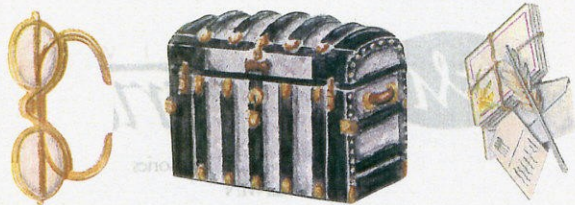


"... O GOD ... THOU HAST GIVEN ME THE HERITAGE OF THOSE THAT FEAR THY NAME." Ps. 61:5b

Ellen B. Ost Cain
Began Nov. 2, 1998
FINISHED MAR. 1999

THIS IS THE SAGA OF GRANDFATHER
JONAS OLOFSSON JOHNSON AND
GRANDMOTHER BRITTA ESBJÖRSON
JOHNSON AND CHILDREN THROUGH 1914.

SAGA - SCANDINAVIAN STORY... TELLING THE
HISTORY OF AN IMPORTANT... FAMILY.
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY



THE STORY ON THESE PAGES IS BASED PRIMARILY ON INFORMATION BY EVELYE OST FUSSE; FROM MARILYN (MEISTER) FISCHER'S HISTORY OF THE JOHNSON-HELGSTEN FAMILY (MARILYN IS THE DAUGHTER OF ANN J. MEISTER, DAUGHTER OF MY UNCLE JOHN JOHNSON) WHO RESEARCHED THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:
INFORMATION IN BRITA ESBJÖRNSDOTTER'S HOMESTEAD FILE (#14167)
FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND ON EXCERPTS FROM COOPERSTOWN NORTH DAKOTA 1882-1982. MINOR SOURCES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:
LANDSCRIVET IN OSTERSUND, SWEDEN
I&I SEARCH COMPUTER PROGRAM, LDS CHURCH, GAINSVILLE, FL.
LDS MICROFILMS 134694 AND 134698
FAMILY REGISTER FROM OLD JOHNSON FAMILY BIBLE
BRITA ESBJÖRNSDOTTER'S DEATH CERTIFICATE
LAND DEED (DOCUMENT NO. 10655, GRIGGS CO, COURT HOUSE
FINAL DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION (DOCUMENT NO. 30204),
GRIGGS CO, COURT HOUSE

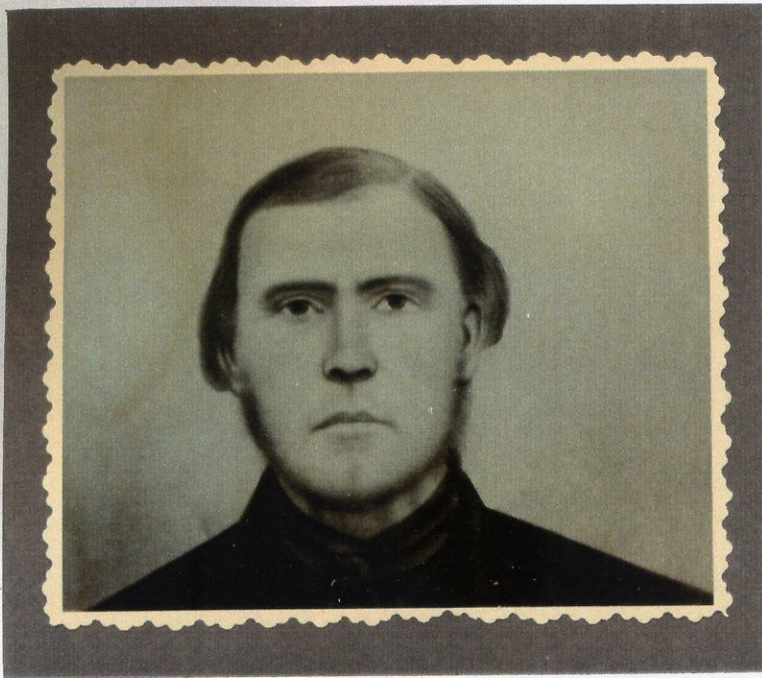
EDWARD L. OLSON (COUSIN) PROVIDED THE HISTORY OF THE SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH AND SEVERAL PICTURES.
(EDWARD L. OLSON WAS THE SON OF EDWARD AND JULIA (PERSON) OLSON. HE IS NOW DECEASED.)











JONAS OLOFSON
WAS BORN JAN. 12, 1837 IN
ÖFVERHÖGDAL, HARJEDALEN,
SWEDEN. THIS IS JUST A
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY TODAY.
IT IS ABOUT 80 MILES WEST
OF SUNDSVAL, WHICH IS ON
THE GULF OF BOTHNIA.

BRITA ESBJÖRS DOTTER
BORN IN ÖFVERHÖGDAL, SWEDEN,
ON SEPT. 8, 1838.

AS A GIRL SHE HERDED CATTLE
AND WOULD TAKE HER LUNCH, AND
BE GONE ALL DAY. SHE WOULD WEAVE
NARROW COTTON STRIPS AS SHE
WALKED ALONG, OR SAT WHILE
THE CATTLE WERE STILL. THE
STRIPS WERE USED FOR BELTS
OR GARTERS.



Familje=Register

FÖRÄLDRARNES NAMN

MAKE, *Jonas O Johnson*
 FÖDD, *den 12 Januari-1837*

MAKA, *Brita Esbjörson*
 FÖDD, *den 8 September-1838*

VIGDE, *den 20 June 1864*
i Ålrunskogdal Sweden
Europe.

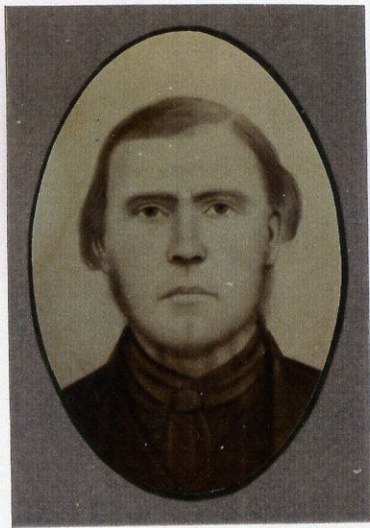
TRANSLATION

SWEDISH - - - - ENGLISH
 Familje= Register - FAMILY REGISTER
 FÖRÄLDRARNES NAMN- PARENTS' NAME
 MAKE - HUSBAND
 FÖDD - BORN
 MAKA - WIFE
 FÖDD - BORN
 VIGDE - WEDDING

SWEDISH - ENGLISH
 OCH - AND
 SÄTER - SOUTH
 FÖDD DEN - BORN THE
 DOTTER - DAUGHTER
 MAJ ÅR - MAY YEAR
 DÖD - DIED

BABY JONAS, BORN NOV. 25, 1874, DIED
 IN SWEDEN, DEC. 12, 1875.

Ålrunskogdal och Säter
Jonas Olofson född -
den 12. Januari År 1837
Brita Esbjörson född -
den 8 September År 1838.
Son Olof född den 12. April År 1865
dotter Sigrid född den 5 Maj År 1869
dotter Esbjör född den 15. Maj År 1871
Son Jonas född den 25. November 1874
Död den 12. December 1875,
Son Johan född den 30. November År 1878
dotter Brita född den 12. October År 1891
Jonas Olofson, Död den 29/12/1892
Sigrid Död den 3/11/1894



JONAS OLOFSON PROBABLY MET BRITA EBBJÖRSON AT CHURCH SERVICES IN THEIR COMMUNITY. JUNE 20, 1864 WAS THEIR WEDDING DATE.

THEIR UNION WAS BLESSED WITH SIX CHILDREN: OLOF, SIGRID, ESBJÖR, JONAS, JOHAN AND BRITA.

HIS VOCATION IS UNKNOWN. THE LAND IS FULL OF TREES AND ROCKS. FINDING IT HARD TO EKE OUT A LIVING, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO GO TO AMERICA, WHERE MANY OF THEIR FRIENDS HAD ALREADY SETTLED. THEY BOUGHT PASSAGE FOR THE SPRING OF 1883. DURING THE TIME OF PREPARATION FOR GOING TO AMERICA, JONAS WAS NOT WELL. HE HAD A CONSTANT COUGH. THEY NEVER LEARNED WHAT HIS ILLNESS WAS. HE DIED DEC. 29, 1882 AT THE AGE OF FORTY-FIVE! HE LEFT BRITA WITH FIVE CHILDREN AGES 17½ TO A BABY OF FOURTEEN MONTHS.

BARNENS NAMN

Olof född den 13^{de} April 1865

Sigrid " " " 5 Maj 1869

Esbjör " " " 15 " 1872

Jonas " " " 25 November 1874

* Johan " " " 30 " 1878

** Betsey " " 12 Oct 1881

Alle född i Öfverhogdal Swed.

* NAME JOHAN CHANGED TO JOHN IN AMERICA

** NAME BRITA CHANGED TO BETSEY IN AMERICA

SWEDISH	ENGLISH
BARNENS NAMN	CHILDREN'S NAME
ALLA FÖDD I	ALL BORN IN



"...IF GOD BE FOR US,
WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?"
ROMANS 8: 31

(TRANSLATION OF REVERSE SIDE OF CARD)

MINNE AF - - SOUVENIR FROM

EMMA KOENSTRÖM

TILL - - TO

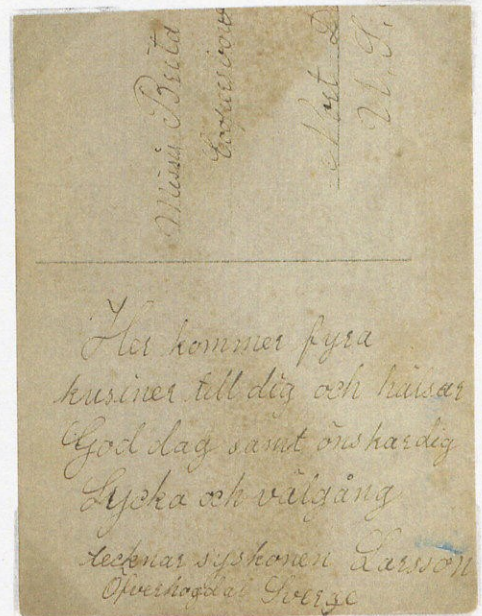
SIGRID JONAS DOTTER

(SIGRID IS BETSEY JOHNSON OST'S SISTER)

JONAS OLOFSON HAD A BROTHER WHOSE CHILDREN WERE: JONAS OLSON (WIFE-INGRID), SIGRID (HUSBAND-ESBJÖ OLSON), AND MARTHA* (HUSBAND-JENS PERSON).

PAUL OLSON AND OLOF JÖNSEN ARE RELATIVES AS WELL AS SOMEONE NAMED LARSSON. (SEE PHOTO BELOW). * MARTHA IS THE LADY NEXT TO THE MAN IN PHOTO. SHE ALSO EMIGRATED TO AMERICA.

JONAS OLOFSON WAS NEXT TO THE YOUNGEST OF SEVEN CHILDREN. HIS FATHER'S NAME WAS OLOF LARSSON. (IN SWEDEN PEOPLE CHOSE A FAMILY NAME OF A RELATIVE. EXAMPLE: JONAS' BROTHERS WERE OLSON, MAYBE JÖNSEN, AND LARSSON.) JONAS OLOFSON'S NAME BECAME "JOHNSON" IN AMERICA. JONAS' MOTHER WAS SIGRID JÖNSDOTTER.



TRANSLATION OF ABOVE CARD:

MISSIS BRITA (BETSEY JOHNSON)

COOPERSTOWN NORTH DAKOTA U.S.A.

HERE COME FOUR COUSINS TO YOU AND GREET GOODDAY AND WISH FORTUNE AND GOOD HEALTH.

