

The New MANFRED NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 3

November 2014

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

Change of Mailing Address

Should your mailing address change, please notify:
MHP, Inc., P.O. Box 321, Harvey, ND, 58341,
Help MHP, Inc. save on return postage charges. Thank you kindly!

manfrednd.org

Enjoy visiting Manfred's web site: manfrednd.org
Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter



Thank you for enabling restoration of Manfred School!!

Manfred School Is Being Transformed!

← Look what contributions are enabling for the restoration of Manfred School! Wow! This historic building is steadily improving! Listed below are those who have contributed in 2014 so far for the school. Come join us in helping with this significant project for Manfred!

Contributions may be sent to:
Rural Vestige Alliance
Audrey Solheim, Treasurer
1026 S 3rd St, #3
Bismarck ND 58504

Recent Contributions for the Restoration of Manfred School

Peter and Rose Anderson
Rod Anderson
Mary Strauss Bermann in memory of Don Strauss
Marvin Biever
Timothy and Lynette Boese
Verna Bowers in honor of all my relatives who attended
Manfred School
Muriel Boyum
Joan and Bob Breyer
Charles and Donna Brown
Inez Burgstahler in memory of my husband Roger Burgstahler
and son Alan Burgstahler
Bill Detling in memory of Matt and Mary Detling, Sr.
Leo and Crystal Detling in memory of Anna Detling Sauter,
Debbie Sauter, Doug Thueringer, and Darvin Thueringer
Judy Duerre
Don and Jackie Earl
Cindy Ehni
Wayne L. Everett in memory of Harriet J. (Johnson) Everett
June Farias
First International Bank and Trust in Watford City
First State Bank in Harvey
Lillian Gedrose
Lorretta Detling Graumann
Milton and Addie Guy in memory of Emma Koenig Leischner
Nick and Lorna Heilman
Nick Hertz of Hertz Funeral Homes
Derald and Ruth Hoover
John A. Johnson
Laverne Johnson and Gwyn Herman
Russell L. & Judy Johnson in memory of Russell James Johnson

Dave and Doreen Kartes
Paul and Roberta Knudson
David and Carol Langseth in memory
of Rev and Mrs. J.M. Langseth
Kermit and Beverly Larson
Ray and Beth Leischner in honor
of descendents of Jacob and Fredricka Koenig
Floyd Lindbo
Richard and Carol McKinven
Richard and Wanda Melchert
Steve and Jisele Mitchell
Merle Paaverud
Betty Pepple in memory of Veronica and John Froeber
Lorraine Quie in honor of all my beloved students at Manfred
Edward and Lorraine Ravnaas
Willajeane Rogelstad
Gerald and Jeanne Schlenker in memory
of Jake and Evelyn Schlenker
Joelyn Scriba in memory of Anna Bymoen
Floyd and Barbara Simmons in memory
of the Rev. John Langseth Family
Audrey Solheim
Margaret (Peggy) Sprague
Maridel Sprenger in memory
of Warren and Bielda Hoover
Joe Strauss in memory of Don Strauss
Leif and Katherine Thorson in honor
of Margaret Anderson Thorson's 90th birthday
DeVella Vik in memory of Evelyn Schlenker
Dean and Alicia Vorland

The New Manfred News

Contributions to the General Fund are vital for the current work of MHP, Inc. The projects are advancing with this help! In grateful thanks!

MHP, Inc. General Fund

PO Box 321, Harvey, ND 58341

Peter and Rose Anderson
in memory of Doris Piercy
Violet Arden
Verna Bowers
in memory of Doris Piercy
Verna Bowers
in memory of Mary Vorland
Garry Detling
Fessenden Thrift Store
Lillian Gedrose
Richard and Caroline Golberg
Derald and Ruth Hoover
John and Mary Hovey
in memory of Emmett Turner
Don A. Johnson
Larry Johnson
Mary Kaufman
Ervin and Diane Koenig
Nancy LaBolle
Kermit and Bev Larson
Kim and Doris Leik
Dale McBain
Nelson Funeral Home
Jordan Nelson
Jean Narksompong
Orvin Ongstad
Lorraine Quie
James Reiswig
Doris Rudel
John and Carol Schroeder in memory
of Ravnaas and Berve Families
Steve and Jolene Schultz
Myron Soiseth
Alice Lithun Sommer
Joseph J. Strauss
Bonnie and Robert Swanson
Margaret and Ted Thorson
Margaret Walz in memory
of Morris Hagemester

