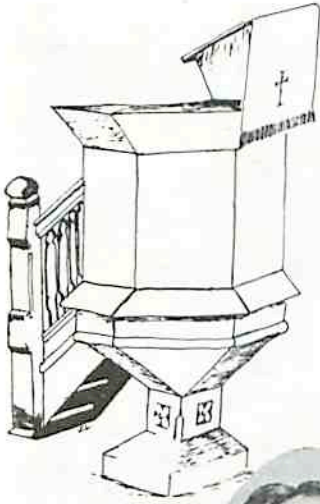


Pastors



Rev. T. K. Gaustad
1893-1906



Rev. O. J. Norby
1884-1893



Rev. G. N. Isolany
1907-1912



Rev. L. D. Dordal
1916-1918



Rev. L. A. Breen
1912-1916



Rev. H. D. Halvorson
1918-1919



Rev. J. Thornell
1924-1928



Rev. T. H. Larson
1920-1923



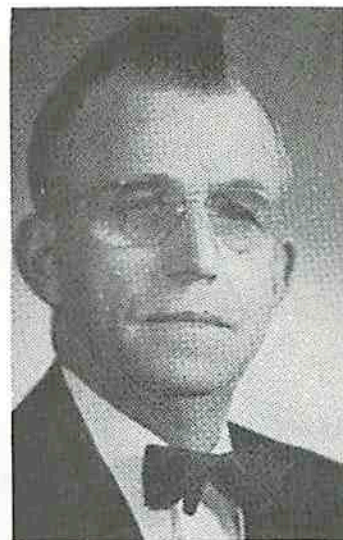
Rev. I. G. Monson
1928-1930



Rev. Carl G. Nelson
1931-1936



Rev. Lars Foss
1930-1931



Rev. P. R. Haakonson
1936-1937



Rev. C. O. Brecto
1938-1943



Rev. C. J. Fylling
1943-1953



Rev. N. Joliette
1953-1956



Rev. O. L. Olsrud
1957-1966



Richard Durkop
1969-1971 (lay)



Rev. Douglas Brandt
1971-1975



Rev. Leo Anderson
1968-1969



Rev. John Leitel
1975



Rev. Brandt Family Elisa, Douglas, Mary, Tonja



Rev. Leitel Family Mary, Ann, Ruth, Adam,
Not pictured Micah

PASTORS

MANDAN DAILY PIONEER Friday, December 11, 1959

LIFE HISTORY OF THE REV. O. J. NORBY, FIRST LUTHERAN PASTOR WEST OF MISSOURI IN NORTH DAKOTA

In conjunction with the 75th anniversary observance of the Sims Lutheran Church noted this fall, this contributed life history of the Rev. O. J. Norby, the church's first pastor is published herewith for the interest of those early day families who knew or knew of the first Lutheran Minister west of the Missouri in North Dakota.

Rev. Norby first visited Sims in November of 1884. He was a spare young man at 29, grave and reserved, yet quick and restless, with a high sense of obligation to the vows of his priesthood. By 1887 he had organized a Scandinavian Lutheran Church in Mandan and traveled by train from Sims to minister to the new congregation.

Born in Norway, May 26, 1855 near the cathedral city of Trondheim, he came to the United States in 1871 at the age of 16 and lived with his parents in Newburg, Minnesota until age 19. He then joined a small group of young men who were pursuing theological studies in Springfield Township, Iowa, near the town of Decorah. Later he became a student at a new institution called Augustana College located in Marshall, Wisconsin. In June, 1879, he was ordained in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Rushford Minnesota.

His first field of work was in Yankton and Turner counties in the southern portion of Dakota Territory. In May of 1885 he accepted a call to Sims, in Morton County. His territory extended over the northern half of the state close to the Canadian border and west into the state of Montana.

It was an era of prosperity in America. Business and industry had recovered from the financial collapse of 1873 during which the Northern Pacific Railroad had been obliged to suspend construction work on its tracks at Bismarck. But by October 21, 1882, the railroad bridge joining Mandan and Bismarck had been completed and was opened on that date. In 1883 the first train traveled over this northern route to the Pacific seaboard. In Sims, H. T. Bly's mine was supplying the locomotives of the road with coal.

The cornerstone of the new North Dakota capital building at Bismarck was laid in 1883, also in that same year, 1883, the gallant and adventurous Antionne de Vallombrosa, Marquis de Mores, came to North Dakota with his ill-fated plans for ranching and establishing a meatpacking plant in Medora.

To Rev. Norby, the rigors of climate and travel in this frontier area had little meaning. When deep snows made transportation by train or horse impossible he traveled on skis. He jogged along dusty trails by horse, or he trudged through the deep gumbo to far outposts.

