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Writers Project Research Notes.

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To: Roscoe Macy, Writer's Project, 28 NE Second St., Mpls.

From: Paul A. Bergquist.

For: History of Chisago county..

Interview with Alfred Glycer..

Alfred Glycer was born in Wyoming township, Chisago county, Minn--esota, on October 13, 1870, and was the seventh child of thirteen children born to Swen Glycer and Mary Magnuson Glycer.

Swen Glycer was born, raised and married in Smaland, Sweden. His birth day was January 8, 1831, and was married to Mary Magnuson in 1856. Mrs. Glycer was born September 16, 1839. Five sons were born to this couple before they left their native land in 1868 and migrated to Taylors Falls, and across country to Wyoming township, where they settled on the same farm now belonging to Alfred Glycer. As was the usual custom for the early settlers, the father got his start by working for other settlers until he earned enough to start for himself.

Alfred Glycer's early boyhood was spent roaming the wooded hills of south eastern Wyoming township, when work was not too heavy on the farm. He was married on December 31, 1897 to Miss Beeda Lindberg in Chisago City. Mrs. Glycer was born in Chisago Lake township, Chisago county, December 19, 1878. Seven children, Gilbert, Rutherford, Effie, Violet, Inez, Leonard and Murial, have been born to this couple.

Mr. Glycer owned a 160-acre farm, run by his two oldest sons, but due to the hilly lay of the land the farming equipment is still the simplest. All the work is still done by horse power, the plowing is done with a walking plow, the manure is all spread by hand from a wagon instead of by spreader. There is about 60 acres of open field. Mr. Glycer bought his first corn binder in 1917, his first grain binder in 1898. Oxen was the first beast of burden on the farm.

Mr. Glycer served as accessor in Wyoming township three different times, 1901, 1904-1914, and 1917-1928, he served as school clerk in District 40 for six years, 1901-1907.

Mr. Glycer is awake to the times of today as well as those of years ago and says there is really no comparison. Today, and seventy years ago, are as much different as day and night, and yet, as much alike as day and night. The people, with all their modern conveniences, are still looking for better things, but, he says, things are going to have

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quite a set-back with this war that the whole world is raging in before it can be better days. Mr. Glycer is quite a philosopher.

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Interviews with Robert Glycer.

John Robert Glycer was born in Smaland, Sweden, on March 4, 1865, and came to Chisago county, Minnesota, with his parents when four years old, in 1869. His parents built a small log house on the west side of Green lake, on what is now a part of our subject's farm. Here they started to clear the land of timber, to engross in the art of agriculture. Mr. Glycer is the son of Gustaf Glycer and Johnana Gustava Johnson Glycer. When the family came to Chisago Lake township, it was one mass of forest timber with only a few scattered homes. The lakes were so high that it was only a few yards to the water's edge from the house, which is almost a mile now from the same building to the water.

Gustaf Glycer was born in Smaland, Sweden, December 21, 1839; his wife, Johnana Johnson Glycer, was born in Kronebergs-lane, Smaland, Sweden, on March 25, 1842. They were married in their native land in 1863.

The first years the family lived in the new land, the father worked for other farmers to earn enough money to start farming, while the mother did most of the work on their own land. On days during the first year when work could not be gotten he engaged in grubbing and clearing a small piece of land to start raising what was most needed. The first plow owned by Gustaf Glycer was called an "Ador" or "Odor". It was a log of a tree about eight to twelve inches thick with a branch sticking straight out from the side for a handle, while in the other end it was sharpened to a sharp edge, like a plow shear. Over all, the length was about two yards, or varied as to the height of the man who was going to use it. This "Ador" made a furrow much like a plow, drawn by oxen. After the furrow was dug, the children came next with corn or potatoes, or whatever was being planted and dropped the seed at even distances apart by walking at a certain pace. Behind this came the mother with a hoe or rake to cover up the seed. Often the children sang a song while working, the song when translated would sound something like this: "One for the blackbird, one for the crow, one for the cut-worm, and two to

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Interview with Robert Glyer (cont'd).

to grow". This was especially a favorite when planting corn. Oxen were used for some number of years as the beast of burden on the Gustaf Glyer farm. When enough land was cleared for grain, there was ~~now~~ no seeder and no reaper to be had. So in planting, the seed was "broadcasted". This was done by going into the field with a sack or pail on one arm and walking up and down the field in rows, all the time throwing seed before you in a fan-like fashion with your free hand. The cutting of the grain was done at first by a large hook tied to a rope, which was swung out and pulled back sharply in much the fashion of the modern child's game, 'yoy-yoy'. Then next the cradle was used, this was much the shape of a scythe with a form of a basket hung on to catch the grain and put it into heaps which were then tied and set up to dry. Later came the reaper and the binder. Before the modern thrashing machine was invented, the grain was hauled into barns and thrashed by pounding out the seed on a large sheet of cloth. After it was all thrashed, it was cleaned by pouring it slowly from one container to another in the wind so all the chaff was blown out. This grain, mostly wheat, what was not needed for seed the following year, was brought to the nearest grist mill and either have ground or exchanged for flour. Dairy products which were produced at the time of the early settlers was used exclusively on the farm, so not a great many cattle were raised. Deer and wild game were abundant during the first years when the Glyers came to Chisago county so there was not much need for domestic meat production. ~~Mr~~

Mr. Glyer was married to Miss Amanda Mariam Lindberg in Chisago City on May 12, 1895, six children, three boys and three girls, have been born to this couple. Mrs. Glyer was born in Chisago Lake township, January 23, 1875..

