

JOURNAL OF
ANDREW A. BRATTLAND

(Also Known As: Andrew M. Anderson or Aanon Mikkelsen)
Prior to May 25, 1901

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Journal Written in Norwegian

Translation by Aud Gidley
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1765

Round about the year 1765, Mikkel Aanonsen (*actually Mikkel Olsen, 1761-1837*) was born on the farm Brattland, Christianbuds parish, Setesdal, Norway, and. lived until the year 1839,

1797

Mikkel Aanonsen Brattland had several children. The oldest, Aanon Mikkelsen, was born in the year 1797 (*actual date: 26 Feb 1799, at Setesdal, Bykle, Aust-Ayder, Norway*) and received the farm as his inheritance.

1821

In 1821, (*19 July*), he married Kjersti Olsdaughter Skolaas. They had five children:

1. Anne Aanonsdaughter, born 1825 (*actual date: 1 Feb 1822*)
2. Mikkel Aanonsen, born 1828 (*actual date: 27 Sep 1829*)
3. Signe Aanonsdaughter, born 1830, died 15 years old (1832-1845)
4. Ingeborg Aanonsdaughter, born 1835
5. Jorond Aanonsdaughter, born 1839

The times were at the period very pressing. The country's burdens lay heavily on the taxpayers' shoulders.

1815

In the year 1815, many lost everything they owned like Ole Skolaas. He had sold his farm and received for it \$1400.00 and after the rate of 5 skilling for each dollar.

1835

In the year 1835, Aanon Mikkelsen sold his farm (by memory thought he did receive \$900.00) and then he was thinking about going to America so the people started spreading the news all over Setesdal.

From the home and back again and so away again

But family and friends and the farmers round about influenced him so he gave up the thought of going to America. A little place outside Stavanger, was the place where he found work and he labored there for one year. Then he came back and bought back the farm Brattland and he also gained another parcel of land from his brother Ditlef.

1845

He lived here until spring of 1845 when he again sold it all, but gained only half the price of value (do not remember how much).

1845

In the month of June when everything was ready food, clothing, etc., they bade farewell to their childhood home and traveled to Christiansand South. When they arrived at Christiansand South they found the ship and it was already half loaded and therefore could only take half the emigrants that had already bought passage on it.

For that reason, they were delayed and had to wait for the next ship. A week later they had the opportunity to get passage on a Norwegian ship with lumber destined for Havre De Grace, France.

Over the North Sea, and on the Atlantic Ocean

1845

The ship was almost filled to the brim with lumber so the passengers had to crawl on all four to reach their hammocks and this was very amusing to all of them.

Most of them had never been at sea before (of course, it was a lot different that it is now in the year 1895) and they felt the seasickness to the fullest. After 5 days they arrived at Havre and here they were lucky to get passage on a large American ship headed for New York loaded with emigrants.

Imagine the belter skelter atmosphere when everyone tried to get their belongings from the Norwegian ship over to the American ship within 24 hours. Then 24 hours later they were under way to the promised land of America on the wide and roaring Atlantic Ocean. They were nine persons in the family, namely: grandfather Ole Helgeson Skolaas, 85 years old, Aanon Mikkelson Brattland, wife Kjersli Olsdaughter Skolaas and their children:

Anne Aanonsdaughter married to Bjorguf Knudson
Mikkel Aanonson
Ingeborg Aanonsdaughter
Jorand Aanonsdaughter

On the Atlantic, In New York, The Locks in Wis.

On board the ship there were about 300 German emigrants and 10 Norwegian families.

In the first part of August they landed at New York harbor, 3 weeks and five days after they boarded the ship at Christiansand South, Norway. From New York they had to travel up the canal in a canal boat that was pulled by six horses on a straight away.

Then they were pulled up through rough places by the locks and then down again the same way.

At the end of two weeks, we finally reached Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory and they had to praise themselves lucky for reaching their destination safely.

From Milwaukee they had to walk or ride alternately for about 50 miles through swamp and forest to Rock River settlement, Dodge County, Wisconsin.

Here you found quite a few Norwegians. The land was wooded and swampland and they soon found out that they were in the swamps rather than in Norway's high country.

The swamp fever (cold) hit them hard more or less each fall and spring through the next 10 years in the development.

Poverty, Illness, and Death

Sometimes the whole family got sick and sometimes they pass away one by one. Of meager means, they still found out that the travel expense was costing each adult person \$100 to \$150,, No one was well to do, all poor, so they could not help one another. But they knew how to work from their beginnings in Norway like knitting, spinning, and weaving that kept them alive without too much thought of starving.

Grandfather Ole Helgeson Skolaas, after he came to America, earned his pay even though he was 85 years old. He was a wood engraver.

He lived only six months after they came to Rock River. The cold fever took him. In the short time that he lived here he accomplished to engrave a buck and a tiger, life size.

In Norway, he engraved a wedding procession (if it was the famous Wedding Procession in Hardanger, I do not know) and many more things that people have told me about.

He is buried here in Rock River cemetery. Dodge County, Wisconsin. He died in May 1846.

Sorrow and death again in the family

About nine months after their arrival in Wisconsin, the father, Aanon Mikkelsen Brattland, died. This probably took place in the month of June 1846.

A "quack" was sent for as he was sick with fever. He gave him some medicine and after that he fell asleep and never woke up again in this world. It must have been morphine he had given him.

Now the mother felt that all was lost. In this strange country left with four fatherless and dependent children among strangers. The future was darkened.

His only son was now about 17-18 years old and was Inconsolable over the loss of his extraordinary, tender, and loving father.

He had always had good health, strong and fiery for his size. He was not of great stature but well built and uncommonly fast. He could jump, high jump, to match his own height.

Here you will find a copy of his citizen paper:

Copy of Anond Mikelson Brattland's Citizenship Paper:

Copy

Territory of Wisconsin }
 Dodge County S.S. } Anon Mikelson

Personally appeared before the subscriber, the clerk of the District Court of the U.S. for said county, being a Court of Record, and made oath that he was born in or about 1796, that he immigrated to the U.S. and landed at the port of New York, New York, on or about the month of August in the year 1845, that it is bonafide his intention to become a Citizen of the U.S. and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to Oscar, the first King of Sweden, where of he is a subject,

Subscribed and Sworn the 23rd }
 day of January AD 1847* } s/Anon Mikelson
 Wm M. Dennis, Clerk }

Territory of Wisconsin }
 County of Dodge SS }

I, William M. Dennis, Clerk of the district court, in and for the county of Dodge, Wisconsin Territory, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of a Record, now on file in my office.

In testimony where of, . I have here unto set my hand and offered the seal of said court this 25th day of March AD 1847.

s/Wm M. Dennis, Clerk



* (Mistake in year when sworn to - should be 1846. 1847 was the year the copy was gotten.)

1846

The time passed and the family was proud of the only son (my father) Mikkel Aanonson. He was 18 years old with a lot of courage, a healthy body and a fiery mind and they prospered beyond their expectations.

Within 2-3 years, they had their own piece of land, several cattle, and lots of blessings and happiness.

Tellef Danielson Strome, His Sons Emigrated to America

(Told by my mother)

1762

Tellef Danielson Strome was born in the year 1762. He was in his time and under those circumstances he was considered to be rich and he had several children, including a son, Aanon Tellefson Strome.

The father died but by fraud the other children took most of the property that was supposed to go to him through inheritance right.

He married a girl with no money or property (that was against the rule). And her name was Gunild Jermendsdaughter Rystad. She had many brothers and sisters, her parents had a large farm, but the oldest son received it without paying the rest of them very much. She was a niece of the famous giant Bjorguf Rystad or Oppstad that he went by.

1844

In the spring of 1844, Omund Tellefson Strome and wife and 4 children decided to go to America and away for it all. He sold his property and he had when he left the valley 600 sp. dollar. At that time very few attempted to leave Norway with America in mind. They prepared themselves with food and clothing and necessities and last of July or first of August they left for Christiansand South and said farewell to the mountains of Setesdal in Valle parish.

Travel from Norway to America

1844

They took a freighter to Havre, France, and the ship was "Josephine" and they left in August, destination Havre. A man by the name of Reiarson, a Norwegian that had been in America before, talked them into going to Texas, a land of opportunity.

It took them 8 days from Christiansand S. to Havre, France. They had to wait for 3 weeks here before they could get passage to Texas. At last the opportunity came to board a ship headed for New Orleans, U.S.A.

