Minnesota Works Progress Administration: Writers Project Research Notes.

Copyright Notice:

Version 3
August 20, 2018

Minneapolis, Minn.
SUBJECT: Socio Ethnic
SUBMITTED BY: Hardie Smith
DATE: October 10, 1938

work

FINNS - Ethnic origin

The nation of Finland today is composed of three main racial groups, all of which migrated to the country at a relatively recent period. The great majority (2,750,000) are Finns, comprising 88 per cent of the population and inhabiting the interior and part of the seacoast of Finland. The largest minority are the Swedes, sea-coast dwellers on the Baltic and the Gulf of Finland, making up 11 per cent of the population. Some ~~2,000~~ 1600 Lapps and a few Germans and Russians complete the list of the races.

It is with the Finns, numerically far superior to the other races, that the problem of racial determination is chiefly concerned. Just where they came from, and from what race they sprang, whether Mongoloid, Nordic, or Alpine, is a subject on which wide differences of opinion can be found. The reason lies in the fact that there are several important contradictory factors in the evidence with which ethnographers determine such questions. Determination of race then becomes a matter of weighting the facts, and because these facts have been weighted differently, Finlanders have been variously termed an "oriental", an "East-Baltic", and a "proto-Slavic" race. Because of these differences, it is possible to place reliance only on those

hypotheses upon which general agreement has been found.

Linguistically the Finns belong to the Finno-Ugric stock. In this category they are classed with the Esthonians, the Carelians (inhabiting Russia around the White Sea), the Lapps, the Samoyedes (inhabitants of Arctic Russia), the Mordvinians and Cheremisses (on the Volga to the south and west of its bend), the Permians (living around the Kama river and in the foothills of the Urals), the Hungarians or Magyars, and the Voguls and Ostyaks, two small Asiatic tribes. The Finns, the Esthonians, and the Carelians, with a few minor tribes known as the Livonians, the Vepsians, and the Votians, are given the general name of Baltic (or East-Baltic) Finns, and their speech is very similar. The Mordvinians and Cheremisses are known as the Volga peoples. The Permians embrace two tribes, the Votyaks and Siryenians; while the general name of "Ugrian peoples" is given the Magyars, Voguls and Ostyaks.

The languages of all these peoples are fairly closely related to each other, but the question as to the family tree from which they sprouted has not been settled. All contain a large number of loan-words from the Indo-European tongues, from which spring English German and the other western European speeches, and this fact leads some philologists to believe that they may be of this family. Usually they are thought to help form the Ural-Altaic group of the Altaic family. Characteristic of Finno-Ugric languages are the use of suffixes (unlike English but like Latin), employment of many cases in the declension of nouns (there are fifteen in Finnish), in some languages dual as well as plural number (like Old English pronouns),

little use of gender, phonetic alternatives in strong and weak-stem consonants, and many infinitive and participial constructions of the verb, the construction of which is well-developed.

No less a subject of dispute is the question of the physical relationships of the Finns to the main races. Some anthropologists have felt that the Finns belong to the Mongolian family, principally because of the slanting eyes and round heads of some Finns. Two features of Finno-Ugric peoples cast some doubt upon this hypotheses. First, they lack the eye-wrinkle of the Mongolian; furthermore, round-headedness is by no means a universal characteristic of Finns. This tendency toward long-headedness is sometimes explained as being the result of intermarriage with the Swedes who were found settled on the coast of Finland by the early Finnish invaders, but archaeological evidence which has been brought forth seems to disprove this contention also.

This evidence lies in the contents of the kurgans or tumuli which may be found scattered over the Volga watershed. They are huge, conical piles of earth, sometimes more than a hundred feet high, and are the burial mounds of a people living in the region sometime in the Christian era. In them have been found pottery which some archaeologists believe the work of the Finns, and skulls showing that the race which made them was long-headed.

If these kurgans are indeed the work of Finno-Ugric tribes, both the contention that the Finns are Mongoloid and that they acquired their ovoid skulls by intermarriage with the Swedes would

lose much of its credibility. It would lend additional weight to the argument that the Finns were the aboriginal Russians or that they are a race distinct from both the Mongolians and the so-called "Aryan" peoples. Until it can be proven, however, it but adds another point of doubt to an already complex question.

A summary of these better-established hypotheses might, however, read as follows. The Baltic Finns, with whom we are concerned, are a predominantly European people, speaking a languagethat is "an-Aryan" and non-Slavic and is not allied to any of the great civilized European tongues. Their race originated somewhere in the region between the middle and lower Volga and the headwaters of the Dneiper. There is a strong presupposition that in prehistoric times they had contact with Mongolian tribes or that possibly they were themselves a part of that race.

Thus, at around 2500 B.C., the period that began their wanderings, we find the Finns occupying a vast expanse of upland and rugged hill-country in the foothills of the Urals. They were in the process of transition from a hunting people to an pastoral mode of existence, for they had already domesticated the sheep and the dog. They had partially domesticated the reindeer; it is thought that it might have been used as a draft-animal, but at any rate it was used to help them in their hunting. They had developed a simple form of pottery to aid them in cooking. As yet, however, their principal means of livelihood was the bow and arrow. They were a nomadic people, occupied chiefly by hunting and fishing, and needed much territory in which to roam.

SUBJECT: Socio Ethnic
SUBMITTED BY: Hardie Smith
DATE: October 10, 1938

FINNS 5

At this time all the implements of the Finns were of stone, but five hundred years later, in their transition from the Stone Age to the Bronze age, the tribes began to learn a new way of making their living. This was a borrowing from the Indo-European tribes of a primitive form of agriculture, and was made possible by the new bronze axe with which the tribesmen could chop down trees. The evidence that places the date and origin of this change in the habits of the Finnic tribes comes from the presence in the Finno-Ugric languages of numerous agricultural terms which are loan-words from the indo-European tongues. This change made it possible for the Finns to subsist on a much smaller area, but as hunting and fishing were still the main means of making a livelihood, and as "burn-beating" (the practice of burning off the felled trees and underbrush in a clearing to make room for the crops) was responsible for depletion of the land in a few years, the Finns gradually began to drift westward.

The reason for this migration apparently lies in the fact that the central plains of Asia were drying up and could no longer support the tribes in the numbers to which they had now grown. It is known that the steppes at one time were fertile, perhaps heavily wooded, full of food for the tribes. Great glacial lakes supplied abundant ~~mois-~~ moisture for vegetation. But with changing climatic conditions the lakes began to dry up; eventually the forest disappeared, and the tribes were forced to look elsewhere for the food to which they were accustomed.

The migration was a long process. Even before the Stone Age had reached an end, tribes had been splitting off the main body and leaving the homeland. Even when the main movements alone are considered,

it seems from the evidence that two millenia had passed before the Finns had arrived at their present home. They moved on from one spot to the next adjacent location, following rivers or plains areas, recoiling from heavily wooded land or rugged country, circling heavily populated valleys, always moving along the lines of least resistance. This progress took them northward until they could go no farther, and there they settled, in the present country of Finland.

The routes taken are fairly well agreed upon. One is believed to have been across the northern tundra from Siberia, where the tribes had arrived by following the rivers down to the Arctic ocean. The other route, which the Finns may have taken whether or not they were coming from Asia, is up the Volga. From the headwaters of the Volga, the tribes roamed north-westward to the Gulf of Finland, entering their new homeland either by crossing the Gulf, circling it, or taking the Viipuri-Lenengrad corridor into the interior.

Thus are found the tribes entering a wooded, lake-spotted wilderness which was to be their home for the next 1800 years. Various dates have been given for this final settlement, but all cluster within the century or two preceding and following the birth of Christ. Their new home was in many ways a good one. The forests were full of game for this people which was still predominantly a hunting race. The Gulf stream helped to warm the country so that it was not as cold as its geographical location would have otherwise made it. It was protected somewhat against raids from the east by the existence of large lakes and swampy areas to the east, making the dry-land corridors few and easily defended. The Finns settled there with their flocks and their

SUBJECT: Socio Ethnic
SUBMITTED BY: Hardie Smith
DATE: October 10, 1938

reindeer, began "burn-beating" the forest glades, and started to hunt the northern forests. As time went on, the tribes became more and more an agricultural people until growing of crops became the chief mode of raising food.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abercrombie, J.F.: Pre- and Proto-Historic Finns, vol. 1, 1898

Brown, J.C. : People of Finland in Archaic Times, 1892

Deniker, I.J.: Les Races et les Peuples de la Terre, 1926 (rev.ed.)

Dixon, R.B.: Racial History of Man, 1923

Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th Ed. 9:257, "Finno-Ugrian"

_____ 9:259 , "Finno-Ugrian Languages"

Fleure, : Peoples of Europe

Guenther, Hans: Racial Elements in European History

Haddon, A.C.: The Races of Man, 1925

_____: The Wanderings of Peoples, 1911

_____, and Huxley, J: We Europeans

Ripley, : The Races of Europe, 18999

Rothery, Agnes: Finland, the New Republic

Sirelius, U.T.: The Genealogy of the Finns, 1925

Staley, C.E.: "Finland and the Finns" in Canadian Magazine, 40:65-72

Van Cleef, Eugene: Finland--The Republic Farthest North, 1929

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

Background of the Finnish Civil War

One Volume, 525 pages. A collection of articles. Edited by Arne Halonen. (A translation by Alfred Backman.)

"Early History of the Development of the Finnish Labor Movement." By Otto Vilmi.

The first workers organizations in Finnish industry were started in Helsingfors and Wasa in the year of 1884. Bosses, superintendents and even factory owners, with a sprinkling of college men, were in the leadership of these organizations. Few wage workers were interested in these movements and it is doubtful if very many were aware of their existence. It appears evident that the purpose in the minds of the gentlemen at the head of these organizations at this early stage was at the outset to curb the spread of Socialistic ideas in the country. And for a period of ten years they were successful in controlling the spread and influence of the general labor movement.

The labor movement in Finland got its real start in 1892-93, at a time when the entire country was at grips with a most severe economic crisis. Unemployment, starvation wages and long hours caused widespread discontent among workers to such an extent that in January 1894 the impoverished workers, employed and unemployed, marched through the streets of Helsingfors to the market square and helped themselves to foodstuffs, not paying for them of course, and marched back to their families with the food. This infuriated the conservative Czarist press of the capital city to fever pitch. The anti-labor

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

forces generally flew into a violent rage and threatened to use every letter of the law and its law enforcement officers to punish the offenders and mete out special sentences to "agitators".

By 1895 conditions began to improve slightly. The trade union movement showed rapid growth and improvement. The first weekly labor news paper "The Workman" (Tyomies) began publication in March 1895. Shortly after the launching of the new labor paper great enthusiasm began developing in the labor clubs and trade unions. The new publication seemed to give the labor movement generally a new lease on life. The policy and program of the "Workman" was for shorter hours, higher wages and for laws protecting workers conditions on the job, etc.

The spring of 1896, among the workers, is still spoken of as the "Spring of Great Strike Movements." Much discussion was carried on amongst the workers in their unions and clubs as to the importance of economic or political action aiming mainly their attacks at the reactionary Czarist government of Finland.

As the labor movement became more stablized the leadership also took to their tasks courageously. In increasing numbers the working people realized the seriousness of their position and began to think in the terms of a change in the economic and political system.

It was also pointed out to the workers that they must eventually have their "say" on the economic and political problems facing them. At this period of rapid growth of the labor movement agitation had begun to enlarge the fast growing labor paper "Tyomies" to appear twice a week. Finally a decision was reached to start the twice-a-week publication in the spring of 1898. This, however, did not materialize. The reactionary government refused to grant a

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

license, thus forbidding the publication to expand. It was reliably reported that three wealthy industrialists paid a visit to the governor general with the result that the license for expansion was denied. The refusal to grant the license, however, did not forbid the paper to double its size. So the "Workman," from the first of the year 1898 enlarged itself from a small sheet to a full grown 7 column newspaper with many other improvements. Around the young labor paper there gathered a large group of the ablest Finnish writers in the country capable of editing, composing and analyzing political and economic problems facing Finnish labor. There was a crying need for labor literature, although considerable amount of good labor literature in other languages were available, the Finns at this early date had to be satisfied with the meager information only as it appeared in their small labor press. Late in 1898 a few works appeared dealing with labor and economic problems printed in the Finnish language.

No word of mouth education and agitation was carried on at this time. The first lecture tour conducted took place in the winter of 1897-98 on the eve of the great upsurge and general rise of the labor movement. After overcoming the growing pains of the rapidly developing educational venture its results began to show at once. The words of labor speakers were regarded and welcomed by workers as if they were nuggets of gold. The seeds fell into very fertile soil. In the course of this work all labor groups grew rapidly, newspaper and literature sales increased at all meetings by leaps and bounds while at the same time finances piled up for further building and improving the apparatus for agitational and news gathering work. Also the collective work of the people gained strength and developed.

Labor's own political party idea began to gain considerable ground

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

as a result of the good educational work carried on by the "Workman," (Tyomies). At the Tampere Labor Congress already in 1896 feeling ran high and a resolution was presented calling on labor to participate in politics. The resolution, however, did not survive through the committees and was killed before it reached the floor of the meeting.

Events leading to the fall elections of 1898 gave strong impetus toward the birth of labor's own political party. Labor, having absolutely no voice or vote in the government, began to feel its power, and because of this tremendous force brought to bear upon the Czarist government the Czar, felt that a little of the pressure had to be released. So the parliament was called for a special session to "explain" the new decree pertaining to compulsory military service. Because the conscription law fell heaviest upon the shoulders of the workers, the Helsingfors and Tampere labor movement demanded representation and hearings in the lawmaking bodies. They requested the conservative parties to accept labor candidates to be placed in on the conservative ballot in the elections. In each instance the requests were refused, and, as a result, one of the most significant and peculiar strikes took place. Labor declared an anti-balloting strike. The conservative press at once raised a hue and cry declaring that labor was unpatriotic and enemy of the fatherland. An independent labor party began rapidly developing within the city of Helsingfors where the labor movement at a city-wide congress voted unanimously for its establishment.

During 1896 to 1899 sentiment for a labor party grew nationally in all labor unions and clubs. At the third congress of labor unions of Finland the sentiment for a labor party was so crystalized that at the Turku congress

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

of 1899, in spite of threats and opposition from conservatives, the Labor Party was finally born. The rapid growth of the labor movement, with its countless problems, brought on a greater need for a daily labor paper. And the masses were constantly demanding it. The crying need for a daily was seen and it was decided to launch a campaign for the purpose, depending of course upon the apparent enthusiasm and self sacrifice on the part of the working people for its support. Unfortunately the plan failed and the undertaking fell into grave financial difficulties. The financial campaign brought poor results for the simple reason that a similar kind of a campaign, also for a labor paper, was started at the same time in the industrial centers of western Finland.

Besides the numerous difficulties confronting the Tyomies (Workman), additional burdens were added through the enactment of anti-labor laws by the reactionary Czarist controlled Finnish government in 1899 in their attempt not only to cripple the labor movement but also the labor press. These decrees seriously crippled the Western Finnish Worker (Lansi Suomen Tyomies) to the extent that the paper was forced to move the publication from Turku (Turku) because the local job printing concerns refused to publish the paper forcing it to move to Tampere. The ban also affected all other labor literature, books, pamphlets and magazines were censored and teeth were put into existing anti-labor laws aiming primarily at all labor literature.

The reactionary forces finally compelled the "Tyomies" (Workmen, Helsingfors) to cease publication for one month, during this period the condition of the paper, financially, became very serious. It seemed as if labor was letting itself down. Economic condition of the country, throughout, became very bad, lowering the living standards of the people to a new

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

level. This setback, however, lasted only a short while. This unheard of exploitation of labor by the Finnish lords of industry; the severe suppression of civil rights; and the arresting and conviction of labor leaders resulted in a deep going change in the minds of the masses. This was clearly noticeable at the labor party congress held in Viipuri/Viborg in 1901. During this period the Finnish and Russian police were extraordinarily vicious in their persecution of workers.

Large scale strike struggles took place in spite of the dictatorial rule of the Czarist governor-general Bobrikoff. During 1903 workers at Varkauden, Fiskarin and Pinjaisen factories, regardless of the vicious anti-labor decrees, formed a strong front and demanded the right to organize. A successful strike was carried out at the Voika paper mill in 1904. The strike was primarily aimed against the strike-breaking anti-labor mill superintendent Smith. The strike stirred the entire working population of the country resulting in many cases of workers roughly handling and even removing bodily vicious bosses and directors from the factories. So the proletariat of Finland "began moving on its own motive power," as one leader characterized it and at the same time heroically struggling for the right of franchise. (In Finland only those owning property could vote.)

Among the many vital problems under discussion at the Viborg labor party congress in 1901, the most important one was the naming of the new party. It was named the Finnish Social Democratic Party. Problems such as; lower taxes, length of work day, housing, freedom of speech and press and many other burning issues were thoroughly discussed. The name of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, however, was not made official for numerous reasons until at the Forssa congress in 1903. This congress was historically significant in

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

that all delegates were united solidly in the fight for civil rights and for a declaration for public franchise.

The Forssa congress was held at a time when terror and brutal oppression was running rampant over the land causing extreme nervousness within the ruling class and rebellion among the working class and the peasantry. The reactionary forces, in full control of the government, and wide awake to the dangers confronting them, proceeded to and also succeeded in confiscating all the documents of the Forssa labor congress, being well aware of the serious intentions of the fast growing united labor movement. The documents and proceedings of the congress were later returned proving that the forces of reaction were weakening.

The congress manifesto read in part as follows:

> THE WORKING PEOPLE OF FINLAND WHO ARE COMPLETELY CAST ASIDE FROM GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY, CANNOT RECOGNIZE AS SACRED THOSE LAWS MADE FOR IT BY A CLASS PARLIAMENT, AND FOR THAT REASON THEY CANNOT FEEL A RESPONSIBILITY OR DUTY TOWARD SUCH LAWS EXCEPTING THE DUTY WHICH IS FORCED UPON THEM FROM WITHOUT. FOR THAT VERY SAME REASON CITIZENSHIP DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES CANNOT BE IMPOSED UPON PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF PRECISELY THAT WHICH MAKES HUMAN BEINGS CITIZENS.

The above labor's proclamation was regarded as "anarchistic" by the reactionary press. A wild rage rose from all capitalist papers particularly in reference to the above paragraph as well as of the newly adopted name of the Finnish Social Democratic Party and its program. Later tens of thousands of copies of the manifesto (proclamation) were printed and circulated among the working people. The leaflet also urged workers to demand reforms in the franchise laws. As a whole, the Forssa labor congress will always be heralded as one of the most historically significant congresses in the history of the Finnish labor movement.

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

In Russia, because of the Russo-Japanese war and the strong revolutionary sentiment prevalent within the country, conditions had developed to such a pass that even the Finnish government could no longer enforce its repressive laws upon the people. Events which led to the assassination of Governor General Bobrikoff in Helsingfors and the coming of his successor, Prince Obolenskin, caused reaction to give way to progress to the extent that in the fall of the same year many trade unions openly held their annual conventions without restrictions. The rights of assembly, speech and press while not complete were somewhat restored. The fight for public franchise gained momentum since the Government decided to conduct parliamentary elections in the fall of 1904, and prepared a proposal to amend the franchise law. In this connection the Helsingfors Workman (Tyomies) opened its columns for a discussion of labors attitude toward the coming elections and proposed the calling of a special labor party congress for a definite stand on the elections. The special congress convened in Helsingfors Sept. 25-28, 1904.

As a result of the special labor congress, two large youth organizations, the Young Finland Party and the Spirit of Finland Party (Nuorsuomalainen Puolue and Sumettarelainen Puolue) who for years had carried on constant warfare between themselves, united behind the labor movement and actually carried on a contest as to which of the two organizations is able to give labor stronger support in its fight for popular franchise.

During the sessions of the Parliament, just before Christmas in 1904, workers organized marches to the Capitol and demonstrations demanding the revision of the old election laws. The greatest demonstration took place at the Senate Square in Helsingfors in the month of April 1905. Men

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

with banners bearing slogans taken from the Communist Manifesto such as: "Workers of the World Unite!" "Down with Conciliators!" "Down with Enemies of Popular Ballot!" "Peoples Will is the Supreme Law!" "Down with Class Interests!" and "Stop Legal Persecution!" led this huge march. Quite in line with all the slogans were the speeches delivered along the long line of march, all containing strong revolutionary class feeling.

Events that took place within the Russian government developed in rapid succession because of the tense situation in Finland. Revolutionary waves sprayed from Russia to Finland. Came the general strike of November 1905. Labor took the initiative in the factories, mills and mines which lit the spark of the general strike declared in October 30, 1905 beginning the great struggle for labors emancipation and the freedom of the proletariat. The general strike encompassed the entire country lasting until November 6. The strike overwhelmed the Social Democratic Party leadership which, during the strike, became separated from its own activity.

The Helsingfors labor movement elected an executive committee, that is, a National body which was enlarged as the occasion demanded. This leading committee did not become a Soviet (Council) in the same sense as in Saint Petersburg, which however, is doubtful if its importance was even fully understood. It was not merely a leading body for the capital city alone, but functioned on a nation wide scale guiding the developments at a most critical moment of the country's history. University students, conservative teachers and professors organizations declared to the National Labor Committe, through their representatives, that they stood solid behind the general strike. In this fashion, with a firm hand, the proletariat was able to swing into the main stream of the great strike all of the vacillating, conservative

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

and middle class elements. Upon the announcement that the conservatives support the strike, there were also warnings and evidences brought forth proving that a clever move was on foot to attempt to gain leadership of the strike. In this they failed.

Finnish capitalism, which only yesterday tortured workmen with 16 to 14 hour work days; blacklisted and removed workers from jobs because of union membership; imposed the presence of the gendarmerie at workers meetings; forced labor newspapers into the streets; insulted labor leaders in public, and finally itself became alarmed in the face of the tremendous united power of labors front. While all this was taking place in Finland, the ruling class throughout the country showed increasing concern over the turn of events in Russia. Pressure from the revolutionary proletariat and the peasantry forced the Russian Czar to issue a special manifesto to Finland on Nov. 4, but the strike committee refused its release until the following day. In the meantime labor had forced the revoking of all anti-labor decrees including all Bobrikoff-Czarist-Imperial "russianization" statues on the books. This appeared to satisfy the bourgeoise. A group of so-called "constitucnalists" began to show their teeth to the extent that on the last days of the general strike an attempt was made to prepare an armed attack on the workers claiming that upon the receipt of the Czar's manifesto the strike should have been terminated. The strike continued regardless of threats, clarifying daily to workers and peasants the deep going class antagonism in society.

Out of the November strike came important gains--bars were lowered considerably on speech, press and the freedom of assemblage, offering labor

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

a golden opportunity to educate the masses and strengthen their unions. A national franchise and a one-house parliament was also granted but only after bitter struggles were waged. The result of these achievements was that the labor movement grew and working class influence on the political field became a strong factor. Labor learned a valuable lesson from the general strike, that is, that regardless how democratic a face the capitalist class puts forward, it still remains the most dreadful of labor's enemies, functioning alike in every land with international connections. In addition to this, Finnish labor took a leaf from the enemies' book and proceeded to join hands internationally--with labor. Similarly the attempted armed attacks upon the workers by the government forces during the general strike taught the workers to be on guard; to maintain their red guard units and to organize them nationally under centralized leadership. This, in the opinion of labor leaders, gave workers an opportunity to familiarize themselves with firearms and learn something about military discipline. It seemed to be a proven fact, in the opinion of most laboring people, that to defeat the forces of the capitalist class by other means than force was impossible. So after the Czarist government got it's house in order, following the revolution of 1905-6, she proceeded to break up the worker's red guard organizations, in which action no doubt, the Finnish bourgeoise took a leading part.

