

MY ANCESTORS

by Craig Fagerness



Lee and Armella Fagerness

THIS BOOK WAS CREATED SO MY DESCENDANTS CAN KNOW
AND APPRECIATE THESE PIONEERS PRECEDING US WHOSE
WORK AND SACRIFICES HAVE GIVEN US THE LIFE THEY
NEVER HAD.

This book is divided into four sections. The first section is of the FAGERNESS ANCESTORS and starts with my dad's paternal side with Mr. and Mrs. Lars Fagerness. Section 2 is the JEPSON ANCESTORS, my dad's maternal side with Jens and Laura Jepson (1861). After that is the third section which is the MORMANN ANCESTORS. It starts on my mother's paternal side with Johann Bernard Mormann Sr. (1823) and Maria Catharina Krogman (1829). Then the fourth section is the SCHUTZ ANCESTORS on my mother's maternal side with Jacob Schutz (1821) and Anna Gertrude Kaltenburg (1822).

This book is for my generations descendants. You have many ancestors to be proud of. They helped create the United States of America, the greatest country ever. Now you have a book about these great pioneers. They all lived honorable, distinguishable lives and died highly respected. There were so many hardships they endured because of the times they lived. There was much sickness and many died early because there were many medical cures yet to be found. There were many economic hardships where they had to sacrifice and do without. They had to fight with their lives for freedom. But through all the hardships of their time they always had each other. Families are so very important. Each families faith and devotion to God and each other as well as country is what made the United States of America. This combination of family, sacrifice, patriotism and hard work are what guided our ancestors and gave us a life we should all be so very thankful for. They should never be forgotten.

FAGERNESS ANCESTORS



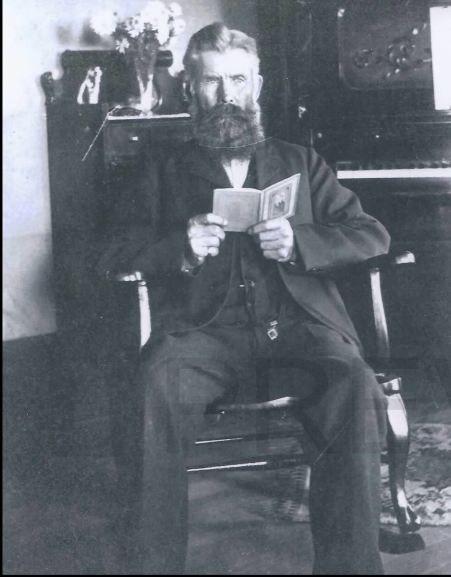
Lars Fagerness



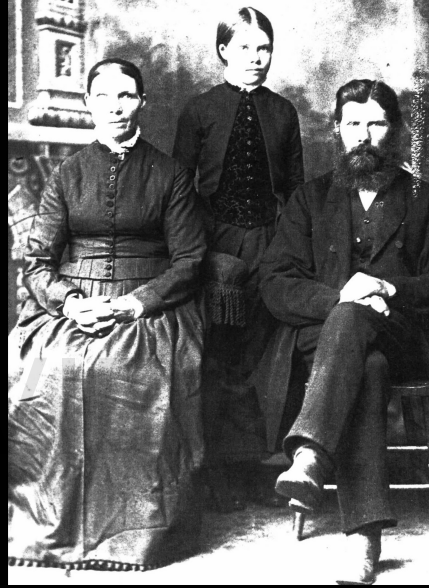
Mrs. Lars Fagerness

FAGERNESS ANCESTORS, FATHERS SIDE:

Lars Fagerness was born and raised on the Fagerness family farm on Lake Mojsa at Eidsvold, Norway. He married and in 1841 their first son was born, Hans, who is the father of my grandfather Bennett. Lars lost the farm during hard times and they moved to Torgensrud where their other four children were born. They are David, Stephen, Lars and Anna.



Hans Larson Fagerness was born September 20th, 1841 in Eidsvold, Norway. He died January 20th, 1927 in Rushmore, Minnesota at the age of 86.



Ingerborn Marie Hanson with Agnes (their youngest child) and Hans. Ingerborn was born on August 22, 1828. She died on January 25, 1910 at the age of 82.

Hans Larson Fagerness started out his work life managing a farm in Torgensrud, Norway. He married Ingerborn Hanson at Torgensrud. Their first three children were born at Torgensrud. They were Bennett my grandfather in 1860, Stephan in 1866 and Christian in 1868. They then moved to Feiring where the last two were born, Martin in 1872 and Agnes in 1874. In 1881 the entire Hans Fagerness family moved to America. They arrived in New York and then went to Mankato, Minnesota. After a delay from flooding they arrived in Adrian on May 5th, 1881. Hans got a job on the railroad and in 1883 moved his family to Rushmore. Hans was first paid a dollar a day at the railroad. He worked as a section hand and later a section boss until he retired. Hans wife, Ingerborn, died in 1910 and Hans went back to work on the railroad at the age of 72.



Hans with his son Christian and Christian's daughter Violette and her daughter Betty.



Hans son Christian (Chris) with his wife Nellie Thompson.

Hans son Christian was born on September 4, 1868 in Torgensrud, Norway. He came to America with his parents in 1881. He first worked on various farms around Rushmore and later worked for the railroad as a Fireman and then as an Engineer. He married Nellie Thompson on January 11, 1893. Nellie was born on December 8, 1872. They had two children Reynold and Violette. Christian was working in the Twin Cities for CGW Railroad when he was killed on June 17, 1944 at the age of 76. He was killed when the train overturned on a weak track and the boiler exploded. Nellie died on September 10, 1952 at the age of 80. Their son Reynold was born on April 18, 1895. He married Rachael. They had two children, Baret and Barbara. Reynold died on March 16, 1967 at the age of 72. Violette was married to Fred Coburn on November 9, 1917. They had one child Betty.



Hans son Stephan later changed to Stephen with his wife Nina.



Hans with Nina's sons, Orville and Harold.

Steve Fagerness was born on July 26, 1866 in Torgensrud, Norway. He came to America with his family in 1881. He first lived with his parents at the Hans Hanson farm near Adrian and in 1883 moved to Rushmore. He then worked for the railroad. He married Nina Langseth on June 30th, 1909. Nina was born on April 25th, 1881. Steve bought a farm west of Rushmore. He built the family home on the farm in 1909. He then farmed for the rest of his life. He died of stomach cancer on June 5, 1948 at the age of 81. Nina died on January 26th, 1968 at the age of 87. They had two sons Harold and Orville. Harold was born on June 26, 1911. He married Mildred Studt on December 31, 1945. They had one child, Stephen. Harold died on January 7, 1966 at the age of 54. Orville was born on February 9, 1916. He married Katheryn Wagner on November 18, 1941. Kate was born on September 14, 1915. They had one child Stanley born on July 18, 1948. Orville farmed the home place west of Rushmore. Orville died of colon cancer on February 25, 1981 at the age of 65.



John Dahlberg and Agnes Fagerness Dahlberg



Agnes Dahlberg in her home in Rushmore.

