

T R I V I A

Q- How many of Eph & Mollie's family went to Danway School?

A- "Probably" all of them...with possible exception of Alvah

Q- Why didn't the three older sons of Mons & Kristi go to Danway?

A- They were old enough, they would have gone to school in Illinois

Q- How many of Mons & Kristi's children were born in Iowa?

A- None! Mollie was the youngest..she was born in Grundy Co. Ill.

Q- At Danway School..what was the source of "drinking water" ?

A- Jake Knudson's windmill--across the road to the west

Q- How many "grades" were there in Danway Country School?

A- Eight!...all in one big class room

Q- Was the "steam, radiator heat" in Danway school efficient?

A- No! It was a "coal burning stove, with a tin hover"

Q- What kind of "tree" was it that was "near the sod house" in the northwest corner of the school yard?

A- Mulberry!

Q- What protection was there from "wind storms" at Danway School?

A- A cave-along eastern border of school yard..toward SE corner

Q- What in-law of Thelma (Monson) Olson was associated with Danway?

A- Thelma's mother-in-law taught school at Danway...and more than likely...taught Eph & Mollie who went to school at Danway, too!

Q- St.Paul's Lutheran church was built 1 mile west of Danway School on the T.B.Olson farm--was he related to Thelma (Monson) Olson

A- Yes--They were grandparents of Thelma's husband..Bertrum Olson

Q- The Nels Olsen farm was --just west of the Sven & Pauline Monson farm....what connection did they have to Mons & Kristi Thompson?

A- Mrs. Olsen was "Kristi's sister"; Mons & Kristi "stayed at Olsens" while they built their home north of Danway School

Q- Mollie's mother, "Kristi" had an older brother in Norway named Hans Jorgenson Arbakka. What was his name in the U.S.A.?

A- He "changed his name" to Hans George!

Q- Britanne Jorgensdatter Arbakka is the grandmother of Bernard Onerheim, one of our "reunion speakers" -- what was name of the "church" where she was married to Jens Larson?

A- Onerheim church...on the island of Tysnes, Norway

Q- If their name was Larson, why isn't Bernard's name Larson, too?

A- Because...they changed it back to Onerheim...after the area where they originated!

Q- WHO hosted the 1st organization mtg to start the St. Paul's Lutheran Church?

A- Tom Thompson-- (Mollie's oldest living brother) lived on the farm directly north of Svend & Pauline Monson--Eph's parents. Tom was one of first trustees and Svend one of first deacons.

Q- At St. Paul's Lutheran church, services were conducted in Norwegian until about what year...then when did they switch to 100% English?

A- Services were in Norwegian until 1915, then, both Norwegian and English until 1940...when all Norwegian services were eliminated.

Q- Was Danway Cemetery, south of Danway School, always named that?

A- No! It was first called, Scandinavian Cemetery Of Shelby County. The first recorded "burial" was Nov. 10, 1881

Q- Who was the "first person to conduct burial services at Danway" ?

A- Because pastors commuted long distances & handled several churches, Jacob O. Johnson, on whose land the cemetery was located, served as "lay pastor" during the week and conducted funeral services.

Q- The "church lot" for St. Paul's Lutheran was purchased for \$35 from T.B. Olson and the church was built in 1892 at "what cost"?

A- \$1,768.90; the bell was added in 1898; a 16' addition in 1906

Q- Out of all the pastors...who served the most number of years?

A- A.C. Itse, from 1915 to 1957. Many of us were confirmed by him!

Q- Country schools--in earlier days, were attended by older boys (men) who worked on the farm in the summer and went to school in the winter...how many were known to have attended Danway one winter?

A- Reportedly -- as many as 64 went one winter!

Q- "WHO" now own the land, which was the site of the "organizational meeting" for the St. Paul's Lutheran Church?

A- Gilbert & Darlene Hanson--who are members and attend the church, which is now located in Irwin, Iowa

Q- About 1885--the year Danway School was built--what city--besides Oslo and Bergen...had the largest population of Norwegians?

A- Chicago, Illinois

Q- Why did so many Norwegians (and, other Scandinavians) leave their home countries...to go to America?

A- There was much "advertising" about the "riches" to be had in America...the bounteous crops grown on the "virgin soil"; and, poor economic conditions and often, they felt persecution that existed in their home lands.

Q- Mollie (Thompson) Monson was the "12th child" born to Mons & Kristi Thompson -- and Myrtle (Monson) Mason was the "10th child" born to Eph & Mollie Monson....how many years were there...between "birth of Mollie's father and birth of her youngest daughter"?

A- 108 years!!!!...from 1816 to 1924.

Q- Why was Cora (Thompson) Benson like a "sister" to Mollie Monson?

A- She was the daughter of Tom Thompson (Mollie's brother...who died , along with his wife and one other daughter of typhoid) and, Cora came to live with her "Aunt Mollie"...but grew up like a sister in the same household of Kristi Thompson.

Q- What "musical talent" was a part of Eph & Mollie's lives?

A- Mollie played the "piano"...was a graduate of the Conservatory of Music in Des Moines, Ia in 1903--the same year Eph & Mollie were married. Eph had a "musical ear" and was proficient in the playing of the violin. Mollie played a 'recital' for the Iowa governor in 1903.