Mr. Glyer tells about the time when they were clearing the second piece of land his father bought, adjoining the first sixty acres, they cut the logs in three feet lengths and hauled them Green lake in winter to the Stave factory, located on the west bank of Chisago lake. This

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was all done with oxen and home-made sleds, and they received \$2.50 a cord for stove wood.. Four winters were necessary to clear the eighty acres.. They came across the lake, which is now both big and small Green lake, and came onto land just about where the cottages are now on the north-east side of little Green lake. Gustav Glycer bought the later land--the land where the present site of farm building is now located--for \$5 and \$10 an acre from a land agent, Mr. Rose..

It was a familiar site sixty years ago to see people coming to church in open wagons and sleighs drawn by oxen. When Mr. Glycer came into the county, the family was met at Wyoming by a man driving a horse and buggy, this was the first horse to be seen in this territory, and the only one for a long time.

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Interview with Andrew G. Anderson.

Andrew G. Anderson was born in Smaland, Sweden, August 21, 1863, and came with his parents to the United States and to Chisago county, Minnesota in 1879, settling in Chisago Lake township, south of Chisago lake, in some of the best farming country in the county. Andrew is the oldest son of John Anderson and Johana Gustafson Anderson.

John Anderson was born in Smaland, Sweden, on November 5, 1831. and was married in 1862 to Miss Johana Gustafson, also of Smaland, Sweden, who was born February 22, 1841.

Our subject was sixteen years of age when he came to this county, so after seeing his parents settled, he joined the throngs of young men in the only big occupation open at the time, lumbering. As was usual for anyone unexperienced in that line, he worked his way from chore boy to more important jobs in camps. But before we go lumbering, we will say that his father bought the farm land from the land agent, Charley Rose. Someone had lived on the land before and had opened for cultivation a small strip of the eighty acres ^{farm} there was also a small log house and barn. When the Anderson family came, Marine in Washington county, and Franconia in Chisago county, were the most developed villages, north of Stillwater on the St. Croix river. They landed in Franconia and from there hired someone to take them across land to the Charley Lind farm located on the east side of Chisago lake. This farm seemed to be general headquarters for all people coming from Smaland, Sweden. The Linds, themselves, were from that section of the native land, and their home was always open to friends and acquaintances, bearing good tidings from people back home. (As has been told the writer in almost every interview, but never before stated. The Linds, three families, Charley, John and Peter, were the first settlers from Sweden, that ventured as far east of the river as to Chisago lake, they came to this county along about 1855-60). However, by the time Andersons came it was fairly well settled both around the lakes and in to the territory where John Anderson bought his first eighty acres. In a few years more real estate were nothing more than blazed trails, ~~traveled~~ traveled by the Indians and widened as travel by cart and oxen or

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Interview with Andrew G. Anderson. (cont'd).

horses became more extended. Let us say that the roads of today have been built only as the increase in travel has demanded it..

As has been told down through the generations, before they had beasts tamed for heavy work, the tools consisted of axes and grub-hoes, even as late as 1875-80 there were many families who came to this country and dug out a farm from the treed wilderness with just these tools, and as they could afford it more and better ways were introduced. The people have always strived to better themselves, and this alone has brought to this United States the highest standard of living anywhere in the world. With the rich soil, the abundant supply of rainfall, the ideal weather conditions, the Swedes in this county as well as throughout all Minnesota, has been a big factor in putting this country to all-out importance where it is today..

Andrew Anderson returned from the lumber camps in 1893 and bought the farm from his father.. In 1896 he was married to Miss Ida M. Elmquist, on May twenty-third.. Mrs. Anderson was born in Smaland, Sweden on July 16, 1873, and came to this county the same year she was married.. Five children have been born to this couple, namely: Mabel -- now deceased, Arthur, Edwin, Raymong and Hazel.

Where flour was scarce in this territory, Mr. Anderson remembers when his father paid \$8.00 for a 98-pound sack of flour.. The first taxes were about \$2.00 for eighty acres, and in 1893 he paid \$30.00 taxes for 200 acres of land.

Mr. Anderson has served as trustee on the board of the Zion Lutheran Church for twenty-four years; has been a member of the school board in District 38 for twelve years; has been a member of the Chisago City Corporative Creamery board for three years; and way highway overseer for four years in his part of the township.. Mr. Anderson has retired from all active service, but is still living on his farm, operated by his two unmarried sons, Arthur and Raymond. However, Mr. Anderson is still interested in the times, and is very alert to both the past and the present, and enjoys the respect and friendship of the entire community.