MHP, Inc. Endowment Fund

PO Box 321, Harvey ND 58341
An everlasting fund providing for the future

Ervin and Diane Koenig
Richard and Wanda Melchert
in memory of Mary Vorland
Audrey Solheim
in memory of Mary Vorland
Marilyn Turner and Janice Graber
in memory of Emmett Turner

Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Fund

%Wanda Melchert, 1005 4th Ave NW, Mandan ND 58554
A non-profit organization founded for the benefit
of the Johnson-Jacobson-Ostrem House

Rod Anderson

Excerpts from a September 19, 2014

Minot Daily News Article

By Andrea Johnson

More than 40 years after the school in Manfred closed its doors; a historical society is doing its best to make the historic building look as good as new. "We want to return it to its former glory," said Wanda Melchert, a member of the Rural Vestige Alliance that does fundraising for the school house, built in 1910.

Manfred, a little town located nine miles east of Harvey on U.S. Highway 52, is essentially a living museum. Seven buildings in the town are officially in the museum. Members of Manfred History & Preservation, Inc. are dedicated to preserving the history of the town and showing visitors what life in a prairie village in the early 20th century was like.

Melchert said much work has already been done on the school, thanks to grant funding. This year, the group received a matching grant from the State Historical Society of North Dakota which enabled the start of additional restoration, both interior and exterior. Private donations are also being sought to help complete the renovations. At one time, the school house had broken or boarded up windows and some window frames needed repair, making the building look abandoned and neglected. Now the window frames have been repaired and new window panes have been installed. "The school is looking so much better," she said.

Work has also been done recently on the building's interior. Wainscoting has been installed in both main-level classrooms. Eventually, the wainscoting will be stained to the original color and then refinished. In the west classroom, the original blackboards have been reinstalled as well as the troughs for the chalk and erasers. The same decorative molding originally used for the top of the baseboards is still available, which members of the group think is great. In the past, the roof on the building was replaced and the original portico was installed over the front entry. Some projects remain. Melchert said if enough grant funding and donations become available, the Rural Vestige Alliance hopes to replace the front steps, install a new front door that looks like the one that was originally placed on the building when it was built in 1910; finish repairing interior walls; paint the inside and outside of the building molding; and stain and refinish interior woodwork.

Tax deductible donations made to the Manfred School restoration project can be sent to Rural Vestige Alliance, in care of Audrey Solheim, treasurer, 1026-3rd St. No. 3, Bismarck, N.D. 58504.

In Memory

Doris Piercy

August 16, 1924 – May 10, 2014
Sister of Myrtle Mortonsen Rogness
who taught in Manfred for 26 years

Don A. Strauss

April 19, 1930 – June 11, 2014
Attended Manfred School,
the son of Joseph and Ida (Schnabel) Strauss

Ted Thorson

October 1, 1950 – June 26, 2014
Son of Ted and Margaret Anderson Thorson,
grandson of Perry and Lilly Anderson,
great grandson of P.B. and Anne Anderson

Douglas Oglesby

March 19, 1923 – August 22, 2014
Husband of Louella Boese Harrison,
daughter of Louis and Ella Boese,
granddaughter of Gustav and Augusta Boese

Florence Kluck Schmid

August 10, 1920 – September 5, 2014
Taught Grades 1-4 at Manfred School for
the school years 1941-1942 and 1942-1943

Anita Schindler

June 22, 1945 – September 28, 2014
Wife of Kenneth Schindler,
the son of Fred and Ruth Schindler

Nicholas John Heilman

March 13, 1930 – October 8, 2014
Husband of Lorna Aus, great grand niece
of Ole Nilson Roballe, an early Manfred settler

Genevieve Keson

July 31, 1915 – October 12, 2014
Born and raised near Manfred, daughter
of Alexander and Molly (Deede) Miller

Please let us know of loved ones who have passed

Manfred Newsletter

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions!
There are 24 new or renewing subscriptions
that have been received since the last issue!

The New Manfred News

A quarterly newsletter published by
Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.)
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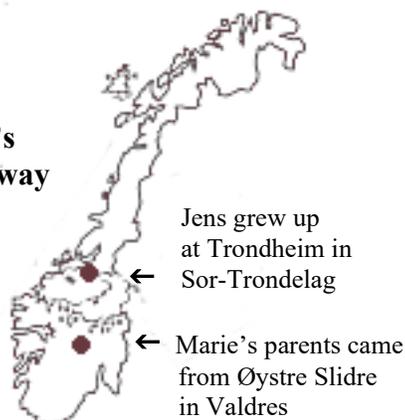
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Manfred Heritage Museum
Open May through September
www.manfrednd.org

The Jens and Marie Renden Family History

Jens and Marie's Heritage in Norway



Jens and Marie Renden

Jens

Jens Gustav Renden was born April 5, 1871 to Kornelius Jensen Rendenplass and Olava D. Bartnes at Stenkjaer, Trondheim in Sor-Trondelag, Norway. He was confirmed in the famous Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, and grew to manhood in Trondheim. He was educated and trained for the blacksmithing trade in the public schools there.