Hans and Ingeborg's only daughter Agnes was born in 1874 at Feiring, Norway. She married John Dahlberg on May 22, 1901. They lived next to the Lee Fagerness Family in Rushmore, Minnesota in a home that John built. John served in the Spanish American war. He moved to Rushmore in 1887 from Doone, Iowa. Except for a few years working in a saw mill in Eugene, Oregon he worked in the H.C. Constable Store in Rushmore. He retired in 1935. John was born on January 20, 1868 and died on April 7, 1948 at the age of 80. Agnes died on Sept. 18, 1971 at the age of 97. They did not have any children. My memories of Agnes: She loved flowers especially Peonies. They grew all around her house. She walked to get her groceries because she never owned a car. She was always very polite. Her home was furnished from the turn of the century. There was nothing modern. She never had a TV. We mowed her lawn for \$1 each time. It took a half a day as it was so big. We always called her Aunt Agnes as it was proper and showed respect for us to always call older relatives by their relative title. We did give her the nickname Ante (pronounced with long a and e) however. My family really loved and respected her.



Martin Fagerness



Etta Tull Marlin Fagerness

Hans and Ingeborg's son Martin Fagerness was born in Feiring, Norway on January 6, 1872. He married Etta (Bessum) Marlin on September 29. Martin worked for the railroad as an Engineer. He moved to Staples, Minnesota. Martin died July 1, 1949 at the age of 77. Etta died on March 24, 1930. She had 3 children from a previous marriage. Martin and Etta never had any children of their own.



Bennett and Marie Langseth Fagerness



Bennett Fagerness with granddaughter Dorothy Gardner (Brom).

Hans first son Bennett was born on December 4, 1860 near Eidsburg, Norway. Bennett arrived in Rushmore in 1881. He first worked for the railroad. In 1894 Bennett married Marie Langseth. They built a house on the corner of Third Avenue and Seney in Rushmore. All four of their children were born there. They are Melvin, Elsie, William, and Alma. The family moved to a 20 acre farm south of Rushmore in 1902. They also bought and farmed 160 acres nearby. On March 26, 1907 Bennett's wife Marie died in childbirth. In 1909 Bennett moved the house and barn to the 160 acre farm where they lived until 1932. The depression hit and Bennett's farm was foreclosed on by the bank. His two sons, Bill and Melvin, pooled their money and made a deal with the bank to buy the farm. Bennett was 72 at this time and he decided that Melvin would take over the farm and he would retire. Melvin later bought Bill's portion and became the sole owner. Bennett moved his family back to the 20 acres homestead. Bennett married Anna Jepson on September 2, 1914.



Melvin Fagermess Family: Melva, Elsie, Melvin and James.

Bennett and Marie's first child was Melvin born on June 23, 1896. In 1918 Melvin enlisted in the army and was sent overseas to fight in World War 1. He married Ruby Rohwer in 1926. They had 3 children, Floyd in 1929 who died in 1938, Melva in 1935, and James in 1938. Ruby died in 1939. Melvin married Elsie Brandt in 1940. They farmed until 1961 when they retired and enjoyed traveling. They traveled over 60,000 miles around the US and Canada until Elsie died in 1970. In 1972 Melvin married Luverne Seidel of Pipestone. Melvin was a colorful character who farmed with horses until 1944 because he did not like the noisy tractor. In 1920 he took his first ride in an airplane asking the pilot to do all the loop-de-loops and tailspins the pilot could muster. Melvin was generous with us kids. He gave us a quarter for each pocket gopher we trapped on his land. We also collected the bounty so we collected money twice with each gopher we caught on his property. Melvin died of colon cancer on March 4, 1981 at the age of 85. I remember him stopping in to have coffee very often with grandma Anna Fagermess.



Dorothy Gardner Brom, Erik Brom, Elsie Gardner, Jean Gardner and Leo Brom in 1978

Bennett and Marie's second child was Elsie born on July 10, 1898. She married Blanchard Gardner on February 16, 1921. He died on Nov. 5, 1959. They had two children, Dorothy, Mrs. Leo Brom, Winona, Minn. and Jean Gardner who taught school in Wisconsin and retired in Winona. Leo Brom owned a foundry in Winona making custom steel fittings. Dorothy and Leo had a son Erik born February 16, 1959. He lives in Winona and works for TRW as an Engineer. He also has a B&B in Winona.



Mehdi and Lois Moheban, Stephen Child, David, Joan, Vicki, Mark, Keith, Richard, Gary, William, Diane and Craig Child, Lillie, Julie

Bennett and Marie's third child is William (Bill) born on June 28, 1900. He was born in the family house on Senev and third in Rushmore. He spent his entire life around Rushmore working as a clerk in the Thom-McLeod Hardware store and then a mail-carrier for 41 years. He married Lillie Fischer who was born on April 19, 1908. They were married on August 20, 1930. They had three children, David, Lois and Dianne. My recollections of Bill and Lillie: Lillie was very active in community affairs. One large project of hers was making the centennial book for Rushmore's 1978 celebration. Much of the information in this book came from that. Bill as a mail carrier had grandma Anna Fagerness on his route. Somehow or another he would always be at her house at 10 in the morning and stopped for coffee. She always had a pot of coffee on for whoever stopped in. They had a great relationship. Bill had an antique model T that he preserved in his garage. He would drive it in the Rushmore parades. Bill died on March 11, 1996 at the age of 95.



Alma Fagerness Tangeman Dale Dwight Dwight Tangeman

Bennett and Marie's youngest child was Alma. She was born on February 12, 1902. She married Dwight Tangeman on May 27, 1926. Dwight was born on November 21, 1906 and died on October 16, 1960. Dwight's father owned 4 retail stores and Dwight ran the one in Rushmore. They had one son Dale. He became an Aeronautical Engineer working for Boeing in Seattle. Alma died from breast cancer on October 19, 1945 at the age of 43.

THE JEPSON ANCESTORS



Bennett's first wife died in childbirth in 1907. In 1914 Bennett Fagerness married Anna Jepson. Anna's parents above left were Jens Jepson and Laura Smith Jepson (born October 6, 1861). They immigrated from Ballium, Denmark to Truesdale, Wisconsin where Anna was born. Jens died 2 years later and Laura brought Anna and her half-brother Louis Smith back to Denmark in 1888. Laura left them in Ballium, Denmark with her mother who is in the right photo with Anna. The photo was taken in 1911 when Anna was 26 and just before she left for America.



Left photo is of Anna Jepson taken in Denmark date unknown. Right photo is of Anna with her half-brother Louis Smith. In 1911 they came to America and settled in Rushmore. Louis ran a repair garage for a year and then left for California. Anna stayed in Rushmore and worked as a waitress at Wemple's Restaurant. Louis and Anna were very close and kept in constant contact by mail.

In answering questions from us grandchildren, grandma would tell us of the difficulties of language and living when she first moved to Rushmore. She said the area was still a wilderness and transportation was by horse or train. After a rain the roads (really paths) would turn to mud. The area was settled with mostly Germans and Norwegians and not many Danish. She did not know English and that created much frustration.

Grandma also told us that during the depression the corn prices were so low that there was more value to burn the cobs with corn on them in the wood stove for heat. John Schutz II, who owned the hardware store in Adrian, accepted payment sometimes in corn. He gave credit of 8 cents a bushel and used it for heating the store. The prices they got for animals had some farmers shooting their animals rather than feeding them out for market. Her generation was very reluctant to talk about their problems. It was because everyone had problems and to do so just added to the misery of everyone. She was truly an early pioneer.