Q- Mollie & Eph were "farmers" all their lives. Where did they farm the year they were married...June 24, 1903?

A- On the east side of the road...south of what we use to call "The Danly Thompson farm"...and--their corn crop was hailed out!

Q- What "Norwegian marriage" represented a joining of the Sven & Pauline Monson family with the Mons & Kristi Thompson family?

A- Cyrus Edward Monson, the youngest surviving son of Sven & Pauline, married Nora Mabel Nelson, daughter of George and Julia (Thompson) Nelson. Julia was Kristi's daughter...who was the administratrix for the sale of the farm when Kristi died.

Q- Eph Monson and Paaren Ficus--good friends and neighbors, also operated a "steam engine-threshing machine" partnership for many years. What other "interest" did they have in common?

A- Both were "experts" at growing watermelons--friends will testify!

Norway's royalty find part of their past far from home

By William Mullen
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

For a couple of days this week the king and queen of Norway, various city and state dignitaries and a media mob are roaming around Chicago's toughest Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

This incongruous entourage is on a sort of pilgrimage through America's and Norway's common history. As part of a monthlong visit to the United States, King Harald and Queen Sonja began a two-day Chicago visit on Tuesday.

They are using the occasion to look in on some of the institutions built a century ago by Norwegian immigrants when Chicago was the city with the third-largest Norwegian population in the world.

In those days, 60,000 or so of them made Humboldt Park and Logan Square neighborhoods a little piece of home, with their own restaurants, shops, taverns, churches and undertak-

ers. From 1900 to 1950, the only cities in the world with more Norwegians were the two largest in Norway—Oslo and Bergen.

In Chicago, Norwegians transformed streets like North and Fullerton Avenues into streets almost identical to those they left at home. Butchers, grocers and bake shops all sported the names of their Norwegian owners.

With so many Norwegian women finding work here as maids, the big restaurants along North Avenue were especially busy on Thursday nights, the traditional maids' night off. That is when the young men and women would stroll through Humboldt Park, ride the boats in the lagoon and stop for a meal just like at home.

But while they were once a political and cultural force to be reckoned with in the city, the Norwegians no longer are as visible here.

They, like so many other immigrant groups who built Chicago, became

Norway

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Norway to Chicago, making it the port of entry for hundreds of thousands of Norwegians who eventually settled in the middle west.

Following the luncheon, the royal couple moved on to Humboldt Park and the Norwegian American Hospital, where the king planted a tree at the site of a planned \$11 million professional building annex.

The hospital, founded 101 years ago to serve Norwegian immigrants and their families, now serves an almost entirely Hispanic population that gradually took over the neighborhood after World War II.

"When the younger fellows started coming home from the war and getting married after 1945, they began moving out to new houses in the suburbs," said Norman Dahl, 68, one of five Norwegian-Americans still on the hospital's 14-member board.

"All of us live in the outlying suburbs now, but we come down here because of the sweat and blood our forefathers put into it as a community hospital, and we want to keep it that way."

"There are more babies born here every year than any hospital in the city except for Cook County, but we are perhaps the best-managed low-cost operating facility in the city."

The king and queen will spend part of Wednesday with some of the last surviving Norwegians from the immigrant era as they visit two nursing homes, Norwood Park Home, 6016 W. Nina Ave., and Bethesda Home, 2833 N. Nordica Ave.

"Everything has changed," said Jacob Nilsen, who came to Chicago in 1927 and, at 94, is now the oldest resident at the Bethesda Home. He and his wife, Svanhild, 88, who followed him here in 1931, will be among those meeting the



Tribune photo by Charles Osgood

Mayor Richard Daley (right) points out some sights to Queen Sonja of Norway while his wife, Maggie, (left) talks with Norway's King Harald during a lakefront cruise Tuesday from Navy Pier to Buckingham Fountain aboard the Anita Dee.

Americans, too integrated into the mainstream to stay where their forefathers established a foothold.

Still, there are remnants of the Norwegian heyday in the city, and King Harald and his commoner queen were visiting them busily on Tuesday, beginning with lunch at Navy Pier with

Mayor Richard Daley.

"I am most pleased that you are hosting this luncheon for the queen and myself here at Navy Pier," he told guests at the luncheon.

He noted that, beginning in 1862, ships began sailing directly from

SEE NORWAY, PAGE 2

WARRANTY DEED RECORD.

T B Olson & wife

TO

Filed for Record this 26th day of AprilA. D. 1892, at 1¹⁵ o'clock P. M.

J. C. Parker

Record

Trustees of St Paul Lutheran Church, WARRANTY DEED.

