

The New

MANFRED NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 3

October 2005

Manfred Celebrates

Awesome Milestones in 2005!

The year 2005 celebrates not only the 100th year of two of Manfred's historic buildings, but also the establishment of the Endowment Fund!

A warm welcome to this issue featuring the Ongstad Family History!

Warm Greetings!

Announcing for your 2006 calendar

*An opportunity to gather and share at Manfred on
July 2, 2006*

The Manfred Heritage Museum will celebrate

**100th Anniversary of 1906 Vang Church building*

**Dedication of 1894 Roger's Lumber-Solheim Station*

**Dedication of 1905 Johnson-Ostrem House*

*This gathering coincides with the City of Harvey Centennial planned for
June 30 thru July 2, 2006*

Plan your lodging arrangements early.

Happy 100th to the Bank-Post Office

1905-2005



History of the Ownership

1905-1925 First State Bank of Manfred
1925-1926 State Guaranty Bank of Harvey
1926-1944 The Wells County State Bank
of Fessenden
1944-1964 Oscar & Christine Ongstad
1964-2002 Edgar A & Jeanne E Flick
2002-Present Richard and Wanda Melchert

In 2003, the Bank-Post Office was dedicated into the Manfred Heritage Museum, and presently serves as the Manfred historic photo gallery.

Wells County Free Press

July 29, 1905

Contractor H.J. Beiseker was here Tuesday measuring up the grounds for the new bank building. It will be put up of brick and will be 20x30 with a 7-foot basement under the entire floor.

December 1, 1905

We had the honor of inspecting the new home of the Manfred State Bank. Cashier Ongstad took us in tow and piloted us through the various rooms and departments of the institution and explained minutely to us the workings of the several branches of an up-to-date banking house. It is a model building of its kind, one Manfred can be justly proud of. Mr. Ongstad moved in and began operations there last week.

Happy 100th to the Johnson-Ostrem House 1905-2005



History of the Ownership

1905-1907 Nennie and Alpha (Skogmo) Johnson
1907-1917 Rasmus and Margaret (Nordtorp) Jacobson
1917-1935 John and Emma Nelson
1935-1942 Arthur and Emma Nelson to Hilda Nelson
1942-1987 Lars Ostrem
1987-1989 Christy (Ostrem) Anderson
1989-Present Rod Anderson

The Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Fund, a non-profit organization, was founded in 2004.

In 2006, the Johnson-Ostrem House will be dedicated as part of the 'historic building collection' of the Manfred Heritage Museum. Once restored, it will have opportunity to educate the public through various exhibits. In preparation for the dedication, volunteers are invited to come help with scraping and painting of the exterior during spring of 2006.

Wells County Free Press News

August 11, 1905

Contractor Thompson and men have been very diligent in their work of late and Nennie Johnson's house is rapidly nearing completion. When finished, he will have a neat little cottage.

September 15, 1905

N. Johnson vacated the old Fincher house and moved into his new house in the east end last Wednesday. John Elsaas will occupy the Fincher house and expects to move in this week.

Establishment of the Endowment Fund



David Fitterer, Financial Advisor with the Edward Jones Investment Company of Bismarck, is pictured in front of the newly painted Solheim Service Station at Manfred with Audrey Solheim and Gwynn Herman to his left, and Laverne Johnson at right.

David spoke at the September 25, 2005 MHP, Inc. meeting regarding endowment funds, after which the Board voted unanimously and with great fervor to set up an Endowment Fund with Edward Jones Investment Company.

What a great start! The initial contributions to the Endowment Fund have already exceeded \$3,500. Manfred is in our care...Let us together help the Endowment Fund increase and flourish for the benefit of Manfred's future.

More awesome news for 2005...

The last corner of the Melby Rogness foundation was completed by contractor Charles Bolin! Thanks to Wesley Boese: the remainder of the house has then been insulated in preparation for the sheet rock work that will be done in January!

A PowerPoint slide show on Vang Lutheran Church history is currently being developed by the Educ. Division for the 100th year in 2006 of the Vang building.

The New Manfred News

Endowment Fund

An everlasting fund providing for the future

Kermit and Florence Alveshere in memory of
Tanner and Engeborg (Hove) Alveshere
Donald Anderson
Verna Bowers in memory of William Brye
Verna Bowers in memory of Fern Rogness
Ivan and Peggy Gandrud
Gwyn Herman
Laveme Johnson
Howard and Helen Kegerreis
David and Carol Langseth
Josh and Jamie Johnson Maier,
Grace and Madeline
Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.
Richard and Wanda Melchert in memory of
William Brye
Audrey and Alma Nelson
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Irene Skogmo
Donald Strauss
Bryce and June Streibel

In Memory

Levi Kreiter

November 25, 1923 – October 19, 2005
Son of Ben and Elizabeth (Wagner) Kreiter

Clifford Knoll

March 23, 1930 – November 11, 2005
Nephew of Adolph Shirley

Corrections to August 2005 Issue

Note from the Editor, Wanda Melchert

It is important for the information to be as accurate as possible, and I sincerely apologize for several errors in the C.C. Melby History. Please make corrections to your copy as follows:

Page 5:

*Photo description s/b Gena Melby and Caroline Rogne teasing each other at the Grocery Department entrance.

*Information: Mrs. C.C. (Anna) Melby died in March of 1951.

Page 6:

*Photo description for coffee party s/b Marie Hovey, Gina Hedahl, Mrs. Marit (Nils) Hovey and Emma Nordtorp.

*Photo description for knitters s/b Marie Hovey, Gina Hedahl, Emma Nordtorp, Marit Hovey.

Page 7:

*Photo description for Ray Flick family – Clarence s/b Clayton.

Page 8:

*Information: Edgar and Jeanne Flick wedding date s/b January 21, 1955.

*Information: Myrna married Vern Hoekstra in 1998 and works at Multiband.

Page 11:

*Photo description on several of the photos – Alex LeGrand s/b Axel LeGrand.

With the continuing help of supporters, Manfred is growing to ward its exciting mission to help tell the story of rural North Dakota. In grateful thanks!

General Fund

Contributions to the General Fund are vital for the current work of MHP, Inc. The projects are advancing with this help!

Joanne Adams
Christy Ostrem Anderson
Peter and Rose Anderson
Rod Anderson
Gerry and Karen Rodne Beutler
Mark and Sharla Boese
Joe Bolyard
Wayne and LoAnn Dybing
Ellery and Eleanor Ehni
Frances Fehr
Fessenden Cooperative Association
Darlene Flick
Edgar and Jeanne Flick
Dorothy Nestroff Harris in memory of classmates
Ethel Melby Bolyard and Roger Flick
Hertz Funeral Home given by Nick Hertz
in memory of Nick and Marie Hertz
Myrna Flick Hoekstra
Al and Norma Holwegner
Derald and Ruth Hoover
John A. Johnson
Verna Johnson
Dave and Doreen Kartes
Trygve and Linda Letnes
Jamie Johnson Maier, Josh, Grace, and Madeline
Floyd Lindbo
Eileen Mead
Gene and Betty Melby
Curt and Jess Mortenson
The National Bank of Harvey
Thomas Nelson
Orvin and Pat Ongstad
Harold and Phyllis Pantarsi
Jean LeClaire Peterson
Wilbur and Mary Peterson
Robert and Judy Pohl
Maurice Ravnaas
Arlene Rittmiller
Darlene Roble
Olive Rodne
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Rolene Schliesman
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Marilyn Sjaastad
Robert and Kathy Skalicky
Trygve and DeAnn Skolness
Myron and Virginia Soiseth
Margaret Renden Sprague
Wilys and Violet Springer
Nancy Stigelmayer
Donald Strauss
Ted and Margaret Thorson
Emmett Turner
Dean and Alicia Vorland
Jeffrey Weber and Debbie Peterson

Thank you for your newsletter subscription!
79 new or renewing subscriptions
have been received since the last issue!