It was a very large American ship and in 10 weeks and 3 days we reached our destination. Here they met a Norwegian and a Dane, most likely seamen, and they told them not to go to Texas at all; you will die there they said., because you are used to cold climate and to come under the hot sun rays in Texas you will not be able to stand it. They were quite a few emigrants there together and they all took it to heart.

They were now sheep without a shepherd among a flock of wolves and they decided to go to the northern states instead.

The trip from New Orleans up the Mississippi

1844

It couldn't have been any worse, if they had gone to Texas, then what happened to them in the Northern states as the story goes.

Now they again had to pay fare and that was very expensive. This time for up the river to St. Louis. Along the world's longest river they saw a lot, they did however travel north instead of going west along the Mexican gulf. Now it was 6 weeks before Christmas and still the burning sun made it so hot they could not walk barefooted on deck while they were in New Orleans. Finally they went and the emigrants now believed it to be a well and quick trip. The river was not too big and they felt secure, it ended up being a troublesome trip.

After steaming up the river for two days the boat stranded and there we sat.

The cargo was mostly salt and they threw that overboard but we still stayed put. Then we had a severe cold spell and the boat froze in.

The food supply of the emigrants was dwindling. They all shared with one another as long as it lasted. Here they stayed for 2 weeks.

The captain was a brutal man and he treated them, even worse than cattle. Then came the thawing weather and the ice began to break and they were afraid the large ice patches would break the boat when they came toward it. For 72 hours, there was nothing to eat among the passengers, nothing but water from the Mississippi, so they became almost mad from hunger.

The children cried and wailed and asked their mothers for food. The mothers begged, and asked the captain for crumbs of bread to meet the children's wailing and hunger and he drove them away from him like a herd of swine.

But at last struck the time of salvation for them that they not yet had to suffer hunger's agonizing death. There came a steamer up the river and the emigrants were commanded on deck to scream on top of their lungs and so they did. The boat came alongside and the passengers and their clothing were transferred over. This boat had plenty of provisions and a very kind captain.

He saw the people's need and shared their food as long as it lasted. The boat didn't get very far before it ran aground too.

But they were better off this time than on the other boat. The people were so famished that they ate everything. The cook had barrel-fulls of garbage, acrid and sour, but these poor hungry dears ate it as it was a delicacy, but it made them dreadfully sick and they suffered much.

Another boat came afterward but ran aground before it reached our boat.

We were set ashore now on an island and here they had to feed themselves as best they could on cow and hog meat for 3 weeks. There was only one that lived on the island, he was poor and couldn't help them.

The suffering of necessities they stood here can hardly be described. A German in the company sent back to Germany a detailed writing which was printed and sent round about.

Many died while on the island and were buried there. Now the ones that had money had to pay for all of them. After 3 weeks the weather changed that broke the ice and again they gained upon the ship in direction of St. Louis, Mo. Here we stayed for 5 weeks. The ship which took us there we again had to pay our fare.

So if we should have traveled to a place in Illinois, we would have had to pay for the 3rd time. We, therefore, took the post stage to a Norwegian settlement, here we stayed for some time.

Here they bought an ox team and wagon, 2 families together, and then they were off for Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin. Here they stopped for a while and rested so away again and this time to Koskang Prairie, Wisconsin. Here they stopped for 3 weeks then they were on their way again.

The night before Easter they reached Rock River Settlement, Dodge County. Here they stayed with a friend, Gunder Bjorjufson. Then they bought themselves a piece of land and built a cabin on it and bought some cattle. They were so tired and sad after such a journey, but they began to clear the wood and furnish hay for the cattle and a barn for the winter.

In the summer, they all were attacked by the cold fever and they had it off and on all summer to the fall of 1846, Four weeks before Christmas the father, Aanon Tellefson Strome, died and 2 weeks later the mother, Gunhild Jermundsdaughter Arstad, also died.

They left behind 4 unprovided children, the oldest Ingeborg (my mother) 12 years old. The next sister also Ingeborg, 9 years old; a brother Tellef, 6 years old; and the youngest sister also Ingeborg, 3 years old. My mother Ingeborg Anonsdaughter Strome was born on the farm Strome, Valle parrish, Setesdal, Christinsand province, Norway, on

28 of September 1833, to the parents, Aanon Tellefson Strome and his wife Gunhild Germundsdr Rystad (or Upstad). (Marked incorrect in originals but probably "Arstad.")

After the death of the parents, everything they has was sold for almost nothing and the two youngest had to have foster parents till the girl was 18 years old and the boy was 20 years old, then they could be on their own.

They forgot very soon their native tongue but they saw each other from time to time and cried and talked to each other. They were baptized but not confirmed.

The oldest girls had to go among strangers to earn their living so now they all got separated, one here and one there. The two oldest were confirmed by Rev. P.S. Prens. My mother worked for 6 years. My mother's account about the bereavement and hardship they had to go through in their childhood.

Mother was married November 22, 1851, and her sister the year after.

Mikkel Aanonson Brattland and Ingeborg Aanonsdaughter Strome were married 22nd of November 1851 by a German Lutheran priest in Dodge County, Wisconsin.

Mikkel (my father) Anonson had his mother staying with them till she died in May 1863. The 4th of January 1853 was I, their eldest child born, and was baptized on January 15, by Pastor Brandt, now professor in Decorah, Iowa. I received my name Aanon two years later. My father sold his property there and we moved to Skandinavia, Waupaka County, Wisconsin, or as it was called: Indian Country, about 80 miles north of Rock River.

Here did they stay the fall and winter, and father worked at a lumbermill and made shingles, they made them with only a knife; a round (bowed) knife was used. He said he suffered much at that place but he worked hard all winter and this he did to save money for a thought of journey to the unknown wild west planned for the next summer.

Come spring they started getting themselves ready for the trip,, while during the winter they had another son, his name was Ole Andreas born on February 14, 1856 and baptized on February 24, 1856.

The 5th day of May 1856 they left their winter homes in Skandinavia and started off on their wanderings (migration).

There were three families together in this endeavor. My father with wife and two children and his mother; a sister, the eldest Anna with husband Bjorguf Knudsen, three children, Knud, Aanon, and Ole.

The youngest sister, Jorand and her husband, Bjorguf Olson, married just the year before. My father's sister, next to the youngest, Ingeborg and her husband, Halvor Halvorson Hellern stayed at Rock River.

They took off not hardly knowing where they were going except that the course was westward.

About this time, I think I have a faint remembering of a few things that happened. I remember that I found an old fork by the side of the road in a place we stopped. Another time, I wanted so much to walk with my father and drive the oxen, he had one set of oxen for the wagon, Father said for me to go back in the wagon and he got hold, of a stick and ready to give me a spanking, but the stick broke and that made me glad.

Soon we reach a great swamp and small creeks. My father always drove at the head as the others many times wanted to turn back, but father said he would make it, so the others followed him. They traveled through forests, marshes, rivers, and swamps over hills and mountains and passed by excellent beautiful land but they had already decided where they wanted to build and stay.

They traveled through La Crosse, Wisconsin, that lies by the Mississippi River with just a few houses there but needed to cross the river on the ferry boat.

On the other side they found terrible hills with heights that could make you dizzy when you look down to the valley when you are up on top.

By the way they came in contact with several other families that were traveling too and looking for a place to live. Some can be mentioned: Anfind Olson, Ole Pederson, Jr., and O. Pederson Sr. and others that found their different places. They had traveled a little too far south or they had passed through the best part of Fillmore, County, Minnesota. If that had been the case they probably would have settled there, that would have been much better.

Sometime in the month of August they came to a place called Brover Lake. Here they got some land and should begin to build houses and make improvements.

Then a quarrel arose between my father and a brother-in-law about dividing of land before they left Wisconsin. They made a deal if one got prairie and the other wood, they should divide the woods, his brother-in-law didn't want to do that so my father packed up and left. He went 25 miles northwest and there he found land that he liked, both prairie and woods. He came back for mother, the children, and the cattle; his mother was left with most of the clothing.

He took the cover and box off the wagon and left them there, then he drove to Brover Lake to pick up his mother (grandmother) and the rest of the clothing.

In the mean time, mother was alone with two small children (myself and a little brother) 25 miles away from all white people with only the cattle.

A week later here came all the rest of the families and found land in the neighborhood. His brother-in-law became his neighbor (he was mean as long as we lived there). Most of them settled along the river. My father's land was the best of all in the whole county and within two years he had bought 160 acres more of prairie land, so this became a capital farm.

