

**ODE TO ELLEN AND KARI BAALSON WHO CAME TO
AMERICA 1861 ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO**

To Thee O God we raise
Our song of joy and praise,
For mercies great.
Father and Mother dear
You led and guided here,
Their earthly home to build
In America.

Across Atlantic blue
You led them safely through,
On ship so small.
Four days and seven weeks
Their ship with many creaks
Midst icebergs fifty one—
God's hand was strong.

Thou gave them strength to work—
A will to never shirk—
They built their home.
Their children they did rear,
To know their God and fear,
All honor be to Thee
O Christ on high.

They built Thy church that we
Should know and honor Thee
In Years to come,
Prepared our God to meet
Each day to serve and greet—
At last to hear Thee say—
"Servant well Done."

Thoughts By Their Tenth and Only Living Child. Rev. Her-
man E. Baalson, East Stanwood Wash.
MELODY: "MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE."



The cover design by Eunice Koester depicts the lightning striking the oak tree under which the family had taken refuge from the storm which hit on the evening of their arrival in BIG GROVE.

FOREWORD

By GEORGE BAALSON

Just one hundred years ago, a young man and his bride of a few weeks were busy making plans to cross the great ocean to a new land, a new life, and in fact to a new world. Ellen Baardson and his bride, Kari Ostendatter, shortly were to leave the beautiful valley around Flaa, Hallingdal, board a sailing vessel that would bring them to a land of promise, a land of adventure and opportunity. Like their forefathers, the ancient Vikings, they were explorers and pioneers at heart and eager to meet the challenge of the untouched wilderness and perhaps even the hardships of the new land, America, in their search for a better and more fruitful life.

Their journey was part of a great migration that flowed from many European areas as well as from Norway. Glowing accounts from countrymen who had been there and returned to tell their friends and relatives, as well as letters from America helped to swell the tide. The movement was perhaps started by Cleng Peerson who, with a companion was sent to America in 1821 by some Quakers, to investigate conditions in the new land. Cleng Peerson was so impressed with what he saw that he lost no time in urging his friends to return with him to this land of unlimited opportunity and promise. After a short stay, he did return with the promise that he would make arrangements for his friends in the new land. The sloop Restaurationen was made ready, and in the summer of 1825, with fifty passengers on board, headed west across the Atlantic, arriving safely in New York harbor. There the immigrants were met by Cleng Peerson. While the first expedition had been started by a group of Quakers, most of the passengers were not of that faith, and came for economic reasons. Perhaps there was a strong spirit of adventure among this group and others that followed, but the main reasons were economic; they wanted to better their lot, and America seemed to them the answer. The new pioneers, used to the rigors of the sea, the rugged land and forests of Norway, sometimes were forced to test their courage and endurance to the limit, but seeing their efforts bear fruit made them even more appreciative of their success and good fortune.

The Ellen Baalson's spent seven weeks and four days on their journey, landing in Quebec. Then came another long journey to Spring Grove, where they met several other countrymen in a distinctly pioneer Norwegian community. Plans were made for the next move, and an exploration party set out in search of a suitable site for a permanent settlement. Nils Olson Strandemoen owned a team of horses, so with that as locomotive power, the party consisting of Nils Strandemoen, Nils Slenta, Ellen Baalson, Hans Heieie, Ole Heieie, and Kittel Strande set out for the distant central Minnesota prairie. After a tedious jour-

ney, they arrived at the region forming part of North Fork township, and selected the parcels of land on which they later filed their homestead claims.

At this point an interesting event caused the name to be changed. According to accounts, the recorder at the Land Office was a genial Irishman, who, when Ellen Baardson gave his name, asked how it was spelled. Seeing the name spelled, and hearing it spoken, the good natured Irishman scratched his head in confusion, and suggested that the name be listed as Baalson. Perhaps Grandfather Baardson did not fully understand, but in any case, that was the name listed on the official document.

Pioneer life as faced by the young Baalson's meant that shelter had to be provided, usually by felling trees in a nearby forest, supplies had to be brought in from long distance points, the virgin soil had to be broken, and planting done. Some lumber was obtained from St. Cloud, a trip requiring several days by ox team. Nearest railroad was at Big Lake, eighty miles away; Nils Strandemoen obtained supplies for his store by making this long journey. The nearest post office was Paynesville, and Ellen Baalson was the first rural mail carrier; in winter he made the trip on skis. To get seed wheat in the spring of 1886, Ellen Baalson together with Ole Benken, Andrew Erickson, Kittel Strande, and Hans Heieie walked to Spring Hill fourteen miles away, bought it for two dollars and seventy cents a bushel. Returning, they had to wade through swollen streams, each carrying one and a half to two bushels on his shoulders.

Even the forces of nature combined to cause suffering and death in the new settlement. In 1870, and 71, the settlers were startled to see the whole sky darkened by clouds of what proved to be grasshoppers. Descending on the crops so sorely needed for food, the plague completely devoured every stalk of vegetation, leaving the settlers destitute. In 1873, a blizzard following a sleet storm, drove the snow across the prairies with hurricane force, isolating the farms and causing deaths in the middle west. Fortunately only one man, Rasmus Bottolfson, was lost from the new community.

Thru the trying times, their faith in God sustained them, and Ellen Baalson's family grew from two children, when at Spring Grove, to an energetic group of young men and women who, through their own efforts and work of the many descendants of that original pair have left their mark on the community of Big Grove, and have filled their role as good citizens in many areas of our land. Their efforts as members of, and officials in various church organizations have contributed in a large measure to the spread of the Gospel in the true spirit of the founders of Big Grove congregation. Numerous members of the family have entered the field of Ministry, others have been closely identified with church organizations in important positions. Other members have been active in the original family industry, farming. Education

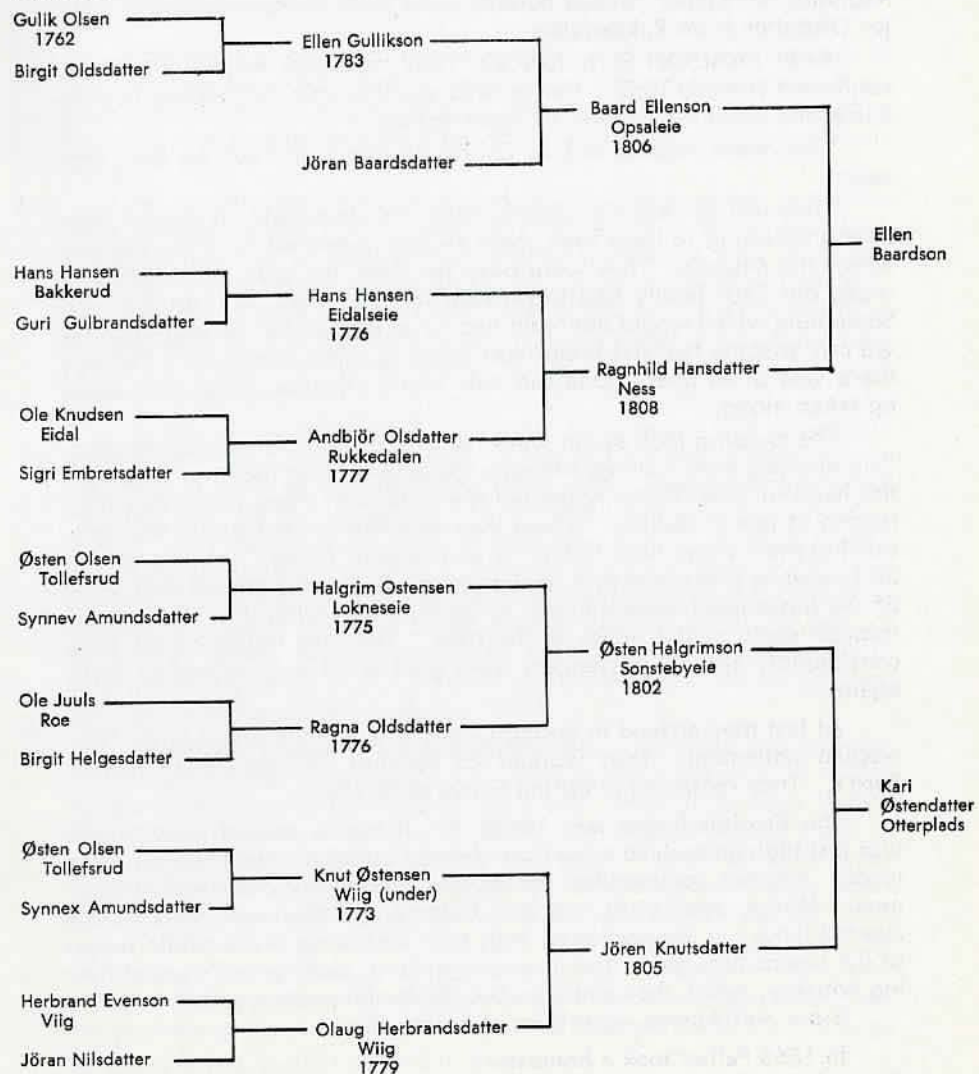
has been of primary concern to all, and the descendants have taken advantage of the many opportunities offered by secondary and higher educational institutions, to prepare them for a large variety of jobs including the professions. Numerous members have entered the field of teaching for longer or shorter periods of their lives, and thru their work in the school room have helped to perpetuate the ideals of their forefathers.

In the pages that follow, an attempt has been made to list all of the descendants known to the committee in charge of the Reunion, or contacted by them, and to list briefly the more important events in the life of each one. We hope that the facts as recited are correct, and sincerely apologize for any mistakes or omissions. A lot more space could probably have been given to some, but it was felt that a short account of each was all that could be included in a booklet of this type.

Note: Information below taken from official church records in Norway

Ellen Baardson (Baalon) födt 1 Nov. 1834, i Flaa Haalingdal
 Kari Østendatter Otterplads, födt 23 Juli 1837, i Flaa Haalingdal
 Viet ved: Pastor Tønneson, 3die Mars 1861

FORFAEDRE



A BRIEF SKETCH OF ELLEN AND KARI BAALSON'S HISTORY

ELLEN BAARDSON (Baalson) Born November 1, 1834 in Flaa, Hallingdal, Norway, baptized November 23, 1834, and confirmed June 9, 1850. His parents were Baard Ellenson, born 1806, whose parents were Ellend Gullicksen and Joran Baardsdatter. Ellen's mother was Ragnhild Hansdatter, whose parents were Hans Hansen Eidal and Anbjor Olsdatter from Rukkedalen.

KARI BAALSON Born July 23, 1837, baptized August 13, 1837, confirmed June 5, 1852. Her parents were Austen Halgrimson Sonstebyeie and Joran Knitsdatter Svingen in Flaa.

They were married in Flaa Church on March 3, 1861 by Rev. Tonneson.

They left for America shortly after the wedding. It would have been interesting to have seen them as they prepared for their journey across the Atlantic. They were busy for days, not only with clothes to wear, but each family had to provide for their own food on the trip. Something which would not mold had to be packed for the journey, and we can imagine that flat bread was made in great quantities. Perhaps there was dried beef. One can only guess at other things that could be taken along.

The crossing took seven weeks and four days, seven people died. One morning they counted fifty-one icebergs around the little ship. But the hand of God Almighty guided them through these perils and they landed at last in Quebec. There they saw the Great Eastern, the largest ship then afloat, built to lay the first Atlantic Cable. The trip up the St. Lawrence was made in a smaller boat. Father mentioned that some of the passengers were allowed to go on shore while the ship passed through some of the rapids in the river. This also lightened the load considerably and the passengers were glad to set foot on Mother Earth again.

