

Sydney

Their parents and family - consisting of - Lisa, Lena, Hannah, August, Lydia & Olof - lived on a farm east of Pierpont, S.D., near the Skudenes Church. Her father farmed - in Norway he had been a sailor. Her mother kept the home, baked bread, kunglefeser, etc., was good to sew, and made many of the clothes. She washed & carded wool, spun it on her spinning wheel, & dyed the wool before she wove carpets & mats on her large loom. They had an organ, and enjoyed singing in the home, & at church (chorus etc). There was always a month of Parochial School in the summer. After that they'd have a picnic at a grave by the lake. There were lots of young people in the ~~district~~ <sup>district</sup> who were ~~active~~ <sup>interested</sup> in church activities. The 3 churches in the area (Skudenes, Bergen, Falnes) had joint 3-day services at times and there was lots of singing. There were <sup>country</sup> schools too, and Mom also went to the school in town - she stayed at Andersons, coming home weekends. She remembers the spelling bees at school. The last day of school they were given a nice card from the teacher - Mom still has one she received from a teacher who had come from Minnesota - Tina Kettleson - with an inscription - "For good conduct and close attention you have my sincere thanks". The parents brought coffee & lunch. There were also other parties held at the school - basket socials, and neck-tie parties, <sup>followed with cup of soup served.</sup> as well as the popular spelling matches.

Mom's parents died (Mother in Sept, Father in Feb) when she was 14 (in 1901), and she was confirmed a few months later, in July of 1902. After her folks died Mom lived closer to Pierpont for the next 4 years. She worked for the Potter and Martyn families, helping with the children, and also in the kitchen. She got acquainted with these families and others in the area.

Gustav Tastad was one of the group of young people here. He lived with the Andersons and Lockrens.

He was born in Stavanger, Norway in 1879, and went to the school at Tastad. After completing school there he was too young to take his year of military training, so he decided to go to the U.S. with his uncle, Ludvig Badland. They arrived at Pierpont, S. D. in 1894, when Gustav was 15. He had taken blacksmithing in Norway, so he worked at the Blacksmith Shop for Mr. Lockren, and took some English classes at school in the winter. He had planned to stay only one year, and go back to Norway for his military training, but decided to stay in S. D. Lockren had a patent for a trip hammer, which they made in the shop. Gustav travelled - with horses - around the southern part of S. D. demonstrating these hammers, and making sales. His brother and sister (John and Louise) came to Pierpont in 1901 or 1902.

In 1903 Gustav went back to Norway, ~~and~~ returned in Aug. of 1905. His ~~father~~ <sup>mother</sup> had died <sup>before</sup>, and his father died while he was there. Since Gustav was corresponding with Hannah, he decided to go back to Pierpont, so he returned in Aug. of 1905. Louise had been working for a lady who had T. B. (Mrs. Charley Hersey) near Langford. She also worked in Aberdeen. John had started farming and had no desire to return to Norway.

In March, 1906, Hannah and Gustav were married at the Bethlehem Luth. Church in Pierpont the first couple to be married in the church. Their attendants were John and Louise Tastad, and Gunva Nygaard and Anna Guttormson.

Louise went back to Norway in the fall of 1906, and died there in 1907 from T.B. contacted when nursing her friend, Mrs. Hersing.

After the wedding Lisa and Lena and their families moved to Canada, taking the younger ones along - Hagbert, Lydia and Olaf.

Hannah & Gustav lived in the Anderson house for a while after the wedding, and then moved just out of town to a house, where they lived 1 1/2 years. They had an oak kitchen cabinet, an oak table & chairs, organ, stove and bedroom furniture.

They often thought about moving up to Canada too as there wasn't much to keep them in ~~Perfront~~. The Lockrems also considered moving away.

So in the winter of 1907 Gustav went alone, by train to Hanley and inquired at the land office for ~~possible~~ available land. He filed on a homestead which was 22 miles out of Hanley, as there was nothing available near the Akers & Aadlands. He walked cross country to the Ludvig Aadland, and returned to Perfront after a week or 10 days.

In Aug. 1907 they made the move to Canada shipping their belongings by freight train to Bladworth, Sask. Hannah came on the passenger train later meeting Gustav there. The Akers & Aadland helped load wagons & got them moved to their homestead.

Get moved into the sod house the first winter. The doors, ceiling, windows & floor were completed, the walls were white-washed & with curtains on the windows, plants (geraniums, etc) on the wide deep window sills, & some scattered rugs on the floor, it was cozy & warm.

People came to visit - or dropped in to rest the horses if they were passing by. One time the Vallewands (from Brodick's area) and a group of young people stopped there <sup>overnight</sup> on their way to visit relatives at Elbow. The pastor lived at Elbow (Rev Hagen) in a sod house, and travelled with horses to visit the people in the area between Elbow & Brodick. He always stayed over night with the folks as they had a two-room sod house. They enjoyed having these visits.

After the children came, Christmas was more of a family time, hanging up stockings, etc. When they moved to Hawarden <sup>(1917)</sup> they had their own S. School at home, & also went with Petta Flegg to the United Church S. S. & services.