Accompanying him always was a bulky carpet bag. This bag contained his vestments (the fluted Elizabethan collar reposed in a round tin box), his altar book, the elements of the Sacrament, Bible, Testament and hymn book, occasionally a book intended as a gift for some special individual, and the inevitable few necessary changes of linen.

The young were baptized by him, but he was known on occasions to refuse to bestow a strange, or, what seemed to him an unfit name upon a child, and parents were put to the necessity of making a quick choice of another name.

At marriage feasts he was companionable, but he greatly objected to the custom of the charivaree. He remonstrated with the noisy merrymakers and was disconcerted to find that his views in this matter had no effect whatsoever upon the young, joyous spirits.

In the long northern summer evenings, he loved to sit by the open window of the little parlor, which also served as a study, and sing in his good, untrained voice and the men, free from their day's work in the coal mines, heard him as they passed to an evening of sociability in the village stores.

At other times, he interpreted legal documents for those whose knowledge of English was limited. He carried to the polls the proxies of homesteaders who were prevented from traveling long distances on voting days.

By June, 1893, he felt the need of change. This was primarily on behalf of his family. He desired especially to be near centers of education, particularly the schools of the church.

Norby was also a builder. Wherever he went and saw the need, he organized new fields which became permanent. He left no unpaid debts in his parishes. The church in Winchester, Wisconsin, which was built under his leadership at the turn of the century, was fully paid from the day of its dedication.

Time moved on gently with the procession of years. He had served four parishes after leaving Sims. Yet after his retirement in 1923, his restless spirit continued to assert itself, and he occupied himself with such tasks as collecting funds for a new church, preaching an occasional sermon and acting as chaplain in a home for aged people.

It was Eastertide, 1930. During the following few days, he busied himself with various small tasks and with writing letters to his absent children.

On April 26, 1930, he closed his eyes to this earth. His and Bertha's remains are in the churchyard adjoining the church in Winchester, Wisconsin.

In a world at large, Rev. Norby was an obscure pastor. During the greater part of his life, he labored humbly in small and little known places, but in his own communion he was well known, and he was one of the last frontiers in the new world.

* * *

The following letter from T. K. Gaustad which is included in the thesis of Anton Hillesland entitled THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY gives Gaustad's recollections of his pioneering days on the prairies.

"Concerning my experience during the 13-14 years which I served as pastor west of the Missouri River, there is both much and little to say.

Should I relate all, both that which is interesting and that which is less agreeable, I would have to write a whole big book. There are ministers who have asked me to do this but I have always thought that 'benevivit qui bene latuit' is the best.

When in 1893, I came to Sims to take up the ministerial duties there, besides in Mandan and Taylor, all was like a wilderness, no churches any place.

There was not as much as a bowl to baptize a child in. The first services in Sims were held upstairs in a private house where I lived, and when a child was to be baptized we had to go to the kitchen. The people were poor, but religiously inclined.

My wife organized the Ladies Aid Society, and the work to have a church built, began. This was brought about as follows: After an unnatural and artificial Boom, Sims had gone backward, consequently a great number of large buildings stood vacant and advertised for sale, due to the fact that the taxes had not been paid. I proceeded to buy a hotel building on which the taxes amounted to \$200 and received a deed on it. The day after a German offered me \$500 for it.

I called the Norwegians together and offered them the building for \$200, on the condition that they would remodel it into a church, otherwise I would sell it to Mr. Zimmerman for 500 dollars.

Our people accepted the offer with great rejoicing and began the reconstruction work. Men and women worked each their own way, and after a couple years time the church was finished and it was dedicated by the President, T. H. Dahl, of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church, and nine assisting pastors.

The church bells were rung the evening before and this was the first time people had heard a church bell west of the Missouri River.

That day will never be forgotten by the Norwegians out there. The church is still being used. I bought all on time and all was paid, so the congregation had both church and parsonage, with farm when I left in 1906. The same was true in Taylor, where the new church was dedicated at the same time as in Sims.

But then it was the school system which had to be improved. My wife who had graduated from the high school in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, and later had attended the University of Minnesota, got the school graded and for many years served as principal.

Under her supervision the first 8th grade class was examined. Later she was asked to consider the position as superintendent of Schools for Morton County, but this offer we could not accept. Later she helped improve the school both in Taylor and in Belfield. She took care of the schools and I traveled and organized congregations where that was possible and preached on places where there were too far to constitute any organization.

Morton and Stark Counties constituted my main districts, but I also traveled regularly in Burleigh, Kidder, Oliver and Mercer Counties. In Glendive, Montana, I baptized twenty-seven children on one Sunday, (some of them fell in battle and now sleep on French soil). I was way out to Miles City, Montana, where I married couples and baptized children. I have baptized children from three days to thirteen years old. When I came to a place down by Heart River, now in Grant County (then Morton County) the people told me they had not seen a Norwegian pastor for fourteen years. They got together a confirmation class of bright boys and girls who are

now married, and I have baptized children for them again.