Photo of the Bennett Fagerness family in 1937. From the left Bennett Fagerness, Laura Jepson, Lee Fagerness, Anna Fagerness, Cliff Olson, Melvin Fagerness, Laura Olson, Ruby Rohwer Fagerness, Margaret Benson, Lillie Fagerness, Albert Benson and Don Fagerness. The kids from the left are Floyd, Jim, Melva, David and Lois. The photo was taken by the house on the 20 acre farm. Grandpa Bennett died from pneumonia on August 28, 1939 at the age of 79. His obituary read: "Mr. Fagerness was confirmed into the Lutheran faith when a young man and joined the Lutheran church of this place. Mr. Fagerness was a kind father, was loved and respected by all who knew him. He endured his illness patiently until death came to relieve him of his sufferings."

Note: Grandpa Fagerness never lived in a house with electricity or running water (plumbing). What did that mean: outhouses, kerosene lanterns, an icebox, a wood stove for heat and cooking, a wash board and tub for laundry, hauling in water from the outside well, no showers, no TV or radio.

Grandma Anna's 61st birthday in 1946.
From the left: Grandma Anna, unknown, Laura Jepson, Elsie Fagerness holding Mary, Agnes Dahlburg, Nina Fagerness, Lill Fagerness holding Diane.



Grandma Fagerness with her mother Laura Jepson in 1949.
Children are Mary Fagerness and Craig Fagerness. Laura died on March 30, 1951 at the age of 90.





The homestead 20 acre farm had this house and two barns--really just small sheds. This house (above-photo 1932) had one bedroom, living room, kitchen/dining room, storage room and back porch. It may sound big but was only about 500 square feet. It was basically a tar paper shack. It did not have electricity until in 1956 Harry Osborne, a family friend, wired it for electricity. When he did that grandma thought she had died and gone to heaven. She then got a refrigerator and a TV. She was able to put away all her kerosene lanterns. Unfortunately she was never able to live with running water (plumbing) her entire life.

There is an interesting story about grandma's house. There were two very bad storms to hit her farm. One was a tornado in 1956 that probably did not hit her farm directly but the hog barn blew away. The house was untouched. The worse occurrence happened a few years later. A straight line wind of very high velocity hit her farm. She had a grove of trees on the north side of the house and a line of trees on the west side of the house along the road. After the storm hit Dad and the kids piled into the car to see how grandma was. We were extremely worried as it was a very bad storm. When we passed the government grain bins we were able to see the homestead. There were trees down all around the house but the house still stood (at least 30 trees were blown over). The home was so poorly built we just knew grandma had received divine protection. No one will ever convince me otherwise.



The Bennett Fagerness family in 1942. From the left: Margaret Benson, Laura Olson, Armella Mormann, Lee Fagerness, Cliff Olson, Don Fagerness and grandma Anna with Howard Olson.

Grandma Anna: Grandma was a true artist with the crochet needle. She could sell all the product she could make. But as she grew older her eyesight grew worse. She had the patterns memorized and made the doilies and other items by feeling it as she made it.

Her entertainment besides crocheting was talking to her friends on the phone plus birthday parties. Her friends all belonged to the birthday club and they had many celebrations each year. They would pick her up and they would go partying at least once a month.

Grandma's diet was amazing. She basically lived off of pumpnickel bread and limburger cheese with coffee. Yet she lived to be 89. Both Grandma Fagerness and Grandma Mormann had all their teeth pulled when in their 50's. It was common then because of infection--there were no antibiotics. An abscessed tooth could be fatal.

Grandma was very poor but generous. Grandma would pay a nickel for bringing in wood and corncobs for the stove. The wood usually had to be chopped up. Since that was a constant need it was a steady income for the grandchildren. We did bring in water and dispose of garbage for free however. She also knew when we were hungry. A toasted hamburger bun she called "Rusk" was a favorite. This was all from a lady who never in her life had \$100.

Grandma fell and broke her hip in 1954. She lived with Tina Ailts in Rushmore for about a year until she was able to care for herself. She never did regain her ability to walk without a cane or walker.



Grandma's normal place every day included a pot of coffee on the wood stove with a fire inside it. What a photo of loving remembrance this is for those who knew her.



One of grandma Anna's many doilies made by crocheting.



Grandma with her great grandchild Susan. This was actually at the hospital and the last time we saw her alive. She loved rubbing Susan's cheek and telling Susan what a sweet girl she was. Grandma died on May 25, 1974 at the age of 89.



Albert Benson and Margaret Fagerness wedding



The Albert and Margaret Benson family from the left: Linda, Larry, Margaret, Bruce, Karen and Albert.

Bennett and Anna's firstborn was Margaret. She was born June 15, 1915. She married Albert Benson on February 19, 1938. Albert was born in Skane, Sweden on March 9, 1906. He was the son of Anders and Hilda Bengtsson. He had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. He emigrated to the US in 1930. They farmed near Walnut Grove, Minnesota. Childhood memories are of many wonderful times when my family visited the Benson's. When we arrived our Mom would join Margaret in the kitchen to help as well as visit. Margaret made a feast when we came that was totally made from scratch and for sure required many hours work. Us kids would all go outside to play games or ride the horses. We had just a wonderful time but what we really looked forward to was the call to come in and make the ice cream. We especially liked that as we got to lick the beater clean when we finished. Homemade ice cream was the best but the real food was yet to come as Aunt Margaret was a fantastic cook. Her meals were second to none! It was always great memories for the families.

Linda went on to become a computer software engineer at Wells Fargo bank in San Francisco. Karen became a teacher. Bruce and Larry ran their own businesses in the nearby towns. Margaret died suddenly on December 27, 1997 at the age of 82. Albert died from colon cancer on December 13, 1986 at the age of 80.



The Laura and Cliff Olson family about 1945.
From the left: Laura, Colette, Cliff and Howard.

Bennett and Anna's second child was Laura. She was born on October 5, 1916. She married Cliff Olson on July 3, 1935. Cliff was born in 1906. They had four children. Above are Howard and Colette. Later they had Warren and Charlene. Warren died in the Air Force on December 21, 1963 at age 19 from an allergic reaction to penicillin. The Olson family lived in Rushmore, Adrian and Willmar. When they lived in Rushmore Warren was my big brother looking out for me. He stood up for the little guy as the rest of the group was a couple years older. We played cops and robbers with our play guns. Warren had his mothers sense of humor and was always cracking jokes. Cliff and Laura died in a retirement home in Willmar, Minnesota. Cliff died in 1986 at the age of 80. Laura died in 1993 at the age of 77.



The Don Fagerness Family at the 2006 Fagerness reunion. From the left Sherry and Doug, Gerry and Don

Bennett and Anna's youngest is Don. He was born on September 14, 1922. He married June Roachman. They had three children: Douglas, Cheryl and Marla. Don moved to Vancouver, Washington during the war. He first worked on ship building but after the war worked at the Boise Cascade Paper Mill in Vancouver until his retirement. Above he is with his second wife Gerry. He visited Rushmore often and as a 5 year old child I remember visiting him with the rest of the family and grandma in Washington State. Don died in 2012 at the age of 90.