At the age of 22, Jens went to the USA by working his way across the ocean and up the St. Laurence Seaway to Sioux St. Marie as a ship's carpenter, then on to Elbow Lake where he had relatives. He established himself in his trade at Wendell, MN before moving to Manfred, ND. Jens lived for the remainder of his life in Manfred, except for a short time when he proved up his homestead land near Velva.

Jens was a member of Vang Lutheran Church in Manfred and of the Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge. He also served as township supervisor and school director for a number of years. He enjoyed snow skiing, horses, boating, actively participated in the community, was well-liked, and an avid reader. It was a memorable event in Jens' life when author Jack London stayed with Jens and his family in Manfred during one of Jack's walking tours.



Jens standing in the doorway of the shanty at his homestead land near Velva

Marie

Marie Sophie Renden was born October 6, 1887 near Twin Valley, Minnesota where she grew to adulthood. Her parents, Nils and Marit Hedahl had emigrated from Østre (now spelled Øystre) Slidre, Valdres, settling at Twin Valley, Minnesota. In 1898 when Marie was 10 years old, her mother Marit died. Then in 1900, Nils married a second time to Ingri K. Jorstad in Twin Valley, Minnesota.

During the summer of 1908, Marie worked in Watertown, South Dakota, and also studied cooking. She then took up a course in dressmaking in Ada, Minnesota, and became a seamstress and dressmaker of known skill - highly superior in her line of work.

In the year 1909, her father and stepmother moved to Mercer, North Dakota where he joined his son in the hardware store business. Instead of going to Mercer, Marie came to Fessenden, North Dakota following completion of her sewing course. Soon after, she went to Manfred* where she met Jens G. Renden whom she married on July 5, 1910 at Moorhead, Minnesota.

Jens and Marie Renden



Jens and Marie on the occasion of their wedding, July 5, 1910

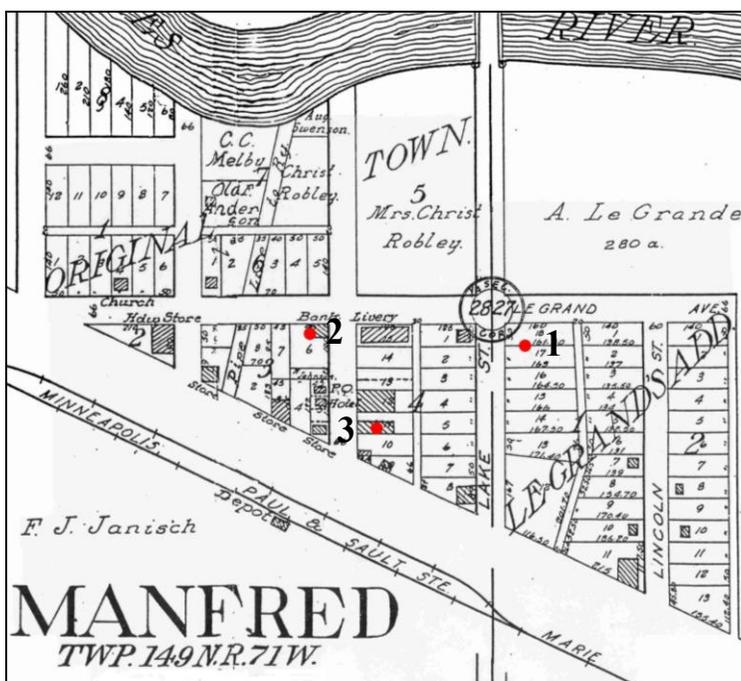
Wells County Free Press News Entry
July 8, 1910

A little love-god, Cupid, has been out with his bow, making one of our substantial bachelors his victim. J.G. Renden has had to forswear his loneliness. He went to Moorhead on the 5th of July and there united in holy wedlock to Marie Hedahl, Rev. Pederson performing the ceremony. Mr. Renden is an old timer in Manfred and is highly respected by all who know him. The bride, Miss Hedahl is a very estimable young lady who is in possession of all those qualities to make an ideal helpmate through life.