Down by Fort Yates and Parkins I organized a congregation, built and dedicated a beautiful church, bought a piece of land (for which I paid \$5.00) to be used as a resting place for those who go from hence.

At some places I was welcome and was received with joy. Some would rather not have me come. I once came to a Norwegian, north of Hazen, North Dakota to a place called 'Farmers Valley'. I had stayed over night with a German ten miles from that place.

He had given me a list of Norwegian names. One of these — who had come from Wisconsin, when I greeted him and told him who I was and what I wanted, answered; ministers and machine agents ought to be driven out of the country. When I asked him what it meant to threaten a peaceful man with persecution, his wife, who stood in the doorway, reprimanded him for his bad conduct."

* * *

Mrs. Andrew Johnson, President Sims Ladies Aid
Sims, North Dakota

Dear Members of Sims Ladies Aid:

It was with a profound feeling I read your cordial letter of invitation to attend your fifty years anniversary to be held this month. Accept my sincerest thanks for your invitation. My family also joins with me in sending this letter to you.

We regret very much that we are prevented from being with you on these memorable days. But, you may be sure that our hearts are with you and we will be thinking about you and with you during your festivity. Our business is of such character that it compels our presence here almost continuously. That is the only reason for not coming.

Our thoughts go back to the happy days we spent with you, our many friends in Sims Congregation. Times were hard, crop failures too frequently, low prices on your farm products, hardships of all kinds were your share, yet we have never found a class of people more congenial, happy and contented than you. During our stay with you we were treated so royally that we shall never forget you. In fact those years will ever remain the outstanding bright and colorful years in our life, the reminiscence of which are like shining jewels on our span of life. Never have we been as happy in our pastoral work as when we were with you in Sims and Almont. At no other place in our vast traveling and work have we so completely melted in with a community, its problems, its people and enjoyments. The Ladies Aid, which constitutes the backbone of the church almost everywhere, was the most loyal we have ever seen. When, at times, discouraged and lonely, we came to your many doings, we were always cheered and encouraged, and went away with renewed strength and ambition to continue the good work. Your friendship for one another, your always unanimous desire and

hope to do the little you could to support the work, were simply amazing. Yet what you thought were just "a little" was tremendous and far reaching in consequences. The fact is that without you the church could not exist. Please do not think that this is a flattery or boquettes. They are not. These sentiments are our sincerest regards for your splendid organization which has stood through thick and thin with the congregation in Sims. Please take it from hearts that are aflame with love for you in appreciation for all you have done and did for us. May the good Lord bless you all and continuously be with you in the future, which I know He will. A noble work as you are doing, with hands and hearts like yours, cannot fail. So when you meet during the year from time to time, especially in the season when the cold storms from the north moan and rage over the prairies, and the snow piles up, and you pack the families into your sleighs and go to your Ladies Aid doings, remember there is an ex-pastors family, away back east in Minnesota, who are thinking of you with the most loving gratitude a ministers family ever had, for a Ladies Aid. And that which makes it still more amiable in our part is that we believe it is a mutual feeling. We believe that we still have a little space in your hearts and as such it is a mutual feeling. May it always last.

Thanking you again for your kindly invitation.

We remain your friends.....The Thornell Family

* * *

Pastor and Mrs. Leo Andersen

Dear Friends:

Our congratulations on the centennial anniversary of your congregation. Surely through all those years many have been blessed by hearing the Word of God and the administration of the sacraments. And so you have given strength and hope to people who worshipped there. You have this distinction in our ministry in that you are the only congregation who will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding.

And what do we remember from the time we served you? What stands out very clearly is the memory of your many kindnesses to us and your gracious hospitality. From the pulpit I can still see in my mind's eye Willard Johnson faithfully monitoring the service in the balcony, and the faces of good friends in the pews. Then there was the day there was a funeral at Sims and Harvey Thorson and I were driving to the cemetery. On the way there, there was a coyote running boldly in the road ahead of us. And that big hill we assume is still standing proudly.

At this time it does not seem possible for us to share in the anniversary festivities with you, but we wish you a very happy time with God's blessing.

With affection,

RICHARD DURKOP:

There are many memories which I cherish of my interim pastorate at Sims. Although it probably was one of the busiest periods in my life, my family and I did become involved in much of the church life and activity. The acquaintances we made and the friendships we formed have become lasting and life-long acquaintances and friendships.