The Oulu labor party congress in 1906 saw fit not to oppose the liquidation of the red guards by the government. They regarded as far more important the preservation of their now legal political labor party, and its open activity, realizing that they cannot have both organizations.

In order to further the struggle against the bourgeois the workers also str[illegible] to organize secret groups, as even during the great strike there

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

were attempts made at forming under-ground organizations. In Helsinki (Helsingfors*) and other industrial centers there were secret group meetings discussing and aiding the revolutionary movement at home as well as keeping in close contact and also aiding the Russian movement. After the close of the general strike there seemed to be a very good reason for such secret groups. Also a permanent committee was set up at once ~~called~~ called the General Strike Committee in Helsinki composed of forty members who were from unions, youth groups and temperance societies and in addition there were also representatives from the leadership of the red guard and the Social Democratic Party. This committee was primarily a revolutionary workers council which met once a week regularly and oftener if conditions became tense. The committee discussed and kept itself well informed on domestic and foreign conditions especially in Russia where the struggle between progress and reaction was continually taking very sharp forms.

Much discussion took place in the leading committees on the advisability of labor on taking over the government radio, telegraph and railroad systems while at the same time six smaller committees met frequently in private homes and cafes gathering information on all municipal politics as well as preparing revolutionary propaganda. A secret press in Helsingfors turned out large amounts of leaflets in the Esthonian, Finnish and Russian languages, while groups of propagandists carried on educational campaigns in barracks, cafes and dance halls where soldiers gathered. Special committees of scouts inspected warehouses and removed all explosive material from their stocks. Considerable funds were confiscated and turned over to workers organizations for educational purposes; for defence and for

*Former Swedish name. Changed a few years ago to "Helsinki."

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

arms. Considerable arms were in the hands of a government organization "Voimaliitto," (translated means League of Strength) a semi-secret league, who were very careful not to place arms in the hands of workers. At the break of the Viborg rebellion, the activists* in the rebellion began collecting arms. They were able to get from the "Voimaliitto" only on rifle for every ten men with an agreement that upon the crushing of the Czarist forces the arms were to be all returned back to their original owners.

In the leading committees charges were hurled at some members that confiscated funds were used by some for their own purposes. This caused hard feelings toward some and very severe action was taken against such "degenerates." Some of the most practical and sincere members did not approve the action at the outset. It is well to mention of the first shots fired in the Viborg struggle. About 200 white guards, (called butcher-guards by workers) fully armed, began moving in on the workers territory, in self defence the red guards dispatched a ten-man group to meet them, took the offensive and opened fire on the white guard contingent scattering them in all directions, leaving a few casualities behind. As a result the "butcher guards" were quickly stripped of their arms and demobilized. The Viborg battle, however, ended finally in defeat. In the first real skirmish Finnish working class blood was spilt in the fight for freedeom of the Finnish and Russian working people proving that the Finnish ruling class, though it wanted independence, again betrayed its own people. They waited and hoped the day when the Russian revolutionaries were victorious in crushing the Czarist forces, the Finnish ruling clique would at once, arms in hand, take over the reigns of government with an iron hand. So the result of the defeat at Viborg resulted in the sentences of 80 workers

*Activists were leaders of various workers committees.

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

to long military prison terms.

After the Viborg rebellion the revolutionary movement suffered a setback. Conditions ripe for a revolutionary change was past and the reactionary forces became stronger. Labor began its fight on a different front; they turned their attention to parliamentary activity. Unlike their Russian brothers, underground activity collapsed and a lesson must of necessity be learned from none other but from the Russian brothers.

The strike period of 1905 gave, nevertheless, the laboring people of Finland encouragement and a will to fight with new weapons gained through struggles, that is, political weapons. The masses, after the general strike, were in a continuous ferment, not only did this apply to the industrial population but the peasantry as well. Strikes broke out frequently everywhere, most significant of which was the timber workers' of the far North where the government sent a horde of gunmen and police to quell "riots." Several strike leaders were arrested drawing long and heavy sentences. At the Ekloff lumber corporation strike, which roused the entire country, 61 workers were arrested and sentenced to three months imprisonment. Other important strikes were the Tampere factory strike and the Helsingfors metal workers lockout, as well as the heroic tenants' strike against the exploitation of the big landlords, Baron Standerskjold and Laukko, where the peasants suffered the most brutal treatment. The Baron brought a company of mounted police from Helsingfors and drove the tenants from their miserable huts, breaking windows and doors, wrecking their stoves, throwing out their meagre furniture and belongings and lashing men, women, the aged and the children with their driving whips. This brutality brought down on the heads of the

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

landlords the indignation of the masses which rose to a boiling point.

The trade union movement at this point was somewhat lax until arrangements were started for a national labor congress injecting more vigor into the movement. The congress was held in Tampere in 1907 which proved to be more constructive and more united then the preceeding ones. Simultaneously, the peasants, following the Laukko and Standerskjold brutalities, held meetings in every section of the country electing delegates to a nationwide peasants congress convening in Tampere in 1906 with 400 peasant delegates participating. At this congress a far reaching land reform program was discussed and adopted with demands for a new tenants lease law and against indentured tenancy.

The labor movement of Finland began branching out in all directions, such as Working Womens League, Labor Youth groups, athletics, adult labor educational groups and the co-operatives. As early as in 1900 the working class women maintained strong organizations and carried on intensive propaganda and education among the working class women, particularly among domestic help and the factory women-workers. During the same year a womens' congress was held in Helsingfors. House servants or better known as domestic help were organized in 1902 much to the embarrassment and surprise of the ruling class women, land barons and employers. Organized women created a sensation with their determined stand in the general strike throwing fear and indignation into the hearts of the bourgeois women. The organized women on estates suddenly dropped their chores leaving food unprepared and uncooked and the dairy cows unfed. In connection with the general strike the women servants demanded one free day per week, an eight-day summer vacation and over-time pay for days exceeding ten hours. In most cases the demands

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

were granted, however, the maidservant organization became disorganized and the gains were lost.

The co-operative movement was born in 1900. The labor movement hitherto failed to turn its attention to the co-operative movement regarding it purely as a business, and if it had any reform value it only is able to "scratch the surface." It was believed that the co-operative will always remain "just a retail store" but as they grew and strengthened the labor movement began seriously to consider its possibilities and future as part of the labor movement and a strong ally in the class struggle. The co-operatives developed, through the years, into a strong economic force and in 1913 the Kotka Co-operatives, at their annual meeting, took steps toward uniting and working more harmoniously with the labor movement. Later, however, as the class struggle sharpened the co-operatives, on a national scale split into two camps, the progressive and conservative, the latter lining up with the ministry.

In 1900 the labor movement attracted large numbers of youth, especially the young industrial workers, in the larger factories. Formerly youth were organized in conservative youth groups and temperance clubs which no longer satisfied the needs of youth of that period. In the comparatively young labor movement the youth found its proper place, being drawn into it by the youth's class instinct. Young Social Democratic Leagues were organized which youth enthusiastically supported, knowning also that in all other countries such youth organizations existed and gave youth opportunity for self study, taking for their program youth defence, better conditions, etc. Through this process developed the youth organization and early in 1905 the first Socialist youth group was set up. This took place in Tampere where

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

this new youth group played an important part in connection with the general strike. The conservatives, upon seeing the rapid growth of the youth movement, started a dual organization, "The Young Finland Brotherhood" (Suomen nuorison veljeysliitto), and engaged one Mikko Piirainen, at that time a well known mountbank in the employ of the reactionaries, with intentions to kill the rapidly growing young socialist movement. This later collapsed in the face of the nation-wide sweep of the young social democratic movement. The membership in the youth league jumped to over ten thousand having a newspaper with a circulation of twelve thousand. The youth movement played a important role in the growth of the general labor movement of Finland.

To throw some more light on the labor movement we quote a few figures on its growth. In 1900 there were 64 unions with 9,446 members. In 1915 1,528 locals with 51,821 members. After the general strike the labor movement took the form of an intensive crusade where literally thousands participated, however, only a small part took it earnestly and remained members of the party. For example, in 1906 membership in the organization for a moment rose to 85,000, while as late as in 1917 it remained in the neighborhood of 50,000. In 1900 the labor movement owned only 14 labor temples while in 1915 the figure rose to 911. This property in 1900 was valued at 289,098 marks which in 1915 rose to 700,515. The party press also grew; in 1905 there were only five newspapers while in 1916 there were 21. In the aforementioned year the combined circulation was 83,000 which jumped by 1916 to 174,000. Besides the party press almost every craft union regional organization owned their own paper. The labor centers were also centers for information and

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Alfred Backman
Dec. 14, 1938.

education. Every labor temple operated a magnificent library and reading rooms, theatres, bands, orchestras, choirs and gymnasiums. In this fashion vast masses of people were drawn into every phase of cultural activity the most important of which was the understanding the ramifications of the economic and political order under which they lived.....

RM

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: The Nation Wkly 45 2 Date of Publication July 17, 1902.
(edition, page, column)

Vol. 75 No. 1933 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted Apr.13,1939.

Finnish Study

"FINLANDS LATEST TROUBLES."
O. G. Villard

* * * There was also a petition for a return to the constitutional method of enacting such (conscription) laws. * * * The local recruiting boards having declined to act further, the general conscription commissions were empowered to select the new men needed - another unconstitutional action which fanned the growing flames of resentment.

So bitter was the feeling in Helsingfors that on the 17th of April only 56 of the city's 860 conscripts presented themselves in the presence of a large and ugly crowd, which protested by word and deed, against their appearance. It was not difficult for the Governor of the province to find an excuse to let loose without warning a squadron of Cossacks upon the indignant people. These hated foreigners did not hesitate to ride down and beat men, women, and children wherever they could overtake them. For these valiant services they were publicly highly praised by Governor-General Bobrikoff. An indignant protest to the Czar from the city fathers has met the same fate as the petition mentioned above. (a petition of protest with 475,000 signatures)

* * * Since the Finns differ from the Russians in Religion, habits, and customs of life, and speak a language of their own, it is much as if Hindus were forced to serve in Anglo-Saxon regiments. It is not surprising that, under these circumstances, the few Finns who have responded to the call have been hooted and jeered and regarded as cowards or traitors in more places than one."

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS; MINN
SUBJECT: Socio Ethnic
SUBMITTED BY: Hardie Smith
DATE: October 19,1938

FINNS---ECONOMIC HISTORY

THE LAND OF THE FINNS

Some nineteen hundred years ago there appeared on the south shore of the Gulf of Finland some blonde tribes that were strangers to that part of Europe. A hundred fifty miles or so down the coast lived a tall, white-thatched race which had settled on the Aland Archipelago and neighboring coast-line after drifting from neighboring Sweden. The men of the new tribes, however, had a different air about them, and although at first glance there appeared to be much similarity between them and the island men, a number of minor differences could be noted. Their hair, if possible, was often even whiter than that of the Swedes; they were shorter and more stocky; their heads were often round rather than long; their eyes were wont to have an oriental slant; and their crude copper axes, bone-tipped arrows and skin clothing gave evidence that they had stemmed from a civilization more primitive yet than that of the Scandinavians. With their barley in skin pouches, their tall fishing lances and their few sheep and reindeer, they moved leisurely along the shoreline until they reached the land that was to be their home. They had ended a migration that had begun some 2500 years before and carried them over several thousand miles of interior Europe.

The land that lay before them was virgin wilderness, and, save for the fringe of Swedes on its southwest corner, no one had ever lived in its vast, lake-splashed pine forests. Game--deer, small animals, and large brown bear---roamed through it in great numbers, a welcome discovery to the invading hunters. Their path was barred by swift, turbulent rivers and marshes in addition to the lakes. They drifted leisurely westward, however, moving toward the interior when they came to a settlement, for they were a pacific people and there was room enough for them all. Eventually they settled in the lake-crowded uplands, and, following their ancient custom, began to burn aisles in the forest to make clearings in which to sow their barley.

The corner of Europe that finally became the home of these early Finns was entirely above the sixtieth parallel of latitude and stretched up beyond the Arctic circle. It was fairly level, for the great glacier of the Pleistocene age had covered it completely and ground off the summits of all the hills. Huge terminal moraines, left when the ice masses retreated, were frequent in the southern part of the country, their hollows water-filled. Farther north the glacier had carved out long, finger-like depressions, their longitudinal axes all pointing to the northwest, and in receding left them, too, filled with water. The surface of the ground was strewn with granite boulders whose corners had been ground off by the ice. The soil between them was light and sandy--ideal for forest growth---but it was sadly deficient in nourishment for plant life and often provided but a very thin covering for the hard granite and gneiss of the bedrock. The Finns were to find the barrenness of their soil a constant trial to them when their increasing numbers made it necessary to farm the fields more extensively.

But by far the most notable feature of this new land was the great proportion of its area which was submerged---covered either by lakes or by bogs. In this land, one-third greater that the island of Great Britain, three-quarters of its surface was "wet". Forty thousand lakes and innumerable peat-bogs and marshes were responsible for this condition. Many of the lakes were miles in extent and dotted by islands. But they were full of fish, and as soon as the Finns had learned to navigate them, they provided a rich source of food.

For a land that was so far north, the climate was not inclement. Warm breezes from the Gulf stream blew across it from the southwest, so that in most sections, even in winter, the temperature average kept around 15 degrees fahrenheit. One great hardship that the early Finns had to face, however, was the great daily variation in temperature. A twenty-four hour period might see the temperature shift from freezing to the eighties and back again to the low forties. Such temperature shifts had two effects on the tribesmen---they weeded out the unfit, and they gave to the survivors a superb vitality and resistantce. It has recently been claimed that the reason the Finns are known as one of the most energetic peoples on earth has been this very climate, with its accompanying low-pressure barometric areas.

But these temperature changes affected crops in a different way. The Finns learned from the first to dread the frost, to sing of it in their early songs as the chief enemy of man, to expect it almost any day throughout the entire growing season. They never knew when they might come out of doors on a summer morning and find their barley withered on its stalks, a sight that would condemn them to another winter to hunger, a winter of bread mixed to give it body with bark.

Partly responsible for the frequent frosts were the great numbers of clouds that covered the summer sky. These clouds were a serious obstacle to the ripening of crops even if the frost did not get them, and the farmers often were forced to dry the grain by the heat of a big fire. In some sections the clouds covered the sky almost half of the days of the year, and complicated still more the problem of raising crops that needed all they could get of the weak rays of the northern sun.

Rainfall in this northern land was light, yet sufficient for all needs. It varied fwom 18 to 28 inches; but because of the low rate of evaporation and because it was distributed fairly evenly throughout the entire year, there was sufficient moisture for all the needs of the land. Typically, there would be light showers on successive days, with a dry period in March and April and a wet period in August. Occasional hail endangered the crops.

The country was ice-locked in winter, both the Gulf of Bothnia and the Gulf of Finland being frozen over. While this kept the fishing boats in port, in the interior it was welcomed, for then travel on the frozen bogs and lakes was easier.

This, in general, was the nature of the new land that the Finns had come to conquer from the wilderness. It was poor in minerals and in soil; its northerly position made it unsuited for successful agriculture on a large scale; but its forests grew luxuriously and its meadows were lush with fine grass. When the struggle for a livelihood grew more intense and the Finn began to covet the comforts of his southern neighbors, these two national assets were his main sources of wealth. For centuries, however, her was untouched by the need of material progress, and lived off

the land much as his early ancestors had lived when they settled the country. He grew his barley, milked his cows, speared his fish, hunted his game, and brewed his beer, and these products served him as food. Not until the Middle Ages did the impact of the outside world force a change in his habits, nor until modern times were these sufficiently altered so that manufactures became of vital importance to him.

FINLAND IN THE MIDDLE AGES

The Middle Ages marked the beginning of sustained contact by the Finns with foreign peoples. The more adventurous of the Baltic fishermen had for years sailed their boats down the North Sea in pirate raids on shipping and coast towns, and with the beginning of Swedish sovereignty over Finland in 1154, piracy was still a "preferred occupation". But trade had not yet started on any extensive scale.

Under Swedish domination, however, an active trade with western European countries and Russia began. In this the Hanseatic League played an important part, for it was at Viipuri, on the head of the Gulf of Finland, that the merchants established their gateway port to the interior of Russia. Later, because Novgorod, the Hansa market fartheat east in Russia, was often winter-locked or inaccessible because of the activities of brigands, the Finnish city often substituted as a market.

Another port that was used frequently by merchants on their way to Russia was Turku. The Stockholm traders customarily stopped here and soon it too was an outlet for Finnish goods.

The early exports were mostly raw materials, although even at

this time finished wood articles appeared on the invoices. Furs and fish were most important. Wood products, butter, tar, and rawhides also were sold to the Germans. These are essentially the products on which the foreign trade of Finland is built today, although as early as the thirteenth century wood took the lead, and with butter are the most important of today's exports, with tar and fish of minor value, and the export of furs almost negligible. The Finn then, as today, looked upon the same products as his chief national assets in foreign trade, a fact which is significant of the unchanging character of the Finnish national economy.

Imports also show this similarity. Rye, vegetables, wine and salt were most important in the Middle Ages, with finished goods such as leather laces, linens, and metal goods, and sulphur, weapons and work of art of secondary importance. Even today the nation must import a large proportion of its food, and a lively market for finished goods, particularly of metal products, exists in Finland, although manufacturing is on the increase.

FINNISH AGRICULTURE

Today farming occupies more than 65 per cent of the 3,500,000 Finns, and in past times it must have been even more important. Today also, as in the past the Finnish farmer's attention is centered upon these products: his cash crop, butterfat, from his herd of cows; rye for his bread, but rarely any for sale; barley for his own and his livestock's consumption; oats for his cattle, although he may have to buy some to see his cattle through the winter; and a large crop of hay, to which he

may devote half the acreage of his fields. In his garden patch he will grow a few vegetables, chiefly potatoes, for his own table. Some chickens, sheep, and pigs may be found; and his axes are kept shiny from the wood that he cuts on his own farm for use in the stoves.

These are the most important interests of the Finnish farmer; but as he is nearly self-sufficient (if his farm is big enough to allow this) he must labor in a number of minor tasks to take care of other needs. In the winter, however, he may work in the forest for the lumber companies to eke out his living. Typically his farm is small, with less than sixty acres under cultivation, and because of the difficult struggle for existence, his life is an austere one.

The farmer likes to erect his buildings on the side of a slope overlooking one of his beloved lakes or rivers. His farm characteristically has many buildings. There is the bath-house, which is the first building put up on a new farm and shelters the family until the house can be raised. Others are: the main building, with its huge fireplace; a livestock barn; a granary or two; a hut for the minister or guest, or perhaps instead a tool-house; and several hay-barns, scattered through the fields in proximity to the meadows. All of these buildings are apt to be of logs, some with stone foundations; but the hay barns, with sides built sloping inward toward the bottom and with the chinks between them open to allow free circulation of air, have only a log foundation as a rule. Sometimes the farm buildings will be arranged in a hollow square, in which case they are apt to be more substantial than the average farm; in some districts, such as those of the Savolaks, they may be grouped in villages. On them will be horses and perhaps as many as fifteen or twenty cows. In the granaries there will often be a fireplace without a chimney, for the fire which will be built to

dry the grain. In the hay-fields will be the queer waist-high poles with cross-bars on which the farmer drapes hay so it will shed water and cure without mildewing.

The grain-fields of the farmer will be on the sides or top of a hill, and the forest will be cleared around them in such a way as to allow the prevailing winds to sweep over them freely and drive away the frost. This lowers the yield of his crops, for the rich land is in the bottoms; but it is the only way he can combat his worst enemy. In the spring he will graze his cattle upon his hay-fields; he can do this for as long as three months before he fences it off, and still be assured of a hay-crop before the growing season is over.

The customary method of preparing the land, as late as the nineteenth century, was by burn-beating. A forest-covered spot would be picked and the trees felled upon it. Two years leater, when the trees had dried out, the farmer would return and burn off trees and underbrush, that ashes of which would make a rich fertilizer for the soil beneath. He then would sow crops on this land. Years later, when the soil began to play out, he would turn his cattle upon it and use it for grazing awhile. Then he would allow it to return to forest, until years of rest and tree-growth had made it fit again for burning.

Today, in addition to the principal crops of cereals, rye, oats, and barley, some wheat is grown. It has only been introduced recently and is not yet an important crop. Rye, the Finnish staff of life, is grown on 11 per cent of the land. It was introduced by the Swedes in the thirteenth century. Out of it the farm wife make s the flat-bread that forms the staple form of diet for farm families. Oats, the grain used for feeding the livestock, covers 19 per cent . Barley, the grain least sensitive to

frost, is relied upon heavily in the northern sections and covers 5 per cent of the land. Wheat covers only one-half per cent. The largest crop on the cultivated land, hay, covers 43 per cent, and consists largely of alsike and timothy.

Fruits are poor in Finland and the yield scanty, but berries are plentiful, and often grow wild. Chief among them are the strawberry and the blueberry, and Finland has sometimes been called "strawberry land" because of the abundance of the former fruit. Gooseberries and preisel-berren (a type of cranberry) also play an important part in the farmer's diet.

The livestock interests of the Finns have until recently been concentrated chiefly on cattle and horses. Finnish farmers have become attached to their own breed of cattle, both because it eats less and produces milk with a very high butterfat content, two traits especially valuable to farmers who use most of their product for making butter. Thier local breed also weathers the winters better than foreign imported cattle. Some 2,000,000 cattle were on Finnish farms in 1920.

Horses, too, are noted for their endurance, gained from centuries of scraping their food from the frozen acres of the Finnish farm. Although they are, like other northern-bred horses, small, they are stocky and strong. The Finns while under the domination of Russia made some money by exporting their surplus stock, both to Russia and to Sweden. Even after Sweden placed a high duty on the animals, Finnish horses seemed to have a habit of wanderind across the northern border, there to be caught by their Finnish owners and sold to Swedes who valued them for their strength. As race horses, too, these Finnish ponies were supreme. For years they won all the Swedish trotting races until the

Swedish patriots who composed the racing commissions introduced a minimum height restriction which effectively barred all Finnish horses from the tracks.

In the northern part of the land the reindeer is still domesticated. The early Finns had not learned to milk them, being taught this source of food from the Lapps. Now the animal is used for milk and meat, in c contrast with the practice of the southern farmers with their cattle, which are usually bred for milking only.

Butter, the cash crop of the farmers, is sent chiefly to England, where it competes on equal terms with the famed Danish product. It constituted 10 per cent of Finland's total export, and of this total, 85 per cent is handled through a single producer's cooperative, Valio, the pride of the Finnish cooperative movement.

WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS

Finland's future seems to lie in the wood industry. Its forest land occupies the highest percentage of total area in Europe, and is second only to Russia in acreage. Furthermore, the forests are relatively accessible, the average length of haulage to the rivers being only two and one-half miles, from where the timber can be floated down to the mills at the river mouths, and, after sawing, shipped directly on the freighters. Increasing prices for lumber and the depletion of forests in other countries make the picture for the Finnish lumber industry very bright, and European observers have been known to comment with envy that its wage scales approach American levels. The fact that the Finnish lumbermen are more and more often processing the wood in their own factories is another bright augur for the future of the industry. Located close to the world

markets for wood products, with a people that is industrious and productive in factory labor, the manufacture of paper, cardboard, plywood and wood specialties has steadily grown and shows further signs of growth.

The forests are composed largely of pine(norwegian pine), spruce, and birch. Pine composes about 55 per cent of the forest area, spruce 28 per cent, and birch 17 per cent. Alders and ash can also be found. Of the wood cut, over half is used in the country itself for firewood, a tenth shipped out as timber, and a quarter processed in the factories. Birch is the wood chiefly used in the specialties and plays an important part in the manufacture of plywood, but pine is still the standby of the industry. About fotry million cubic meters are cut each year, a total four million below the rate of growth determined by government control over the forest areas to allow for replenishment of the forests.

The interesting feature about the government's regulation of the industry is the early date at which it started. Because of Finland's natural advantages for lumber production, there was a demand for it even in the middle ages, and in 1600 the first law curtailing its output was enacted. Under this law the annual capacity of any sawmill was limited to 10,000 logs and a cutting season established, after which the saws were sealed to prevent evasion. In the nineteenth century, while the steam mill began to replace water power in other countries, in Finland its introduction was prohibited until 1857, and not until 1861 did other restrictive measures disappear.

Today the forests of Finland are completely protected by legislation designed to maintain them at their present levels. More than 38 per cent of the entire forest area is owned outright by the goverment, which fells timber and sells it in direct competition with private interests. Private

interests in the lumber and paper industries own 7.5 per cent of the timber, almost all of it the best that can be found. Individual farmers and municipalities own the rest. It is interesting to note the extent to which the towns cut wood for their own use from their own forests. Sixteen towns supply their needs fully (in some cases having a surplus for sale), and fourteen others supply most of their wood.

Among the measures taken to conserve the forests, these may be noted. Burn-beating has been prohibited for more than 85 years by law. Since 1915 companies engaged in the lumber business have been prohibited from buying forest land. Selective cutting and systematic replanting laws have been in force for many years; bog lands have been reclaimed for forests; and the law requires the elimination of slashings from the forest to guard against the fire danger. Government subsidies also help to support forestry schools and other means of education of the public in conservation and forestry. Two boards, one for state forests and the other for private forests, control cutting and planting and make surveys of the timber areas.

By these measures, much is being done to overcome the historic attitude of the peasants who think that all available acres should be put under cultivation. In the words of a state forestry official, "The forestry policy of the government must always conscientiously weigh its effects upon the industries and the national economy of the country as a whole. For, as the climate and geographical location of Finland prevent the country from competing with others in the supply of grain, and as we are likewise lacking in coal and oil fields and in workable deposits of ore, our economic life is definitely linked to the production of our forests."

Industries using wood as a raw material employ 45,000 people,

45 per cent of the workers employed in industry. In addition, up to 200,000 work seasonally in the forests. The wages so gained are estimated to support one-fifth of the national population when allowance is made for dependents.

As stated, the lumber industry had its beginnings in the Middle Ages. Paper was first made in Finland in the seventeenth century, and continued on a small scale until 1860, when the manufacture of wood pulp for paper began and enabled the mills to improve their quality of their paper. while cutting their cost of production. Russia absorbed nearly 80 per cent of this paper and 20 per cent of the wood pulp. After the revolution, when Russia was no longer a customer, the state of the paper industry was critical, but now the Finns have developed markets in England, France, Holland, Germany and other countries. The United States is the largest single customer for chemical-pulp. Practically all of the output of the industry is exported. Plywood and wood specialties, two of the minor wood industries, are active, again exporting practically all of its product. Finnish bobbins supply half the world's market, almost one-fifth of which comes from the world's largest bobbin factory at Kuopio. The industry began in 1873, increased greatly after 1905 and has been gaining ever since. Plywood was first made in Finland in 1912, and has increased greatly since that time. England again is the largest customer for this product.

The making of tar is the only forest industry which has declined in Finland. Before the rise of the steamship and the commercial discovery of coal-tar, there was a good market for tar among the ship-chandlers, and even now some of it is exported. One of the thrills of the country to travellers was a ride down the turbulent rivers in one of the tar-boats, long, narrow shells piled high with barrels, buckling in the middle with

every cross-current, and in perpetual danger of being swamped by the water that rushed only a few inches below their gunwales. There are yet a few boatmen, but the decay of the industry and the inroads of railroads on the transport of tar have almost ended the trade of the riverboatmen. They are used mostly to take tourists down the river.

Tar was made by "bleeding" the pines. Each year a segment of bark would be stripped off the trees, leaving a narrow strip along one side to keep the tree alive, until the whole trunk was encrusted with pitch. Then the tree would be felled and burnt in a high kiln covered with sod, the tar collecting in a vat at the bottom, to be run into barrels made during the winter. Some areas of the forest were almost denuded by the demand for tar in the heyday of the industry.

The wood industries, therefore, are the most important ones in Finland and produce almost half of the national wealth. Furthermore as the educational work done by the cooperatives begins to produce results, and as the markets for wood products begin to expand, it seems likely that these industries will increase in value and bring prosperity in some measure to a people who for long centuries have been the victims of the barrenness of their land and the rigors of their climate.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

The largest textile mill in Finland bears the very un-Finnish name of Finlayson. This is because of the enterprise of a Scots[1] business man named Finlayson, who, informed of the business possibilities for a Finnish textile industry by a Russian friend, established the first textile mill in Tampere. The peasants had long woven their own cloth, but the Finlayson mill was the first to make cloth on a commercial scale. The mill

mill is now mangged by Finns, but they have kept the same name as a tribute to the founder of the third largest manufacturing industry in their country, which in 1923 represented 11.1 per cent of its industrial value. The industry now produces 60 per cent of the fabrics used in Finland and is still concentrated in Tampere, "the Manchester of Finland", making use of the town's abundant water power.

The export of fish is still carried on, as it was in the Middle Ages, but has declined in importance partly because of the collapse of the Russian market and more because of competition by other Scandinavian countries. No reliable figures are available for the industry because of the immense local consumption which is not recorded, but it probably has gained slightly in the last twenty years, if the figures on the export of Baltic herring are a good index. With herring, sääkmon, salmon trout and perch are most popular, but there are many varieties of fresh-water fish in the lakes and other popular slat-water fish taken for local consumption.

Shipping is one of Finland's growing industries, although for a long time it languished because of the decline of the sailing vessel. As most Finns are skillful navigators and seamen, there is an abundance of material for crews, and Finnish steamships are beginning to roam over the great oceans. The longest line connects Finland with South American ports.
home-owned

Transportation in Finland has not reached the state which may be found in other countries. The development of transportation followed the customary lines---waterway, highway, railway---but because of the lightness of population, the lack of mineral wealth to spur settlement, the difficulty of building roads because of the innumerable lakes and bogs, and the absence of manufactures in the interior, progress has been slow. A further discouragement to interior transport was the policy of the Russian government, which discouraged road-building because it permitted

too easy an interchange of ideas among the people for the peace of mind of the officials. However, in 1856 the first canal was opened and twenty others have been added since, connecting lakes and rivers in a fairly well-rounded waterways system. In many sections of the land, however, water is the only summer means of transport.

The first railroad was opened in 1870 and was a tragic event for the Finns, so much had it cost and so many lives had it required. It ran from Behingrad to Helsinki and 65 miles northward to Tavastehus (Hameenlinna). Later a line was built to Hanko because it was the only port which could be kept open all year round. Slowly since then the Finns have stretched a network around the country. Expenditures required have been so large that the government has had to take over most of the roads, and now owns 2872 miles to the 160 miles of privately controlled rails. Trains make but slow speed in Finland due to the unevenness of the terrain and the shakiness of the bogs which must be crossed, the lack of coal which makes wood the fuel in most of the Finnish trains.

Mining also plays a part in the country's economy, but minerals are so scant that it is of little importance. Copper production is 1000 tons a year of ore, and there is much excellent granite that can be quarried, an abundance which shows everywhere in the cities of Finland, where all the expensive buildings and public monuments are built with granite, a practice that increases their cost considerably.

England, Germany, the United States, Holland, and Sweden trade with Finland in the order of importance named. Russian trade is beginning to assume some importance as the Soviet Union reaches a more stable foundation, but much of the earlier trade which caused it to be Finland's most important customer now comes under the heading of Latvia,

Esthonia, or Lithuania, and so cuts down the total. Finland's thriving trade with England comes because she needs American and English machinery, and they in turn need her wood and dairy products. The united States absorbs 25 per cent of her pulp and paper exports, while England takes most of her dairy exports.

CITIES

The Finns are not a city-dwelling people. In 1920 the urban population reached only 16.1 per cent of the total, as contrasted to rural Norway with 29 per cent, Germany with 57 per cent, and England with 78 per cent. Thus we find that the Finnish metropolis, Helsinki, has only 300,000 inhabitants, slightly larger than St. Paul.

The Finnish cities appear surprisingly modern in contrast to those of Finland's European neighbors. They are rectangular in shape, with streets wide and laid out at right angles to each other. The buildings are frequently new and the absence of historical forms of architecture is noted. The fact that most of the buildings are of wood--85 per cent--is responsible for this modern appearance, for every Finnish city has been swept by fire, some of them several times, and in rebuilding streets were widened to help check further fires.

Only two industrial cities can be found in Finland. These are Tampere and Hameenlinna. The prot cities of Viipuri, Vaasa, Kotka, Pori, Pietersaari and Oulu, however, all have industries in them and are secondary manufacturing centers, although commerce is their primary concern. Helsinki is commercial, industrial, political, and tourist. Hanko is tourist and commercial, as many people flock to its bathing beaches. Turku is classed the same as Helsinki.

In the United States the Finns are known as the people most active in the consumers' cooperative movement. This is a borrowed tendency from the mother country, where cooperatives assume an important place in the national picture.

The Finnish cooperative movement of today dates from the establishment of the Pellervo society in 1899, although scattered attempts had been made to get it started for forty years previously. Its members are largely engaged in agricultural occupations, and, as in other great cooperative systems, the people of moderate means form the great majority of its members. Now nearly half the population is associated, directly or indirectly, with the cooperatives. The societies run general merchandise stores, dairies, restaurants, bakeries, groceries, rural banks, agricultural machinery-buying societies, peat-moss societies, wholesale houses and export firms/ dealing in agricultural goods.

The success of the cooperatives dates from 1915, when Pellervo succeeded in gaining what heretofore had been sadly lacking---cooperation between the numerous cooperatives which had been set up in business as a result of Pellervo's educational policy. In 1908-09 a depression had made serious inroads on the financial stability of the movement, and part of this was due to the lack of coordination among the societies themselves. So in 1915 five central organizations were established: "S.O.K.", the society which operates the retail cooperative stores; "Hankkija" and "Labor", buying organizations for farmers' goods; "Valio", the butter export society; and the Rural Bank's Credit Society, a financing organization primarily for farmers and rural banks. These are the major cooperative organizations today, although there are other national groups."Elanto", a retail distributor with business chiefly in Helsinki, is an example of what the future of America's cooperatives may be. It owns bakeries, drug

shoe stores, cafes and restaurants, a department store, a delivery fleet, a brewery and jam and sausage factories.

CONCLUSION

The composite picture of Finland toddy shows it to be a country that still depends heavily upon a relatively unproductive agriculture for the support of its population, but with strong signs pointing to a cash supplement from grazing and lumbering that will raise the standard of livingto comfortable levels Thus the forced emigration that brought numbers of Finns to this country may be expected to diminish still further until it is a negligible factor.

Finland's future seems to lie in the grazing and manufacture of wood products. Both of these occupations have been important to the national economy since medieval times and have steadily increased in value to the population. They have been the chief factor in relieving the hardships of life on Finland's barren soil andfrost-bitten valleys, hardships that have dogged the people for centuries and made of them an extremely hardy race. Independent in modern times only since 1917, the country has managed to preserve its financial and political integrity, and even gained profitable markets in European countries that promise to grow larger with the years. Because of the democratic ambitions of the people, their independence and high level of literacy, the Finnish state stands on a firm democratic foundation and is progressing rapidly. The government is relatively far advanced on what seems to be the universal tendency of collectivism, but in Finland, people's organizations, the cooperatives, perform a large part of these functions, and are closely identified with the government, performing governmental functions and receiving government

support. Government control blankets the country's natural resources, insuring stability and continued national income. After a struggle, both aga against foreign exploitation and natural handicaps, the Finns seem to have won the victory that they have been seeking for almost two millennia. But the struggle has left marks on their character. They are as dour as Scots, a characteristic that seems to accompany the hard struggle for existence. They also have an intense patriotism, which to others has seemed clannishness, and which manifests itself in their pride of country and of the great artistic achievements it has brought forth, among which are the Kalevala, the national epic, the works of Sibelius, the paintings by Finnish artists, and the architecture of Saarinen. These achievements to a foreigner might appear to be relatively few, but they are exceedingly choice, and when it is remembered that they are a population no greater than that of the State of Minnesota, their achievements begin to assume proper importance.

MINNEAPOLIS? MINN.
SUBJECT: Socio Ethnic
SUBMITTED BY: Hardie Smith
DATE: OCTOBER L(? L(#'

FINNS EL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Van Cleef, Eugene; Finland--the Republic Farthest North? Columbus Ohio 1929

Republic of Finland, Statistical Bureau: Finland: an Economic and Financial Survey, Helsinki

Frederiksen, N.C.: Finland--Its Public and Private Economy? London, 1902

Fisher, R.A. :Finland and the Tsars, London 1901

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Public Libraries Monthly 396 (edition, page, column) Date of Publication Oct. 1904.

Vol. 9 No. 8 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Public Library Date consulted Apr. 18. 1939.

THE POPULAR LIBRARIES IN FINLAND

A. A. Granfelt, Helsingfors, Finland

The Finnish people is one of the youngest peoples of culture of the world. Its language was not used in writing before the middle of the sixteenth century, and for a long time almost exclusively in the religious literature. Fifty years ago (1854) the worldly literature in Finnish language was still extremely insignificant, compared with the religious one, but since that time there has been great progress.

When we examine the state of the libraries in our land we find, however, some endeavor to create a library even in Finnish language, and that already in the beginning of the last century (in Anjala). This endeavor remained unnoticed; the good example had no influence under those circumstances.

More than 40 years later, when there existed a little germ of a newspaper literature in Finnish language, a man of the people, Juho Pynninen, in Wiborg, who was not school-bred at all himself, but who, after having all by himself acquired knowledge of writing, had got an employment in a timber house of his place, undertook to found a popular library and sent, enthusiastic for the subject, many essays to the weekly paper of the place. What gave him that thought? In the town existed, it is true, from the year 1808, a circulating library for the German and Swedish burghers who lived there, but Pynninen was not likely to know any of these languages. A little collection of money, and the library began its activity in the year 1846 with 222 books, of which 124 were religious ones. All the books treat different subjects, Pynninen says with delight of his library. During the first year of the library's existence the number of readers was 41. . . . .

During the following two decenniums the number of

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (MINNESOTA)
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Public Libraries Monthly 396 (edition, page, column) Date of Publication Oct. 1904

Vol. 9 No. 8 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Public Library Date consulted Apr. 18, 1939.

libraries rose very slowly; every year a few were founded. In the years 1850-59, 50 libraries were founded; 1860-1869 up to 165, all in the country. The idea spread from parish to parish under the protection of the clergy and of all those who enthused for promulgation of knowledge. The great country and the public was comparatively indifferent. Yet even among the country people without any school breeding there were men who, like Pynninen, were friends of instruction and progress. . . .

.....We have already mentioned what sort of literature was offered them. No common schools existed yet; the first training institution for common-school teachers in Finland was founded in the year 1863. The knowledge of reading, though, was general, because no one was admitted to the confirmation who did not know spelling. . . . .

Your Item No. Page No. 2 Your Name Alfred Backman

MINNESOTA ANNALS

Source: Nordisk Folkeblad 3-3 (Publication) (Edition, Page, Col) Day and Date of Publication Thursday 5-28-1868

Place of Publication Rochester Date line of story

Where consulted Luther Seminary Date consulted 1-18-1940

" Finland

The famine in Finland is described as beyond belief. In many places, the meager supplies of 'Nödbröd' [bread baked from the bark of trees mixed with small amounts of flour or sometimes ground peas] are entirely exhausted, and, in addition, these people are the victims of serious deseases. Typhus epedemics are raging in Helsing'fors [Helsinki] and

Your Item No. 89 Page No. 1 Your Name Alvar Norbeck

(more)

MINNESOTA ANNALS

Source: _____ Day and Date of Publication _____
(Publication) (Edition, Page, Col)

Place of Publication _____ Date line of story _____

Where consulted _____ Date consulted _____

Tammerfors, in the first named place it is said to have taken 800 lives out the city's population of 24.000, while in Tammerfors the population has been reduced from 7..000 to 6.000 due, either to the epedemic or to circumstances brought about by the famine."

Your Item No. 89 Page No. 2 Your Name _____

WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
Minnesota Writers' Project, 500 South Third Street, Minneapolis
MFP-3

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: The Outlook Wkly. 895 2 Date of Publication Aug.18,1900
(edition, page, column)
Vol. 65 No. 16 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted Apr. 6, 1939.

Finnish Study.

"REASONS FOR EMIGRATION OF THE FINNS."
(Editorial)

"The announcement that one steamship line alone has agreed to bring over fifty-five thousand Finnish peasants to America this year calls renewal attention to the reasons for such emigration. Last year fifteen thousand Finns left their own country for other lands; this year the number will be many times greater. Finland is said to have about twenty-five hundred inhabitants. No other region so far north is as intelligently tilled; eleven-twelfths of the population are agriculturists, and for their instruction in the best methods of farming the Finnish Government has supported a dozen schools. During the past two years, however, these agriculturists have suffered from unusual cold and widespread floods, running much of their rye crop, the main breadstuff of the land - a disaster which, however, would not have caused much if any emigration. The real reason is found in the fact that last year the young Czar gave the lie to the solemn assurances which his ancestors had renewed since 1808, when Alexander I. wrested Finland from Sweden and confirmed the Finns in all constitutional rights and privileges which they had before enjoyed, the only change being that of suzerainty from Sweden to Russia. On their part the Finns have unswervingly kept the pledge, in return for which they enjoyed local self-government, and the ruler of all the Russias has been safer in the streets of Helsingfors than in those of St. Petersburg. There have been almost countless conspiracies in Russia since 1808; there never has been one in Finland. It may be that the desire of Nicholas II. to Russianize Finland was due to the very virtue and ability of the Finns themselves. It is well to know that there are no better sailors than the Finns; they have long manned the Imperial Russian

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: The Outlook Wkly. 895 2 Date of Publication Aug.18,1900
(edition, page, column)
Vol. 65 No. 16 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted Apr. 6, 1939.

Finnish Study

Emigration - Reasons:

navy. In his desire to strengthen the Russian army, the Czar must have wished to compel his Finnish subjects to serve. The disaster to Finland would have been only half as great had the Czar stopped there. He resolved upon a complete Russianization. When the seperate organization of the Finnish army was seen to be a thing of the past, he ordered Russian officers to displace Finnish in the organization of local affairs. Following this, Finnish postage stamps and even the Finnish flag went by the board. Nicholas II. not only refused to receive the indignant appeal signed in a fortnight by half a million of his Finnish subjects, but crowned his acts of oppression by laying an autocratic hand upon the Finnish schools, by far the best schools in Russia, and, indeed, among the best in all Europe. The Czar ordered the Russian language to be exclusively used in those schools and furthermore proclaimed as seditious half the studies which had hitherto been pursued. The Finns, Luthern in religion, now saw themselves also menaced by a Greek Catholic proselytizing crusade suggesting Spanish methods. These things could have but one result. Comprehending the vanity of resistance to superior force, many decided to leave Finland. They have done so in a year when Russia has rung with denunciations of other oppressors! The only advantage to the world seems to be in the addition to the population of the United States and Canada of a particularly hard-working, enterprising, well educated, and thrifty people. Would that all our immigrants were equally desirable."

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Current Literature Mo. 195 1 Date of Publication March 1900
(edition, page, column)
Vol. 27 No. 3 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted April 11, 1939.

Finnish Study

"THE ABOLITION OF FINNISH AUTONOMY"
"AN INVASION OF FARMERS"
(Editorial)

"According to news reports, the United States and Canada are to have an invasion of farmers of Finland this summer. Altogether there are said to be some 55,000 of the Finnish peasant ready to migrate to this continent. The object of their coming is, according to the New York Sun, to escape the burdens imposed upon them recently by the Russian Government. The people are said to be eminently worthy and excellent farmers. South Finland is in the latitude of South Greenland, and contains the best tilled land to be found in so northerly a region. The Sun adds:

> 'It's 2,500,000 inhabitants are a sturdy and industrious race, eleven-twelfths of them tilling the soil, and nearly all are Lutherans in religious faith. Their history during a decade ending in 1898 was remarkable for progress and development, but last year was crowded with bitter disappointment and calamity. A few figures will show the remarkable economic advance of the country. In 1882 the exports of Finland were valued at only $17,000,000. By 1894 their value had increased to $27,000,000, and the average for two following years was $32,000,000. Lumber and tar were formerly the chief articles exported, but these now include a great many horses, among the finest raised in the Empire, and large quantities of butter, potatoes, fish, woodpulp and paper. The Finnish Government supports thirteen schools for instruction in the best

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Current Literature Mo. 195 1 (edition, page, column) Date of Publication March 1900

Vol. 27 No. 3 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted April 11, 1939.

Finnish Study

Abolition of Autonomy - Invasion of Farmers:

methods of farming. In 1890 less than 200,000 natives of the Russian Empire were living in the United States; we are now told that over a fourth as many more will come to America during the present season from the small part of the Empire embraced by Finland. The reasons for this extraordinary migration of Finns are undoubtedly the change in their political condition and the distressing crop failure of last year. The Imperial manifesto of February 15 last practically annulled the Finnish Constitution, in spite of the fact that when Czar Alexander I. wrested the country from Sweden in 1809 he confirmed the Finns in the Constitutional rights and privileges they had before enjoyed, and each of his successors renewed the pledges he gave. It was a bolt from the clear sky when the Czar, last year, abolished Finnish autonomy by a stroke of the pen, reduced the Diet to a position of a parish council and made Finnish soldiers liable to serve outside their own country. Chagrin was added to dismay when he refused to receive the repeal signed in a fortnight by a half a million of his Finnish subjects. On the heels of this calamity, came a late, cold spring and widespread floods that ruined a large part of the Rye crop, the main breadstuff of the country. Late last summer the people of the towns were raising money to relieve the distress of many thousands of peasants in the country districts. Famine was feared in the northern part of settled area, but the country x was spared this acute stage of suffering. These Lutheran peasants are intelligent, hard-working people, and it would be a blessing if all emigrants from Europe were equally desirable." '

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

Immigration & Settlement
Trabel Bureau for
Immigrants

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa Weekly 4 2 Date of Publication April 27th 1893
(edition, page, column)

Vol. 12 No. 17 Date Line of story

Where consulted Minn, Historical Library Date consulted Oct 5th 1938

In 1893 the "Oldenberg-Jasberg Company" operated an office at 123-3rd Street So in Minneapolis, Minn. which exchanged money to Finland, sold Steamship and Railroad tickets to the immigrants. The officers of the company were C.F. Bergstadi President, J.A. Oldenberg Treasurer and J.H. Jasberg Vice Pres. The man in charge of the central office in Minneapolis was Henry Iowa. They also had a branch office at 415 Clough Ave West Superior, Wisconsin.