SIGNED FIRST COUSIN LARSSON
ÖFVERHOGDAL SWEDEN

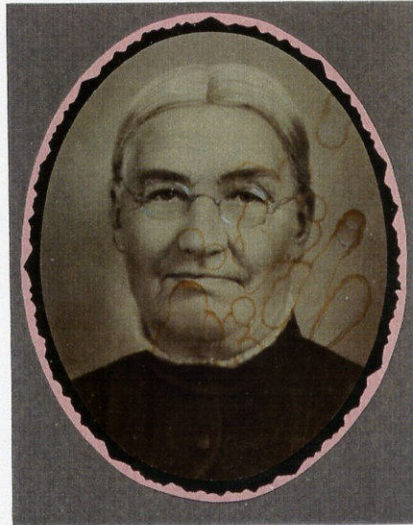


PICTURE ABOVE TAKEN
IN SWEDEN (CIRCA 1860'S).

MORBROR HANS
MOTHER'S BROTHER - HANS
(WRITTEN BY BETSEY J. OST)

THERE IS LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT BRITA
ESBJÖRSON'S FAMILY. SHE HAD ONE
BROTHER - HANS, AND ONE SISTER.

MARGRETA JONSSON. FURTHER DATA REVEALS HER
PARENTS WERE: BRITA HANSDOTTER AND ESBJOR SWENSSON.
SHE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF SIX CHILDREN.



JESUS KRISTUS
ÄR DENSAMME
i GÅR OCH i DAG
OCH TILL EVIGA TIDER.

HEB. 12:2
" 13:8

"JESUS CHRIST
IS THE SAME
YESTERDAY AND TODAY
AND FOREVER." HEB. 13:8



UNCLE HANS AND WIFE. ALSO
TAKEN IN SWEDEN (CIRCA 1900'S?)
"COFFEE TIME" UNDER THE BIRCH TREES.

SYSTER BRITA
LÄTOM OSS
SE PÅ JESUS.
LET US LOOK UNTO JESUS.
HEB. 12:2

TRANSLATION OF REVERSE SIDE:
EN KER HELSNING
FRÅN DIN SYSTER
MARGRETA JONSSON



A LOVING GREETING
FROM YOUR SISTER
MARGRETA JONSSON

WHEN HER HUSBAND JONAS
DIED, BRITA TRUSTED THE
LORD FOR HELP AND GUIDANCE.
SHE WENT AHEAD WITH THEIR
PLANS - THE TICKETS WERE
ALREADY PURCHASED. THEY
SAILED FOR AMERICA IN
THE COLD SPRING OF 1883,
PROBABLY FROM A BALTIC
SEA PORT. THEY MAY HAVE
LANDED IN CANADA.*

(READ EVELYNE O. FOSSE'S ACCOUNT
FOR MORE DETAILS OF THEIR TRIP.)

*CORRECTION: THEY LANDED AT THE
PORT OF NEW YORK IN JUNE 1883. (THIS
INFORMATION CAME LATER.)

"TRUST IN THE LORD
WITH ALL THINE HEART;
AND LEAN NOT UNTO
THINE OWN UNDER-
STANDING.

"IN ALL THY WAYS
ACKNOWLEDGE HIM,
AND HE SHALL DIRECT
THY PATHS."

Prov. 3:5,6

THEY CAME BY TRAIN TO
MAYVILLE, NO. DAKOTA FIRST,
THEN DECIDED TO GO FARTHER
WEST, AND CAME TO COOPERSTOWN
IN GRIGGS COUNTY, N. D.
GRANDMOTHER BRITA JOHNSON
HOMESTEADED 4 MILES WEST OF
TOWN, ON 3 OR 4 QUARTERS OF
LAND, AND A TREE CLAIM -
WHICH BECAME HERS IN 1891.

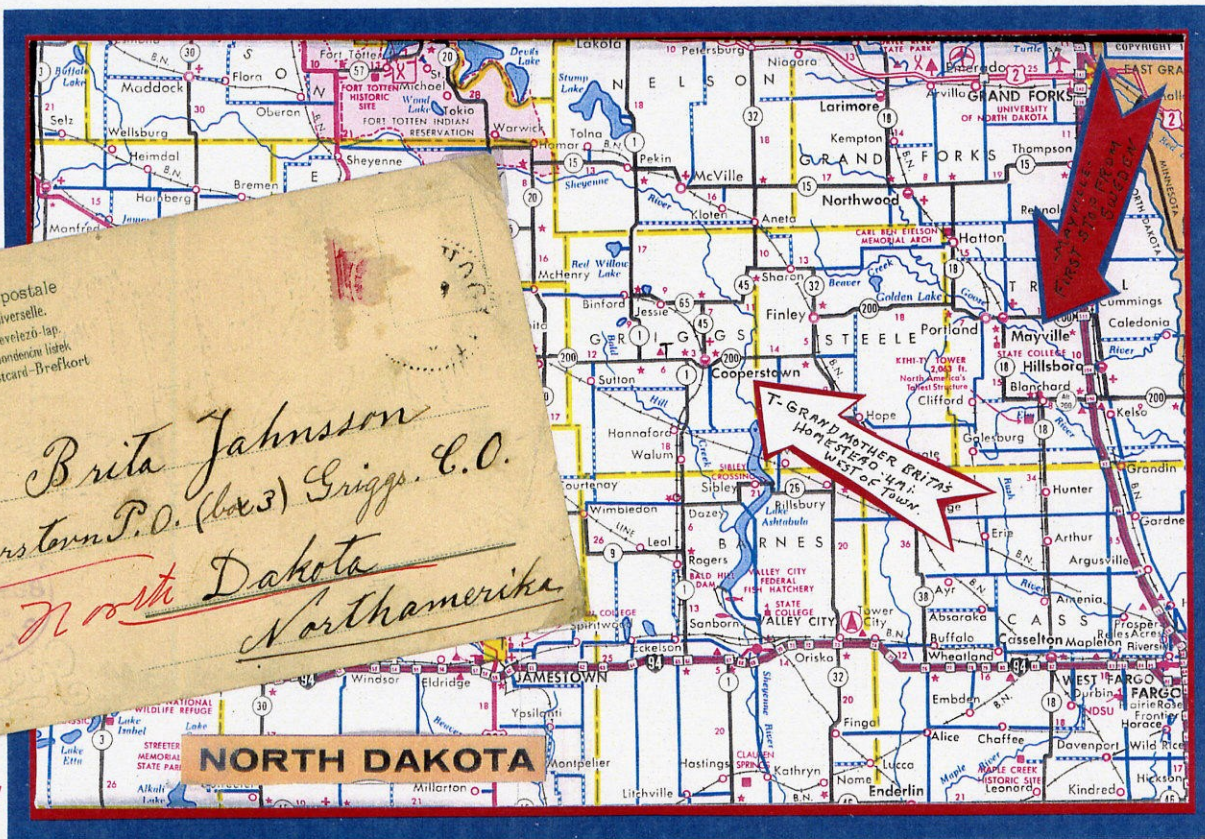
FRONT SIDE OF CARD

ÖFERHÖJDAL
den 29/11 1905
TILLÖNSKAS AF
SIGRID & ESBJÖRN
OLESON
WISHES OF
SIGRID & ESBJÖRN
OLESON
(COUSINS TO BETSEY)

Postkarte - Carte postale
Weltpostverein - Union postale universelle.
Doplnice - Correspondenzkarte - Lavelezó-lap.
Karta korespondeneyina - korespondenca listek.
Briefkaart - Cartolina postale - Postcard - Brefkort.
OTKPATOE: ПИЧКА

Carte Postale Brita Johansson
Cooperstown P.O. (box 3) Griggs, C.O.
North Dakota
Northamerike

KA FRU = WOODWOMAN



FLAG OF SWEDEN

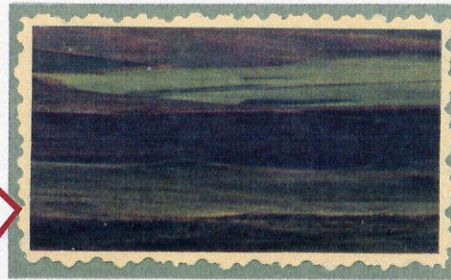


ON AUG. 3, 1883, BRITA APPEARED IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF GRIGGS COUNTY, DAKOTA TERRITORY, AND DECLARED HER INTENTION TO RENOUNCE ALLEGIANCE TO THE "KING OF NORWAY AND SWEDEN", AND BECOME A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES. SHE BECAME A U.S. CITIZEN IN DAKOTA TERRITORY, SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, GRIGGS COUNTY ON JUNE 18, 1889.



U.S. FLAG

BRITA SELECTED A 160-ACRE TRACT OF ROLLING PRAIRIE LAND, WITH NO TREES, (SW 1/4 OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 146, RANGE 59), AND ON AUG. 1, 1883, WITH THE HELP OF NEIGHBORS, BEGAN TO ERECT A DWELLING OF "PINE LUMBERS 9x18 FEET DOUBLED-BOARDED, WITH PAPER BOARD ROOF AND BOARD FLOOR, 2 WINDOWS, 2 DOORS" - VALUED AT \$60.00. SHE MOVED IN DEC. 28, 1883.



DURING THE NEXT SIX YEARS THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE:

"FRAME DWELLING HOUSE 14x18 FEET HAS ADDITION 9x18 FEET -- HAS 6 WINDOWS, 3 DOORS VALUE \$300.00. FRAME GRANERY 16x20 FEET - VALUE \$75.00. 500 STABLE 28x30 FEET - VALUE \$60.00. ONE WELL - 220 FEET - VALUE \$30.00; ONE WELL 10 FEET DEEP - VALUE \$10.00. 80 ACRES BROKEN - VALUE \$240.00. BARB WIRE POSTS - VALUE \$100.00. TOTAL VALUE OF IMPROVEMENTS - \$815.00."

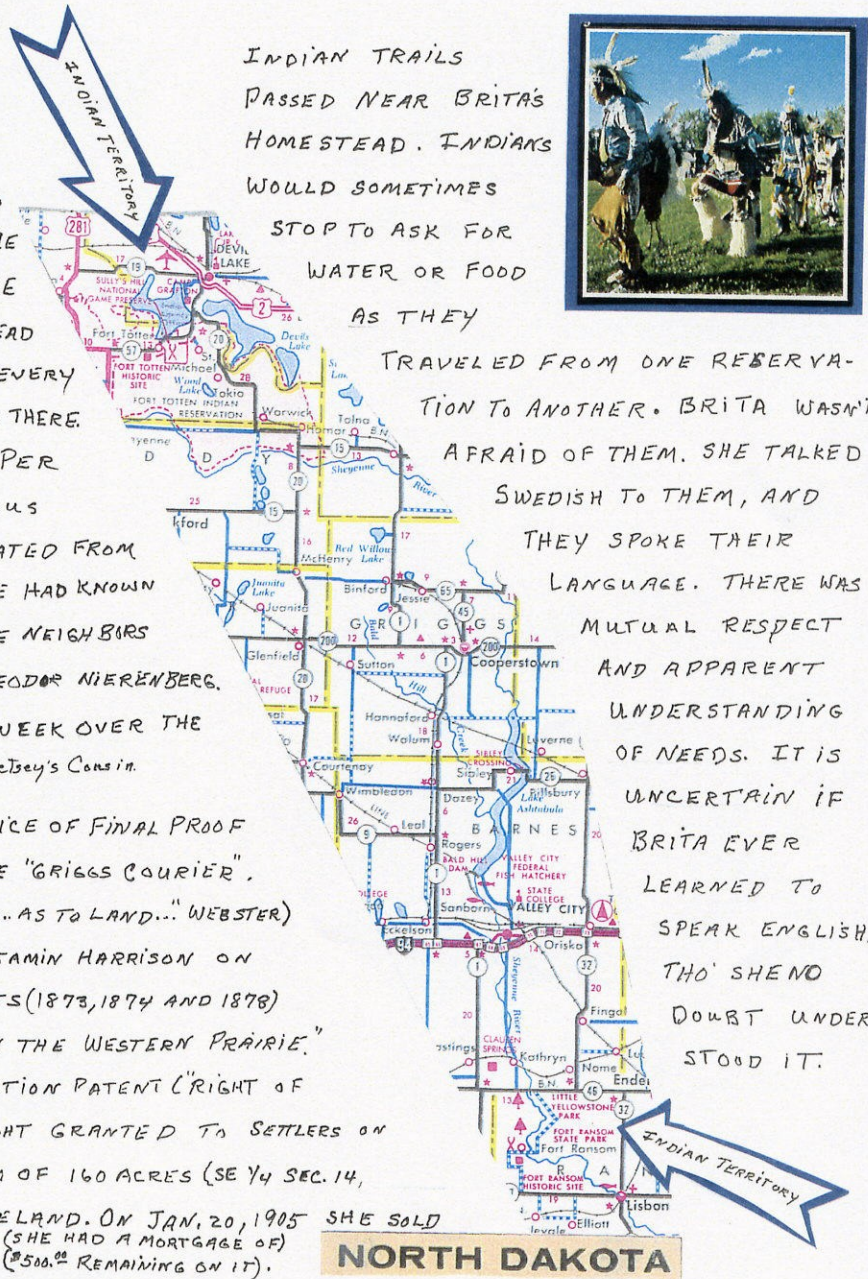
"FURNITURE... CONSISTED OF ONE COOKSTOVE WITH UTENSILS, 3 BEDSTEADS, BEDDING, ONE CUPBOARD, TABLE, CHAIRS & OTHER NECESSITIES FOR HOUSE-KEEPING."