I have some rather "sore" memories of a couple of trail rides the parish went on. (I don't think I could do it now.) I have humorous memories of a, shall we call it, discussion which I record and played back to LoAnn and Willard over the redecorating of the church interior. There are pleasant memories such as church dinners, gatherings and events like the confirmation of my oldest son in the Sims Church. There are sad memories - the passing of dear friends and the official acts connected with their committal. Most of all there are the memories of a group of staunch christians forming a congregation build on the doctrines and principals of the Holy Christian Church, a truly Lutheran Church, a church which has endured.

Taken together, although a short period of time reckoned in years, it was a rich and full period of time reckoned in memories.

TO THE MEMBERS OF SIMS SKANDINAVIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH:

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecc: 3:1)

The philosopher in Ecclesiastics reflects on human life and suggests that everything has its time.

We find that to be true in our lives as well as congregations.

Sims Skandinavian Lutheran Church has arrived at a time of reflection and celebration of live as a congregation. As congregations, also we may well ask *"What time is it?"*

Even as we raise that question, we need to be reminded that our times are in God's hands. You are celebrating 100 years of God's presence and activity in your midst. You have been nourished by his Word and Sacraments and now look to the future. Even though that be unknown, it too is in God's hands.

Congratulations on your faithfulness! We commend you to God's care.

Sincerely in Christ,

Marvin J. Schumacher, Bishop



OFFICERS

WEN T. W. GIBBELL
Finger
WEN M. J. ELLESTON
WEN P.
WEN J. C. ROYCE
Finger

OF AMERICA.

Minneapolis Minn May 17-1910

Prof. G. W. DeLong,

Sioux, N. Dak.

Large Thimble of $\frac{5}{16}$ med. Remorse, stor \$20⁰⁰

Since 1871, Menighed:

Pastor G. H. DeLong's hall, or meeting.

Pastor D. H. Seclary's Huld. or modtaget.
for herved brøderes en er medbrøvet løsende. Hæder.

Klassen _____ Bl. 21^{te}

W. Bond	£
W. Bond	£

in Mittenberg, Wis. \$



100

... ..

15-500

English
English

Norwegian Sign

TOTAL
services at Sims..... 5
n services at Sims..... 2

Services at Sims...	8	12 2 1
& Norwegian.....	13	
Services at Benson...	3	

services at Benson... 5
& norwegian at Benson. 8

11/10/11



1000

100

100



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[illegible]

SIMS-ALMONT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN PARISH
W. Jolivet, Pastor

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 26, 1954

"The Lord is in His holy temple; let all
earth keep silence before Him."

The Prelude - Miss Caroline Larson
The Opening Prayer
Hymn - No. 81
The Confession of Sin
The Kyrie
The Absolution from Sin
The Collect for the Day
The Epistle - Romans 8:18-39
Special Music - Sims-Almont Choir
The Gospel - St. Luke 10:38-42
The Confession of Faith, in Apostl
Greeting - Pastor C. Breto, Make
The Announcements
Worship through Gifts

Hymn - No. 268
Sermon: by Dr. C.J. Pylling, Bismarck
Hymn - No. 405
The Collect for the Word
The Benediction
The Closing Prayer
The Lord's Prayer, by
Hymn - No. 80
The Postlude



1966 - 1967
Mrs. Vendors J.
Treasurer: Mrs.
Trustees: Eldon Lea
Mersch, Larval Moberg
Mersch, Orval Olin.
Loris Christiansen.
Persons constitute the Cat
Organist: Mrs. Duane Johnson, Assistant: Mrs. Duane Johnson, Duane John.
Parish Board Chairman: Pastor O.J.
Secretary-Treasurer: Willard Johnson.
Chairman: Willard Johnson.
Parsonage St.