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Interview with Alex Smith.

Mr. Alex Smith was born in ^{elkridge} Blincking, Sweden, February 15, 1870, and came to the United States at the age of fourteen years and directly to Minnesota where he found employment on the Jim Hill farm of five thousand acres. Within the territory of this farm were nine lakes and here deer, elk and buffalo roamed wild. Pleasant Lake being the largest had an island which was inhabited by the deer. In these seventeen years Mr. Smith worked as hired man. The farm area was enlarged to six thousand five hundred acres. Each fall for a number of years Mr. Smith was called to "drive" when the annual hunt was in progress. The "drive" was to chase the animals out of seclusion for the hunters to bag, this practice has been followed in all parts of the country where wild game is being hunted. The last seven years Mr. Smith spent on the Hill farm he was driver of the milk and butter wagon which went daily into St. Paul with said products. The sweet cream butter was put up in three and five pound jars selling at twenty-five and thirty cents per pound.

During the time of Cleveland's administration, or the panic of 1887, all the labor for the hugh estate could be hired for as low as \$12.00 per month per person, and some offered to work for room and board with no pay. Before and after the panic the wage scale was about one dollar a day with board and lodging, or about the same as farm labor has been since the crash of 1929.

Mr. Smith spent some years in the west in Washington and in St. Paul for Hill before coming into Chisago county in August, 1905. Shortly after arriving in this county, he bought the farm where he is now residing, two miles north of Chisago City in the Chisago Lake Township. When he bought the farm, there was a small log house and log barn, with hardly and open field. Mr. Smith says that the entire countryside was wilderness with only a few scattered homes, and the road was just wide enough for one wagon with underbrush and trees growing up to the very edge. There were only certain places on the road going north of Chisago City where wagons could meet or pass. Our subject started clearing

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Interview with Alex Smith (cont'd)..

the land and farming with one team of horses, a plow, a harrow and grain binder.. The hay and corn was cut by hand.. He was one of the first farmers to have a grain binder. Now Mr. Smith and son, Lawrence, had one of the best equipped farms in the locality, with most every up-to-date means of farming.

Mr. Smith was the youngest child of nine of John Nelson Smith and Anna Marie Mattson Smith.. Both his parents are of Swedish decent, his father being born in Stockholm, and his mother being born in ^{e Kinge} Blincking, near Smaland.. The father died when Alex was but two weeks, so when news came that America was a land of milk and honey, there was no desire for an ambitious young man to stay in his native land where advantages were few and advancements were scarce, because the families were crowded on small plots of ground with the lords ruling harshly over the vast estates where the common people were little more than slaves..

Alex Smith was married to Miss Hannah Marie Samuelson on April 12, 1898 in St. Paul, and three children, Alice, Hazel and Laurence, had blessed this marriage; all three children live in and around Chisago City..

Prices of products have changed according to the way people have forced them to change.. With the increase of the Standard of living, so has the prices of things bought and things sold changed. But there was interesting facts brought up during the interview, when Mr. Smith hauled sweet cream butter into St. Paul from the Hill farm, he received from twenty-five to thirty cents per pound in three and five pound jars. While from other sources information has come that in Chisago City one could buy butter for eight cents per pound along about 1900 and shortly thereafter..

Mr. Smith is a public spirited citizen, and is very much active to modern improvements and modern ways, and is very interested to the abreast of the times.. For the past five years he had served on the Lindstrom Creamery board and is still active; for the past fifteen years he has served on the board at the Chisago Co-op Farmer Store in Lindstrom, and is still active..

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Interview with Herbert Peterson.

Carl John Herbert Peterson was born in Lent township, Chisago county, Minnesota, on April 18, 1889. And has resided on his home farm during all these years. His father, Elof Johanas Peterson, came into Chisago county in 1868 and settled in the west-northeast corner of Chisago Lake township in a small log house, and later moved over the border into Lent township where he bought land from Peter "By-the-river" Peterson in Section 26 and developed a farm. It was easier to develop a farm on the sand country so first he purchased eighty acres and then bought more and more until he finally had 260 acres. He had his farm developed before he was married. In those early years of settlement with abundant rainfall there were better crops grown on the sand than in than in heavier dirt, so the trend was toward the sand country at that time to grow good crops with less effort in clearing the land.

Elof Peterson was born and spent his early childhood in ^K(Drone^obergs-lane), Smaland, Sweden. His birth day was July 1, 1857; his wife, Anna Christiana Mattson Peterson was born in Kronebergs-lane, Smaland, Sweden, on March 22, 1865. This couple was married in Chisago City, February 23, 1888; and our subject is the oldest child of four boys and two girls.

