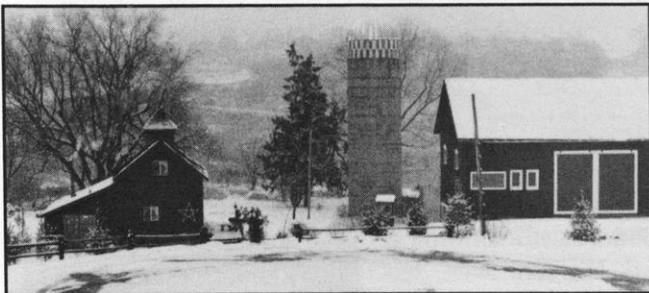
Sherry Sinclair and Jim Buchanan with their sons Braeden (1½), and Ryley (6).

speed truck ride. Fortunately, he waited until they arrived at the hospital to make his appearance. "Both of our children's names reflect our love for the area...we live in the Riley-Klevenville area, and in Irish, Braeden means 'of or from a wide open valley by a sloping hillside.'" Their children's names describe their location exactly. Their dreams have come true. ●

SKINDRUD FARM

The entire present acreage of the Eric and Jerome Skindrud farm is in the National Register of Historic Places. It reflects the significance as an early and outstanding example of the erosion control begun by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the New Deal and continued into the 1940s. The erosion measures on the farm included terraced contour strips (late 1930s) and two stone dams (1934) in the gully that runs through the farm. The contour strips are maintained to this day.

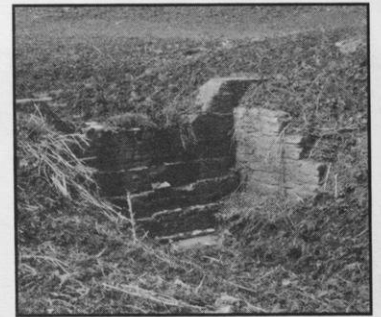
The farm is located on the southeast slope of Military Ridge at the corner of County Highway S and Town Hall Road. The old Military Road, the first, and once the only, highway through Dane County has



Sinclair/Buchanan Farm in January 1998.



Sinclair/Buchanan Farm when first purchased in January 1988.



A dam built by the CCC.



FAMILY HISTORIES



become Highway S. In 1880, the Chicago & Tomah Railroad received a deed to go through the farm. The railroad in modern times has become a bicycle path. The farm is also noted for being the first Norwegian farm in Dane County to be located on the Military Road between Prairie du Chien and Portage.

The farm was acquired in 1856 by Thosten Thampon-Rue and his bride, Guri Gaarden. Rue was the name of the farm which they left when they came to America in 1837. Thosten was the brother of the famous "Snowshoe Thompson," who went west to become the mail carrier who, for years, braved the mountains to deliver the mail. "Snowshoe" lived on the farm before he went west.

Thosten converted the wheat farm to a dairy farm about 1876. When Thosten died in 1880, his son, Henry, and his wife, Annie Skindrud, took over the farm. When Henry moved closer to Mt. Horeb in 1914, he sold the farm to Jacob Stolen. In 1920, when Jerome



The Martin Skindrud family. Standing (left to right): Martin, Agnes Brager, Rev. Orlando, Jerome, Arthur, Esther Oimoen and Eric Skindrud. Seated (left to right): Gertrude Kahl and Ruth Lindemann



The Jerome Skindrud family. Standing (left to right): Rebecca Mostrom, William, Richard and Roderick. Seated (left to right): Jerome and Alma Skindrud.

was one year old, Martin Skindrud purchased the farm. Martin died in 1959. Then Jerome, his wife, Alma and his unmarried brother, Eric bought out the rest of the heirs.