Know all Men by these Presents :

That *T B Olson & Annie J Olson* Husband & Wife
 of *Iowa* County and State of *Iowa*
 in consideration of the sum of *Thirty Five* DOLL
 in hand paid by *and the further consideration herein after named*
 by *County and State of* do hereby SELL AND CON
 unto the said *The Trustees of the St Paul Lutheran Church of Shelby Iowa*

the following described premises situated in the County of Shelby and State of Iowa, to-wit:

Part of the South East Quarter of Section Thirteen (13) Township
 Eight (8) N, Range Thirty Eight (38) West of the 5th P.M. Meridian
 as follows: Commencing at the South East corner of said
 Section Thirteen (13) and running thence North Thirteen (13)
 Rods thence East Twelve (12) Rods thence South Thirteen
 (13 1/2) Rods thence East Twelve (12) Rods place of beginning contain
 Acre or less

upon the following conditions
 It is further agreed and understood as a part of the consideration
 that said land shall be used for church purposes only that said land shall
 be sold or leased to any other organization or church association that
 dwellings or other buildings shall be erected or placed on said
 except the buildings used as a house of worship that if said
 is vacated or used for any other purpose than as above then
 the title to the said land shall revert to the said Grantor his
 executors administrators or assigns

And *we* hereby covenant with the said Trustees of the St Paul Lutheran Church of
 that *we* hold said premises by good and perfect title; that *we* have good right and lawful authority to
 convey the same; that they are free and clear of all liens and incumbrances whatsoever, and *we* covenant to WARRANT
 AND DEFEND the title to said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever. *The said Annie*
Olson hereby releases her right of dower in and to the above de

Signed this 7th day of April A. D. 1892

T B Olson

Annie J Olson

STATE OF IOWA, *Shelby* County--ss.

On this 7th day of April A. D. 1892, before me, a Justice of the Peace
 within and for said County, personally came *T B Olson and Annie J Olson*

personally to me known to be the identical person whose names are affixed to the
 instrument as grantor, and acknowledged the execution of the same to be their
 act and deed, for the purposes therein expressed.

Witness my hand and official seal on the day
last above written
Matt Wells

T. B. "TOBIAS" OLSON
AND HIS WIFE, ANNIE
S. OLSON, SOLD LAND
TO THE St. Paul's
Lutheran Church
(trustees)...for \$35
on April 7, 1892.

UPON THE FOLLOWING
CONDITIONS.....

"It is further agreed
and understood as a
part of the consideration
that said land shall be
used for church purposes
only, that said land shall
not be sold or leased to
any other organization or
church association. That
no dwelling or other build-
ings shall be erected or
placed on said property,
except the Buildings used
as a House of Worship.
That if said property is
vacated or used for any
other purpose than as
above stated, the title
to the said land shall
revert to the said
Grantor, his executors,
administrators or
assigns.

On T. B. Olson
Warranty
Leed

FROM THE
Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company,
TO
A. Morrison

Filed for Record this 28 day of Oct A. D. 1882
at 5 o'clock, P. M.
J. E. Rector Recorder.
By Deputy.

Contract No. _____ No. _____ B.

Whereas, heretofore, to-wit: On the 28 day of September A. D. 1882, the CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY made and entered into an AGREEMENT with A. Morrison of the County of Grundy and State of Illinois, wherein the said Railway Company, in consideration of the cash sum of Fourteen Hundred and twenty Dollars, to be paid to the said Railway Company, and for other considerations, agreed to convey to the said A. Morrison his legal representatives or assigns, the following described real estate, situated in the COUNTY OF SHELBY, and State of Iowa, to-wit:
The South West Quarter of Section Twenty (20) in Township eighty (80) north of Range thirty seven (37) west

And whereas the said Railway Company has been consolidated with, and is now known as the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company, and whereas the said principal sum as aforesaid has been fully paid; Now, Therefore, the said CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, in consideration of the premises, and in pursuance of its agreement as aforesaid, does hereby GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL AND CONVEY to the said A. Morrison the real estate hereinbefore described, to HAVE AND TO HOLD to him and his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Railway Company covenants with the said A. Morrison that at the date of the agreement as hereinbefore made it was seized of the said real estate as of a good and indefeasible estate in fee simple, and that it will WARRANT AND DEFEND THE TITLE against the claims of all persons whomsoever then justly subsisting; and that it, the said Company, since the date of the agreement as aforesaid, executed no conveyance of said real estate, nor agreement to convey the same in any other manner than is now herein done.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY has caused these presents to be signed by its President Hugh Little and the seal of its Land Office to be hereto affixed, this 28 day of October A. D. 1882

Registered Vol 1-184

Hugh Little President.
J. Lewis Drew Land Commissioner.

STATE OF IOWA, ss.
County of Scott.
I, John Lewis Drew, to me personally known to be the identical person whose name is signed to the instrument as Land Commissioner of the CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY, the Grantor therein named, and acknowledged the instrument to be the act and deed of the said Grantor, by him as its Land Commissioner thereof duly authorized, voluntarily done and executed.
WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal, this 28 day of October A. D. 1882
J. Lewis Drew Notary Public.

By contrast, even died on 9/3/1897, and Pauline took over the farm, with one-half interest being divided in increments of 20% each to the five sons, Peter, Martin, Ephraim, Conrad and Cyrus. When Pauline died on 10/28/1930, it was during the "depression era" and their 160 sold for \$43.28 in 1932.

HISTORICAL

DOCUMENTS

117 YEARS AGO.

SVEN MONSON AND

MONS THOMPSON.