Elof Peterson had about the first and best team of horses that could be found in this territory, and did a great deal of hauling for others. He would be hired by the neighbors to take a few sacks of wheat for each of them and go to Sunrise, where there was a grist mill, and have it grown into flour. He also hauled Christmas trees, wheat, eggs, and homemade butter and cheese to St. Paul, where there was always a cash market for the products, while in the village stores there was just exchange for material needed. In the early years of his farming, Elof Peterson did more work for others than he did on his home farm, charging \$1.25 an acre for team and plow, and \$.75 for his labor. The same charges were taken when cutting grain with reaper, but ~~1/2~~ \$.50 was added when the binder ~~and~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ was used. Mr.

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Peterson had the first reaper about 1883-84, and the binder did not tie it, so a person had to follow right along and tie the bundle when it was pushed off the carrier by a swinging mechanical arm. The binder tied as well as cut the grain.

Our subject was married to Miss Anna Victoria Dahlquist of Isanti county on June 28, 1916, in North Branch. Mrs. Peterson was born November 15, 1886 in Isanti county. She taught school for some years. One child, Doris Ann, has been born to this couple.

Mr. Peterson has served as school clerk in ~~his~~ his District for eighteen years, 1914-1932; deacon in Zion Lutheran Church for ~~twelve~~ twelve years, 1929-1941; treasurer on Chisago City Co-op Creamery, three years, 1941-1943; president of Livestock Shipping Association, one year; Sunday school teacher, seventeen years, 1924-1942; and secretary-treasurer, three years, 1929-1932, of the Master Farmer's Association run by The Farmer, ~~who~~ ~~at~~ ~~these~~ ~~years~~ ~~has~~ ~~had~~ ~~the~~ a farm magazine published by the Webb Publishing Company.

Our subject bought 220 acres of the farm from his father in 1915 and has been known as a good farmer, most of these years has had the reputation of being a master farmer. Mr. Peterson remembers as a youngster when going over the roads which were more or less just paths cut through the wooded surroundings into the village, there was one thing that always held his interest. It was a syrup mill built about a half mile north of the village on the C. A. Hanson farm where farmers came with their sugarcane and churned it into syrup for home use. The mill wheel or presser was driven by one horse that went round and round much like the old European wells where the water was drawn from deep in the ground.

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Interview with C. E. Swenson..

Charles Emil Swenson was born in Topeka, Kansas, on April 13, 1869, and moved with his parents to Wyoming township, Chisago county, Minnesota, in 1884. Charles Emil is the oldest ~~of~~ three sons born to Daniel and Christine Swenson, Albert and William are younger. C. E. Swenson still lives on the homestead, two miles west of Chisago City, and takes an active part in the running of Glenwater Farm, worked by his two oldest sons, Henry and Gilbert. Glenwater Farm has become well known in Minnesota for the purebred breed of Guernsey cattle and Belgian horses; and have taken several honors and prizes at the Chisago County Fair and the Minnesota State Fair in St. Paul..

Daniel Swenson was born in Vexio, Sweden, in March, 1839, and his wife, Christine Magnuson Swenson, was born in Vexio, Sweden, in March, 1839. The couple was married in Chicago, Illinois, in 1868 after being in the United States only a short time. They settled in Topeka, Kansas, and in 1884 moved to Chisago county, and bought the farm owned by Gust Holt, the same farm which is now Glenwater Farm. When Daniel Swenson bought this land there was a log house located there, with only a small patch of open field. Since then large fields have been cleared for cultivation, and modern buildings have been erected. C. E. Swenson has the noted reputation as a master farmer in Minnesota.. At the present time, and for a number of years past, Glenwater farm has been headquarters for a Dairy, serving the village of Chisago City and the summer residents with guernsey milk.

Our subject was married October 11, 1896 to Miss Emily Carlson in Chisago City, and ten children have been born to this couple, namely: Gerterude and Mildred, twins; Henry; Gilbert; Bertha; now deceased; Walter; Myrtle; Philip; Leonard; and Raymond.

The first corn was planted by hand, and grain was seeded with a broadcaster. Traveling, such as going to church, was done by lumber wagons and oxen. Daniel Swenson had one of the first grain binders in community about 1887, and people came for miles to see it work. One of the most notable changes in equipment, Mr. Swenson states, is the dramatic change from horse-power to tractor power. However, he admits, there are some

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Interview with C. E. Swenson . (cont'd).

things where the horse is better than any kind of mechanical equipment.

When we compared prices of articles, early and now, he mentioned that the best muskrat skins in 1890 brought fifteen cents a piece and today the high is two dollars and more.. Potatoes sold for ten cents a bushel in the fall and if stored through the winter brought only five cents per bushel.

Real estate taxes on his farm which now run into several hundred dollars each year were in 1885 -1890-1895 about twenty dollars. But if we consider carefully the rise in the standard of living, we will realize why the increase in taxes. Another thing to consider that during those early years each family lived more individually and raised most everything needed, while today the world has become smaller in means of travel and it is easier to sell the raw products and buy the finished material. Now the people are each trying to get ahead or stay ahead of their neighbor. Just that in itself is the fault of the high taxes.

The social activities centered around the church. There was always a large roundabout of parties during the Christmas holidays as it is even today. But even they had the blessing of the church, and were conducted in the most christian manner.. There was often a social lawn gathering during the summer time with game and occasionally a dance.