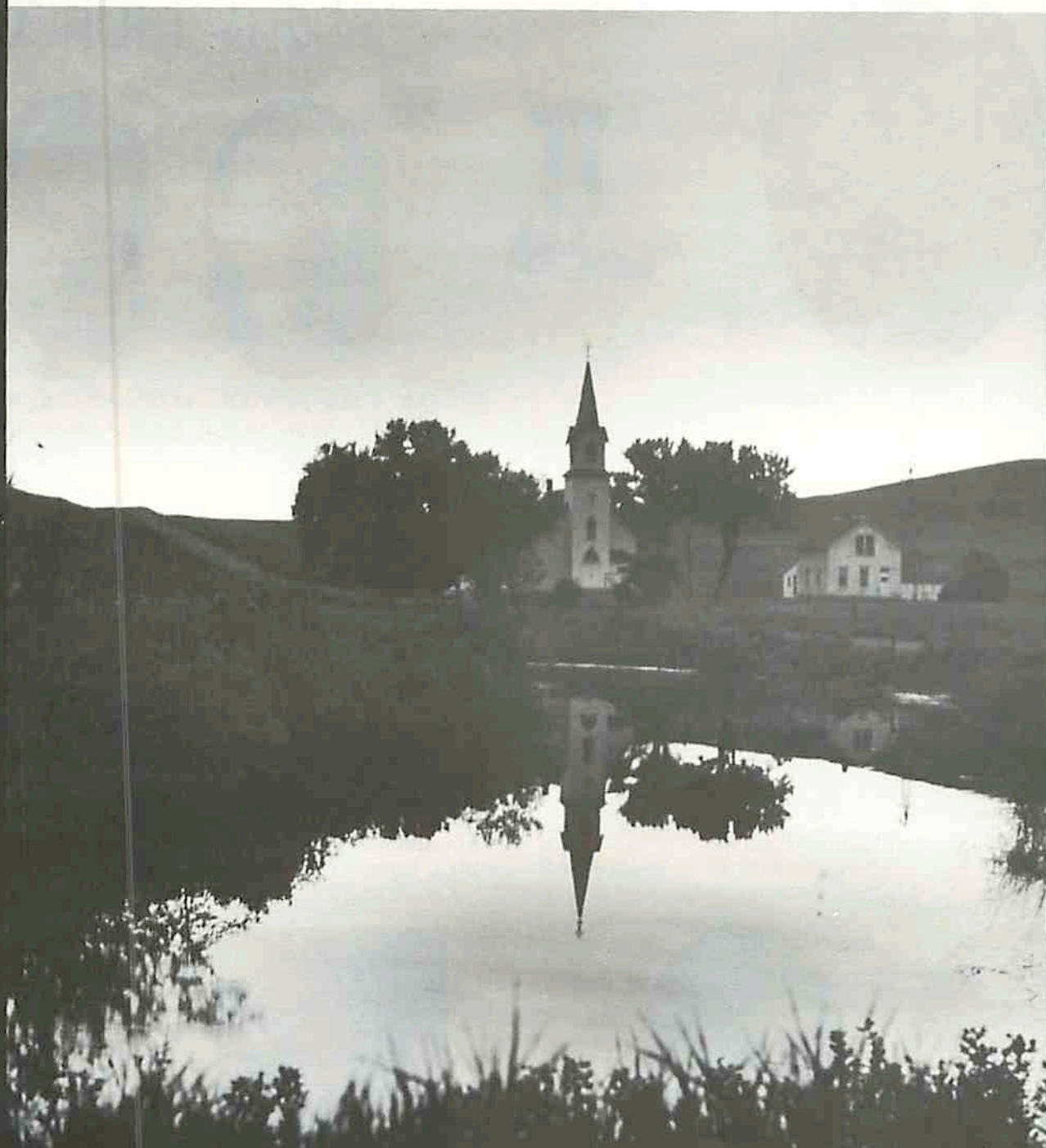
Organ.
Hymn No. 1.
Scripture an.
Solo, "Dem
arks
rt on Greetings
on a Rock",
66, "Friends of Jesus in Their Parting"
ayer and Benediction,
Pastor C.G.N.

SATURDAY, 7:30 P.M.
Session of the Anniversary Observance
consisted of a welcome extended
devotions led by Pastor
in Jolivet



CONCORDIA HYMNAL PAGE 399
8:23-35.
licers.
ge 403.
er school.
:30 p.m.
ortenson and
hostesses 1:30 p.m.
J a.m.
day School 10:30.
day School 9:45 a.m.
TRAINING SESSION
104 Onage Ave. Bismarck.
p.m. C.S.T.
REFUGEE RELIEF
backed by women of the Parish
November 18. Clothing needed:
1st, men's clothing; 2nd, children's clothing;
3d, men's clothing. Other needs are listed on
the brochure, "Hide Your Hand".
DESTITUTE CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I lay me down to sleep,
Please dear Lord enough to eat,
Clothing to wear, someone to care;
May those with more
Be willing to share. Amen.

Reflections of A time to remember



Sims Congregation

Through the years---

Early Pioneers



Andriana & Aanen Johnson



Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Olson Children: Otto, Sigval,
Oscar, Martin, Joseph, Hjalmer, & Anna



Lena and Gabriel Peterson



Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Ims (Ims Children: George, Laura,
Inga, Laruence, Agnes, Hildreth, Arthur)



Theodore Feland, Theodina (Johnson) Feland



Olaf Feland



Theodor Ramsland



John & Tobine (Bringsjord) (Jacobson) Olin (First couple to be married in Sims Congregation)

October 19, 1884



Udgivet af J.E.Stohlmann, 22 North William St. New York.