The farm was sold in 1992 to David Atwell. He is the present owner and is doing an excellent job of preserving it. Atwell is still maintaining it as a dairy farm. He had added a large apple orchard. ●

SPAANEM PIONEER FARM 1846

Submitted by Cora Spaanem Bilse

Thore Thoreson Spaanem came to America from Tin Telemarken, Norway in 1846. His wife's name is Turi. His son, Sven, settled on this land in Springdale in Section 17. It was obtained from the United States. Sven had several brothers and sisters, namely Margit (Ben Sundvald), Bergit (Knut, Lee and Ole Gulbrandson), Julia (Christ Arneson), Thore T., Jr., Aslang, Ole and Knud. The last three died in youth.



Mr. and Mrs. Thore Thoreson Spaanem settled the Spaanem homestead in 1846

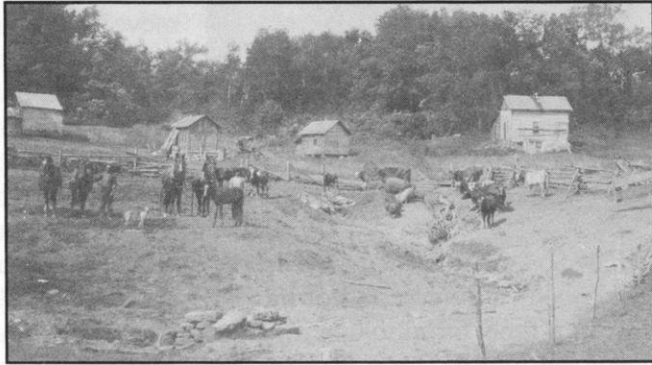
This farm was entered at the U.S. Land Office by Thore Thoreson Spaanem, 1848-1849. Thore Thoreson



FAMILY HISTORIES

Spaanem and his wife, Turi, deeded the land to Sven on October 5, 1857.

The first Springdale Lutheran Church service was held on this farm on March 27, 1859. Pastor J. W. Dietrichson from Koshkonong came to be the preacher. Many people attended his service. That part of the farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heuser.



Location where the Springdale Lutheran Church began under a large oak tree, on March 27, 1850.

Thore S. Spaanem, son of Sven, and wife, Betsie Ann Dahl, were deeded the land on November 22, 1907.

Thore had two sisters, Tharine Nelson Field and Karine Field. The children of Thore and Betsie Ann were Lillian Oimoen, Charles, Stanley, Arthur, Theodore (died in youth), George, Beatrice Uglum, Theodore and Cora Bilse.



Mr. and Mrs. Thore Spaanem.

The trip from Norway took eight weeks. They were eager to have their children get a good education and religious instruction.

Some members of the family are buried in the first cemetery some distance from the Springdale Lutheran Church. They are Knud, Ole and Aslang Spaanem. There is a monument on this cemetery showing the names of the people buried there.

Thore S. Spaanem was Town Chairman when the Springdale Town hall was built in 1915.

There have been many, many ball games played at this farm. Several years ago, there were two Spaanem brothers (Charles and Art) on the Cottage Grove team and two (George and Ted) on the Mt. Horeb team. They were all invited to have Sunday dinner at this farm

before the game. In later years, many 4-H teams met here for their picnics and ball games.

Betsie Ann Dahl Spaanem passed away in 1934. In 1939, the barn burned down. Thore, age 80, had a hired girl and two hired men. That was a very trying time for him. The neighbors, relatives and family were wonderful. Later, they all came back with food and helped put the barn back up in one day. Two family members had painted the barn boards so when the men nailed them up, they were already painted.



Barn raising 1939.

When Thore was 90 years old, in 1952, an Open House was held for him in honor of the occasion. Many neighbors, friends and relatives came to wish him well. He died at the age of 95.

Cora Spaanem Bilse and Arthur T. Bilse became sole owners of the farm in September of 1943. They have two children: Beth Ann Elver (Arthur) and Alan Dahl Bilse (Joen). Beth Ann has four sons: Steven (Julie),



First row (left to right): Jerome and Neil Elver. Second row (left to right): Joen Bilse, Beth Elver, Cora Bilse and Julie Elver. Third row (left to right): Lori Elver, Arthur Elver, Jodi Elver, Steven Elver. Fourth row (left to right): Alan Bilse, David William and Paul Elver. Fifth row (left to right): Jonathon, Scott and Nicholas Bilse.