Armella and Lee Fagerness
June 6, 1944



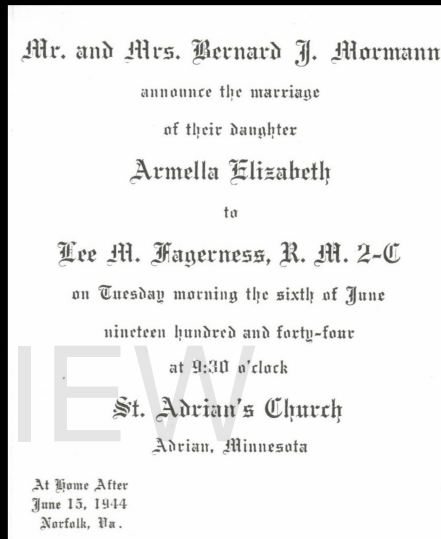
The Lee Fagerness Family in 1973: From the left: Mary, Craig, Janet, Loren, Joan, Celeste, Rose Mary, Gerald, Mom, Grandma, Therese, Sharon, Dad, Richard and Tom

Bennett and Anna's third child was my dad, Lee Fagerness. Dad was born on March 10, 1920. Dad was 12 years old when the depression hit the family and they moved to the 20 acre farm. He worked out as a farmhand for .25 cents a day. It also included a lunch and dinner which was very important as times were very tough. While a teenager a car hit him and broke his leg. His parents could not pay the medical bill and in the 1950's I remember my parents paying that bill. He had a lump on his shin were it had healed but it did not affect his walking. Dad graduated from High School in 1938. His English teacher, Mrs. Wick, was also the English teacher for most of his kids. On June 1, 1939 Dad started working for the Post Office as a clerk. He worked there for three years and then joined the Navy to fight the war. When he returned from the Navy he got his clerk job back. It was a part time job. Mom said his pay was \$90 a month when he returned from the service. Dad worked part time as a clerk until 1956. In 1956 he became Postmaster until his retirement in 1979 with 40 years of service. The photo on the front cover was taken at his retirement party. That was a very happy time for them.



Left: My parents Lee and Armella Fagerness in 1944.

Right: Their wedding invitation for June 6, 1944.



Dad met Mom, Armella Mormann, before he went into the service. They were engaged on Valentines day, 1942. However, the war called and Dad enlisted in the Navy. He first went to Colorado to Radio school to learn communications using Morse code. Morse Code, the telegraph, was actually still in use at the Rushmore Railroad Depot in the 1950's. After communications school, Dad was next stationed on a destroyer, the USS Jeffers, with the job of communicating with other ships. See the communiques on the following pages.

Mom and Dad set the wedding date for June 6, 1944. It turned out to be D-day. I asked Dad how he got away on such a big day. He said they had to keep the date secret from the Germans and everything had to continue normal even military leaves. As it turns out the entire nation celebrates their wedding day every year on June 6th. They moved to Norfolk, Virginia where Dad was then stationed. In Norfolk he was taught Radar and then he taught classes on it. The first of their 12 children, Mary, was born in August of 1945 in Norfolk.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No.	To	From
	MISS ARMELLA MORMANN RUSHMORE, MINNESOTA U. S. A.	Lee M. Fagerness R. M. 36 (Sender's name) U. S. A. Jeffers (Sender's address) 10 Fleet Post Office New York, N. Y. July 27, 1943 (Date)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

Dearest Sweetheart,

AT LAST WE HAVE OFFICIAL PERMISSION TO TELL WHERE WE ARE AT AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING. WE ARE IN THE MEDITERANEAN SEA AND TOOK PART IN THE BIG INVASION OF SICILY AND THAT IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT I NEVER SHALL FORGET. WE WERE PART OF A TREMENDOUS INVASION FORCE AND AS WE APPROACHED THE SHORES OF SICILY THERE WAS A GALE OF ALMOST HURRICANE PROPORTIONS THAT THREATENED TO ALMOST SWAMP THE SMALL LANDING BARGES BUT SOMEHOW THEY WEATHERED IT AND CAME THROUGH IN FINE SHAPE. THERE WERE A FEW SEASICK FELLOWS RIGHT ON THE JOLLY J BUT THE MORNING OF THE INVASION IT QUITTED DOWN AND THEY WERE ALL RIGHT. IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THAT MEMORIAL SATURDAY MORN WE APPROACHED THE ISLAND SHORES AND ABOUT 1130 IN THE EVENING GENERAL QUARTERS SOUNDED AND WE TOOK TO OUR BATTLE STATIONS. OUR JOB IN THE COMING INVASION WAS TO CLOSE IN TO THE SHORE AND WITH OUR BIG GUNS ATTEMPT TO KNOCK OUT SHORE BATTERYS AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT THREATENED OUR LANDING TROOPS. ALONG ABOUT TWO O CLOCK ON THAT SATURDAY OUR TROOPS STARTED TO LAND AND WE OPENED FIRE AT THE MACHING GUN NESTS AND SHORE BATTERIES, WE WERE RIGHT IN CLOSE TO SHORE IN COMPANY WITH ANOTHER DESTROYER AND WE CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE TROOPS TO COME IN AND THEY LANDED WITHOUT A SINGLE CASUALTY AS A RESULT OF THE EXCELLENT SUPPORT THEY RECEIVED FROM OUR SHIPS AND THE NEXT DAY THEIR POSITIONS WERE THREATENED BY A GROUP OF ABOUT 24 ENEMY TANKS AND LANDING PARTIES THAT WE LATER TALKED TO TOLD US THAT WE GOT EVERY ONE OF THEM. WE COULDN'T SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR FIRE AS WE FIRED OVER A HILL BUT FROM ALL INDICATIONS IT MUST OF BEEN PRETTY ACCURATE AND WE HAVE OUR SHORE FIRE CONTROL PARTY TO THANK FOR THIS TO A PRETTY LARGE EXTENT. THEY RADIOED BACK TO US THE POSITION OF OUR SHOTS AND TOLD US WHERE TO SHOOT. THEY LATER TOLD US THAT IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR OUR FIRE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN WIPED OUT BY THE ENEMY TANKS. WE WERE AT GENERAL QUARTERS FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT 72 HOURS AND THE ONLY SLEEP WE HAD WAS SHORT NAPS RIGHT AT THE BATTLE STATION AND ON THE DECK. OUR FOOD WAS BROUGHT AROUND TO US BY THE REPAIR PARTIES AND WE ATE RIGHT AT OUR STATIONS. OF COURSE MY BATTLE STATION WAS RIGHT IN THE RADIO SHACK AND I HAD FIRST HAND INFORMATION ON THE ACCURACY OF OUR SHOTS AND IT WAS VERY INTERESTING OF COURSE I COULDN'T SEE MUCH OF WHAT WAS GOING ON OUTSIDE BUT THE PROGRESS OF THE BATTLE WAS ANNOUNCED OVER OUR LOUD SPEAKER SYSTEM SO ALL OF US INSIDE AND ALL OF THE MEN BELOW DECKS KNEW EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING ON ALL THE TIME. WE PASSED BOMB RACKED MALTA ON THE WAY TO SICILY BUT WERE WERE TOO FAR AWAY TO SEE JUST HOW IT LOOKED. I HAVE SEEN BIZERTE, ORAN, ALGIERS, MALTA, SICILY, AND CASABLANCA NOW SO I AM GETTING TO BE QUITE THE TRAVELER, DONT YOU THINK? I'LL GIVE YOU MORE OF THE DETAILS LATER, ALL MY LOVE,

V...-MAIL Lee

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1943 O 10-28247-6

Letter from my dad Lee Fagerness to my mother Armella Mormann telling of the battle of Sicily. This was dated 11 months before their wedding.



The home in Rushmore, Minnesota of the Armella and Lee Fagerness Family. Photo taken 2016.