At last they arrived in Spring Grove where there was a large Norwegian settlement. They worked for Kroshus for two years, then at Berg's. They remained in Spring Grove until 1865.

The Kroshus house was 14x16 ft. It had a second story which was just high enough so a man could stand upright in the middle of the room. Kroshus commended Father and Mother for their industriousness. Mother spun yarn and knit mittens and stockings, and Father cleared land. In the winter he split rails and fence posts, while many of the newcomers spent their time at the store, playing cards and drinking whiskey, which then could be bought for 50 cents a gallon.

Bjorn and Austen were born at Spring Grove.

In 1865 Father took a homestead in Stearns County and that spring they left for their new home, a trek of some 300 miles with oxen and covered wagon. In the party were also Hans and Ingeborg Pladsen and their 3 children, Gurine, Peder, and Gunhild.

All their worldly possessions had been packed into these two covered wagons, a spinning wheel perhaps, a chest from Norway, a Kettle or two, some chickens, quilts to sleep under, and of course their Bible and hymnbook. The children very likely prodded old Bossy from time to time, to keep the caravan moving. When they reached Minneapolis, near where the fairgrounds are now located, the journey was delayed for three days when a daughter, Jorgine, was born to Ellen and Kari Baalson.

Ingeborg was both doctor and nurse in such cases, taking care of both mother and child. Father walked into Minneapolis, where there were a few stores, to make a few purchases for the family. There the flag was at half mast, and they heard the news that Abraham Lincoln was shot.

The journey was then continued to St. Cloud, where provisions were bought for the trek to their new home, 50 miles farther west. Father said he had 10 cents left when they started out from St. Cloud. Roads were only trails. Where creeks and swamps hindered their journey, they drove as far as they could, then unhitched the oxen, led them to the other side, and wading through mud and water, they carried their families and their belongings across, packed up again and once more headed for the unknown.

On July 4, 1865 they arrived at their destination. That same night a storm came up. The rain poured down so hard that Mother took a wash tub to cover herself and small child, as the covered wagon could not keep the rain out. Lightning struck a big oak nearby and splintered it. This was their welcome in their new home. In their dreams that night, if they slept at all, did they see beautiful farms and homes, a church, school houses, and good roads? That must have been a busy summer, a piece of land had to be cleared, trees felled for logs to put up shelters for the family and for the animals, and we may well surmise the family larder was filled with berries picked in the woods, and with whatever could be hunted or fished.

I remember Father mentioned how he discovered the "fish springs" as they were called near Skunk Lake. One day he went on skis to visit Jon Sanvik in Crow River, twelve miles away. Water from these springs flowing into the lake were open all winter. The snow covered these up and fish crowded into these narrow openings. Father on skis broke through and discovered the fish beneath. When he came home again the next day, he used his ski stick and brought home what he could carry. The following day he and Hans Pladsen took sleds and sacks and brought home all they wanted and buried the fish in snow drifts at home (the old fashioned deep freeze). I still remember Father and my brothers drove there in the winter and brought home wash tubs of fish.

One day they were visited by two Indians. They made signs that they wanted something to drink. Mother gave them a gallon jar of milk, which they emptied to the last drop. Father became a little sus-

picious when they left. He had left the oxen on the other side of the woods. He took his rifle, and when he approached the oxen he fired. Two Indians jumped out of the tall grass. Perhaps they had been planning on some good meals from the oxen. The four had a little parley and left.

Mosquitoes were a pest in those days. Kittel Strande, a close neighbor was so sensitive to the bites, that one evening, to avoid the mosquitoes, he jumped right into a water hole where the cows were watered, the water coming up almost to his long beard.

Father plowed up a few acres of new soil every year. A few farmers bought self-reapers to cut their grain. Father used a cradle until he had twenty acres under cultivation. Mother and the children did the binding. Then Father bought a Dewey Harvester, which was pulled by two horses. Father did the driving, but the binding was still done by hand, by Mother and one of the older boys. This harvester was used until we bought a Walter A. Wood "Selfbinder" as it was called, which used twine to bind with. Earlier binders used wire instead of twine.

Well do I remember when the Soo Line came through. We climbed high up in the oak trees and could see the large crew of men with their mules slowly working their way westward across the prairie. The town of Brooten was laid out after the railroad passed through and at first had two grocery stores and three saloons. Some farmers put their hard earned savings into a bank at Sauk Centre, and lost it all when the bank went broke. Father had put his spare money into more land. He paid \$10 an acre for the 160 acres that Henry A. Baalson now farms and \$5 an acre for the 40 acres adjoining. He used four oxen and another rig of four horses to break up this land.

Trips to church and to town were made in a lumber wagon. Late in life Father bought a top-buggy.

While the church has not been mentioned in this introduction, it formed the center of their lives. Before a pastor came, they met at homes to sing hymns, and read the Scriptures. Their social activities were in some way related to the church. Now Father and Mother are laid to rest in Big Grove Cemetery, near the church which they loved. Ellen died Dec. 23, 1899. Kari died Dec. 19, 1896.

Let us by the grace of God continue to build on the foundation so well laid by our forefathers. The faults they had, let us not copy them, but their good qualities let us emulate. May we as loyal citizens of the United States build for eternity. Jesus has assured us that he has gone before to prepare a place for us. Let us believe Him and follow Him. Soon He will come again. Let us all be well prepared to meet Him. His word is a light, and a lamp on our way. No one needs to be lost.



Written by Rev. Herman E. Baalson, East Stanwood, Washington, only living child of Ellen and Kari Baalson.



THE ELLEN BAALSON FAMILY.

- Bjorn Baalson, October 9, 1861, baptized, January 3, 1862; died January 18, 1874.
 Austen E. Baalson, May 12, 1864, baptized, July 24, confirmed October 3, 1880.
 Jorgine Baalson, June 26, 1865, baptized November 5, 1865, confirmed October 3, 1880.
 Edward Baalson, July 20, 1867, baptized May 27, 1868, confirmed June 3, 1883.
 Andrine Baalson, March 26, 1869, baptized May 17, 1869, confirmed November 16, 1884.
 Olava Randine Baalson, January 21, 1871, baptized March 19, 1871, confirmed June 1885.
 Henry Baalson, September 23, 1872, baptized October 27, confirmed, June 19, 1887.
 Bernhardt Baalson, February 24, 1875, baptized May 18, confirmed June 15, 1890.
 Herman Baalson, May 23, 1878, baptized June 30, confirmed June 1892.

AUSTEN E. BAALSON

Austen E. Baalson, born May 12, 1864 and Caroline G. Gandrud, born August 10, 1867, were married on May 28, 1889. Children were: Elmer, born March 13, 1890; George on June 26, 1892; Bertram on Nov. 19, 1894; Arthur on Aug. 17, 1896; Henry on Dec. 9, 1898. Caroline died on April 21, 1904. On February 16, 1907 Austen was married to Clara Gustava Bente born on Oct. 11, 1867; she died May 10, 1929. Children born to this union were: Cora Juliatta June 30, 1908; Oren Bernhard May 18, 1910 (died July 8, 1915); Amanda Geoline January 11, 1913.

Born at Spring Grove, Minn., he and his older brother Bjorn spent a year there before his father Ellen started the journey that finally ended on his homestead in Big Grove. July 5 ended the long trek by ox-drawn covered wagon, a trip that perhaps meant very little to the young child as long as his father and mother were with him. The fierce storm of the night before when lightning struck an oak tree nearby was perhaps quickly forgotten as the two young boys began their life in the wide open prairies and dense nearby woods.

Under these pioneer conditions, Austen and his brother Edward early in life learned to drive oxen; to cut hay by scythe; to cut grain and tie into bundles without the use of twine.

He received his religious and secular education (Norse) from teachers hired by Big Grove Lutheran Church which was organized in February 1867. The children would meet in the homes and the log church until school houses were built. He was confirmed October 3, 1880.

Since Austen desired more education he attended school at Willmar Academy, and at Cogan's Academy in Northfork Township.

After his marriage to Caroline Gandrud, which took place in Barsness Church near Glenwood, the young couple spent a short time in Superior where he clerked in a store. They then returned to Ellen Baalson's homestead, where Elmer was born in 1890. Then on June 17, 1893 Ellen and Kari Baalson deeded to them the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 24, Twp 124-R 36, which became their home farm. There they built a small house, later used for a granary, and later built the more permanent, square, two story house that served as his residence, with additions, to the end of his life.

In the fall of 1903 Austen moved with his family to Glenwood so his boys could attend a high school. He was employed by Nerlien in a feed mill, and later operated the Dougherty Elevator. It was while at Glenwood that the family suffered a sad loss by the death of mother Caroline on April 21, 1904. They continued moving back to the farm for the summer months until 1908.

On February 16, 1907 Austen was married to Clara Bente; from the year 1908 until his death on Sept. 14, 1930, he lived on the home farm. Clara passed away May 10, 1929.

For many years Austen served as township assessor and secretary of the Brooten co-op creamery. He was a member of the building committee for the Big Grove Lutheran Church built in 1914, secretary of the Congregation at the time of his death.

Austen was respected and loved because of his friendliness and his interest in church and community affairs. He could relate from experience the vast changes from pioneer log cabin life to the modern age of electricity, automobiles and airplanes; from the hand hewn log benches of the first log church to the beautiful brick church in which he worshiped up to the last year of his life.



ELMER was born March 13, 1890 in Log Cabin on Ellen Baalson's homestead farm. Received his high school education at Glenwood, graduating in 1909. Taught rural school in Pope County for two years. 1911 entered Luther College, graduating with BA degree in 1915. That fall he entered Luther Seminary, was graduated 1918, and ordained at Fargo, North Dakota on June 9, by Dr. H. G. Stub.

Served congregations at Our Saviour's, Hibbing; Trout Lake, Bovey; Industrial, Culver; and adjoining Mission field. On June 7, 1920 he was united in marriage to Minnie Oestreich, of Duluth. In 1921, he became pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Durand, Ill. While there three children were born: Arthur, George Walter and Alice. George, born Dec. 29, 1926, died Jan. 30, 1927. Elmer accepted a call to Park Falls, Wisc., also Brantwood and Ogema Wisc., in 1928, where he served until his retirement in 1952. His wife, Minnie, died Dec. 4, 1960.

ARTHUR ELMER, April 4, 1922, high school at Park Falls; attended Luther College 1942-44, graduated from St. Olaf College 1946. Arthur is laboratory technician working for Ford Motors at Chicago, and at present International Harvester, Chicago.

ALICE RUTH, July 26, 1928, graduated from Lincoln High in Park Falls, Luther College, with B.A. degree in 1949. Has taught in Duluth school for three years, Denver seven years.

Was married to Donald Jones of U.S. Air Force on July 6, 1953 by her father at Duluth First Lutheran. Children are: James, 1954, and Janice Lynn, 1960.



GEORGE, born June 26, 1892, baptized in Big Grove Church, confirmed at Glenwood. Attended rural school and later public school at Glenwood, graduating from high school there in 1909. Taught rural school in Pope County for two years, and enrolled at Luther College 1911. While there was member of Luther College Band under direction of Carlo A. Sperati, made band trip to Norway and Europe 1914, Panama Pacific Exposition, San Francisco and Pacific Northwest in 1915. Graduated from Luther with BA degree in 1915.

Teacher at Minnewaukan, North Dakota High School 1915-16;
Principal at Newburg, North Dakota, 1916-18.