Sven Johnson



Reinard Udland



H. J. Wadeson



Jakob Abramsen Bringsjord



Andrew Anderson



John Jacobson



Mr. & Mrs. Ole Pederson



Sivert and Mina (Jenson) Olson (Children: Joseph, Olga, Inga, Helen, Ragna, Ida, Viola, Minda, and Selma)



Bertha (Austad) (Nilsen) Jacobson



Charley & Dina Knudson,
Agnes & Clara



Enoch Willman, Luella & Dorothy
Lotspich, Margido Willman



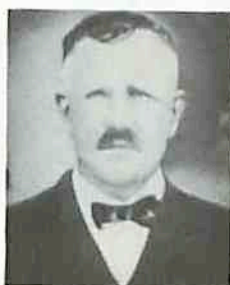
Mary & Charles Jacobson,
Matilda & Arthur



Ben Ramsland
(Ramsland Larson)



Anna Gesina (Peterson)



Theodore Larson



Oscar and Minnie Olin



Mrs. Ole Feland (seated) Mrs.
E. M. Willman & Mrs. Abe Peterson



Mr. & Mrs. Pete Peterson



Bertha Peterson, Tonetta Olson,
Aaselene Feland, Maria Peterson



Aanen Johnson family (Children:
Theodine, John, Anna, Andrea,
Jacob, Nellie, Andrew, Simon,
Joseph, Tillie)



Mr. & Mrs. Theo Larson, Mrs. Geo. Reichel & Walter,
Thorvald Larson, Tillie Wright & Margorie, Dora Larson



Rick Olson family (Selma,
Rudolph, Louie, Joseph)



Amandus and Tobias Larson



Jacob B. (Austad) Jacobson
Tomine (Olson) Jacobson



Mr. & Mrs. Ole Halverson



Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Ulricksen



Mr. & Mrs. P. H. Hoovestol



Alf, Orval, Myrtle Olin



Theodore & Rudolph Feland



Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Pederson



Jonas Olin



Inger Holritz Olson



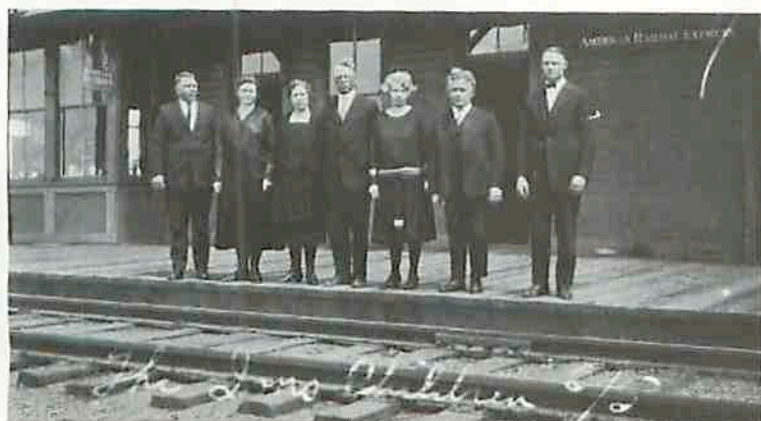
Tobine Olin, Andriana Johnson, Petrene Johnson, August Timmerman



Carl Olin Family



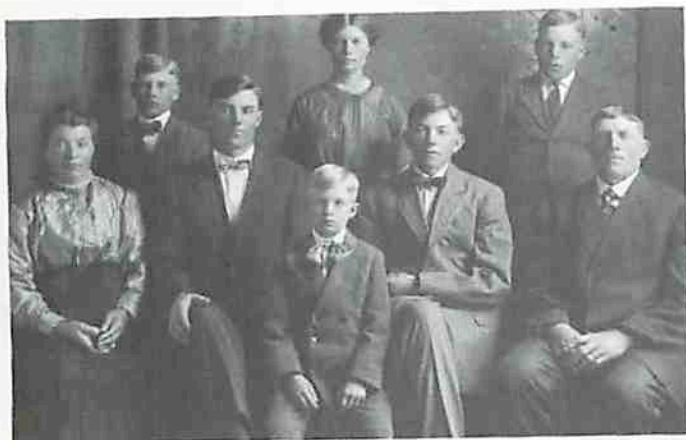
Jake Olin



The Ims Family



Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Larson



Rick Olson Family B-Alvin, Selma, Melvin F-Olena, Rudolph, Bennie, Louie, Richart



Oscar & Anna Jacobson



Leslie & Kenneth Jacobson



Martin and Tilda Willman



Elmer, Ralph, Lillian, Grace, Oscar Willman



Hogan and Annie Anderson



Hilda Johnson



Alice (Anderson) Ternstrom



Hogan Anderson Family Leonard, Alice, Dorothy, Oliver, Clara, Monty, Mildred, Albert



Jacob Jacobson family (Tillie, Julia, Oscar, James, Edward, Anna)