The New Manfred News

A quarterly newsletter published by
Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)
P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341.

Subscription rate is \$10 per year.

News and history items are most welcome!

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Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)

'A Settler's Village Celebrating Rural America'

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded July 25, 2000. Its mission is to compile and share the history of Manfred, North Dakota and its traditional trade area, and to encourage community pride and restoration of its historic structures.

Website: www.manfrednd.org

Manfred Heritage Museum

An educational entity of MHP, Inc. and of the Manfred community founded July 26, 2003. Its purpose is to provide present and future generations the opportunity to learn about important contributions that rural places such as Manfred have given to North Dakota and to America.

Museum Hours

May through September: Wed-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-6
Summer 701-547-2564
Winter 701-547-3123, 701-324-2091

The success of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. is made possible through:

1. Volunteers

Four Divisions have been established where people are invited to volunteer in their areas of interest:

- *CORPORATE – Compiling the history, Grant writing
- *MUSEUM – Cataloging the collections
- *BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS – Care of Manfred
- *EDUCATION – Developing exhibits and programs

2. Financial Contributions

Financial contributions are vital to the work of MHP, Inc. Ideas for giving include -

- *GENERAL FUND for current expenses
- *DESIGNATED GIFT
- *ENDOWMENT FUND for Manfred's future

Federal Tax ID#45-0458460
State of ND Solicitation #4111

3. Historical Contributions

At the core of the projects is the history of Manfred and its traditional trade area. Historical materials are welcome to help tell Manfred's story such as:

- *ARTIFACTS – Historical items
- *ARCHIVAL MATERIALS – Histories, Documents
- *GENEALOGIES – and other historic materials

Board of Directors

Audrey Solheim, President
Laverne Johnson, Vice President
Esther Boese, Secretary
Ruth Widiger, Treasurer
Wanda Melchert, Museum Director
Rose Anderson, Pete Anderson,
Verna Bowers, Herbert Ongstad

MHP, Inc. is a member of the Harvey Chamber of Commerce and Preservation North Dakota; partners with the Wells County Historical Society, State Historical Society of North Dakota and other historical groups; and devoted to education and the well being of rural America.

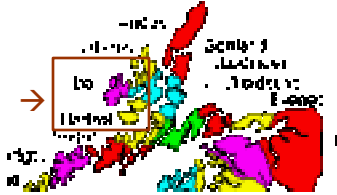
Henrik and Pernille Ongstad Family History

Beginning in Norway

Henrik Johan Jacobson (Ongstad) was born January 1, 1810 on a farm called Haug on the island of Hadseløy (Hadsel Island) in Hadsel Township, Nordland, Norway. After Henrik leased part of the Ongstad farm at Hadsel in 1936, he began using the name Ongstad (Other spellings: Ångstad or Aangstad). It was a common practice to attach the farm name to the end of one's name. At varying times, he used Jacobson (meaning the son of Jacob) which was his family name.

Henrik married Pernille Ursin Hansdotter, born December 9, 1815 on the island of Bø (Langøya) in Bø Township, Nordland, Norway. Pernille had been given an interesting middle name of Ursin. It was prevalent among people "up North" to include the name Ursin as an extra name for their children. Originally, it was the name of a well-known family comprised of many important people such as ministers and district judges. Eight children were born to Henrik and Pernille in Norway: Thea, Helena, Erik, Hans, Maren, Albertine, Oluf, and Sofus.

*Detail of
Henrik and Pernille's
Birth places at
Hadsel and Bø, Norway*



← Hadsel



← Bø



The children of Henrik and Pernille Ongstad

- 1 Mathea Oline (Thea) 1843-1926. Married John Bredahl. Immigrated to WI. Ten children: Joakim (Jim), Petra, Adolf, Maye, Edward, Anna, Theodore, Jens, Emma, Johannah.
- 2 Helena (Lena) 1846-1934. Married John Kling. Lived at Pelican Rapids, MN and later CA. Six children: Marie, Alida, Henry, Perry, Ben, Liulle. Helena widowed young.
- 3 Erik 1848-1868 drowned shortly after immigrating.
- 4 Hans Hendrikson 1850-1922. Married Nicoline Olson. Six of their children came to Manfred area. See their story.
- 5 Maren Dorthea 1850-1868. Died of diphtheria.
- 6 Albertine 1852-1868. Died of diphtheria.
- 7 Oluf Peder 1855-1925 Farmer and vet at Columbus, ND.
- 8 Johan Sofus 1858-1936 married Rena Turina Asleson. Settled in the Manfred area. See their story.

The Story of Henrik and Pernille Ongstad and Family Settling in America

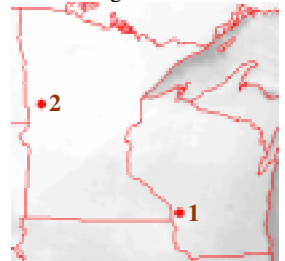
The Manfred projects are blessed to have this rare accounting of a settler's trek across the wilderness of America, through the memories of the Ongstad family. Here is their story based on accounts recorded by Esther Ugstad...

In 1868 at the ages of 58 and 53 respectively, Henrik and Pernille immigrated to America with seven of their eight children. They came at an advanced age, leaving an excellent farm behind, in order to provide better opportunities for their children. They first went to Coon Valley, Wisconsin, where the family stayed with Henrik's sister, Mrs. Peder Haug. During their first year in America, three of their children died. Their daughters, Maren and Albertine, died of diphtheria only six weeks after arriving, and their son Erik drowned while working on a Mississippi River boat.

On May 5, 1869, Henrik, Pernille and their children Helena, Hans, Oluf and Sofus, together with the Jacob Torkelson and Nils Hagastuen families, decided to set out for either Kandiyohi or Chippewa Counties in Minnesota. At LaCrosse, Wisconsin, the three families took passage on a Mississippi River steamboat bound for St. Paul. From St. Paul, the group traveled by train to the end of the line at St. Cloud. There, they happened upon a group of young men who were planning to head for Pelican Lake where they hoped to homestead... as the area was supposed to have abundant timber, prairie, hay meadows, and game. The three families decided to join them.

Continue...

Hernik Ongstad Family
settling in America



1. Came in 1868. Stayed one year at Coon Valley, WI

2. In 1869, settled near Pelican Rapids, MN

Acknowledgements for Ongstad Family History

History of Stony Brook Township - From The First Settlement To 1918 by Louis O. Foss (1920), *History of Grandpa Hans Ongstad* by Esther Bergerud Ugstad (1992), *History of Wells County and its Pioneers* by Walter E. Spokesfield (1929), *Sigdal Album* compiled by Wanda Melchert (2000), *The Quiet Conquest - A history of the first settlers of Central ND* by Barbara Levorsen (1974). Photo of Hadsel by Norphoto AS, Norway, Photos of Bø by L.I. Haug located at www.lihaug.com/idag.html Also Herbert Ongstad, Bill Ongstad, Sam and Amy Ongstad, Orvin Ongstad, Astrid Ongstad, Floyd Lindbo, Kermit and Beverly Larson, Claudia Trosvig, Karen Bredahl Femrite. Assisted by historian Audrey Solheim and editor Wanda Melchert.