FARM IMPLEMENTS INCLUDED "1 BINDER, 1 WAGON, 3 PLOWS, 2 HARROWS, 1 BUGGY." BRITA HAD "5 HORSES, 16 HEAD OF HORN STOCK COWS, STEERS, HEIFER CALVES, AND 20 CHICKENS." IN 1885, 16 ACRES WERE PLANTED, ... WHEAT AND ... OATS. IN 1886 30 ACRES WERE PLANTED, 55 IN 1887 ... 80 ACRES PLANTED IN 1888 YIELDED 400 BUSHELS OF WHEAT, 600 BUSHELS OF OATS. 80 ACRES WERE ALSO PLANTED IN 1889. BRITA WAS ASSESSED \$600.00 IN TAXES."

ON JAN. 21, 1884, BRITA MADE HER HOMESTEAD APPLICATION AT THE FARGO LAND OFFICE. SHE MADE HER FINAL 5-YEAR PROOF ON AUG. 3, 1889, WITNESSED BY PETRUS ERICKSON, JOHN DAHLBOM, JENS PERSON AND LARS SUNDBERG. * TWO OF THESE NEIGHBORS HAD TO TESTIFY IN WRITING AS TO THE LEGITIMACY OF HER FINAL CLAIM. LARS SUNDBERG (AGE 44), WHO RESIDED 1/2 MILE AWAY, APPARENTLY EMIGRATED FROM THE SAME AREA OF SWEDEN, AS HE HAD KNOWN HER SINCE HE WAS A BOY. HE WAS FARMING ON AN ADJACENT HOMESTEAD AND CLAIMED THAT HE SAW HER NEARLY EVERY DAY DURING THE SIX YEARS SHE HAD LIVED THERE. HE NAMED TWO OTHER CLOSE NEIGHBORS, PER PERSON AND THEODOR NIERENBERG. PETRUS ERICKSON (AGE 28) APPARENTLY ALSO EMIGRATED FROM THE SAME AREA OF SWEDEN, AS HE STATED HE HAD KNOWN BRITA AS LONG AS HE COULD REMEMBER. THE NEIGHBORS HE NAMED WERE LARS SUNDBERG AND THEODOR NIERENBERG. HE CLAIMED HE SAW HER ABOUT ONCE A WEEK OVER THE PREVIOUS SIX YEARS. * LARS SUNDBERG IS Brita's Cousin.

BRITA HAD TO PAY \$6.00 TO HAVE THE NOTICE OF FINAL PROOF PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR SIX WEEKS IN THE "GRIGGS COURIER". A PATENT ("A DOCUMENT GRANTING SOME RIGHTS.. AS TO LAND..." WEBSTER) WAS GRANTED AND SIGNED BY PRES. BENJAMIN HARRISON ON JULY 16, 1890. CONGRESS PASSED 3 ACTS (1873, 1874 AND 1876) "TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF TIMBER ON THE WESTERN PRAIRIE." ON DEC. 9, 1895, BRITA RECEIVED A PRE-EMPTION PATENT ("RIGHT OF BUYING LAND BEFORE OTHERS, ESP. SUCH A RIGHT GRANTED TO SETTLERS ON PUBLIC LAND.. WEBSTER) FOR HER TREE CLAIM OF 160 ACRES (SE 1/4 SEC. 14, TWP 146, R. 60), SIGNED BY PRES. GROVER CLEVELAND. ON JAN. 20, 1905 SHE SOLD HER TREE CLAIM TO KNUD THOMPSON FOR \$3200.00 (SHE HAD A MORTGAGE OF \$500.00 REMAINING ON IT).

GRANDMOTHER BRITA WAS GIFTED AS A MIDWIFE, AND WOULD ANSWER CALLS ANYTIME TO HELP AT A BIRTH - OFTEN GETTING UP IN THE NIGHT, HARNESSING HER HORSE TO A SMALL BUGGY AND GOING TO THE HOME OF THE EXPECTED BABY!



"ASK, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN
 YOU; SEEK AND YE SHALL
 FIND; KNOCK, AND IT SHALL
 BE OPENED UNTO YOU."

LUKE 11:9

(TURN CARD OVER)

ETT LITET MINNE AF
 VÄNNEN EMMA EDENSTROM

TILL VÄNNEN SIGRI JONSON
 TRANSLATION:

A LITTLE SOUVENIR

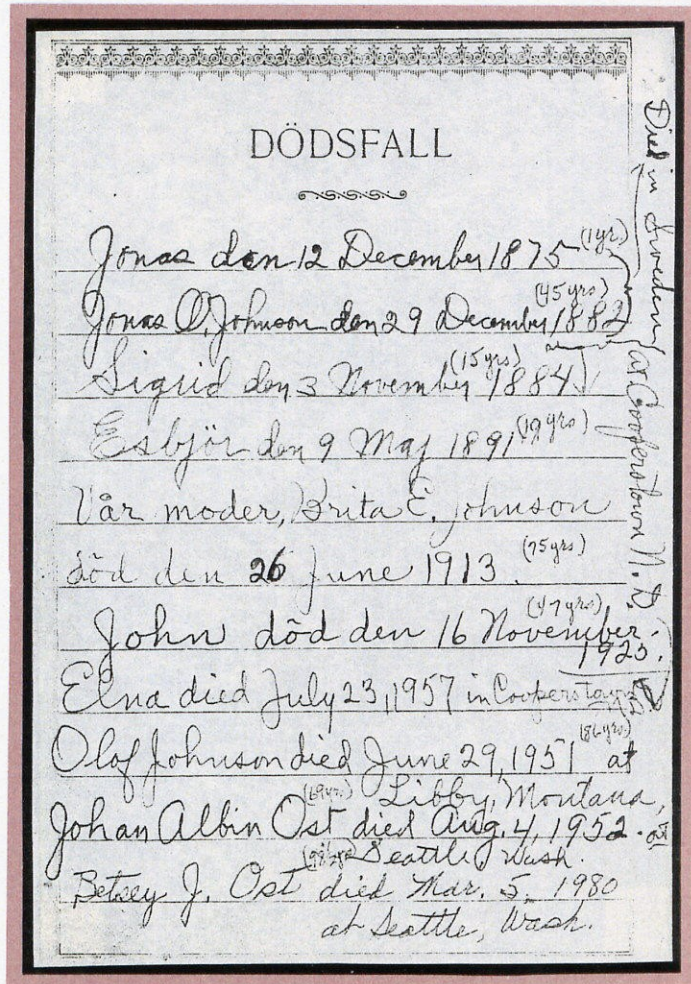
By FRIEND EMMA EDENSTROM
 TO A FRIEND SIGRI JONSON



ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF
 AFTER COMING TO NO. DAKOTA,
 SIGRID, NOW 15, BECAME ILL AND
 DIED NOV. 3, 1884. SHE WAS
 GRANDMOTHER'S SPECIAL HELPER
 IN THE HOME - GONE!



"HE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON, BUT
 DELIVERED HIM UP FOR US ALL, HOW
 SHALL HE NOT WITH HIM ALSO FREELY
 GIVE US ALL THINGS?" ROMANS 8:32

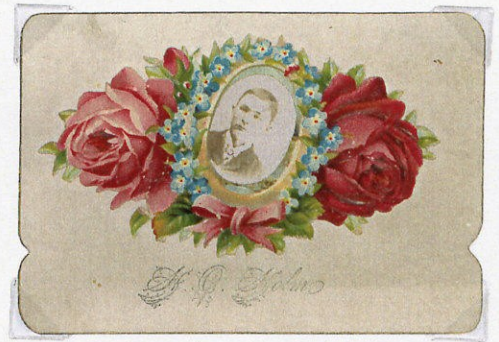


(REVERSE SIDE OF CARD)
 ETT MINNE FRÅN SWEDEN!
 AF EMMA EDENSTROM
 ! 1883!

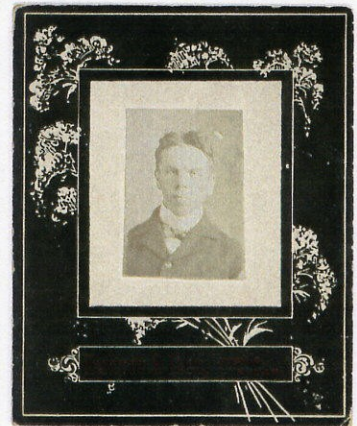
TRANSLATION
 A SOUVENIR FROM SWEDEN!
 By EMMA EDENSTROM
 ! 1883!

SWEDISH	- - - -	ENGLISH
DÖDSFALL	-	DEATH
DEN	-	THE
VÅR MODER	-	OUR MOTHER
DÖD	-	DIED

1890's
 TO EARLY 1900's
 N.D. FRIENDS, AUTOS,
 AND MEMOIRS - FROM
 BETSEY JOHNSON'S PAST.
 WHO ARE THEY??



INGRID KATRIINA GRIFJON



BRITA'S OLDER SON, OLOF, WENT DOWN TO MINNEAPOLIS, MN. TO LEARN ENGLISH AND BOOKKEEPING. THEN HE WENT TO WASHINGTON STATE. AT FIRST HE WORKED IN THE "PALOUSE COUNTRY" (EASTERN WASH.) SEWING GRAIN BAGS DURING HARVEST. LATER HE WENT TO THE COASTAL AREA.



OLOF WORKED AS A TIMEKEEPER IN A MILL OR A LOGGING CAMP. BECAUSE HE SPOKE BOTH SWEDISH AND ENGLISH, HE WAS HELPFUL SINCE SO MANY OF THE WORKERS WERE SWEDES. IF ALL HAD GONE WELL, GRAND MOTHER BRITA MIGHT HAVE MOVED WEST. HOWEVER IN THE SPRING, PROBABLY DURING PREPARATION FOR PLANTING GRAIN, ESBJÖR, WHO WAS THE MAINSTAY ON THE FARM, BECAME ACUTELY ILL. THE DOCTOR, WHOM JOHN (AGE 12) HAD RIDDEN INTO TOWN DURING THE NIGHT TO FETCH, CALLED IT "INFLAMATION OF THE BOWELS" (PROBABLY APPENDICITIS). NOTHING COULD BE DONE FOR HIM, AND SO HE DIED ON MAY 19, 1891, AT THE AGE OF 19.

WHEN A CHILD OF JENS PERSON DIED, BRITA DONATED LAND FOR A COMMUNITY CEMETERY. IT BECAME THE SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH CEMETERY. MANY NEIGHBORS AS WELL AS RELATIVES WERE BURIED THERE INCLUDING ESBJÖR, BRITA, AND HER SON JOHN.