The first years they were visited by the wild Indian and in full headdress. They strutted past in a multitude because the Winnebago reservation was only eight to ten miles away. They moved into their homes in August of 1856. Minnesota was still a territory, four years later it became a state of the Union. In the fall of 1857, my brother drowned and a bereavement for the whole family and my mother took it the hardest.

In the month of August, my father and a worker Nils Bergerson, who now lives in Ottertail County, went out in the morning to cut hay. My mother and grandmother went out to milk and my brother and myself went with grandmother, after she had milked while, down to the cellar, that was a dugout with a ladder. My brother followed us and on the hill he stumbled and fell and rolled clear down into the river, they found his cap where he had fallen in.

I ran for help even as little as I was and they found him 40 - 60 feet downstream. The river was big after a great rain fall. They worked with my brother for two hours, but no sign of life. He had been caught in a tree that was laying across the river.

No doubt he was dead and with no cemetery he was buried on our land and later moved to the cemetery east by St. Olafs Lake on September 4, 1857.

Time went on and my happy childhood days disappear quietly and now I have only memories left from that time. Next year on August 15, 1858, I had another brother and he got the same name, Ole Andreas.

Things went slow and the people were thrifty and economical.

In June 1858, my father picked up his sister Ingeborg, her husband and 2 children from Pierce County, Wisconsin. They had bought 160 acres of land a mile from our homes, they had nothing to start, with, only their hands.

The market was zero. Corn was of quality for bread the first year and the next 4-5 years they still didn't raise too much wheat.

The first fall, father had to travel 150 miles clear to Iowa to buy flour by ox team in rain, snow, and frost, and it took them 2 weeks and their bedroom was under the wagon with a quilt to cover them and often they woke in the morning laying in water. This time my father also bought a cat and he had to pay \$2.00 for it.

The first wheat they raised they had to thrash it by oxen. They found out that the earth is a fair place of toil. The grain they cut

and clean it, then they took it and laid it in a circle, about 45 feet in diameter. Then they had the oxen come and trample upon the grain and when it was done they took everything and carried over to a scaffolding they had made. One day when the wind was blowing very hard, they let the grain fall down and this way they separated the wheat from the tares. This was their thrash and cleaning machine they used then.

Compare their time and our modern time and see. But still the people in general lived more free from care than now, how fast things change. One thing is different from now, people were more solvent.

I was about 8 years old when I drove a team of oxen to Hastings, 85 miles our closest market place by the Mississippi River. The journey took 8-10 days. We brought wheat, and other products to Hastings and groceries back to a little town, namely Wilton, no more to be found. We sold the wheat in Hastings for about 25-50 cents a bushel. We generally made 3~4 trips a year. Naturally, we camped out; if we should have stayed at hotels, one load of wheat would not have been enough.

The town Wilton was the first one in Waseca County then belonged to Steele County. Building started there in the fall of 1856.

But after 7-8 years of such amusing trips in regard to improvements, we got the railroad 18 miles to Owatonna between Rochester and St. Paul, the first railroad St. Paul had.

The Civil War was now at its hottest stage, 1863, and wheat was priced high. Had the farmers been prepared, they could have been rich overnight as it also happened in some places but not for the Norwegian farmer when he only got 300 bushels.

The crop went mostly for their keeping because everything that had to be bought was terribly expensive: 30-40 cents a yard for calico. In the year 1864, the railroad came as close as 10 miles to our home. From that time forth, the people put more effort forth to raise more wheat. We now had 320 acres of land, 30 acres cultivated. In the year 1865, my father sold 40 acres of land to Rasmus Nilson for \$300.00. In 1870, we had about 100 acres cultivated. The times were now better than before in one way better another turn worse. People began to buy all kinds of machinery, reapers (hand rake) they had used "Krellen", modern thrash machines, seeders, crows, etc. Everything was very expensive, \$300.00 for a simple hand rake reaper, etc. and such they bought and ran into debt.

Then they had to have horses instead of oxen. Father was about the first one to have horses and he also bought the first hand rake reaper and that was in the year 1861-62. He traveled then from farm to farm, month at a time, and reaped for people. He raked the sheaf all day long and at night he went home and did his own.

People ran into a lot of debt and it lasted until about 1875.

In the year 1868, the self reapers came on the market and father sold his hand rake and bought a self rake, woods.

I was now old enough to be with the 4-5 men to make sheaves after the reaper. From that time forth, I have done a grown man's work and I was 15 years old and very few could be ahead of me in general work but to make sheaves I was called a "fast runner."

The years went swiftly by and by 16 years old I was confirmed by Rev. H. E. Sather in the month of October 1869 (therefore, 10 years ago) but now when I write it down in the book it will be 26 years ago.

It was a Sunday afternoon, the two of us were confirmed, I and a girl Martha Knudson. Now when I was through with the good book and the priest I thought to myself I would take it easy but found out instead of being free I was more obligated and I felt I had more responsibilities than before.

I thought very little about what I had promised God when I went away and soon the admonitions of parents and teachers were forgotten and the promise too. When I was looked after and cared for by my parents, I had a blameless life. Time went, when I was 17 years old I went to school to learn English. Norwegian I could read very well when I was 8 years old, even if I had never gone to school. I had to read the bible twice from cover to cover when I was 15 years old.

I went to English school about 2-3 months and that was my schooling in English.

More than once, I was sorry that I had not had the opportunity to educate myself for my coming years, but now a little late.

1860

In the year 1860, my father sent \$400.00-\$500.00 to Norway for his mother's brother but he didn't come. He did, however, use most of the money and sent his two sons over. One of them only came to our home 6 years later. He stole \$20.00 from us and took off. My father chased after him 20 miles and caught him and got his money back. However, he had to give him traveling money.

In 1861, I had another brother and he was named Anund Mikal, and in 1865 I had another brother and they named him Christian Gilbert. Both died when they were 2-3 years old.

In 1866, I had another brother, he was named after the older brother who was dead, namely Anund Mikal (now he goes by M.A. Brattland). I also had another brother that died at birth and mother was, after that ordeal, very sickly and very weak up to her death.

Times were pretty good now and the prices for all kinds of products of the farm were good too and people lived pretty free from care. We have now begun to export our products only 10 miles to Waseca, now the county seat of Waseca County.

In 1872, my father sent tickets (fare) to Norway for his mother's sister and husband and 3 daughters (the oldest sister in the meantime

went to America to her boyfriend who she later married). When the opportunity came, father's mother's sister was ill and the trip had to be postponed until next year, 1873.

1873

In the month of May, they came, 5 in all. A strange girl they brought to replace their daughter that had already arrived in America and they stayed with us. Then we have a love story with engagement and break up with a full understanding on both parties.

Then over again and 19 of June 1874 I was married to Graethe Annete Gurene Olsen Lysedahlen in our old house by an American priest, J. H. Cleland. I was 21 years 5 months and 15 days old and my wife was 16 years 1 month and 3 days old.

A great multitude was gathered, inasmuch as we had 2 couples to be married at the same time., Mathias P. Dyred and Marie Andersdatter. As the fruit of our marriage, we had a big pretty and perfect baby girl born to us at 6:30 a.m., November 21st 1876.

She was baptized 10:00 p.m. the 28th of December 1876, barely over a month old and was named Inger Annethe and Paster H.E. Sather officiated. I had a brother born to me 5 of December 1876 and he was baptized the same day as my daughter and was named Christian Gilbert, I have not yet got anything to do but hope that something will happen. I have lived with my parents up to this day.

1876

This year crop was very sparse because of the drought, very little rain overall only 6 bushels per acre. The same fall, October of 1876, we had a general plague of grasshoppers and they laid their eggs everywhere and now the people were sore afraid and so were they who prayed to God "Take this cup away from us." The whole winter the question was discussed what needs to be done the coming spring and summer to get rid of the malignant pack,

We know what happened to the people out west, thousands were utterly ruined.

Some cunning men of thought said that they could not survive here in the cold, raw soil, and in the spring the eggs would be disposed of.

Many did not plant, any wheat that spring. It was a severe, cold spring and many of the people thought that the eggs were done away with.

It was an excellent summer for all kinds of growth, plenty of rain and people were wondering what was going to happen. But when it got warm enough, the grasshopper brood all hatched in their malignant multitude. It was then 2 dollars a bushel for dead brood of the grasshoppers offered from the county and the town shoveled powder of coal tar so to catch grasshoppers when they were big enough to jump around but the pay was then cut off.