It took a couple of weeks to outfit the group with the essentials they would need for settling. Though no one had much money, together they managed to purchase five yoke of oxen, four wagons, a dog, one or two plows, one or two stoves and a few other essentials. Their only guide was a map of the government trail leading to Ft. Abercrombie and other forts in the Dakota Territory. As they journeyed northwest, they were advised to turn back because of the dangerous Indians, but they continued on to Sauk Centre, Osakis, Alexandria, and Pomme DeTerre where they saw remnants of an Indian stockade.

At Dayton, they crossed the Otter Tail River on a ferry. Here, they left the military trail and headed north and east, passing through the wilderness over unbroken trails. Some of the men walked ahead in order to signal the best route for the wagons to take in order to avoid hills, lakes, and streams. At what is now Elizabeth, they came to the Pelican River and found a settlement of two log huts built by German settlers. The following day, some of the men headed north to explore along the river. They returned to report the discovery of a beautiful lake, which they called Prairie Lake, with a rolling prairie on one side and a thick forest on the other. The group headed for the lake, arriving there on May 24th or 25th, 1869. No sooner had the group occupied themselves with pitching camp, than they found themselves surrounded by Indians who were pointing guns at them. One of the young men, with knowledge of the Chippewa language, talked with them and learned that they were looking for a band of Sioux Indians who had killed a member of their tribe. From these Indians, the settlers learned of the good hunting and fishing in the area.

The next day, the young single men of the group were ready to set out to explore the surrounding countryside to stake their own claims. About three miles away they did so, most staking claims in Pelican Township and one was nearby in Norwegian Grove Township. On their third day, while helping to build a log cabin and milk cellar at one of the claims, the young men saw the three families hurrying toward them. It turned out that Chippewa Indians had appeared the night before, acting strangely all painted and decorated. The women became scared and the three families left in a hurry. So, this is how the families came to settle in Norwegian Grove Township, rather than in Pelican Township.

The families then staked their claims, and were busy building log houses and breaking land the summer of 1869. That fall in preparation for winter, they made a week-long journey using oxen to Alexandria, 70 miles away, in order to purchase groceries, and also windows for the house. Until then, they had covered the openings of their new dwelling with sheep skin robes. Henrik and Pernille, their son Hans and family, and daughter Thea and family who immigrated in 1869, all homesteaded in Norwegian Grove Township Section 25, the NE, SE, and SW Quarters respectively.

This is how the immigration took place for Thea, her husband Johan N. Bredahl and their two children Joakim and Petra. They came by way of New York to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and had hoped to locate her parents there. However, her parents had already left for Minnesota. So, Thea and Johan set out to find them somewhere there. After arriving at St. Cloud, they bought a yoke of oxen, a wagon, stove, two cows, and some supplies. They faced many hardships as they traveled over land to the northwest. One problem was that the oxen were trained to obey English commands. Johan, who spoke only Norwegian, had to depend on a stick to guide the oxen. The young couple struggled to keep the oxen moving in the proper direction. At one point, they became lost and ended up at Battle Lake. Heading northwest again, they had to build a raft in order to cross a river. Finally, they reached Henrik and Pernilla's home. The meeting of the two families was filled with surprise, joy, and relief. The two families spent that winter together in Henrik and Pernille's small house.

About four miles away, the town of Pelican Rapids was started early in 1870 with the first business by Mr. Harris. The day after this business opened, their son Sofus recalled that, at age eleven, he and his brother Oluf, not quite fourteen, took some muskrat pelts, the common currency in those days. Sofus said, "We bought some coffee, sugar, and New Orleans molasses, and then went home where my mother feasted on the coffee. She was very fond of the beverage which she had been without nearly all winter."

The next spring the Bredhal family moved to their claim, encountering a number of challenges. Sofus' son Herbert recalls his father telling that Johan had trouble keeping the oxen working to break the sod. The mosquitoes were very prevalent, and the oxen kept heading down into the lake for relief from the pests. Thea, often alone with the children, was frightened more than once by Indians peering through the windows. During one of the first years, the Bredahl homestead was in the path of a cyclone that took the roof and upper story of their log house. In 1876 and 1877, the grasshoppers ate everything, even the handles off the pitch forks.

Despite all the challenges, through hard work, these families prospered by building up fine farms and were active in helping to build the schools and churches. On September 27, 1875, fifteen families including the Henrik Ongstad family, Hans Ongstad Family, and Johan Bredhal Family formed the Ringsaker Evangelical Norwegian Lutheran Church, the first church in Pelican Rapids. Henrik and Pernille's son Oluf, was a member of the first confirmation class in the new settlement. Pernille died July 13, 1878 and Henrik died about 1880.

The Westward Settlement of Several of Henrik and Pernille's Descendents

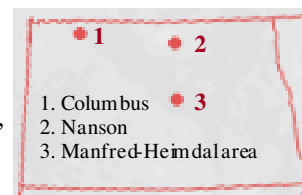
From the vantage of their homeland along the coast of Norway, Henrik and Pernille had, for all their lives, viewed the mighty ocean that stretching off into the vast seemingly endless western horizon. Now their dreams of crossing that great expanse had been realized, bringing them to a vast seemingly endless land where they were able to establish their new home. Now their children and grandchildren were looking westward to a land that held promise of a bright future for them. They were part of the wave of immigrants and immigrant's children who came surging westward, many of them finding themselves deposited on the 'shores' of the new frontier North Dakota. Some stayed to settle there, some surged even further west, and some returned from where they came... all were caught up in the fluidity of the persistent drive of settlement.

The Ongstad family history represents a wonderful example of the process of this settlement. Though Henrik and Pernille as well as their daughters Thea and Helena and families and son Hans and his wife Nicoline and three of their children settled in Minnesota, several in the family ventured to mainly three areas in North Dakota: Columbus, Nanson, and Manfred-Heimdal area. Henrik's youngest son, Sofus was the first to come homesteading at Manfred in 1893. His brother Oluf, widely known as a horse breeder and cattle buyer for many years, settled at Columbus where he farmed and had a veterinary practice.

Following him to Columbus, came his niece Ida where she met her future husband, John Sande.

Six of Hans' children came to the Manfred-Heimdal area over several years through the encouragement of their uncle Sofus: Clara, Emil, Anna, Olaf, Oscar, and Edna. See listing of children next page.

Alfred and Lottie gravitated to Nanson where their friends from Pelican Rapids had settled. Emil, Ida, and Lottie later moved further west. Hans' daughter Hilda and her husband Hans Bergerud had homesteaded for a while in North Dakota and later returned to Minnesota. Hans' son James lived at Nanson for a few years helping his twin sister Lottie on her farm after her husband died. Hans' brother-in-law, Lars Olson, who lived for a time in Heimdal area and a charter member of East Vang Lutheran Church, returned to Norway with his mother Kari Nielson.



Places in North Dakota where Ongstad descendents settled for all or part of their lives

Hans and Nicoline Ongstad



Hans and Nicoline Ongstad



Hans and Nicoline Ongstad



From left: Nicoline, her brother Lars Olson, and mother Kari Nielson

Henrik and Pernille's son Hans Peter Henrikson (Ongstad) was born to them in Hadsel, Nordland, Norway on April 5, 1850. He came to Wisconsin in 1868 and the next year homesteaded in Norwegian Grove Township living there the rest of his life. On July 6, 1897, he changed his name to Hans H. Ongstad due to a mix-up in mail delivery. That same day, he became a citizen of the USA.