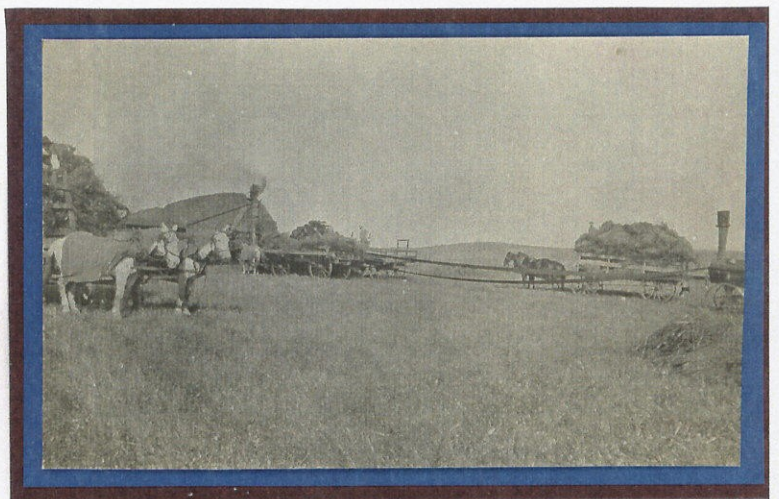
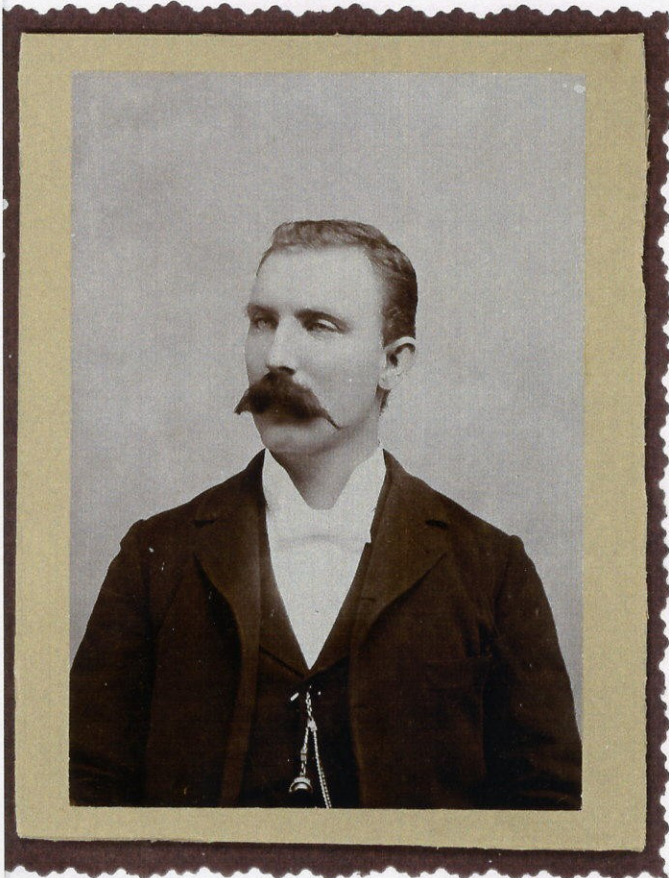
BRITA WAS PART OF A GROUP OF SWEDISH SETTLERS, MANY OF THEM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS, WHO SETTLED 4 MI. WEST OF COOPERS TOWN. FEELING THE NEED FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, THEY BEGAN MEETING IN THEIR HOMES. THEY SANG THE GOOD OLD



SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH S.S. PICNIC AT PER PERSON HOME-19

HYMNS, READ THE BIBLE, AND GAVE THEIR TESTIMONIES. THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD WHERE THEY MET TOOK CHARGE, GIVING A WORD OF ADMONITION TO FOLLOW THE SAVIOR. SUNDAY SCHOOL WAS ADDED AND IT BECAME A CHURCH PROGRAM TO ALL. THE ORIGINAL PIONEERS INCLUDED: ANDERS, JENS AND PER PERSON AND ANOTHER BROTHER JONAS (WHO CHANGED HIS NAME TO SKANSE), LARS SUNDBERG, LUDWIG ANDERSON, PETRUS ERICKSON, JONAS DAHLBOM, AND MRS. BRITA JOHANSON, (MY GRANDMOTHER) A WIDOW WITH FIVE CHILDREN.

OLOF WAS CALLED HOME FROM
THE WEST COAST WHEN ESBJÖR
DIED. HE WAS NEEDED TO HELP
WITH THE FARM. THAT WAS NOT
HIS FAVORITE KIND OF WORK!



THRESHING ON
GRAND MOTHER'S FARM

JOHN OLOF

MOTHER BRITA
BETSEY

(TAKEN CIRCA 1892)
ALL THAT IS LEFT
OF GRAND MOTHERS
FAMILY!



HIERTLIG
LYCKÖNSKAN
TRANSLATION:
HEARTY
CONGRATULATIONS



(REVERSE SIDE OF CARD)

MINNE AF
Jöns BRITA
TILL BRITA KUSIN
TRANSLATION:
SOUVENIR BY
Jöns BRITA
TO COUSIN BRITA
(GRANDMOTHER)

AFTER A FEW YEARS OLOF MET
LISA BRITA JOHNSON, DAUGHTER
OF MR & MRS. LARS JOHNSON. SHE
WAS BORN IN JÄMTLAND, SWEDEN.
HER FAMILY EMIGRATED TO THE
DAKOTA TERRITORY, SVERDRUP
TOWNSHIP IN 1881. OLOF AND
BESSIE (AS SHE WAS CALLED IN
AMERICA) WERE MARRIED
NOV. 30, 1901 IN COOPERSTOWN, M.D.

TWO OF
AUNT BESSIE'S SISTERS



LOUISE MATHILDA

PICTURE POSTCARD - ÖSTERSUND FRÅN KYRKTORNET.
Vi anlände hit till Östersund 12-17-1902/
igår kväll, så vi äro nu på väg till Överhogdal.
Vi mår fortfarande gott. Önskan att dessa rader
triffas eder samma ledes. Har i dag hälsat på
Sörlins. Gubben Sörlin tagit hästar. Jonas i
Uppagården besta här i från på lördag. Han
har varit här och köpt hästar.
Vi sänder eder hermed hela staden Östersund.
Vi resa i morgon vidare. Hälsa alla vänner
från Olof + Bessie. (THEY WERE ON THEIR HONEYMOON)



DATED 2-20-1902
CARD SENT FROM TRELLEBORG, SWEDEN TO BETSEY IN U.S.
We arrived at Östersund, Feb. 17, 1902 last night.
We are now on our way to Överhogdal. We are
feeling wonderfully good. We wish that these lines
will find you the same. Have today visited Sörlins
The elder Sörlin catches horses. Jonas in Uppa-
gårdem will travel from here on Saturday. He
has visited here and bought horses. We send
you the whole town of Östersund! (on this card)
we travel further tomorrow. Greet all our
friends from Olof and Bessie.

UNCLE OLOF JOHNSON FARMED NEAR COOPERSTOWN UNTIL 1903. THEN HE HAD A STORE AND BUSINESS IN MOSE, N.D. (A SMALL TOWN N.W. OF COOPERSTOWN). OLOF AND BESSIE HAD FOUR CHILDREN, TWO OF THEM DYING AS INFANTS: JOSEPH LOREN AND GERTRUDE. THE OTHER TWO ARE: IONE, BORN IN ANETA, N.D., SEPT. 14, 1903, AND ORLO, BORN IN MOSE, N.D., JUNE 9, 1908. THE FAMILY LATER MOVED TO HANNAFORD, N.D. WHERE OLOF HAD A MERCHANDISING BUSINESS FOR MANY YEARS.



IONE JOHNSON



BETSEY J. AND NIECE IONE

ÄKTENSKAP

Olof Johnson & Bessie Johnson
 married Nov. 30, 1901, at Cooperstown ND

John Johnson & Elna Iselysten
 married Aug. 29, 1903 at Cooperstown ND
 Aug. 29, 1903

Betsy Johnson & Johan Albin Ost
 married Dec. 22, 1915 at Hannaford ND

ÄKTENSKAP = MARRIAGE



PICTURED ABOVE: EDITH ANDERSON AND
 BETSEY JOHNSON - TOP ROW. (I DON'T KNOW
 THE NAMES OF THE OTHER TWO.)
 EDITH ANDERSON (BOE) WAS ONE OF BETSEY'S
 FRIENDS IN GRADE & HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
 AS WELL AS IN CHURCH.



CALLING CARD FROM P.A. PERSSON
 CHURCH FRIEND, SCHOOL PUPIL, NEIGHBOR



Belgium



*COOPERSTOWN,
 N. DAK.*

BETSEY JOHNSON

EDITH ANDERSON

BETSEY
FINISHED
THE
EIGHTH
GRADE



AND THEN
SEVERAL
YEARS OF
HIGH SCHOOL



THIS IS THE SCHOOL THAT
EVERY ME (OST) FOSSE, ELMER
OST AND I (ELLEN OST
CAIN) ALL ATTENDED, TOO.

1897-1898.

Ah me! those joyous days are gone!
I little dreamt till they had flown,
How fleeting were the hours. —SAXE.

Presented to

Betsy Johnson

Days present 103 Days absent 2

Cooperstown High School.
Cooperstown, Griggs Co., N. Dak.

Pupils;

Julie Feiring,
Caroline Halvorson,
Nellie Chalmers,
Ida Stevens,
Christian Reite,
Harry St. John,
E. Kuhns,
Ever Stevens,
Eil Edmondson,
E. Graff,
E. Piatt,
E. Haskell,
E. Opheim,
E. Retzlaff,
Edith Anderson,
Emma Ward,
Fannie Palmctier.

Josie Nordhousen,
Mary Rogney,
Mabel Smithers,
Lucius Hazard,
Theodore Marquardt,
Blair Whidden,
George Berg,
Oswold Melgard,
Ray Phipps,
Carl Simenson,
Emil Simenson,
Robert Sansburn,
Charles Anderson,
Betsy Johnson,
Clara Qualey,
Ethel Newberry,
Rachel Ward,

Board of Education;

DAVID BARTLETT, PRES., A. H. BERG, F. J. STONE,
M. W. BUCK, SEC., MRS. R. M. COWAN, P. A. MELGARD.

ANDREW SINCLAIR, COUNTY SUPT.

JAMES H. SINCLAIR, PRINCIPAL.

H. G. PHILLIPS, PUBLISHER, WILLIAMSPORT PA.

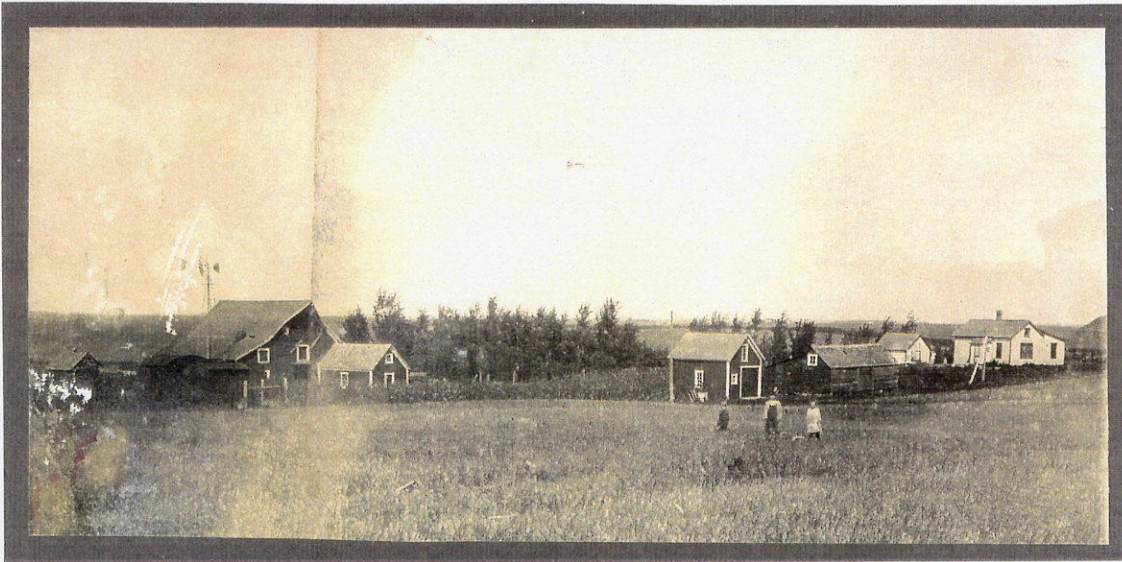
BRITA'S YOUNGEST SON JOHN ALSO WENT TO MINNEAPOLIS TO SCHOOL. THERE HE MET A SWEDISH GIRL ELNA KRISTINE HELGSTEN. THEY WERE MARRIED AUG. 29, 1903 AT COOPERSTOWN. JOHN TOOK OVER THE OPERATION OF THE FARM FROM OLOF -- LOTS OF LONG HARD DAYS OF TILLING THE LAND AND CARING FOR ANIMALS.