FAMILY HISTORIES

David (Lori), Paul (Jodi) and William. Alan has three sons: Scott (Dori), Jonathan and Nicholas. There are three great grandsons: Neil, Jerome and Daniel Elver and two great granddaughters: Jessica and Shannon Elver.

This is a 160-acre farm located in Section 17, Town of Springdale, County of Dane, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. It became a Century Farm in 1948. A program was held at the State Capitol in Madison in honor of Century Farms and the family attended the program.

Arthur Bilse passed away February 7, 1978. Cora Spaanem Bilse still lives on the home place. The land has been rented to a neighbor for many years and some is in the CRP Program.

Over the years, the family has had many gatherings — reunions, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The grandsons come to hunt. Theodore mows four acres every summer for Cora. Throughout the year, many family members help with the upkeep on the farm. ●

BILL AND MARTHA STEINHAUER DEER CREEK FARM

Submitted by Shirley Martinson

May 4, 1852 is the earliest date recorded in the abstract for this farm. It was a warranty deed from David and Mary Dryden to Hawley Childs for approximately 80 acres. There were numerous purchases, transfers and additions to this abstract until the site was ultimately 259 acres.



Deer Creek Farm today.



Left to right: Irvin, Orpha, William Sr., and William Jr.

On June 1, 1946, William and Orpha Steinhauer purchased this 259 acres from the Schneider family. They had moved onto this farm in 1941 as renters. Bill and Orpha, together with their sons,

Irvin and William, Jr., operated this as a dairy farm for the next 29 years. In 1975, Bill and Orpha sold the above property to their sons, Irvin and William. It was operated as a dairy and/or hog operation until 1989. At that time, farming operations ceased and the land was put into the Crop Reserve Program (CRP). Today, Bill and Martha Steinhauer live in the home that has been in the Steinhauer family since 1946.

Also located on this farm, was a cheese factory. No one seems to know when it was actually operated as a cheese factory. Over the years, it has been used as a rental unit. The factory and approximately 110 acres of the farm were purchased by Earl Hazeltine in 1994.

It was also noted in the abstract, in an entry dated from February, 1889, that "one acre having been previously sold out of the above described land for school house." This is believed to have been located across the road near Grinde's current home.

Fact or fiction? It has been passed down over the years that this farm was a known source for bootleg liquor during the Prohibition.

In recent years, several parcels of land have been sold to other parties for residences. Families who have built on this farm include Jim and Rosemary Zeasman, Dick and Robin Manley, Don and Denise Thorpe, Allen and Barbara Hale, Guy and Pat Powers and Rose Powers. ●



BANFORD HOWARD STUGARD

Submitted by Lucille K. Stugard McKee

Banford Howard Stugard, born March 27, 1904, was the third son of Harold and Betsy Ann Rue Stugard. He was born on the Stugard farm in the stone house built by Wilhelm Weise at 1977 Springrose Road in Springdale township. Banford was baptized at Springdale Lutheran Church, attended McPherson School and was confirmed at Mt. Horeb Lutheran Church by Pastor E. R. Anderson.



Banford Howard Stugard.

In 1918, Banford's best buddy, his brother, Johnie, died at the age of 17. Also, a brother, Harry, born in 1900, died in 1902. A sister, Helen Viola, was born in 1907 and died in 1909 at the age of 2 years and 8 months. Another sister, Delma, born 1919, is the surviving family member.

In 1919, Dad (Banford) became involved in "Little Missionaries" after the family moved to Mt. Horeb. In



In foreground is the original stone house built by Wilhelm and Wilhelmina Weise. Stugard farm in background, March 1978.

1925, Dad and his folks moved back to the farm, which made Dad happy. He did not like doing different jobs. He was a farmer. In 1927, they had a barn fire, which completely destroyed the barn. The family rebuilt and continued farming.