The Jens and Marie Renden Home
Photo taken in 1941

Locations of the Renden Home and Blacksmith Business in Manfred



←
Plat map of Manfred

1
Jens and Marie Renden's Home

Block 1, Lots 17 and 18
In 1913, Jens and Marie purchased this home - built by Andrew Erickson, manager of the Woodworth Elevator.

2
Jens' First Blacksmith Shop

Block 3, North part of Lot 6
In 1902, Jens began his blacksmith business at this location in Manfred, remaining there until 1905.

3
Jens' Second Blacksmith Shop

Block 4, Lot 11 (Later added Lots 9 & 10)
In 1905, Jens set up his business in this second location, continuing there until he retired in 1943.

Jens and Marie Renden



→ Marie at her front gate—behind her can be seen the Ostrem House, bank/PO, and steeple of the church

Jens and Marie's Silver Wedding Anniversary

Excerpt from a July 25, 1935 news article

“Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Renden of Manfred celebrated their anniversary on July 7. The church parlors were used for the day’s program. S.H. Ongstad served as master of ceremonies and a very suitable program was given in their honor. Lunch was served and presents showered on the couple including a generous purse offering.”

Jens' Passing

Jens died on February 7, 1945 at their home in Manfred. Services were conducted by Rev. Langseth at Vang Lutheran Church on Saturday, February 10, 1945. The pallbearers were O.H. Rudi, R. Reistad, Halvor Olsen, Ole Onstad, Perry Anderson, Even Ostrem.

Marie

After Jens died, Marie remained living in Manfred and occasionally lived with her daughter near Mohall. She continued participating at Vang Lutheran Church and Vang Ladies Aid. The family remembers what a great cook Marie was, and that she knitted mittens for everyone. During World War II, Marie and others would knit upstairs in the school. Marie lived in Manfred from 1910 to 1958, a period of 48 years. After becoming ill in July 1959, Marie resided with her daughter Marian in Bismarck.

Marie's Passing

Marie was hospitalized from the fall of 1961 and died February 23, 1962 in Bismarck at the age of 74. Rev. A.B. Solberg officiated at the funeral services in Vang Church at Manfred.

← Keepsake in remembrance of Jens G. Renden and Marie S. Hedahl

Jens and Marie's daughter Dolores created this remarkable keepsake piece for each of her siblings, depicting important aspects of their parent's lives.

Top center

A sketch of the new country, the USA, overlaid with a sketch of Norway the country of their ancestors.

Middle center

The flag of the USA on the right and the flag of Norway on the left.

Bottom center

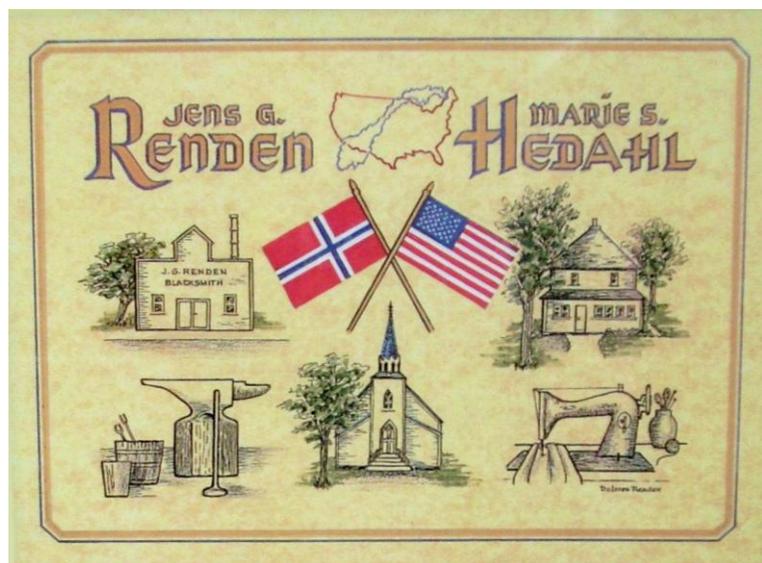
Jens and Marie were faithful members of Vang Lutheran Church of Manfred.

Left side

Jen Renden's (J.G.) Blacksmith & Wagon Shop with some of the tools of his trade.

Right side

The Renden Home where Jens and Marie raised their family and hosted friends and family, and a sewing machine where Marie created clothing for her family.



Acknowledgements for the Renden Family History

Margaret (Peggy) Sprague, The Wells County Free Press,
The Forum, Sennev Whipple, Tim Cook, Judy Duerre,
Carol Wirkkunen, Diane Hevener.
Audrey Solheim-historian, Wanda Melchert-editor.