UNCLE JOHN & HELPERS HARVESTING CORN.



UNCLE JOHN AND AUNT ELNA - AUG. 29, 1903



UNCLE JOHN AND AUNT ELNA'S FARM HOME. THREE OF THEIR CHILDREN ARE IN THE FOREGROUND: KERMIT, DOLPH & LILLY.

MOTHER BETSEY WAS AN
 INTERESTING AND ADVENTUROUS
 YOUNG LADY.
 HER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION
 WERE HORSEBACK OR BICYCLE.



BETSEY J. AND UNCLE JOHN JOHNSON
 BROTHER AND SISTER



PETE PERSON ON "BIRDIE"	BETSEY ON "FLORDY"	UNCLE JOHN JOHNSON	SKANSE CHILDREN ON "FANNY"
BROTHER OF MRS. AUGUST JOHNSON (JULIA P.) WHO LIVED IN FOSTER COUNTY.			MATT SKANSE (COUSIN OF PETE PERSON)
		1900	

AFTER FINISHING SEVERAL YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL, BETSEY TOOK TESTS WHICH QUALIFIED HER TO TEACH.



MOTHER BETSEY AND FRIEND BERTHA KLUBBEN (WHO WENT TO KENTUCKY AS A MISSIONARY). 1901

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA,
Department of Public Instruction.

TEACHER'S CERTIFICATE.
— SECOND GRADE. —

This is to Certify, that Betsey Johnson has been examined by me this 31st day of August, A. D. 1900, in the branches of study required by law, and the following is the result of the examination:

Reading 94, Writing 80, Orthography 85, Language Lessons and English Grammar 93, Geography 75, United States History 70, Arithmetic 88, Civil Government 73, Physiology and Hygiene 84, and Theory and Practice 75. No. of Institutes attended in State 7. No. of years' experience 4 mos.

Having shown by said examination the knowledge and understanding required, and being personally known to me (or having given sufficient evidence) to be a person of good moral character, and to have an aptness to teach and govern, the said Betsey Johnson is granted this Second Grade Certificate, and is hereby authorized to teach in the common schools of Griggs County for a term of two years.

Andrew Sinclair
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
for Griggs County.

No. 73

TEACHER'S CONTRACT. (F. 143)
ORIGINAL.

Teacher's Contract.

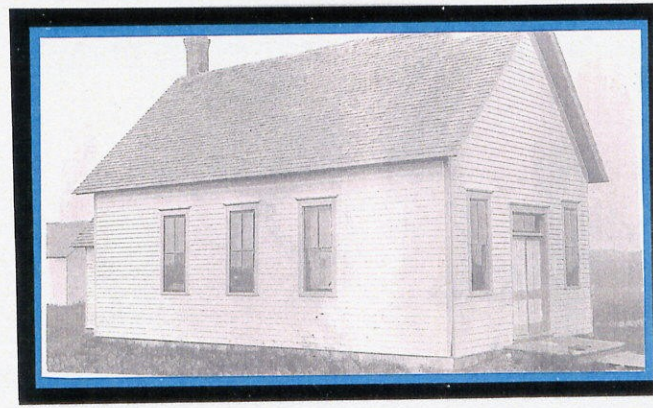
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
County of Griggs is
Red Willow School District 11

This Agreement, Made and entered into this 25 day of March,
A. D. 1901 between Betsey Johnson a duly qualified teacher,
of Griggs County, State of North Dakota, and the School Board of Red Willow
School District 11, County of Griggs, State of North Dakota,
WITNESSETH: That the said Betsey Johnson is to teach School
No. 6 in said School District for a term of three months, commencing on the 25 day of
March A. D. 1901 for which services, truly rendered, the School Board of said School Dis-
trict agrees to pay the said Betsey Johnson at the expiration of each month
of service the sum of three DOLLARS.
Provided, That the salary of the last month in the term shall not be paid until the term report shall be made, filed with,
and be approved by the County Superintendent, as provided by Sec. 748, Revised Codes, 1895, as amended;
Provided, further, That the school may be discontinued at any time, as provided by Sec. 701, Revised Codes, 1895, as
amended, and that no compensation shall be received by said teacher from the date of such discontinuance.

Betsey Johnson teacher.
M. A. West President.
M. A. West Clerk.

By order of the District School Board.

Note.—This contract must be made and signed in duplicate to two school terms, and one copy delivered to the teacher and one copy filed with the Clerk of the District School Board.



BETSEY TAUGHT AT HER HOME SCHOOL - THE HOUGHTON SCHOOL - NAMED AFTER THE MANY HOUGHTON FAMILIES IN THE AREA. EVELYNE, ELMER AND I ALSO ATTENDED HERE.



COLLEGE STUDENT- BETSEY



BETSEY HAD A SUITOR NAMED
CARL HAGMAN, WHOM SHE LIKELY
WOULD HAVE MARRIED IF
J. ALBIN OST HAD NOT COME
ALONG!
CIRCA 1902



WHO WAS HE ??

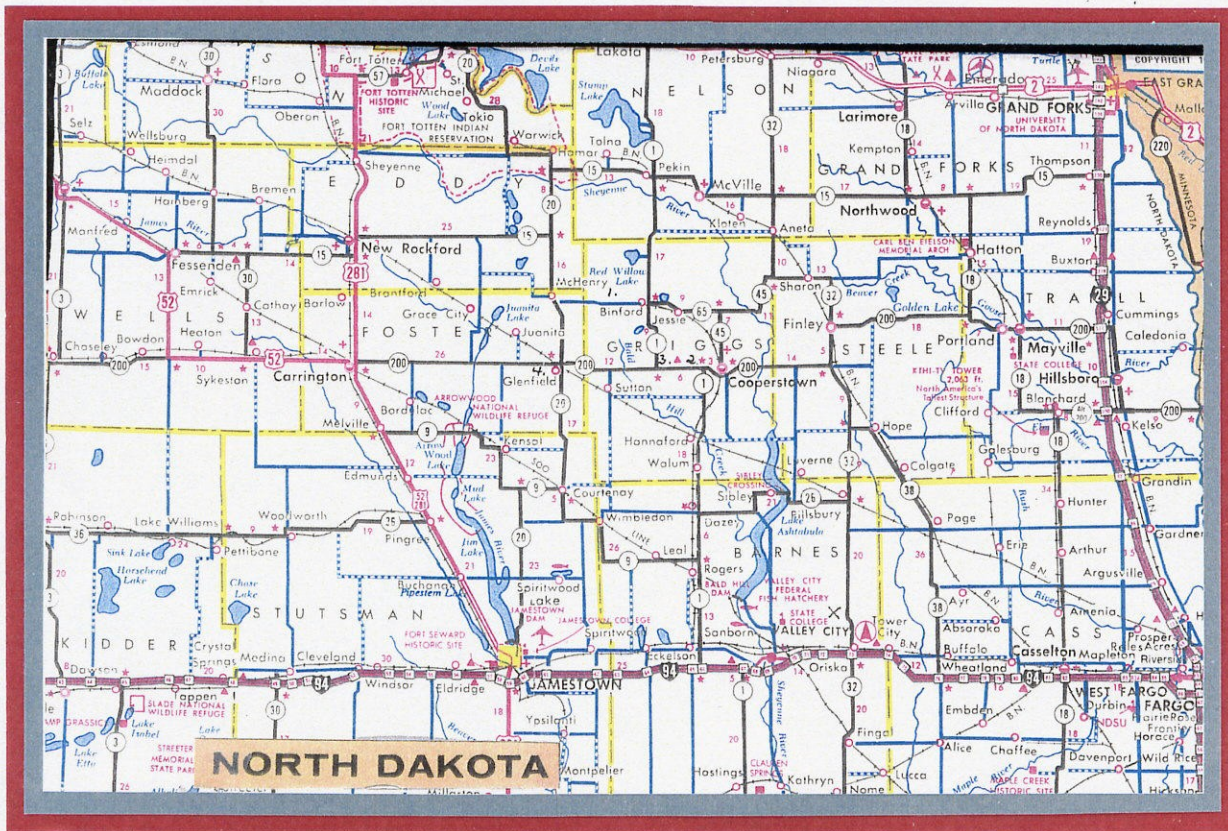
BETSEY AND EDITH ANDERSON ATTENDED
 THE STATE TEACHER'S COLLEGE IN
 VALLEY CITY, N. D. (X ON MAP) DURING THE
 SUMMER MONTHS.

ON THE MAP BELOW ARE THE APPROXIMATE
 LOCATIONS OF THE SCHOOLS WHERE
 MY MOM - BETSEY - TAUGHT FROM
 1900 TO 1914.

1. RED WILLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT - GRIGGS COUNTY
2. HAUGHTON SCHOOL IN COOPERSTOWN TOWNSHIP
3. CLEARFIELD TOWNSHIP - WEST OF COOPERSTOWN TWP.
4. GLENFIELD IN FOSTER COUNTY

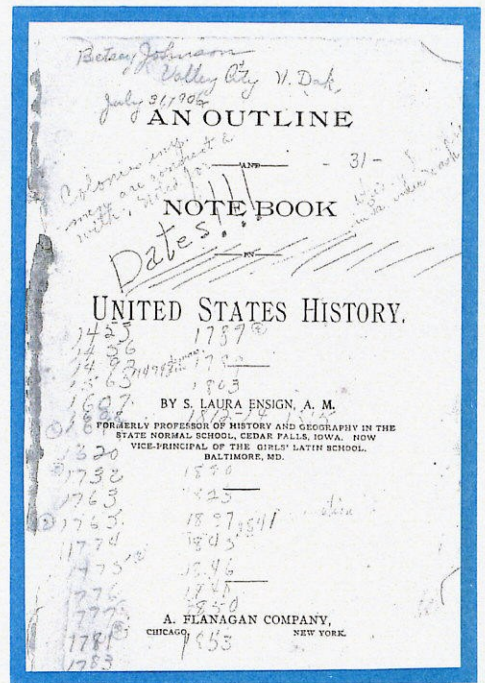


EDITH ANDERSON AND
 BETSEY JOHNSON - 1903





PAGE FROM A
STUDY BOOK BETSEY
USED IN COLLEGE.



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
Department of Public Instruction
SECOND GRADE CERTIFICATE

This Certifies That Applicant No. 8 in an examination held in Gregg County, on the 28 day of October, A. D. 1904, passed in the branches required for this certificate and is entitled to the following standings:

	PER CENT		PER CENT		PER CENT
Reading	73	Geography	74	Physiology and Hygiene including Physical Culture	84
Writing	86	History of the United States	60	Theory and Practice	63
Orthography	74	Arithmetic	60		
Language and Grammar	72	Civil Government	70		

Not valid unless signed below by the county superintendent.

Bismarck, N. D., November 18 1904 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This is to Certify That Betsey Johnson the Applicant above named, has the qualifications of age and experience required by law, and being personally known to me (or having given sufficient evidence) to be a person of good moral character, and to have an aptness to teach and govern, the said Betsey Johnson is granted this Second Grade Certificate, and is hereby authorized to teach in the common schools of Gregg County for a term of two years from date of examination.

This certificate is not valid unless signed above by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It may be made valid in any county by the endorsement of the county superintendent of said county.

Given under my hand and official seal this 29 day of November A. D. 1904 at Cooperstown, N. D.

(SEAL) Superintendent of Schools for Gregg County,
No. 66 Recorded on page 11 of Book 22 of the Records of Teachers' Certificates.



BETSEY AND SOME STUDENTS AT
A SCHOOL IN CLEARFIELD TOWNSHIP.
SEE SOUVENIR BELOW.

RENEWAL.

