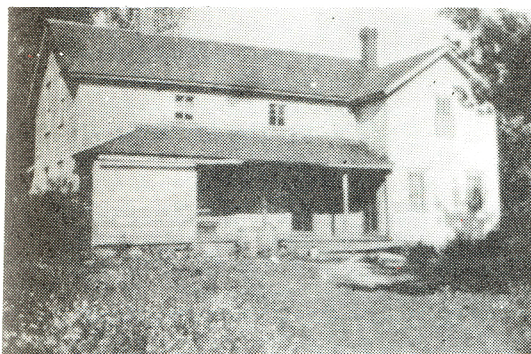


Old Halstein and Taren Norby Homestead

(across the creek from Ronald Jellums)

Halstein Iverson Norby came from Hedalen, Norway to Black Earth, Dane Co., Wis., in 1857. In 1869 he and his family came to Mitchell Co. and bought a half sec. of land near the Rock Creek. His family included his wife Taren Olson (Jubraaten), Iver H., Olaus H., Anna (Mrs. Anton Lundene), Edward I, Henry, Lauritz H., Carl, Caroline (Mrs. Nick Johnson), Elizabeth (Mrs. Martin Klemesrud), Edward II, all now deceased. Iver, Olaus, Anna were born before they came here.



Halstein and Taren Norby homestead

This farm had a large apple orchard from barn to house and they were about two blocks apart - in fact the area was so distant that Dad said a wire or some sort of rope was always attached to the house and barn in late fall so in time of a blizzard one could come back to the house.

The house was quite roomy - I remember the layout well. They had a well on the front porch - why not when the other well was 2 blocks away by the barn. I'm sure for the first years the creek was a source of water for man and beast as the spring nearby had delicious water.

The two older sons, Iver and Olaus farmed land in Floyd Co. and Dad mentioned on cold, snowy days during cornhusking "This is nothing" - when he was a young boy I suppose about 17 - Carl and he had to help husk corn near Rudd and the boots they wore were leather and wood and needed a boot hock to get them on in the morning, but at night after a day out they needed to thaw them out along with their feet.

Alma Blakleen Berkvam was a niece of Taren's, she made her home with the Norbys.

Many foreigners migrated here from Norway, waiting for a chance to find a job in America. Funerals were big days then, as well as sad. People came from a long distance so food was prepared with helpers coming in. At grandmother's home on the morning of communion in church, no one was to eat breakfast first.

Dances were a popular form of entertainment at homes and in barns. Grandma had an unwritten but abiding rule, 'Out on a dance Sat. nite - out of bed, chores done, and ready for church in more time than usual.'

Halstein died in 1897 and Carl and Lauritz rented the farm from their mother and lived with her. Cattle and land, share rent. I have the scale she weighed out the cream in 3 equal parts and the boys furnished their share of butter and food. Henry decided Dakota was for him so he bought land there, and married a girl who came from Norway. Ed the youngest of the nine had more educational hopes than farming so he worked in Osage at a couple of the business places, a hardware store and the drug store. Henry who had first bought the east half of the Lauritz Norby farm intending to really be in Iowa, had even set out the grove of evergreens which still stands there - so he sold it to Olaus and then Carl and it was there after in 1904 Lauritz bought that and the east half of that 160.

Carl continued with Taren after his marriage in 1904 and lived a couple years with her but then moved to near St. Ansgar. Mrs. Rosella Norby Ahrens Klemesrud, their oldest child, was born on the old Norby homestead, the only third generation descendant with that honor.

Then Iver, Adolph and Clara came to live in half the house as Taren was very poorly and forgetful. Taren died in 1912 at Rudd at the home of her daughter Marie Lundene.

Many people made it their home for short times. Guy Tibbetts of Rudd lived here a couple years, and some of his relatives took shelter with him (Weaverling, Peters and Chandlers) and then the Hegg Bros. of W. Cedar lived and worked the farm a year or so. The Williams boys who were really very young at the time, worked the land a year or two, but the Harold Linsteads and Carlsteads lived in the house. These two men were carpenters. Linstead later lived at Meroa in the Williams house. The farm was sold in 1917 to Martin Maakestad.

One-half of the 160 is now Maurice Maakestads and the other is Dwight Onkens.

Lauritz and Rachel, my parents, retained and lived on their half of the original Norby homestead until their deaths - 1939 and 1946. And Edwin and I bought the place and made it our home and still call it our home in the country on Rock Creek's rich banks - even though we are contented and happily retired here in Osage. It seems so pleasant and satisfying to know I am leaving the 4th and 5th generation to make their memories and footprints in the sands of time on this pioneer farm.

- by Mrs. Edwin (Thelma) Jellum