1877

Many of (most of them) the religious people opposed the killing of grasshoppers and there was a great fight over it in town for they said it was a plague from Gods, God's army they said, who can fight against God. Many arguments were given, how to by law get rid of them and of some I do remember.

"If lightning hit your house and caught fire, do you have the right to put it out if you can?"

"Or wild animals kill your chickens or anything else, do you have a right to kill such animals?"

"Or if you become ill, do you have a right to see a doctor?"

People (many of them) continued on with powder of coal tar and done away with a lot of them. If that was the reason that the crop was saved is not easy to say but on July 20th 1877 they rose to the sky one and all and left us all flocked in the same direction. The sun was darkened by their multitude.

It was an unusual crop all the grass was picked off and the pilose of the wheat and the awns of the barley were cut off. The oats suffered most damage. The price of the wheat that winter and the next spring was over \$1.00 per bushel.

1878

In the spring of 1878, 13th of Aprils my father and I left the home to travel to the most praised and famous, at that time, Red River Valley. We boarded the train in New Richland (the first time I had been on a train) for Minneapolis, and stayed there for 5 days. Then we took off west on St. Paul and Pacific Railroad on April 18th, 5 p.m. There were 5 of us and we reached our destination the next day at 2 p.m. There we were met by relatives and friends which lived by Fishers Landing, the end of the railroad at that time and all transportation from now on was done by boat on Red Lake and along Red River. We roamed the country and did decide at last to travel by horse and buggy 40-50 miles northeast of Crookston. Crookston had only a few houses and the Indians everywhere.

We came out in swamps and morasses and it was shocking and we had enough and went back.

My father and I went further 40-50 miles south along the Red River and on the south side of Wild Rice River in a bend between Wild Rice and Red River. There we bought 320 acres of speculators land for \$5.00 an acre. It was the 13th of May we finished the deal and the agent lived in Moorhead a place with a few houses and a railroad, N.P. R.R.

My father and I went east 10 miles to Glyndon where we were to meet our company who came by railroad from Crookston. We had to wait for the train till 3:00 p.m. It was late because they had run over an ox and

one wagon derailed. We hurried away to a stop named Bambull, where we got off about 2 or 2:30 in the morning. We wanted to drop down to Ottertail County where we had relatives and friends.

We went in the depot, the agent however came and opened the door and said, "Get out, this is no hotel." Can't we sit here till daybreak only about an hour and a half? "Get out or I will make you." Out we went in the direction desired in the dark of the night and we trodded in this way over 20 miles and hungry.

Then we met up with some people that was coming to get us and we then could ride and be off our feet.

After we had visited with our relatives and friends, I left but my father stayed a few more days being a missionary and holding revivals.

I arrived home on Saturday 25th of May, 12 noon 1878. Father came home a week or two later.

The crop was unusual this year cause of the rain and bad circumstances it was hardly anything or of bad quality.

We had also figured on something like 600 acres in the neighborhood of our land for \$3.75 per acre. We received papers and was about to make the deal to borrow against our land. My mother,, however, did not want to so that year it was pretty bad.

We had everything handy where we were and couldn't expect anything better anywhere. Now we had the railroad within 1/2 mile from the station. New Richland., and only 3 miles from Minneapolis-St. Louis built in the fall of 1877.

In the fall of 1878 I was called for grand jury duty and stayed for 8 days. I was a policeman from 1874 to 1876 and school district clerk from 1876 to 1882. I have had many opportunities for town clerk, assessors and supervisors but I did not want to accept. I am no office seeker and don't want any either.

Today my left leg was battered so I am afraid I will not be able to do anything for a while.

1879

March 16, now I am good as new being laid up for about a month and a half.

May 6, the spring work was done, nothing of importance worth mentioning. Today we sent (16 of May) \$120.00 to 1st National Bank, St. Paul, Minnesota.

July 2, today was born to us a son at 6:15 p.m. (Mikkel).

July 8, here today a hail storm passed over and damaged parts of our crop but many neighbors have suffered worse.

July 15, Rain! Rain! Rain! every day.

August 13, I have been ill for 3-4 weeks and still do not feel well. It happened when I slipped on the wagon while making repair on the band of the slack. I have given up on the harvesting for the first time, it started this year July 6 and ended August 8.

August 15, I still can't do anything and I do not feel well neither in mind or body.

December 5, In the stillness of the evening,, while I'm sitting at my desk to write down a few words, I was deep in thought over conclusions and views concerning my future, and for the time being and wondered where I would be a year from now. I wonder the course of my life is laid. I have tonight filled out a subscription blank for the papers Scandenavian and Talsmanden. Father gave notice to quit the Talsmanden and now I subscribe to the Scandinavian on my own account (Father was against the papers) for working as school clerk I received \$3.39 and have sent for Scandinavien book of law by Dr. E. Pontoppdam. Total cost \$3.10. Have my health and everything is pretty well except my own financial situation. Now you hear heavy breathing round about the house that let me know that everyone is in deep sleep except me. My hand drops and I almost cannot keep my eyes open. I must quit Friday night, December 6, 12 o'clock midnight.

December 26, now it is the Christmas holidays everything is peaceful and quiet. Terribly cold, 1 1/2 foot of snow.

1880

January 1, another year is behind us and it lays dormant in the night of eternity. What good that has been done or what bad will in time come forth. The year has been full of important happenings in economy, politics, and religion. What the new year however have in store for us humans is saved as a secret. In the family everything goes at even pace and my family has had an addition. It is not sure that we can hold on to the same count in the coming year.

March 15, tomorrow I will go to Waseca to serve as juror, spring term of the district court.

May 16, Now soon the time will come for me to go away from home. My brother Ole has already gone. He went the 13 of May, 9 o'clock a.m. 1880, after a moving departure.

They were 3 in their company. Andrus Dyrud and family and his brother Anthon Dyrud. Brother Ole had a team of oxen valued at \$88.00, a cow \$20.00, a wagon \$40.00, a suitcase \$8.00, and different type of tools, 2 revolvers, 2 Bosser, 3 traps, 2 sacks of flour, 2 sacks of oats, and kitchen utensils, bedding, and much more, also a dog.

Next week father and I will travel by train westward ahead of Ole to look for new lands. Written 2nd day of Whitsuntide, 9:10 a.m. May 16, 1880.

Father and I traveled in company with Martin Hanson, Ingebret Erickson and 3 or 4 others to Fishers Landing, Polk County. We went for a ride out in the Dakotas along the head of Goose River, Cheyenne River, to Stump Lake where we were scared by Indians (Sioux) and we made a hasty retreat and our land searching was ended and we stayed mostly with father's sister Anna Newton.

Father and Martin Hanson (my father's best friend and right hand, it was a bad time for father when he died in 1887) traveled back home again. They had been missionaries when they were out and about.

I stayed at my father's sister's house till it was time for Ole to come. It was already late in the summer and when Ole came we took a trip eastward to Maple Lake on the Indian Reservation. A whole bunch of us went and had a pleasant trip. When we got back to Crookston, we sold the team and wagon and the cow to Atty Halvor Stenerson, took care of the papers for the sale. The money we received the following year when father moved here. We traveled back to Red River and asked A. Dyrud to take us southward to where we 2 years ago had purchased land. We stayed with J.J. Mjolaness for a week and then we traveled to Glyndon and took the train to Maple where we stayed over the 4th of July.

And by the 6th of July we came to Waseca where father picked us up late at night. By 11 o'clock at night we were home, sleepy and tired of traveling and happy to be home and father was happy too.

July 6, Home! Home! Sweet Home, there is no place like home.

We went to work, it was the most busy time too and we had lost a lot of time and also a great deal of money traveling. The harvest was in full swing and the 10th of August we were almost through with the harvest and stacking, it was a mediocre year.

1880

November 10, after the plowing was done we started threshing in the middle of September and now we have been threshing for 2 months and earned about \$400.00; 2 and 4 bad profit. Our fall work is close to being done and we have 15 acres of grain not harvested and today it is snowing. Cheer for the Republicans, Gov. G. A. Garfield was elected President.

1881

January 4, I am now 28 years old. January 27, today we had another son (he was named Olin).

May 1, the beneficial scent of spring has again filled the air and fields and meadows are verdant.