The Blacksmith Shop of Jens Renden

When Jens Renden arrived in Manfred in 1902, he purchased Gullik Dahle's Blacksmith Shop on the west side of Main Street. In 1905, Jens sold that property to T.L. Beiseker, who built a bank there that same year. The blacksmith building was moved to the Ole Onstad farm. Jens relocated his blacksmith business to the east side of Main Street, very near Olaf Tansem's Blacksmith Shop. Olaf Tansem and his wife had filed on a homestead near Balfour, ND and were busy proving it up. So in November 1905, Olaf rented his blacksmith shop to Jacob Klev who had been Olaf's right hand man. After having decided to settle permanently at Balfour, Olaf sold his farm south of Manfred in 1906 and sold his blacksmith business to Jens Renden in 1907. Jens operated his blacksmith shop until 1943 when he retired. The building was moved later to a farm south of Harvey. Jens was widely known as the best blacksmith in the region.

Wells County Free Press News Entries

December 13, 1907

We are informed that J.G. Renden and Olaf Tansem are principals in a deal of some local importance. Mr. Renden has purchased from the latter his blacksmith shop, together with most of the tools, fixtures, stock, and the lot on which the building stands. Jens expects to tear down the building and use the material in remodeling and enlarging his shop.

January 24, 1908

A crew of men have been at work this week excavating under Mr. Renden's blacksmith shop. J. G. intends to build a basement for his gasoline engine and will rig up his shop with modern appliances which will do away with considerable of the heavy manual labor that he has heretofore contended with.

January 31, 1908

Renden is making some decided improvements on his shop and despite the bitterly cold weather of this week his crew of carpenters are hustling the work along. The new shop will be 26 x 50 and two feet higher than the former one and the roof will have a cupola the full length. This will give him ample room for his machinery and forges and when completed will be one of the most up to date shops in the county.

March 27, 1908

Our skillful blacksmith, J. G. Renden (may he always stay single) has just completed the renovation of his blacksmith shop and it is a beaut. He has the gasoline engine in working order and pulleys and wheels innumerable to mention are turning, bellows are blowing, and hammers dancing in a confusing roar. Nels Overrein and Jacob Klev are his helpers and the way drill shoes and other dull things are made sharp, proves that they are real sharpers at the blacksmith trade.

1905 August 17, 1916

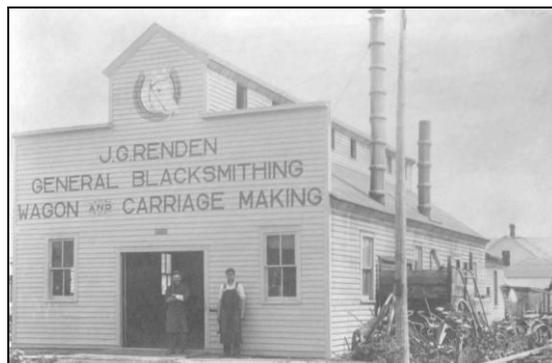
Jens Renden is having his shop retouched by a Manfred painter and decorator, which adds greatly to the appearance.

August 21, 1924

Mr. Renden, our congenial blacksmith, is wiring his shop for electric lights, this week, taking the current from the light plant located at Hansons and Halversons store.

Jens Renden's
Blacksmith
Shop -

A destination for
many people
seeking help with
repair needs



←
A view of Jens' Blacksmith Shop with the front having been tastefully decorated

Blacksmith and Wagon Shop

General Blacksmithing
and Wood Work in
all its branches.

Repairing and Horseshoeing a
Specialty.

All work guaranteed
to give satisfaction.

My Motto Good work
advertises itself.

J. G. Renden

Proprietor. Manfred, Mo. Dak.

An advertisement from
the Wells County Free Press



Marie pictured in a portion of the blacksmith shop, where Jens and Marie lived during the first years of their marriage

Peggy Sprague's Memories of Her Father's Career

Every now and then, when Peggy Sprague gets a whiff of a freshly made donut, she gets a picture in her mind. She sees a man bent over an anvil and pounding it with a hammer.



Peggy Renden Sprague

Clang! Clang! Clang! She can almost hear the cadence of the tool as it pounds down on the metal. Clang! Clang! Clang! She can faintly see the outline of the man in the darkness of the building. He wipes his brow with the back of his gloved hand, nods and smiles.