Entered Service spring of 1918, served with US Navy until 1919;
graduated from Harvard Radio school; later worked on Hammond
Guided Missile at Cruft Laboratory, Harvard; released from active duty
as Ensign.

On Aug. 6, 1919 united in marriage to Nina May Hamilton at Hope
Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, by his brother, Rev. Elmer Baalson. Nina
Hamilton is a graduate of Cleveland High School in St. Paul, was statisti-
cian at University of Minnesota. Nina is author of recently published
book of poems, "Balsam Boughs", and copyrighted song, "Thank You
God".

From 1919 thru 1959 George held positions as Superintendent of
Schools at Garretson, S. D., Northwood, N. D., Blackduck, Minn., and
Indus, Minn. Completed school building programs at Garretson, Black-
duck, and Indus. In addition to his administrative duties he served as
church choir director at Garretson, and Northwood; director of orches-
tra at Blackduck, band at Indus; played cello with Bemidji Civic Sym-
phony, and International Falls Community Orchestra.

Attended summer sessions at University of North Dakota, and Uni-
versity of Minnesota, earned Master of Arts Degree U. of Minn., 1928.

After retirement from teaching, is operator of his resort, Sylvan
Dells, on Lake Vermilion, Tower, Minn.



BERTRAM PHILANDER was born Nov. 19, 1894 and spent his child-
hood years on the home farm, attending rural school there, and later
at Glenwood. In 1913 enlisted in the Army and was stationed at New
London, Conn. Served in Coast Artillery, manning 12" guns, to protect
shores from enemy ships.

Suffering from a foot injury while playing football, Bert sought
relief by massage, and who should his nurse be but Hilda Othilda Jon-
nassen from Oslo, Norway. She had arrived in New York August
1914. Bert and Hilda were married in Hoboken, N.Y. April 14, 1915.
Three children were born to this union: Arnold, Irene, Lucille.

Bert and Hilda returned to Minnesota, and after a short stay at
Brooten, they moved to Superior, Wisconsin, where Bert took a job in
the shipyards. In 1919 he moved to Duluth, where for 40 years he
worked for the Berwind Fuel Co. His main job was splicing steel cables,
and general supervision of certain types of repair jobs. He was given
a touching farewell that last day, Nov. 19, 1959 when he went home
to retirement.

During his long residence in West Duluth, he and his family were
members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, and he held numerous posi-
tions of trust; chairman of Trustees for nine years, President of the
Brotherhood seven years, Boy Scout leader for fifteen years.

ARNOLD BERTRAM, Jan. 29, 1916, in Queens, N. Y. Attended school
at Duluth, joined the Army World War II, serving in Air Force, Luke
Field, Phoenix, Ariz. and later in Japan.

Employed by Berwind Fuel Co., and now is working for Interna-
tional Paper Co., Minneapolis.

IRENE MARIE, Nov. 25, 1921, grade school in Duluth, graduated Den-
field High 1938, Duluth Business University 1940. Served as WAC in
Air Force, Colorado Springs.

On Dec. 22, 1945 she was united in marriage to Seymour Tuttle.
They moved to New York where Seymour is in the business of training
race horses.

Children: Gloria Lynn, 1946; Karen Louise 1949; Julian David
1950; Roy Gerald 1954; Barbara Jean 1958; Carolyn Ann, 1960.

LUCILLE CAROL, November 29, 1925, graduated from Denfield High
1942; Nurses Training Course St. Lukes in Duluth September 1945.
Spent three years as professional nurse. She married Robert Oscar
Brown August 21, 1948; they have made their home at Aurora, Minn.,
where Robert is auditor at Ogelbie Norton Mining Co. Their children
are: Nicholas Oscar 1949; Steven Robert 1951; Susan Marie 1954; Lee
Ann 1956; Judith 1959.



ARTHUR GUSTAVUS, born August 17, 1896, attended high school three
years at Brooten and finished remaining credits while attending Luther
College, Decorah, from which he was graduated in 1922. That fall he
became principal of the Lyons (So. Dak.) Consolidated School. He at-
tended summer sessions at the University of Minnesota and State Col-
lege, Ames, Iowa. In 1924 he was superintendent of Hayfield, Iowa
Consolidated School.

He entered Luther Seminary, St. Paul, in 1926, and was graduat-
ed in 1929. He was ordained June 2, 1929, together with Rev. Elmo
Baalson, at Big Grove Church. In July 1929 he became the pastor of
Shevlin, Minn. parish composed of Clearwater, Solway, Alida, and Be-
cida Lutheran Churches.

Before he arrived in Shevlin, Arthur was married June 5, 1929, to
Nora Christine Thompson in Willow Creek Church, Baltic, S. Dak. Nora
had been a teacher at Lyons, and in 1926 was graduated from nurses'
training, Moe Hospital, Sioux Falls. While in Shevlin, their three daugh-
ters were born: Carolyn, Glenice, and Norma.

On April 1, 1941, they moved to the next parish at Presho, S. Dak., with churches also at Kennebec, Vivian, and Rural Hilmoe-White River.

Leaving Presho in June, 1947, he became pastor of Meckling, So. Dak. and Bergen Lutheran Churches. Nora became ill with virus pneumonia and weakened heart which resulted in her death July 12, 1950. She was laid to rest in Willow Creek cemetery, her childhood church.

The family moved to Canton, So. Dak. where the girls attended Augustana Academy. Rev. Baalson served as hospital chaplain at Sioux Falls and part time chaplain at Yankton State Hospital. In 1953 they moved into their house in Sioux Falls.

On November 2, 1957, Arthur was married to Mrs. Martin Hansen (Esther Anderson) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. Esther and her husband, Martin had farmed for many years near Solway, Minnesota, and prior to her marriage she had taught rural schools in the area. On July 1, 1958, Arthur and Esther moved to Madison, Minn. Lutheran Home, where Arthur serves as chaplain.

VALBORG CAROLYN, born February 23, 1933 attended two years high school at Meckling and was graduated from Augustana Academy in 1951. She served as Academy office secretary before enrolling at Augustana College Sioux Falls in 1953. She attended one year at the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis, then re-entered Augustana College and was graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1958. On June 7, 1958, she was married to Norris L. Einertson of Westbrook, Minn., a college classmate. They have made their home in St. Paul, where Carolyn has served as parish secretary at Zion Lutheran Church, and Norris has been attending Luther Seminary. After his graduation in May, 1961, he expects to enter the Army Chaplaincy Service.

GLENICE CLARENE, born May 13, 1935, received two years of high school at Meckling and was graduated from Augustana Academy in 1953. She enrolled in the Sioux Valley Hospital School of Nursing, Sioux Falls, and became a registered nurse in 1956. On August 11, 1956, she was married to David Glenn Johnson, Milbank, So. Dak. Dave attended Luther Seminary and graduated in May, 1960. He was ordained into the ministry June 19, 1960, and accepted a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church, Fowler, Colorado. Their two children are: Mark Christopher born January 30, 1958; Gregory Paul, born December 16, 1959.

NORMA ADELLE, was born March 3, 1937. She received her high school education at Augustana Academy, graduating in 1955. She served as office secretary of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, for two years. She attended St. Olaf College for one year, and then entered nurses' training at Fairview Hospital, Minneapolis, and plans to graduate from nurses' training in August, 1961.

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HENRY A. BAALSON, youngest son of Austen and Caroline Baalson was born on December 9, 1898, baptized February 19, 1899 and confirmed on April 27, 1913. He attended rural school in District 83 Stearns county. He remained on the home farm. He was clerk of the school district for several years, secretary of the shipping association, and has been president of Big Grove Congregation for many years. On June 23, 1927 he was married to Genevieve Johnson, a great grand daughter of Hans and Ingeborg Pladsen, who accompanied Kari and Ellen on their journey to North Fork.

Genevieve graduated from Glenwood Normal Department and taught for five years in the rural schools near Brooten. She has been organist at Big Grove since 1920.

Their son is:

Erling Reuben Baalson, born December 11, 1929, baptized January 1, 1930, Confirmed April 23, 1944. He attended grade school in District 83, Stearns county. Graduated from Brooten High School in 1946, attended Luther College 1946-47. He is now directing the Big Grove choir. He farms at home, the farm originally deeded to Austen and Caroline Baalson by Ellen and Kari Baalson. On August 16, 1953 he was married to Zona Mae Friese. She graduated from Brooten High School in 1953.

Their children are:

Duane Allen born July 3, 1954
Ione Elaine born October 25, 1955
Peter Sherlin, May 12, 1961

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CORA JULIATTA, daughter of Austen and Clara (Bente) Baalson was born June 30, 1908 at their Glenwood, Minn., home located at present site of Glenwood High School For five winters the family had made their home in Glenwood while Austen had been in charge of the Dougherty elevators. That summer they moved back to their Brooten farm permanently. Cora's education, beginning in the rural schools was completed with graduation from Brooten High School, and teachers training at Park Region College. After teaching in rural schools in Pope, Stearns, Rice and Scott Counties, she was married April 12, 1939 to William D. Koester, and they live on a farm one mile south of Northfield.

Their children are:

David, born March 23, 1940, Northfield High Graduate 1958
Eunice, April 12, 1941, a sophomore at the University of Minn
Joan, May 15, 1942, a freshman at Iowa State University
Doris, January 10, 1944
Vernon, October 31, 1946
Marcia, June 21, 1950
Lois, July 13, 1951

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OREN BERNHARD, May 18, 1910, baptized June 26. He lived a few happy years with his sisters Cora and Amanda. After attendance at church on July 4, 1915, he complained of pain. Taken to Glenwood for surgery, he died in the hospital on July 15.



AMANDA GEOLINE, Jan. 11, 1913, attended rural school, and graduating from Brooten High School in 1930. Later attended Business College. She was married to Alvin Nygaard of Glenwood, Minn., on April 16, 1938. They operated a gas and service station at Lowry. Alvin was inducted into service in August 1942, and served in the Italian theatre as Radio operator, discharged in November 1945.

Then they lived for some years at Willmar and Nelson, Minn., and six years in Los Angeles. At present both are employed by World Wide Inc., Minneapolis



As, has been stated in the Introduction in this book **Jorgine Swenson** was born on June 26, 1865 in a covered wagon near where the State Fairgrounds are now located. That was all virgin prairie at that time. The group was enroute to their new location in Stearns County, Minnesota.

After stopping for 3 days, they started on their last 100 plus mile trek of the journey and arrived at their destination on July 4, 1865. So baby Jorgine was one week old when she arrived in North Fork Township with her parents and two young brothers Austen and Bjorn. There she was baptized, received her religious instruction, was confirmed, attended school in the first schoolhouse which was a log cabin, and grew to young womanhood. She used to walk to Sauk Centre to seek employment when she could be spared from the work at home. Part of that time she worked in the home of Dr. Lewis—father of the famous author Sinclair Lewis. On May 23, 1887 she was married at Big Grove Lutheran Church to Sanfred Swenson who was born in Sweden and came to the United States at the age of five years with his parents Victor and Anna Lena Swenson. Jorgine and Sanfred Swenson resided on a farm in Crow Lake Township four years and then acquired the farmstead $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Brooten where they spent the rest of their lives.

Sanfred Swenson died in a car-train accident on February 1, 1935 and Jorgine Baalson Swenson passed away at the Belgrade Hospital on July 28, 1948. They were members of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooten and they are buried in the Trinity Church Cemetery.