BOUGHT 160 ACRES,

EACH, FROM THE

ROCK ISLAND AND

PACIFIC RAILWAY

COMPANY..ON THE

SAME "DATE".....

SEPT. 8, 1979

Sven paid \$1,320

Mons paid \$1,040

CHICAGO, ROCK ISLAND & PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.

Filed for record, this 7 day of March

A. D. 1884, at 3 o'clock P.M.

D. B. Mastick

Recorder.

By

Deputy.

Contract No.

No. B.

Whereas, heretofore, to-wit:—On the 8 day of September A. D. 1879, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company made and entered into an agreement with Meris Thompson of the County of Grundy and State of Illinois wherein the said Railway Company, in consideration of the principal sum of One Thousand & forty DOLLARS, thereoffer to be paid to the said Railway Company, and for other considerations, agreed to convey to the said Meris Thompson or his legal representatives or assigns, the following described real estate, situated in the County of Shelby, and State of Iowa, to-wit:

The North west quarter of Section seventeen (17) in Township eighty (80) North, of Range thirty seven (37) West—

containing One Thousand & forty Acres, be the same more or less.

AND WHEREAS, the said transferred and assigned the said agreement, and all rights thereunder, by an instrument in writing, by signed, and thereon endorsed, to of the County of and State of and authorized the said Railway Company to execute a conveyance of the said real estate to the assignee.

AND WHEREAS, the said transferred and assigned the said agreement, and all rights thereunder, by an instrument in writing, by signed, and thereon endorsed, to of the County of and State of and authorized the said Railway Company to execute a conveyance of the said real estate to the assignee.

And whereas the said Railroad Company has been consolidated with and is now known as the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company

AND WHEREAS, the principal sum as aforesaid has been fully paid, now, therefore, the said Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company, in consideration of the premises, and in pursuance of its agreement as aforesaid, does hereby GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL, AND CONVEY to the said Meris Thompson the real estate hereinbefore described, to HAVE AND HOLD, to him the said Meris Thompson and his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Railway Company hereby covenants with the said Meris Thompson that at the date of the agreement as hereinbefore recited, it was seized of the said real estate as of a good and indefensible estate in fee simple, and that it will WARRANT AND DEFEND THE TITLE thereto against the claims of all persons whomsoever then justly subsisting; and that it, the said Company, since the date of the agreement as aforesaid, has executed no conveyance of said real estate, nor agreement to convey the same in any other manner than is now herein done.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company has caused these presents to be signed by its President and Land Commissioner, and the seal of its land office to be hereto affixed, this 11 day of March A. D. 1884

A. R. Cable

President.

J. Lewis Drew

Land Commissioner.

Seal.

Registered

STATE OF IOWA, County of Scott, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That this day, before the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County, personally came John Lewis Drew to me personally known to be the identical person whose name is signed to the within instrument as Land Commissioner of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company, the Grantor therein named, and acknowledged the said instrument to be the act and deed of the said Grantor, by him as its Land Commissioner thereunto duly authorized, voluntarily done and executed.

WITNESS my hand and notarial seal, this 6 day of March A. D. 1884

Seal.

Wm. H. Mast

Notary Public.

Mons died on 4/18/1891—and Kristi lived until 2/6/1915 when she died. Julia (Thompson) Nelson was the administrator of the estate and the farm sold on October 12, 1915 to Andrew Hanson for \$24,100. This was at the start of World War I and prices were pretty good.

Julia Oline (Thompson) Nelson was the oldest surviving descendent of Mons and Kristi (Arbakka) Thompson.

She was the administratrix of the estate when Kristi died in 1915. She was married to George Nelson...was the older sister of Mollie.

20

Administrator's Deed Record.

State of Iowa, Washington, Dec 1899 No. 1

Filed for record the 4th day of March 1899/1900
at 3:55 o'clock P. M.
Recording By Henry F. Wunders Recorder
Fee 60¢ By W. B. Woods Deputy
Entered for taxation the 4th day of March 1899/1900
By C. G. Schell Auditor
By Glen C. Howard Deputy

Know all Men by these Presents:

That I, Julia Nelson of Shelby County, State of Iowa, as Administratrix of the Estate of Christina Thompson late of Shelby County, State of Iowa, deceased, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the District Court of Shelby County, State of Iowa, and in pursuance of the order of said Court made on the twelfth day of October A. D. 1899, and in consideration of the sum of Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Sixty DOLLARS, in hand paid by Andrew Hanson of Shelby County, State of Iowa, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do by these presents give, grant, sell and convey unto the said Andrew Hanson the following described Real Estate, situated in the County of Shelby State of Iowa, to-wit:

The Northwest quarter (NW 1/4) of Section Seventeen (17) in Township Eighty (80) North, of Range Thirty-seven (37) West of the Fifth P.M.

Original Revenue Stamp \$4.50
Cancelled

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described and granted premises to the said Andrew Hanson his heirs and assigns forever.

And I hereby covenant with the said Andrew Hanson his heirs, executors and assigns forever that in making sale of said premises, I am duly authorized by the District Court aforesaid, and that in making said sale and conveyance I have in all things complied with the orders of the Court, and the provisions of the law relating thereto.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of November A. D. 1899/1900
Julia Nelson
Christina Thompson deceased.