He is bathed in the sweat, dirt and soot of a hard day's work and happy to see Peggy bearing one of his favorite afternoon treats: hot coffee and a pail of donuts. But as suddenly as it arrives, the picture fades and Peggy realizes it is only a memory – a memory of her father some 70 years ago.

Jens G. Renden was born in Norway in 1871. He came to America in 1890, homesteaded in Ward County in 1901, and then purchased his own blacksmith shop in Manfred ND.

"Manfred was quite a town in its day," Peggy says of the tiny Wells County community. Peggy remembers when there was a barber shop, a pool hall, a garage, a bank, a grocery store, two hardware stores, and five grain elevators. That's in addition to her dad's blacksmith shop, which she says was always hot.

"There were two forges in the front of the building with an office and a turning lathe in the back. He'd always let me hold something in the forge to get it hot," Peggy says. "I really thought I was pretty smart when he did that!"

Much of Jens' work centered on fashioning horseshoes and wagon wheels out of molten metal. But Peggy remembers he also was a talented woodworker and craftsman.

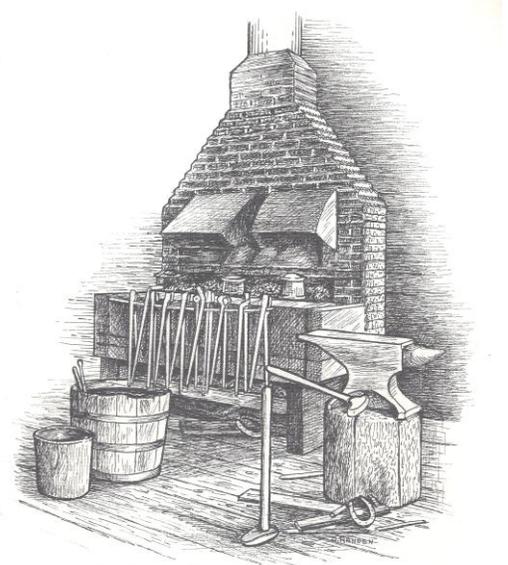
"He made bedroom sets for a couple of my sisters, an oak living room table for another sister, and since I was the baby, I got doll furniture," she says, pointing to the miniature cabinet on the end table in her room at Good Samaritan Society – Mohall. "It is a treasured keepsake complete with a tiny flour bin and drawers that open and close."

Peggy's father thrived on being busy. When he wasn't hammering away at something in the blacksmith shop, he was making carriages or woodworking in his basement, attending a Sons of Norway meeting or serving on the Vang Lutheran Church board.

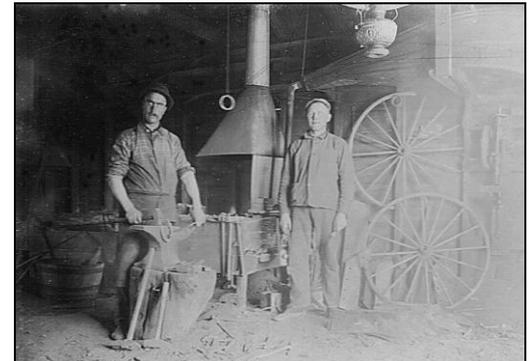
Jens was a hard worker and dedicated to doing a good job. Peggy remembers the family's supper hour being interrupted on many occasions as friends and neighbors would drop in needing emergency repairs.

With the coming of the automobile, the need for a blacksmith declined. Jens died in 1945. But every now and then, Peggy Sprague gets a chance to share a donut with her dad, if not in person then in her heart.

Written for the December 2010 "Mohall Messenger" by Debbie Aasen, a former Volunteer Coordinator at Good Samaritan Society - Mohall



In Jen's Blacksmith's Shop
Sketch by Dolores Renden



Jens, at left, with one of his helpers



Jens, at right, with two of his helpers

Some of the Workers Employed by Jens Renden Over the Years

Reinhold Fiebick
Hans Gronseth
Jacob Klev
Hans Lieberg
Nels Overrein
Zuerre Rustad

The Children of Jens and Marie Renden

Seven children were born to Jens and Marie, and they also raised a nephew as their own son.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Marian Olivia Renden | b. May 31, 1911 |
| 2. Charles Norman Renden | b. August 2, 1913 |
| 3. Norma Charlotte Renden | b. October 12, 1914 |
| 4. Dolores Harriet Renden | b. November 12, 1917 |
| 5. Johanna Marie Renden | b. July 9, 1920 |
| 6. Ingrid "Dolly" Olene Renden | b. July 9, 1920 |
| 7. Margaret Ellanora Renden | b. February 7, 1930 |
| 8. Wilbur "Pete" Earl Peterson | b. March 5, 1926 |