Nicoline was born in Hedmark, Norway in 1856 to Ole and Kari (Snapin) Nielson *also known as Olson* who immigrated together with their three children in the 1870s: 1. Antonette married Hans Lokken and perished in a snow storm in ND while on her way to a sick neighbor. 2. Nicoline, and 3. Lars Olson who farmed at Manfred and was a charter member of East Vang Church. He went back to Norway taking with him his aged mother Kari. (*Kari's brother Nils Hagastuen was one of the families traveling from WI to MN with the Ongstad family. See story page 3.*) Nicoline and Hans married in the late 1870s.

Three of their sons served during World War I: Henry, Olaf and Oscar. Henry, a member of the Blackhawk Division, was killed in action on November 1, 1918, only 11 days before the war ended. Hans died from heart failure October 29, 1922. Nicoline had suffered a stroke shortly before this. And then tragically on November 7th, his son Olaf died in his sleep of coal gas poisoning upon returning to Manfred, ND after his father's funeral. Pastor J.M. Langseth of Vang Lutheran conducted the funeral service, and the American Legion Post from Fessenden escorted the hearse to the railroad station. His brother Oscar conducted his body back to Minnesota where Olaf was buried beside his father at Pelican Rapids. Nicoline died exactly one year later on November 7, 1923.



The Hans and Nicoline Ongstad Family in 1922, after the death of Hans

Standing: Oscar, Edna, Alfred, Lottie, Olaf, James, Emil, Annie, Ida

Seated: Hilda, Nicoline, Clara

Wells County Free Press
February 22, 1907

Hans Ongstad, an older brother of our estimable fellow citizen, S.H. Ongstad, arrived at Manfred Wednesday for a visit with his brother and other relatives north of town. Mr. Ongstad is a tiller of the soil at Pelican Rapids, Minn.

The Children of Hans and Nicoline Ongstad

1. **Hilda** 1880-1965 taught school until she married Hans C. Bergerud June 21, 1905. They farmed at Aastad near Fergus Falls, MN. Hilda was a Fergus Journal Correspondent. They were members of Aastad Lutheran Church. Seven children: Chester, Norma, Hazel, Herbert, Esther, Ruth, Goodwin. Hazel and Herbert died in infancy.
2. **Clara** 1882-1936. Settled near Manfred. Story follows.
3. **Alfred** 1884-1972 settled at Nanson, ND, married Emma Lunde August 15, 1907. They farmed in Pierce and Rolette Counties, and in 1945 moved into Rugby. Members of Wolford Lutheran Church. Fifteen children: Nora, Christine, Stella, Esther, Orville, Eleanor, Harold, Ada, Stanley, Ruby, Sarah, Janet, Marlin, Irene, Mildred. Nora, Esther, and Marlin died in infancy.
4. **Emil** 1885-1957 moved to Manfred-Heimdal area in 1901 and was a charter of East Vang Lutheran Church. Homesteaded in McKenzie County near Alexander, ND in 1909. Married Helga Haug at Manfred March 23, 1915. Retired in 1932 to Sidney, MT. Members of Pella Lutheran Church. No children.
5. **Anna** 1887-1980. Farmed in the Manfred area. Story follows.
6. **Henry** 1888-1918. On June 24, 1918, he went into the service at Camp Grant, IL, then transferred to Camp Mills, NY then overseas in September. He was killed in action on November 1, 1918 and is buried in France.
7. **Olaf** 1890-1922 entered the service July 1918 at Camp Custer, MI. Was as ready to go to France when the Armistice was signed. After this, he moved to Manfred and rented a farm four miles west of Manfred together with his friend Melvin (Haug) Nelson, brother to Helga Haug (Mrs. Emil Ongstad). Olaf died there Nov. 7, 1922 of asphyxiation by coal gas poisoning from the heater. Melvin survived having slept nearest the door.
8. **Oscar** 1892-1964. Settled in the village of Manfred. Story follows.
9. **James** 1894-1970 farmed in the Pelican Rapids area. When his twin sister Lottie was widowed, he helped her on her farm near Nanson, ND until her oldest boy was thirteen and took over the farming. James later worked a few years at a state park near Pelican Rapids.
10. **Lottie** 1894-1949 moved to Nanson, ND and married Henry Lunde June 22, 1916. They then farmed there. Henry died young, when the children were ages eleven years down to six months. Lottie continued farming with her four sons until all of them had entered the service. She then moved to Wolford, ND and later to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Six children: Kenneth, Helen, Norris, James, Walter, Ramona.
11. **Ida** 1896-1986 moved to Columbus, ND. Married John Sande November 22, 1924 whom she met when hired to work for him in his cook car. Ida was a beautician and John a carpenter and farmer. They moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 1933, were members of Trinity Lutheran Church. Two children: Lolita, Joanne.
12. **Minnie** 1898-1898. Died in infancy.
13. **Edna** 1900-1974. Settled near Manfred. Story follows.



Hilda and Hans Bergerud



Lottie and Henry Ongstad



Ida and John Sande



Clara and Martin Moen

From left:
Lottie Ongstad Lunde
Helga Haug Ongstad (Mrs. Emil)
Anna Ongstad Lindbo



Clara and Martin Moen

Clara Oline Ongstad, born October 31, 1882 near Pelican Rapids, MN, was the second child of Hans and Nicoline Ongstad. She married November 16, 1903 in Ringsaker Church of Pelican Rapids, MN to Martin Moen.

Martin (birth name Mathias Stoa) was born January 16, 1873 at Trysil, Hedmark, Norway to Mathias and Berte Stoa. Mathias' name was Mattias Flotlien, and when he married Berte Stoa and moved to the Stoa farm, his name changed to Mattias Stoa. Also, their sons had worked on different farms and so each had taken the name of that farm resulting in different last names as: Borrah Johnson, John Skovlie, Eric Stoa, and Martin Moen. The family came to Ottertail County in about 1889, when Martin was 16. He worked for Hans Ongstad in MN, and also helped a horse trader drive horses to settlers in ND. In 1902, he homesteaded NW of Manfred in Heimdal Township.

After Martin and Clara married, they settled on this homestead and raised thirteen children in their very small house: Harry, Myrtle, Ben, Jewel, Margaret, Gladys, Evelyn, Ruth, Roy, Florence, Arnold, Leila, Delbert. They lived here the rest of their lives, and were members of East Vang Lutheran Church. Clara became ill with a kidney disorder and died in the Harvey hospital on February 20, 1936 at the age of 53. Martin died on July 22, 1952. Both are buried at East Vang Cemetery. Their son Harry continued on with the farming tradition at the Moen farm.

Clara and Martin Moen's children:

1. Harry 1904-1998. Farmed on farmstead at Manfred.
2. Myrtle 1905-1990. Married J. Edward Hustoft, later to H. John Sund. 8 children: Lowell, Roger, Myron, Arlene, Wayne, Norval, Jarrell, Barbara.
3. Ben (Benny) 1907-1996. Married Ella Trautman. 2 children: Ronald and Marvin.
4. Jewel 1908-1985. Married Helen Johnsrude lived in Redmond, WA. 3 children: Harley, Russell, Carolyn.
5. (Alma) Margaret 1910. Married Oscar Johnson. 4 children: Bruce, Robert, Diane, Timothy.
6. Gladys 1911-1988. Married Irwin Biel. 5 children: Terrence, Sharon, Marlys, Wanda, Kathlyn.
7. Evelyn 1913. Married Roy R. Booth. 2 children: Darrell and Denise.
8. Ruth 1915. Married Milton Curry. 1 child: Crystal.
9. Roy 1917. Married Signe Ness. 2 children: Martin and Jon.
10. Florence 1919. Married Laurence Murbach. 2 children: Luanne and Carol.
11. Arnold 1921. Married 1947 to Velma Albrecht. 4 children: Jennifer, Cynthia, Lorraine, Lisa.
12. Leila 1923-1927. Died when young.
13. Delbert 1925. Married Mercille Hovland. 1 child: Jacquelyn.