STATE OF IOWA, Shelby County, ss.
On this 19th day of November A. D. 1899 before me John Beebe
a Notary Public within and for said County, personally came Julia Nelson
as Administratrix, etc., as stated in the foregoing deed, personally to me known to be the identical person whose name is affixed to the above instrument as grantor, and acknowledged the execution of the same to be her voluntary act and deed as Administratrix for the purposes therein expressed.

Notary Seal

WITNESS my hand and official seal on the date last above written.

John Beebe, Notary Public
in and for Shelby County, Iowa

STATE OF IOWA, Shelby County, ss.
I, R. F. Swift Clerk of the District Court of Shelby County, Iowa, do hereby certify that the within and foregoing deed of conveyance executed by Julia Nelson

Andrew Hanson was on the 20th day of November A. D. 1899 presented in open Court for approval and that the same was by the said Court approved and ordered of record and is of record in Probate Records No. 1 Page 68.

Seal of the District Court of Shelby County, Iowa

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of said Court this 20th day of November A. D. 1899/1900
R. F. Swift Clerk.



* Situation Normal, Actual Fault Unacknowledged

TOLES

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YEAR

IMPORTANT EVENTS

1860	April 1860-Oct.1861-Pony Express Riders -1966 miles-11 days
1861	Luther College founded at Decorah , Iowa
1862	U.S.Gov't Ads in Co.Bluffs Nonpareil-for bids for "Mail Delv.Rts"
1862	Morrill Act-every state 30M Acres-each Representative & Senator
1862	The Homestead Act gave settlers 160 acres;farm land 5 years
1865	Appomattox Court House-end Civil War-Generals Lee & Grant
1865	"America Fever" lured 10,000 immigrants from Norway,Sweden,Denmark
1866	The Norwegian newspaper in Chicago was Chicago Skandinaven
1886	Purchase of Alaska for \$7.2 million
1887	Chicago & Northwestern completed line across Ia to Council Bluffs
1886	The Hatch Act-Fed. funds to each state;Agr.Exper. Stations
1889	Transcontinental RR completed at Promontory, Utah
1870	The Illinois Central railroad reached Sioux City, Iowa
1874	Mtg in Harlan..to discuss question of RR's to Harlan 8¢
1874	Main street in Irwin was growing a "good field of oats"!
1874	Decorah,Ia-Norwegian capital of Ia;Paper-Decorah Posten-founded
1875	Mail RTs estblished: Atlantic-Elkhorn;Harlan to Avoca; etc.,etc.
1875	A great grasshopper invasion affected the area
1876	The first bank in Shelby county estab. by Wyland Brothers
1877	The Norwegian newspaper in Minnesota was the Minnesota Tidende.
1877	Homestead acres 213,000;1878 -1,377,000 homestead acres
1878	1885 . Railroads provided prosperity for 'DAKOTA BOOM' years
1878	Avoca, Harlan & Northern Railway Company organized
1879	Sept.8-Mons Thompson & Sven Monson-160 each from Railroad Co.
1879	Post Office established at "Tibbottsville" (later, Irwin!)
1880	The Shelby County Bank organized on Dec. 1, 1880
1881	Apr. 3,1881-Polk & Douglas twps met to form Danway Cemetery
1881	Harlan had a telephone exchange
1881	Nov. 8, 1881 - organization mtg-St.Paul's Lutheran Church
1881	April 3, 1881.Polk & Douglas Twps met-form Danway Cemetery

YEAR

IMPORTANT EVENTS

1881	The town of Irwin was organized; Harlan had a telephone exchange;
1881	Mills: Mnp-St. Pl; K. City; S. Louis-handle "any quantities" of wheat
1881	
1881	
1881	Nov. 8, 1881-organization mtg-St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1882	
1882	The "high-point" of Scandinavian immigrants (105,326)
1883	7,317,000 acres; 1884 = 11,083,000 acres; 1886=3,075,000 acres
1886	Case Implement steam engine proved more efficient than draft animals
1888	Benjamin Harrison Pres., by 1889..Dakotas, Mont, & Wash. statehood
1888	1,881,000 acres homesteaded; By 1885-All Dakotas east of Mo. River
1893	Charles & J. Frank Duryea-single-cycle, 4 HP gasoline motor-\$70
1895	The town of Kirkman incorporated; P. Office estab. 3/1/1881
1896	Duryeas sold 12 of roofless motor buggies; wooden wheels
1897	Gearless, steam-driven car by Stanley Bros.
1897	
1898	Annexation of Hawaii
1900	There were 1,000,000 "foreign-born" Scandinavians in U.S.A.
1901	Nov. 2, Elk Horn was platted; incorporated Feb. 1910
1901	Oldmobiles popular "early combustion engine auto
1902	The "merry oldsmobile"-first car produced in quantity
1902	June 24, 1903-Ephriam S Monson married Mollie C. Thompson
1903	Wright Bros. Dec. 17, 1903 flew their wood & canvass 12 HP plane
1906	Racing model of Stanley Steamer - 120 miles/hour
1907	Oklahoma became state
1908	Considered "birthday of autos". Model "T" 5 pass; 20 HP; \$850
1909	100 cars a day being made
1911	Glenn H. Curtiss built first successful seaplane
1911	"Polk Twp Protective Assoc." formed; prevent thefts