Your item No. 5 Page No. Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Immigration & Settlement
Transportation

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Uusi Kotimaa Weekly 4 Date of Publication April 27th 1893
(edition, page, column)

Vol. 12 No. 17 Date Line of story

Where consulted Minnesota Historical Library Date consulted October 5th 1938

Much of the advertising income of the early Finnish langaage newspapers came from the Steamship companies and people who were interested in immigration. Thus in the issue of April 27th 1893 of the "Uusi Kotimaa" half of the advertising which is carried on the back page is from Steamship Companies.

Your item No. 6 Page No. Your name W A Harju

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION (Minnesota)
Federal Writers' Project, 415 Harvard St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Minn. H. S. M.
Minn. Baptist Convention
Mpls. - 4-3-36

CONSULAR SERVICE U. S. A.

Helsingfors, May 10, 1905.

E. R. Pope, Esq.
Sup't. Baptist State Missions of
Minneapolis, Minn.

Sir.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th last month. I beg to inform you that the immigration from Finland has been about 10,000 people every year in the last few years of which about 2/10th may use the Swedish language.

Very few people are taking the way over Sweden, the most are going by steamers from here to England and from England to U.S.

Yours truly

(Signature impossible to decipher)

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Hardie Smith
Dec. 15, 1938.

FINNS

Davie, Maurice R. World Immigration, New York 1936 MacMillan.

P. 141...The term Finnish as applied to these tribes refers to their culture, which was Asiatic throughout. Racially, however, they consist today of Nordics with a strong addition of Tartar blood.

In contrast to the people of the Baltic provinces the emigration of the Finns has been much more important numerically and has covered a longer period. Incidentally, they have the best record for literacy of all emigrants from Russia. Their emigration has been directed almost solely to the United States.

...The early immigrants were of a pioneer type and later became landed proprietors. In the period 1830-1850 a large number went to Alaska, then owned by Russia. The governor of Alaska in 1867 when the United States bought the territory was a Finn. The Finns were very prosperous there as fishermen, hunters, and foresters. The Gold Rush of 1849 brought many to California. The bad harvest in Finland during 1865-1870 occasioned a large exodus. Emigration, however, has been much more important since 1900, due in large measure to oppression by Russia... In 1899 its free institutions were abrogated, the Russian language took the place of Swedish and Finnish as the official medium, the press was severely censored, its religion of Lutheranism was subordinated to Eastern Orthodoxy, and its independent

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Hardie Smith
Dec. 15, 1938.

army was abolished. Economic reasons also led to emigration, such as the spreading use of agricultural machinery and the consequent reduction in the demand for labor, the increase of dairy farming, the displacement of grain crops by grass, the increase in the value of forested land, and the decrease in the clearing of forests. An agricultural laborer working on an American farm received three or four times as much as a similar worker on a farm in Finland; if he entered an American factory the difference was even greater.

Special information regarding the character of Finnish emigration is available for the period after 1893. It shows that farmers, farm laborers, and servants were more numerous among the Finns than among any other group emigrating from Russia, only a very small per cent of the emigrants coming from the city. Children of peasants and of Torpars, that is, tenants occupying part of a farm with the necessary farm buildings, made up half of the emigrants. Nearly two-fifths more were landless hired laborers, or bobils. Thus it was an exodus of the rural element. Aside from the great estates, land in pre-war Finland was held in small parcels and landless laborers were numerous. These conditions favored mass emigration and the emigration rate rose from 170 to 100,000 annually in 1893-98 to 500 per 100,000 in 1909-13, one of the highest emigration rates in Europe. With the establishment of the independent Republic of Finland following the World War and with the adoption of immigration restriction by the United States, the immigration rate has fallen off.

From 1899 to 1930 the United States admitted 230,529 Finnish immigrants. The census of 1930 reported 142,478 foreign-born whose country of birth was Finland. Of these 122,710 had Finnish as their mother tongue;

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Hardie Smith
Dec. 15, 1938.

the rest Swedish, English, and other. The number of foreign-born whose tongue is Finnish is raised to 124,994 by including those born in other countries... The largest center is New York City. Minor centers are Detroit, Duluth, Fitchburg, and Chicago...

P. 223...SEX...An excess of females appears in the emigration from Ireland, Sweden, and Finland. As a general principle, the larger number of women (and also children) among emigrants, the more permanent is that migration. Female emigration tends to be more constant than male, in as much as the proportion of the females rises in periods of small emigration and declines when emigration increases...The proportion of the sexes indicates the age of the movement, the preponderance of males declining as the movement becomes pwermanent.

According to the 1930 census of the United States, the sex ratio or number of males per hundred females was for native-born whites of native parentage 102.3 and for foreign-born whites, 115.1. The preponderance of males among the foreign-born is of considerable social significance. The following table (see p. 225)....shows that in general this ratio is higher among the southern and eastern European immigrants than among those from northern and western Europe.

(Finland is 22 out of a group of 33 European nationalities in 1930 with a ratio of 117.8. Highest in Bulgaria, 418.7, and lowest Irish Free State, 77.3. Average is 115.1.)

P. 225...AGE...Emigrants from most countries are 80 to 85 per cent adults. Among those from Finland, Ireland, and Italy, the proportion of adults is noticeably high. On the average, between two-thirds and four-fifths....have been between fifteen and forty years of age, those under

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Hardie Smith
Dec. 15, 1938.

fifteen have ranged between 12 and 23 per cent; those over forty, between 5 and 14 per cent.

P. 242...ETHNIC DISPLACEMENT...

1. Native or older immigrant workers leave the industry, or
2. They take different jobs in the industry and/or their children go into other occupations.

P. 244...The vocational adjustment of the immigrant has tended to follow a certain pattern. The established tradition has been that newcomers start at the bottom with unskilled work, no matter what their qualifications for better jobs might be. Nearly every group thus pays the price of immigration by the suffering of the first generation. The second and third generation usually overcome the handicaps of language and education and graduate out of their lowly status. Then as a new group of immigrants descends upon the country, it too is introduced into the American scheme by starting its cycle of adjustment. Thus we find that the hardest, dirtiest, and poorest paying work is passed over to the most recent arrivals...More than any other elements in the working population, excepting Negroes, they are affected by unemployment.

P. 249...Europe has lost by emigration millions of healthy, skillful, venturesome, and creative people in their most productive age. This has entailed a considerable economic loss because these emigrants were reared in Europe at considerable cost, educated and trained to their occupation while the homelands derived no return from their labor that would pay the interest upon the amortization of the capital invested in their upbringing.

PP. 249-250...Emigration itself, however, is no remedy for overpopulation. ...At most, emigration acts merely as a safety-valve. It is

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Hardie Smith
Dec. 15, 1938.

significant that European governments have at times though emigration of sufficient value to them in this respect to aid it financially....

...LIVING CONDITIONS..There are two types of immigrant communities; (a) the community which has affixed itself to the original population of an industrial town or city already established before the arrival of the immigrant group...(b) the communities clustering around mines or industrial plants, the majority of the inhabitants of which, often practically all, are of foreign birth...In both types of immigrant communities housing conditions are subnormal or below standard and congestion prevails...(the "boarding-boss" system is a feature of these communities.)

P. 255...The immigrants, for the most part, have distributed themselves among the two major parties.

Statistics...Finland is 18th in literacy of foreign-born white population, with a p.c. of 6.3 illiterates (male 5.4, female 7.4). Leads Belgium, 6.4; Cuba, 6.6; Latvia, 6.8; South America, 6.9; 6.0 behind Scotland (leader).....3.5 behind France, 3.3 behind Netherlands, 3.1 behind Germany (from 1930 census).

P. 266...Finland is 19th in ability to speak English, with a p.c. of inability of 10.8 (Czecho-Slovakia 10.7, Lithuania 10.8, Poland 12.8, Italy 15.7) male 5.9, female 16.7. Average for all countries 6.6. There is a positive correlation between ability to speak English and literacy.

CRIME. In the Wickersham report, Finland had the most commitments per 100,000 population of foreign-born, led in drunkenness, were third in liquor offenses, second in larceny commitments. Most of the commitments of Finns, it was said, were for drunkenness.

Conclusions on Crime...(from Kelsey, Carl: "Immigration and Crime"

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
Hardie Smith
Dec. 15, 1938.

in ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science

Immigration has added to the complexity of our problem of crime and to the difficulty in the administration of justice.

There is no reason to believe that the immigrants themselves are contributing widely to the volume of crime.

There is evidence that our penal machinery is none too well adapted to the present situation.

The crux of the problem seems to be in the activities of the children of immigrants.

The problems seems to be social rather than biological in origin.

The criminals are slums-reared, sons of immigrants. (See Ch. XV, Factors of Assimilation)

P. 542..P.C. Naturalized (1930 Census, 11,403,406) Finns are 51.0, or twentieth. In length of residence they are 17th.

P. 545...The important factors affecting the rate of naturalization are not racial or biological in character, but are social and cultural.

RM

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Lit. Digest Wkly. 34 1-2 (edition, page, column) Date of Publication May 24,1919.

Vol. 61 No. 8 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Library Date consulted Apr. 11, 1939.

"Finns in the United States."
(Editorial)

Early advent of the Finns.--

There are between 300 - 400 thousand Finns in the United States. Some of the earliest immigrants and some of the later were born in northern sections of Norway and of Sweden, where there has been for a long time a considerable Finnish population. This explains why the first Finns to come to this country accompanied a settlers' group of Swedes who made domicile in what is now the State of Delaware, in the year 1627. The second party of Finns adventured hither in 1637 and the third, between 1642 and 1644. All these Finns made their homes in Deleware, Pennsylvania, and southern New York. These Finns soon became landed proprietors, and no less a personage than William Penn engaged with them in real-estate dealings. He bought land from them and has left written testimony to the cleanliness of their home life, their large families, and their hard-working habits. The fact that in nearly all Finnish families there were from ten to twenty children was impressively noted by Wm. Penn. They quickly*merged with their neighbors, because they made it their business to learn the English language and American ways.

WHY the FINNS EMIGRATED.-- The Finns came here because at the close of the Thirty Years' War in Europe, Sweden ceased to be a great European Power. As other nations, so also the Swedes sought to establish colonies in the new Land of Promise of America. This encouraged the Finns in the same aspiration, knowing that the Finns, like themselves, were hardy and thrifty - the real material for pioneering. * * * * * Between 1830 and 1850 another tide of Finns was drawn toward this continent. They were

(* Emphasis, Lit. Dig.).

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name Alfred Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Lit. Digest Wkly. 34 1-2 (edition, page, column) Date of Publication May 24,1919

Vol. 61 No. 6 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted Apr.11,1939.

Finnish Study

Early Advent:

bound for Alaska. Alaska, it will be recalled, then belonged to Russia, which empire ceded it to the United States in 1867. At the period above mentioned the Governor of Alaska, by appointment of the Russian Government, was a Finn. Knowing the physical fiber and the spirit of his countrymen, he urged the Finns to settle in a new field of opportunity, where the climate would favor them, being similar to that of their homeland. As fishermen, hunters, and foresters in the Sitka district the Finnish immigrants* greatly prospered. Naturally, a number of Finnish ministers accompanied or followed them to Alaska. One, the late Rev. Cygnaeus, later became famous as the founder of the public-school system in Finland, which, according to Finnish authorities, is second only to that of the United States. These informants tell us that the Rev. Mr. Cygnaeus undoubtedly imbibed many of his educational ideas in the United States, through which he traveled extensively. * * * *

LOCATION of the FINNS.-- To a certain extent the Finns cohere in colonies. The largest number of them is reported in the northern part of Michigan, in Minnesota, and in North and South Dakota, in which States they are chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits. * * * If we look for them in cities we find the largest number, 4,000, in Chicago and 2,000 in Cleveland. Most of our Finnish population is located inland, and of it from 75 to 80 per cent. is engaged in agriculture.

How the Finns Get Along.-- * * * * They hold the esteem of their fellow citizens, we are told, and they have an alert interest in politics. There are no persons of Finnish descent in Congress now, but not a few are to be encountered in the State legislatures of Minnesota, the Dakotas, Wyoming, and Oregon. Judged politically, we are advised, the Finns may be

(* Emphasis - Lit. Dig.)

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: Lit. Dig. Wkly. 34 1-2 Date of Publication May 24,1919
(edition, page, column)

Vol. 61 No. 6 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls.Pub.Libr. Date consulted Apr.11,1939.

Finnish Study

Early Advent:

classified with one or another of the parties or rank as independents. A minority affiliates with the Socialist party. * * * The Finnish Bureau of information is our authority for saying that American Finns and Finns at home in the vast majority utterly abhor the doctrines and practices of Bolshevism. * * * * Wherever there are Finns there are the so-called Temperance Societies, and the supreme organization to which most local societies belong is the National Temperance League. * * * Helpful toward its aim is the Finnish press in the United States, represented by five dailies and about twenty weekly and monthly publications. * * * *

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: The Scientific Monthly 498 (edition, page, column) Date of Publication May 1923

Vol. 16 No. 5 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted May 15, 1939

Finnish Study

"THE OLD WORLD IN THE NEW"
Prof. Eugene Van Cleef
Ohio State University

" * * * The Finn is thrifty and independent. Both of these qualities are the consequence of his life upon the farm in his native country where isolation and the struggle against the odds of nature challenge the strongest and bravest men. He has consequently developed a penchant for work, a tenacity of purpose and a skill in farm management which may well be the envy of the peers of America's best farmers. His object in America is not residence in the industrial center, where the permanence of home is not all too certain, but rather upon the land, where his future is entirely a factor of his own direction and where he may commune with nature. * * * * The urge, in this environment, to do what he did at home, but under a political regime offering him freedom of thought and action, is too strong to resist and at the first opportunity he turns to the land. * * *

About 40 per cent. of the Finns are Socialist and a fractional portion of one per cent. of this group is actually radical. Neither the Socialists nor radicals dominate Finnish life, although the latter cause all the trouble which has brought the whole people in some instances into unfair ill-repute. Clearly it is not right to judge the majority action by the behavior of an insignificant radical minority. It would be just as unfair to say that all Americans whose ancestors came over in the Mayflower are thieves just because a few now and then are caught stealing.

* * * The Finns have an oriental ancestry modified by a few hundred years' residence in Europe. Good evidence shows that

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

SOCIAL-ETHNIC STUDIES

Source: The Scientific Monthly 498 (edition, page, column) Date of Publication May 1923

Vol. 16 No. 5 Date Line of Story

Where consulted Mpls. Pub. Libr. Date consulted May 15, 1939.

Finnish Study

Old World - New:

they migrated from central Asia, the region of the Atlas Mountains. One group upon reaching the Volga River moved up that greatest of Russian arteries and thence into northern Finland. Another group crossed lower Volga, proceeded across southern Russia, skirted the north slope of the Carpathians, thence northward to Esthonia and across the Gulf of Finland into the land of the present republic. The modern Finns have lost much of their orientalism, yet retain enough to enable even the casual observer to appreciate it. Those of northern Finland, especially, show the broad head of the Mongolian with slant eyes, high cheek-bones and square-set jaws. The language is unrelated to any other European tongue excepting that of the Magyars, and then only to the extent of perhaps a dozen words. The Finnish mind moves slowly, cautiously and deliberately. The Finn listens to argument but reaches conclusions at his own leisure. He is not to be hurried; he is phlegmatic; he is thorough. During long residence in Europe the Finns have come successively under Swedish and Russian rule, and in their trade with the world they have felt German, English and some French influence. * * * The Finn sings "America," the "Star-Spangled Banner," and even "My Old Kentucky Home" with gusto of the most ardent American citizen. He will do even better than that as witnessed by the writer. He not only will sing "America" in English but will follow at once with the Finnish translation, thus assuring a doubly good job of it. * * *

Your Item No. Page No. Your Name A. Backman

Freely translated by W A Harju
From "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elamakertoja"
Pages 132 to 135
Written by Solomon Ilmonen
Published in Jyvaskyla,Finland 1923

*****" Finnish agricultural settlement of Franklin"

" Franklin is located in Renville County one hundred miles southwest of Minneapolis. The Minnesota River traverses the region and empties into the Mississippi. In 1850 the region was yet Indian territory,but as settlement of the whites proceeded from the east the redskins retreated farther to the west. The Federal Government had built a fort on the edge of the Franklin settlement, where a small number of cavalry was stationed to protect the white people from attacks by the Indians. The last Indian uprising was crushed in 1861* after which there has been no serious outbreaks of the Indians in Minnesota. The fort which became known as fort Ridgley was later demolished with the exception of a few buildings left standing for historical purposes.It is from this fort that the region in the early days got it name and when the Finns settled there they called it "furtinkonttri" which is derived from the word fort.

The region was first taken over to agriculture in 1855 when a number of Germans and Scandinavians settled there.These first settlers took up the best and most level land from the so called prairie region. The ~~XXXXXX~~ wooded and lower River bottom lands were left and could be still secured by homestead during 1865 and later.

The earliest Finnish people settled in Franklin in 1865.The people were those who during the previous year had come from Vadso,Norway to America. They were Peter Lahti,Matti Niemi and Antti Rovainen with families and Mikko Heikka and Matti Niemi jr. single men. They were first employed in St Peter in the harvest and other agricultural work. Peter Lahti and Matti Niemi came home from the United States Army in which they had served for a few months.A Norwegian pastor by the name of Peterson living in St Peter persuaded the Finns to go to the "furtinkonttri" (Fort Ridgley) where there was yet land to be had under the homestead act,near

* Trans.note. SHOULD BE 1862)

some Norwegian and Swedish settlers. The Finns followed the suggestion and immediately proceeded to the land office where they filed their claims and in the late summer of 1865 they moved onto their land. These people were Peter Lahti,Matti Niemi sr.,Antti Rovainen and Matti Pokema with families and Matti Niemi jr. who had served in the United States Army for a few month who also took a homestead there. During the next summer more Finns came to Franklin from Red Wing. They were Antti Koivuniemi,Kustaa Friska,Mikko Heikka, Nils Alarick Folkki,Isak Rovanen,Olli Niemi and possibly a few others.

When through correspondence the word about good land spread to the Copper Country,our people from there beagn to move to this beautiful region. The people from the copper country were: Sakari Tormala,Johan Marttala,Herman Johnson,Johan Naartajarvi,Olli Raisanen,Johan Savela,Benjam Holm, Hans Niemi and Johan Hanson (Niemi) and others.

Especially around 1870 and later numerous Finns came from Norway and Tornio Finland who purchased or bought their land. To mention a few of them,they were: Nils Helppi,Herman Holm,Aleksander Kallo,Johan Rapakko,Karl Karsikko, Matti Jalkoski,Matti Kinnunen,Johan Julperi,Kusta Karikanta,Johan Luukinen, Matti Maunu,Salmon Ruona,William Ruona,Johan Kuusisalo,Matti Savela,Kalle Savela,Peter Kivijarvi,Johan Sundelin,Johan Viipola,M Reini and others.

The first census of Franklin Finns was taken by a local correspondent of the Uusi Kotimaa M Reini in 1883. According to this census there were at the time 40 Finnish families making in all a good deal over 200 people.

Each early settlement has had its special difficulties. The farther the new settlement is the more serious the difficulties are. Franklin,when the Finns came there can not be considered a wilderness,even though the distance to the railroads and larger towns was long. The conditions nevertheless were quite

backward in the early days. The living quarters were made of logs and sod as there was no money with which to buy lumber. In the fall of 1866 when the Finns harvested their first crop it was threshed by placing the grain into a circle with the heads pointing inward. Oxen then were led over the grain to tramp the wheat loose from the heads. Oxen were used as draft animals in all field work and for travel. In those days one could not make a trip to town in one day. Now the same and longer distances are made by Automobile in a few hours.

All community interest of the Franklin Finns has been centered around religious activity. Revival meetings were begun in the family homes during the latter part of 1865. Later a small church was built. Local ministers have been I Rovanen, Johan Marttala, Johan Isackson and others. During late summers each year visiting ministers have come to the settlement to conduct the many revival meetings that are held. At times the series of these revival meetings have lasted a week and sometimes two." *****

This discription is followed by 54 short biographies of Finnish people of the community. Important among these biographies is the one of Angeliga Charlotta Jokela maiden name Laestadius, who was the daughter of Louis Levi Laestadius the founder of the Finnish Apostolic Lutheran Church in Lappland Sweden. A great number of the religious Finnish people are followers of Laestadius an interpreter of the Lutheran doctrine distinct from the official church of Finland.

FINNISH

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Vaino Konga and
Harold Rajala
November 2, 1939

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja," Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, Finland, 1923.

The following is a translation of the chapter, "Cokaton Laaja Suomalaisasutus" ["The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"], beginning on page 146 and continuing to page 177.

Page 146.

"Fifty miles west of Minneapolis there begins the extensive Finnish agricultural region of Cokato, in Wright and Meeker Counties. To the north of the region there passes the Northern Pacific Railroad and to the south the Soo Line. There is a contiguous Finnish settlement of about thirty miles in width and about fifty miles in length, mainly between the above-mentioned railroads.

"The region was known before exclusively by the name of Cokato. But later, with the settlement expanding and becoming more densely populated, with business increasing and the population growing, new villages and post offices have appeared, according to which the region is divided into three main parts: Cokato, Frech [French] Lake and Kingston. These are, in addition, divided into places with various names. Between Cokato and Kingston there are Dassell and Knappa [Knapp]; to the north of French Lake is Albion and farther east Howard Lake. In this writing the common name of Cokato is used, although the matters, events and even persons may pertain to Frech [French] Lake, Kingston or Dassell.

Page 147.