Anna and Fred Lindbo

Anna Sofia Ongstad was born March 26, 1887 near Pelican Rapids, the fifth child of Hans and Nicoline Ongstad. At first, she worked as a domestic in various Minnesota cities. Anna eventually gravitated to the Manfred, North Dakota area where she worked as a 'house helper' for various people. It was there that she met Gotfred (Fred) Rudolph Lindbo and they married February 24, 1920 at Manfred. At that time, Fred was working for Olaf Anderson who ran the livery stable in Manfred.

Fred was born January 13, 1893 at Rock Prairie in Grant County, Minnesota to Gullik Torstenson Lindbo and Ragnild Knutsdotter Sattru Vigen. Gullik later moved to the Manfred area near present day Heimdal, joining Vang Lutheran Church in 1897. In 1902, Vang Lutheran divided into two congregations due to the large geographical area it served, and Gullik became a charter member of East Vang Lutheran Church. A painting, by Manfred pioneer and folk artist Nennie Johnson, Gullik won at a raffle sponsored by the Fagerlund Sons of Norway, has been given to the Manfred Heritage Museum by his grandson Floyd enabling this historic painting to return to the place where it had been created.

Anna and Fred were members of Vang Lutheran, and lived in the Manfred area 1920-1943. Their son Floyd recounts, "My parents moved to a farm about two and a half miles northeast of town known as Paul's place. In 1922, they rented a farm later known as 'Lonesome' two miles further north. This place was, I believe, owned by Irvin Iverson. I was born on that farm February 11, 1923, and exactly a year later my brother Gordon was born. In 1929, we moved again, having rented the C.C. Melby farm (now known as the Flick farm.) We were there until the fall of 1935 when we rented the Albert Biever place a half mile south of town. My parents lived there until about 1943, when they purchased their first farm four miles east of Bremen."

Anna and Fred later moved to New Rockford, and in 1954 moved to Everett, Washington. Fred died at Everett, Washington on December 11, 1977, and Anna on February 7, 1980. Their son Floyd and wife Cecile (Yetts) had three children: Darrell, Larry, Jeffrey. Seven grandchildren. Gordon and his wife Vergie (Mallam) had two children, Janis and Jean. Four grandchildren. Gordon died in 1991. Floyd's wife Cecile died in 1994 and his son Larry died in 2004.



Fred and Anna Lindbo



Fred, Floyd, Anna, Gordon



Fred and Anna



Arthur and Edna Larson



Four of the children from left:
Ardis and Leland in back
Waldo and Kermit in front

21	22	23	24	1	2	3
28	27	26	25	30	29	2
33	34	35	36	31	32	3
4	3	2	1	6	5	4
9	10	11	12	7	8	5
16	15	14	13	18	17	16
21	22	23	24	19	20	2
MANFRED						

Farmsteads of two sisters,
Clara (32) and Edna (6)

Edna and Arthur Larson

Edna Christine Ongstad was born near Pelican Rapids, MN on June 3, 1900, the last of thirteen children to Hans and Nicoline Ongstad. She came out to visit her older sisters and brothers at Manfred, ND. During this stay, she met Arthur Larson. They were married on June 10, 1928 at Manfred.

Arthur Ludwig Larson was born June 25, 1890 at Cummings, ND to Peder and Hansine (Iverson) Larson. Peder and Hansine, of Swedish and Danish descent respectively, immigrated to America in the 1880s. In 1893, they filed on a homestead eight miles northeast of Manfred, settled there and developed a fine farm. Peder (Pete) and Hansine were charter members of East Vang Lutheran Church.

Arthur grew to manhood on this farm, and later he and Edna farmed here and raised their children. Arthur died January 10, 1973, and Edna died July 22, 1974. They had six children: 1. Leland married Delores Davidson and had three children: Kurt, Eric, and Judy. Five grandchildren. Leland died in 1978. 2. Baby Larson deceased. 3. Ardis married Henry Kucera and has two children Keith and Robin. Four grandchildren. One great grandchild. 4. Kermit married Beverly Valent, farmed the Larson farm and have four children: Diane married Norman Boese of Manfred, Jay married Beth Wilkinson, Steven married Denise Cook, Craig married Catherine Kirkeide. Kermit and Bev have ten grandchildren. 5. Waldo married Judith Stockert and had three children Susan, Scott, and Kristen. Seven grandchildren. Waldo died in 2005. 6. Janice married George Dean and has two children Timothy and Jonathan. Four grandchildren.

Two Ongstad sisters, Edna and Clara, happened to settle on farms only about a mile from each other. Edna and Arthur Larson were located in West Norway Township, the northwest quarter of Section 6, Township 149, Range 70 W. Her older sister Clara and husband Martin Moen were located in Heimdal Township, the northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 150, Range 70 W. Also, farming just a short distance to the west in Manfred Township was their uncle and aunt, Sofus and Rena Ongstad and family.



Peder and Hansine Larson homesteaded in 1893. Barn was built in 1916.
Their son Arthur and grandson Kermit followed in the farming tradition.

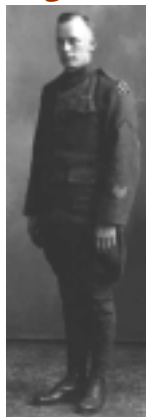


Four of Arthur and Edna Larson's children:
From left: Ardis, Kermit, Waldo, Janice

Oscar and Christine Ongstad



Oscar and Christine Ongstad
July 15, 1920



Oscar in WWI
1917-1919

Seated:
Nora
Oscar
Christine

Standing:
Orvin
Duane
Walter



Oscar and Christine Ongstad and Children



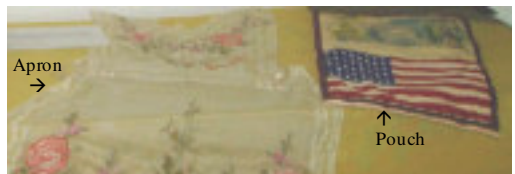
Oscar and Christine their 40th Wedding Anniversary
with their children and grandchildren at Vang Church



Oscar and Christine

These are among the
historic items given to the
Manfred Heritage Museum
by Astrid Ongstad (Mrs. Walter)

Below:
The baby carriage
Oscar and Christine
used for their children
Pictured is grandson Lane
↓



Christine treasured this fabric pouch, and apron that
Oscar sent to her while he was overseas during WWI

Alf Oscar Ongstad was born July 15, 1892 near Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, the eighth child of Hans and Nicoline Ongstad. Oscar came to the Manfred, ND area in 1914, because his uncle Sofus Ongstad lived there. Several of his sisters had come out to work for Sofus and then married local men. Oscar started working as a farm hand on the Matt Biever farm south of Manfred, and there made lasting friends with Matt's four sons and three daughters. Later, he worked at the auto garage in Manfred.

Christine, born June 7, 1898 on a farm near Binford, ND, was the youngest of four children to Ole Thune and Karrina Knutsdotter Skattebo. Her parents were born in Valdres, Norway, and immigrated to the US in 1882. Christine spent her early childhood with her parents, and sisters Emma and Caroline (Lena) and brother Knute.

Christine spent much time with her half-sister Mary (26 years her senior) and brother-in-law Ole (O.K.) Melby at their home in Manfred. Their only child, born about the same time as Christine, had died in infancy. Christine attended school at Manfred for some of her school years making friendships with Ann and Gena Melby, daughters of C.C. Melby. She then attended Oak Grove High School in Fargo, ND.