They had ten children—they are:

WILLIAM EDGAR SWENSON, born February 27, 1888. Attended Brooten grade school and two terms Business course at Glenwood

Academy. Was inducted in the army May 22, 1918, served 12 months in France and 2 months in the U.S. in Co. A. 53rd Inf. 6th Division, in World War I engagements Vosges and Meuse-Argonne, and was discharged June 27, 1919. William worked in a General Store at Appleton, Minnesota for one year in 1908 and from 1909 to 1959 was one of the partners in Reed and Shelso Co. Mercantile Store at Brooten, Minnesota. He was married to Hilma Andria Westrud June 10, 1928. June 27, 1934, a baby was born and passed away shortly after birth. Hilma has been employed as saleslady for 36 years in Brooten, $3\frac{1}{2}$ years at Syverson Mercantile Company, one year at Brooten Farmers Store, and 33 years at Reed and Shelso Company. Spent two terms in Special Millinery School at Robinson Straus at St. Paul 1920 and 1921.



CARL HENRY SWENSON, born December 23, 1889. Attended school at Brooten and Business School at Glenwood. Worked in a bakery at Brooten for awhile; then lived in Seattle for a year. From there moved to Roseau where he and his brother Arnold had a bakery in 1918. He then moved to International Falls and started working in the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company. While living in Roseau, he married Ida Osterlund of Roseau on October 12, 1916. He worked for M and O Paper Company until December 31, 1946, when he started raising mink. He is still a mink farmer and lives near Rainy Lake, about six miles from International Falls. His children are Pearl Marie, Stanley Sanford, and Russell Henry. He has eleven grandchildren.

PEARL MARIE SWENSON, born July 30, 1917, at Roseau. Graduated from Falls High School in 1935. Worked at F. W. Woolworth Store for six years. Married to Gunner Lindstrom, dairy farmer, on November 19, 1941. In 1950 he started working for Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company (Mando) where he is now employed as a machinist. Their children are Jan Marie, born January 28, 1943, and will graduate from Falls High this spring, 1961; Venita Elaine, born May 5, 1947; Wayne Gunner, born December 11, 1948; Gloria Kay, born October 1, 1955; Dean Robert, born August 10, 1959. All are living about seven miles from International Falls about one mile from Rainy Lake.

STANLEY SANFORD, born March 23, 1919 at International Falls, Minn. Graduated from Falls high in 1938 and attended Dunwoody Trade School in Minneapolis. Worked for Martin Aircraft in Omaha, Nebraska during World War II. While there, he married Emma Klavitter, who also worked for Martin Aircraft in Omaha, Nebraska. They were married in Omaha on October 7, 1944. After the war they moved to International Falls where he worked as a garage mechanic for awhile. He then started raising mink with his dad. Now raises mink and does commercial fishing on Rainy Lake. His children are: Sharon Kay, born January 14, 1946; Shirley Ann, born November 19, 1947; and Vernon Stanley, born March 1, 1951. All are living on Rainy Lake across the road from Henry, about six miles from International Falls.

RUSSELL HENRY, born August 27, 1920 in International Falls. Graduated from Falls High in 1939. Worked for Mando until July, 1942, when he joined the Marines. Fought in the battles of Guadalcanal, Bouganville, and Iwo Jima. Was not injured in action. Came home in October, 1945. Started working for M and O where he still works as an electrician. On September 6, 1947, was married to Norma Mundinger of Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada. Their children are Lynn Roberta, born June 14, 1959; Phylis Marie, born April 24, 1952; Melody Ann, born March 20, 1956. All are living on Rainy River about three miles from International Falls.



ARNOLD BERNHARD, born in Brooten, Minnesota October 14, 1891. He received his education in the Brooten Public School. Worked for many years at the C. O. Reslow harness shop in Brooten and later was in the bakery and restaurant business in Roseau with his brother Henry. There he met and married Miss Clara Stevenson. They were married by Rev. James J. Moody on March 8, 1917. In 1918 they moved to International Falls where Arnold was employed as an inspector in the Minnesota-Ontario Paper Mill. He passed away at the Little Fork, Minnesota hospital on March 30, 1941 following a goiter operation. Funeral services were held from Zion Lutheran Church at International Falls and he was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. They had seven children.

KENNETH, born in Roseau and attended International Falls grade and High school. He was in the army for three years, being stationed in Italy part of that time. When he returned home he secured employment with the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Mill, where he still works. He is married to Ann Mollberg of International Falls and they have two daughters.

NORMA, was married to P. F. C. Conrad Carroll. He died in action with the U.S. Army in Italy during World War II on March 3, 1945 and was buried there. Later his body was brought to the U.S. and is now buried in the Carroll family lot at Aitkins, Minnesota. Norma later married William Wreggit of Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada. They live in Fort Francis where he is employed by the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company. They also operate a summer resort on Rainy Lake. They have six sons and one daughter.

DORIS, is married to Cleve Costly and their home is in South International Falls. They have five daughters and one son.

BEN, the youngest is married to Bonnie Mays of Denver, Colorado. He has made army life his career and has spent the past 13½ years in army service. He and his wife have one son and one daughter. The family is now living in Germany where he is stationed at the present time.

DONALD, passed away at International Falls on May 28, 1938, at the age of 15 years.

Also one son and one daughter died in infancy.



ELMER BENJAMIN SWENSON, born August 16, 1893. He attended Brooten School. Worked as assistant cashier in Farmers State Bank in Brooten and Belgrade for four years. He was inducted into the Army Engineer Corps February 25, 1918. Served fourteen months at Camp Dodge, Iowa; Camp Humphrey, West Virginia; Camp Sevier, South Carolina; and Washington Barracks, Washington, D. C. He was discharged April 3, 1919. Elmer did carpentry work and worked on the railroad until 1930. From 1930 until the present time he has been head custodian and engineer in the Brooten Schools. He was married to Agnes Helene Westrud February 19, 1922. She attended grade school at Brooten and Belgrade. Attended West Central Agricultural School at Morris, Minnesota, graduated from Business College in St. Cloud. Worked at Syverson Mercantile, Nelson Mercantile and Hardware Store for twenty years. Home address is Brooten, Minnesota. They have one daughter Lorna Jean.

LORNA JEAN SWENSON RADEMACHER, born January 31, 1934. Daughter of Elmer Swenson. Graduated from Brooten Grade and High School. Also graduated from St. Cloud State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Taught fourth grade in Belgrade for three years and now has taught in the Moundsview School System in suburban St. Paul for five years. She married Richard C. Rademacher June 10, 1955. He graduated with Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Cloud State College. He received his Master of Arts Degree in Administration from the University of Minnesota. He is now Elementary Principal in the Moundsview School System in suburban St. Paul. Home address is 191 Demar Ave. St. Paul 12, Minnesota.



CLARE ETTA ALFRIDA, born September 19, 1895 at Brooten, Minnesota. Graduated from Brooten High School and enrolled as a student at St. Cloud State Teachers College. She has had three years of college training. Taught school in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Montana, and is at the present time teaching in Portland, Oregon. Married June 10, 1922 to Albert E. Schneider who had his Elementary, High School and Business College training in North Dakota schools. They lived for a while in Portal, North Dakota where Albert worked in a bank. For a few years he was Special Deputy Bank Examiner in North Dakota. In 1939 he entered Civil Service work and was field supervisor for the Farmers Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Due to ill health he was forced to retire in 1952. He passed away from

a heart attack on January 6, 1961 at his home in Gresham, Oregon and was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Gresham. They have one daughter:

MARILYN RUTH, born October 27, 1924 at Hebron, North Dakota. Education: High School, Minneapolis Business College and University of Oregon Medical School. She worked for a few years at Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance in Minneapolis and then enrolled in Medical School in Portland, Oregon where she became a registered Technician. She worked at the Portland Clinic for seven years. She was married to Jack Foeste Grauer on August 26, 1952, who, following high school received his college education at State College at Carvilles, Oregon. During World War II he served in the Air Corps. On his return to civilian life he entered the merchandising field with his father—Appliance Store and Furnaces. Since his fathers' retirement, Jack has gone into the Linoleum, Congoleum and Tile field in Gresham. They have two children: Jean Claire, born December 10, 1953; Thomas William, born December 31, 1956.



CLARENCE ALBIN SWENSON, born in Brooten September 12, 1897. He attended Brooten Public School. Spent several years farming, worked at Brooten Implement for 14 years and was partner in Brooten Theater for several years. At present he is operating Brooten Roller Rink. He was married to Harriet Nelson of Parkers Prairie August 11, 1935. She was born September 14, 1901. Attended Parkers Prairie School and Little Falls Business College. Worked at Farmers Produce at Parkers Prairie, and has been saleslady at Nelson Drug Store since fall of 1921.



SILAS GEORGE SWENSON, born December 3, 1899, attended Brooten Public and High School. Worked for Reed and Shelso Mercantile Store for 37 years. Presently is owner of Jack and Jill Grocery Store in Brooten. He was married to Amy F. Everson, July 9, 1924, of Terrace. Amy graduated from Glenwood High School, attended Mankato State College and taught school for four years in this vicinity. They have three children:

BETTY LOU, born March 27, 1925, graduated from Brooten High School in 1943. Holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from University of Minnesota with class of 1947. Betty attended Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood, Lennox, Massachusetts. She spent two years with the Hormel Girls Caravan. Also taught music in Little Falls and Starbuck schools. At present is directing choir in their church in Cleveland and giving private lessons. On August 7, 1955 she was married to Byron E. Schaller, who was born in New York City. Byron holds a degree in engineering from University of Syracuse, New York, and is now associated with General Electric at Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio. They have three children: Lauren Elizabeth, born August 16, 1958; Christine Amy, born July 11, 1960. Suzanne Louise, born June 9, 1961.

MARJORIE ANN, born July 19, 1929. Margie is a graduate of Brooten High School Class of 1947, and of University of Minnesota 1951. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education. She played organ in churches in Minneapolis while attending University, and since living in North Hollywood has given private lessons as well as accompanist in church. On November 12, 1950 was married to John Berglund of Minneapolis, who is also a graduate of University of Minnesota Music Department. John taught music in Texas and North Hollywood. At present is District Manager of State Farm Insurance at San Francisco, California. Their children are: James Bennett, born June 13, 1951; Jeffrey Robert, born December 30, 1952; Carin Marie, born August 12, 1956.

ROBERT SANFRED, M. D., born April 19, 1933. Robert is a graduate of Brooten High School 1951, and of Medical School at University of Minnesota 1958 earning his doctors degree. He is in the Navy and spent six months in the Far East. At present he is in the Navy Hospital at Long Beach, California, and will receive his discharge on July 1, 1961. He will then enter a Veterans Hospital in San Francisco for further study. On September 26, 1959 he was married to Carol Jean Conley of Minneapolis, who graduated from the University of Minnesota as a Medical Technician. They have one daughter: Cynthia Gail, born December 6, 1960.



FLORENCE VICTORIA, born in Brooten, Minnesota, January 24, 1902. Received her education at Brooten Grade and High School, graduating in 1920. Attended Moorhead State Teachers College— Taught school Was married to Clarence Melvin Odland of Belgrade in 1923. They lived on the Swenson farm near Brooten for two years and then moved to a farm two miles south of Belgrade which they bought in 1940. Florence was switchboard operator for Minn-Central Telephone company in Belgrade for 3½ years, from 1955 thru 1958. They have one daughter, Cleone.