In January of 1928, Dad bought his first new car, a Star C. and starting really courting Mom then. Before they started courting seriously, they were good friends. In March of 1930, Banford married Kathryn B. Hoesly, daughter of a cheesemaker, Henry K. Hoesly and Kathrine Becker Hoesly of German Valley. Mom and Dad rented the farm until 1942, when they bought it, and they lived the rest of their lives out on Stugard Homestead in Sections 25 and 26.

Mom enjoyed the farm and outdoors, but worked very hard. She loved animals. I remember the summertime, with Dad working late in the field and Mom milking. You could hear her yodeling and singing to the cattle. She was born in Switzerland and learned how to yodel well. I was supposed to be washing dishes, a job I didn't like and still don't like. I would go sit on the porch steps and listen to her. She had a way about her that she just enjoyed life. Over the period of years, she developed arthritis very bad. At the end, she had a stick in each hand, so she could walk. She died July 6, 1976, on the farm. So many wonderful memories. And how she enjoyed her three grandchildren. She made homemade bread and lefse and always found time to make goodies for us. She spoiled us all, although I was already spoiled, since I was the only grandchild for 13



"Little Missionaries," July 1919. Banford H. Stugard (blonde) is in top left corner.



FAMILY HISTORIES

years on both sides of grandparents and an only child, besides that.

Dad continued on living on the homestead, semi-retired, able to care for himself, and enjoyed country life. He had his Ariens 16 hp. tractor, got on that and he was gone. That was his wheels and his legs. In 1991, Dad fell in the kitchen and injured his hip. He was off to the hospital, which was very different for him. He did very well, but it was really an experience. After he left the hospital, he went to Ingleside Nursing Home in Mt. Horeb for two weeks. Then he went back to the farm. After that, Dad did really well, for going through all his new experiences.

He loved to car ride, travel over his special places, talk memories and history. He always wanted to be sure to make it back to Erfurth-Trainor Citgo in Mt. Vernon for a fill-up. Sometimes we would arrive in Mt. Vernon on a wing and a prayer at 5:45 p.m., but would make it. I can brag now, we never did run out of gas. Sometimes it was mighty close. He always enjoyed going to the station and through Mt. Vernon. So many memories for me.

*Born a farmer, raised a farmer, died a farmer
March 27, 1996, at the age of 92, the day I lost it all.*

*Cherish Yesterday
Dream of Tomorrow
Live Today ●*

HARALD HARALDSEN STUGARD

Submitted by Lucille K. Stugard McKee

My granddad, Harald Haraldsen Stugard, was born in 1871 and was baptized and confirmed at Springdale Lutheran Church. He attended the Dryden School. He married Betsy Ann Rue on February 2, 1899. She was the daughter of John Rue and Helga Stinson Rue. They farmed in the Malone district on Lewis Road.



Betsy Ann Rue and Harald Haraldsen Stugard married February 2, 1899 by Rev. Thore Eggen.

My grandparents settled on the farm in Section 25 of Springdale township. They bought the farm from



Stone house built by Wilhelm and Wilhelmina Weise in background. Harold Stugard at right with horse, Bennie Stugard (7) sitting on horse and Johnie Stugard (10) standing in wagon.

Wilhelm and Wilhelmina Weise. The Weise family bought the farm from James Morrison and his wife, Rachel. The Weise family came to the United States from Germany in 1853. On the farm land, Wilhelm and Wilhelmina Weise built a stone house, all by hand with sandstone hauled in a wheelbarrow by Wilhelmina, while Wilhelm placed the stone in place. The house is still standing. Weises lived in this house with their family of six. They sold it to my grandparents, Harold and Betsy Ann Stugard. They also lived in the stone house, where their three children, Banford, Harry and Johnie, were born, until the farm house was built in 1906. Two sisters, Helen and Delma, were born in the new farm home.

My grandparents farmed until they retired in February of 1919. They sold the farm to Knudt Syverude and moved to Mt. Horeb.