After the war they bought a home in Rushmore, Minnesota. Dad would live in it the rest of his life. They paid \$2000 cash that they had saved up with Mom working at Ben Franklin in Norfolk before the first baby was born and Dad's military pay. They also bought a 5 acre patch of land nearby with the bonus Dad got from serving in the war. He also rented small patches of land around Rushmore as well as the Fagerness Homestead of 20 acres. He farmed these small patches. I can remember him picking corn by hand before he got a corn picker. It required two cows to supply us with milk. There was always pork, beef and chickens in the freezer from his farming endeavor. This plus his job at the post office fed our family.

Soon there were more children and eventually there were twelve-7 girls and 5 boys. In 1979 Dad retired after 40 years of service to the post office. In 1992 he was diagnosed with a form of Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma. He died on March 19, 1993 at age 73. Dad was really dedicated to Mom and the family. He led by example but primarily he was the provider. In a small town with limited opportunities, he did a miraculous job. He was dedicated to his wife and family. He belonged to every civic organization in the area: Rushmore Commercial Club, Legion, VFW, K of C, and a volunteer fireman. He was highly respected in the community and a loving father.

THE MORMANN ANCESTORS



Johann Bernard Mormann Sr. and Maria
Catharina Krogman

Grandpa Mormann's family history starts with Johann Bernard Mormann Sr. was born on July 15, 1823 in Osterfeine-Damme, Germany. He was united in marriage to Maria Catharina Krogman on February 8, 1853 at St. John the Baptist Church in Steinfield, Germany. Maria Catharina Krogman was born on October 20, 1829 in Holthausen, Steinfield, Germany. At the time of their marriage they worked as hired hands on a farm in Holdorf, Germany. On October 10, 1853 their firstborn, John Bernard Jr., was born in Steinfield. On July 15, 1856, Josephine was born. After emigrating to the US, four more children were born, Catherine in 1859, Mary in 1861, Frank in 1864 and Henry in 1868. Mary died at age 2 and Frank died at age 19.

On June 10, 1858 John and Catherine (they assumed English names) arrived in the US. They settled in Vienna, Iowa where they rented a farm for 2 years. In 1862 they purchased 80 acres at Petersburg, Iowa. In 1863 they bought another 40 acres and in 1866 they bought another 40 for a total of 160 acres. They resided on this farm until their deaths. Catherine died on March 23, 1898 at the age of 69, and John Sr. on August 23, 1903 at the age of 80.



Lizzie Mormann (Elizabeth Tepke) born 1856 and died in 1939. She was the mother of Grandpa Bernard Mormann.



John Bernard Mormann Jr. photo from his obituary.

John Sr. and Catherine Mormann's oldest son was John Bernard Mormann Jr. He married Elizabeth (Liz) Tepke on February 12, 1873. Elizabeth was born on July 15, 1856 at Iron Mountain, Kentucky. Her father was Henry Tepke and her mother was Katherine Brinkman. Bernard and Lizzie farmed near Petersburg, Iowa. They had 8 boys and 2 girls. In July and August of 1886 tragedy struck the family. All four of their sons died from black diphtheria. It was all their children at that time. At the time of their death they ranged in age from 2 to 8 years old. On February 14, 1887 Anton was born. He was followed by my grandfather Bernard on February 19, 1889, Kate on July 19, 1892, Albert born on October 19, 1893 died tragically at age 13 from a gun accident on May 10, 1906, Joseph born on March 6, 1896 and Rose born on March 24, 1898. My family visited Kate, Rose and Tony in Dyersville, Iowa in 1952. The family cemetery is in Petersburg, Iowa. John Jr. died on June 26, 1920 at the age of 67. Lizzie died on August 15, 1939 at the age of 83.



Grandpa Bernard Mormann



Bernard Mormann and Mollie
(Maria) Schutz Wedding

John and Lizzie's second living son, my grandfather, Bernard was born on February 19, 1889 in Petersburg, Iowa. In 1912 he moved to Adrian and worked as a farmhand for the Eppers family southwest of Adrian. He met my grandma Mollie in 1914. Then when World War 1 broke out he enlisted in the Army. He served in the 163rd Infantry Division 41. After suffering from a gas attack (possibly Phosgene gas) he served as an interpreter. Bernard spoke 5 languages: High and Low German, Hollander Dutch, Luxembourg and English. He returned from the war in 1918. He married Mollie on November 25, 1919. After they were married he farmed the 320 acre farm northeast of Adrian where Bernard lived for the rest of his life.

They had four children: Norbert, Alvin, Armella and Gregor. Grandpa bought his first tractor 2 years before he died. He farmed with horses almost his whole life. Some in the family attributed the gas as the reason he died at the early age of 57 on April 12, 1946. He died from heart problems.

THE SCHUTZ ANCESTORS



Anna Gertrude Kaltenburg

Grandma Mollie (Maria) Schutz fathers history starts with her grandfather Jacob Schutz. Jacob was born February 28, 1821 in Rath, Germany. He married Gertrude Kaltenburg on January 23, 1845 in Rath, Germany. Gertrude was born March 26, 1822 in Garsdorf, Germany. They had 12 children of which 4 died as babies. On the 9th of September, 1861 Jacob was returning home from working on the Koln Cathedral in Cologne when he had a heart attack and died at the age of 40. In January 1862 Gertrude gave birth to their 12th child, Wilhelm Heinrich.

Their 12 children: Anna Maria November 4, 1845 (died), Caecelia Carolina May 9, 1847, Katherina September 14, 1848, Anton April 29, 1850, Sophia January 10, 1852 (died), Anna Sophia February 7, 1853 (died), John Joseph Oct. 19, 1854, Henrich May 17, 1856, Theodore Jan. 12, 1858, Hermann Joseph Aug. 30, 1859 (died), Hermann Joseph Oct. 9, 1860, Wilhelm January 22, 1862. Gertrude died Dec. 11, 1890 at the age of 68. Gertrude is buried at the St. Adrian Catholic cemetery in Adrian.



The Schutz boys in 1885: From the left standing Henry, Theodore, Joseph, William and seated John Sr. and Anton.

With the death of Jacob, Gertrude was left with 8 children, 6 boys and 2 girls. With the economic conditions in Germany and the requirement of men for service in the military, it was a trying time for the widow. In 1868 Gertrude's two daughters moved to America with their married cousins as escorts. It became compelling to follow her daughters to America. On May 10, 1872 Gertrude left with all her remaining children except the eldest son Anton who had been inducted into the military. When Gertrude arrived in New York on May 25, 1872 she was astonished to be met by her son Anton. Unknown to Gertrude he had stowed away on the boat and had come with them. Her family was soon all reunited in Ashton, Wisconsin where her daughters had gone. For the next 5 years the 6 boys would work out on farms as the family saved to buy their own farm. They had saved \$1900 when they heard that land was being opened in Southwest Minnesota for immigrants. In 1878 they moved to Adrian, Minnesota. When the Schutz family arrived in Adrian, Minnesota the land was owned by the railroad. The government had given the railroad the land in payment for building the railroad across America. The railroad had Catholic priests distribute and sell the land. They were divided by the parishes of the priests but called Colonies.

The family of John Sr. and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Reifenberger Schutz in 1895. From the left: John Sr., the father, Henry, John Jr., Nick the oldest boy, the mother Lizzie, Caroline, my grandmother Mollie (circled), and Lizzies father Nicholas Reifenberger, and Lina. Missing children are Anna and not yet born Susan, Leo, Isadore, Martha, and Leonard. There are also two that died, Sena and Kattie within months of birth, for a total of 14 children. John died on June 24, 1912 at the age of 58.