E. M. & Oliva Willman Family (Elsie, Gertrude, Enoch, Mark, Erling, Andrew Willman)



Jacob Jacobson Family



Nellie & Ervin Olin



Rudolph Feland Family



Alton, Jerald, Ervin Olin



—, Olga Feland, Tillie Johnson, Mrs. O. Ellingson, Ole Ellingson



Fred Holritz



Laura (Ims) Holritz



Ben Olsen



Ed Christianson & Charley Jacobson Families



Lucille, Jake, Anna, Arthur, Ellen, Myrtle and Emanuel, Olin Rachel (Olin) and Fred Swansen



Tobias Olson Family B-Lillian, Gertie, Mollie, Arnold, Helga, Goldie, Nettie, F-Winona, Tobias, Reynold, Olevine, Adeline, Evangeline



Tillie Johnson



Rachel (Johnson) Jacobson
(Jacobson Children: John,
Rachel, Mary, Jacob, Albert
Anna, Andrew, Martin
William, and Inga)



Amanda Gray



Raymond, Thalia, Arnold,
Clarence, Melvin, Leon
Jacobson



Tillie (Larson) & Clint Wright
Margie (Mrs. Harold Halvorson)



Thomas, Andrew, Bob Gray



Rachel & John Jacobson



Elsie, Bob, Amanda, Thomas, & Nellie Gray



Amanda, Bob & Nellie Gray



Oscar, Elmer, Elsie, Tillie &
Martin Willman, Enoch



Joe & Rosella Olson Children: Noreen, Shirley, Duane, Joyce, Beverly, Marilyn



Ed. Christianson Family Clarence, Carrie, Emold, Morris, Ida, Ed, Vivian, Polly, Leda



Jacob & Jette Olson Family - Jim, Gordon, Anna, Joe, Mike, Pete Thorson, Ben Bird, Sig



B-Ella, Gertrude F-Selma, Ester, Clara, Conrad, Mabel Christianson



Gathering at Olaus Christianson's



Tillie, Kathleen, Carl, Curtis Fallgren



Leander, Milton, Norman, Palmer, Willard Johnson



Don Nellie



Ervin, Don, Thelma, Audre,
Ardys, Olin



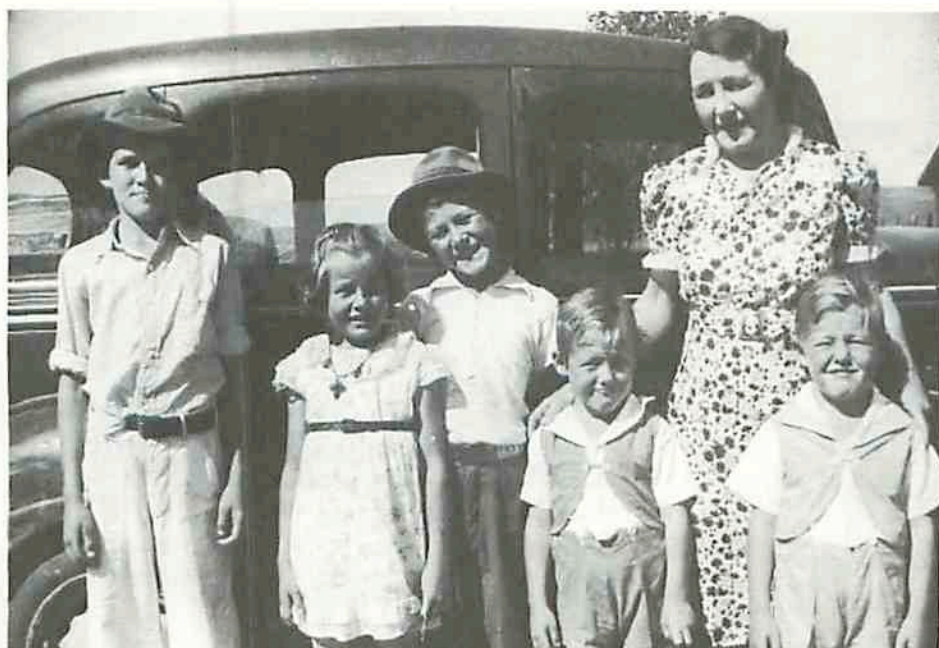
Jana Audre Darren
Gary Zent



Nels & Selma (Olson) Seim Ruth, Beatrice, Cora



Clarence Claflin Family



Don, Lola, Russell, Gale, Julia, Roger, not pictured, Clifford Leach



Elmer, Beatrice (Seim)
Rowan, Veralyn Wanstrom



Merill, Gordon, Leon, Lois Beas, Huldah Olson

Through the years



Charles, Wilbur, Elmer, George,
Luella, Inga Wanstrom



Melvin, Ione, Marvin, Alden, Leonard,
Delbert, Arlone, Marie Olson



B- Ella Bradley, Gertrude Thiel, Mable Olin,
Selma Ostafin, Ester Klusman, Clara Wilkins
F- Floyd, Mrs. Tollef Christianson,
Tollef Christianson, Conrad