Ole and Mary had homesteaded in 1893, and Ole also started the Manfred Lumber Company. He began a Ford Garage at Manfred in about 1916. One of the mechanics who worked there was Oscar Ongstad. Oscar's son Orvin relates this story: "O.K. and Mary Melby had moved from their farm into town. Like all active people, Mary wanted to learn to drive the Ford car so she could get around on her own. O.K. didn't care to teach his wife how to drive, but the young mechanic offered to help teach her how. So Mary, together with her half-sister Christine, took driving lessons from the young mechanic. Mary made it a point to remind the mechanic that it was 'just to teach her to drive,' and not to fraternize with her younger sister!"

Oscar enlisted in the army in July of 1917. His son Orvin relates, "When America entered WWI in 1917, the National Guard unit in Harvey was called up and Oscar joined the unit which became part of the Third Division sent overseas in 1918. Because of his mechanical ability, he drove ammunition trucks for the artillery unit attached to the Division. After the Armistice, he remained in Germany serving in the occupation troops." Oscar received an honorable discharge September 2, 1919.

While overseas, he had corresponded regularly with Christine. When he came back, one of the first things he did was to travel to Binford to see Christine. They were married on his birthday July 15, 1920 at Binford, and settled in a house in Manfred.

Oscar and O.K. Melby's brother, Martin, became proprietors of the garage. Oscar took care of the mechanical affairs, and Martin the front end of the business. Business was good until about 1930, when Oscar was struck with a back problem and could not do this work. He then worked as a janitor of the Manfred School, and in 1944 was appointed postmaster of the Manfred Post Office retiring in 1962. He is well remembered there for his pleasant manner. Christine was assistant postmaster at the Manfred Post Office for a number of years, as well. Oscar was a member for 25 years of the Frank E. Curry American Legion Post at Harvey.

Oscar and Christine joined Vang Lutheran Church in 1921 where they were both active. Oscar served as trustee, deacon, and custodian. Christine was a faithful worker in Vang Ladies Aid serving as president, vice president, secretary, as well as many committees. She served as Sunday School Superintendent for many years, and is fondly remembered for her kind and soft-spoken manner that made the children feel welcome. She also taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Oscar died September 6, 1964. After this, Christine moved to Fessenden where she lived until moving to Harvey in 1983. Christine died July 11, 1984. Both are buried at the Vang Cemetery.

Their closest neighbors were Helmer and Annie Solheim. Their daughter Audrey relates: "Christine, Veronica Froeber and my mother did all kinds of projects together, from giving each other hair permanents to wall papering. Christine was quite a lady!"

Oscar and Christine had 4 children all born at Manfred: 1. Orvin married Patricia Wolf. They had 4 children: Lane, Richard, Clifford, Brian. 8 grandchildren. 2. Nora married Roger Casey. They had 5 children: Robert, Paul, Julie, Mark, Phillip. 9 grandchildren. 3. Walter married Astrid Braaten. Walter served in World War II. They had 2 children: Curtis and Vicki. 10 grandchildren. 4. Duane married Mary McClure. They had 3 children Chris, Lynne, and Thomas. 4 grandchildren.

Sofus and Rena Ongstad

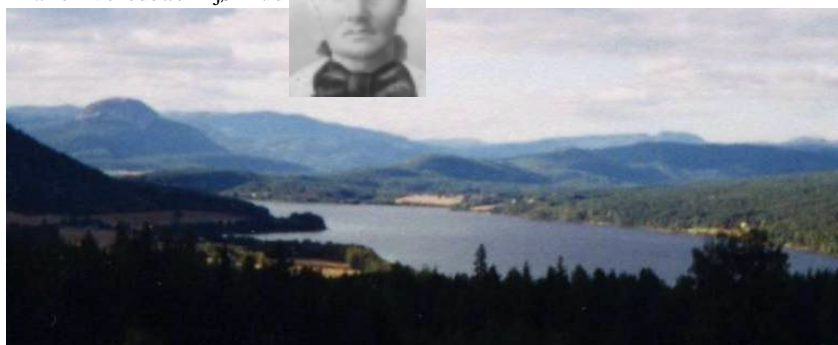


Sofus and Rena Ongstad
August 24, 1904

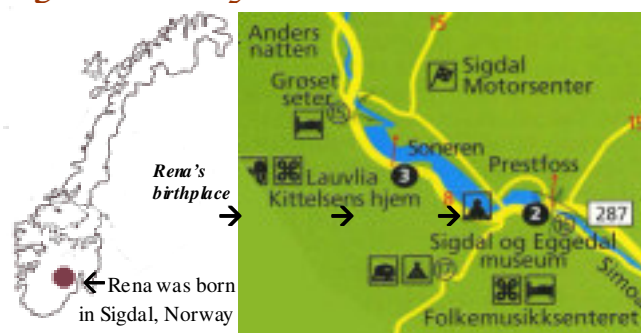
Rena's mother →
Marie Evensdotter Bjørnrud



Rena's Family came from Sigdal, Norway



Birthplace of Rena overlooks Lake Soneren from approximately this southwestern point. Mount Andersnatten is in view at left.



Map detailing Rena's birthplace
near Lake Soneren in Sigdal

Rena...

Rena Turina Asleson was born June 24, 1869, on the Sætra farm located on a section of land called Torstenrud in Sigdal near the town of Prestfoss, Norway, to Asle Asleson Sætra born in 1837 and Marie Evensdotter Bjørnrud.

In 1871 when Rena was two years old, Asle and Marie immigrated to America with their four children Even, Asle, Kjersti, and Rena. Her parents took a homestead at Norway Lake, Minnesota and lived there for seven years. Born to them at Norway Lake were Mary, Belle, Ole, and Edward.

In 1878 when Rena was ten years old, the grasshoppers ate up the crop. The family then moved to Stony Brook Township in Grant County, Minnesota near Wendell where the last two children, Emma and Laura, were born. Rena studied diligently and obtained a teacher's certificate. She taught school in Grant County for many years. Then in 1901, she went to Wells County, North Dakota where she took a homestead in Section 4 of Hillsdale Township and taught school in Norway Lake Township five miles north of Hamberg.

The children of Asle and Marie Asleson

1. **Even** married Ragnhild Vigen. One child: Edward. Even died a short time after his marriage.
2. **Asle** married Anne Helgeson Kverna and purchased the Kverna farm. He had a threshing company together with his brother-in-law Hans K. Vigen. Two children: Albert and Mabel. Asle died young.
3. **Kjersti** married Hans K. Vigen. Three children: Mendine, Caroline, and Alvide. Kjersti died young.
4. **Rena** taught school in Minnesota and later in North Dakota. She married Sofus Ongstad, bank cashier at Manfred. Two children: Mildred and Herbert.
5. **Mary** came to Makoti, ND where she met and married Edward Kamrud. They adopted twins, Maurice and Melford.
6. **Belle** a school teacher. Died young.
7. **Ole** took over his parent's farm in Stony Brook Township, MN and served as town clerk and school board member. Married Clara Stave, a school teacher. Six children: Ernest, Muriel, Lulu, Clifford, Borghild, and Waldemar.
8. **Edward**. Information unknown.
9. **Emma** a school teacher, married John S. Skinnemoen, a bank cashier at Wendell, MN. No children.
10. **Laura** died about age 18 in Minnesota.

Sofus and Rena Ongstad

At Manfred... In 1905, Sofus and Rena purchased the Helge and Bertha Myhre house in Block 1, Lots 1 and 2 just west of the Vang parsonage. Succeeding owners of this house include: Nels O. Jorstad, Ole O. Braaten then to his son Oscar Braaten, Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, Albert Nelson, Kermit Melby, and current owner Curtis Melby. Two children were born here to Sofus and Rena, Mildred Pernille in 1909 and Herbert Arnold in 1911.