In Adrian Colony the railroad had a Catholic priest, Father Knauf, distributing the land. The farms were in 160 acre parcels. The priest had one room homes built on each parcel of land. The land also had 5 acres that was plowed the year before to kill the cutworms which made that land patch suitable for a vegetable garden. The terms were \$6 per acre for \$960 total cost. It required a down payment of 10% plus 1 years interest (7%). The remaining was to be paid over 4 years (1/4 each year) plus each years interest. Gertrude made the payments and received the deed with full payment completed on October 13th, 1883. The key to their success was the 6 boys. They worked for neighboring farmers as well as farmed the homestead. The family continued working out and saving money. By 1885 (13 years after arriving in America) they owned six 160 acre parcels of land and each son had a farm of his own. Five of the farms were in Little Rock township south of Adrian. The youngest Schutz boy, William, bought a farm near Graceville, Minnesota. It should be noted that this generation farmed with horses, had no electricity or running water (plumbing) there entire lives. A little about Nicholas Reifenberger, Mollies grandfather. He was a civil war veteran. In his biography it was stated he had to sleep on the ground almost the entire time he was in the service. He got severe rheumatism as a result. He was given a farm near Minneapolis by the government as a reward for serving in the civil war. In 1878 when his wife died he sold that farm and moved his family to Adrian. They arrived 2 weeks after the Schutz family arrived. Nicholas paid \$1040 for their 160 acre farm near Adrian. They were neighbors to the Schutz family. Nicholas gave John Schutz Sr. and his daughter Lizzie the Reifenberger farm in 1883. The Nicholas Reifenberger family had 9 children of which only 3 survived to adulthood, one being Lizzie, grandma Mollies mother. Nicholas lived with John's family for 5 years and moved to Adrian in 1898. He lived there until he passed away on January 17, 1905 at age 76.



Maria (Mollie) Schutz was born in Adrian, Minnesota on March 24th, 1883. She died on August 27th, 1972 at the age of 89.

In 1879, John Schutz Sr. fell in love with a neighboring girl Elizabeth (Lizzie) Reifenberger. They married on July 17th, 1879. Four years later they had a daughter and named her Maria. She was the first girl in a family of 14 kids. At birth she was given the nickname Mollie by her brother Nick. Lizzie, Mollie's mother, died of TB on December 31, 1905 at the age of 43. Grandma, at age 22, was engaged to be married but decided to put off marriage and help her father raise the family. The youngest in the family in 1905 was 18 months old. Her father John Sr. died 7 years later in 1912. John at the time of his death owned 3 parcels of land which came to a section and a quarter (800 acres). The courts then gave their parent's 160 acre farm in Little Rock township to Mollie and Nick. With both parents gone her older brother Nick supported the family with farming and the two raised the family. In 1919, with the youngest 15 years old, Mollie married Bernard Mormann. Grandma Mollie in 1919 was 36 when she could finally start a family of her own.

Bernard Mormann and Mollie (Maria) Schutz were married on November 25, 1919. They had four children. Norbert, born on March 10, 1921. Alvin born on Oct. 26, 1922. Armella born on October 21, 1923. Gregor born on March 31, 1926.

The Bernard and Mollie Mormann Family in 1928. From the left: Alvin, Norbert, Bernard, Gregor, Mollie and Armella.



The Bernard and Mollie Mormann family in 1939. From the left: Alvin, Mollie, Gregor, Bernard, Armella and Norbert.





From the left Alvin, Armella my mother and Norbert taken in 1924.



First communion in 1931. From the left Norbert, my mother Armella and Alvin.

The Bernard and Mollie Mormann family farmed the 320 acres farm northeast of Adrian. Mollie, Nick and Henry bought the farm in 1919, the same year Mollie and Bernard Mormann were married. The farm had a creek flowing through it, the Kanaranzi creek. It flowed through a large valley that made much of the farm suitable only for pasture land. For years they had to remove rocks that seemed to grow from the ground. They were spared from having to remove trees as most of the farm was treeless. Eventually Alvin took over the farm and grandma Mollie moved to Adrian. There are many great memories on the farm. When visiting the kids played hide and seek in the barns, fished in the creek, and went sledding in the hills in the winter. The men would always play poker while the women visited and prepared a feast fit for a king. Everything during those days was made totally cooked from scratch. The meals were always so fantastic, really were fit for a king. It was many great times. Our mom told us how Grandma Mollie made history. She was the first woman to get a drivers license in Adrian. She was still driving herself around when I got my drivers license in 1962.



The Mormann and Lutterman family from the left: Eddie Lutterman, Norbert Mormann, Raymond Lutterman, Alvin and Armella Mormann, Joanne's mother Teresa and Rosella Lutterman. Photo taken about 1941.

The Bernard Mormann family had friends on the neighboring farms that became lifelong friends. On the next farm to the north was Harry Osborne. He was 10 years older than mom. Later in life he would wire Grandma Fagerness's home for electricity. Just east of his farm was the family of Teresa Lutterman. She was a year older than mom. She is the mother of my wife Joanne. Their lifelong friendship resulted in Joanne and I meeting in 1994 and our marriage in 1996. To the south was the Erlandsons. They were always highly admired by my mother. All neighboring families always helped each other when one was sick. That included picking all the corn--by hand.

Farming was then a very labor intensive job. When I was about 5 (1951) I experienced a "Threshing Bee". The oats and wheat would be cut and bundled into "Shocks". They would dry and then the grain would be separated from the stems by threshing. The machines were huge and very expensive. So the neighboring farmers all got together and bought one by pooling their money. They also all helped with each farm as they did the threshing. The huge threshing machine was very noisy and it was a very dusty job. My job was to keep the water bucket full. Besides drinking the water the men would pour a ladle of water over their head to cool off. I had to pump the water from a well and it was very hard to keep the bucket full. The women meanwhile were busy preparing a feast for the evening dinner. Of course it was a fantastic meal.



Grandma Mormann with all her grandchildren taken about 1956.

Grandma Mormann moved from the homestead farm to Adrian when Alvin took over the farm. She moved in with her brother Nick who owned the house. She lived across the street from the St. Adrian grade school. We attended there for 9 years. We often would end the school day at grandmas. On Sundays every family would meet at grandma's after church. The four families had many great times together. We got together to make sausage, lard and soap (the homestead had a smokehouse) as well as celebrate any special day like birthdays or holidays. Above photo is of all of Grandma Mormann's grandchildren sometime in the 1950's before Uncle Gregor's family moved to California in 1957. Grandma Mollie was parental in every respect. Her generation had two sayings pertaining to raising kids: "Spare the rod, spoil the child" and "Kids are to be seen and not heard". This carried on to my parents generation. It taught us that there were penalties if we did something wrong. It also taught us respect for our elders. Grandma was tough, a survivor, really a truly great pioneer woman.



The first born of Bernard and Mollie was Norbert born on March 10, 1921. He married Margaret Wester on April 10, 1945. Margaret was born on January 10, 1923. They farmed near Adrian and Lismore before retiring in Worthington. Margaret died on August 20, 2006 at the age of 83. Norbert died on April 19, 2017 from pneumonia at the age of 96. They had 6 children: Patricia Mary born March 24, 1946. She died on July 19, 2002 after suffering from MS for 30 years. Douglas Norbert born on July 5, 1949. Carol Ann born on October 2, 1952. Allan Bernard born on July 13, 1954. Kathleen Maria born on April 9, 1957. Lori Jean born on February 13, 1959.