The spring work was almost done. We started the sowing the 16th of April, Saturday, between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We have had a long and cold winter and a late spring and the chaffs were so soft that it was almost impossible to reach them, as we now are husking the crop we left in the field last fall.

Father and mother and remaining brothers and sisters make preparations to leave this spring.

May 14, the last evening before the separation. I write down these lines concerning the dividing of our property and it is as follows: Horses: Tony 9 years, Jane 12 years, Jull 5 years, Charley 1 year (his mate died today), 3 cows, 3 heifers, and 1 calf, an old wagon cost \$5.00, and a 8 year old saddle, 2 beds and 1.... The land is mine under certain conditions, I shall have half of the wheat and seed, and of all the rest of the crop, I should have it all.

October 9, the grief of separation we have almost overcome, we are all healthy and all is well. The work is progressing and we are all looking out for one another but it has been waste and empty. Parents and brothers and sisters are faring well and are thriving very well in the valley of Red River.

We have again had a mediocre year. But this fall has been terribly wet, it rains every other day and a lot of wheat is spoiled. I had finished the stacking before it started raining. I had hired Jens Vebjoinsen for the stacking but that is all I have hired.

October 9, the other day I traded June a 12 year old mare for a big 7 year old horse. I gave \$10.00 in trade.

December 1, I did thrash some with our own old machine but it did not want to work. In the middle of October I rented out the land and are preparing for my trip to Red River in the spring. My parents wanted us at last to come there. I hired myself with the Hullims boys for thrashing, but it was a terrible fall to get around with the machine. We almost had to pack all the straw we thrashed. When the ground froze it was better.

1882

February 15, the ones I rented the land to were John Gustavson and Johannes Hullgren for 5 years, agreeing that we should have half of all the crops. My brother Ole came today from Red River to help me get ready and take a load westward.

March 13, today Ole went with my horses and cattle, oats, corn, and some wheat, machinery., wagons, etc. We had a very burdensome trip in as much a great snow storm came along and blocked the railroads so he couldn't get through. In St. Cloud he had to travel 4-5 miles to buy hay for the cattle so they wouldn't starve to death,, it took him 9 days to travel that distance.

He came just in time to see the great flood in the Red River Valley when houses or stables surrounded or filled with water and a great surprise for all the inhabitants who had not seen this before. Old. timers of the valley, however, had seen it before, yes much worse every 10 years as long as we know the history.

May 1, many will leave here this spring and among these are Hans S. Hanson, C. Hanson, Iens Vebjoinsen. I have bought an old pair of oxen which I will bring with me. There is a good price for the wheat for No. 1 Northern you could sell for \$1.15 per bushel. I hauled a great deal of wheat to Meridan Station between Waseca and Owatanna, about 12 miles. I'm still preparing to take off in a while.

May 18, today I shall leave my old home for-yes it looks like forever. Sadness overwhelms me so I can not write anymore now.

As I mentioned before,, I left he home on the 18th of May, loaded the car with all our belongings. My 2 cousins Knud and Andrew Newton also had a car so we went together.

13 o'clock we bade family and friends goodbye and were off.

In the evening after 7 o'clock we reached Minneapolis, had our car transferred and was heading west. One of my cousins had to hide himself in between every skiff of conductors so he could have a free ride and they were very smart so nobody did discover them.

In Fergus Falls we parted, I went to Ada and they went by ferry to Grand Forks. This is the last I saw of Andrew. I arrived in Ada the 29th of May and at the depot I met my brother Michael and he didn't know me.

I passed him and he looked at me but said nothing. Father was in the mean-time out in the country delivering a load of pioneer belongings. But he came soon and how happy he was and me too. I was dog tired and we took the cattle off the car and all our things and planned to stay for the night, tied the cattle in an elevator and spend the night in the depot. The family left home on Monday 21st of May and came to Ada the 22nd. In the mornings Michael and I took the cattle and were on our way but we had a terrible time over Ada prairie. The water in some places came up as high as our belts. The oxen gave out so we had to leave them there and we got home to mother. It was between 11 and 12 o'clock pm and I have never been so tired in all my life. I dropped on the bed unable to talk with mother and I could not eat. Oh how wonderful it was to be home, and with mother. The next day father arrived with the family and we had many happy days that summer. We worked and felt good because everyone was healthy.

It became an excellent year so we bought a mower and we bought a share in an old thrashing machine with G.G. Mjolsnes. We built a granary with a thatched roof and a barn for the cows. There was a well and father and I build a blacksmith shop that summer.

1882

We harvested 2200 bushels of wheat and the price was 80-85 cents we sold 2 of our horses for \$210.00 and \$150.00 (one of them was mine). We also sold 10 of the cattle for a good price and in as much as we got our work done early, we went around about and worked and earned between 2-300.00 dollars.

In December my father, John Halvorson and I went to Twin Valley to build a house on a claim that father had.

1883

January 7, Father has now departed for the old homestead in Waseca to collect the rent and to buy horses, pork and other things. Today is Saturday.

Again, another year is gone past, into memories and never will come back.

February 10, we have up to the 2nd of February had an overly strong winter. It has been from 30° to 55° below zero and since then we have had good weather also today and over all we have two feet of snow. The last week of the previous month my brother Christian, got a sore throat and he became so ill that his tongue protruded out of his mouth and we were so frightened, thinking it might be diphtheria.

I looked him over carefully but couldn't find that it was so. We needed to notify father about it; he was still working. He had boils of the throat because when they broke, he soon was well again.

On the 6th of February we received a letter from father that he was ill and then again, that he was better and up and about.

February 10, he was thinking of leaving the place next week round about the 15th - 16th of February.

April 10, Sundays four o'clock p.m., all is well. The snow is all gone. The water in the Red River has risen ten feet even with the prairie, it has rained for two - three days.

My father bought six horses, a mare team 10 years old with harness \$250.00; 1 horse, team 9 years old with harness \$210.00; 2 fowls,, 1 horse, 4 year old; 1. mare, three, year old \$210.00; cockle mill \$20.00; plugtub \$30.00; chopping block \$20.00 and coffer \$34.00.

He came to Grandin, father was all well and healthy again.

May 13, Whitsuntide, beautiful weather and. everything is pretty comfortable. Changes in life, troubles and strife are many, I feel heavy laden.

1883

October 29, we have now harvested everything and we had a great crop of 4,454 bushels of wheat and 2,000 of oats and we have already tilled 300 acres ready for spring. All are healthy and we fare overall very well.

1884

January 1, the year 1883 has faded away to where the others are that have gone before no one died and we have all reasons to be thankful.

June, spent time in Ada and helped organize prohibition party in this Norman County. We were only 15 delegates present.

1885

January 1, so another year is laid to rest and our lives have again been shorted by one year. That year also passed without any great opposition. I, for one, have been, lucky and have been very happy because of this reason, unbroken, unanimous family togetherness that you very seldom find, maybe in a very few families.

To capture some incidents I now have to back track till January 7, 1884.

That day my brother, Michael, left for high school or seminary in Red Wing Minn. and stayed there till about the 10th of April that year and that cost him \$125.00

We didn't do anything very special during the winter just common routine. In March 1884 my brother, Ole, traveled to Waseca to our old homestead to buy horses etc. In the first part of April he came back with 4 horses, one gray horse, 6 years old \$140,00; one red horse, small, 5 years old, \$100,00; 2 black foals, 3 years old. Queen and King, \$200.00. Freight on the car one half and our cousin, John Halvorson, had the other half.

Brothers Michael, cousins, J. Halvorson and Halvov Halvorson, and their sisters family came at the same time.

Our spring work started April 15th, it was terribly wet.

Father was bedridden for a time, he had rheumatism in one leg. We hired a man to help us this spring, Thor O. Juve.

1884

July 21, 1884, my brother, Ole, married his girl, Ida Johnson.

That summer we had no hay meadow land because we had cleared everything but 15 acres of a wooded area which we used for pasture.

June 23-27. Here we had a large layman's meeting and a laymans organization was formed and was called Red River Valley "Save us" Lutheran inner mission. I was voted in to the management and as such became their secretary. With our common business the summer passed and we had a good crop.

Last part of July my brother, Michael, and father went to "13 towns" and while there father bought 160 acres of R.R. land mostly Meadow land and paid \$5.00 an acre and he paid \$200.00 down.

August 7, 1884, another son was born to us and he was named Albert Olaus.