"The Pioneers of Cokato's Finns are: Matias [Matthias] Kärjenaho, Elias Peltoperä, Olof Westerberg and Johan [John] Viinikka. They had left Vesisaari [Vadsö], Norway, for America with the particular purpose of obtaining for

themselves homesteads from the government's free lands, of which they had heard about from the Norwegians. The destination, in America, of the Norwegian immigrants was at that time Minnesota, and to it the above-mentioned Finns directed their journey. In Minneapolis they heard that about a half-hundred miles west of the city, in the depth of a forest wilderness, there would still be homesteads to be found. Around Midsummer day [June 24th], 1865, the Finns left to seek for themselves a place for their prospective home. About ten miles to the west of Minneapolis they were able to travel on a road, but from then on they faced trails, more difficult to traverse, in uninhabited regions. After an arduous day's journey, across creeks and around lakes, they arrived at the shores of a larger lake (probably Howard Lake). 'Brothers,' said Juhani [John] Viinikka, 'I am not able to walk farther; my feet are already bleeding. With Elias we will remain here, at a bonfire on the shore of this lake. You go ahead; perhaps you will meet some Swedish or German settlers. We will try, with the aid of God, to follow you tomorrow.' Viinikka was already advanced in years, 57, at which age one already feels exhaustion after rambling a day in the woods. Kärjenaho and Westerberg continued their journey and did find in the wilderness a Swedish settler's place, where they stayed overnight. Early the next morning the two fellow country-men, who were left behind, Viinikka and Peltoperä, arrived there. No one from the place had time to guide the Finns, but such advice they did receive that at the end of a one-half day's journey westward they find a lake, on whose northern and western shores there are vast government lands - homesteads. With new hopes the men set out and arrived at the shores of Cokato Lake. There they staked land, each for himself, and returned to Minneapolis to obtain homestead rights for their land. A homestead's ownership papers [deed] cost only $1.75. If the men had had $20.00, they could have gotten full property rights to their land, but money was lacking, and so they were to live on their land five years and cultivate it to some extent,

Page 148

after which they were granted full property rights to their land.

"The above-mentioned Finnish pioneers of Cokato did not, however, move to their land in the summer of 1865, but remained working for wages in Minneapolis, etc. Some money was needed when going into the backwoods, at least so much that one could take with him a few months' necessities of life. Both Viinikka and Westerberg wrote to their friends in the old country, that they, like Joshua and Caleb in olden times, had left to furrow land, and had found a land of the kind where milk and honey flow, a land which grows wheat and other grains without fertilizing it for many years. This land can be had free from the government if only one begins to cultivate and makes his home on his land. Such letters naturally had their influence and they furnished enthusiasm to move to America.

"In the spring of 1866 the Cokato pioneers moved to their homesteads, each one building a humble hut, either of logs or boards. During the same summer there came to Cokato a small group of immigrant farmers, who had only recently arrived in America with the intention of acquiring homesteads for themselves at Cokato.
Page 149 Nor were they disappointed in their hopes; during the same summer they got land to settle from this glorified region. These fellow-countrymen were: Isak Barberg and Isak Branström, family men; Nils Selvälä and his fiancée, and Sakari [Zachary] Ongamo, a single man. In the fall, however, they were harvesting so as to earn
P money; they spent their winter in Carven, the men working by the day. In the spring of 1867 Branström returned back to the old country; Selvälä married in Minneapolis, and so he, Barberg and Ongamo moved, in the spring of 1867, to their new homesteads at Cokato, where the first thing they did was to build a joint hut on Ongamo's land. Then they set about clearing the woods for fields. Slowly did the Cokato Finnish colony seem to grow, for even during the following couple of years there did not settle at the place others than Matti [Matthias] Piippo and Matti [Matthias] Määttä, from Red Wing, Johan [John] Marttala, Antti [Andrew]

Sepponen and Karl Pyrrö, from the copper island [Michigan copper region], and possibly some one else. At the end of 1869 there lived in Cokato twelve Finnish settler families and two single men.

"The Finnish colony of Cokato does not begin to grow more noticeably until the 1870's, when copper island [Michigan copper region] people begin to pour in. Among the miners there had spread the news about the excellent lands of Cokato, of a region which is near the rapidly growing city of Minneapolis, the news that there one can still get even homesteads, if chance has it, but at least one could buy good lands, at five dollars an acre, from the railroad company, and , what is more, on partial payments. Many of these Finnish miners had come to America in the very hope that they could become farmers, but first one had to earn some money, and such an opportunity presented itself on the copper island [Michigan copper region], whither the Finnish migration flowed in these times. Finns from the copper island [Michigan copper region] did begin to move to the land in such numbers that between 1870 and 1875, according to an estimate,about 50 families settled to live at Cokato. The year 1876 surpasses all previous records in the peopling of Cokato, for at least 25 Finnish families in that year built their homes in the woods and began to make clearing for cultivation. When the decade of the 1870's ended, Cokato was the most prominent Finnish agricultural region in America.

Page 150

"An enumeration of the Finns of Cokato was compiled in 1879 by Isak Barberg, who was able to write and who had had some schooling in the old country. This census is the first one undertaken of Finns any place in America. It is so valuable that it merits, as such, a place in the history of the varying circumstances of our people. The count includes all the Finns of Cokato at that time, hence, those who in the 1860's and 1870's had acquired land in Cokato and lived on it. According to the enumeration, there were in Cokato at that time 80 Finnish settlers, viz.: Isak Barberg, Nels Selvälä, Adam Ongamo, Salomon Törgren, Peter Alanenpää, Johan [John] Alanenpää, Nils Lahti, Abram Rautio, Peter Luukkonen, Karl Pyrrö, Abram

Raappana, Peter Saariniemi, Jakob Vuolle, Kalep [Caleb] Vuolle, Antti [Andrew] Tervo, Oskar Snapp, Salomon Pudas, Olli Jaakkola, Peter Vanha, Isak Stein, Abram Takal [perhaps Takala] , Isak Alamaa, Henrik Alatalo, Jakob Keränen, Abram Tryyki, Peter Kinnari, Oskar Ingman, Johan [John] Josephson, Jakob Tiiperi, Nils Urard, Kristian Kuoppala, Johan [John] Puranen, Johan [John] H. Nurmi, Antti [Andrew] Kurtti, Elias Ulkren, Peter Brännös, Herik [Henrik] Viinikka, Matti [Matthias] Pohakka, Henrik Maikko, Antti [Andrew] Länkki, Henrik Sako, Sakari [Zachary]
Page 151 Taavo, Peter Salmela, Johan [John] Välimaa, Abram Saarenpää, Erkki [Eric] Englund, Antti [Andrew] Määttä, Esaias Alatalo, Jaffet Mattsen, Oskar Kolander, Viktor Fööräri, Erkki [Eric] Pajari, Abram Kyrö, Johan [John] Valppu, Matti [Matthias] Juopperi, Isak Pajala, Erik Lakso, August Tapio, Isak Christpher, Isak Rousu, Johan [John] Christpher, Peter Selma, Sakari [Zachary] Kreku, Peter Westerberg, Matti [Matthias] Tulkki, Henrik Simoson, Olli Sipola, Johan [John] Törmä, Henrik Larson, Nils Petter Parpa, August Homer, Henrik Pekkala, Johan [John] Myllykangas, Abram Konstenius, Johan [John] Saukoski, Peter Rousu, Jakob Rovainen, Johan [John] Lahti and Elias Ulgren. [There are Elias Ulkren and Elias Ulgren - probably one and the same person.] The total population of the Finns was estimated to be 450; 400 were counted as actual settlers and 50 as those who had no land or dwelling themselves. The Finns owned 1,500 acres of cultivated land, 4000 acres of uncleared land, 56 horses, 126 oxen, 231 cows, several reapers, three threshing machines, etc. The total value of the property was reckoned at 150,000 dollars.

"In the 1880's there came still more Finns to Cokato, and the region grows very rapidly. In Cokato proper one could not get land any more for nothing - the homesteads had all been taken, but at Frech [French] Lake and at Kingston they were still to be had. The Finnish settlement spreads in this decade to Frech [French] Lake as well as to Kingston. The railroad companies and other companies carrying on lumbering operations sold land at quite reasonable prices, at ten dollars an acre

in Cokato, and even at five dollars an acre in Frech [French] Lake and Kingston, with usually ten years' time to pay in. The number of Finns may be estimated at over 1,000 in 1890.

" A new enumeration of the Finns of Cokato was made in 1900 by Oskar Snapp, Page 152. a farmer of that place and a correspondent for newspapers. According to these statistics, there were 634 persons at Cokato, 477 at Frech [French] Lake, 234 at Kingston, 150 at Dassell, 119 at Albion, 46 at Smithville, 37 in the town of Stockholm, and 27 at Corina - a total of 1,727. Our countrymen at that time owned 16,095 acres of land. The biggest farmer was Jaakko [Jacob] Ojanperä, possessing 300 acres of land. Most of them had 160 acres or 80 acres, a few having only 40 acres.

"If one would want to draw a picture of the earliest phases of the Finnish settlers in Cokato, it would, in its main characteristics, be as follows: the greater number started with very small capital. Many had only money enough to be able to make the initial payment for the land and to buy building materials to construct for themselves a dwelling, which had only one [living] room, sometimes even a bedroom. Debt was avoided, for which reason they tried to get along with as little as possible. The axe, grubhoe and shovel were the best implements in the clearing of land. In winter the men cut cordwood, which they hauled to railroad stations, being able there to exchange it for flour and [other] foodstuffs. Cordwood certainly was not high - one dollar a cord. Even in winter, so far as snow did not hinder, new fields were cleared and the extension of tilled land was endeavored. In the spring potatoes were planted. After that the men went to work [for wages] on the nearby railroads or to the brickyard in Minneapolis, some [going] as far as the copper island [Michigan copper region] to work in mines. The wives with their children stayed at home, performed the necessary work in the fields, cut the hay, even cut the grain, and gathered berries, which grew abundantly in such places where forest fires had raged before. In other places, the wife of

many a settler, besides, attended, with her children, even to the fall work, the father of the family remaining at wage work. When snow and winter cold interrupted railroad construction and closed brickyards, the Finnish settlers returned

Page 153

to their homes in Cokato. To the extent that tilled land was enlarged and products of the soil increased, so, too, to the same extent may the settler remain at home and till the soil.

FINNISH "The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

Page 153

"The life of a settler is work and struggle, especially in the first years. Patience and self-denial are needed when one builds his home into the backwoods and clears the wilderness for cultivation. No one is able to picture with words the struggles and hardships of these pioneers of civilization, for their trying experiences sink into oblivion from the present generation or go into the grave with the unsung heroes. Let only a few examples be mentioned herein. A forest fire, which threatened to destroy the whole newly-settled country, raged in the region on the Saturday preceding Michaelmas in the year 1871. [Michaelmas, a church festival, is celebrated on Sept. 29. In the year 1871, however, Michaelmas was on a Friday, whereas the author seems to place the day on a Sunday, with Mikkelilauantaina (lauantai means Saturday) on the preceding day.] The people were terror-stricken. The haystacks and grain supplies of many a settler were burned; even the dwellings of two Swedes. On the following morning, on Michaelmas, the danger of fire seemed to be over; even the weather calmed, but only for a moment. A new gust of wind was kindling a fire and the dwellings were beset with new dangers. Everybody was on the move; they ran for their life; things were carried into shelters and attempts made to save property. In one of the Finnish dwellings (at Hoikka's) the lady of the house was in bed, a new-born baby beside her. She was afraid she and her child would be left to be destroyed by the flames. The men assured her she would not be left in the lurch, but that they are trying to check the fire and put it out. With the united forces of the settlers, using shovels, grub-hoes and water vessels, the most dangerous blazes were extinguished and the fire put under control. And so the hamlet was saved. Besides the dangers and ravages of fire, which in northern Minnesota, in particular, often causes a terrible loss of lives and property, there were, in Cokato, many other scourges. During one summer grasshoppers caused such a devastation, that many lost all their hay and even their grain. Sickness, too,

Page 154

wreaked havoc among the settlers, and doctors could not be had for every need. Selvälä's wife died, three children remaining to be cared for by the father. In the burning of

Barberg's cow stable [navetta] their little girl's clothes caught on fire and she died. Smallpox raged in Cokato, causing grief in homes which in other ways too had gone through many hardships. But in the face of all the adversities and difficulties, adorning our fellow-countrymen was the meekness like that of Paavo Saarijärvi [a Finnish character pictured as living in the wilderness] as well as the submission to the will of God; also the firm belief that 'although one undergoes hardships, the Lord does not despise.'

"The knowledge that they have their own home spurred the settlers and gave them strength for newer and newer exertions. Home became the dearest place in the world. The harder the work in clearing the fields, so much the more pleasant did it feel to look after one's labors and, with hopes, continue it. Labor brought joy and refreshed the mind. To it was bound the hope that in one's later years there will be a secured livelihood and better conveniences. As to the preciousness of one's own home may the following incident be mentioned: Isak Barberg, a tailor by trade, suggested to his wife that they move to Minneapolis. There was an offer for him at work in his own trade and a small house for 60 dollars. Economically looking at it, it would have been advantageous to move to Minneapolis at that time, especially when that little, cheap house happened to be right in the center of the city, where the value of property in 10 years increased many-fold. But Barberg's wife, a model wife for a real settler, answered: 'I will not leave my home; I like the woods more than the city.' And in the woods they remained, which in the passing years was cleared into a field and left as an inheritance for the children.

"The intellectual aspirations of the Finns of Cokato in the decades of 1860 and 1870 were limited solely to religious gatherings and ecclesiastical endeavors. As to when the first religious gatherings were held in Cokato, there has been no positive record left, but, in so far as I have spoken to old folks, I can, in that respect, assume that the first family devotional services were held in 1868, and thereafter,

Page 155

particularly in the fall and at other times, too. A meeting place or church was begun to be built in 1874. A piece of land was got as a gift from the railroad company, and already during the same fall the Finnish Church of Cokato was completed, 40 feet long and 24 feet wide, rectangular in shape, a very unpretentious house of God. Its historical significance lies in the fact that it was the second church built in America by the Finns; a year earlier the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Calumet [Michigan] was finished. Later, a large stone church was built in place of this small church. Even a cemetery was acquired by the Finns of Cokato, for themselves, in 1876. Isak Barberg first performed the duties of a minister and then Antti [Andrew] Vitikkohuhta. After these may be mentioned Kaleb [Caleb] Vuollet, a performer of ministerial duties for many years; and his brother Jakob Vuollet, widely known preacher and a conductor of services, who made missionary trips among our countrymen all over America. The Apostolic Lutheran congregation of Cokato was also established in the 1870's, when the observance of religious services became more regular.

"The parents tried to attend to the children's education, especially the teaching of the mother tongue and the rudiments of Christianity. Not even a school in English did the settlers' children of Cokato get to attend during the first years, let alone a Finnish childrens school. Interest in reading was stimulated by lukukinkerit [annual examination in reading conducted by the rural ministers (in Finland); there is no equivalent word in English], while at the same time they seem to have been a prized heritage of the old country. The first 'kinkerit' was held
Page 156 in Cokato July 4, 1878, when 41 families participated in it. J. Takkinen, a teacher, was in charge. Yet another 'kinkerit' was held in Cokato Oct. 27, 1879, when the members of 51 families were questioned as to their knowledge of Christianity. But after that, even though many 'kinkerit' were held in Cokato, they did not have the hoped for significance, nor attendance, and, in the long run, were discontinued as incompatible with American conditions."

(This completes narrative; biographies will follow.)

FINNISH

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Vaino Konga and Harold Rajala
October 24th, 1939

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja", Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, Finland, 1923.

Page 135 - Biographies in chapter entitled "Franklinin Suomalainen Maanviljelysasutus" ["The Franklin Finnish Agricultural Community"].

[Where the name appears in parentheses at the beginning of the biography it is the original family name.]

"ANTTI [ANDREW] ANDERSON (KOIVUNIEMI) was born by the Kemi River on Jan. 3, 1833. He came from Norway to Red Wing in 1866, and from there to Franklin as a farmer. He died in 1912. His wife, Maria Matleena Helppi (Friska), was born at Kittilä in 1835. She came to America in 1866, and died in 1914. They had one daughter."

"SAKARIAS ERICKSON (TÖRMÄLÄ) was born at Siikajoki on Jan. 1, 1840. He came to America the first time in 1871, remaining here for over a year. In 1873, accompanied by his family, he came here a second time with the Swanberg party. In 1875 he moved from Calumet [Michigan] to Franklin, where he bought land. He died in 1915. His wife, Susanna Sauvolainen, was born at Hailuoto April 15, 1841. They had six children."

Page 136

"ANDREW S. ERICKSON (TÖRMÄLÄ) was born at Siikajoki in 1866. He came to America with his parents in 1873. Completing his grade school, he began to work as a clerk in a store, subsequently establishing his own business and becoming one of the most prominent business men in the town. He visited Finland in the summer of 1922."

"KUSTAA [GUSTAV] FRISKA (SUKKI) was born at Alkkula on April 4, 1825. He came to Red Wing from Norway in 1866; his wife Briita succumbed to cholera at Red Wing. Friska moved to Franklin, where he married Maria M. Helppi in 1867. Some years later he acquired a homestead in a remote place on the Minnesota and Dakota border, a region at that time uninhabited. His family, however, continued to live at Franklin. On a trip to his land in the winter of 1874, when an unusually severe snowstorm raged, he apparently lost his way and, overcome by exhaustion, froze to death. Nothing is known of him since then. Children survive."

"HANS HANSON (NIEMI) was born at Kemi on May 17, 1825. He came to the copper island [Michigan copper region] in 1873. One of the earliest members of the Hancock congregation. He went to farm, in 1878, at Westbrook, Minnesota, where he died Sept. 11, 1900. His wife, Kaisa Kreeta Kokkila, was born April 18, 1818; she died Sept. 11, 1888."

"JOHAN [JOHN] J. HANSON (NIEMI), a son of the aforementioned [Hans Hanson], was born at Kemi on Feb. 23, 1856. Arriving in America in 1873 he came to Hancock, Michigan. In 1878 he went to farm at Westbrook, Minnesota. He has an excellent farm and his dairying is up to date. His wife, Katariina [Catherine] Räisänen, was born at Puolanka Dec. 2, 1867. They have seven children."

"MIKKO [MICHAEL] HEIKKA was born by the Tornio River on Sept. 13, 1838, or 1846. He came to America from Vesisaari [in northern Norway - the Norwegian name being Vadsö = "water island"] in 1864. One of the earliest Finns at Franklin. He died in Brandon Sept. 2, 1892. His wife, Maria [Mary] Johanna Niemi, was born at Vesisaari on April 18, 1848. She came to America with her parents in 1864."

"NELS HELPPI was born at Kittilä on July 14, 1844. Migrating to America about 1870, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. Thence he moved to Franklin,, where he farmed. He died in 1913 at his son's home in Sebeka.

His wife, Sofia Pää̈kkö̈, born at Kolari, died in 1918. They had children."

"SIMON HENDRICKSON(TAVAJÄ̈RVI) was born at Pudasjä̈rvi in 1844. He was one of the earliest Finns at Franklin; died in 1905, leaving no family."

Page 137.

"BENJAM [probably BENJAMIN] HOLM was born at Haparanda [Sweden] on Jan. 1, 1834. Migrating to America from Norway in 1872, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. In 1879 he came to farm at Franklin. He died in 1904. His wife, Kaisa Ruona, was born at Haparanda [Sweden] on Sept. 22, 1834, and came to America in 1872. She died April 12, 1912. Surviving are Herman and William."

"HERMAN HOLM, a son of the aforementioned [Benjam Holm], was born at Hammerfest [Norway] in 1867. He came to America in 1872, and to a farm at Franklin about 1880. [There is perhaps a confliction here, for in his father's biography the year 1879 is mentioned as the time for settling on a farm at Franklin.] His wife, Maria Mä̈ki, was born at Jalasjä̈rvi in 1875. They have children. "

"JOHAN [JOHN] OSKAR ISACKSON (NAARTIJÄ̈RVI) wasborn at Haparanda [Sweden] on March 2, 1851. Arriving in America in 1873, he came to Cokato, Minn. In 1878 he began to farm at Franklin. He has held positions of trust, as minister, etc. His wife, Margareeta J. Selvä̈lä̈, was born at Haparanda [Sweden] on July 9, 1846. She came to America in 1873. They have several children. Two sons, Frans [Frank] and Oskar, are farmers."

"KAARLO [KARL] J. JOHNSON (KARSIKKO) was born at Voijakkala, Haparanda [Sweden] in 1850. He moved to Franklin, beginning to farm, in the 1880's. His wife Kaisa Kristiina Selvä̈lä̈, was born at Haparanda [Sweden] in 1849. She died in 1912. There are eight children."

"HERMAN JOHNSON (PUNGAN HERMANNI) [The name in parentheses is a nickname] was born at Tervola Oct. 9, 1849. Migrating to America in 1872, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. He began to farm at Franklin in 1877. His wife, Kreeta Karoliina Matti, was born at Turtola in 1850. She died in 1908. There are children."

"OLLI JOHNSON (NIEMI) was born in Norway on Nov. 16, 1835. Migrating to America in 1872, he came to Franklin, immediately acquiring a homestead and beginning to farm. He died in 1918. His first wife, Regina Borgstrom, died in Franklin in 1877. His second wife, Kristiina Maunu, nee Moodi, was born at Hammerfest [Norway] in 1845. There were nine children."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] JOHNSTON (NIEMI), senior, was born at Kemi August 23, 1818, or 1820. He went to Vesisaari [Norway] [on maps indicated as Vadso"], in 1836, thence migrating to America in 1864, coming to St. Peter, Minn. He moved to Franklin as a settler in 1865. He died in 1891. His wife, Maria Korpi, was born at Kokkola [indicated often on the maps of Finland in the Swedish-Gamla Karleby] on Aug. 20, 1823. They were married in Norway. She came to America with her husband, passing away before he did. They had three sons: Matti, Nikolai [Nicholas] and Kalle [Karl]."

MATTI JOHNSTON (NIEMI), junior, born at Vesisaari [Norway] on Nov. 27, 1846. Served in the United States Army during the winter of 1864-1865. He got a homestead in Franklin in 1865. He owns an extensive farm, but at present lives in his house in Franklin. His wife, Albertina Friska, was born at Kemi in 1850. She migrated to America in 1866, coming to Red Wing, where her mother succumbed to cholera. They were married in Franklin in 1870. There are eight children."

Page 138.

"NIKOLAI [NICHOLAS] JOHNSTON (NIEMI) was born at Vesisaari [Norway] in 1854. He came to America in 1864. Has farmed and been in business in Franklin. His wife, Eriika Maunu, was born in Hammerfest [Norway] . They were married in Franklin in 1885, and have eight children."

"CHARLES J. JOHNSTON (NIEMI) was a few weeks old when his parents left Vesisaari [Norway] for America in 1864. Farmer and business man. His wife, Aliina Effimia Keisua, was born in Ylitornio in 1872. They were married in Minneapolis in 1900, and have children. "

"ANGELIGA CHARLOTTA JOKELA (LAESTADIUS), daughter of Pastor L. L. Laestadius, was born in the parsonage at Karesuanto in Swedish Lapland on Nov. 28, 1842. She married a farmer (peasant) by the name of Mikko [Michael] Jokela, who was from Kittila, and they migrated to America about 1880, coming to farm at Franklin. Lotta [a common shortening of Charlotta in Finnish] Laestadius was an active and regorous character and held unreservedly to her famous father's religious point of view, oftentimes getting an opportunity to make corrections when that viewpoint was interpreted incorrectly. Her only child died young, and she herself was called to the eternal home Sept. 18, 1900. Through her friends' efforts a tombstone made of white marble has been erected on her grave. Becoming a widower, Mikko Jokela went to Minneapolis and thence to Wisconsin."

"ALEXANDER KALLO was born in Kittila on Mar. 16, 1840. He came,in 1881, to farm at Franklin, where he died in 1890. His wife, Stiina Hedriika Rikinä, was born in Muonio in 1842."