The Norbert and Margaret family from the left: Allan, Norbert, Kathleen, Douglas, Patricia, Lori, Margaret and Carol.



Bernard and Mollie's 2nd child was Alvin born October 26, 1922. He married Lila Mae Dewar on September 7, 1948. They farmed the Adrian homestead and later near Morris, Minn. It was in Adrian Alvin lost his arm in a corn picker accident. When my mother was told of the accident by grandma, it was the first time and only time I ever saw my grandma cry. Alvin went on as a farmer but after a few years of that he went into selling corn seed. It was then he found his true calling. While still at Adrian farming they went to visit Gregor in California and went on the Queen for a Day show. They won and I don't think I ever saw my mother happier then when she found out! Alvin and Lila had 11 children: From the left:

Anthony born August 17, 1955, Jodene (Jody) born April 24, 1970, Gloria born July 9, 1949, Karen born August 8, 1956, Stephen born August 19, 1950, Mary born Nov. 6, 1957, Susan born June 13, 1952, Marilyn born Nov. 6, 1957, Margaret (Peg) born Feb. 7, 1963, Mark born Nov. 7, 1957, Lynn born January 4, 1954. Alvin died on October 3, 2006 at the age of 83. Lila was born on Jan. 9, 1925 and died on Sept. 17, 2015 at the age of 90.





Bernard and Mollie's fourth child was Gregor born on March 31, 1926. He married Elizabeth (Betty) Knips on November 6, 1951. Betty was born on Sept. 30, 1933.

Gregor was drafted into the Army and had a tour in Korea during the war. Gregor then after the Army farmed near Rushmore. Us kids were hired to walk the corn and beans pulling out the weeds. Uncle Gregor would tell us war stories from Korea when we took a break. He had us so spellbound we almost would have paid him to do the work. One story was when he was on guard duty with cans tied that would rattle when moved by intruders.

Well they rattled and soon he was in a vicious fire fight. He wore a medal and a bullet glanced off the medal and he did not get a scratch. He considered it a miracle. They moved to California in 1957. In California they bought a small acreage and raised chickens. They had 5 children.

Photo from the left: Dawn born Feb. 23, 1959, Gregor, Michael born Nov. 9, 1952, Delaine July 8, 1954, Barre Dec. 26, 1955, Betty, Michelle born April 27, 1957. Photo taken in 1961.





Wedding of Armella Mormann and Lee Fagerness on June 6, 1944. From the left: Laura Jepson, Elsie Fagerness, Orville, Anna, Kate, Bill Fagerness, Norbert Mormann, Lill, Lee, Armella Fagerness, Laura Olson, Margaret, Melvin Fagerness, Mollie Mormann, Margaret Benson, Bernard Mormann, Gregor Mormann. The kids from the left: Jim, David, Melva and Lois Fagerness.

Bernard and Mollie's third child was my mother Armella. She was born on October 21, 1923 in Adrian, Minnesota. She received 9 years of school from St. Adrian's Catholic School in Adrian. Her mother told her she did not need anymore formal education because she was just going to be a house wife anyway. She always wished she had completed high school. She always felt she had missed out on something. Consequently, she always placed a strong emphasis on education with her children. Ten of her twelve children went on to get a college degree. This was just one of many strong values she instilled into her children. Mom's strong faith was also a very prominent value taught in our upbringing. We drove to Adrian for 9 years to attend Catholic school. It was very important to her we get educated in a Catholic school. It was an extreme expense for them and after 9 years they could no longer afford it. Her high moral values included defense of the un-born. She always referred to the unborn as "innocent babies". She was appalled by abortion. We were taught Sunday was a day to honor God by attending Mass. Mom attended Mass daily after moving to Worthington. We never missed Mass on Sunday.



My Mother, Armella Mormann in 1942
at the age of 19.



Mom in 1944 in Norfolk, Virginia.

My mother told us stories about growing up during the 1930's depression. Being she grew up on the farm she had stories about weather, the dust bowl that occurred, and the bad economic times. They actually had dust storms that would roll in even in Minnesota. She said it would coat everything in dust. They had very little rain and crops were very poor. No one had any money. There were a number of things she learned during the depression years that helped meet the huge cost of providing for 12 kids. She made clothes out of the flour sacks. She made all food from scratch--bread, pancakes (flour and water) and canned everything from meat to all garden vegetables. And above all never wasted food. There also were the Hobos riding the train looking for work. They still were around when we were growing up and on occasion we would have a guest at the dinner table. Dad would have them pull weeds in the garden for a meal. It showed us what can happen when you are totally without money. We were taught it is only through your own hard work that you will achieve success. Consequently, we were looking to make money at a very early age. Jobs we did as kids: delivered newspapers, sold night crawlers, mowed lawns, sold popcorn, picked up pop bottles for the deposit money, shoveled snow, babysat, trapped gophers etc. And as teenagers worked for farmers. We learned money did not grow on trees. People with money were always admired for their accomplishments and never envied for their money.



Left Photo: Lee and Armella Fagerness's wedding on June 6, 1944. Above photo: The family five years later in 1949. From the left: Mary, Mom holding Loren, Dad and Craig.

On June 6th, 1941 my mother Armella Mormann went to a dance. She was asked by friends to sing the song "Oh Johnny". When she sang the song she was noticed by my Dad, Lee Fagerness. He told me he immediately fell in love with this beautiful woman who sang so romantically. They started dating. On Valentine's Day, February 14th, 1942, they were engaged to be married. However, World War II interrupted their marriage plans and Dad went into the Navy. Finally on D-day, June 6th, 1944 they were married. A year later they started building their step ladder. Mom loved to take photos of her kids standing in the order they came which created a perfect step ladder. The photo to the right is the start of that step ladder--from the right Mary, Craig and Loren. Taken in 1951.





Above is Grandma Mormann's Christmas party in 1960. She had many of these at Christmas time for all her children and grandchildren. Every Christmas grandma would give everyone a gift. The grandchildren would get clothes or a toy depending on age. Each of grandma's four children would get \$100. My mother, Armella, cried with happiness every time she got that Christmas present. It was badly needed by every family as Alvin's had 11 kids, Armella's had 12 kids and Norbert's had 6 kids and Gregor's had 5 kids. Every family was very poor. Grandma would also put together a feast for her family of descendants. What huge amount of work for her! In 1960 our families were outgrowing grandma's house as well probably her pocket book. We would also meet at grandmas after Mass on Sundays for homemade caramel rolls and donuts. These were great times for everyone.



By 1960 our mothers step ladder had grown considerably. From the left: Mary born August 7, 1945, Craig born November 4, 1946, Loren born October 6, 1948, Gerald born January 7, 1951, Therese born March 31, 1953, Rose Mary born June 23, 1954, Janet born July 19, 1955, Tom born November 3, 1956, Joan born June 23, 1958. Not yet born were Richard on February 21, 1960, Sharon on September 1, 1961 and Celeste on February 10, 1964.

Our mother had not yet coined the phrase "Cheaper by the Dozen" but it wasn't going to be long and she would be loving to say it. She was so very proud of her twelve. Her and Dad raised the twelve to be independent successful people and that was allot to be proud of.