Grace, Mavis, Florence, Norman, Raymond,
Carl, Kilen Charlotte, Frances Tharen Thornton



Albert Anderson Family - Dauphine,
Audrey, Betty, Bernice, Roberta, Bonnie,
Darlene, Glenda, Leatha, Albert, Alfred,



Andrew Torgerson Family Thelma, Walter, Clifford, Ruth, Clarence, Arnold, Anna, Andrew, Marlene



Pete, Herbert, Harvey, Gene, Anna, Roger Thorson



Joseph & Hilder (Jacobson) Johnson Duane & Joel



Jacob & Tomine Jacobson Family Tillie, Joe, Nick, Selma, Juliette, Tomine, Alma



Mrs. Martha Smordahl
Mr. & Mrs. Sorstad (Ella)
grandchild & great-
grandchild



Andrew Johnson Family B- Norman, Palmer, Vendora, Milton, Valborg, Leander, Andrew, Willard. F- Adaline



Betty, Bobby, Wayne, Eddy, Phyllis, Evelyn
Peggy Jerry, James, Alice, Carol Jacobson



Jake Johnson, Jerald Olin, John Johnson, Tillie
Johnson, Irvin & Thelma Olin, Don Olin,
Karen & Ardys Olin



Barney, Valborg, Ralph Thorliev,
Borghild, Sig



Marge & Sig Peterson
(Keeping the ethnic heritage
alive -state wide)



Toby, Ben, Ole, Fred Ransland



Walter & Anna Bakken



Clara & Morris Christianson
Sandra & Randy



Vivian & Ida Christianson



Larvel, Clayton, Alice, June,
Oliver & Clara Anderson



Vic Estrin Family



Linda, Irene, Clarene Jacobson



Donavan, Dwayne
Elvira & Sam Thiel



Cassie, Lowell, Gail, Dionn
Auggie & Leona Schaaf



Lucille & Ed Reef
Coralyn, Charlene, Charles,
Carlyle



Martin Willman Family B- Eddie, Margaret, Joyce,
Elmer F- Oscar, Audrey, Grace, Ruth, Ralph, Lillian



Lois, Caroline, Jake, Adeline, Joyce, Lucille and
Thorvald Larson



Art & Delia Olin
Ray, Gaynelle, LoAnn, Keith, Jack



Jamie, Jay, Julie, Jake, Joel, Ginny Larson



Grant, Donna, Joel, Kay, Bryan Johnson



Micky Leach and Rory Leach



Larvel, Jeanette, Nancy, Susan Anderson



Willard Johnson



Arlan, Steve & Diane Larson, Dennis, Ruth, Michelle Larson, Carol & Sandra Olin, Malinda Larson, Orval Darrin



Rick, Caren, Dean, Byron Severson



Cora (Seim) Monson
(Mrs. Oscar Monson)



Tracy, Amanda, Jay Larson



Teri, Annika, Lafe, Rodney Nelson



Lucille (Olin) Larson
(Mrs. Thorvald Larson)



Jake, Ginny, Joel Larson



Lorna (Monson), Don Bender, Monica



Micky Leach and Allyson



Carole, Ray, Shawn, Josh, Toby Olin



Willard J. Johnson 1919-1983



This book would not be complete without a few brief words of tribute to the late Willard Johnson, who gave much to the Sims Lutheran Church, both in terms of service and of finances.

It is really not possible to make a list of all that he did for his congregation. Many people were probably never even aware of all of it, as Willard had no desire for publicity. Suffice it to say that more or less from the time he was confirmed, Willard began helping out the various pastors around the church and continued that work until his final illness. Among the things that might be mentioned were his taking care of the communion ware, preparing the communion each month and then putting it all away again, teaching Sunday school classes for the confirmation-age students, doing the lawn mowing and snow shoveling, working at the cemetery, vacuuming the church and doing other cleaning, ringing the bell each Sunday morning without fail, serving as the long-time treasurer, and even occasionally filling the pulpit when the need arose. Let us sum all this up by saying that, in general, the time which Willard did not give to his work as a farmer was given to his church.

Had circumstances permitted, and had he been able to go on beyond a high school education, Willard would no doubt have liked to have become a pastor. Very likely he would have been a good one. Even as it was, Willard very much enjoyed reading Luther's theology, and the congregation owns a complete set of Luther's works which Willard purchased for it. The congregation was his lifetime love and work, and he will never be forgotten by its members.

Willard died last fall. It is regrettable that he did not live to see this centennial celebration, as there should have been a public recognition of all his work at that time. There can be few who did more than him during the last half-century. May God bless his memory among us.

Rev. John H. Lintel