CLEONE FLOREINE, born in Brooten July 10, 1924, graduated from Belgrade High School in 1940, and from St. Cloud State College in 1942. Taught school three years. Attended the West Central Airline School in Kansas City for specialized airline training in 1945, after which she was audit clerk in the office of North West Airlines in St. Paul for seven years. In 1946 she married Anthony Arthur Zabinski of St. Cloud. He attended grade and high school in St. Cloud and served four years with the U. S. Navy during World War II, with active service through out the Pacific and part of the Atlantic areas. They live in Minneapolis where "Tony" is employed as pressman at Brown and Bigelow. They have one daughter Jo Ann, born in St. Paul March 29, 1952. She finished her third year at Parkview Elementary School in Fridley this spring.



ARTHUR FRANKLIN, born in Brooten, Minnesota October 27, 1904. Attended grade and High School in Brooten, graduating from High School in 1925. He attended Park Region Luther College in Fergus Falls in 1925 and 1926. where he took a course in business. He stayed with his father and mother on the home farm and when they passed away he bought the farm in 1950. He is single and still farming there.



HOLGER LESTER, the youngest of the Swenson family was born in Brooten, October 6, 1907. Received his education in Brooten Grade and High School, graduating from high school in 1927. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from St. Cloud State College in 1945. Taught in Jeffers, Minnesota High School from 1929-1944, and accepted a teaching position in Paynesville in 1945 and is still a member of the High School faculty there. Holger is married to Bernice Aslagson of Brooten, a High School graduate of Brooten with the class of 1928 and a St. Cloud State College graduate of 1933. She has taught school at various places and is at present a kindergarten teacher and principal of the Watkins Public School. They have one son and two daughters.

CLARK HOLGER, graduated from Paynesville High School 1954, and graduated in 1958 from St. Cloud State College with a major in English. He spent one year teaching in the Melrose High School teaching staff and is at the present time a member of the High School teaching staff at Buffalo, Minnesota.

MARGO GEORGINE, graduated from Paynesville High School this spring, June 2, 1961. She has enrolled as a student at St. Cloud State College for the fall of 1961.

JANET BERNICE, their youngest daughter was a member of the class of confirmands at the Paynesville Lutheran Church this spring. She will begin her Sophomore year at the Paynesville High School in the fall of 1961.



EDWARD E. BAALSON, the fourth eldest child of Ellen and Kari Baalson, was born at the farm home and lived his entire life in North Fork Township. On Nov. 7, 1892 he was married to Netta Malina Bente and settled on the farm bought from Overland. They lived on this same farm all their lives, extending gracious hospitality to all and enjoying the work and responsibilities that a large family brings.

Children born to this union were Elma, Olga, Nils (died at six months), Christine, Nora, Elvin, Herbert, Lulla, Theola, Clifford, Rudolph, Ralph, Junette, and Ernest (died at six months).

In 1942 they celebrated their Golden Wedding. All their children were present with the exception of the two boys who died in infancy

and Clifford who was in the Air Force and stationed in Greenland.

Edward died on Sept. 15, 1951, and Netta on Feb. 6, 1954. Both are buried in Big Grove Cemetery.



ELMA CONSTANCE BAALSON, July 31, 1893, baptized and confirmed at Big Grove Church. She was married on Nov. 30, 1916, to Olaf Imsdahl who was born in Norway. The six children born to this union are:

MELVIN NATHANIEL IMSDAHL, April 20, 1917, married Sept. 3, 1943, to Francis Thordson of Hanska. Melvin has a car and body shop in Minneapolis. Melvin has three children: Michael Nathaniel, March 6, 1945; Diane Lynn, Feb. 13, 1947; Peggy Ann, July 11, 1955.

MILDRED, March 8, 1919, was married Dec. 21, 1938, to Kenneth Phillips. They have one daughter, Kay, Sept. 25, 1939. She is a graduate of Federal Way High School and attended College of Puget Sound in Tacoma one year. Kay married Fred Chaney on Aug. 30, 1958. They have one daughter, Melanie Dawn, July 25, 1959, who has the distinction of being the first great great-grand child of Edward Baalson. Fred is studying for his Doctor's Degree at Purdue University.

ORVILLE MELBOURNE, Oct. 8, 1920. On July 26, 1947, he was married to Phyllis Johnson, an elementary teacher in Brooten. Children born to this union are: Karen Lynn, Aug. 22, 1949; Gayle LaVonne, Dec. 11, 1943. Orville has the Standard Oil Bulk Agency at Brooten, Minnesota.

EILEEN WANDA, Aug. 31, 1922. She was married on Feb. 23, 1945 to Ardene Kalkoske, Michigan City, Ind. He is with Prudential Insurance, Chicago Office. Born to this union were Candice Marie, May 18, 1951 and Marc Alan, July 10, 1953.

MARVIN LOWELL, June 4, 1930, is single and has served in the army from Jan. 1954 to Jan. 1956 with overseas duty in Germany. He is at present employed with the U. S. Post Office Dept., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ELWOOD, June 6, 1936, is at present living at Cambridge State School. Elma Constance died Oct. 5, 1949 and her husband died on Feb. 9, 1960. Both are buried in Big Grove Cemetery.



OLGA JOSEPHINE BAALSON, April 24, 1895, baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. She was married to Palmer Olson of Brooten and to this union were born three sons:

RUDOLPH BENONI, Oct. 14, 1920--Jan. 3, 1924.

PHILIP ORN ROALD, May 9, 1924.

JOSEPH BENJAMIN, April 15, 1929.

Both Philip and Joseph attended elementary and High School at Brooten, graduated from St. Olaf College and are at present music instructors. Philip is at Belgrade and Joseph at Sacred Heart.

Philip married Lucille Anderson of Belgrade and they have three children: Judith Ann, April 26, 1952; Carol Jean, March 4, 1954; Keith David, March 19, 1960.

Joseph is single and lives with his mother at Brooten. Palmer Olson died Aug. 8, 1947 and is buried in Big Grove Cemetery.



CHRISTINE NORMANA BAALSON, July 6, 1898. She was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. On Nov. 18, 1928, she married Gilman Johnson of Brooten, a grandson of Hans and Ingeborg Pladsen, and to this union two boys and two girls were born:

MURIEL DELORES, Sept. 24, 1929. Married to Adrew Thoen of Belgrade on Nov. 2, 1947. Their children are: James Allen, July 26, 1948; Douglas Kenneth, Feb. 13, 1950; Lona Lea, June 23, 1951; Marc Gilman, Nov. 19, 1955; Linda Marie, May 5, 1959. Andy spent some time in the army and is presently engaged in farming, carpentering, and insurance selling.

ORRIN ELDER, Oct. 5, 1931. Married to Ruth Hanson, Brooten, on July 6, 1952. Their children are: David Orrin, Nov. 22, 1952; Christine Marie Jan. 7, 1956; Rickey Gene, Feb. 28, 1957. Orrin spent some years in the service during World War II and is presently Office Manager for Burkhardt Larson in Minneapolis.

ERNEST GERALD N., July 23, 1937. Married to Carolynne Beecroft of Elkhart, Ind. on June 4, 1956. Their children are: Sharon Kay, April 8, 1957; Susan Diane, Aug. 1958 (deceased Aug. 1958); Donald Joseph, Sept. 3, 1959. Ernest is in the Navy and has served there for six years.

AUDREY RUTH, April 17, 1942 is at present a book-keeper at Columbia Heights Bank and lives with her father in Anoka.

Christine died Nov. 28, 1959 and is buried in Big Grove Cemetery.



NORA LOUISA BAALSON, July 31, 1900 was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. She was married to Olaf Linnerud and to this union three sons and two daughters were born:

DONALD, Feb. 19, 1924. Married to Audrey Scholton on July 27, 1948. They have two girls: Jane Ann, July 4, 1949, Mary Beth, Jan. 29, 1952. Donald served as cook in World War II and is at present an electronic technician in Milwaukee.

LOWELL, Oct. 21, 1926. He married Joyce Beck on June 4, 1949. Their children are: Lynn Louise, Aug. 12, 1956; Mark Alan, July 14, 1958. Lowell served on the Okinawa Island during World War II and is at present a brick layer at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

DELORIS, March 8, 1929. Married to Orlan Groth on Sept. 4, 1948 and to this union were born: Dennis William, Nov. 27, 1949 and Darlene Nora, March 8, 1955. Delores passed away on Sept. 13, 1959 and buried in Arlington Cemetery in Milwaukee.

CHARLES, May 25, 1933. Married to Margie Florizyk on June 6, 1953 and has one son: David William, Nov. 27, 1954. Charles served in the Korean War and is at present a machinist in Milwaukee.

LORRAINE, Feb. 27, 1935 was married to Luther Graef on Sept. 18, 1954. They have two children: Ronald William, July 20, 1955; Sharon Louise, Oct. 23, 1958. Luther is a civil engineer in Milwaukee.

NORA BAALSON LINNERUD, was married to Knud Nelson on Nov. 29, 1947. He died Sept. 22, 1953.



ELVIN NORMAN BAALSON, July 16, 1902 was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. In Feb. 1925 he was married to Luella Nelson, Brooten and to this union two daughters were born:

BETTY NORMANDA, married Donald Larson of Minneapolis, and they have five children: Wayne, Stacy, Jerry, Susan, Pam.

YVONNE MAURINE, Sept. 2, 1927. Married to James Gomer on Dec. 2, 1945. They have a family of four: Bruce DeWayne, June 5, 1947; Alpha Jean, Jan. 13, 1951; Brian Dean, Oct. 5, 1955; Bradley James, Feb. 27, 1958. They make their home at Lake Norden, South Dakota, where James is the Creamery Manager.

LUELLA NELSON BAALSON is deceased and Elvin is employed at farm work near Nerstrand.



HERBERT BENONI BAALSON, Feb. 22, 1904. He was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. Married to Theresa Kjeldahl in 1927. They are engaged in farming, near Nerstrand. They have two daughters who are both graduate nurses and home makers.

GLORIA NATALIE, Jan. 20, 1928, was married to Dr. John Jensen in 1955 and make their home at 717 Thorndale Ave., Crookston, Minnesota. Their children are: Karla Rae, Sept. 3, 1956; Terry Kay, Feb. 7, 1958; John Richard, July 12, 1960.

PHYLLIS RUTH, Aug. 13, 1932, was married to Arthur W. Zeck in 1953. He is employed at Lockheed and they make their home at Lancaster, California, 43729 Fern Ave. Their children are: Linda Jane, Dec. 1, 1955; Tobin Wayne, Dec. 1, 1955; Barry William, Nov. 18, 1960.



LULLA ELVINA BAALSON, May 7, 1906 was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. On June 30, 1926 she married Melvin Groff, Nerstrand. They have three daughters:

MARILYN LOU, July 2, 1928, a graduate of St. Olaf College. She taught art for two years before her marriage to Robert Zielke. They make their home in Bruce, Wisconsin and have three children: Jan Ardis, May 2, 1954; David Allen, Dec. 22, 1956, Joni Ruth, Nov. 19, 1958.

MARLYS ELORA, Aug. 6, 1933, a graduate of St. Olaf College with a Home Ec. Major and is at present the millinery manager at Donaldson's in Minneapolis.

ARDIS JANET, Jan. 3, 1944 attended rural school for two years when she became ill and has had a private tutor since.



THEOLA ADELIN BAALSON, Sept. 23, 1908, was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. July 18, 1930 she married Raymond Overturf and they have two daughters:

LILLIAN ADELIN, Mar. 21, 1931, married LaVerne Stanley Shroeder of Savage, Minn., on July 20, 1948. Their children are: Sharon Elizabeth, Jan. 15, 1949; Steven Ray, Sept. 30, 1950; Pamela Dayle, June 11, 1953; Laurie Marie, Jan. 28, 1955; Jeffery LaVerne, Mar. 3, 1960.

