

Elmer and Gina Skaare

Elmer and Gina Skaare were married June 25, 1924. They built their home on Iver Skaare's tree claim. Adjoining land was later purchased, until the farm consisted of 800 acres. On this farm Elmer had at different times, sheep, milk cows, fox, leghorn chickens, and hogs. There was always enough to do for both Elmer and Gina. Elmer farmed with horses at first. He was a carpenter with his brother-in-law before becoming a farmer. They had two sons, Philip and Robert. All were members of the Bergen Congregation, and active in Sunday School, Brotherhood, ALCW, and the American Legion, and the Legion Auxiliary. The boys attended country school. Philip graduated from Bristol High, and Robert from Webster. The Skaares lived on this farm until 1972, when it was sold to Mike Sikkink. Then the Skaares moved into their new home in Bristol to retire. Elmer's hobbies are now the activities at the Senior Citizens' Organization. He worked hard for the senior citizens' building in town.

Iver and Ingeborg Skaare

Iver Skaare was born March 21, 1854, and his wife Ingeborg was born July 23, 1856 in Opstryn, Nordfjord, Norway. In the church at Stryn both were baptized and confirmed, and in this beautiful country with its valleys, mountains, and many waterfalls, their happy childhood days were spent. As children of humble peasant folk, it became their lot early in life to leave home and work for their livings. In 1881, they, with a group of emigrants, crossed the Atlantic and came to Montevideo, Minnesota.

Iver Skaare and Ingeborg Sigdestad were married at Granite Falls, Minnesota, January 4, 1882, and resided in Yellow Medicine County until the spring of 1884. Their wedding gifts consisted of a second-hand coffee pot and a pair of used flat irons. In the spring of 1884, they gathered their possessions, consisting of a covered wagon, a pair of oxen, one cow, two roosters and a hen, and set their course for Dakota Territory.

After a 10-day journey with a 10-month old baby, they came to Lynn Township. They stayed for a while in a dugout on the land now owned by Alfred Tofley. They later took up a homestead five miles southwest of Lynn Lake, which has since been their home. They were the first settlers in this community, and the nearest neighbor was several miles away.

Their first home was a shack 12 x 14 feet. The outside was covered with sod, and the walls inside were boards. This shack served as parlor, dining room, bedroom and kitchen for many years, and even accommodated strangers seeking a home on the prairie.

Ten children came to bless their home, nine of whom are living. The children are: Emma, Mrs. G. Holden; Serene, Mrs. L. Mydland; Clara, Mrs. G. Erdahl; Ida, Mrs. J. Fossum; Agnes, Mrs. Lars Larson; Emily, a graduate of Webster's School for Nurses; John; Edwin; and Elmer. John and Edwin are now farming the home place. Their son Sivert died in 1915 at the age of 27.

John L. and Jeanne Skaare

John L. Skaare graduated from Bristol High School in May of 1944, and later entered the Navy. He served in

the Pacific until the end of World War II. John married Jeanne Peckham August 16, 1953 at Bristol. They lived on the Ben Solaas farm, and purchased the Eliason farm in 1956. In 1962, they moved to the Skaare homestead. They later purchased it, and are farming there now.

The six children born to John and Jeanne were: John Randall, who died 2½ years after birth; Jeff, who graduated from Brown Institute, Minneapolis, and is now living in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, with his wife Mary and their two children, Eric and Angela; Jerry, who married Carol Webb of Aberdeen, has one child, Tiffany, and farms part-time with his father; Joan of Aberdeen; and Julie and Joy, both at home.

John R. and Bertha Skaare

On July 2, 1965, John R. Skaare married Bertha Langeland at Geddes, South Dakota. They farmed on the Skaare homestead. John farmed with his brother Edwin until 1962, when John, Bertha, and Edwin moved to Bristol. John's son, John Leo and family then moved to the homestead and are still farming there.

Six children were born to John and Bertha. They are: John Leo of Bristol; Carol, Mrs. Lyle Johnson of Webster; Eunice, Mrs. Ronald Hanson of Rapid City; Margaret, Mrs. Erwin Wattier of Crandall; Leona, Mrs. Larry Wattier of Langford; and Noel, Mrs. Kenneth Anderson of Webster.

Bertha died July 23, 1965. Edwin entered the Sun Dial Manor and lived there until his death May 14, 1974. John entered the Sun Dial Manor in 1978 and is now living there.

Peter and Inger Sommers

Peter and Inger Sommers came from the northern part of Norway to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in 1882. They stayed with relatives there a very short time, and then came to Dakota Territory and filed on land near Lynn Lake in or near Sections 10 and 11. Peter later went to Minnesota and worked in saw mills to help care for his family. Two of their children, Dan and Sarah, were born in Norway. Martin, now 92, and the only living member of his family, is a resident of the Strand-Kjorsvig Rest Home in Roslyn. Helga died near Skunk Lake, North Dakota, and Ernest died out west.

Martin was 12 years old when his mother died in 1891. Peter then rented out his farm and farmed near Skunk Lake for three years. There Dan met Lisa Davidson, and they married. Peter died in 1893. Later Dan sold the farm to Arnt Hanson and moved to Webster. Peter, Helga, and Inger are buried in Skudesnes Church Cemetery.