Mr. Swenson has served on several offices. He was a member of the telephone board of directors for the first thirty years of its organization; served on the Co-op Creamery board for twenty-five years; Church board as trustee and as steward; served on the School board and is still active; Shipping board for some years; and chairman of Wyoming township board for some years.

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Interview with A. H. Doll.

Alfred H. Doll was born in Old Town Chisago, Chisago Lake township, Chisago county, Minnesota, on February 4, 1869, and was the sixth of seven children born to Swen Doll and Helena Almquist Doll.

Mr. Doll's parents were both born in Kronebergs-land, Vexio, Sweden, and were married in their native land. After coming to America and settling in this county, Swen Doll followed lumbering for many years. Not returning to his home until as late as the fourth of July some years, because he was hired to go on the drive, taking the logs from the river's edge of the camp site and down river to the sawmills at Marine and Stillwater on the St. Croix. For driving they used long Ironwood poles cut from young trees; these poles were used for their durability in the drives for breaking up minor log jams and for steering the logs.

When our subject first remembers the farm where he now lives, on the north side of Highway No. 8, one-half mile west of the center of Chisago City, within the village limits, the farm his parents owned before him, there was but three acres of open land. And even as a youngster he remembers going to the river meadows, along the Sunrise river, to help put up hay for the cattle and horses or oxen. The hay was at first cut with a scythe, later when the mower came into common use there was a problem as to how to get the horses to walk on top of the bog without cutting through with their hoofs. A flat shoe, called the 'bog shoe', was made and strapped on each horse hoof. This shoe was about ten inches in diameter and moved flat over the ground instead of cutting the bog like a hoof would. There was very little upland or tame hay about 1880-85, so most everyone depended on river hay for feed.

Mr. Doll was married in Minneapolis to Miss Matilda Grandstrand in 1894, she was a native of Sweden, being born there February 8, 1868 and coming to the United States and Chisago county, Minnesota, when she was seventeen years of age. Three children were born to this couple, namely: Edward, Ada and Albert. Mrs. Doll passed away in 1936 after a long illness. Mr. Doll remarried three years ago to Miss Lily Mattson.

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Interview with A. H. Doll. (cont'd)

Mr. Doll is a retired R. F. D. mail carrier. When he started his route he covered twenty six miles of territory and had about 85 boxes to stop at. As the territory enlarged in population and more farms were developed his route increased to 32 miles and the stops increased to more than one hundred. No one need ever tell him that a horse isn't intelligent, he knows better, he had four horses which he used, one heavy and one light weight team. And they knew exactly what days they were to go on the run, and stop at each mail box without Mr. Doll pulling ~~the reins or patting~~ ~~the horses~~ on the reins or saying anything, then when they thought he had had time to put the mail in the box they started off again at a full trot without told.

Mr. Doll has held no public offices. He was not allowed to hold any office while active as a mail carrier and since retiring has refused all opportunities of serving in any capacity; although is very alert to the events of the day and is interested in every one and everything.

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Interview with Carl E. Strand.

Carl E. Strand, son of Gustaf B. Strand, and Margaret Peterson Strand, was born June 20, 1885 on a farm in Lent township, three miles west of Chisago City. Three older sons were also born to Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf B. Strand, namely: Oscar, Emil and Alvin.

Our subject's father came from Sweden and into Chisago county in 1869 where he found employment on the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad being built in that year. His first job was wheeling dirt with a wheelbarrel to fill in on the dumps through the swamps near Stacy. The following year he went to Cambridge to stay with friends. He came ~~to~~ first to Center City in 1870 and in the spring of 1871 he married Miss Margaret Peterson and settled in Center City, at the place that is now known as Sheriff John A. Johnson's place. Gustaf B. Strand was born in Sweden in 1840, of a German born father and a Swedish born mother, and in early youth joined the Swedish Army. When Mr. Strand took his military training his name was changed to Rask, as was a custom for the men in training to receive an army name. But when he came to Cambridge, he disliked and was displeased with the name, so some friends wrote a group of names and placed them in a box. The name Gustaf (Brown) Rask drew from the box he had agreed to take. 'Strand' was the name drawn, so after that he went by the name Gustaf B. Strand, the middle initial B. is for Brown, to remind, as he always said, his children what their name should have been.

When Margaret Peterson, born in Sweden in 1848, came to Minnesota in 1867 from Sweden, she walked all the way from St. Paul to Cambridge, through the wilderness of forest upland, prairie sand lands, and swamps, to her relatives, but always on the lookout for Indians, who might have been unfriendly.

In 1879 Mr. and Mrs. Strand bought a forty acre tract of land ~~in~~ in Lent township, three miles west of Chisago City, and built a log house, and started farming, with their two oldest sons. Here the parents lived until 1908, when they sold and moved to their son, Carl, who had bought the land adjoining their farm to the east. In 1906 Gustaf B. Strand had sold his cattle and farm equipment to Carl E. Strand, in order to keep his son on a farm.