ELAINE MAURINE, Aug. 15, 1932, married Gerald Pahl on Apr. 30, 1949. Their children are: David Patrick, Feb. 7, 1950; Mark Allen, June 4, 1952; Robert Mathews, Apr. 24, 1953; Jane Mary, May 25, 1954; June Ann, June 10, 1955; Kevin John, Aug. 28, 1956; Raymond Lee, Aug. 24, 1957; Chris Roy, Feb. 19, 1959.



CLIFFORD WILHELM BAALSON, Dec. 5, 1910. He was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. He married Edith Hanson on June 30, 1946. He served in the Army Air Force from June, 1942—Dec. 1945 in the U. S. and Greenland. They have two sons:

CLARK WILHELM, Oct. 7, 1950.

PHILIP ARLYN, Apr. 17, 1954.

Clifford is the operator of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery at Brooten, Minn.



RUDOLPH BENJAMIN BAALSON, March 30, 1913. He was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. Rudolph is employed at Kielmeyer Construction in Nerstrand. On July 27, 1935, he married Stella Mae Lester and to this union four children were born:

ROGER EDWARD, June 8, 1938, was married to Kay Anderson on July 19, 1959. They have one son, Barry Edward, Feb. 1, 1961. Roger served four years in the Reserves and is at present employed at Farmers Elevator in Nerstrand.

KATHLEEN ANNETTE, Feb. 3, 1943, died in 1957 at the age of 14.

DONALD RALPH, Sept. 5, 1945.

STEVEN WAYNE, Sept. 20, 1951.



RALPH BENONI BAALSON, March 30, 1913. He was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. He is farming on the home place and was married to Elsie Kjeldahl on Oct. 17, 1937. They have two children:

LINDA THERESA, April 3, 1943.

ELDEN RALPH, Sept. 24, 1956.



JUNETTE ELMIRA BAALSON, May 3, 1915. She was baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Church. She married Jackson B. Meyers on Feb. 21, 1937. They have two children:

JACQUELINE JUNETTE, Feb. 23, 1939, married to Donald Williamson, May 14, 1955. They have three children: Jan Ette, Dec. 20, 1955; Charles, Apr. 15, 1957; Tommy, Oct. 5, 1958.

FAY, Nov. 17, 1945.



ANDRINA BAALSON LEVORSON, March 26, 1869—March 2, 1908. Andrina was married to Gustav Levorson, a young school-teacher, farmer, and community worker on June 5, 1895. Their children were Leonard Benoni, Clara Helena, Elmo Edwin, Gilma Constance, and Goodwin Arnold.



LEONARD BENONI LEVORSON, June 3, 1896—March 28, 1929. Leonard was in the service of his country in World War I from Feb. 25, 1918 until May 22, 1919. He was in Co. I, 131 Infantry, 33rd Division. He served in France, where in the A. E. F. he was in the battles of Somme, Meuse, Argonne, Verdun, Gressaire Wood, Chippily Ridge and Vaden. After the armistice he was in the Army of Occupation in Germany. Following his discharge he was active in veteran's organizations, and was

a member of the Ranten-Sundflot Post, American Legion, and a district delegate to the National Legion Convention in Paris in 1927. Leonard graduated from the School of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, in March, 1922. Leonard did not completely regain his health after being gassed during his war service in France, and died at the Veterans Hospital at Fort Snelling on Mar. 28, 1929.



CLARA HELENA LEVORSON HENDRICKSON, October 20, 1898—October, 1942. Clara graduated from the Brooten High School and attended the St. Cloud and Moorhead State Teachers Colleges. She taught schools in North Dakota and Minnesota. On June 28, 1930, she was married to Lester Hendrickson, who farms west of Belgrade. Both were active in church and community work. Their children are Laurel Leonard, and Ralph Gerald.

LAUREL LEONARD HENDRICKSON—October 31, 1931. Laurel graduated from the Belgrade High School and attended the Morris School of Agriculture. He was inducted into active military service on September 11, 1952. Served in Okinawa for 1 year, 3 mo. 5 days. Discharged August 27, 1954. He was married to Marlene Ardella Bergeson on August 9, 1952. They reside in north Minneapolis where he works for a trucking firm. Their children are:

Wayne Michael—May 14, 1955.

Ronnie Lee—Jan. 24, 1959, Died Feb. 6, 1959.

James Lee—December 30, 1959.

RALPH GERALD HENDRICKSON, August 31, 1938. Ralph graduated from the Belgrade High School. At present he is employed at First National Bank in Minneapolis. On November 1, 1958 he was married to Doris Ann Maroschek, a graduate of Belgrade High School. She completed the Willmar Hospital Nurses Training Course and has been employed at Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis. Their children are:

Cynthia Louise—June 7, 1959.

Douglas Allen—April 22, 1961.



ELMO EDWIN LEVORSON, April 18, 1901—September 12, 1937. Elmo attended the School of Agriculture at Morris. He assisted with the work on the home farm for a number of years, and was later employed in Nebraska, Michigan and Washington. He died at Everett, Washington on September 12, 1937.



GILMA CONSTANCE LEVORSON FAGSTAD, September 10, 1903. Gilma is a graduate of the Brooten High School and attended the University of Minnesota and the Moorhead State Teachers College, from which she is a graduate. She taught schools in North Dakota and Minnesota, and was employed by the United States Government at Seattle, Washington. Gilma was married to Enoch Mathew Fagstad, a mill

maintenance foreman, on December 15, 1937. They have one daughter, Clara Helen Louise.

CLARA HELEN LOUISE FAGSTAD, November 14, 1940. Clara is a graduate of the Everett High School, and the Everett Junior College, and is a student at the University of Washington. She has set June 16, 1961, as the date for her marriage to Robert Vanderway of Everett, who is also a college student.



GOODWIN ARNOLD LEVORSON, July 21, 1907. Arnold was employed in North Dakota, Montana, and Washington. He now operates the farm where his parents, Gustave and Andrine Baalson Levorson made their first home.



OLAVA RANDINE BAALSON. Olava Randine Baalson was born in Brooten, Minn., Jan. 21, 1871. She was married on May 30, 1892 to Ole Eielson, who was born at Coon Valley, Wisconsin, March 27, 1863. The children were:

Elma (Mrs. Elmer Osking), Hatton, N. Dak.

Edwin Oscar (deceased).

Carl Ben (deceased).

Arthur Bernard, Haverhill, Mass.

Helen (Mrs. Helen Sheehy)

Hannah (Mrs. Ray Barnard) Charleston, W. Va.

Adeline (Mrs. W. S. Impett) Vancouver, B. C.

Oliver, Minneapolis, Minn.

Hannah (deceased).

OLE EIELSON operated a general store in Hatton, was mayor for many years, and President of the Farmers and Merchant's National Bank until his death Dec. 12, 1931. Mrs. Eielson passed away July 23, 1911.



ELMA EIELSON, Feb. 27, 1893, attended grade and high school at Hatton, graduated 1911. Studied music and gave piano lessons as well as taking care of brothers and sisters after her mother's death. Was married to Elmer Osking June 23, 1920. Osking was a very successful business man of many ventures, including potato marketing. Their children are:

EILEEN, March 10, 1921, Hatton grade and high to 1939; Mayville Normal and N. Dakota State, graduated with major in Home Economics; married to Kendall Mork July 8, 1945. Three children, Kristi, Kenny, Kari.

ELMER, May 5, 1926, Hatton grade and high; graduate Glendale College of Agriculture, now at Vancouver, Wash.

BEN EIELSON, July 17, 1930, Hatton grade and high; Minneapolis Business College, and University of Miami, BS in business administration and accountant. Married Nancy Ball Sept. 8, 1956. Live in Miami. Children, one son 2 yrs. old. Service record: Airborne.



EDWIN OSCAR, Dec. 1895; Hatton grade and high, Minneapolis Business. Bank clerk. Died Jan. 9, 1917.



CARL BEN EIELSON, born at Hatton, North Dakota, July 20, 1897. Ben Eielson soared to fame as the pioneer hero of Alaskan aviation. He was the first pilot to fly around the North pole from Alaska to Spitzbergen Island and the first to establish air-mail service in Alaska, open-

ing the vast white mystery of the north to commercial and passenger planes.

Born at Hatton, North Dakota to parents Ole Eielson and Olava Randine, nee Baalson, he lived briefly but memorably. Before his death at the age of 32, he had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Harmon Trophy for 1928, the International League of Airators "First Flyer for 1928" trophy and a host of other honors from the Kings and rulers of Europe.

As pilot for Sir Hubert Wilkins, he was the first to fly a plane over the roof of the world. This he did in a 2200-mile non-stop flight from Point Barrow, Alaska to Green Harbour, Spitzbergen, April 16, 1928. He was the first aviator to fly a plane in Alaska during arctic winter, to land a wheeled plane on snow and on the frozen Arctic Sea.

Later he went with Wilkins to explore the Weddell Sea area of the Antarctic. His was the first plane to fly in the Antarctic, with his commander, Eielson was the first to discover and explore land from the air.

CHRONOLGY OF BEN'S LIFE

- May 1910—Completed eighth grade at Hatton.
- July 24, 1911—His mother died.
- May, 1914—Graduated from Hatton High School with honors in debating, athletics and music.
- 1914-1916—Attended University of North Dakota at Grand Forks.
- Fall 1916—Attended Law School, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- January 17, 1917—Enlisted in Army Air Service, Fort Omaha, Nebraska.
- June 10, 1918—Transferred to School of Military Aeronautics, University of California, Berkeley.
- January 4, 1919—Completed army pilot training, Mather Field.
- March 4, 1919—Mustered out of service. Returned to Hatton, was employed at Farmers Mercantile Store.
- February 13, 1920—Hatton Aero Club organized; terminated in August 1920, shortly after Jenny smash-up at Climax, Minn., and lots of stunt flying.
- 1920-1921—Attended University of North Dakota; B.A. degree. June 21. Belonged to A.T.O. fraternity.
- First Semester, 1921—Attended Law School at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., returned home.
- 1922-1923—Principal of High school, Fairbanks, Alaska.
- July 1, 1923—Farthest-North Airship Company plane reached Fairbanks, first flight, July 3.
- February 21, 1924—Flew first air mail in Alaska. Fairbanks to McGrath.
- September 1924—Re-enrolled at Georgetown University; after three weeks, re-enlisted in Army Air Service.
- Summer of 1925—After completing term of enlistment, returned to Hatton and worked as bond salesman in northeastern North Dakota.
- February to June 1926—With Detroit Arctic Expedition.
- Summer and Fall 1926—Air mail pilot in Florida.

February to May 1927—With Detroit News—Wilkins Arctic Expedition Trek back from abandoned plane to Beechey Point, Alaska.

Summer and Fall 1927—Airplane inspector with U. S. Department of Commerce.

February to May 1928—With Wilkins Arctic Expedition, flight over top of world, April 16; arrival at New York City, July 3; Homecoming at Hatton, July 21 and 22.

September 1928 to March 1929—With Wilkins-Hearst Antarctic Expedition.

April 3, 1929—Commissioned Colonel, North Dakota National Guard.

April 9, 1929—Awarded Harmon Trophy for 1928.

Summer of 1929—Organized Alaskan Airways Subsidiary.