In 1925, my grandparents bought the farm back and farmed until 1930, when Dad rented the farm from his folks. They moved back to Mt. Horeb.

Harald died in September of 1943 in Mt. Horeb. Betsy Ann died in June of 1958 in Madison. She moved to Madison after Harald passed on. ●



*John Brown's motto
in his General Store was,
"Quick Sales and Small Profits."*



STUGAARDEN-STUGARD FAMILY

Submitted by Lucille K. Stugard McKee

My great grandfather, Harald Haraldsen Stugaarden, was born in 1829 in Norge, Norway, the son of Harald Christensen Stugaarden and Ragnhild Olsolottee Jordet. They homesteaded in Springdale township, Dane County, Wisconsin, in Section 21 in the summer of 1852. His land adjoined homesteaders already settled in east Section 21, (Henderson Dryden in 1847) and north Section 21, (Guldran Tronrude in 1849) later sold to Peter Brager in 1861; northwest Section 20 (Knut Lindelien and Merit Stugaarden, Harald's sister) and south Section 21, (Martin Kobbernig) in 1850.



Harald Haraldsen Stugaarden, 1852.

In 1852, a young girl, Berit Syverude was, confirmed and attended the Lukken School in Blue Mounds township. Her family had settled about eight miles from the

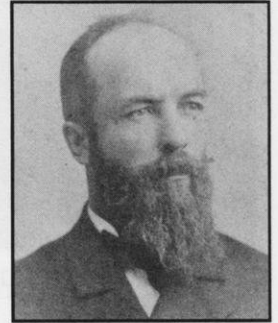


Berit Syverude Stugaarden.

Stugaarden homestead. Great Granddad walked those eight miles — how many times we don't know — walked all the way on the Indian trails, just to win his lady love. He won. They were married October 8, 1856, by Reverend Brodal Prestegaard at the parsonage in Blue Mounds Township. A family of eight children was born to this special pioneer couple: Ragnhild in 1875 (Mrs. Thor L. Thorson), Knud in 1859 (died in 1881), Anna Olive in 1861 (Mrs. Sever L. Swiggum), Marit in 1864 (Mrs. John Fosshage), Olive in 1867 (Mrs. Harry Price), Harald #1 in 1869 (died in 1870), Harald #2 in 1871 (married Betsy Ann Rue) and Ole Harald in 1874 (married Emma Obenchain Dryden).

Great Granddad, Harald Haraldsen Stugaarden, died July 24, 1876, at the very young age of 46. He is buried in the Springdale Lutheran Cemetery in Springdale township.

Berit's second marriage to Hans Evanson took place on September 30, 1882. Hans served in the Civil War for about three years. His first wife died in 1879. They had settled in the Town of Perry and had a family of seven children. Two children were born to Hans and Berit Evanson, Clara in 1883 and Henry in 1887.



Hans Evanson, 1882.

Berit died May 14, 1920, at the age of 82. Hans died January 13, 1923, at the age of 97. The farm was sold to Martin J. and Anna Bang when the Evanson family retired to Mt. Horeb in 1896.

As time went on, the Stugaarden name spelling was a bit confusing in Norway, as well as in the United States. It was decided to drop one "a" and the "en" at the end of the name, ending up as Stugard, meaning "farm land." ●

ART SUTTER FAMILY

An 1868 map of the Town of Springdale indicates 120 acres in Section 29 were owned by George Jarvis. However, the first entry in the Abstract of Title lists the State of Wisconsin to Carl Hesse, dated May 4, 1883. From the Hesse family, the farm went to Samuel Martin and his wife, Isabelle, on January 6, 1909. On March 1, 1909, the farm was purchased by Joseph Sutter. Adolph Sutter purchased the farm from his father, Joseph Sutter, on March 1, 1910. Adolph Sutter owned the farm until his death in 1953. After his death, Barbara, his wife, acquired ownership of the farm. In



Barbara and Adolph Sutter, 1946.