First of October father, mother and our little brother, Christian Gilbert, planned to move to "13 towns" on the land we had just bought and we went brother, Ole, and myself too. We took 2 teams and wagons full loaded with household goods etc. I let them take 4 of my cattle in all, 11 head. After 4 days we reach our destinations but it was a hard trip. I was so unusually wet and so much water my brother, Ole, went back at once but I stayed to help father build a house and barn. Bought a stable that was just built without a roof for \$50.00. I regret greatly that I did not talk father out of going here because he had a hard time and 40 miles (Crookston) to the nearest railroad.

Set up the stable on the land and also a little log cabin of small popples.

When it was time for me to go father had an attack of rheumatism. The stable was about done and the house was set up but still there were plenty of thing to do and I, therefore, felt bad to leave. But we had a lot of unthrashed grain and I had to leave and also 2 hired hands. I had to go on foot clear from Ada and home. We harvested 6600 bushels wheat, 2600 oats and 150 barley. The price, however, for wheat was so low that year 48 cents a bushel but when we decided to sell the price went up to 61 cents and the next spring we sold most of the wheat for 70 cents. All No. 1 hard. We came through pretty well though. We didn't hire on very much.

It was probably many other things that could be interesting to write about but it would be too long-winded.

The winter of 1884 and 1885 went quiet and peaceful,, all is well.

1885

Father got all well again and we had a few letters from which told us that Gilbert was learning to write. Mother had an attack but is now better. Grandmother Anne Lysedahl, my wife's mother, suffered from asthma. At new years, father came and stayed for a while and it was very pleasant. He stayed for 8 days then my brother, Ole, took him home and brought 3 butchered hogs, wheat flour etc. and Ole stayed with them for 1 week and they, father, mother and Gilbert, sent their greetings and they were well cared for and felt comfortable. Brother Michael left for school at Red Wing first part of October 1884 and stayed till the middle of April 1885. When he got home he had a job \$35.00 a month for 3 months.

First part of March 1 left for "13 towns" - McIntosh, to see father with a mower, a tiller, some oats and a live pig. I stayed there for about three weeks and cut and transported logs, hay, etc. We thought of adding to the stable so it could be better.

I had a marvelous time especially being with mother and father. When I went back, father came too and we also took a wagon and we traveled to Ada the same day, half by wagon and half by sleigh.

We took out all the wheat we had left and then father went back and brought with household goods and other articles. The spring came fast so father barely made it back in time.

We had hired two boys Jorgen Adolfson (died six or eight years later), and Knute Nelson (a friend from Waseca).

We had 335 acres of wheat we planted and we did it in 15 days, 4 rigs. We had also 40 acres of oats.

We did not expand anything that summer for the harvest. We fenced in a little pasture for the cow by the house. We had 50 acres of Timothy land for hay. From the first to the fourth of July I went with father to a laymans meeting at Crookston. Father had already come in the last part of June 1885 and we took two loads of oats and several other things after the meeting, I took the train from Crookston to Ada and then traveled home in company of A. M. Eckman and another whose name was Sundt. The order of our laborer came from 13 different towns.

It was decided that father, mother and Gilbert should come down for the harvest time, when they were through haying up there. But due to bad weather father did not come till the 11th of August after we had begun. It came a lot of rain and warm weather did not make the wheat of good quality. The family was now together again, three families, many laborer and a small house. A young boy took care of the cattle in McIntosh.

Michael also came home for the harvest, stacking and thrashing.

In May of 1885 brother Ole had a daughter.

We had beautiful weather for the last part of the harvest and the stacking. We all were stacking, 13 in all. We were through with the harvest on August 22nd at noon. The stacking on the 10th of September 1885. The thrashing from the 9th to the 16th of October 1885.

In the year 1884, we had a profit of the land in Waseca in the amount of \$330.60. Our thrashing expenses, our own not included, this year \$600.00. It was well with us this year and we had made progress, We lost old Kale and 5 cows, that was all.

In August we bought 2 lots of land of Central Land Co. and received our tax title deeds and we paid \$200.00 cash (which we later found out were not worth a mote).

Brother Michael went back to school at Wilmar on the 20th of October 1885. Father, Mother, and Gilbert left again for McIntosh last September with a horse and top buggy, the first one we had ever seen.

We bought this one as a gift for father and mother and he liked it very much. Father came at once back again and helped with the thrashing and when it was done it took off again and Ole's wife and a hired girl, Miss Helmine Einavolden, came with. On the 26th of November, father returned again, he had attended a layman's meeting at Zion's congregation for 3 days north of Marsh River and brother Ole and father left again for "13" with 2 teams and 2 wagons and they took their time in coming back.

Father and mother had talked about coming to Waseca this winter to see relatives and friends and Ole will come back and cut logs in the woods.

We have now a cellar half finished in which Ole and his wife plan to live in this winter.

In 1884 we bought a self binder \$210.00, in 1885 2 wagons \$130 and top buggy and harness \$113.00, a mower \$65.00, a p.plow \$23.00, a rifle \$20.00 and lumber \$65.00.

1886

Father, mother, and Christian(Gilbert) left on the 8th of June 1886 for Waseca and brother Michael, who had come home for Christmas holidays, to Wilmar. It was a terrible storm that day when I took them to Hendrum to the station. In 1884 they had started building the railroad Moorhead Northern, and now it was finished.

We were only 3-1/2 miles from the station and the tracks were only 1/2 mile from our land.

Ole moved to the woods after we had the cellar finished, had a stable (for 1 horse team, one cow and calf) finished all our chickens we took over there. We hired a man, Ole Thompson, to cut and saw timber as we wanted to transport it to the mill, and I stopped at the old house on the prairie.

Jorgen Adolfsen stayed with us and went to school. In February we hired another man, Hans H. Sagen for \$10.00 a month and I and Ole transported timber to the mill. Ole must have hauled there 40,000 feet of logs.

We came in trouble with a man who claimed he owned 93 acres which we had the title, in May. However, we drew up a contract with him for \$2500.00 we therefore did not see any more because we gave up building on the land.

On July 19, 1886, we moved the house off the prairie to the woods on 4 wagons.

Father and mother came back from Waseca in the last part of March. They had been visiting the whole time in Waseca at mother's sister and other acquaintance in Otiscos, at uncle's in Steele County, etc.

As soon as father got home he took off again for a layman's meeting in Twin Valley and Michael came from the school in Wilmar.

We hired 2 men that springs H. H. Sagen for 1 year \$210.00 and J. A. Jorgenson for 8 months \$135.00.

The planting began the first part of April and we finished very shortly because the weather was good and dry. We planted 335 acres of wheat and 40 acres of oats.

We also cleared a wood fraction of 15 acres, hauled lumber and built a large stable.

We started haying in the first part of July and we had lots to do house-moving and everything had to be ready for the work. Michael was hired for 2 months school in Ole Rustvolds district for \$30.00 per month and later for 2 more months at Tarvestads school house. Early this spring father complained about pain in his right hand, especially his little finger and the ring finger.

In the afternoon on Friday the 23rd of July father left for Tarvestads school house to pick up Michael who now had finished the term.

My daughter and son, Inger and Mikkel and brother Gilbert were attending school in the school house in Hendrum. Between 4-5 o'clock in the afternoon a big storm was coming and everyone that could took off for houses for shelter just as the storm came rattling over the prairie with hails, we saw the children coming over the prairie. Brother Ole, myself and a hired hand took some clothes and ran to meet them because the hails were as big as chicken eggs and they came down. Mikkel was young and was struck down by the hailstorm and we got there just in time and I know if I hadn't had a glimpse of them and they would have been left outside, it could have cost them their lives. The clothes we held over their heads saved them and us as much as possible. Round about us we saw heaps of hails and it all lasted for 10 minutes. All our crop was totally destroyed and we have never before or since had such beautiful crop, 9,000 bushels of wheat and 2000 bushels of oats and it was all lost in 10 minutes.

This was a hard blow and in the evening when father came home, this is what he saw.

Our neighbor to the north didn't suffer any crop damage. We had bad luck the previous year also, it was our own fault, we borrowed against the wheat and we held it and lost \$200.00 and again we held \$3,000 when the storm came.

In September father complained about the pain in his right hip and leg and became gradually worse. The fall went and father got worse and he stayed on the medicine. We plowed early and burnt down all damaged grain. I set up a machine shed, 18 x 48. Father was ill and he was also saddened by our bad luck.

I also prepared the house for winter by adding on. Michael was at home. In November we called in a doctor who told father what his sickness was, progressive muscular atrophy (muscle consumption). He was quite stirred when he found out that there was no cure.