November 9, 1929—Flight to death on S.O.S. call from the Nanuk.

January 25, 1930—His friend Joe Crosson discovered wreckage.

February 13, 1930—Body of Earl Borland, (his mechanic) found.

February 18, 1930—Body of Carl Ben Eielson uncovered.

March 26, 1930—Burial Rites at Hatton.

HONORS ACCORDED BEN IEELSON

At Hatton, North Dakota, there is an arch with a bronze plaque telling of his achievements.

At Bismark, Capital of North Dakota, a section of the museum displays his parka and other mementos.

Mount Eielson in Alaska is named for him.

At Fairbanks, Alaska the Eielson Air Force Base and School are named in his honor.

At Grand Forks and Fargo, North Dakota, the Carl Ben Eielson Schools are named for him. The latest at Grand Forks, dedicated on April 24, 1961.

☆ ☆ ☆

ADELINE, Jan. 11, 1900, grade and high at Hatton, graduate of Mayville Normal. Taught school. Married W. D. Impett, live at Vancouver, B. C.

☆ ☆ ☆

OLIVER, July 20, 1902, Hatton grade and high, graduated University of North Dakota 1924. Married Charlotte Zigler, 1934. Taught school; at present broker handling stocks and bonds. Children:

CHARLOTTE, May 12, 1935, graduated West High, University of Minn. Now is, Mrs. Charlotte Rosen. Married to army helicopter pilot.

☆ ☆ ☆

ARTHUR, April 29, 1905, Hatton grade and high; graduated University of North Dakota 1927, B.S. Electrical Engineering. Married to Jean Sibley, 1937, BA in Education from Montclair College, also taught Biology in Haverhill. Both interested in sports, skiing, sailing. Arthur now Department head in charge of factory engineering, Western Electric.

Children: **JOHN ARTHUR**, June 1938, Haverhill grade and high; West Point Military Academy. Was captain Mass. State Champion Football team; full back West Point Army football team, member of Army ski team.

JEAN ADELE, October 25, 1941, Haverhill Mass. grade and high; attending Colby College; French major; captain Ski team; outstanding freshman.

CARL BENJAMIN, Sept. 17, 1945, sophomore at Haverhill High.

SARA ELIZABETH, October 31, 1947, grade school, Haverhill.

☆ ☆ ☆

HELEN, Feb. 10, 1908, grade and high at Hatton; 2 yrs. St. Olaf, 1 yr. U. of Minn., three years nurse's training St. Michaels Hospital, Grand Forks, N. D. 5 years in U. S. Public Health Service. With Brown and Bigelow serving her 18th year as Industrial Nurse. Married to Edward J. Sheehy, 1931, divorced 1939.

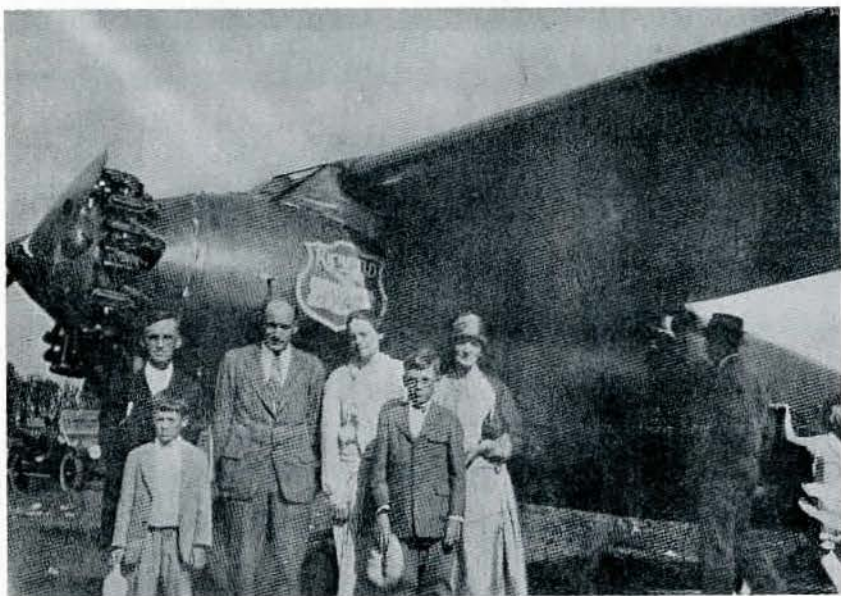
Two daughters:

OLIVE MARIE, Central High, Mpls., U. of Minnesota 3 years, Nursing Education with R. N. from Mpls. General Hospital; employed at Methodist Hospital, Mpls. Married Harold Krahl.

PATRICIA ANN, March 9, 1933, Central High, Minneapolis. Married Robert G. Davis and live at Sioux Falls, S. D. Parents of two sons.

☆ ☆ ☆

HANNAH, Oct. 4, 1910, Hatton grade and high, Mayville Normal and University of North Dakota. Teacher. Married Ray Barnard who works for Chemical Co. In Charleston W. Va. Son, Gordon Barnard and three grandchildren.



At Ben's Homecoming: Top—Rev. H. E. Baalson, Ben Eielson, Mrs. Baalson, Mrs. Swenson. Bottom—Herman Baalson, Karsten Baalson.

CARL BENJAMIN EIELSON
by Herman E. Baalson

Published in Lutheran Herald December 16, 1930.

He was born in Hatton, North Dakota, July 20th 1897 of parents, Ole Eielson and Olava Randine, nee Baalson. His father's parents were born in Morgedel, Kvitseid prestegjeld Telemarken, Norway, and came to Dane Co., Wisconsin about the year 1850. Two years later they moved to Coon Valley, Wisconsin. Here they made their permanent home, and reared eight children. One of these was the aviator's father. Ole, as a young boy left his parental home and located at Hatton, North Dakota, in 1884. In 1892 he was married to Olava Randine Baalson of Brooten, Minnesota. She was a daughter of Ellen and Kari Baalson, both born in Flaa, Hallingdal, Norway. The aviator's grandparents on the mother's side left Norway in 1861. Little did they then dream that their grandchild should, sixty-seven years later make a trip to Norway, and sail, not on the billows, but in the air, and use only twenty-two hours from shore to shore, as Carl Ben Eielson did in the month of May, 1928, when he flew from Point Barrow, Alaska to Spitzbergen—the first one to make a "trip to Norway" over the frozen polar regions.

His grandparents Ellen and Kari Baalson came to America just as the Civil War had started. They worked for four years near Spring Grove, Minnesota, and in the spring of 1865, they found their way across the prairies, their locomotive being of the old-fashioned kind, a yoke of oxen, and located at Big Grove, Minnesota, near the present village of Brooten. Here they took a homestead, built a home and brought up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Among these ten children was the mother of the famous polar aviator. Here she spent her childhood and youth.

Carl Benjamin Eielson, and his four sisters and two brothers are all graduates of North Dakota University. The sisters have also attended St. Olaf College. Benjamin also studied law at the University of Wisconsin and Georgetown University at Washington, D. C. During the World War he enlisted as an aviator and received his training at Berkley, California. Just before the armistice was signed, he received orders to sail for France with the next transport. In 1923 he accepted a position as teacher at the high school at Fairbanks, Alaska. He bought an airplane, and later signed a contract with the government to carry mail from Fairbanks to McGrath—for each trip receiving \$1,200. Here he sailed over the Endicot mountains, 9,000 feet high, in storm and calm. He made the trip in three hours that it had taken sixteen days with dog team. When he returned to Fairbanks after the first successful trip, the city gave him a gold watch, set with diamonds with this inscription: "C. B. Eielson, Pioneer Air Trail Blazer—Fairbanks to McGrath, February 21, 1924." President Coolidge also sent him a letter of congratulations.

During the winter of 1925 and 1926 he and Wilkins made several trips over the Arctic ice. The following winter they made several flights, exploring the wilds north and east of Alaska. In the spring of 1927, they were again on an exploration tour, and were overtaken by a terrific blizzard, and were forced to land—luckily on a large tract of floating ice. Here they had to abandon their airplane, and it took them eighteen days to walk back to Point Barrow, a distance of about one hundred miles. Ben froze his little finger so badly while trying to repair the plane, that a missionary, the only available medical help, had to amputate it.

Just one year later they made the trip from Point Barrow, Alaska, to Spitzbergen. Ben said that during the first part of the trip everything went well. When they came where they could see the mountains of Greenland to the south, the engine began to knock, a sign that it began to freeze. In order to heat the engine he had to turn the plane upgrade; but this took extra fuel, of which he knew he had nothing to spare. Good advice was precious. Both prayed for guidance. Wilkins sent Ben a note: "Shall we continue, or land." Ben's reply was, "You decide." Wilkins answered, "Go ahead." They now had six hundred miles left.

After a while they observed a storm cloud on the horizon. They had to meet it. Soon they were in the midst of a raging snow storm. They were close to their destination. They could no longer see whether they were flying over land or sea. Ben noticed that the gas supply was getting low. They could go but a short distance more.

He observed a rift in the cloud below—down through it he turned his plane, and to their great joy they were above Dead Man's Island—a short distance from Spitzbergen. Here they had to land, and remain several days on account of the fury of the storm.

They had only ten gallons of gas left after their twenty-two hundred mile flight—"the most daring venture of our times," as Roald Amundson later pronounced it. At Spitzbergen and in Norway the people were almost besides themselves when they found out that one of the heroes was of Norwegian descent, and could even speak "Halling" at that. The grandson of a peasant of Hallingdal had returned, sixty-seven years after the grandparents set sail for the new world, to bring honor to the people from whence he sprang.

Roald Amundson, who also entertained them at his home, pronounced theirs as the greatest of all achievements in aircraft.

Wilkins and Eielson were guests of five kings and rulers of Europe before they sailed for America. Among the most interesting receptions in America was the one given by the State of North Dakota at his home town, Hatton, on July 21 and 22, 1928. The same fall, Wilkins and Eielson set sail for the Antarctic regions. During their explorations down south that winter, they discovered that Graham Land is not a part of the South Pole continent.

Ben spent a few weeks of his busy life at his parental home during summer 1929. At the last service he attended at Hatton, where he had been baptized and confirmed, he partook of the Lord's Supper. A few more incidents will show the spiritual makeup of this humble hero of the air.

The writer of these words had a personal interview with Ben at the Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, when he was on his way to the South Pole country. When I asked him: "Ben, do you trust in Jesus as your Savior?" he immediately answered, "Yes, Uncle, I do." Another instance of his respect for his own church was evident during the "Homecoming" celebration in 1928. Some of his friends, thoughtlessly, asked him to come and spend Sunday morning with them. Immediately Ben answered: "Tomorrow I am going to church." He had also told a near friend of the family shortly before he left home for the last time that he always had in mind the dangers to which he was continually exposed, and that he asked for divine protection. He was a special friend of our mission at Teller, Alaska. We are told that he often rendered the mission valuable services—always free of charge.

On November 9, 1929, his eventful life suddenly came to a close, on an errand of mercy, in an Arctic storm, on the north coast of Siberia, on the way to the ice-bound fur trading vessel, Nanuk.

Space will not permit mentioning all the honors showed him both before and after his death. The awarding of the Harmon trophy, the State of North Dakota sending four state officials to meet him at Seattle, the honors as the funeral train entered the state, the governor's proclamation, suspending all affairs of the state during the whole afternoon of his funeral, special trains from all important centers of the state, the act of the United States Congress designating one of the mountain peaks of the Endicot Range, Mt. Eielson.