When possible they went to Bethlehem Church. They got their first car (when Ed was a baby - 1915) but of course it couldn't be used in winter. When we moved to Larchburn we had close neighbors, school & church, & better roads. There were Christmas concerts both at school & church, and many relatives to visit with during the Christmas season.

I remember one Christmas at the farm at Larchburn. It was Chr. Eve, it was mild, full moon - Father called us kids to the window to see someone walking along the road, dressed in white, with a red scarf belt, - & sure enough, he walked in our gate! Then we could see he carried a big bag

on his shoulders, & greeted us with a Ho, Ho, Ho  
and left some gifts - in our stocking, & by the  
tree, and then left. After the excitement  
we noticed Mom wasn't there, but came  
after the visitor left. We told her all about  
it - and it was some time later before  
we realized Mom had dressed up as Father  
white underwear, & was our visiting Santa Claus.

## Mom's Story.

Born - Sept 7, 1887 - Pierpont, S. Dak

Parents - Tollef and Louise Syhre

Came to Pierpont (from Norway) <sup>in 1885</sup> with two daughters - Liva, age 5 yrs, & Lena age 3

There were three more children - Hagbert, Lydia, and Olof, Hannah and Olaf are only remaining children.

Hannah's parents passed away when she was 14 years old, and as her two older sisters were married about that time the rest of the family was scattered.

The three younger children accompanied Liva & Lena to Canada in 1906.

Hannah worked in some nice homes in the Pierpont area for 2-3 years before her marriage in March 1906 to Gustav Tasta. There was the first wedding in the Bethlehem Church in Pierpont, by Rev. Danielson.

Since coming from Stavanger, Norway, Gustav worked in the Blacksmith Shop in Pierpont with Mr. A. Lockrem but felt an urge to, <sup>also</sup> go to Canada and file on a homestead. They left in Aug. 1906 Gustav leaving on a freight car with their belongings - 2 horses, 2 cows, and some machinery, and household effects.

Hannah came later by passenger train. She met Gustav at Bladworth. They loaded the wagon and set out for the D. M. Aker farm at Stronaheld.

They drove until dark, hobbled the horses and spent the night under the stars. In the morning the horses were gone, so father had to go and find them. They could see a sad house in the distance from where they had camped and when they arrived there found it was her sister's place - O.M. Aker. They spent a few days there making another trip back to Bladworth to pick up the rest of their belongings.

They then went to the Homestead living in a tent until they and their friends and neighbors built a sad house. Mom stayed with a neighbor during the coldest part of the fall while the sad house was being completed.

They had to go to Hanley for the grocery shopping (22 miles) and to the Anderson post office by Strongfield for the mail (12 miles).

The following year 1908 the CPR came through the corner of their farm, so Ilesia was the closest town (5 miles).

They were charter members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1908? Mom is the only charter member living now.

Father had a sad blacksmith shop so was kept busy sharpening plow shears and shoeing horses, Mom also was busy making meals for the bachelors bringing work to the shop. The bachelors would bring a bag of flour and he baked bread for them.

Mrs. Anderson

There were only 2 other ladies in the neighborhood  
Mrs. Anderson (settled) and the Johnson who had  
daughters - Lavina & Bertie. The Carlsons lived  
about 3 miles away and had a small family.

The <sup>2-roomed</sup> sod house was <sup>very</sup> comfortable & warm in the  
winter (& cool in summer) - It had a wooden floor  
and plastered & whitewashed walls. The furniture  
included - table, kitchen cabinet, stove & <sup>hard coal</sup> heater  
a couch (that would open) a bed, dresser & trunks.

A pump organ was special for entertainment.  
Before the church was built, services  
were held in the homes. The pastor was sent  
out by the Lutheran church <sup>on the U.S.</sup> & travelled with  
horses. He often stayed with us as we  
had 2 rooms - we'd give him our bed  
& we'd sleep on the floor in the kitchen.  
The people were very neighborly, and  
wouldn't mind walking a few miles to  
visit. Singing was a common pastime,  
and while the ladies did hand work,  
and visited, the men talked farming.  
There would also be time for a friendly  
game of croquet.

There was no doctor at first, but a  
neighbor lady served as mid-wife.  
There were no schools near by, so in  
1917 they bought a house in Towardem  
so that the children could go to school.



Insert - about Gustav

Gustav was born in Stavanger, Norway to Peder and Anne Karine Johannessen in 1879. He was <sup>baptized</sup> confirmed there, and after his schooling, apprenticed with a Blacksmith. He came to S.D. with his uncle Ludvig Aadland, and returned to Norway after a few years, due to his mother's <sup>death</sup> ~~illness~~ & father's illness. During the 2 years he was back, his father died, and Gustav decided to return to Pierpont, as he had met Hannah there. He worked in Pierpont again in the Blacksmith shop for A. S. Lockwood. Then on March 22, 1906, he and Hannah Lybee were married in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Pierpont.