It was the saddest winter I have ever experienced. We had to probate because everything was in father's name. On December 29, 1886, we all thought, and he himself too, that he was going to die. At 10 o'clock a.m., J. J. Mjolsnes was close at hand, he was his best friend.

The land was divided equal. Father was now under treatment of the World's Dispensary Medical Association of N.Y.

If we had been more knowledgeable and sent him there earlier this fall he might have been able to live another 20 years. Ole was occupied in the "13 towns" for 2 weeks during Christmas and New Years and father was then in his worst state.

The winter passed quiet and saddened. I looked after father and fixed harnesses. We started giving father massages and after them he felt better.

1887

On the 20th of August my wife's brother and his 4 children came from Norway, we paid for his ticket, cost \$200.00.

Poor father had to stay in bed and couldn't get out because of severe pains he had and he felt like he was burning up, so we tried as best we could to lessen his pains.

The whole summer went like this.

On January 27, 1887, we had a sweet, little daughter but she got sick and passed on. About the same time, my brother-in-law's daughter 12-14 years old died so they were buried in the same grave.

The 5th of April, 1887, we sold 967-1/2 bushels of wheat at 62 cents - \$600.00, and we paid a note off to Rev. Whelnig Risson, Wisconsin, \$702.00, the rest including interest is \$2,000.00.

We started our spring work in early April and we prepared our acres as a garden and we were sure to receive a beautiful harvest. But no, the windstorms came and blew away everything so we had to do it all over again and the crop was poor.

Poor father, disabled, sick and miserable, had to stay in bed the whole summer long in the heat and suffer. It was hard to see, he had however many friends who came to see him and stood by us.

We bought a thrashing machine, a Buffalo Pitts, 14 horsepower engine, 40 x 56 separator. We thrashed for a while till we burnt up the separator. We had to buy a new one and for the first rig we gave \$1700.00 and for a new separator \$475.00, total \$2175.00.

Father was failing more each day so we had to watch him steadily. During the summer and the fall, mother and my little brother Gilbert took care of him. Michael clerked at O. L. Gordon's in Hendrum but when it got to be winter, he also had to come home. We now had to stay with father night and day because he was so sick.

He lived on to March. 14, 1888, but he did not acknowledge anything the last 4-5 days. Pastor Gjerstad stayed with him for 5-6 days before he died and gave him the sacrament. He continued to exhort and to pray

as long as he was able to talk but oh how hard it was for me to see him waste away, at last he couldn't move a limb. For a long time he could help himself with his left hand but then it became lame too and so did his tongue. His eyes lost the mobility and also as far as I know he had lost his sight. His outside and inside organisms were lame so the body could not function.

Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock pm March 14, 1888, it seemed like something bursted inside of him and he uttered a loud moan, like a wailing of complaint, with a few weak muscle movements and father was dead. Our youngest brother Gilbert was inconsolable and I feared for him as we took him over to our house.

Mother was composed and was delivered up and we all stood by his side when he died.

M. A. Anderson (Brattland is the name that he adopted) had clerked at Hendrum but came home when father got worse. The funeral was held Thursday, March 23rd, 1888. A lot of people came, especially to the mission house in Hendrum and Pastor Gjerstad spoke at home, then at the funeral at the mission house and at the grave. It was quite a bit of snow but it was starting to go away.

Father was so dear to all of us and we felt a great loss.

My mother-in-law died on the 25th of June, 1888. On the 27th of June we had a son Tellef and he was baptized by Pastor Solem. 1888 was a pretty good year for the crop but the price for wheat was poor.

We built a house for mother that summer and she moved about a little.

1889

This year we had frost so the wheat, was damaged. Michael was also home and everything went pretty good. My brother in law, O. O. Lysedahl went to Chicago and we thrashed all fall but didn't get much.

We now had a new school house close to the farm and the children went to school.

Mother and Gilbert left for Marshall County to visit family and friends.

1890

This year we had a good crop. In May and June I took United States census as Enumerator.

We bought two lots in Hendrum for \$125.00 and built a store for \$700.00 to \$800.00 and merchandise \$1,500.00 and started a general store-on July 23, 1890, M.A. Brattland took care of the business, Our capital

was about \$2,000.00 and we had to borrow \$500.00 from a bank in Ada to pay for our first bill of goods.

The building was 22 x 48 x 12 and we divided it for store room 22 x 24 and the rest for living quarters and mother moved here to keep house for Michael. While he took care of the store, and Gilbert was with her.

Awhile after Christmas she got sick, she did her wash one day and she happened to open the window and she took cold and it settled on her lungs. We had already now moved mothers house from the farm and placed it close to the store building and when we moved her in there she was very ill. She had pleurisy and she lived only two weeks after the moving. The doctors had to pump the fluid from her lungs and she died in the evening of the 9th of January, 1891.

Our youngest brother Gilbert was now 14 years old.

Michael did not want to care for the store any more, so I had to take his place and he left for Minneapolis State University to study law. Ole and his wife came to the town to keep house until spring. On the 8th of March we had another son and he was named Edgar.

1891

That summer I moved my family to town.

A couple of months I had Pederson to clerk in the store and. we made the store bigger and it went pretty good but we still had to borrow money because we had a lot outstanding.

In March we hired another clerk H.O. Folkedahl, a drunken wreck of a human being, a sharper too sharp for me to detect.

We sold a lot of goods that summer and we had \$3,000.00 outstanding that we couldn't collect that fall so again we had to borrow \$2,500.00 to see us through a good crop this year but the price was poor.

1892

The business was even greater in 1892, but the clerk was secretly drinking and stole money to satisfy his habit. The end of the year we had to borrow \$3,500.00 and in 1893 we borrowed another \$1,000.00

Now we were in a severe money crisis, the worst one our country had ever experienced, businesses went broke all over the place and the crops and prices were poor and also collections. The result on January 1, 1893, we were in debt \$7,000.00 and had \$ 12,000.00 to \$ 13,000.00 outstanding.

Many a farmer left his farms and we had to suffer because of it. We dumped in whatever we had on the farm, but the price was poor and it didn't help much. May 25, 1893 we had another son, Chester Arthur.

1894

In 1893, and 1894 we did sell only half of what we previous had done and we worked as close as possible and we maintained ourselves.

Layed off H.D. Folkedahl and hired a Swede by the name of C.E. Linquist. We pressed our collections more and sold less and kept afloat and also was able to pay off some debts.

1895

This was a pretty good year. In spring of 1897, we had a flood, the water had not been as high as in 1872 and a lot of things happened. We now lived in the outskirts of town in a house belonging to Mrs. R. Anderson. In 1892, added to the store so we had a building 22 x 90 and a side building 16 x 90 which we partly used for our living quarters with mothers little house along side. The new addition cost us \$900.00

1895

In the fall 1895, Inger got sick with fever so we moved into O. Nygaard's house which we rented from.

1897

On January 22, 1897, we moved from there back to Mrs. R. Andersons' house.

1896

The fall of 1896 we moved the little house on to a lot we had bought and rented it out.

In spring of 1898, the Spanish-American War started and we kept our wheat until May and therefore got \$1.25 to \$1,40 per bushel.

In the summer of 1897 we merged with O. O. Brohaugh. In 1896, we moved the additions which was built in 1892 on to our lot facing Main Street and sold it for \$900.00 to G. A. Tripp and in 1899 he sold it to V. H. Moffat and Company and we received our pay. As mentioned, in August 1897, we went into partnership with O. O. Brohaugh. We moved our store around to face Main Street, which faced the R.R. right-of-way before.

Brohaugh moved his store to join ours and we therefore, had a double store but it was a mistake to merge with him because he had \$1,200.00 more in assets than, we and we paid him off in 1899.

In August 1899, we had a hailstorm that almost damaged everything round about Hendrum.

On March 7, 1898, we had our seventh son, named him Andrew.

In 1897, we acquired a quarter of land section 4, Hendrum in payment for a debt of L.B. Foss and we bought sheriff certificate of Iver Lien for \$1,300.00

In 1898, we bought five \$100.00 shares in the state bank of Halstad and they also built a bank in Hendrum, A.M. Eckman cashier. In 1900, we incorporated Hendrum Bank, capital \$10,000.00 and then ten shares in January of 1900 worth book value of \$2,000.00. We were issued five shares of stock in the new incorporated State Bank of Hendrum.