Marian and Norma →

↓ Marie with daughters
Marian and Norma



← L/R
Back
Marie holding Margaret (Peggy), Marian, Norma
Front
Pete, Jens, Dolores, Dolly

Back L/R →
Norma, Marian, Dolores, Dolly

Middle
Jens, Marie holding Judy, daughter of Norma

Front
Pete, Peggy



←
Renden children
and some of their
family



Back: Pete, Ross, Court, Marian
Middle: Judy, Mary, Norma, Dolly, Peggy, Dolores, Marie holding Janet
Front: Tim, John, Carol



Marie at center surrounded by her daughters
L/R: Norma, Peggy, Marian, Dolores, and Dolly

1. Marian

Marian Olivia Renden was born May 31, 1911 in Manfred where she obtained her primary education and was confirmed at Vang Lutheran Church. She attended Fessenden High School, attaining Valedictorian of the class of 1928. She attended Fargo Business College in 1929, after which she worked for Central States Power and Light Company in Harvey for three years before moving to Bismarck to work for Charles Robertson in Robertson’s Dress Shop. She was engaged to be married to Victor Price, who died from Hodgkin’s Lymphoma in 1935.

In 1940, Mr. Robertson was elected to Congress and Marian was appointed general manager of Robertson’s. Later, she became a partner in the business and operated it until selling it to the Stevenson Company in 1965. As a business woman in the 1940s and 1950s, she traveled extensively and made frequent buying trips to the garment district in New York, where she often served as her own agent.

In 1969, Marian moved to Mohall to care for her sister, Norma, who died of cancer in 1970. She married Ross Cook on December 13, 1971. The couple spent many winters in Arizona and summers in Mohall. Ross died on May 18, 1988.

Marian was an avid reader and enjoyed needlework, gardening, and bird watching, and was a member of the Mohall Study Club. In later years, her cocker spaniel, Sammie, was a constant companion. Marian entered the North Central Good Samaritan Nursing Center in Mohall on May 17, 1996, residing there until her passing on March 28, 1999. Her nickname among the family was “Mia”, and by others she was known as “Mimi”.



Marian looking so stylish!



Marian

Marian in the Robertson’s Store in Bismarck, about the time Mrs. Robertson and she won a trip to the fashion shows in Paris

← Marian at the time of her graduation from high school



← L/R: Marian, with her sisters Dolores and Peggy and their mother Marie

→ Ross and Marian Cook about the time of their wedding



2. Charles

Charles Norman Renden was born on August 2, 1913 in Manfred, and died August 2, 1913 at Valley City, as noted in the Vang Lutheran Church records.

3. Norma

Norma Charlotte Renden was born October 12, 1914 in Manfred, attending primary school there and graduated from Fessenden High School in 1931 as Valedictorian. She attended North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo, after which she worked in Fessenden at the Wells County Agent's Office. She was then employed for three years in the engineering offices of the WPA at the North Dakota State Capital building in Bismarck.

On December 27, 1937, Norma married Ross Augustus Cook at her parent's home in Manfred with the ceremony being officiated by Rev. J. M. Langseth. Norma wore her mother's wedding dress, and carried a hand-embroidered silk handkerchief that had also been carried by her mother at her wedding.

Ross, born on December 10, 1906, hailed from Scranton ND. He was a graduate of the A. C. in Fargo, and at the time of their marriage was serving as County Agent of Renville County, with headquarters at Mohall, where Norma and Ross made their home. In 1941, they moved to Cando where he was the county agent of Towner County. In 1943, he became the county agent of Stark County with headquarters at Dickinson.

In 1945, they moved back to Mohall where they bought a farm. They were in partnership in a business named "Cook and Keup Turkey Farm". In addition, they were grain farmers and also had some cattle. After retiring, Ross and Norma moved to Mohall where Norma was a member of the Ladies Aid of Zion Lutheran Church and the Mohall Study Club. Norma died August 20, 1970 in Mohall.

Three children were born to Norma and Ross:

- 1 Judith married Daniel Duerre and they had two children: 1Sonja married Mark Stromswold, and 2Nathan.
- 2 Timothy married Lois Simmons and they had a daughter Marian.
- 3 John married Nancy Schroeder and they had a daughter Courtney. John then married Candice Chase Archer. Candice had a daughter Brooke who married Papis Badjie and they have three children: Isatou, Gannon, Nahla. John and Candice adopted Blaine Gnanam Cook.