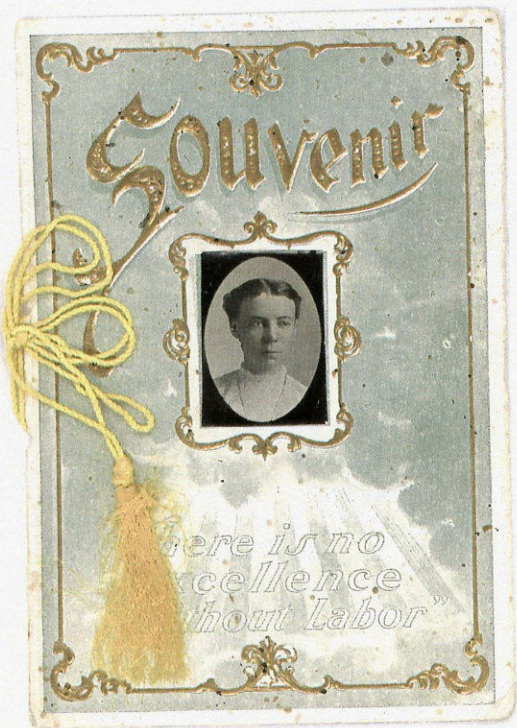
State of North Dakota
County of Griggs

By virtue of membership in the North Dakota Teachers' Reading Circle, and in recognition of school and work record of most successful type and the completion of the prescribed course therein for the past two years by the within-named teacher Mrs. Betsey Johnson, this certificate is hereby renewed in accordance with the requirements imposed under authority of Section 742, Revised Codes of North Dakota as amended, and the said Betsey Johnson is hereby authorized to teach in the common schools of Griggs County for a period of two years from and after the expiration of the term of which the within certificate was first issued.

Dated at Cooperstown N. D., this 22d day of October, 1906.

(SEAL) Clara Steering
Superintendent of Schools for Griggs County.

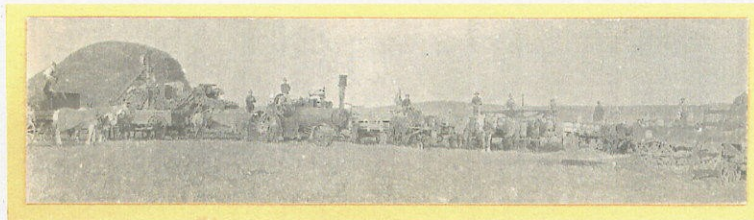
No. 101 Recorded on Page 18, Book 172, Records of Teachers' Certificates.



BETSEY - 1906 - AGE 25

MY MOTHER, BETSEY, MET MY FATHER, JOHAN ALBIN OST ABOUT 1911. HE CAME TO COOPERTOWN DURING HARVEST TIME -- HE WAS A MECHANIC ON THE THRESHING MACHINE.

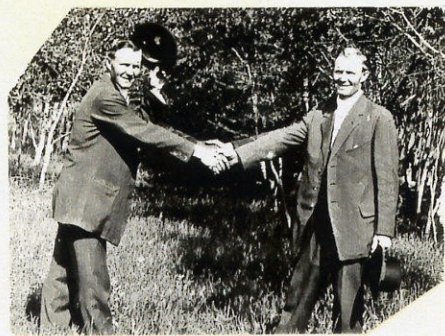
HE HAD COME FROM HOMESTEADING NEAR LEMMON, S. DAK. HE GAVE THAT UP BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH POOR LAND.



THRESHING ON THE JOHNSON LAND.



DAD ALBIN WAS QUITE A PHOTOGRAPHER - DEVELOPING AND PRINTING THE PICTURES HIMSELF.



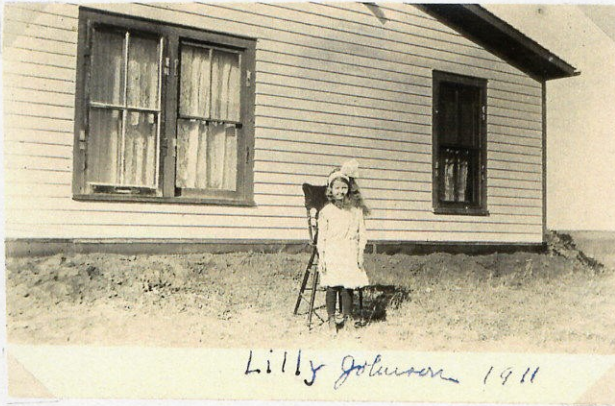
WITH TIME EXPOSURE, DAD "SHOOK HANDS" WITH HIMSELF!



BETSEY - CIRCA 1906



THE JOHNSON HOMESTEAD - 1914 - HOUSE HAS A SECOND STORY.



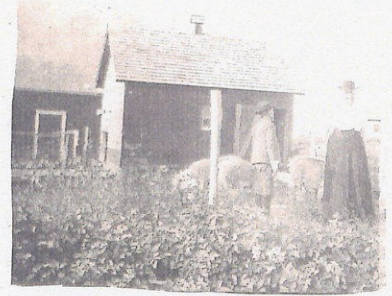
Lilly Johnson 1911



BABY CARL MARVIN - 1912

TEN CHILDREN WERE BORN TO UNCLE JOHN AND AUNT ELYA:

JONAS ADOLPH, LILLY, JOHN KERMIT, VINA MAE, CARL MARVIN, ANNA BRITA, MARGARET, RICHARD LO, JOSEPH (HE DIED AT 4 Mos.), AND DONALD ROGER.



GRANDMOTHER BRITA LIVED WITH HER SON JOHN AND FAMILY.



FRONT ROW: MRS. MORTON SWENSON (ELYA'S SISTER) ELYA, BABY ANNA, BETSEY

MIDDLE: UNCLE JOHN HOLDING CARL - MORTON SWENSON (HOLDING A DOG!)

TOP ROW: VINA, KERMIT, LILLY, ADOLPH

THE PICTURE WAS TAKEN AT UNCLE JOHN'S HOME.

CIRCA 1914



AUNT ELNA - LILLY

BETSEY ADOLPH

1907



UNCLE JOHN AND AUNT ELNA'S CHILDREN - 1916

LEFT TO RIGHT:

KERMIT ADOLPH LILLY
ANN CARL VINA

Adolph J. Dec. 17 - 1904
Lilly Oct 20 - 1906
Kermit June 26 1908
Vina May 10 1910
Carl M. Oct. 18 - 1912
Anno June 12 1914
Margaret (April) 7, 1916
Richard (Dick) SEPT. 21 1917
Roger Oct. 18 1921

BETSEY JOHNSON'S BIRTHDATE RECORD
OF HER BROTHER JOHN'S CHILDREN.

A FAVORITE HYMN OF GRANDMOTHER BRITA
 IN SWEDEN - "OSTORE GUD" - IS ALSO
 SPECIAL TO US: "HOW GREAT THOU ART".

GRANDMOTHER BRITA WAS GIVEN
 THIS LUNCH BOX WHEN SHE WAS 18
 (1856). SHE BROUGHT IT WITH HER
 TO AMERICA. IT WILL BELONG TO
 OUR DAUGHTER ROBIN.

How Great Thou Art

CARL BOBERG, 1859-1940
 Trans. by STUART K. HINE, 1899.

O STORE GUD Irregular with Refrain
 Swedish Folk Melody
 Arr. by MANNA MUSIC, INC.

1. O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 2. When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the
 3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

Refrain
 thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the un - i - verse dis - played,
 gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze; Then sings my
 bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin; Then sings my
 ra - tion And there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art!

soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my
 soul, my Sav - ior God to thee; How great thou art, how great thou art!

© Copyright 1955 by Manna Music, Inc., Hollywood 28, California. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Used by permission. *Translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."



GRANDMOTHER BRITA AND BETSEY - 1909



"FREE TRANSLATION" OF POST CARD

McHENRY JAN. 12, 1908

AS YOU HAVE HEARD ALSO, THEN I ARRIVED YESTERDAY EVENING THOUGH I HAD TO GO BACK TO MOSE [WHERE UNCLE OLOF LIVED], BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE SO I TELEPHONED JULIA AND SAID I COULD NOT COME RIGHT AWAY AS I WOULD HAVE LIKED. TILLIE IS HERE IN THE HOUSE JULIA & ED STILL SHE DID NOT HAVE THE BABY HOME. THEY ARE ALL WELL HERE. BUT THEY SAY MRS. JOHNSON IS WORSE NOW. SHE IS IN BED. HOPE YOU ARE ALL RIGHT. AND SO I WRITE QUICKLY. FROM B. (BETSEY) MRS. J. IS BETTER HER CHILDREN TELL ME.

JAN. 14

I COULDN'T SEND THIS YESTERDAY BUT TRUST I WILL DO IT TODAY. AUGUST IS ALMOST SICK WITH THE GRIPP - THE OTHERS ARE WELL. HE IS BETTER TODAY. [MOTHER BETSEY WAS TEACHING IN] [FOSTER COUNTY]

Mt Henry, Jan. 12, 1908.
 Som ni har vel hørt också så som jag fram i går kväll fastän jag gick tillbaka till Mose, när jag var där så sa de och sade jag kunde komma på en gång. Tillie är här och hon hade baby hemma. De män alla är här. Ni är säg att ni är bättre. Hoppas ni mår bra, och så må ni skriva snart, från Mrs. J. är bättre om de barnen.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE.

Post Card
 MCHENRY
 1908
 FOR ADDRESS ONLY



ENDORSEMENT.

State of North Dakota
 County of Foster ss

The within certificate is hereby made valid in and for Foster County, North Dakota, during the period for which it has been renewed, as authorized by Section 742 Revised Codes of North Dakota as amended, and same has been recorded on Page 14 Book 7, of the Records of Teachers' Certificates for this County.

Dated at Carroll, N. D. this 11 day of September 1907 Mary J. Craig
 Superintendent of Schools for Foster County.

By virtue of six weeks attendance at the Valley City summer school and requisite work accomplished, the within named Betsey Johnson this certificate is hereby renewed in accordance with the requirements imposed under authority of Section 742 Revised Codes of North Dakota as amended and the said Betsey Johnson is hereby authorized to teach in the common schools of Foster County for a period of two years from and after the expiration of the term of which the within certificate was first renewed.

Sept 29 - 1908 -
Mo. 20 - Jan 22 1909
Mary J. Craig
 Supt. Foster Co.

TRANSLATION OF BRITA'S LETTER.

COOPERSTOWN APRIL 8, 1910

GOD'S PEACE MY BELOVED BETSEY.

THANKS FOR THE LETTER. SO WE ARE WELL. SO IT GOES ONE DAY AT A TIME.

YES, HERE IS NEWS FROM HOME. I AM DOING NOTHING. ANNIE IS NOW HERE AND SHE AND WE ALL WERE TO DALBOM'S YESTERDAY FOR A MEETING. THERE WAS A MISSIONARY. AT NOON TODAY JOHANA AND HILMA VISITED HERE. SHE IS VERY WELL. THERE IS MUCH GOOD TO WRITE ABOUT BUT I CANNOT DO IT MYSELF SO I WILL CLOSE. THERE WAS A GOOD OFFER FOR YOUR 100 BUCK, WHO YOU WILL KNOW. GREET EVERYBODY FROM YOUR MAMA.

Isn't it Good!
Brita Johnson



Brita Johnson

Cooperstown, April 8, 1910.