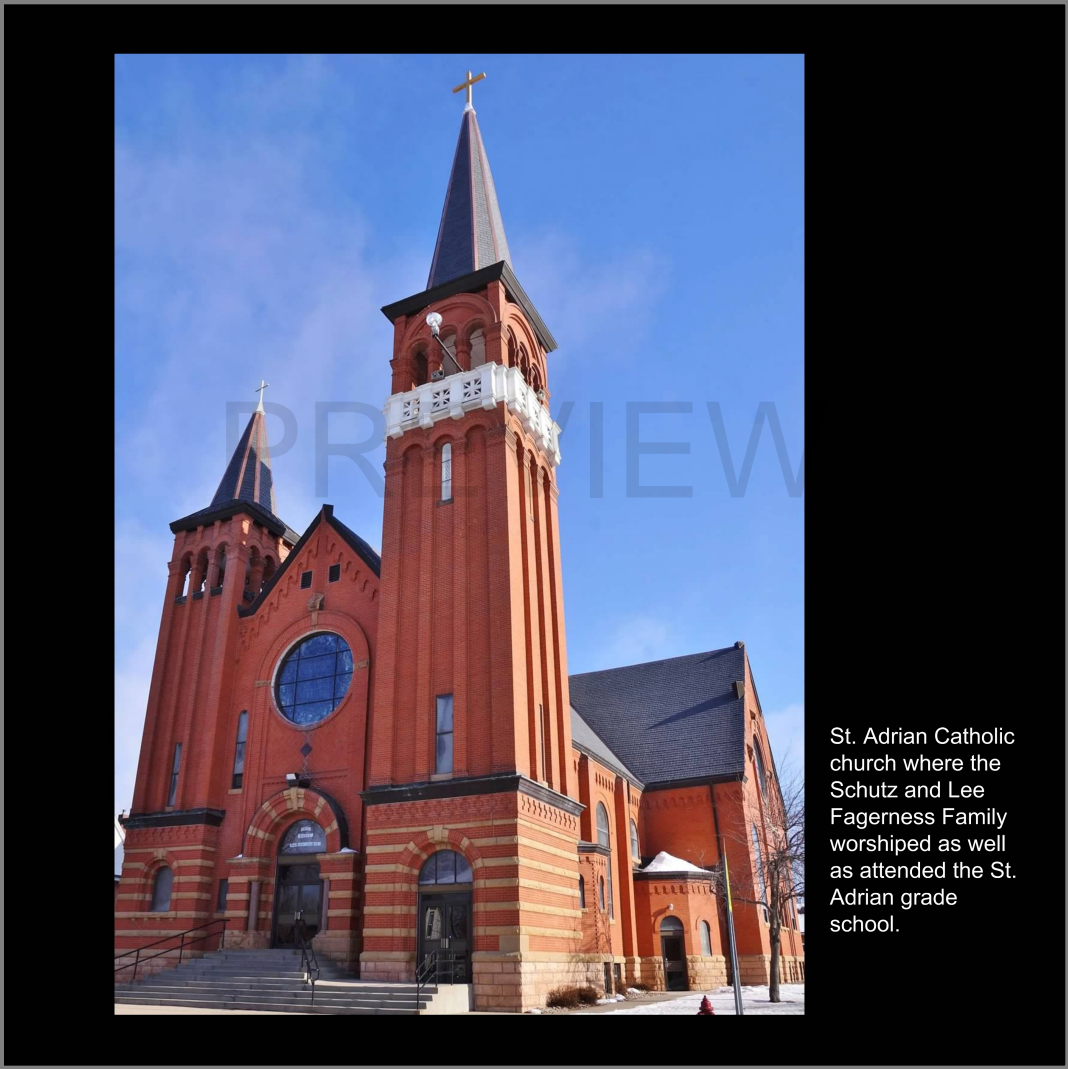
Our Mother after Dad died lived in an apartment in Worthington. She was able to enjoy hobbies of growing flowers and playing cards. The apartment owners gave her permission to grow flowers in every conceivable place around the building. In the upper left photo is an example of what she could produce in a flower blossom. In the upper right is a photo when two of her sons returned all grubby and smelly from a fishing trip. She just loved that whisker rub. The two lower photos are from her 80th birthday party. On the left she got one rose for each child--roses were cheaper by the dozen. On the right Loren presented her with a congratulations from Pope John Paul II. Her faith was always present. It shows in her extreme happiness of the gift. She was a mom that her dozen will forever love and never forget.



Left: The 12 children of Armella and Lee Fagerness at our mother's funeral. From the left: Mary, Craig, Loren, Gerald, Therese, Rose Mary, Janet, Tom, Joan, Richard, Sharon and Celeste. We had outgrown our step ladder but our Mom would have been overwhelmed with pride at her legacy. It wasn't only cheaper by the dozen, it was enduring love from the dozen.



Our dear mother was diagnosed on May 30, 2012 with Lymphoma Cancer. She was given 60 days to live. For the next 60 days she said goodbye to everyone. To the left she is saying goodbye to eight family members just two weeks before she died. From the left: Lauren, Joshua, Susan, Andy, Irene, Gerald, Mom, Tom and Celeste. She died 60 days after she was told she had 60 days left to live. She was given good health for that time and everyone had a wonderful visit with her. She died on July 30, 2012. She was given a saint's death because she was a saint. God bless you mom.



St. Adrian Catholic church where the Schutz and Lee Fagerness Family worshiped as well as attended the St. Adrian grade school.



The inside of the St. Adrian Catholic Church. The Schutz families as well as the Lee Fagerness family attended this church and went to the St. Adrian grade school. Those families are mostly buried in the St. Adrian cemetery. The burial plot for the Mormann families are in Petersburg, Iowa. The protestant Fagerness members are mostly in the Rushmore cemetery. In 2019 there was no one with the name of Fagerness or Schutz living in Nobles County where the original pioneer families settled.



Left: My cousin Pat Mormann contracted MS at 21. She died at age 56. Pat and I attended grade school together at St. Adrian grade school. Pat was always my source of help. She always knew the answer. She was a beautiful girl and was engaged to be married when she contracted MS. She gracefully told her fiance it would be better if they not marry. She had her teachers degree and taught from a wheel chair those first years of her illness. Eventually the disease took it's toll and she had to quit teaching. Her wonderful parents, Norbert and Margaret Mormann, took care of her. It really was their retirement--caring for Pat. May God bless them. Pat never commented to me on her situation. When I commented on it she just smiled. In her last years she was unable to walk and was bedridden. The last few years I visited her (maybe over 3 years) she was unable to talk. May God have a special place in heaven for her. She was like a sister to me. Photo is of Pat and Craig's first communion with grandma Mormann.



Photo is of five cousins taken in 1948. They are from the left: Craig Fagerness, Linda Benson, Mary Fagerness, Collette Olson, and Warren Olson.

The photo to the left was taken before there was a cure for polio. There were outbreaks where everyone was to stay away from the beaches. This is the last photo of Linda before she was stricken with polio. She was confined to a wheelchair the rest of her life but she never let it stop her. She got a degree and became a Computer Software Engineer at Wells Fargo Bank. She traveled the world. She visited Denmark and met all living relatives of Grandma Anna. She is a living example of someone who doesn't let anything get in her way to achieve success. This photo is of five people of which Warren would die at 18 and Linda would get polio. And the other three but for the grace of God were given healthy and truly blessed lives.



Twelve children, the legacy of Lee and Armella Fagerness.