We had on June 19, 1900, \$1,500.00 or 15 shares a(t) \$100.00 and \$500.00 surplus so our money doubled in two years. In January 1900 we bought a quarter of land from O. Kvil and Lewis Anderson, south of the farm, for \$2,600.00 and we still owe \$500.00.

In November 1899 we bought a quarter land from P.O. Ingberg, R.R. land for \$1,600.00 and we still owe \$1,100.00

1899

My old father-in-law Ole Olsen Lysedahlen died the 8th of March 1899. He was born on the farm Lysedahl in Saetersdalen, Norway on the 28th of April 1818. He had a heart attack and was buried next to his wife.

In 1894, Gilbert went away to high school in Crookston and since then he continued at the State University until April 29, 1900.

Michael, my brother, has practiced law in Ada since 1893.

1900

Brother Ole runs the farm and three of my sons are working with him. My daughter Inger was married in the last part of January 1900 to B.J. Mjolsnes and they are at present living in Crookston.

The last part of the previous year could in a few word and with irregularity be summed up in as much in was so far behind and now most of it was forgotten.

Now I will make a summary of all the property that Ole and I had in case some of us should die and that the remaining relatives could know.

Brother Michael and Gilbert have no interest in our properties any more because that has all been settled.

February 1, 1900
February 5 1902

Now two years has already gone, since, as the previous mentioned date January 2, 1900, this was written.

Now I must rack my brain and write down a few of the most sensible events I can remember.

In July 1900 we sold or traded the store and stock to Gordon, and Rogness.

February 5, 1902

Two years have gone by since I wrote down what had happened last and I must now call to mind and write down some of the most significant I do remember.

In July 1900, we sold the store and stock or rather traded, to Gordon and Rogness. We got A. H. Gordon's farm about 320 acres by Marsh River, value \$30.00 per acre, Ole R. Rogness farm of 160 acres northeast of Hendrum about six or seven miles, valued \$3,800.00. There were \$800.00 mortgage against the Rogness farm and there were about \$5,000.00 mortgage against the Gordon farm. We also got Gordons store and lot in Hendrum, valued \$1,000.00 and the balance was \$800.00 to \$900.00.

February 1901 we settled our affairs with Gordon and Rogness and they still owed us \$400.00 after our store account, three of us, were taken out.

Collections last year were poor and many account notes were bad. So we owed the bank \$3000.00 and other creditor \$2,000.00 so now we had to borrow \$3,000.00 on our land.

Brohaugh couldn't borrow so he took the Gordon farm and we took Rogness farm and the Gordon store.

1901

We took third mortgage on Brohaugh for what he owed us when we paid our debt for the firm.

All our bills and accounts went to the State Bank of Hendrum for collections so at last we were finished with that pernicious store business and its credit system.

In July Inger went to Chicago, her husband was there in wheat gambling. Her little son stayed with us, while she wanted to know what could be done for her hearing that was pretty bad.

I work in the bank as assistant to the cashier from August 1, 1900 to April 1, 1901, nine months \$35.00 per month. In the last part of March 1901, Ole and myself had decided to divide all our properties.

Ole did not want to divide the Red River farm and he rather wouldn't have it but I thought he had more help with the work so at last it was settled and now I will again give all details about the transaction.

FINANCIAL RECORD OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
OF ANDERSON BROTHERS (AM & OM ANDERSON)

1900

Feb. 1	ASSETS		
Feb. 1	To Open Accounts Outstanding	\$1,311.00	
Feb. 1	By Open Accounts We Owe		\$ 513.45
Feb. 1	To Bills Receivable	3,387.97	
Feb. 1	To On Deposit Bank Hendrum (Feb. 1, 1900)	250.00	
Feb. 1	To Stock Bank of Halstad (Feb. 1, 1900)	1,000.00	
Feb. 1	To Stock Hendrum Elev. Co.	200.00	
Feb. 1	To Stock Lee Elev. Co.	100.00	
Feb. 1	To Cash On Hand	7.82	
Jun. 12	Hendrum Merc Assoc. Net Stock	5,655.63	
Jun. 1	By Bills Payable G. A. Brattland	8%	1,100.00
Jun. 1	By Bills Payable G. A. Brattland	8%	1,200.00
Jun. 1	By Bills Payable G. A. Brattland	8%	614.75
Jun. 26	By Bills Payable Ole Hestby	7%	1,027.22
	By Bills Payable P. O. Ingberg	6%	250.00
	By Bills Payable P. O. Ingberg	7%	250.00
	By Bills Payable R. R. Contract	7%	600.00
	By Bills Payable B. B. of Halstad	7%	500.00
	Owing on K. Anderson Place		
	J. R. Nelson for work		

MACHINERY, TOOLS, CATTLE, HORSES,
HOGS, CHICKENS, AND FEED

3 Wagons and Tanks (15 years old)	\$ 150.00
3 Wagons and 4 Racks, 2 Axes (15 years or more)	60.00
Thrashing Machine Outfit (16 years old)	600.00
1 Desk Used (same at cost)	30.00
3 Long Plows (16 to 18 years old)	30.00
Mower and Rake (mower 3 years, rake 10 years)	40.00
3 Binders (2, 10 & 12 years; 1, 14 or 15 years bought 3 years ago for \$5.00)	30.00
2 Drills (10 & 11 years, 1 drag, no good)	100.00
Feed Mill, Fanning Mill and Cockle Mill	25.00
3 Buggies and 1 Cart (all from 10 to 20 years)	75.00
2 Sleighs (1 new; 1, 4 or 5 years)	25.00
Blacksmiths Tools (no good)	25.00
3 Scrapers	20.00
2 Cultivators	15.00
1 Wagon (3 seated) this was included in the buggies named above	40.00
1 Buggy, this was also named above	<u>15.00</u>
	\$ 283.00

HORSES

Jack & Kate, Nelle, Flora, Jesse, Charley, King George @ \$100.00	800.00
Pete & Tom, Prince	150.00
Collie & Sam (small horses)	75.00
Dock & Dolly (small horses)	75.00
Dennce (small horses)	40.00
Dick & King (not gray)	<u>90.00</u>
	\$1,230.00

Harnesses	170.00
En 28 Head Cattle, small or short	700.00
12 Big Hogs and 15 or 20 small	125.00
About 150 Chickens	25.00
Machinery	<u>1,283.00</u>
	\$3,533.00
Barley & Oats at 35 for oats 50 for barley	<u>500.00</u>
	\$4,033.00
Ole's 1/2 interest of equity	2,016.00

Amount forward Personal property \$2,016.00

Real Estate was divided thusly:

I to buy Ole's share of land on
Red River at a price of \$35.00

S.E. 1/4 160 ½ of lots 1,2 & 3 230 acres \$8,050.00

Less Mortgage on S.E. %	1,500.00	<u>6,550.00</u>
Ole's Total Credit		\$8,566.00

Ole to take land we have
N.E. of Hendrum (1 Section)
at following prices:

Foss Land	\$1,900.00
Sudden Land (K. Anderson)	2,800.00
Rogenes Land	3,800.00
Ingberg Land	1,700.00

Less Mortgage	<u>2,050.00</u>
	8,150.00

My Half Equity (½ interest) 4,075.00

\$4,491.00

I A.M. Anderson gave G.A.M, Anderson;

Back 2 horses, Dick & King (not gray)	80.00
100 Bushel Oats	35.00
50 Bushel Barley	25.00
His choice of best cow	30.00
Wood one year, making 50 cord	76.00

245.00

\$4,246.00

Agreed to that I A.M. Anderson is to have O.A.M. Anderson's share
of land by Red River, all machinery, wagons, tools, and
utensils on the Red River farm, and to pay him \$4,300.00,

And to give him 100 bushel of oats, 50 bushel of barley,, Dick,
Kings and Queen, one cow of his own choice, and wood for a
year; and I am to assume the liabilities and taxes on R.R.
farm (O.A.M. Andersen's)

And O.A.M. Anderson agrees to assume all liabilities and taxes on
the Prairie lands.

Each to pay for the seed wheat and! seed flax used in excess of the other.

A.M. Anderson agrees to quit claim his share in Prairie farms and
O.A.M. Anderson agrees to quit claim his share in Red River farm.

The dwelling house and store in Hendrum we hold jointly, but it is agreed that O.A.M, Anderson pay A.M. Anderson \$4.00 per month for his share in house as long as he lives there or it is sold.

(End of Journal)