"KUSTAA [GUSTAV] KELLY (KARIKANTA)was born at Siikajoki in 1862. He came to Franklin in 1882. Died on his farm in 1918. His wife, Johanna Rövanen, came to America with her parents in 1864. They were married in 1884. There are seven children."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] KINNUNEN was born at Pudasjärvi in 1830. He came to farm at Franklin in 1880. On a visit to Finland in 1907, he died in his home parish. His wife, Kreeta Väisänen, was born at Puolanka on Feb. 22, 1823. She followed her husband to America. At the time of this writing she is the oldest living Finn in America. Their son Edward lives on the family estate."

"PETER KLEMETTI, who was from Hietaniemi, came to America in 1865. He died in Franklin without leaving a family."

"PETER LAHTI was born by the Tornio River, Finland, on Jan. 28. [The year is not given.] He came from Norway to America in 1864, enlisting immediately into the United States Army during the war for emancipation of the slaves, where he served less than a year. He acquired a homestead in Franklin in 1865, being one of the Finnish pioneers in the region. Besides farming he hunted and trapped muskrats, by the thousands in a year. He died July 7, 1911. His wife, Johanna Kustaava Palovainio, was born at Hietaniemi on Oct. 5, 1849. She followed her husband to America. This writer received from this old woman with a good memory valuable information regarding the Finns who came from Norway in 1864. She died Oct. 7, 1919. There are six children."

Page 139.

"CHARLES LAHTI (who uses also the Anglicized name Bay, as do the other Lahti boys born in America) was born in Vesisaari [Norway] in 1859. He came to America with his parents in 1864. Farmer and property owner at Franklin, but he now lives in Minneapolis. His wife is Bertha Ylitalo."

"JOHAN [JOHN] LUUKINEN was born at Utajärvi on Aug. 24, 1841. He came to America in 1873. His wife, Maria Vuolle, was born at Lohtaja in 1850. They have moved to Menahga, Minn."

"JOHAN [JOHN] MARTTALA was born in Haapavesi in 1837. He migrated from Norway to America in 1865, coming to Minnesota. He lived some years at Cokato, taking to farming at Franklin in 1875; besides that he performed ministers' duties and has been a preacher. He died in 1910. His wife, Maria Heikkilä, who was from along the Tornio River, came to America in 1872. One of the sons is a physician, some of the daughters are teachers, etc."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] MARTTALA, a brother of the aforementioned [Johan Marttala], came to America in 1864, but his later whereabouts are unknown."

"JOHAN [JOHN] E. MATTSON (RAPAKKO) was born in Tervola May 21, 1840. He came to America in 1873, and settled down to farming at Franklin about 1880. Died July 16, 1912. His wife, Kreeta Mathilda, was born in Tervola Dec. 3, 1848. She died May 14, 1912. There are several children."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] A. MAUNU, a Norway Finn, was born in 1846. He came to America either in 1865 or in 1866, and to Franklin in 1879, where he died a few years later. His wife, Stiina Kaisa Moodi, was born in Hammerfest [Norway] on Jan. 11, 1845."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] MICHELSON (JALOKOSKI) was born in Ii on June 14, 1841. Leaving Norway for America in 1872, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. In 1880 he came to farm at Franklin. His first wife, Anna Kaisa, was born in Tervola in 1844. She died in Hancock, Mich., in 1878. His second wife, Elisapet [Elizabeth] Ruona, was born in Haparanda [Sweden] in 1858. They were married on the copper island in 1879. Their son Arthur is farming."

"NILS ALARICK OLSON (FOLK) was born in Simo either in 1836 or in 1837. Leaving Norway for America in 1866, he came to Cokato, and thence to a farm at Franklin in 1870. He died April 7, 1906. His wife, Maria Kustaava Järvi, born at Nikkola, Haaparanda, in 1845, came to America in 1866. There are several children."

Page 140.

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] POKEMA was born in Kemi in 1822. He came in 1865, from Vesisaari [Norway] to America, to St. Peter [Minnesota], and in the same year to a homestead at Franklin. He died in 1892. His first wife, Eva Kaisa, who was from Alatornio, died in 1871. His second wife, Kaisa Mathilda, was born by the Tornio River on Oct. 29, 1849. There are children."

"JOHAN [JOHN] ABRAM POKEMA, a son of the former [Matti Pokema], was born in Norway May 15, 1850. Came to America in 1865. He died on his farm in Franklin in 1919. His wife, Maria Eriika Kyrö, was born in Hammerfest [Norway] in 1852. She came to America with her parents in 1872. They were married in Cokato in 1882. There are seven children."

"ANTTI [ANDREW] ROVAINEN was born in Matarenki in 1835. He came from Norway to America in the first Finnish immigrant group in 1864. Died as a farmer in Franklin in 1877. His wife, Maria Matleena Helppi, was born in Kittilä in 1836. Followed her husband to America. She died June 3, 1914. There are children."

"ISAK [ISAAC] ROVAINEN was born in Matarenki on Mar. 7, 1868. He moved from the copper island [Michigan copper region] to farm and to perform ministerial duties at Franklin in 1886. Died Jan. 7, 1915. His first wife, Hilda Lahti, was born in Vesisaari [Norway] in 1867. She died in Franklin in 1897. His second wife, Emma Johnson, a teacher, was born in Franklin in 1870. Ten children."

"PETER RUONA was born in Haparanda [Sweden] in 1813. On becoming a widower, he came in 1876, as a man well advanced in years, to stay with his sons in America, dying in Franklin in 1893."

"SALOMON ULRICK RUONA, a pioneer of the family to America, was born in Haparanda [Sweden] on July 16, 1850. Arriving in America in 1871, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and thence to farm at Franklin in the 1880's. Died in Minneapolis in 1912. His wife, Anna Karoliina Lystila, is from Tornio. She came to America in 1873, and married at Calumet during the same year. Several children."

"WILLIAM RUONA was born in Haparanda [Sweden] in 1858. Leaving for America in 1875, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and thence to farm at Franklin. His wife, Kustaava Kemilä, is a native of Liminka."

"JOHAN [JOHN] RUONA was born in 1841, the oldest of the [Ruona] brothers, but the last one to come to America, in 1879. He died as a bachelor at Franklin Jan. 10, 1916."

"JOHAN [JOHN] RÄISÄNEN was born at Puolanka Jan. 21, 1839. Arrived in America in 1873, coming to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. He was a farmer for a little while at Franklin, whence he moved to become a settler at Sebeka, Minn., where he died in 1908. His wife, Maria Stiina Mäkäräinen, was born in 1845. There are several children, who live in Sebeka."

Page 141.

OLLI RÄISÄNEN, a brother of the aformentioned [Johan Räisänen], arrived in America about 1870. He took a homestead at Franklin, which he relinquished to others, moving west."

"JOHAN [JOHN] SALO (KUUSISALO), a native of Paavola, and his wife, Maria Kreeta Kurre, from Tornio River, were Franklin's earlier farmers, but have moved to Minneapolis."

"JOHAN [JOHN] SAVELA was born at Pudasjärvi No. 15, 1836. Arriving in America in 1871, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], thence to farm at Franklin, where he bought Raisanen's homestead, from which he cleared a valuable farm, and built a stately farm house. He was a warm friend and supporter of Suomi Opisto [Suomi College - located at Hancock, Mich.]. He died Nov. 14, 1913. His wife, Elsa Oikarinen, born at Pudasjärvi Oct. 9, 1839, came to America with her children in 1873. She died June 9, 1916. They had ten children."

"JOHAN [JOHN] J. SAVELA, the oldest son of the above mentioned [JOHAN SAVELA], who was born in Finland, was a year old when he came to America with his mother. Farmer and businessman, he lives at present in Lake Norden, South Dakota. His wife is Maria Salomonson (Korpi). They have children."

"HENRY S. SAVELA, Johan Savela's younger son, born in America, lives on the family estate. He has a family."

"KALLE [CHARLES] SAVELA (OIKARINEN) was born at Pudasjärvi Sept. 26, 1836. He came to farm at Franklin in 1880. His first wife died in Finland. His second wife, Margareeta Koskela, born at Puolanka in 1843, died in 1919. Several children.

"PETER STONELAKE (KIVIJÄRVI) was born at Kittilä July 1, 1843. He came to Franklin in the 1880's. His wife, Elsa Sofia, was born at Kittilä in 1851. Children."

"JOHAN [JOHN] Sundelin was born at Kittilä in 1842. Arriving in America in the 1870's, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region]; he came to farm at Franklin in 1880. His wife, Briita Maria, was born at Kittilä in 1844. Children."

"ISAK THOMPSON was born at Muonio in 1854. Arriving in America from Norway in 1874, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region] and thence to farm at Franklin. His wife is Norwegian."

"JOHAN [JOHN] THOMPSON was born at Muonio in 1855. He came to America in 1876."

"JOHAN [JOHN] WEPPLO (VIIPPOLA) was born at Ylitornio on Feb. 15, 1844. Arriving in America in 1871, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. In 1880 he came to farm at Franklin. Died in 1911. His wife, Kaisa Fredrika Friska, was born at Kemi Mar. 25, 1845. She came to America in 1871. Died in 1910. They had ten children."

Page 142.

"JOHAN [JOHN] PETER WEPPLO (VIIPPOLA), son of the above mentioned [Johan Wepplo], was born at Ylitornio on Dec. 17, 1868. He came to America in 1871. Has been a miner on the copper island [Michigan copper region] and in the Black Hills [South Dakota]. He bought a farm at Franklin, which he has developed into fine shape. Has been in communal positions of trust. His wife, Josefiina Huusko, is from Veteli."

"Early Finns, although coming in the 1880's are: Johan [John] Hjolberg, of kemi, and his wife, Sanna Erika; Abram Keskitalo, of Tyrnävä, and his wife, Kaisa; Nels Niska and his wife, Josefiina Pokema; Isak Patron, of Hietaniemi, who moved to the Dakotas; Isak W. Sakari, of Karunki, who moved to Cokato; Isak Selvälä, of Alatornio, and his wife, Miina Siikainen, who moved to the Dakotas; Johan [John] Vitikkohuhta, of Torniojoki, who went west. There are no traces left of a Finn named Pousta, who came to America from Vesisaari [Norway] in 1864."

[Copper island in Finnish is Kuparisaari - it being used as a proper name among the Finns.]

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Harold E. Rajala
January 11, 1940

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja," Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, Finland, 1923.

The following is a translation of the chapter, "Minnesotan Valtio" ["State of Minnesota"], beginning on page 130 and continuing to page 132.

Page 130

"The state of Minnesota is located at the northern part of the Mississippi valley. On its northern border is Canada; on the east is Lake Superior and the state of Wisconsin; on the south is Iowa; and on the west are North and South Dakota. Its area is 583.38 square miles, so Minnesota is one of the largest states of the United States. This large area is a large plain, except in the northern section where there are low hills and mountainous country. The soil is black or greyish clay which contains a great deal of organic and mineral matter, making it especially suitable for vegetable plants. Many grains may be grown year after year, giving bountiful harvests, especially wheat and corn. The soil in northern Minnesota is not as fruitful as in the central and southern parts, for it is more sandy, but is just as good for grains, where oats, barley and clover-hay grow successfully as do also many kinds of root plants.

Page 131

"Minnesota climate is a reminder of Finland's excellent and healthy climate. It is a dry continental climate, with less change than in southern and eastern states. The summers are warmer than those in Finland, but are not especially hot for refreshing rains purify the air and remove the heat. In the winter one does experience brisk cold and admires the beautiful moonlight and flaming auroral, but the snow is of no great amount. The low death rate proves the healthfulness of the region.

FINNISH "State of Minnesota"

"Minnesota is, in the fullest meaning, the land of thousands of lakes. It is known that in the state are found near ten-thousand lakes. In that respect it is remindful of Finland., the land of a thousand lakes. Especially in the northern sections of the state, where Finns are living, are bounding with lakes.

"The main industry of the state is agriculture and following are cattle-raising and dairying. Wheat growing is general and Minnesota is one of the largest wheat producing states. Maize or corn is raised quite generally, even as far north as New York Mills and Menahga. Oats, barley, rye, flax and vegetables are also grown generally. In the northern part potatoe growing has become quite general and is considered a large industry, for carloads of potatoes are shipped to Chicago, etc. The metal industry ranks next to agriculture as the state's important industry, for in northern Minnesota are located rich iron ore ranges. A hundred-thousand get a livelihood from mines and thriving towns have rapidly grown near large mines: Virginia, Hibbing, Eveleth, Ely, Chisholm, Crosby and many others. The docks of Duluth and Two Harbors are active in the summer when iron-ore is sent to the large smelting works of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana.--- Lumbering is done on a large scale. Thousands of men usually spend winter doing logging work while in the summer they work in the numerous sawmills.

Page 132

"The most important cities in the state are: Minneapolis, where, evenly speaking, there are 400,000 people; Saint Paul, where there is a forth of a million people; Duluth, where there is a hundred thousand people and etc. The population of the iron range towns run from five thousand to fifteen-thousand.

"Less than a hundred-thousand Finns live in Minnesota. If we run an imaginary line through Minneapolis, from the east to the west we will get the border line of the Finnish population of Minnesota. To the north of this line we will find all Finnish settlements except Franklin in Renville County. A large number of Finns live in Saint Louis County, the county seat being Duluth; in which county is located the oldest and largest iron ore mines. The number of Finns there is estimated to be over thirty-thousand. Extensive and populous is also the New York Mills agricultural region, Cokato and Minneapolis, etc." [End of Chapter]

FINNISH

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Vaino Konga and Harold Rajala
November 8th, 1939

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja", Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, Finland, 1923.

Biographies in chapter entitled "Cokaton Laaja Suomalaisasutus" ["The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"].

[Where the name appears in parentheses at the beginning of the biography it is the original family name.]

Page 156.

"ABRAM ABRAMSON (HAARA)was born at Karunki in 1841. The year he came to America is not known. He settled at Cokato in 1876. He is dead. His wife, Eva Maria, was a native of Karunki.

"SALOMON ABRAMSON (HAARA), a brother of the aforementioned [Abram Abramson], was born at Karunki Dec. 18, 1840. Arrived in America in 1871, coming to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. He came to Cokato in 1881. Died in 1886. His wife, Eva Liisanantti, was born at Hietaniemi July 4th, 1844. Children."

"ISAK [ISAAC] WM. ABRAMSON (ALANENPÄÄ), was born at Hietaniemi on Nov. 27, 1846. From Norway he came to America in 1870, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. He came to Cokato in 1878 to farm the land he had purchased. Died in 1915. His wife, Maria Kaisa Hietala, was born at Kemijärvi on Feb. 25, 1847. She came to America in 1870. They were wed in Calumet [Michigan]. She died in 1897. Eleven children."

FINNISH Biographies - "The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

"PETER ABRAMSON (ALANENPÄÄ) was born at Hietaniemi July 24, 1841. From Norway he came to America in 1869, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. He came to make his home at Cokato in 1873. Died in 1919. His wife, Johanna Nikku, was born in Norway in 1848. Several children.

"JAKOB ABRAMSON (KUORILEHTO) was born at Karunki in 1846. He died in Cokato in 1876. His wife, Maria Kreeta Kurre, was born at Torniojoki in 1841. She came to America with her father, J. Kurren,in 1869. Later she was married to J. Salo.

"MATIAS [MATTHIAS] ABRAM ABRAMSON (KÄRJENAHO) was born at Pulkkila Dec. 2, 1835. After growing to manhood he moved to Alatornio and from there to Vesisaari [Norway] [on maps indicated as Vadsö], from there coming to America in 1865. One of Cokato's Finnish pioneers, he took up a homestead in 1865. He died there July 8, 1913. His wife,Kreeta Johanna Myllykangas, was born at Karunki Nov. 30, 1853. They were married in Cokato in 1881. Six children.

Page 157

"ISAK [ISAAC] ALAMAA, was born at Karunki Nov. 21, 1839. He came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], in 1870, and from there to Cokato in 1874. Later he moved to the new site of French Lake where he cleared for himself a splendid farm. A self-established religious believer and a devotee of church activities. He died August 1, 1921. His wife Amanda Tieva, was born at Kaavuo Sept. 19, 1854. They were married at Calumet [Michigan] in 1873. Nine children.

"JOHAN [JOHN] ALAMAA, oldest brother of the aforementioned [Isak Alamaa] was born at Karunki in 1822. As a widower he came to America in 1870. Died in 1883. A boy.

"HENRIK ALAMAA , the son of the aforementioned [Johan Alamaa] was born at Karunki in 1851. Came to America in 1870, to the copper island [Michigan copper region.], and from there to Cokato, to farm in 1877. Died in 1887. His wife, Eva Johanna Kattilasaari, was born at ~~Turtola~~ [Jomaa] Nov. 19, 1856. They married in 1877.

FINNISH Biographies - "The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

"HENRIK ALAMAA (SALOMONINPOIKA), was born at Karunki Dec. 18, 1840. From Norway he came to America with his family in 1870, to Hancock, Mich. He went to the farm settlement at Cokato in 1881. Died Sept 12, 1886. His wife, Eva Maria Lassinantti , was born July 4, 1844. They have children who use the name of Hendrickson.

"HENRIK ALATALO, was born at Sodankylä Sept. 28, 1820. From Norway he came to America in 1873, to the copper island [Michigan copper region] ; died in Cokato in 1883. His wife, Kaisa, was born in Sodankylä in 1812. She accompanied her husband to America. Died Mar. 9, 1894.

"ESAIAS ALATALO (HENDRICKSON) a son of the aforementioned [Henrik Alatalo] was born at Sodankylä in 1854. Came to America in 1873, to the copper island [Michigan copper region] . Died at his farm at Cokato in 1887. His wife, Sofia Laakso, was born in Hammerfest [Norway] in 1858. They were married at Cokato in 1875. She died Oct. 12, 1888. A son, Carl.

"HENRIK ALATALO (HENDRICKSON), brother of the aforementioned [Esaias Alatalo] was born at Sodankylä Apr. 10, 1848. He came to America in 1873. He became a farmer at French Lake. His wife, Kustaava Koivunen, from Vesisaari [Vadsö, Norway] , accompanied her husband to America. She died in 1900. Several children.

"ISAK ANTTI (LAULAJA), was born at Matarenki in 1844. He came to America in 1875. One of the earliest Finns at French Lake. His wife,Maria Branström, was from Tornionjoki.

"ISAK BARBERG (PARPA), was born at Matarenki Mar. 15, 1853. He was a tailor by trade. He came to America in 1866, to Red Wing, Minn. He became a settler at Cokato in 1867. He was the first minister,editor, newspaper correspondent, compiler of statistics, etc. Died Aug. 7, 1883. His wife, Eva Maria Rovanen, was born at Matarenki Mar. 2, 1833. She came with her husband to America. Died May 21, 1895. Son and daughter, of which the son, Advid [probably Arvid] tends the family estate.

Page 158

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Vaino Konga
November 9, 1939

FINNISH Biographies---"The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

Page 158

"JOHAN [JOHN] CHRISTOPHER (NIKUKKO) was born at Turtola in 1808. Migrating from Norway to America on a sailing vessel, in 1867, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and from there to Cokato, in 1871, where he purchased land. Died Jan. 3, 1890. Several children."

"ISAK [ISAAC] CHRISTOPHER, a son of the above mentioned [Johan Christopher], was born at Turtola in 1840. Arriving in America in 1867, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and thence to Cokato in 1871. Besides farming, he did blacksmith work and watch repairing. Died in 1903. His wife, Stiina Kaisa, a native of Kaavuono [Norway], came to America in 1871. She died in 1920. Ten children."

"JOHAN [JOHN] CHRISTOPHER, a brother of the above mentioned [Isak Christopher], was born at Turtola Sept. 14, either in 1844 or in 1845. He came to America in 1867, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. Died as a farmer in Cokato July 15, 1914. His wife, Briita Mathilda Aula, was born at Vesisaari [Norway] on April 16, 1844. She came to America with her husband. Died Sept. 15, 1914. Twelve children."

"OSKAR COLANDER, a native of Tornionjoki, came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], in 1871, and to Cokato in 1876. Died about 1890. His wife, Anna Kreeta Salkko, a native of Kaavuono [Norway], came to America with him. Died in 1915. Five children."

"ESAIAS ELIASSON (KOSTAMO) was born at Kemijärvi in 1845. He came to America either in 1870 or in 1871, and to Cokato, to farm, in 1876. Died on July 10, 1903. His wife, Kreeta Johanna Barberg, was born at Matarenki [Sweden] Sept. 6, 1859. She came to America with her parents in 1866. Married in 1878. Thirteen children."

FINNISH Biographies---"The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

"JOHAN [JOHN] ESKOLA was born at Siikajoki June 22, 1841. He came to America in 1873, and in 1881 moved from Michigan to farm at Cokato, where he purchased land. Died Feb. 7, 1917. His wife, Eva Kreeta Kyrö, was born at Hammerfest [Norway] in 1860. She came to America with her parents in 1872. Married in Allouez, Mich., in 1877. Died about 1900. Five children."

"ULRICK V. FÖÖRÄRI was born at Haparanda [Sweden] Dec. 26, either in 1842 or in 1843. He came to America with his family in 1873, and to farm at Cokato in 1874. His wife, Eva Kaisa Brushain, was born at Haparanda [Sweden] Dec. 15, 1845. She died at French Lake Nov. 13, 1893. Nine children."

"ELIAS FÖÖRÄRI, a son of the above mentioned [Ulrick V. Fööräri], was born at Haparanda [Sweden] Sept. 20, 1868. He came to America in 1873. A farmer at French Lake. His wife, Anna Liisa Unger, is from Kestilä."

"ANTTI [ANDREW] HAAPALA was born at Sotkamo Jan. 1, 1847. Arriving in America in 1873, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and thence to farm at Cokato in 1883. His first wife, Elisapet Holappa, died in 1884. His second wife, Josefiina Bungt, a native of Karunki, died in 1903. His third wife, Emma Hytönen, is from Saarijärvi. Nineteen children in all."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] HAAPALA, a brother of the above mentioned [Antti Haapala], was born at Sotkamo in 1857. Arriving in America in 1873, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and thence to Cokato, in 1883, where he owns a good farm. His first wife, Anna Riekki, a native of Kuusamo, died on the copper island [Michigan copper region] in 1876. His second wife, Kristiina Alapeteri, was born at Kuolajärvi in 1862. Died in 1906. Children."

Page 159

"JOHAN [JOHN] HAATAJA was born at Kuusamo in 1837. Came to America in 1871. He died as a farmer at French Lake in 1902. His wife, Maria Sofia Määttä, was from Kuusamo. Died about 1900. Children."

FINNISH Biographies---"The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

"KUSTAA [GUSTAVUS] HAATAJA, a son of the above mentioned [Johan Haataja], was born at Kuusamo in 1867. He came to America with his parents. At present he is a farmer at Kingston. His wife, Sofia Törmä, was born in Norway in 1874."

"NILS AUGUST HANNU was born in the parish of Tornio Sept. 1, 1849. He came to America in 1873, and to farm at Cokato, on land he purchased, in 1879. Has an excellent dairy farm. His first wife, Hilda Saarenpää, was born at Karunki March 5, 1861. Died in 1888. His second wife, Mariana Kallioinen, was born at Veteli in 1857. Married in 1890. Seven children."