IMPORTANT EVENTS

1912	Introduction of "electric starters"
1912	N.Mexico and Arizona admitted to statehood
1912	New Mexico and Arizona admitted to statehood
1913	150,000 Mfg;
1915	450,000
1916	Every man, 21 to 31, required to register for WW I service
1918	19 Luther Colleges & Professional schools in 12 states
	US. Post Office inaugurated first air mail service-NY-D.C.
1920	30 -Tractors/ threshing machines; steam engines numerous
1920	s Golden Years of Automobiles;
1920	After WW I; Fordson Tractors = \$750; Horses=\$60-\$150
1920	Tom Thompson, wife and child died of Typhoid (Cora Benson folks)
1921	Congress Enacted The Federal Hiway Act--development of interstates
1924	Model T cars sold for as low as \$295
1924	Model "T" prices down to \$260 each;
	Sales of "closed cars" exceeded "open cars" for first time
1927	The Model T discontinued; MODEL "A" took over;trucks began
1927	Chevrolet sales overtook those of Ford's
1929	First "talking movies"-April 7,1929 in Harlan, Iowa
1929	Dusenbergs - \$20,000 - 120 MPH -
1930	Known as the "dirty thirties" in Dakotas; depression times
1931	Shelby Co.Supervisors cut wages to .60¢/hour to save money.
1931	Over production; gov't bought "baby pigs" - destroyed them
1931	Era of Triple-A (AAA) "Ever-normal-granary" gov't program
1932	Farm foreclosures were common-6000 in state of Iowa
1933	Banks "CLOSED"--called "Banker's Holiday"
1933	3.2 beer became legal in Ia; 2 % sales tax then imposed
1934	Severe drought; no sweet corn available for Harlan plant
1935	200+ people in Shelby Co. applied for "old age pension"
1936	Remembered as one of the 'driest' and 'coldest' of century.
1938	Civil Aeronautics Authority established rules for air inspections
1941	The year the chinch bugs invaded fields of western Iowa

IMPORTANT EVENTS

1941	USA drawn into World War II-ended in 1945-victoriously!
1942	World War II halted production of passenger cars;
1947	Farmers made progress in clearing their farms of debt
1949	First broadcast of television in Sept. 1949
1949	
1954	Half of Shelby County residents had TV sets.
1955	Mark David Monson born-Brookings, South Dakota
1956	Postwar America-Federal Hwy Act; Fed pay 90%; 42.5M miles interstate
1957	Paul Dale Monson born-Redwood Falls, Minnesota
1960	Deaths on highways were 38,137; in 1972 = 56,600 deaths
1965	Passenger car production hit a peak of 9.3 million cars
1970	There were 70 million licensed American Drivers
1973	125 million "registered motor vehicles"

Sorry about that! These are major "personal events"
I included with Iowa, U.S.A., and World happenings.

1996 Family Reunion - July 5 & 6 - Irwin Community Hall (*)

1997

1998

1999

**RICHARD & SHARON (ERB) MONSON
& SEAN, BRANDON, CHEVONNE, DERRICK**

The owner-operator of a Car Body Shop, and a local Restaurant. They have four children --from college work to construction...with two still active in school. Great, great grandchildren of Svend, Pauline and Mons & Kristi.

ELMER & ALICE (LARSEN) MONSON

Busy, retired parents of two sons and claiming two lovely daughters-in-laws. Wife is a graduate nurse and he was formerly in sales and research management. They have two great, great grandsons of Svend & Pauline and Mons & Kristi.

**TOM & DEBBIE MONSON AND,
JENNIFER, JEFFREY, & HANNAH**

Both are "practising attorneys" in Chicago...but, this husband-wife law team work at different firms. Wood working and horticultural interests are avocations for this great, grandson of Svend, Pauline and Mons and Kristi.

ELEANOR (OLSON) BENSON

She is a "senior citizen" who is still active. A former teacher who has taught members in today's group. A "grandmother" and a "grand" person!

RICHARD & CORKY (WARDRIP) VAN GUNDY

One is a former Church Secretary and a great, granddaughter of Svend, Pauline and Mons & Kristi. He is a County Engineer. They are the parents of two children.

**VINCE AND PATTI (MONSON) KRYSL
(EVE, VINNEY, ADRIENNE & RENEE)**

One college age and three in local school. Mother recently graduated as Graphic Artist with 4.0 honors. Senior work received awards from the State Printer's Assoc.; Not certain if they will be in attendance at our reunion.

MIKE & DENISE (MASON) CHAMBERS

He is into physical fitness -- a runner! In addition, he is a "Video-grapher" in the "Sooner State". She is a computer specialist and chaired a "Dinner Of Champions"--MS Society--producing the "largest per capita dinner donation"-ever-nationally!

**BILL & GEORGIA (TONN) JOHNSON
AND SONS ..AARON & JAROD**

Both Mom & Dad have doctorates and have been associated with University dental programs at two Big-10 schools. Many honors in their chosen profession; parents of two sons...who are great, great grandsons of Svend & Pauline, and Mons & Kristi.