Martin worked for years as an operator of Andrew Paulson's threshing machine, and later did carpenter and cement work in the Pierpont area. He made his home with Mrs. Olga Fossum and family. Martin said that Indians came during the winter months, set up their tents and trapped fur-bearing animals, but never gave them any trouble.

Tollof and Louisa Syhre

by Mildred Lee

Tollof Syhre came from Skudesnes, Norway, and homesteaded one mile south of Skudesnes Lutheran Church in 1884. He married Louisa Paulson in Norway. They and their two children, four-year-old Lizzie, and

two-year-old Lena, came to stay with the Andrew Paulson family. They had a total of 11 children, several of whom died in infancy. Hagbart farmed the old homestead for many years until moving to Silverton, Oregon, where he died several years ago. Living are: Hannah, Mrs. Gustav Tastad; Mrs. Lydie Halvorson of Canada; and Olaf of Watertown. Louisa Syhre died in 1901 and Tollof died a few months later. The children were then cared for in the Andrew Paulson home for a number of years. Tollof helped build Skudesnes Church and also, being a singer, led the church in hymn-singing. People recall that if he did not get started right, his wife would join him in getting the right pitch. Mrs. Hans Nilson told of an experience she had while visiting at the Syhre home. She was returning to her home when she began hemorrhaging from the mouth. She immediately turned back to the Syhres' and they encouraged her to swallow salt. Unbelievably, the bleeding stopped, and she drove on home in her buggy. From that day until her death, she could not tolerate any salt. This would perhaps puzzle our doctors in this age. This incident was told to me by my grandmother, Mrs. Hans Nilson.

John and Olava Tofley

by Elmer Engebretson

John O. Tofley and his wife, Olava Petrine Tofley, and their two infant daughters Sina and Josephine, left Willmar, Minnesota and settled in Lynn Township in 1880. The elder Tofleys and Sina, their oldest daughter, had immigrated to this country from Haukness, Mo Rannen, Norway. On July 20, 1880 Christian Alfred Tofley was born. He was the first white child born in Day County. During 1880, only one other person, Ingrebrecht Hammer, lived in Lynn Township. Sina married Lars Alsager. Josephine married George Engebretson, then spelled Engebretsen, on October 16, 1901. George Engebretson, born January 26, 1875 at North Aurdal, Vadres, Norway, came with his parents, Engebret and Dagmar Haugseth, and three sisters came to Lincoln County, Dakota Territory in 1884. About 10 years later he came to Day County. George and Josephine lived on the "home place" in Lynn until their deaths in 1942. Surviving were one daughter, Rena, who died in 1954, and four sons: John, born August 13, 1907; Melvin, born July 25, 1911; Gifford, born September 12, 1913; and Elmer, born June 1, 1916. Two sons died in infancy, Clarence on October 4, 1910 and Berthal, in December of 1915.

Bent and Lena Tvinnereim

Andre R. and Enger Bergeson Tvinnereim were both born in Nordfjord, Norway. Andre came to America in 1872, and settled in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Enger came to this country in 1881. She first lived in Decorah, Iowa. They were married in 1881 at Tulare, Dakota Territory. They came to this area in a covered wagon, drawn by oxen. Born to this union were: Johanna, Bent, Bertha, and Sophia. The son Randal and an unnamed son died in infancy. They came to Day County in 1886. In 1891, they purchased a quarter of land in the southeast part of Lynn Township for \$700. A little later, another quarter of land was purchased. Here they lived for the remainder of their lives. Andre died August 24, 1907. His widow lived with her son Bent and his wife Lena until she passed away on December 1, 1933. They are both buried in the Tabor Church Cemetery.

Andre was a charter member when Tabor was built in 1903. Bent continued farming on his father's farm.



The Bent and Lena Tvinnereim Family.

Karolus R. Skor and Synneve Arneson Skor were both born in Opstryn, Norway. Karolus came to America in 1882, and lived a short time in Canada and at Granite Falls, Minnesota. In 1884, he came to Dakota Territory, and homesteaded in Kidder Township. In 1885, he married Synneve Arneson at Granite Falls, they had a daughter Sarah, and a daughter Lena. Synneve died February 28, 1897, at the age of 46. On December 2, 1897, Karolus married Martha Bjerkelo. They had three children, Sivert, Mina, and Karen. The Skors are buried in Bergen Church Cemetery.



The Bent Tvinnereim Family; **Back:** Reuben, Bennie, Donald, Andrew. **Middle:** Clifford, Sylvia, Lester, Mabel, Selma. **Front:** Ervin, Loretta, Bent, Lena, Beverly, and Arnold.

Bent Tvinnereim was born November 11, 1883, in Spink County, Dakota Territory. Lena Skor was born January 23, 1887. Bent and Lena were married March 24, 1906, in the house which was their home for 41 years. Bent and Lena were active church members at Tabor Church from the time of their marriage. Bent was a charter member. All of their children were baptized and confirmed there. Bent was always active in community affairs. He worked hard to get REA in this area, and was one of the first members of the Board of Directors of the REA. The following children were born to them: Selma, Andrew, Clifford, Mabel, Bennie, Reuben, Sylvia, Arnold, Loretta,