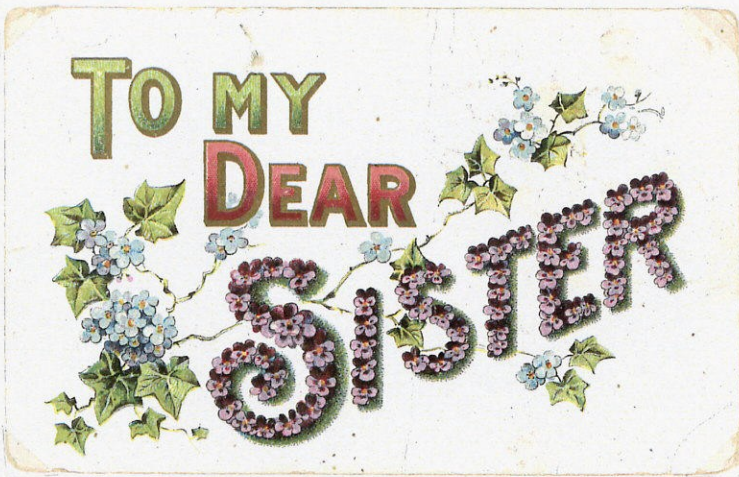
Guds frid min Älskade Betsey
 Tack för brevet. Så vi här hälsa så går
 det nog än dag om sänder. Ja nu är det
 nyt här hemma. Jag göra ingen ting. Anne
 är ju här, en den all vi var till Dalbom i går.
 Hå miting det var en missioner 12 i dag har
 Johana och Hilma varit hit. Hon är bra
 nog. Det vara nog mycke att skrif om
 jag kunna så jag får nog sluta. Dit var
 nog någon offerer 100 Blok som du vill
 veta.
 Helsa alla från Din Mamma
 Uritten by mig mother Mrs. Brita Johnson
 Cooperstown N. Dak.

COOPERSTOWN APRIL 8, 1910

GUDS FRID MIN ÄLSKADA BETSEY.

TACK FÖR BREVET. SÅ VI HÄR HÄLSA SÅ GÅR
 DET NOG ÄN DAG OM SÄNDER. JA NU ÄR DET
 NYT HÄR HEMMA. JAG GÖRA INGEN TING. ANNE
 ÄR JU HÄR, EN DEN ALL VI VAR TILL DALBOM I GÅR.
 HÅ MITING DET VAR EN MISSIONER 12 I DAG HAR
 JOHANA OCH HILMA VASIT HIT. HON ÄR BRA
 NOG. DET VARA NOG MYCKE ATT SKRIF OM
 JAG KUNNA SÅ JAG FÄR NOG SLUTA. DIT VAR
 NOG NÅGON OFERER 100 BLOK SOM DU VILLA VETA.

HELSE ALLA FRÅN DIN MAMA.



MISS BETSEY JOHNSON
 R.T. 1 90 A. W. JOHNSON
 McHENRY, N. D.

11-16-09

WE ARE ALL WELL. HOPE YOU ARE SAME.
 OLE WENT HOME SATURDAY. COMING BACK
 AGAIN TOMORROW. SYVERT IS HERE YET.
 THINK HE WILL STAY SOME TIME. HAVE
 NOT DONE ANYTHING WITH THE HOUSE YET.
 HOW IS DICK? (A HORSE) GREET THE FOLKS.

Your Bro. J. (John)



BETSEY AND SCHOOL CHILDREN IN FOSTER
 COUNTY. ALICE JOHNSON - 2ND ROW AND RUTH
 JOHNSON - FRONT ROW ON LEFT - AUG. & JULIA JOHNSON FAMILY.



BETSEY WAS A TEACHER FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS. SHE HAD VERY NICE HANDWRITING AND HAD A WINSOME WAY ABOUT HER THAT WOULD CHARM THE CHILDREN IN HER CARE. SHE OFTEN HAD YOUNG MEN IN HER SCHOOLS WHO WERE OLDER AND BIGGER THAN SHE WAS, BUT SHE MANAGED THEM ALL VERY WELL, PETITE AS SHE WAS, WITH HER GENTLE PERSUASIVE WAY, AND PATIENT TEACHER'S HEART! THEY ALL LOVED HER! SHE HAD MANY LOVELY GIFTS BROUGHT TO HER AT THE CLOSE OF THE SCHOOL YEAR ATTESTING TO THAT FACT.



ALICE J. JULIA (MRS. AUG. JOHNSON) BETSEY
 KERMIT Nephew RUTH J.
 THESE ARE DEAR FRIENDS OF BETSEY
 THAT BETSEY MADE IN HER TEACHING YEARS
 NEAR GLENFIELD, N.D. ALICE BECAME A NURSE
 AND WORKED IN A HOME FOR RETARDED PEOPLE
 IN SELAH, WA IN THE 1950'S. SHE HELPED
 CARE FOR MARY ELLEN FOSSE, DAUGHTER
 OF WILSON AND EVELYNE. SUCH LONG-LASTING
 FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE!!

By virtue of six weeks attendance at the Valley City summer school and requisite work accomplished, by the within named Betsey Johnson this certificate is hereby renewed in accordance with the requirements imposed under authority of Section 742, Revised Codes of North Dakota as amended and the said Betsey Johnson hereby authorized to teach in the common schools of Foster County for a period of two years from and after the expiration of the term of which the within certificate was before renewed.

Mary J. Cain
 Superintendent of Foster Co.

No. 276 Page 30, Book I.
 Oct 25 - 1910.



x BETSEY AND SOME OF HER FRIENDS

By virtue of six weeks attendance at the Valley City summer school and requisite work accomplished, by the within named Betsey Johnson this certificate is hereby renewed in accordance with the requirements imposed under authority of Section 742, Revised Codes of North Dakota as amended and the said Betsey Johnson is hereby authorized to teach in the common schools of Foster County for a period of two years from and after the expiration of the term of which the within certificate was before renewed.

Del. 28, 1912. *Mary J. Cain*
 Superintendent of Foster County.



JOHAN ALBIN OST

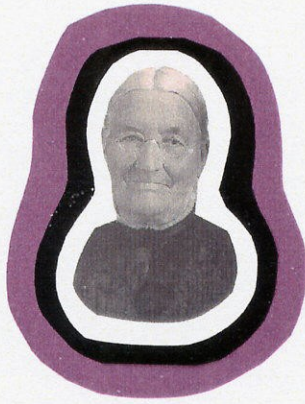
LOOKING RATHER SAD BECAUSE
HE HAD TO LEAVE HIS "LOVED ONE"
(BETSEY?) AND RETURN TO So. DAK.
OR MINNEAPOLI'S.(?) CIRCA 1912



WATCHING THE CHICKENS EAT.
CAN YOU COUNT THE BABY
CHICKS?



COFFEE TIME OUT BY THE THRESHING
RIG ON UNCLE JOHN'S FARM.



GRANDMOTHER BRITA JOHNSON
"A GRAND OLD LADY"

TRANSLATION OF DEATH NOTICE

By THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WE INFORM OUR RELATIONS AND FRIENDS, THAT THE LORD HAS CHOSEN TO CALL HOME OUR AFFECTIONATE BELOVED MOTHER:

BRITA JOHNSON

SHE WAS BORN IN ÖFVERHOGDALS CONGREGATION, JÄMTLANDS LÄN, SWEDEN, THE 8th OF SEPT. 1838 AND PASSED AWAY CALM AND PEACEFUL IN FAITH IN HER SAVIOR, THE 26 OF JUNE 1913, AT THE AGE OF 74 YRS., 9 MO., AND 18 DAYS. SHE CAME TO AMERICA 1883 AND HAS SINCE THEN HAD HER HOME ON HER FARM 4 MI. WEST OF COOPERSTOWN, GREGGS CO., N. DAK. SHE WAS A CALM AND LOVING MOTHER AND IS SORELY MISSED BY US 3 CHILDREN, 7 GRANDCHILDREN, A BROTHER AND SISTER IN SWEDEN, WITH A LARGE HOST OF RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. SHE HAS FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT AND HER CROWN SHE'S WON!
PEACE UPON HER MEMORY.

OLUF JOHNSON
JOHN JOHNSON
BETSEY JOHNSON
CHILDREN

GRANDMOTHER BRITA LIVED AT THE FARM HOME WITH JOHN AND HIS FAMILY UNTIL HER DEATH ON JUNE 26, 1913, AT THE AGE OF 74. SHE DIED FROM "GENERAL INTERSTITIAL NEPHRITIS" (EDEMA-DROPSY: EXCESSIVE WATER IN TISSUES) RELATED TO THE KIDNEYS. SHE HAD SUFFERED FOR SOME TIME WITH THIS.

HER THREE SURVIVING CHILDREN - ÖLOF, JOHN AND BETSEY, EACH RECEIVED ONE-THIRD OF THE HOMESTEAD.



A History of the Congregation
of
Swedish Immigrant "Mission Friends"
and the
Swedish Mission Church
Cooperstown, North Dakota

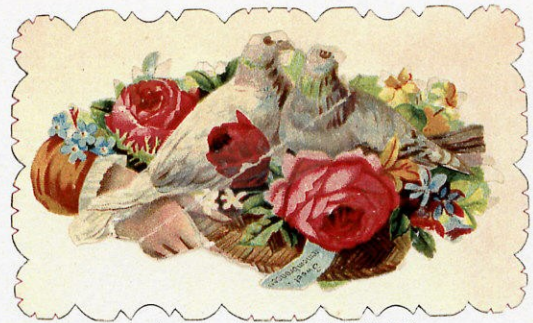


AFTER SOME YEARS OF MEETING
IN HOMES, THE GROWING CONGRE-
GATION MET FOR SERVICES IN
THE HOUGHTON SCHOOL. SOME
ARE IDENTIFIED HERE:

- # 7 - BETSEY JOHNSON
- 4 - JULIA PERSON (OLSON) COUSINS
- 5 - MARTHA PERSON (JOHNSON) "
- 6 - ANNE PERSON (NJAA) "
- 8 - LOUIS PERSON "
- 9 - VINA JOHNSON (NJAA) UNCLE JOHN'S
- 10 - LILLY JOHNSON (HILL) CHILDREN
- 15 - ADOLPH JOHNSON "
- 12 - EDITH ANDERSON (BOE) FRIEND



S. S. CHILDREN & TEACHERS - HOUGHTON SCHOOL



From: MISS CHRISTINA PEARSON



THE JENS PERSON FARM HOME

MISSION FRIENDS CONGREGATION AT JENS PERSON HOME
L.T.O.R.

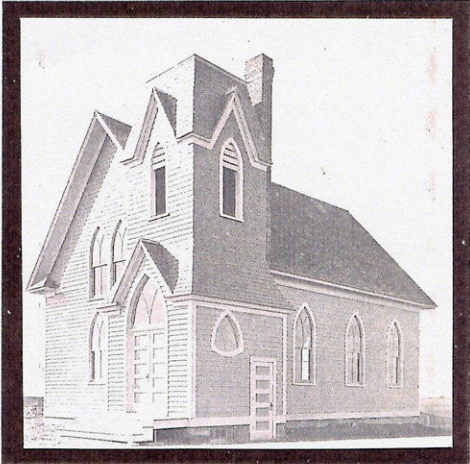
- | | |
|--|---|
| Row 1: Mrs. J.P. SKANSE
JOHN HAGBERG
GERALD WATNE
COUSIN KERMIT JOHNSON
OTTO PERCHERT
BLANCHARD HOUGHTON
JEANNE EVENSON
??? | Row 2: ADOLPH JOHNSON (COUSIN)
??
CLARENCE NIERENBERG
LOUIS PERSON (COUSIN)
BILL WATNE
??
CONNIE WATNE (VIGESAA)
COUSIN LILLY JOHNSON (HILL)
MURTLE WATNE
HAZEL PERCHERT
BERTHA EVENSON
RUTH EVENSON |
|--|---|
- COUSIN VINA JOHNSON (NJAA)
- BACK ROW: J. P. SKANSE
AL PERCHERT
ERIC VICKBERG
JOHN DAHLBOM
UNCLE JOHN JOHNSON
GUST PERCHERT
CHRISTINE PERSON (WAGLE)
NIERENBERG CHILD
MRS. FRED NIERENBERG
MRS. O. HOUGHTON
JOHN SKANSE
PETER PERSON
EMMA DAHLBOM
MOTHER BETSEY JOHNSON (OST)
COUSIN JULIA PERSON (OLSON)
COUSIN ANN PERSON (NJAA)
JULIA PERSON
EDITH ANDERSON (BOE)
LUCILLE (MAGNUSON) HOUGHTON
INGA PERSON (LILJENQUIST)
AGNES EVENSON
COUSIN MARTHA PERSON (MRS. JENS P.)

My MOTHER, BETSEY J. OST,
IDENTIFIED ALL THESE FOLKS
FOR ME CIRCA 1939!