S.H. Ongstad has fenced his recently acquired property in the west end and is setting out trees on his residence grounds.

May 10, 1907 issue of the
Wells County Free Press



Sofus and Rena lived here on the west side of Manfred until 1915

On the farm... Also in 1905, Sofus and Rena purchased a quarter of land from S.L. Broe who had earlier given the NE corner of this quarter for the Bethel Church and Cemetery. A church building had been constructed in 1898. (See Mar 2002, Pages 10-11 and Dec 2002, Page 9 issues of the Manfred News). In 1915, Sofus and Rena moved to their homestead NE of Manfred. Their son, Herbert, who was four at the time, recalls the flurry of activity that took place that year, with both their house and a new Bethel church structure under construction at the same time. The old Bethel building was moved to Heimdal to serve as a hotel,



Mildred and Herbert in front of the family's new house north of Manfred



Friends helping Sofus
with some cement work, about 1920



Ink blotter in the Manfred Heritage Museum collection

At left:

Helmer Solheim,
Oliver Berve
John Rogstad
Sofus Ongstad
Reier Reistad

At right:

1. Sofus homesteaded in 1893
NE Qtr of Sec 1, Twp 149 N, R 71 W
2. Purchased in 1905
NE Qtr of Sec 2, Twp 149 N, R 71 W



Sofus and Rena's land six
miles NW of Manfred

Community leader.... Sofus was one of Wells County's best known pioneers who did so much in the building up of the community and church. He was a very learned man, a deep student of history, widely read in both Norwegian and English; much in demand as a public speaker having established a wide reputation; President of the Manfred-Fram Telephone Company; Justice of the Peace for many years; administrator of many estates; Manfred reporter to the Wells County Free Press; Chairman of the Republican County Central Committee; and Manfred school board member. Orvin Ongstad recalls that Sofus was a man of lively discussion, interesting to listen to because of his broad knowledge, hospitable, and generous.

Sofus joined Vang Church in 1896 and was a delightful auctioneer for the Vang Ladies Aid basket socials; maintained close friendships with the pastors through the years; Deacon at Vang four terms; member of the choir organized in 1899; Superintendent of the Sunday School and Sunday School teacher for a number of years. Rena was active with Sofus in the community and the Ladies Aid. After short illnesses, Sofus passed away May 17, 1936 and Rena on May 5, 1941.

Wells County Free Press

August 3, 1906 Issue

S.H. Ongstad was taking notes of distances Thursday last, in order to obtain a fire map of Manfred.

December 11, 1908 Issue

S.H. Ongstad made a business trip to Harvey Tuesday.

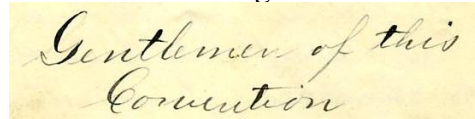
February 26, 1909 Issue

The Manfred-Fram Telephone Company had its annual meeting Monday. The officers are as follows:
President T.T. Jorstad,
Vice President John Fryer
Secretary S.H. Ongstad,
Treasurer K.E. Nelson.

On May 24, 1896 the Vang Ladies Aid organized and held a basket social on that same day.

A quartet composed of Miss Bertha Nertrøst-Soprano, Mrs. Torstein Roble-Alto, Torstein Roble-Tenor, and Sofus Ongstad-Bass opened the meeting with the beautiful hymn: 'Wonderful Words of Life.' Later in the afternoon a basket social was held. The auctioneer for the sale of the baskets was Sofus H. Ongstad who, with his clever remarks and in his inimitable style, brought brisk bidding and much merriment. The total sum of \$20.50 was received and it became the beginning of the newly organized Ladies Aid treasury.

Recorded in the Wells County Free Press and the Vang Church records

Sofus and Rena Ongstad

A portion of a handwritten nominating speech delivered by the Hon. S.H. Ongstad to the Minnesota State Legislature in the 1890s



Sofus and Rena Ongstad c1925
and their children Mildred and Herbert

In looking over this intelligent assembly and taking a view of this rich country they represent... its numerous resources, its warm waterfalls, its facilities for manufacture and commerce, its fertile prairies, and last but not the least its extensive railroads... it becomes a self-evident fact that Otter Tail County has many interests which demand attention in the coming legislature.

And it is of the greatest importance to find a man who is able and willing to attend to these interests... I have the pleasure to put in nomination a man who is in possession of the qualities necessary to make an efficient representative and that man is J. C. Dunham of Norwegian Grove.... The interest of this section will be safe in his hands. His work will bring benefit to the district and credit to his constituents!

A memory by Orvin Ongstad when he helped Sofus with the farm work – “Sofus loved to think about things while doing his chores. I can remember him out in the morning feeding the chickens and giving a sermon on the need for the farmers to form a cooperative. I remember one of the rural mail carriers telling me about meeting Sofus on one of the back country roads and hearing the ‘Gentlemen, We Must Cooperate’ speech from afar.” Another story recounts of a time when Sofus was milking a cow and giving a barn room sermon, he become so engrossed in his sermon that he hadn’t noticed the cow walk away.

Mildred and Alvin Solberg

Mildred in college c1929



Mildred served in the Army 1942-1946



Mildred at her desk in the Superintendent of Schools office at the Wells County Court House in Fessenden, ND



Mildred (Millie) Pernille Ongstad was born April 18, 1909 in Manfred to Sofus and Rena Ongstad. She attended School #2 of the Manfred School District through the eighth grade, graduated from Makoti High School in 1927, and received her teaching certificate from Valley City Teachers College. She taught school at the Dovre School north of Fessenden, Manfred School #2 where she attended when young, Manfred School #1, and also Flasher, ND.

After teaching at Flasher, she returned to the Manfred area and began working in the Wells County Superintendent of Schools office in Fessenden. She later became the Women's Army Corps recruiter for Wells County. In 1942, she entered the Army and served in the Women's Army Corps detachment during WWII until 1946, when she was discharged as a corporal. She returned to work at the Superintendent of Schools Office serving as deputy until 1963, at which time she was elected superintendent and held that position until retiring in 1982. Anne Solheim served as deputy Superintendent of Schools from 1967 until she retired in 1975.

She was a member of Vang Lutheran Church, Manfred serving as Sunday School Superintendent for many years, as well as terms as council treasurer, secretary, deacon, Ladies Aid treasurer, church organist, and also coordinator of the 75th Anniversary Celebration in 1970. She taught Sunday School to those who were of confirmation age, and she knew the Bible very well. She was also in charge of printing the bulletins for the parish. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, Fessenden.

Mildred was refined in her ways, an avid reader, knowledgeable in many areas, and enjoyed gatherings of family and friends.

On October 14, 1986, Mildred married Pastor A. B. (Alvin) Solberg who had been a pastor at Vang Lutheran 1951-1965. They made their home at Grand Forks. Mildred would accompany Alvin on visits to the sick and homebound, and they enjoyed a trip to the Holy Lands together. In 1994, she became a resident of the Northwood Deaconess Health Center in Northwood, ND and died May 9, 1998. Alvin died January 6, 2002.