As was the custom of the sons of the early settlers, when they became twenty one years of age, they left their home to earn their own livelihood. So when Carl E. Strand, reached that age he had an earnest desire to learn the blacksmith trade. Being a hard working, earnest, ambitious young man with the touch and love for horses, he had a yearning for blacksmithing. The opportunity of such a trade was open to him in both Chisago City, under the apprenticeship of P. J. Gustafson, and at Lindstrom, under the apprenticeship of Mr. Smith. Even while still on his father's farm, Carl always took the horses to be shod, and after the blacksmith had fitted the shoes, Carl always nailed the shoes on and trimmed the animal's feet by himself. This was uncommon in a blacksmith shop to have the customer do the work for himself.

In 1930, at the age of eighty-two years, Mrs. Strand passed away, and in 1934, at the age of ninety-three years Mr. Strand passed away, living a hard pioneer life which in later years went to prove that only his heart was sturdy enough to carry him to such a ripe old age, because even before

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Interview with Carl E. Strand.

he sold his farm in 1906 he was no longer able to do his own work.. The story is told by his son, Carl, our subject, that when he was still but a youngster of fourteen, he was sent by his father to do all the business and whenever anyone came to buy bogs off the farm, it was always Carl who had to go and measure out the number of trees, the size of the trees, and the number of feet in each log cut.. When C. J. Bergquist bought the logs to be sawed for his barn when he built the large livery stable in Chisago City, it cost him on the average of 25 cents a tree. Or enough lumber was bought for the barn for less than \$11.00. Each tree measured on the average of fourteen inches on the stump and towered into the air to about the height of forty-five feet, and most of this could be used as logs, for tamerac grows straight and tall with very few branches.

Carl E. Strand is a public spirited citizen and served on numerous boards as director or representative of the people. He has served on the school board in District No. 34 for twelve years, on the Chisago City Telephone board for fifteen years and is still serving, on the Chisago City Shippers Association board for seventeen years, and on the Chisago Lake Cooperative Oil Association board for six years, and is still serving.

Carl E. Strand was married to Miss Attilia Kroonblawd, on August 26, 1911 and six children were born to this happy couple. The children are: Ernest, ~~Bk/bd/bk~~ Glendon, Myrtle, Vernetta, Lorraine and Leo. Mrs. Strand passed away in 1927, and since then Carl Strand has remarried to Miss Vivian Reish in 1931, and one son, Richard, has been born to this second marriage.

To: Roscoe Macy, Writer's Project, 28 NE Second St., Mpls.

From: Paul A. Bergquist.

For: History of Chisago County.

Interview with Charles A. Wallmark. (3-1-50)

Charles A. Wallmark, son of Otto Wallmark and Mary Helene, was born of pioneer parents on October 12, 1860 in Old Town Chisago, where his father had come to directly from Sweden to homestead a place. His father, being a diplomat~~ic~~ character, taught school in those early days and ran a general store. It was here where Charles Wallmark began his business career as clerk and also as grain buyer in Chisago City proper when the railroad came through to create an outlet for potatoes and grain. Mr. Wallmark tells the story that he worked in these businesses for ~~sixty~~ eighteen years without a single week of vacation, however, that is just typical of our pioneer people. He has been village treasurer for eighteen years, 1907-1925, he served as church deacon for two terms and Sunday school teacher for a number of years; and all this time has been a quiet, respected citizen, exemplary in his habits and respected by a large host of friends and acquaintances. In 1892 he married Miss Jennie Augusta Nelson and had one son who died in early youth. For many years Mr. and Mrs. Wallmark owned a large lovely home in Chisago City but has recently retired to the Bethesda Old People's Home where they are enjoying every comfort of old age.

Mr. Wallmark owns a historical map--the only one in existence--on Old Town Chisago platted in 1855 by Issac Bernheimer and Simon W. Arnold. This map was made after the two men had come into the territory and bought the land from the United States Government at \$1.25 an acre and later sold it to the settlers who came into the territory at a much higher price. A Mr. Nedlinger (no records can be found and no one I have spoken to can recall his first name or initials) came from New York and became land agent for the Bernheimer Company. The land which this map covered extended from Chisago to Green lake, east and west, and from Lake Clara to Lake Mary, north and south; in section 6 and 7, township 34, range 20. Though the land was covered with a large variety of hardwood, it has since given away to settlement. C

Chisago Lake with its meandering shore line of more than 50 miles led the first settlers to become curious when the Indians spoke of the clearness of its waters and densely timbered shores and the large supply of fish and maple sugar which the Indians also showed.

Green lake, second in size, named for the clearness of its waters reflecting the verdure of the grass and trees on its bank also held an ever ready supply of fish and game.

Mr. Bernheimer had big plans for the village he platted here. It was, in his estimation, to be a city as large as Philadelphia. He spent a great deal of money in the beginning to start things growing. People were brought here from the east with all expenses paid and were given the opportunity to live in the houses or the hotel built by Bernheimer and Co., if they would just start a business or work in a business developed by Bernheimer.