FAMILY HISTORIES



Sutter farm about 1915. In foreground is a 1906 Single Cylinder Cadillac.

August of 1966, the farm was purchased by her son, Arthur Sutter, and his wife, Charlotte. Art discontinued milking when the barn burned in 1971, but he continues to grow oats, hay, corn and soybeans. He raises 15 to 20 dairy heifers per year.

On December 1, 1968, the original stone house and 2.1 acres were sold to David and Nan Cheney from Madison.

In September of 1994, Art and Charlotte Sutter sold 5.3 acres of the farm to their son, Matt, and his wife, Julie. In December of 1994, they started building a house on this acreage, which was completed in December, 1995. Matt and Julie grow asparagus, strawberries, raspberries, garlic and pumpkins, which they sell at the farm and the Farmers Market in Madison.

In October, 1996, two acres and the house built on the farm in 1953, were sold by Art and Charlotte Sutter to Douglas Wealti.

In February of 1998, Jacob Mills and his wife, Nina Cheney Mills, became the present owner of the stone house and the 2.1 acres originally sold to David and Nan Cheney. ●

SYLVESTER SUTTER FAMILY

Submitted by Lucille Sutter

We have eight children, Mary, Ken, Tim, Patty, Bill, Albert, Andy and Hope. In February of 1957, we moved to Springdale on the farm owned by Ralph and Ruby Dunlap. We sold that farm to Farm Credit Services in 1974 after farming there for 17 years.

We then bought the John Meyer farm in 1974. We

built the house and the milking parlor set-up and the manure holding pond. Our farm has always been a family farm.

In 1975, Sylvester was named "Outstanding Co-Operator Farmer" for his conservation practices. His efforts were recognized by the Dane County Soil and Water Conservation District. He received a letter of recognition from Bob Kastenmeier who was a member of the U.S. Congress. Sylvester was a member of the Sugar River Watershed Association. Many tours were given of the milking parlor system and manure holding system. We were also in the AFS Home tour.

In 1980, the barn connected to the milking parlor collapsed during a bad snow storm with high winds. The building was replaced with a conventional barn. On March 4, 1976, on our son Albert's birthday, we had the beginning of an ice storm that destroyed many trees and shrubs. We were lucky because Mike McNall of Mt. Horeb Implement drove to Minnesota to pick up generators for the farmers. We couldn't milk for two milkings because of our three-phase electrical system. Smaller generators would not work. We used our fireplace for heat and cooked on a charcoal grill outside. When we got our generator, we had heat and water and worked like the dickens while we did the milking and fed the cattle.

On July 29, 1987, the same barn that was destroyed in 1980 was again destroyed by what was called a down draft. Sylvester, Louise, Bill and Albert were in the milking parlor, milking and testing milk when it happened. There were a few tense moments when we realized what had happened. We checked to see if our house was okay because Hope and Andy were there. We then checked on the cattle. A few were trapped under part of the roof. Using the skid loader, they were freed and none were lost. Thanks to our wonderful neighbors, family and friends, the building was cleaned up in a few days, even though the temperature hit 90 degrees. The barn was then replaced with a Wick building.

As we are now getting near retirement years, we have sold lots to our children for their homes. We built a home in 1994 on Bakken Road when our son, Albert, took over the farming operation. Our son, Tim, and his wife, Kendra, purchased 45 acres of land. Ken and Cheryl are building a home off Highway PD. Bill and his wife, Margaret, will build off a lot on Highway P. Our daughter, Patty, has built a home near us on Bakken Road.

The farm now consists of 350 acres. We have 11 grandchildren who love to play in the country. ●



SYVRUD FARMS

Submitted by Leona Syvrud

This farm at 2213 Town Hall Road was first patented and deeded in the amount of 160 acres by William A. Woodward, in May of 1852. There were many ownerships of different acreage between then and 1919. In 1919, Adolph Eberhardt bought 120 acres of the original farm. The original home was moved in from a neighboring farm across the road, with the barn being built.