His earthly remains now rest beside his mother and brother on the prairies of North Dakota. The winter winds may howl and pile the snow high, but they shall disturb him no more. He rests in peace. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.



HENRY E. BAALSON born Sept. 23, 1872. Baptized and confirmed in the Big Grove Lutheran Church. Spent his entire life on the farm homesteaded in Northfork Township by his father. He was united in marriage to Ida Bente July 6, 1898. Ida Bente was born at Spring Grove, Minn., and confirmed at Big Grove Lutheran Church. Henry E. Baalson died June 2, 1955 at the age of 82 years, and was buried at Big Grove Lutheran Cemetery.

To this union were born six children, Clara E., Clara J., Elmo, Oliver, Clarence, Herman. Clara E. born 1900 died in 1902; Clara J. born 1903, died 1903.



ELMO ORIN BAALSON, born August 6, 1904, baptized and confirmed at Big Grove Lutheran Church. He attended high school at Brooten, American School of Correspondence, Luther College, graduating with BA degree in 1926; Luther Theological Seminary B.Th. 1929; post-graduate work at Luther Theological Seminary, received Master of Theology in 1936. Also post graduate studies at Chicago Luther Theological Seminary summer sessions 1951-55. Served pastorates at Northwood, Iowa (temp) summer of 1929, Hayward, Wisc. 1929-42, Waterville, Iowa 1942-44 and 1946—

He served as Chaplain in U. S. Navy starting Dec. 1944 to August 5, 1946; tour of duty included: Wm. and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va., Anacosta Navy Yards, Washington, D. C.; Charleston Navy Yards, Charleston, S. C.; Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Naval Air Base Eniwitok, Marshall Islands.

He was married to Dora N. Sandvig on July 6, 1930. Dora was born at Sunburg, Minn. She attended High School at Glenwood, Minn.; Park Region Luther College; studied music three years at Minneapolis College of Music; served as Miss Celestia Bett's accompanist in her regular broadcasts over Radio Station WDGY, Minneapolis and on the concert stage; secretary and assistant proof reader of publications for University of Minnesota College of Agriculture 1923-1930.

Their children are Eilene, Clarice, Clarence, Marilyn. Doris Elmira born May 31, 1936, died June 11, 1936.

EILENE IONE BAALSON, born at Minneapolis, Minn. January 31, 1932; graduated from Waterville High School 1950, Luther College B. A. 1954; University of Minnesota on scholarship 1954-1955; worked for Lutheran Welfare 1955-1956; University of Minnesota on scholarship 1956-1957, Master Social Science 1957 (M. S. S.); married to Emmett Busch September 1, 1957; worked for Dubuque, Iowa, Social Welfare Department school year of 1957-1958.

Rev. Emmett Busch graduated Maquoketa High School, Wartburg College B. A. 1954; graduated from Wartburg Seminary 1958, interning at Mason City, Iowa, 1956-1957; accepted call to Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan, Canada, 1958; accepted call to Greene, Iowa, February 1, 1961. Two children—

Brian Emmett Busch, born November 16, 1958.

Cheryl Eilene Busch born May 15, 1960.

CLARICE HENRIETTA BAALSON, born at Minneapolis, Minn., July 1, 1933; graduated Waterville High School 1951, Luther College B. A. 1955; taught music at Waterville High School 1955-1957, University of Minnesota 1957-1858; supervisor of music for U. S. Army on Island of Okinawa 1958-1959; taught music at Waterville High School 1959-; will receive Master's degree at University of Colorado at Greeley, 1961; married Latrelle Smoot June 16, 1960.

Latrelle Smoot, graduated from Denmark, Iowa, High School; in U. S. Army; graduated from Iowa State Teachers' College B. A. 1958; instructor and coach Waterville High School 1958—Principal 1960-; will receive Master's Degree at University of Colorado at Greeley 1961.

CLARENCE HENRY BAALSON, born at Minneapolis, Minn., July 1, 1933; graduated Waterville High School 1951, Luther College B. A. 1955; Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. 1955-1956; worked for Plymouth Youth Center and Minneapolis Rapid Transit Company 1956-1958; Wartburg Seminary 1958-1961 B. Th.; interned at Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bellflower, California, 1959-1960; ordained at Old East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, Iowa, June 4, 1961; accepted call to Gilead and Hubbell, Nebraska; married Donna Mae Christianson July 20, 1958.

Mrs. Clarence Baalson, graduated Scarville High School 1954; Luther College B. A. 1958; music instructor since at Epworth, Iowa, and Downing, California.

MARILYN JEAN BAALSON, born at Waukon, Iowa, July 10, 1942; graduated Waterville High School 1960; Luther College 1960-



OLIVER BAALSON, born Dec. 1, 1906, baptized and confirmed at Big Grove Lutheran Church. He was employed in Chicago three years, on farms at Gaylord, Minn., five years, in Los Angeles, Cal. for eight years. Entered service World War II, March 14, 1942. Overseas Nov. 3, 1943. Injured twice by shrapnel and gunfire in France and Luxemburg; dis-

charged with the rank of staff sergeant July 23, 1945 at McCaw General Hospital, Walla Walla, Washington. At present farming two miles north of Brooten.

Married to Martha Thoreson of Brooten, Minn., on March 22, 1952. She graduated from Brooten High School. Was employed as saleslady. Two step-children; Marian, now Mrs. Warren Thompson; Sonja Thoreson; one step-grand child, Paula Thompson.



CLARENCE BAALSON, born Oct. 13, 1909, baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Lutheran Church. Single; and has spent his entire life on the home farm he owns and operates. His mother, Ida, is still living with him.



HERMAN BAALSON, born Oct. 4, 1912, baptized and confirmed in Big Grove Lutheran Church. Employed several years at New Sweden, Gaylord, and Wintrop, Minn. At present Herman is farming the northern part of the old homestead northeast of Brooten, where he has built his home.

Married to Bernice Briard of Gaylord, Minn., on September 12, 1940. Bernice is a graduate of Gaylord High School and Mankato State Teachers College. She taught in the public schools for 6 years. Children are: Kenneth, July 15, 1946; Kathryn, April 19, 1951. One child, Jerry was born April 21, 1947, and died June 9, 1947.



BERNARD E. BAALSON, was born February 24, 1875. He received his education at Willmar Seminary; taught in the public school of Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. Later he was in the general merchandise business at Brooten, Minnesota. He died at the home farm on December 20, 1903, and is laid to rest in Big Grove Cemetery.



HERMAN E. BAALSON, born May 29, 1878. He attended Willmar Seminary 1896-1899, and Luther College 1899-1904, receiving his B.A. degree. During the summers he was employed for a time at the Eielson store at Hatton, and later taught for two summers at Holmen, Wisconsin. In the fall of 1904 he enrolled at Luther Seminary. He spent the summers preaching, and teaching parochial school at Hatton, Northwood, and other churches in North Dakota. He finished his Seminary Course in 1907 and was ordained on a call from Silvana, Arlington, and Lakewood, Washington. He was married to Amanda Dorthea Atletvedt on July 31, 1907. Her musical talent has been a great help in the congregations they have served. She directed choirs and was piano accompanist, as well as playing the organ.

Herman helped organize the Luther League in Big Grove. In 1914 he made a trip to Norway and while there he preached in the Ness church on Pentecost Day, May 31, and in Flaa church on 2nd day of Pentecost, June 1.

They remained at Silvana until 1924 when he moved to Sunburg, Minnesota where he served the East and West Norway Lake, and Spring Creek Congregations. He directed the Willmar Circuit Choral Union for five years. In 1947 he retired from the active ministry and moved to East Stanwood, Washington. He has continued to serve as interim pastor in churches around Stanwood. They have two sons; Karsten and Herman both born at Silvana.

KARSTEN ERLING ORLANDO, born December 31, 1916, a graduate of Kerkhoven High School, Luther College, and Luther Theological Seminary. He married Bernell Borstad, a graduate of Tioga High School, and Augsburg College, Minneapolis Minnesota. She is an accomplished musician. They have served charges at Milton, North Dakota and Wilmot, South Dakota. During their stay at Wilmot, a fine new church was erected. They are now serving at Prineville, Oregon.

HERMAN ADOLPH ATTLETWEED, born July 3, 1920, a graduate of Kerkhoven High School and Luther College. He served in the Navy, World War II, both Atlantic and Pacific theaters. He worked in a bank at East Stanwood for a time and is now telegrapher at Mount Vernon, Washington. Herman married Donna Jean Kneeskern, a graduate of Decorah High School and a student at Luther College. They have two daughters: Patricia Lynn, born December 9, 1949; Karen Jeanne, born March 17, 1954.



This then is a short history of Ellen and Kari Baalson and their descendants. With a change of names it could be the history of any of the pioneers who came to America in 1850-1870. It is doubtful if we can ever understand what it cost them to make the decision to leave their native land. There were the sad farewells; parents, brothers, sisters, left behind with the realization that they might never again meet; the last sight of the old home which had been so dear; and perhaps the last thing to disappear from sight was the church steeple, like a finger pointing ever upward. A long and perilous journey lay ahead. No fully equipped hospital on those vessels, perhaps not even a doctor. Many children died and were buried at sea. It was a survival of the fittest. Only two things could have sustained them: their faith in God, and the certainty that at journey's end, be it Spring Grove, Rock County, Wisconsin, or somewhere in Illinois, there were friends waiting to welcome them. Friends, who a few years earlier, had said the same farewells and made the same trying voyage to a land where other friends awaited them.

Blessed be the memory of these early pioneers!

We as a Committee have endeavored to compile a family tree which should include all of Ellen Baalson's descendants.

The committee wishes to thank all who supplied information and also acknowledge with gratitude the cooperation and enthusiastic interest of all concerned.

A special thank you to Eunice Koester for the appropriate cover design for this booklet. Apologies are herewith made for any unintentional omissions or mistakes in statistics.

Ralph and Elsie Baalson
Henry and Genevieve Baalson
Oliver and Martha Baalson

William and Hilma Swenson
Clarence and Florence Odland
Herman and Bernice Baalson



As far as is known, Ellen had one brother, Gullik, who came to America. A great-grandson is Rudolph Johnson, a member of Big Grove congregation.

Kari had a sister Joran, who married Ingbret Severson, and moved to Barron, Wisconsin. They had three children, Julia, Sever and Olga. **JULIA**, Mrs. Charles Johnson, had one child:

Mrs. Jennie Davis, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

SEVER, married Kristina Slagstad. Their children now living are: Mrs. Jennie Kollin, Barron; Elmer Severson, Barron; Herman Severson, Cameron, Wisconsin; Martha, Mrs. Emil Johansen, Elk Mound, Wisconsin; Mable, Mrs. Frank Schwartz, Santa Ana, California; Marie, Mrs. Lloyd Myers, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mrs. Leonard Coon, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

OLGA married Karl Hazelberg. She had three children, Scott, Robert and Margaret. The latter is married to Harold "Red" Grange of football fame.

Kari also had a niece and three nephews who came to America. Of these, two are now living, Knut Thompson, Willmar; Mrs. Ragnhild Gandrud, Stanley, North Dakota.

THANK YOU, GOD

Thank you, God for every day,
For skies that are laughing, and bright and gay;
For a will to work and a will to pray,
Thank you, God, for a sunny day.

Thank you, God for a stormy day,
For wild winds blowing and skies of gray,
For a time to think, and a time to pray,
Thank you, God, for a stormy day.

Thank you, God for every day,
Walking with You along Life's way,
Knowing You'll answer when I pray,
Thank you, God, for every day.

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