1849
These first white people were of many nationalities--Danes, French, English, Spanish, Irish, and Scottish. Then about 1860, by their own free will the Swedish people came into the territory--which is now Minnesota--and soon became prominent as the other nationalities died out or moved away.

Old Town Chisago never started to reach the goal set for it by

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Interview with Charles A. Wallmark. (cont'd)

Mr. Bernheimer. It practically failed before it had began, for these were too many obstacles in the way to make such a dream come true. It was too difficult to travel to and from the village, for the stage coach was handicapped by lack of toads. The lanes that were used for roads in among the treed foliage weaved its way over high ground as much as possible, but didn't come to much satisfaction until later years when these roads were made more secure for travel. And the water travel was stopped almost entirely by the realization that the lakes did not empty into a stream large enough to travel and thereby that means was out of the question. When ~~the~~ railroad came through it did not enter Old Town Chisago but ran north of the old village to avoid much of the lakes as possible and still serve all the villages on the branch and so, the present Chisago City has grown around the railroad.

In 1874 the church was built in Old Town Chisago, and before that time they had preceded to erect a hotel, stores and a mill. The ~~Chisago~~ Chisago County Government was housed in Old Town Chisago between the time it was moved from Taylors Falls to its present location, Center City.

When the railroad was completed from Wyoming to Taylors Falls, the business places gradually vanished from Old Town Chisago and developed in Chisago City proper. The first businesses were a general store and a grain elevator, where they brought grains and potatoes to be shipped out. From those two businesses Chisago City has grown into the little business metropolis it is today.

The lakes have played an important role in the development of the village. Thousands of people have spent their vacations in Chisago City every summer and have returned again and again. Hotels and resorts have flourished and died with the wave of people who have patronized them and then moved on to find something more exciting and newer to catch their fancy.

Another of the interesting little items about the life of Mr. Wallmark is that he is the oldest person living in Old Town Chisago and Chisago City by actual years of residence in the same vicinity. This does not exactly mean that Mr. Wallmark is the oldest living person in the vicinity.

If you had gone through this territory ninety years ago which is now Chisago City, you would have found a gugh Indian mound close to the shore of the beautiful Chisago Lake. It was a mound which held a whole group of Indian corpses who had died in battle. The mound was located on lots ~~one~~ one, two, and three of block ten where Dr. A. W. Edman and Ernest Johnson now have their residences. If the people who removed that mound years and years ago, could have looked forward to see the importance of that mound as a monument ~~to~~ to the red man who once roamed and lived on this land, they might have left it as an Indian relic and built a park around it.

The village limits of Chisago City is quite extended, due to the lakes, and therefore is partly owned by persons who spend only their summers there and for this reason the population of Chisago City should register a great deal higher by the land territory it engulfs.

The great institution of learning, education, has gone far in bringing the people of Chisago City and Chisago county a broader view of the world and a higher standard of living. When school first appeared in

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this county they were small, one-room, log building where the three essentials were taught. While today the school buildings are equiped and managed in such a way that whatever a young person is willing to take under instructions is at his finger tips. Educational training is driving forward every day and therefore new leaders as well as more modern ways of doing things are coming into view daily.

Mr. Wallmark also tells of the first mill and factory built near Chisago City. A two story mill was built on the west shore of Chisago lake, behind where George Palmer has his residence. When the mill was being built a boiler was ordered from the eastern part of the United States from New York City; and, in getting it here, it was shipped to Ceder Bend, on the St. Croix river, between Franconia and Marine, by water, then taken across country on a special built wagon drawn by six of the biggest oxen which could be gotten for the pull. The wagon was a huge semi six wheel construction with special built wheels. As the boiler was large enough to easily handle the work carried on on both floors of the mill. The building itself was cut and built from the virgin timber surrounding the lake. On the lower floor was built a sawmill where a nice little lumber business flourished. The settlers who came into the countryside and cleared the land for cultivation hauled their logs to the mill and had them finished into lumber for erecting buildings on their farms. Also a great many feet of lumber in log form were sold the mill to be shipped.

In the second story--above the top of the cliff--a grist mill operated full force the year round, to supply or grind grain and corn for flour, meal, and rough feed which the settlers came in and had ground or bought to feed themselves and their animals.

These mills were built at an expense of about \$7,000.00, and did an estimate of 15 years of continuous business until the mills burned in 1892 at nearly a total loss.

A stave factory was built on the site of the burned mills, which was operated successfully for many years under the management of many men. A man named Olds was the first manager, followed by S. R. Tripp, George Nathan, Otto Wallmark, and W. D. Webb.

In a number of years the factory became extinct and now only a few ruins can be found to show where it was located. As close as can be known the factory went out of existence about 1885.

The lumber from the saw mill, the ground grains and corn from the great mill, and the barrel staves and heads from the stave factory that were sold to the outside world were shipped within five miles of Franconia by water then transported again by water to Stillwater, St. Paul, and all points south and east. At that time Chisago lake, now divided into three, was connected by deep channels and boats could easily travel into all three from either an east to west, or a west to east course.