Upon Mr. Eberhardt's death, Clifford and Julia Syvrud purchased 105 acres and a family member purchased the other 15 acres. Clifford and Julia Syvrud and their sons, Wayne and Bob, ran a dairy operation until their son, Wayne, came home from the Marines and took over in January, 1957.

In 1959, Wayne and Leona Syvrud purchased the farm from Wayne's parents. Wayne and Leona ran this as a family dairy farm, along with their four children, Donna, Daniel, Dianne and Douglas. Wayne and Leona are still living on this farm, but due to health and farm economics, they sold off their dairy herd in May of 1996. ●

THE TARKENTON FAMILY

Submitted by Jeanne Tarkenton

Howard, Jeanne and their son, Josh, moved to Mt. Vernon in January of 1989. Howard, born October 16, 1955, is originally from the Oregon, Wisconsin area, and has worked for the State of Wisconsin for the last several years. Jeanne, born October 18, 1959, is originally from Union Grove, Wisconsin, and is a Medical Technologist at University Hospital in Madison.

Howard's interests include Harley-Davidson motorcycles and riding them around the county. Jeanne works cross-stitch and collects antiques. Josh, born April 16, 1984, is a good student in the eighth grade who has been involved in soccer and wrestling.

We all enjoy living in Mt. Vernon very much and hope to live here for many, many years to come. ●

JOHN AND OLIVE THOMSON'S HILLCREST FARM

Submitted by John and Olive Thomson

On March 1, 1951, the John and Olive Thomson family moved to Springdale township from Madison to become stewards of this 20-acre farm at 9349 Malone Road. The place was known by all the neighbors as the "Fox Farm." The abstract cites the first entry as the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, T. 6N R. 7E to Duncan McNab on October 29, 1846. In 1865, the 40-acre plot was divided and thereby became the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, T. 6N, R. 7E and has since remained as a 20-acre tract.

The land was first used for growing tobacco, and at some point, the oak tobacco shed was remade into a barn, which was equipped with five cow stanchions when the Thomsons arrived there. Between 1865 and 1923, when Leonard Hustad became owner, there were many changes of ownership. Earning a living with only 20 acres undoubtedly accounts for several bankruptcies during that period. The Hustads established a fur farm for breeding silver foxes. Silver fox neckpieces were very fashionable at that time, but in the 1930s, the Hustad's business declined, and bankruptcy was declared.

In 1937, a new owner, Guy Corbin, took over the declining business. Soon after, a mutant from two silver foxes (which became nationally known as the first platinum fox in North America) was born at Hillcrest Fox Ranch. It was the progenitor of all platinum foxes bred in Wisconsin thereafter, and it brought prosperity to the Corbins. However, in the early 1940s, fox furs went out of fashion, and the Corbins had to end their business.

Between 1947 and 1951, the acreage changed hands two more times, and then the Thomsons moved in. Their goal was to gain a place for a healthy, partially sustainable lifestyle for a family with four young boys. A daughter completed their family in 1955. One of the first challenges was the dismantling of two acres of fox pens. All four Thomson boys, Dennis, Norman, Douglas and Roderic, completed eighth grade at Malone School, but Elizabeth had only first grade there. The family became involved in many activities and projects in the Springdale 4-H Club. The 20 acres served their needs, as well as the needs of their neighbors up to the present time.



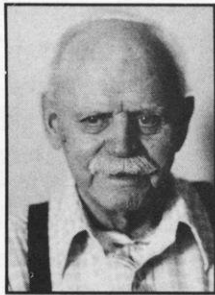
FAMILY HISTORIES

To enhance the landscape, they have established an arboretum of about three acres, and also an acre of native prairie plants. Their garden areas have always provided them with good fruit and vegetable crops, and they have developed several small areas for their special botanical hobbies. ●

FRANK WITTWER & SONS FARM

Submitted by Alice Wittwer

Frank Wittwer and sons, Frederick and Alfred, moved on the Thomas George McCaughey farm on March of 1938. They rented this farm until February 25, 1947, when they purchased the farm. In August of 1941, Frederick and Alice got married and Frank and Alfred lived with them. In April of 1945, Alfred and Ruth were married and lived in a trailer house for a few years. Later, Frederick and Alice remodeled their home.