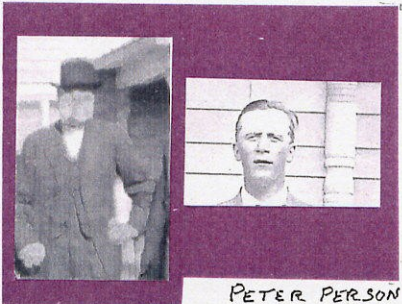
PETER PERSON'S S.S. CLASS CIRCA 1914

"NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF
 OURSELVES TOGETHER ... BUT EXHORTING
 ONE ANOTHER ..." HEBREWS 10:25



SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH

THEN THE TIME CAME WHEN THESE DEVOUT
 CHRISTIANS FELT THE NEED OF A
 PERMANENT CHURCH HOME. THUS IN
 1914 THEY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY
 OF NEW CONSTRUCTION, BUT NONE HAD
 FUNDS FOR IT. AT A BUSINESS MEETING
 IT WAS DECIDED TO CIRCULATE A LIST
 TO ALL WHO MIGHT WISH TO CONTRIBUTE.
 JONAS SKANSE AND PETER PERSON,
 A SON OF PER PERSON, WERE CHOSEN
 FOR THAT DUTY.



JONAS SKANSE

PETER PERSON



AN APPEAL WAS SENT TO BOTH SEARS, ROEBUCK
 AND MONTGOMERY WARD, THE CATALOG HOUSES
 IN CHICAGO, WITH WHICH THE FARMERS DID
 BUSINESS BY MAIL, RESULTING IN FREE
 PAINT FROM SEARS! NEIGHBORS AND
 MERCHANTS CONTRIBUTED, AND THE FUND
 RAISING EFFORT BECAME SUCCESSFUL.



Dedication Day of The Swedish Mission Church - November 1, 1914

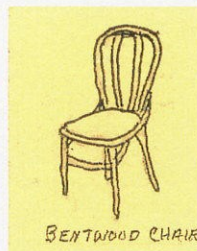
A CONTRACTOR NAMED MR. HOFFMAN WAS CHOSEN TO BUILD THE CHURCH. IT WAS LOCATED ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF STATE HIGHWAY 7, ON THE N.E. CORNER OF THE PER PERSON PROPERTY IN SECTION 30, AND HAD AN EAST ENTRANCE.



The Swedish Mission Church - Notice the Barn at the Far Left

INSIDE THE ENTRANCE WAS A SMALL ROOM USED FOR S.S., WITH A STAIRWAY TO THE BALCONY. THEN THERE WERE THE MAIN DOORS TO THE SANCTUARY. THERE WAS A BASEMENT. A BARN WAS INCLUDED, SINCE MANY USED HORSES-WITH BUGGIES IN SUMMER AND BOB SLEDS IN WINTER. THE MINISTRY PROGRESSED.

THE CHURCH WAS EQUIPPED WITH BENTWOOD CHAIRS. ABOUT 1927 MONEY WAS COLLECTED TO PURCHASE A NEW UPRIGHT PIANO. THE MUSIC PROGRAM INCLUDED A QUARTET COMPOSED OF EDITH, MARGARET, ALF AND PAUL JOHNSON.



BENTWOOD CHAIR

BENTWOOD FURNITURE MADE OF WOOD PERMANENTLY BENT... BY HEAT, MOISTURE AND PRESSURE. WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.

SOME YEARS LATER DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WAS ADDED. AT ONE TIME A HOME-MADE BUS PICKED UP CHILDREN IN ONE DIRECTION, AND ELNA JOHNSON PICKED UP CHILDREN IN THE OTHER DIRECTION, FOR TWO WEEKS EACH SUMMER, FIVE DAYS A WEEK. MILO WATNE HAD A PICK-UP TRUCK AND ALSO BROUGHT CHILDREN.



Bible School of The Swedish Mission Church - 1928



THE HOME-MADE BUS. IT WAS "REJUVENATED" AND USED BY THE GOSPEL DUO- SELMER JACOBSON (ON LEFT) AND HARRY ODLAND (ON RIGHT) IN JULY, 1940. ELMER OST STANDS IN THE MIDDLE.

LEFT TO RIGHT:

- 1st Row: ?; ?; ROSEL BOE; ?; ?; ALVIN BOE; POLLY JOHNSON (COUSIN); DELOISE MICHAELIS; BERNICE FLICK; ?; ELLEN OST; MRS. ARTHUR LARSON; MARGARET PERSON
- 2nd Row: THELMA MICHAELIS; EVELYNE OST; DARINE BORCHERT; ETHEL MICHAELIS; JESSLYN PHELPS; ?; FLORA HIGGINS; CHARLOTTE OLSON (COUSIN); ARLA MAE BOE; RUTH OLSON (COUSIN); CORINNE WATNE; ELNA JOHNSON.
- 3rd Row: ?; ?; ? NIERENBERG; ?; MARVIN BORCHERT; ? ELMER OST (HIDING); MILO WATNE.
- 4th Row: ? MICHAELIS; AUDREY BOE; IRENE HOFFMEYER; ?; IRMA WATNE; ?; ?.

THERE WERE SALES OF KNITTING AND EMBROIDERY GOODS WHICH ATTRACTED PEOPLE. SUPPERS FEATURING CHICKEN DINNERS BROUGHT PEOPLE COMING SEVERAL MILES. CHRISTMAS SERVICES DREW MANY AREA RESIDENTS. NUTS, CANDY, (I REMEMBER "RIBBON CANDY", APPLES OR ORANGES GIVEN OUT AFTER THE SERVICE WERE SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS!

ONE OF MY MEMORIES OF THE SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH WAS GOING TO THE JULOTTA SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS MORNING AT 4 O'CLOCK! DAD BUNDLED US IN HORSE-HIDE ROBES TO KEEP US FROM FREEZING. (IT WAS LIKELY 30° BELOW ZERO.) WE RODE IN A "STONE-BOAT" - A FLAT BED "FLOOR" ON RUNNERS PULLED BY HORSES THROUGH THE SNOW.



THE CHURCH WAS SERVED BY VISITING PASTORS INCLUDING REV. GILBERT OTTESON AND NORTH PARK SEMINARY STUDENTS IN CHICAGO. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO RECORD OF ANY PERMANENT FULL-TIME PASTOR. FROM APRIL 1929, UNTIL JANUARY 1931, THESE "MISSION FRIENDS" OF THE SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH AND THE CONGREGATION OF THE BETHLEHEM FREE CHURCH IN COOPERSTOWN SHARED PASTORS REV. ARTHUR R. LARSON AND REV. OSCAR MARS. (REV. MARS CAME TO OUR FARM AND HELPED DAD WITH HAYING ONE TIME - THAT GREATLY IMPRESSED ME.)

ON JAN. 23, 1931, MEMBERS OF THE MISSION CHURCH VOTED TO AFFILIATE WITH THE CONGREGATION OF THE BETHLEHEM CHURCH (SHOWN BELOW).



IN THE SUMMER OF 1934, THE MISSION CHURCH BUILDING WAS OPENED BRIEFLY FOR SEVERAL WEEK NIGHT MEETINGS. (I REMEMBER HELPING SWEEP THE FLOOR) TRAVELING EVANGELISTS ROLAND OST (MY COUSIN) AND ROY SVIEVEN WITH THEIR GUITARS SANG AND PREACHED.



1934
ROY, WIFE LILA, ROLLY, ELLEN, ELMER

(A PERSONAL NOTE: MRS. SVIEVEN ASKED EVELYN, ELMER AND ME TO SING AT A SERVICE. I REFUSED (SHY!) AND SHE GAVE ME A "LECTURE ABOUT SERVING THE LORD. I NEVER FORGOT THAT LESS AND HAVE BEEN THANKFUL FOR IT. WE DID SING, GLADLY!)

EVENTUALLY THE CHURCH BUILDING WAS SOLD AND MOVED TO SUTTON, M.D. WHERE IT SERVES A METHODIST CONGREGATION.



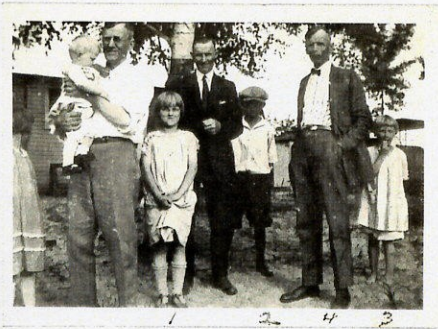
BACK ROW: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, LLOYD SKANSE, ETHEL SKANSE

FRONT: 1- CLIFFORD SKANSE
2- FRANCES SKANSE
3- GLADYS 4- PEARL
5- CORINNE WATNE
6- EVELYNE OST

To certain descendants of the following three Cooperstown Swedish immigrant "Mission Friends":

- A. Mrs. Brita Johnson (came from Sweden as a widow)
 - Betsey Johnson Ost (Albin)
 - Evelyn Ost Fosse
 - Elmer Ost
 - Ellen Ost Cain
 - B. Jonas Person Skanse (Karin)
 - Olaf Skanse (Anna) (PICTURES ON LEFT)
 - Catherine (deceased)
 - Ted Skanse
 - Vivian Skanse Carlson
 - Frances Skanse Elieff
 - C. Jens Person (Martha)
 - Christine Person Wagle (Chris)
 - Caryl Wagle Umland
- Julia Person Olson (Edward)
 - Charlotte Olson Mattson Gran
 - Ruth Olson Larson
 - Ed Olson (that's me!)
 - Martha Person Johnson (Paul)
 - Pauline Johnson Troseth
 - Lois Johnson Ueland
 - Mark Johnson
 - Katherine Johnson Hannestad
 - Ann Person Njaa (Paul)
 - Don Njaa
 - Paul Njaa
 - Jason Njaa
 - Louis J. Person (Brita)
 - Sally Person Mortenson

The above represents quite an impressive family group, doesn't it?! We all are related, and here's how, in case you may need an explanation. Jonas Person Skanse and Jens Person were brothers, of course, so all their descendants are tied together as cousins - 1st or 2nd. The husband of Mrs. Brita Johnson (he died in Sweden) was a brother of the Father of Mrs. Jens Person (Martha). Thus, for example, Betsey Johnson Ost and Mrs. Jens Person were 1st cousins, so Evelyn Ost Fosse and Christine Person Wagle were 2nd cousins.



OLAF SKANSE - 1: DAUGHTER FRANCES
J. ALBIN OST 2- CLIFFORD SKANSE
3- CORINNE WATNE 4- PETE SKANSE



J. ALBIN OST LOUIS P. BETSEY JOHNSON MARTHA PERSON (in rocker)
JULIA P. (OLSON) CHRISTINE P. (WAGLE)
ANN P. (NJAA)

PICTURE TAKEN BY ALBIN IN JENS PERSON HOME CIRCA 1914.

From the body of this congregation of Swedish immigrants have grown the roots of 7 career servants who became involved in the full time ministry of The Covenant Church. From pioneer Per Person came son Dr. Peter P. Person, Professor, North Park College. From Mrs. Brita Johnson came grandson Dr. Elmer H. Ost, Covenant pastor, and Professor, North Park College. From Jonas Skanse came granddaughter Catherine Skanse, Director of Nursing, Swedish Covenant Hospital and School of Nursing; and great granddaughter Kathryn Elieff Erickson, Covenant Alaska missionary. From Jens Person came son Dr. Louis J. Person, Covenant pastor, Conference Superintendent, and Assistant to the President of North Park College; grandson Edward L. Olson, Administrator, Swedish Covenant Hospital, and Vice President, Covenant Benevolent Institutions; and grandson Rev. Donald A. Njaa, Covenant pastor, Assistant Conference Superintendent, and Executive Secretary of the Ministry of The Covenant Church.



BETSEY JOHNSON



BETSEY J. AND SCHOOL CHILDREN
1914



Ann Johnson ¹⁹¹⁴

UNCLE JOHN'S DAUGHTER



J. ALBIN OST AT HIS
HOMESTEAD IN S. DAKOTA.
HE TOOK THE PICTURE
HIMSELF. 1914

THIS COMPLETES THIS
ERA IN MOTHER BETSEY
JOHNSON'S LIFE.