**ROD & SUZANNE (WEBER) STANFORD
(BLAKE ALEXANDER)**

Husband works for Eaton Corporation; a graduate of Buena Vista with a B.S. in Bus.Admin.; wife works for a Tele-marketing Firm, as a supervisor. They have one son..and live where one of the largest county fairs in Iowa takes place each year.

**ERIC & JULIE (GRUHN) MONSON
daughter, "CORTNEY IRENE"**

Both are college graduates...and, he in farming partnership with his parents. She is a teacher and in the process of giving TLC to their daughter--born this year. They won't have to travel far to the reunion.

ALETHA (JEDELE) NELSON

Retired, senior citizen...active in church, community; mother of two. Husband was a farmer and carpenter. She spent many years as a federal employee in the Shelby County ASCS office.

**GENE AND BONNIE (Olson) DOLLEN
(N-athan; H-arrison; H-unter;
and, H-ailey ... = (NH₃)**

What family that is represented here, today, can be identified by a "CHEMICAL FORMULA" ?

**PAUL & JUDY (PUMP) WEBER
..Suzanne, Nicole, Tom & John**

Former rancher; a machinist and an antique dealer; parents of 4 children (including a set of twins) Family active in careers and college efforts. Grandparents of one-(a great, great, great granddaughter of both Svend & Pauline...and, Mons & Kristi)

DR. WM "BILL" JOHNSON

He is not retired from his job in his chosen profession...but, he is , probably, the only one who is a "retired Brigadier General" at today's gathering!

JOHN & KAREN (MASON) BELLMAN

Parents of four children; both parents have been Wal-Mart Managers; In their spare time they enjoy vacations at their condo in Florida. Children are active in school. They have a family of two girls and two boys.

TOM AND HELEN (OLSON) MERRITT

Has managed a Handy-Man-Store; Is a builder-contractor--and Real Estate person; parents of 3 children..she is a great, granddaughter of Svend, Pauline and Mons & Kristi---plus, listed in the 1994-Who's Who Among American Teachers!

RUTH (ONERHEIM; SOLEM) STUART

Attending with her son, his wife and young daughter. Direct descendant of Norwegian heritage from the island of Tysnes, Norway. Enjoyed singing in church choir, sister of an active geneologist and daughter of a Lutheran minister.

CHERRIE (OLSON) WEISE

A full-time teacher with a very active family interest. The mother of 3 children, including a set of twins. She can be caught "jetting" to the East Coast for visits. The proud grandmother of a grandson...who is a great, great grandson of Svend, Pauline, and Mons and Kristi.

ALMA (WARDRIP) MONSON

Mother of one daughter, grandmother of two and a direct descendent of Svend, Pauline, Mons & Kristi. High school and Business College graduate...having worked in banks; State Auditor's office; was also Office Mgr for a Municipal Airport; and a Confidential Secretary to a two-term Iowa Governor.

**BERNARD & GERMAIN MC GUIRE
AND SON, DAVID**

He is the owner-operator of a Paint Store and she is a granddaughter of Svend & Pauline. Son is into geneology - and all would like to attend St. Paul's Lutheran church this Sunday!

**TOM WELLS & PAULA MONSON
(ADAM & BERIT)**

Another one of those "busy" families! He is an Auditor for an Insurance Co., she is a Social Worker in a MN school system. Son is active in many activities & qualified for a "black belt" in Karate; daughter is working on her "brown belt" and ...was in a cast in the production of the MUSIC MAN in 1995.

**CYRUS III & KELLY (OSBAHR)MONSON
and "TAYLOR"**

He is an Iowa State University graudate and employed as a Sales Supervisor. She is a Dental Ass't. They were married in 1991 and are parents of a lovely daughter.

RICHARD "PUDGE" MC MAHON

He is a retired "Band Leader" - a musician who can "play you a tune" upon instant notice! Has lived in close proximity to the town where he graduated, most of his life.

**CYRUS, SR. & MAROLYN (FREDICKSON) MONSON
& CYRUS III, ERIC AND DAVE**

Excellent operators in their chosen profession of farming; they have three sons...one associated with them in their farming...one in Sales Management...and, the third in school; wives are Teacher, Dental Ass't and one works at Natural Resources Conservation Services.

JERROLD & BEVERLY MENGELKOCH

She is a great, granddaughter of Svend & Pauline Monson. They have not been to our reunion in recent years. Let us give a "big welcome" to this couple from the "Gopher State"

LILLIAN E. (SCHULTZ) MONSON

Retired...but, if you can't get her on the telephone...she is doing work at the lapidary shop...line-dancing or leading a "hiking group". She has her "2500+" mile hiking badge!

**DAN & NANCY (MONSON) EVANS
..Wendy, Brian, Angie, Don**

Husband is budget director with an Insurance Company & part-time teacher of an excellerated business course at a local college. Wife is Sales Representative for Dupont Corian; daughter & husband are teachers; 1 daughter is mother of 2; one son employed by Terminex; one son is Med-School student.