Frank Wittwer farmed with sons, Fred and Alfred until 5 years before his death at age 89.

They milked around 58 Purebred Holstein cows, raised a few hogs and had a flock of chickens for hatching eggs that went to the Sunnyside Hatchery.

On March 1, 1980, the brothers decided to retire, so the farm was sold to the Hellenbrand Brothers. Alfred and his family retired to Mt. Horeb and Frederick and his family retired to Verona. ●



Wittwer Farm, 1940s.

CHRISTIAN AND BARBARA ZURBUCHEN

Submitted by Evelyn Zurbuchen

Christ and Barbara Zurbuchen built their homestead in the Town of Springdale in 1919. Together, with their children, they farmed the land until Christ's death in 1923. Following the death of her husband, Barbara, with the help of their boys, continued the farm operation.



Front row (left to right): Clarence, Huldreich and Calvin. Second row (left to right): Anna, Theophil, Barbara, Garfield, Christian, Barthol and Alma. Third row (left to right): Hulda, Wilbert, Lydia, Arthur, Martha, Emil and Herbert.

In 1943, Barbara moved to Verona, leaving the farm in the hands of her newly married son, Calvin, and his wife, Evelyn. Barbara died in 1959, at which time the homestead was purchased by Calvin and Evelyn. Since Calvin's death in 1965, his family is still at the home at 2216 Springrose Road.

Calvin and Evelyn raised four children: Barbara, twins Marilyn and Margie, and a son, Chris. Barbara passed away in 1962. Marilyn lives with Evelyn on the farm. Margie lives in Arlington Heights, Illinois with her 17-



Calvin and Evelyn Zurbuchen, summer of 1964.

year-old twin sons, Matthew and Michael. Chris is married to Eileen Poland and built a home across the road from the farm house. ●



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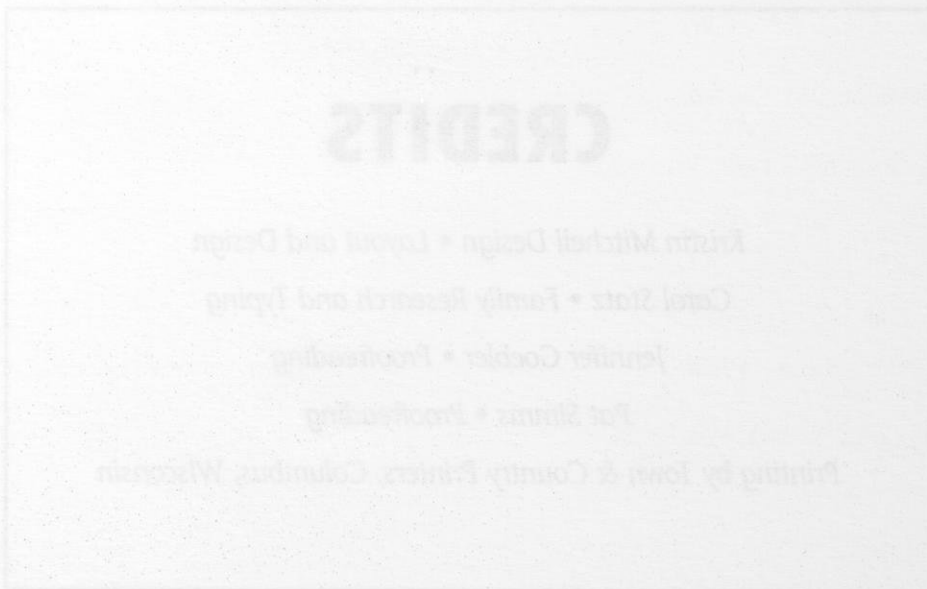
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