Mildred and Alvin Solberg
1986



Riding a camel in Egypt

Herbert and Margaret Ongstad



Herbert and Margaret Ongstad
February 14, 1948



Margaret, Herbert, and son Bill
1953



Herbert and Margaret Ongstad Farm in 1984



Herbert grew crops and had a small dairy operation

Photo at right:
Hay attachment on tractor
for lifting the hay into the
barn loft



At left:
Herbert honored as FFA
Honorary Chapter Farmer



Restoration work for Manfred



Herbert and Margaret

*Love of Helping
Family, Friends,
and Community*

Herbert was born in Manfred on April 5, 1911 to Sofus and Rena Ongstad where he lived until age 4, when the family moved to their farm NE of Manfred. He attended School #3 of the Manfred School District through eighth grade, and graduated in 1932 from the Benson Agricultural Training School at Maddock where he was active in FFA.

He then continued with his father in the farming and dairy operation. During the busy season they often hired help, which included: Nels Solberg, Art Rodne, Oscar Ihlen, and Lars Ostrem. Herbert recalls that in the evenings, Lars would sit on the balcony outside his room playing his accordion, the sounds of which could be heard in the surrounding countryside. Herbert and his sister Mildred cared for their aging parents at home; their father died in 1936 and their mother in 1941. Herbert continued on with the farming.

In about 1945, he traveled to Kansas to bring his sister Mildred home on furlough when she was in the Army. She introduced Herbert to her friend Margaret Christensen, whom he later married. Another trip he took was to California in January of 1947 with Conrad Wisness and Iver Grondahl of Maddock.

Margaret (Chris) Catherine Christensen was born April 25, 1921 at Tyler, MN the youngest child of Fred Christensen and Margaret Hensler. Her siblings were Florence, Celia (Krier), Harold, Victor who died in the war, Raymond, and Marvin. She graduated from Tyler High School in 1939. She attended Mankato State College before joining the Army in June of 1944. She received an honorable discharge in October 1946 and afterward worked for J.C. Penney's.

Herbert and Margaret were married Valentine's Day, February 14, 1948, at Central Lutheran, Minneapolis, MN. Their attendants were Herbert's sister Mildred and Margaret's brother Marvin. Herbert and Margaret then settled on the farm. Their home was always a welcome place for Herbert's sister Mildred and Margaret's brother Marvin to stay. Marvin died in 1986 and is buried at Vang Cemetery. Herbert and Margaret had one child William (Bill) born in 1951.

Herbert served on the boards of Heimdal Elevator, Harvey Creamery, Manfred Public School, and Manfred Township. He served in elected offices at Vang Lutheran Church for 42 years – from 1939-1981, as trustee, treasurer, secretary, deacon, usher, and as president eight terms beginning in 1951. He has the distinction of serving as its first president. Prior to that, the pastor had always served as the council chairman. Herbert helped establish the Vang Lutheran Brotherhood, active from the mid 1950s through 1965.

Margaret served on the Vang Church Council as treasurer and secretary, and as Vang Ladies Aid treasurer and secretary. She also served for a number of years as Superintendent of the Sunday School and Sunday School teacher. Herbert and Margaret had an auction in 1979 selling their cows and milking equipment, and began spending their winters at Apache Junction, Arizona. After a lingering illness, Margaret passed away in 1997 and is buried at Vang Cemetery.

Herbert's kind and gentle nature radiates out to all. Family and friends are of great joy to him, and he continues to help his son and grandson with the farming during the summer, spending the winters in Arizona. Herbert is a charter member of Manfred History and Preservation, Inc., serves on the board, and has significantly helped in the betterment of Manfred and its history.



At left:
Bill and Anne
Ongstad
July 7, 1974



Below:
Bill and Anne
with their children
Rebekah, Samuel,
Tabitha, Susanna



The center of the Ongstad Farming operation 1984
The Ole J. Rodne barn, built in c1910, shown at left



Four combines and a grain cart harvesting grain in 2005
under the watchful guise of the Bethel Church building.

Workers on the Ongstad farm include: Dan Fiesel,
Kerry Ebel, Dallas Free, Chris Styne, and Lewis Duffy.



Three generations of Ongstads blessed to farm together

From left: Bill, Sam, Herbert



At left:

Sam and Amy
Ongstad
June 25, 2004

Celebrating the
future of the
Ongstad farming
tradition

Bill and Ann Ongstad

William (Bill) Marvin Ongstad was born in Harvey, ND and grew up on his parent's farm. He attended Manfred School for his first eight years with Mrs. Rogness in the "little room" and Mrs. Cummings in the "big room." He graduated from Fessenden in 1969, participated in football and served as FFA chapter president and state FFA Officer at Large receiving the American Farmer Degree. In 1974, he graduated from NDSU in Agricultural Education. He was in the Crops and Soils Club, elected to the Student Senate, started the "Friends of the Library" organization, member of the FarmHouse Fraternity, and was the first student to chair a Senate Committee - the Academic Resources Committee.

Bill started farming full time in 1974 on the Ole J. Rodne farmstead. The original Rodne barn has been preserved and serves as the farm shop. (See Dec. 2002 Issue, Pages 7 and 10) In 1974, Bill married Anne Whitman the daughter of Ward and Edith (Mahin) Whitman of Robinson. Anne graduated from NDSU in 1975.

Bill served as treasurer and president of the Wells County Better Seed and Grain, treasurer of Fram Township, Harvey School Board member 1993-2005, chairman of the FFA Alumni which helped finance the construction of a greenhouse in 2003 for the Vo Ed and Science Departments of Harvey School.

In 1979, Bill began participating in the US Durum Growers serving as president 1988-90. He has made numerous lobbying trips to Bismarck and Washington DC. In 1986, he was one of twelve North Dakota agriculture leaders to meet with President Ronald Reagan in Grand Forks. Also among the twelve were John Bollingberg of Fessenden representing Edible Beans Council, and Mel Schramm of Cathay for the National Farmers Organization.

He was elected to Farm Credit Services of North Dakota Board of Directors in 2000. He also serves on the Wells County Mentoring Advisory Committee. Bill is widely known, well-versed, and jolly of nature. The Ongstads have been members of Vang Church where Bill served as usher, president, and trustee. Anne served as organist. Bill together with his son Sam have generously given of their time and equipment use to MHP, Inc. for restoration work in Manfred.

Anne manages the Whitman Ranch and is an EMT First Responder. Bill and Ann had five children: Samuel (Sam) and his wife Amy on the farm, Susanna and her husband Wayne Witzel of Hebron, Rebekah (Beka) attending North Dakota State University in music, Tabitha (Tab) attending Jamestown College in pre-med, and Miriam who died in 1995.

Sam and Amy Ongstad

Samuel (Sam) Sofus Ongstad was born to Bill and Anne (Whitman) Ongstad. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Harvey High School in 1994. He was active in FFA – was State Tractor Driving Champion, State Farm Mgmt Champion, and State Farm Mechanics Champion winning the national title as only the second national champion in ND history. He was a member of the FarmHouse Fraternity, and a State Star Farmer. He graduated in 1997 from NDSU with honors in Ag Engineering. He worked at Crary Company in West Fargo as an engineer until moving back to Wells County in 2003 to farm. While in Fargo, Sam received his Master of Business Administration from NDSU, and passed the test to become a licensed professional engineer.

Sam and Amy (Lautt) Ongstad were married June 25, 2004 at the Harvey Mennonite Brethren Church. Sam and Amy now live on the Ongstad Farm, and his parents reside at the Whitman Ranch near Robinson. Amy was born in Harvey, ND to Bryan and Marilyn (Muscha) Lautt. She grew up on the family farm and was active in 4-H and church activities through her school years. She graduated from Tabor College in Hillsboro, KS and worked in Fresno, CA in Youth and Children's Ministry for one year before returning to Harvey. Sam and Amy enjoy their team work on the farm, traveling, hunting, gardening, and being involved in their church. Sam also serves on the Wells County Fair board.