For the immigrants and adventurers who came into this country which is now called Old Town Chisago, in the late 1850's and early 60's, there was a two story hotel, built by Issac Bernheimer and Co., to accomodate the people. The first part or the north half of the hotel which was built first was constructed of logs hewn from the hard wood forests covering the land. A few years later an addition was built on the south side of the hotel to make room for the ever-increasing number of people.

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pouring into the country. This new section of the building was put up with sawed lumber, sawed in the Bernheimer mill on Chisago lake, and made more livable with all the modern convenience known at that time.

It was a picturesque, homely hotel with its six high chimneys towering high into the sky above the landscape on the ridge. Like any hotel, within the front entrance was a huge lobby, where people gathered to talk and outsiders came for entertainment and enjoyment. The hotel had accommodations for whole families or private rooms for just one person. Rooms were heated by large cast-iron stoves placed along in the halls and lobbys, and people were requested to leave the doors to their rooms open if they wanted the rooms heated.

The hotel was built on the first six ~~lots~~ lots of block sixty-six, where the Emil Eckstrom estate is now built. Later, when hotel accommodations were not so much in demand, when the people settled down to farming and individual enterprises, or moved on as the lumbering moved, the hotel was left vacant to go to ruins instead of being taken care of. About 1885 it was bought by Mr. Rost (no recollection of initials or first name) and moved to his farm, south of Old Town Chisago in sections where part of it was used for the barn and another part was rebuilt for the house. The buildings on the Rost farm, made from the lumber from the old hotel, are still being used.

Travel facilities in Chisago county during the early days was a great deal different because of its many lakes and thickly wooded upland then it was west of the territory or out on the prairie where the covered wagon and stage coach were used almost exclusively.

Taylor's Falls was the first village in this area to be settled and so before 1868 ninety percent of the people came up the St. Croix river by boat and ~~then~~ then taken to their destination by anyone who could be hired to take them in crude open wagons or buggies. A few of the more well-to-do hired small coaches to take them across country from St. Paul or Minneapolis to Chisago City and surrounding area.

With the completion of the St. Paul to Duluth railroad line in 1868-69, travel changed its course a little. Swen Johnson, in that year, started his pony express from Wyoming to Taylor's Falls. He had a small pony which he had purchased from the friendly Chippewa Indians, and this he hitched to a small four wheel cart. There was just one seat on the cart so all he could accommodate at a time was one person besides himself and the mail bags. There was a funny side to it too, for the mail bags were six or seven times as heavy as the mail that was in them. For at the time the mail as well as the passenger travel wasn't one bit more than Johnson and his Indian pony could very easily take care of it.

The road from Wyoming to Taylor's Falls followed the same route, west to east, as it does today, as far as the Bonnie Glen road on Highway No. 8, except the road let behind the old schoolhouse, or what is now ~~the~~ Lorraine Dohm's summer residence on Lot sixteen of Green lake beach; to connect up with the Bonnie Glen road and lead up to the narrows. At the time there was a bridge spanning the narrows, for the water was higher and could not have got across any other way; after crossing the bridge they came up the same road that now leads from the narrows onto Highway No. 98. When Mr. Johnson came up the road he had to turn

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south to go into Old Town Chisago where a post office had been started in connection with a general store in the year 1869.

Highway No. 98 lies practically in the same line as it did when the road first, started to be used between the old village and found the road to the east, right on lot six of block twelve where the Melander House is now located. In 1873, when travelers became more numerous in the new area and Swen Johnson's poney express could no longer handle the stream of passengers, Mr. J. Ward from Taylors Falls started to run a stage coach to Wyoming and return, drawn by two fast horses, and most of the time if weather permitted went every day through Chisago City. The stage coach also carried the mail so Swen Johnson's poney express soon became extinct from passing daily through the neighborhood.

The stage coach, drawn by its fast horses, was built on the lumber wagon style of box with seats along both sides, and a canopy top with drop curtains.

Each spring before the transportation had to stop traveling the ice and go back to the road, the farmers living in the community of the narrows had to get together and rebuild--sometimes part, sometimes all--the wooden span. For it never failed that with the freezing and expanding of the ice in the fall and the break-up of the ice with the first good thaw in the spring it would at least damage the bridge if not take it away all together. As you will realize, when power of cracking moving ice under the pressure of wind and a warm spring sun, you will readily know that a wooden bridge built in those days, what must happen and did.

When the village first developed there wasn't a road between Bonnie Glen and Chisago City, but with the destruction of the bridge every year, there was soon a suggestion and realization of the present road into the village from the west. Being that most of this road was built from Wyoming, through Chisago City and half way to Lindstrom, to Russel Beach.

The motor cars made their appearance in Chisago City along about 1914-1915, and have progressed in number and convenience so rapidly that today Chisago City is served by only one train each day, none on Sunday, where some years ago, three and four trains passing through was a common everyday occurrence including Sundays. Horses seen in the village streets is almost as big a novelty as an airplane was ten years ago flying overhead.