**RON & WANDA (OLSON) SABBY
(SONS...RYAN & EVAN)**

Husband is a Supervisor for a local Feed Company in their town. Wife is a part-time teacher and full-time mother...parents of two children; youngest an 8th grader and eldest a part-time store employee and full-time college student.

DEAN & JOYCE (MERKERT) OLSON

A busy family with many and varied interests...including nursing, office workers, auctioneers...and 4 grandchildren (including triplets!)...that are the great, great grandchildren of both Svend & Pauline and Mons and Kristi.

MARK & MARY (EVANS) MONSON

College graduates and both have a masters degree from the American International Graduate School Of Management. One worked for Diners Club International and the one is a Corporate V.President of a German Bank in Chicago. They like to travel and have golfing & tennis interests.

DR ROGER & MYRTLE (MONSON) MASON

Retired from active life as a medical doctor and physician with his own clinic. Later, Medical-Director for Blue Cross-Blue Shield Ins. Company. Wife a graduate nurse and mother of 4 and she is a granddaughter of Svend & Pauline as well as Mons & Kristi.

THELMA C. (MONSON) OLSON

Active senior citizen with interests in church, community and children; is mother of 9, grandmother of 13 and the great, grandmother of 8. Direct descendant of Svend, Pauline, Mons & Kristi. Has an "on-going-interest" in the act of submerging worms in lakes!

**PAUL MONSON & JOY FULTON
(SONS ...WILLIAM & MATTHEW)**

Graduates in law from University of Illinois and Northwestern. One is a Tax Specialist; the other a Partner in a Chicago law firm. Parents of two active sons...one a "train buff" and the other a sports enthusiast. The wife has retired to "active duty" as Mom.

DAVID OLSON

Another great grandson of Svend & Pauline as well as Mons & Kristi. Admits to several confessions..that he graduated (without honors) in high school but (with honors) in college. Also, admits to be "willing" to interview for a wife! Now is a successful entrepreneur...the Owner-Operator of a Job Shop and a "thriving business"!

**EUGENE & CHARLENE (ELMQUIST) MONSON
& sons, JAYSON & JEFFREY**

Modern farm couple that also have an ownership interest in a local grain elevator business! Parents of two sons ..one assoc., with them in farming and the other an Accounting Specialist. Descendents of both Svend & Pauline and, Mons & Kristi.

BERNARD & MARGARET (OTT) ONERHEIM

Retired and active senior citizens with an unusually active geneological interest. Descendent of Mons & Kristi Thompson--have made several trips to Norway for geneological studies. Granparents of 8. One was Supervisor of instrumental music in a large Iowa school system; the other a retired teacher and author of a book, titled "Threads Of Memory"!

EUGENE & ELIZABETH MONSON

He has the identical same name as another member attending our reunion this year. Also...he too...is a direct descendent of Sven and Pauline Monson. He and his wife hail from the "Gopher" state.

ERIC MASON

A busy Commodities Broker, who is in constant contact with a large number of truckers for transporation with his various commodities. Daughter is a recent high school graduate with an interest in Oceanography, while son is still in high school.

**JAY & LANA (MERRITT) PETERSON
-- FAITH AND "DREW"**

Another one of those "busy" young families. He is associated with a family Gas Service, while the mother is a Technician at the local hospital lab. Son & daughter are active in the local high school...and, are great, great, grandchildren of Svend, Pauline and Mons & Kristi.

**ALAN & SALLY (WIUFF) OLSON
SON, SHAWN**

A typical "busy" family. Building Sales Representative; Chemical Sanitizing Systems; College graduate in electronics. Their son is a great, great grandson of Svend, Pauline, Mons & Kristi.

ARLINE GANS

An "active" senior citizen...with three children (a set of twins). Spent many years as an excutive in the banking industry. Better give her a call before you visit her- she may be gone some place!

RUBY (MONSON) PUMP

Retired senior citizen...was formerly a nurse; husband was a dentist and retired Naval Commander; one daughter and 4 grandchildren and one great-great, great grandchild of Svend, Pauline, Mons & Kristi.

**ORLIN "Buck" & SUSAN (PAULSEN) PAULEY
(& JULIA..degree in Mech. Engineering)**

Former grocery store manager; now--is Owner-Operator of a Dairy Queen. Wife is a Drake Univ. graduate and has taught for 30 years. They have one daughter--- a Purdue University graduate...and a great, great, granddaughter of Svend, Pauline, Mons and Kristi.

JAMES & VERLEE (PETERSON) MC MAHON

Celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary earlier this year; both are from the Irwin area...parents of 4 children --some interest in geneology; great grandson of Svend & Pauline Monson; Own their own Management-Consultant firm.

**DOUG & JANET (JOHNSON) PEIFFER
(HEATHER, STACY, ABBEY)**

He is a former "Jet Mechanic" in Navy, Journeyman Carpenter & "Salesman of the Year" in tools; Mother is a Drake Univ. graduate, teacher and homemaker with 3 children ..the eldest at ISU; other two in home-town schools. Children are great, great,grand children of Svend, Pauline, Mons and Kristi.

DAVE MONSON

A graduate of the Irwin School system...and in the process of continuing his education in Omaha. Parents are farming in the nearby community.