"TUOMAS [THOMAS] HEMMI was born at Ranttila in 1847. Came to America in 1876. Having no money, he walked from Philadelphia to Chicago and Minneapolis, earning his food on the way. A farmer in Kingston. His wife, Maria Anttila, was born at Limanka in 1847. Died March 4, 1889."

"AARON HENDRICKSON (MÄÄTTÄ) was born at Kuusamo in 1845. Arriving in America in 1872, he came to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and thence to farm at Cokato in 1876. Died at French Lake in 1916. His wife, Kreeta Karsikkojärvi, was born at Haparanda [Sweden] April 23, 1857. Married in Cokato in 1878. Children."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] HENDRICKSON (MÄÄTTÄ), the oldest and the first of the Määttä brothers to come to America, was born at Kuusamo Feb. 16, 1839. He came to America from Norway in 1864. From Red Wing, Minn., he moved to Cokato, buying a homestead from Matti Piippo. His wife, Anna Liisa Tiiperi, was born at Alkkula [Sweden] June 24, 1834. Arriving in America with her first husband [Matti Tiiperi---mentioned in Red Wing biographies] in 1864, she came to Red Wing, Minn., where he succumbed to cholera in the same year. She was married to Määttä [i.e., Hendrickson] in 1868. Died Jan. 4, 1919. Children."

"ADAM HENDRICKSON (KURTTI) was born at Kemi Sept. 9, 1859. Coming to America in 1870, he became a settler at Cokato. Later he moved to Kingston, where he died

Sept. 5, 1915. His first wife, Kaisa Dahl, a Norway Finn, died in Kingston. His second wife, Maria Ukura, was born in Oulu [on maps of Finland usually indicated in the Swedish---Uleaborg]. One child from each marriage."

(Ulea Swedish
Uleaborg "

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio-Ethnic
Vaino Konga
November 15, 1939

FINNISH Biographies----"The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

Page 160

"ANTTI [ANDREW] HENDRICKSON (KURTTI) is registered in the county records as a settler in Cokato in 1876. His wife, Maria Kustaava, died in 1901."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] HENDRICKSON (KÄMÄRÄ) was born at Pudasjärvi in 1839. With his family he came from Norway to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], in 1873, and to Cokato in 1883. Died in Kingston in 1908. His wife, Eve Karoliina Luoma, was born at Kuusamo Sept. 1, 1844. Several children."

"ISAK [ISAAC] HOMER (PAJALA) was born at Pajala [Sweden] in 1839. He came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], either in 1870 or in 1873, and thence to farm at Cokato. Died in French Lake Sept. 20, 1914. His wife, Liisa Kreeta Nyström, a Norway Finn, was born in 1843. She died on June 10, 1898. Children."

"KUSTAA [GUSTAVUS] HUHTA was born at Vesisaari [Norway] on March 28, 1831. He came to America in 1872. Died in Cokato May 25, 1881. His wife, Anna Kaisa Juntti, later married a man named Mikkonen; they live in New York Mills."

"JAKOB HURULA and his wife, Maria Kumpula, born in Kemijärvi, have moved away."

"JOHAN [JOHN] PETER IIVARI was born at Korpilompolo, Sweden, Feb. 17, 1846. He came to America with his family in 1873, and to farm at Cokato in 1876. Died in 1916. His wife, Briita Kreeta Rova, was born at Karunki Aug. 20, 1849. Children."

"PETER ANDREAS IIVERI (BROSNESS) was born at Kaavuono [Norway] Jan. 12, 1841. He came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], in 1869, and thence to Cokato in 1874. His wife, Maria Colander, was born at Tornionjoki in 1849. She came to America with her husband in 1869. Children."

FINNISH Biographies---"The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

"OLLI JAAKKOLA was born at Kemijärvi on Oct. 31, 1847 or 1852. He came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], in 1870, and thence to Cokato, where he bought land, in 1876. Died Sept. 16, 1882. His wife, Maria Johanna Friski, was born at Haparanda [Sweden] Aug. 23, 1852, and came to America in 1873. She married again, a man by the name of Mattila, who died in 1914. Mrs. Jaakkola was exceptionally energetic, and developed an excellent dairy farm. Four children."

"HERMAN JACOBSON, born in 1842, came to Cokato in 1876. His wife, Kreeta Loviisa, was born in 1838. A daughter was born to them at Cokato in 1877. The parents are dead."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] JACOBSON, a Norway Finn, came to America from Vesisaari [Norway] in 1872, and to Cokato in 1886. His wife's first name was Elisapet. Both died in Cokato."

"CARL KUSTAA JOHNSON (PYRRÖ) was born at Alatornio [Sweden] in 1847. He came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], either in 1868 or in 1869, and, in 1872, to Cokato, where he died later. His first wife, Sofia Karoliina Hyypiä, was born in 1844. They were married in Calumet [Michigan] in 1871. She is dead. His second wife, Kaisa Salmela, was from Rovaniemi. One son."

Page 161 "JOHAN [JOHN] JOSEPHSON (JUNTTI) was born at Hailuoto Feb. 10, 1851. He came to America in 1871, and to farm at Cokato in 1877, whence he moved to French Lake in 1884. Has held communal positions of trust. His wife, Mathilda Kunnari, was born at Vesisaari [Norway] in 1859. They were married in Cokato in 1877. Twelve children."

FINNISH Biographies---"The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

"PETER JUNTTILA was born at Kemijärvi April 20, 1845. He came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], in 1872, and to Cokato in 1884. His first wife, Sofia A. Ylinenjärvi, died in 1889. His second wife, Sofia Vanhatalo, was born at Hietaniemi [Sweden] in 1862. Married in Cokato in 1890. There are fifteen children from both marriages."

"MATIAS [MATTHIAS] HENRIK JUOPPERI was born at Kemi Nov. 1, 1835. He came to America in 1871, and to farm at Cokato in 1875. Moved out west. His wife, Maria, was born at Rovaniemi."

"PETER JURVA, a native of Alikula, came to America in 1871 and to Cokato in 1876. His first wife, Anna Kyrö, died. His second wife, Ida Josefiina Piekkola, from Matarenki [Sweden], died in 1916. Children."

"JOHAN [JOHN] A. JUSSILA was born at Kittilä in 1843. He came to America in 1870. Has been a merchant and a farmer at Cokato. His wife, Anna Kustaava Patron, was born at Hietaniemi [Sweden] June 28, 1844. They were married in Calumet [Michigan] in 1871. She died Feb. 15, 1918. Children."

"MIKKO [MICHAEL] JUSSILA, a brother of the above mentioned [Johan A. Jussila], was born at Kittilä Dec. 16, 1840. Before coming to Cokato he lived at Franklin, Minn. His first wife, Anna Kreeta Niva, died in 1887. His second wife, Kustaava, is from Tervola."

"ISAK [ISAAC] A. JÄRPPI was born at Kemi in 1855. He came to farm at Cokato in 1885. Held communal positions of trust. He died in Minneapolis in 1922. His wife, Fredrika Thompson (Maikko), was born at Kaavuono [Norway] in 1865. She came to America with her parents in 1866. Eleven children."

"JAKOB KERÄNEN (JAKOBINPOIKA) was born at Ristijärvi Aug. 16, 1837. He came, in 1871, from Norway to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region],

and to Cokato in 1876. Later he moved to French Lake. His first wife, Maria Liisa Maahila, was born at Kemi June 24, 1847. Married in Calumet [Michigan] in 1872. She died in 1898. Several children. His second wife, Maria Loviisa Jerisjärvi, was born at Muonio Jan. 24, 1858. Married in 1899."

"JAKOB KERÄNEN (ABRAMINPOIKA) was born at Tornionjoki in 1840. He died as a settler in Cokato in 1876. His wife, Maria Kreeta Kurre, was born at Tornio Feb. 5, 1841. She came to America with her father in 1869. Married a second time to a man named Knusisalo."

Page 162 "JOHAN [JOHN] KERÄNEN was born at Hammerfest [Norway] in 1836. He came to America in 1871. Died in Cokato. His wife's name is Briita Johanna."

"ABRAM KOSTENIUS (LUNKA) was born at Karunki May 17, 1826. He came to America with his family in 1870. Died as a farmer in Cokato in 1907. His wife, Anna Kreeta, a native of Ylitornio [Sweden---in the Swedish written Ofver Torneo], died in 1898. One son."

"ABRAM KOSTENIUS [the son of Abram Kostenius (Lunka)] was born at Karunki Oct. 10, 1856. He came to America with his parents in 1870. Takes care of the family estate. His wife, Ida Amanda Lauri, was born at Karunki in 1860. Married in Cokato in 1894. Several children."

"ANTTI [ANDREW] WM. KOPSALA was born at Toholampi in 1850. He came to America in 1872. His wife, Sofia Seppälä, is a native of Toholampi. Farmed at Cokato; then moved to Minneapolis."

"TOPIAS KOTILA was born at Toholampi Oct. 13, 1850. He came to Cokato in 1880. One of the most energetic and biggest farmers in the region. His wife, Briita Leena Maunu, was born at Toholampi Jan. 14, 1854. Their sons are farming in the locality."

FINNISH Biographies---"The Extensive Finnish Settlement of Cokato"

"JOHAN [JOHN] KREKU was born at Kemi March 16, 1827. He came to America in 1873 and to Cokato in 1875. Died in 1902. His wife, Bieta Pinolahti, was born at Pulkkila in 1841. Childless."

"SAKARI [ZACHARY] KREKU, a brother of the above mentioned [Johan Kreku], was born at Kemi Nov. 24, 1839. He came to America, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], in 1870, and thence to Cokato in 1875. Died on his farm in 1910. His wife, Valpuri Kempainen, was born at Paltamo Feb. 26, 1843. She came to America in 1870, and in the same year was married in Calumet [Michigan]. Died in 1901. Six children."

"PETER KUNNARI was born at Kemijärvi April 13, 1839. He came with his family to America in 1871, and to farm at Cokato in the following year, clearing a rather large piece of land. Died in Astoria, Ore., Sept. 5, 1919. His first wife, Anna Maria Peltoniemi, born at Hietaniemi [Sweden] March 1, 1835, died in Cokato in 1905. His second wife, Anna Maria Mattila, was born at Kemijärvi March 27, 1847. Several children from the first marriage. The sons write their name Gunnary."

"JOHAN [JOHN] KURTTI was born at Ii March 14, 1841. He came to America from Norway in 1872, and to farm at Cokato in 1878. His wife, Elisapet Näppälä, born in the parish of Kemi April 3, 1842, came to America in 1874. Died in 1916. Five children."

"ABRAM KYRÖ was born at Tornionjoki in 1827. He came with his family, in 1872, from Norway to America, to farm at Cokato. Died in Franklin Nov. 27, 1907. His wife, Eva Töyrä, was born at Jänisjärvi in 1830. She died in Franklin Nov. 13, 1913. Children."

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Harold E. Rajala
December 6, 1939

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja," Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, Finland, 1923.

The following is a translation of the chapter, "Minneapolis ja Sen Varhaisimmat Suomalaiset" ["Minneapolis and its Earliest Finns"], beginning on page 177 and continuing to page 182.

Page 177

"Minnesota's most populous and busiest city, Minneapolis, has been built on the shore of the Mississippi river, on both sides of the great falls of St. Anthony. Its strong water power operates numerous flour and saw mills, factories and industrial establishments. The city is more than half a century old, the first homes being built in 1855. In the following year the city was incorporated. With true-American rapidity it has grown. In 1860 the population was only 5,000; then ten years later 18,079; at the turn of the century, 164,739, and at the time of the last official census in 1920 it was 380,582. At the present time it is about 400,000.

"Many things have stimulated the rapid growth of Minneapolis. The one factor, the most important in the development of the city, is exactly the great water power of the aforementioned St. Anthony falls. At the edge of the falls stand the present worlds largest flour mills, in which is prepared wheat flour which is shipped to all parts of the world. Below the falls are numerous saw mills which give employment to thousands of men. Because Minneapolis is located in the center of the northwest trading area and being as it is a railroad terminal, it also effects the progress of the city, for many railroads from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific

Page 178

ocean meet each other here. Minneapolis is in touch with twenty railroads. A big

factor contributing to the city's well being and rapid development is the extensive farm region surrounding the city, which extends out to the Dakotas. Millions of bushels of wheat and other grain is sent by railroads of Minnesota and Dakota to the numerous giant Minneapolis granaries and flour mills, from which the prepared flour is sent to the world's markets.

"Minneapolis is not only one of the greatest business centers of the northwest cities, it is at the same time one of the important educational centers of America considering its school and other cultural facilities. Minnesota's large university has been placed there; there are high-schools, art and music colleges, educational institutions and seminaries of different nationalities and churches.

"In local beauty very few cities of America surpass that of Minneapolis. Within the city limits are found several lakes there being in all eleven lakes in, or touching, Minneapolis. Minnehaha Falls, made famous in Longfellow's poems, is also in the vicinity. Parks of the city, in lots of places, in many respects, are suggestive of a resort city. The lakes in the summer offer inequalled boating and swimming, while in the winter they are skating rinks, etc.

"In respect to nationalities represented, it is noticeable that most have come from northern-Europe, Swedes, Norweigians, Danes, and Finns, which compose probably of one third of the population, of which most are Swedes. Within recent years has arrived in the city southern-European people, but in no great numbers.

"The Finnish settlement in Minneapolis begins about 1865, but very few of these first Finns remain there. Many of them moved to farm regions about 1870 and settled there. Nevertheless, about 1878, in Minneapolis, Finns were represented to some degree, some working at sawmills, others working at brick factories and their daughters worked as servants in American families. There are several Finnish style restaurants and boarding houses. Pastor E. Backman came to the city from the copper island [Michigan copper region] in 1880 to conduct church services. A year later was begun, in Minneapolis, the publication of a Finnish newspaper "Uusi Kotimaa" [New

Page 179

Homeland], which later was published at New York Mills, Minn.

"Between 1880 and 1890 the Finns did not particularly settle in great numbers in Minneapolis; their number near the turn of the century hardly reached over a thousand persons. But during the last two decades has our nationality very greatly increased in Minneapolis, especially during the world war, then lively working conditions there were existent, drawing working-people to the community. Especially from the Finnish farming regions at Cokato, Holmes City, Franklin, and Lake Norden [in southwestern part of Hamlin County, South Dakota], also from Savo [in northern part of Brown County, South Dakota], have people of our nationality moved to this largest city of Minnesota. Their homes are in the neighborhood of Humbolt and Western. The Finnish population is numbered to several thousand. "

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Harold E. Rajala
December 6, 1939

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja," Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, Finland, 1923.

Biographies in chapter, "Minneapolis ja Sen Varhaisimmat Suomalaiset" ["Minneapolis and Its Earliest Finns"].

Where the name appears in parentheses at the beginning of the biography it is the original family name.

Page 179 "ANTTI [ANDREW] ANDERSON (KAUVOSAARI), born at Alkkula in 1850. In company with his parents he came to America in 1866, to Red Wing, Minn. He became affected with cholera and was brought to a cholera-sanatorium which was located on a small island, from where he later escaped and hid in a St. Paul bound ship. His father found him in a hospital in the aforementioned city about a week later, cured. He travelled much, especially in the West, where he lived for long periods. He made his home in Minneapolis where he entered the store business and was interpretor, etc, also performed smaller tasks. He died without a family in 1890.

Page 180 "ISAK ANDERSON (KAUVOSAARI), born at Alkkula on June 11, 1860. He settled in Minneapolis in 1880, where he has been in business, he was also real estate owner. His wife, Mathilda Mattila, was born at Salo in 1870. They were married in 1890. Twelve children.

"MAGNUS ANDERSON (VITIKKOHUHTA), born at Tornio, January 1, 1865. With his parents he came to America in 1869, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and from there to Cokato in 1873. He settled in Minneapolis in 1893, where he owned a home in the city. His first wife, Veera Manner, from Vaasa, died Feb. 5, 1915.

His second wife, Maria Heleena Koski was born Feb. 23, 1878 at Oulu. Children.

"KUSTAA FREDRICK BERGSTADIUS, clerk and business-manager, born May 23, 1839 at Nurmijärvi parsonage, father was parson of the said parish. Went to elementary-school and the Lyseo [a grammar and high school combination in Finland; Lyceum]. As a sailor on a Finnish ship he came to America in 1865, to Baltimore [Md.]. He worked as clerk in an travel and ticket office operated by a Swede, Gust Johnson, in Chicago; went to copper island [Michigan copper region] in 1868 to examine the local working conditions and business possibilities. About 1880 he worked on the Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul Railroad as ticket seller and travel bureau manager. He was transferred to Minneapolis in the employ of the same railroad. He was a partner in the Oldenburg-Jasberg travel and money-remittance firm. When the said firm discontinued business in 1896 he began managing the foreign mission department of the Södergren drug firm, and was there until he died in 1917. He was a founder and zealot of the Suomi Synod and the Suomi Opisto [Suomi College]. He was an instigator of the Savo [Brown County, South Dakota] Finnish agricultural group, etc. His wife was Elisapet Schversin, a German by nationality, they were married in 1869. They are without children.

"HERMAN HERMANSON (KOLEHMAINEN), born at Kivijärvi in 1842. Came to America in 1875; to Minneapolis, where he has lived all of the time. He owns real estate. Died in 1922. His wife, Maria, was born at Kuusamo in 1861. They were married in Minneapolis. Died in 1920. Children.

"ANTTI [ANDREW] KOPSALA, born at Toholammi, 1847. Came to America in 1872, to Ohio. Has been a farmer at Cokato for a long time. Moved at an old age to Minneapolis, where he owned a city residence. His wife, Liisa Sofia Seppälä, was born at Toholammi on June 30, 1849. Came to America in 1881. Six children.

"PETER LUUKKONEN, born at Uhtua, Karjala, [Karelia], May 5, 1849. From Norway he came to America in 1873, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. Page 181 Came to farm at Cokato in 1878. At an older age he moved to Minneapolis, where he owns city homes. His first wife, Anna Briita Ingman, from Kuusamo, died Mar. 12, 1887. His second wife, Sofia Vilhelmiina Piekkola was born at Pailuoto in 1866. Died in 1912. Four children.

"TUOMAS [THOMAS] MURTO, born at Rovaniemi in 1849. He came to America in 1878. His wife, Johanna Vitikkohuta, was born in 1863. Came from Norway to America with her parents in 1868. Several children.

"NELS OLOF NELSON, born at Karunki in 1846. He came to America in 1870, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. To Cokato, to farm, in 1875. At the present time he lives in Minneapolis, where he owns real-estate. His wife, Maria Niemi, was born at Vesisaari [Vadsö, Norway] on Aug. 14, 1856. Came to America with her parents in 1864. Married at Franklin. Died in 1902. Seven children.

"JAKOB NYMAN, born at Kälviä in 1842. Died in 1918. His wife was Briita Asuja.

"HENRICK PEKKALA, born at Alatornio, Ruotsalankylässä [the name means Swedish village] on December 23, 1849. From Norway he came to America in 1868, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. He came to Cokato in 1878, living on his farm for thirty years. Moved to Minneapolis, when he owned a city home. His wife, Maria Kristiina Ryynanen, was born at Tervola on May 18, 1855. They were married at Calumet [Michigan]. Died in 1898. Six children.

"JACOB PETERSON, was born of Finnish parents in Norway on March 12, 1851. He came to America in 1872, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. After living Calumet [Michigan] for several years he left, with family to the state of Washinton and from there, in 1885, to farm in Minnesota. At the present time he is living in Minneapolis. His wife, Stiina Karoliina, also born of Finnish parents in

Norway, was born on Aug. 12, 1855. They were married in Calumet in 1873. They had 17 children, of which 12 are living at the present time.

"ISAK PODAS, born at Kaauvuono on Dec. 9, 1854. With his parents he came to America in 1869, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. Went to the public school in Calumet. Was clerk, farmer at Cokato, postmaster and county clerk, etc., other municipal employment. Moved to Minneapolis in 1896, where, at the present time he is employed in a large clothing firm as wholesale department manager. His first wife, Sofia Westerberg was born at Vesisaari [Vadso, Norway] on Oct. 15, 1853. She came to America in 1866. Died June 27, 1904. His second wife Julia M. Kveeland, of another nationality, was born in Canada.

"FRANS HERMAN PODAS, brother of the aforementioned, was born at Kaavuono. Came to America with his parents in 1869. Lives in Los Angeles, Cal. Has a family.

Page 182

"KARL KUSTAA RUONANIEMI, born at Kemi, in 1828. He was one of the earliest Minneapolis Finns; Died in 1906. His wife, Kaisa Maria Sunnabori, was born in 1831. Died in Minneapolis in 1920, in old age.

"JOHAN RUONANIEMI came from Kemi. His wife, Maria Alakopsala, was born on August 15, 1853. Died in 1916. Six children.

"SALOMON ULRIK RUONA, born in Haaparanta [Sweden] on July 16, 1850. He came to America in 1871, to the copper island [Michigan copper region]. He went to Franklin to farm about 1880. Died in Minneapolis, a real estate owner, in 1912. His wife Anna K. Lystilä, born at Tornijoki on July 29, 1843. Came to America in 1873. Several children.

"PETER SAARENPÄÄ, born at Karunki, on Jan. 13, 1859. He came to America in 1878, to Cokato. Settled in Minneapolis about 1890, where he did building and carpentry work and owned real estate. His wife, Anna H. Vuolikoinen was born at

Karunki on May 11, 1871. Nine children.

"JOHAN SALO (KUUSISALO), born at Paavola on Apr. 10, 1852. He came to America in 1873, to Hancock, Mich. Became a farmer at Franklin in 1883. At an old age he moved to Minneapolis to seek real estate. His wife, Maria Kreeta Kurre, was born at Torniojoki on Feb. 5, 1841. Coming to America, with her parents, in 1869. children.

"JAKOB VUOLLET, preacher, has lived several years in Minneapolis. He was one of the earliest American Finns. Biography in Cokato chapter.

"VICTOR NEWMAN, who died in Hibbing Oct. 1, 1922 arrived in America about 1870, operated a modern boarding house in Minneapolis. He had a wife and four children."

(End of Chapter)

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
December 15, 1939
Harold E. Rajala

Material Translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja," Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, 1923.

Biographies in chapter, "Holmes Cityn Maanviljelysseutu" ["Holmes City Agricultural Region"].

Where the name appears in parentheses at the beginning of the biography it is the original family name.

Page 186 "AWTTI [ANDREW] ANDERSON (KAUVOSAARI) was born at Alkkula in 1814. From Norway he came to America in 1866, to Red Wing, Minn. He became a settler at Holmes City in 1867 and died the following year. His son Isak is a businessman in Minneapolis.

"JAKOB ANDERSON (KILPELÄ) was born at Pudasjärvi in 1850. He came to Holmes City, to farm, in 1881. His wife, Kristiina Maara, was born at Hietaniemi in 1854.
Page 187 Came to America with her parents in 1866. Married at Holmes City in 1901. One daughter.

"SAKARI [ZACHERY] BACK (PÄKKI) was born at Muonio in 1828. He became a settler at Holmes City in 1880. Died in 1889. His wife, Kreeta Josefiina, was born in 1839. Died in 1912. 11 children.

"ISAK K. CARLSTRÖM was born at Karunki in 1849. He came to America in the 1870's and became a settler at Holmes City around 1880. His wife was Kaisa Lehtola. Nine children.

FINNISH Biographies Holmes City Agricultural Region"

"ISAK DAVIDSON was born at Hietaniemi on Feb. 1, 1836. From Norway he came to America in 1873, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and from there to Holmes City in 1879. Died in 1919. His wife, Vilhelmiina Carlström, was born in Norway in 1840. She came to America in 1873. No children.

"ISAK ERICKSON (JUNTUNEN) was born at Suomussalmi on Feb. 24, 1830. Came to Holmes City around 1880. Died in 1913. His wife, Katariina Juntunen, died in 1819 [obviously this is a typographical error; it should read 1919], when she was 97 years old. Several boys.

"JOHAN FREDRICKSON (KÄRÄNTÖJÄRVI) was born at Pajala in 1843. He came to Holmes City as a farmer in 1881. Earlier he was an ambitious newspaper correspondent. His wife, Sofia Piekkola, born at Hailuota in 1855. No children.

"MATTI HAAPALA was born at Simo on July 18, 1863. A farmer and a minister. Died July 26, 1918. His first wife, Hilda Sackrison, from Muonio, died in 1900. His second wife Briita Kristiina Salmi, born at Simo in 1867. Children from both marriages amount to 14 children.

"ERIK HAARA was born at Hietaniemi on May 8, 1823 or 1824. From Norway he came to America in 1866, to Red Wing, Minn., where his oldest daughter had died from cholera. He became a settler at Holmes City in 1867. Died Sept. 11, 1897. His wife, Heleena Välimaa, was born at Hietaniemi on Oct. 16, 1824. She came to America in 1866. Died in 1902. Several daughters.

"ABRAM HOOKANA was born at Kemijärvi in 1861. A prominent farmer. His wife, Elisapet Isola, was from Kuolajärvi. Twelve children.

"HERMAN JACOBSON (KARJALAINEN) was born at Kuusamo on July 13, 1842. Came to America in 1872, to farm at Holmes City. He was also a minister. Died in 1905. His first wife, Kreeta, died in 1889. His second wife, Sofia Pakki, was from Muonio. Children.

"MATT JACOBSON (MAKKONEN) was born at Piippola in 1846. From Norway he came to America in 1867, to New York, from where, with a friend, Johan Lehto, he walked to Minneapolis in six weeks. He got a homestead at Holmes City. His wife, Maria Stiina Myllyaho, was born in Paavola on Aug. 3, 1855. To America in 1873. 14 children.

Page 188

"ISAK JOHNSON (JAAKONANTTI) was born at Hietaniemi in 1840. From Norway he came to America in 1865, to Red Wing, Minn., and from there the following fall he moved to Holmes City to become a settler. At an older age he moved to the state of Washington, where he died in 1920. His first wife, Alfiina Makkonen, died in 1881. His second wife, Maria Saukola, died in 1894.

"LARS OLOF JOHNSON (PAJARI) was born at Tervola in 1840. From Norway he came to America in 1871, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and from there to Holmes City in 1876. He cleared fields and meadows from the woods. His first wife, Maria Alatalo, was born at Kittilä in 1841. Died on May 31, 1914. His second wife, Heleena Risteli, was born at Ranttila in 1855. Married in 1916.

"JOSEPH JOSEPHSON (STJERNA) was born at Kuusamo in 1851. Came to America in 1873, to the copper island [Michigan copper region], and from there to farm at Holmes City in 1878. Died in 1903. His wife, Kreeta Liisa, was from Kuusamo. Twelve children.

"PETER JOSEPHSON (STJERNA) was born at Kuusamo in 1860. He came to America, to Holmes City, near the end of the 1870's. He died in 1900. His wife, Vilhelmiina Vettasjärvi, was born at Torniojoki in 1860.

"ERICK JULIN, born at Hietaniemi on Dec. 6, 1831. From Norway he came to America in 1866; in the fall of that year he became a settler at Holmes City. He was one of the Pioneers of that district. Died May 20, 1905. His wife, Kreeta Ulriika Pakki, was born at Muonio on Nov. 1, 1833. She accompanied her husband to America. She died in 1917. Six children.

"JOHAN JULIN, oldest boy of the former, was born at Hammerfest [Norway] in 1861. Died in 1904.

"HENRICK JULIN was born at Hammerfest [Norway] . As a child he accompanied his parents to America in 1866. He is the caretaker of the family estate and is a family-man.

"JOHAN LEHTO, senior, was born at Piippola on Dec. 13, 1834. He came to America in 1867, to New York, from where, with his friend, Matti Makko, walked to Chicago, Minneapolis and further to Holmes City. The trip lasted a little less than two months. He died on his Holmes City farm about 1890. His wife, Kaisa Mathilda Jarva, was born at Piippola in 1836. She arrived at her husband's side in America in 1872. Died in 1895. Children.

"JOHAN LEHTO, junior, son of the former and caretaker of the family estate, was born at Piippola in 1862. With his mother he came to America in 1872. He was a minister. His wife, Anna Liisa Makkonen, was born at Piippola in 1874. 16 children.

Page 189

"ISAK OLSON (LUUKKONEN), born at Kuusamo on May 18, 1839. He came to America in 1871. Six years later he came to farm at Holmes City. He died Sept. 22, 1916. His wife, Ulriika Makkonen, from Piippola, died in 1915. Two children.

"JOHAN OLSON (LUUKKONEN), brother of the former, was born at Kuusamo on Mar. 22, 1835. He came to America in 1873. Four years later he came to Holmes City. Died in 1887. His wife, Anna Briita, was born at Kuusamo on Dec. 10, 1836. Died at the home of her children at Menahga, Minn.

"OLLI OLSON (LUUKKONEN) was born at Kuusamo on Mar. 15, 1852. He became a farmer at Holmes City in 1882. Died Aug. 16, 1920. His wife Anna Posio, was born at Rovaniemi in 1858. Several children.

FINNISH Biographies "Holmes City Agricultural Region"

"OLLI FREDRICK OLSON (KAITANIEMI) was born at Pudasjärvi in 1812. He came to America in 1872. Four years later he became a settler at Holmes City. He died in old age on Jan. 25, 1901. His wife, Anna Briita, was born in Ii in 1809. She came to America with her child in 1876. Died in 1890.

"JAKOB OLSON (KAITANIEMI), son of the former, was born at Ii in 1856. He came to America in 1876, to Holmes City, where three years later he began to till the land on his own property. His first wife, Evelina Brushain, died in 1886. His second wife, Anna Pinolahti, was born at Pulkkila in 1860. Five children.

"HENRIK PAJARI was born at Tervola in 1845. He came to America in 1870. He lived several years in Holmes City then moved to the state of Washington where he suffered a violent death in 1888. He was a skillful veterinarian.

"ADAM PETERSON (VETTÄNEN) was born at Torniojoki, Vettasjärvi, on Aug. 12, 1835. From Norway he came to America in 1873 and to Holmes City as a settler in 1876. He died in 1913. His first wife, Eva Kaisa, was born at Torniojoki in 1824. She died in 1886. His second wife, Susanna Luukkonen, was from Kuusamo. Three children.

"FRANS OSKAR PETERSON (VETTÄNEN), son of the former, was born in Norway in 1862. He came to America with his parents in 1872 [obviously a mistake, for his father came to America in 1873]. He is caretaker of the family estate and has a family.

"PETER PETERSON (VÄLIMAA) was born at Alkkula on Feb. 22, 1828. From Norway he came to America in 1866, to Red Wing, Minn. and from there the following year to Holmes City as a settler. He died on Apr. 5, 1904. His wife, Maria Kreeta, was born at Hietaniemi on Dec. 9, 1827. To America in 1872, and died in 1905. Children.

Page 190

"CHARLES PETERSON (VÄLIMAA), son of the former, was born at Hietaniemi in 1857. He came to America in 1872. His wife was Susanna Määttä from Kuusamo.

FINNISH Biographies "Holmes City Agricultural Region"

"AUGUST PETERI was from Kemijärvi, the home of Peteri. From Norway he came to America in 1866, and the following year settled at Holmes City. He died around 1890 when a single-man, 80 years old.

"JOHAN PIIPPO, a Holmes City Finnish Pioneer, was born in Piippola on Oct. 6, 1837. From Norway he came to America in 1865, to Red Wing, Minn. In the fall of 1866 he came to his land at Holmes City. Besides farming he also did hunting; he was a skillful fox trapper and wolf slayer. He also practiced nature healing and was known as a miracle healer. He was an unusually tall, healthy and strong man. Died on July 8, 1915. His wife, Maria Johanna Julin,was born on July 28, 1853. His second wife was Anna. Kaarlo, a son born through his first marriage, tends the family estate.

"JOHAN PULJU was born at Tervola in 1835. From Norway he came to America in 1872, and three years later he went to farm at Holmes City. He died on May 9, 1904. His wife, Margareeta, was born at Haaparanta [Sweden] in 1833. Died on Oct. 20, 1909. Four children.

"SAKARI SACKRISON (BÄKKI) was born at Muonio on May 5, 1828. He came to farm at Holmes City about 1880. Died in 1889. His wife, Kreeta Josefiina Vuola, was born in 1838. Died on Feb. 3, 1912. Six children.

"FREDRICK SACKRISON (BÄKKI), son of the former, accompanied his parents to America. His wife, Aliina Maki, was from Kauhajoki.

"SIMON SIMONSON (PELLIKKA) was born at Piippola on Aug. 18, 1832. He came to America in 1873, to the copper island [Michigan copper region] and then to farm at Holmes City. Died Aug. 4, 1882. His wife, Maria Loviisa, born on Aug. 4, 1836, came to America with her husband.

"JOHAN SIMONSON (PELLIKKA), son of the former, accompanied his parents to America in 1873. His wife was Maria Haara.

FINNISH Biographies "Holmes City Agricultural Region"

"THOMAS THOMPSON (MAIKKO) was born at Rovaniemi on June 24, 1826. From Norway, he came to America in 1866, to Red Wing, Minn., and from there to Holmes City in 1867. He died on Dec. 20, 1908. His wife, Eva Maria, was born on Sept. 15, 1845. She came to America with her husband. Died Jan. 26, 1910. Four children.

"JOHAN ERIK UUSITALO was born at Kuusamo on Apr. 24, 1839. From Norway he came to America in 1873. He became a farmer at Holmes City in 1876. Died Jan. 26, 1907. His wife, Margareeta Julin, was born on Sept. 12, 1858. She came to America with her parents in 1866. Several children.

Page 191 "Holmes City Finnish farmers who came to America in the 1880's are: Jakob Kangas from Vihanni; Kaarlo Mattson (Kopista) from Pyhäjoki; Henrik Piekkola from Hailuoto; Johan Piekkola from Hailuoto; Johan Benjamin (Sauriainen) from Kianmo, died in 1921; Johan Törmänen from Kuusamo; Johan E. Vaara from Rovaniemi; Jakob Vuomala from Norway and etc. "

----- o -----

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Harold E. Rajala
December 14, 1939

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja," Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, 1923.

The following is a translation of the chapter, "Holmes Cityn Maanviljelysseutu" ["Holmes City Agricultural Region"], beginning on page 182 and continuing to page 191.

Page 182 "In Douglas county, more than a hundred miles northwest of Minneapolis, is located Holmes City, one of the earliest Finnish settlements in Minnesota. Lake shores bordered by groves, brooks running through natural meadows, low hills covered with evergreen and birch, broken fields in the valleys to be reminded of the Finnish trait. Travelers generally admire the beautiful scenery of the region.

Page 183 Finnish trait it was that drew the Finns to the lake shores. It was they who selected their land from maps and marked them on the shores of water.

"Back to the year 1866. A small group of Finns, coming from Norway, had made their homes at Red Wing, Minn. They had heard that there were homesteads available near the town. But the people of our nationality were disappointed, for upon their arrival they found that government land in the [Red Wing] region, had, many years before, been taken and were already in possession of earlier arrivals, Germans and Scandinavians. But far away in the Minnesota and Dakota border region still were homesteads available to those who would dare accustom themselves to the wilderness dangers and diffuculties. Finland's boys, who, as boys of the Lapland Tundras had gone on to Ruija [Norweigian Lapland] and from there had come to America, over the Atlantic in sailing ships, did not know fear; they were not afraid of pioneering difficulties, for they had a supreme desire to get, for themselves, their own home, even though it be in the wilderness.

FINNISH "Holmes City Agricultural Region"

"Johan Piippo wrote very metaphorically of the Holmes City Finnish settlement era in the "Uusi Kotimaa" ["New Homeland"], for that reason it deserves to be published in this writing of history: 'Having heard that in the wilderness we can get land free we planned to go and seek it. In the fall of 1866 we, P. E. Julin, Isak Johanson (Jaakonantti), August Peteri and the writer, left. We arrived at St. Cloud and selected our land from the map; we did not know where it was. To the land we had selected, a yankee (American) left to bring us with an ox-team; the trip was as slow as a louse in tar. It lasted more than a week. There were rain and sleet storms; the trip was eighty miles. After arriving at our destination we found out that it was Holmes City in Douglas county. We were single men except Julin, who had a wife and four children; they were carried by the ox-team. We made a 'shack' (house) in five days and made a fireplace of rocks.' The writer then continued to narrate of his own experiences, which pictures the diversified difficulties encountered by the Pioneers: 'The following spring I turned the soil over with a mattock to make a field and then sowed a bushel of wheat, which the bluebirds ate, so that I did not get but the stocks and the birds ate them too. The second summer I got a one acre area of cultivated field on which I planted potatoes and tobacco. The third winter I got enough from wolf pelts so that I could buy a team of oxen and a cow; but the following spring a grave misfortune befell me. We were at an American neighbor's, building a house, and upon our return home, everything was in ashes. Nothing was left but an axe, try-square and ragged clothes. I built my home anew; but a year later again my wheat shed and 30 bushels of grain was burnt. Since then I have been more successful and pray to God that I can, in peace, get along until my ending days.'

Page 184

"The Holmes City Finnish settlement grew steadily from year to year, although not especially rapidly, after all difficulties were once surmounted and left behind. In 1867 and a couple years later arrived Antti Kauvosaari, Erkki [Eric] Haara, Tuomas Maikko, Peter Välimaa, Matti Makkonen, Johan Lehto and Isak Johnson. All

Finns could not get homesteads anymore in the vicinity, especially those who arrived in the 1870's. Nevertheless, land was not expensive; it could be bought for five dollars an acre on a ten year payment period. Arrivals in the 1870's are mentioned as Herman Karjalainen, Simon Pellikka, Johan Pulju, Lars Pajari, Olli Kaitaniemi, Isak Luukkonen, Isak Davidson, Abram Vettanen, Joseph Josephson and Jakob Kilpelä. Still in the 1880's Finnish settlers arrived in Holmes City, but after

Page 185 that liveable lands were not available. The first census of Holmes City Finns was taken by the local correspondent of the 'Uusi Kotimaa', J. Fredrickson, in 1883. According to that census there lived in the community 133 Finns, of which 38 were from Kuusamo, 13 from Tervola, 15 from Piippola, 12 from Rovaniemi, 8 from Ii, 7 from Muonio, one from Kemi and one from Suomussalmi.

"Those who still meet the first Finns of Holmes City get to hear narratives of the pioneering diffuculties of the settlers and the struggles which had been encountered in clearing the wilderness for cultivation. Some were forced to do day work, for which was paid one dollar per day, and that in lodging or merchandise. Abundance of fish-waters and wild game helped the settlers. Fish and meat was in abundance. Finns were generally good woodsmen and experienced fishermen. Johan Piippo was an especially famous fox and wolf trapper. The success of the Pioneer's first years resulted from the abundance of hay which grew on the borders of the brooks and on the shores of the lakes. Whenever it was possible, a cow was sought for the family, which made the future seem brighter. The biggest annoyance was the fact that it was a long distance to even the smallest business places; fifty miles away was flour, salt, coffee, sugar, etc. to be gotten and carried on the back to home.

"The nearness of Indians kept the settlers in a state of fear, especially the wives, who's men went out working on wage-labor, leaving the cildren in the settlements. It was not unusual to meet Indians in the region. One of the largest and most courageous Finns of the region narrated this to the writer: he was alone,

Page 186 one evening, at home, when into the room stepped three burly, armed Indians. He

offered the redskins tobacco, thereupon they left peacefully to continue their way. 'It was the only time in my life when I have ever known fear', said the sturdy Finn. No disturbances have ever been caused by Indians to the Holmes City settlers.

"For over a half century the Finns have toiled at Holmes City. The Settlement has expanded. New mail and residential centers, also villages, have been born: Brandon, Garfield, Kensington, etc. The Finnish population is estimated to be around seven hundred, including those born in this country. The Finns of the region have large families. When one household has more than ten children it is not considered unusual. The prosperity of the region is noticeable: large and productive fields, stately mansions and splendid milk houses speak of diligent and systematic farming. No more are oxen used to plow fields and to make trips. Horses and modern tractors are used to plow the fields. Automobiles are seen at every home. Finns of the district have two parishes and two churches, their own graveyard, etc. At one time was in existence an active temperance society and now its former meeting hall is used for community and civil meetings."

----- o -----

Minneapolis, Minn.

Social Ethnic
W. A. Harju
Jan. 24, 1939.

Finns in Minnesota

Abstracted and translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten historia ja elamakutoja"

Written by S. Ilmonen, published in Jyvaskyla Finland 1923, tr. by W. A. Harju, page 142 to 146.

"The Tragic Story Of The Red Wing Finns"

Page 142. The city of Red Wing is located about fifty miles south of Minneapolis along the Mississippi River; in a locality of German and Scandinavian people. It is on the border of Wisconsin. From 1850 to 1860 before the railroads were built to Minneapolis and St. Paul, river boats used to carry people through Milwaukee and Chicago to Central and Northern Minnesota. The most important river terminals at the time were Winona, Red Wing, St. Paul, and Minneapolis. Red Wing, in the 1860's was a very important landing place for the immigrants as close to its homesteads were available. Many Scandinavians and Germans landed there to get their land. When the Finns began to come with Norwegians in 1864, Red Wing also became to many of them the first permanent landing place in the new country.

To many it also was a place of tragedy and suffering. Some Page 143. found their grave there. The curse of Red Wing at the time for about twenty years was a deadly and suddenly killing cholera. This plague is first recorded in the city records of (1853.) 1850. The deadly disease had come to the region on steamboats with the travelers from the south. The plague was the most deadly in 1866 when in other parts of America the Asiatic cholera was taking its toll, especially along the Mississippi River towns, New Orleans, Vicksburg, St. Louis, Quincy, Burlington and Winona. It even spread to Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. With energetic measures the city of Red Wing was able

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
W. A. Harju
Jan. 24, 1939.

to retard its spread. Near Red Wing on an Island was built an isolation ward for the victims. Through the various energetic measures of the city the plague was finally overcome and after 1868 it disappeared for good. During its spread the Finns suffered heavily from its ravage. In the summer of 1864 when the first Finns came from Norway. In one of the groups who came to Red Wing was Matti Friberg, his wife and three children and two single men. These Finns went into the woods to work. Three weeks later the men were brought to the isolation ward. Matti Friberg and his 15 year old son, and one other Finnish man whose name has been forgotten died there. A fourth Finn that had been confined to the ward escaped at night and has not been heard from since. Mrs. Friberg was left alone in a strange land with two minor children and three months after her husband's death a boy was born to her. But God is the father of the orphans and protector of the widowed: the three year old boy, John, was taken into a Swedish orphanage and to the family needed aid was given. When the mother had recovered, she began to do day labor while her twelve year old daughter took care of the newborn. In this way several years passed and finally Mrs. Friberg was married again to Matti Maatta after which they moved to the settlement of Cokato"****

Page 144. "The Asiatic cholera ravaged many parts of America in 1866. Red Wing suffered heavily from the plague. It is said that the cholera ward was always filled with patients. Those who died were buried in the night. There are many heartbreaking stories of this time in the memory of many who survived.

It is not known definitely how many Finnish people died, as many of them had taken Swedish names, such as Anderson, Mattson, Peterson, etc. Page 145. It is estimated that at least twenty-five Finns lost their lives in this

Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Social Ethnic
W. A. Harju
Jan. 24, 1939.

plague. From the twenty-five only the following names are recorded: Matti Tiiberg and son, Kaisa Esko, Briita Suki the wife of Kustaa Suki, two brothers, Aapo and Isak Lamberg, Pekka Humalisto and his wife, one family of 3 Finnish people, Mikko Kauriranta, the daughter of Erkki Haaba named Sofia, and a Finnish man by the name of Matti.

Of the death of the last named man the following is told. It is said that Matti all of a sudden began to swell all over. He developed severe pains and in a few hours his body became stiff. The people who were with him attempted to raise him to a sitting position when he breathed his last breath into the face of a man by the name of Piippo. In an hour after that Piippo lost his sight. His comrades led him out to seek a doctor but a doctor could not be found, so they went to a German drugstore where a medicine was prepared by the druggist for his eyes. This medicine was so potent that after a few applications Piippo regained his sight and did not suffer any other complications.

The shock of the cholera was so great to the Finns that in the fall of 1866 nearly all who remained alive left Red Wing. Some of them went to Franklin, others to Holmes City and Cokato. Only a few were left behind. In the immediate year after 1866 some of the Finnish immigrants stopped in Red Wing for a time but never settled to live there. In 1914 when the writer was gathering material about the Finns, there was only one person of Finnish nationality in the city. This was Mrs. Maria Johnson, maiden name Esko, who had married a Swedish man by the name of Johnson. Her Finnish language had been so thoroughly forgotten that the interview was possible only in the English language"****

RM

FINNISH

Duluth, Minnesota
Socio Ethnic
Vaino Konga and Harold Rajala
October 27th, 1939

Material translated from "Amerikan Suomalaisten Historia ja Elämäkertoja", Vol. 2, by Solomon Ilmonen; Published at Jyväskylä, Finland, 1923.

Biographies in chapter entitled "Red Wingin Suomalaisten Surullinen Tarina" ["The Sad Story of the Red Wing Finns"].

[Where the name appears in parentheses at the beginning of the biography it is the original family name.]

Page 146.

"MARIA [MARY] KATARIINA JOHNSON (ESKO) was born at Turtola in 1848. She came to America with her parents in 1866. Married to a Swedish builder, P. J. Johnson. Several children."

"MATTI [MATTHIAS] TIIBERI was born at Alkkula in 1820. Migrating to America from Norway in 1864, he came to Red Wing, where after being three weeks in the country, he and his 15 - year - old son succumbed to cholera. His wife, Anna Elisapet, born in Tervola in 1834, accompanied her husband to America. After his death she married Matti [Matthias] Määttä and they settled at Cokato. Their sons are known by the name of Mattson."

"ANNA KREETA VALPPU, nee Tiiberi, daughter of Matti Tiiberi, was born at Alkkula in 1858. She came to America with her parents in 1864. She married J. Valppu in 1875. Died in 1906."

"JOHAN [JOHN] WEST (VESTOLA) was born at Turtola Nov. 19, 1841. Came to America in 1871. Working in the woods around Red Wing for some time, he began to farm there. Died Dec. 26, 1913. His wife, Mathilda Esko, of Turtola, came to America in 1871. She is dead. There are grandchildren living."