Norma on the left, with her sister Marian



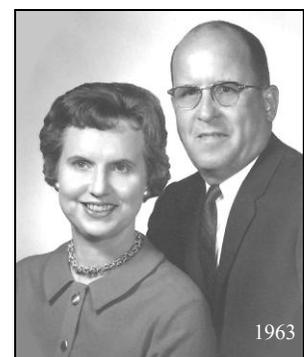
Norma upon graduation from high school in 1931



Norma and Ross about the time of their marriage



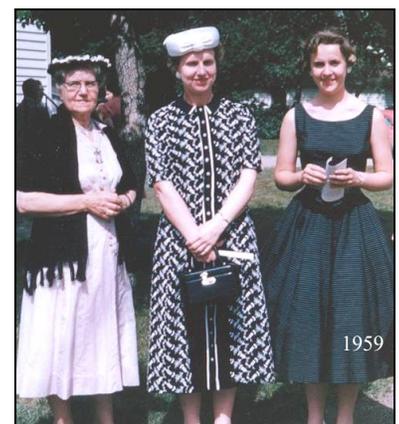
Norma and Ross and their children Judy, John on lap, and Tim in front



Norma and Ross on their 25th Wedding Anniversary



Norma and Ross Renden's children Judy, John, and Tim



Three generations posing at Vang Church - Marie, Norma, and Judy

4. Dolores

Dolores Harriet Renden was born November 12, 1917 in Manfred. She attended Manfred School, was confirmed in Vang Lutheran Church, and spent a memorable childhood in the town of Manfred. She had an accident when she was young and afterwards had a limp. She attended Fessenden High School and was Valedictorian of the class of 1935. During the Depression, she worked as a store clerk in Manfred.

Early in life her talent as an artist was recognized, and she obtained formal art training from the Art Institute of Minneapolis. After World War II, she was employed by the Hallmark Company in Kansas City as a commercial artist for six years. After she broke a hip, she returned to North Dakota. In the 1950s, she was employed as a commercial artist by the Conrad Publishing Company in Bismarck, and also worked at the Lucas Department Store in Bismarck. She later worked for Dakota Photo Engraving in Fargo until her retirement.

Dolores spent many hours drawing and painting. She often entered her work in local art shows. Among her best works were local country landscapes, still life, and portraits of friends, family, and colleagues. One of her memorable projects was to embellish a harpsichord with paintings.

She enjoyed playing the piano and organ and was the organist for the church in Manfred for a period of time. She also taught Sunday School and served as Superintendent of the Sunday School. In Fargo, she was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and sang in the choir.

Dolores was fondly known as Auntie Do to her nieces and nephews. Carol Wirkkunen recalls, "Dolores made paper dolls for my sister and me. We would go through magazines - usually McCall's - and find clothes we thought were pretty. Dolores would sketch and watercolor a paper doll dressed in a swim suit, then would draw and paint additional outfits. Those were high class paper dolls!" Diane Hevener recalls, "Dolores was my Godmother so she was always very special to me. She painted me a set of paper dolls when I was about 5. My mom never let me play with them. Every once in awhile she would take them out for us to look at. About a year before Dolores died, I took them -still in perfect condition- and had them framed. I cherish them so much now after she is gone."

Dolores died at age 85 on Friday, January 31, 2003 at Bethany Homes in Fargo. The funeral service was held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Fargo with burial at Vang Lutheran Cemetery at Manfred.

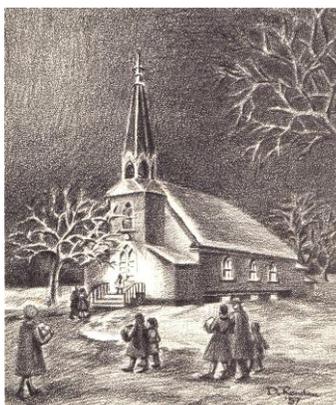


Dolores

↑ Dolores painting outdoors at the Cook Cabin of her sister Norma's family at Lake Metigoshe. Norma's two sons John and Tim were sitting on the dock wrapped in towels.



A memorable project for Dolores was embellishing a harpsichord with her art



Christmas Eve at Vang
Dolores Renden



←↑ The Vang Church image at left was made into boxed note cards which many parishioners enjoyed using. The church painting above has recently been given to Vang Church.

↓ A collection of sketches created by Dolores, two of which are shown enlarged



Dolores about 1985



5. Johanna

Johanna Marie Renden was born July 9, 1920 in Manfred and died October 22, 1920 in Manfred.



→ Marie with the twins Johanna and Dolly

6. Ingrid “Dolly” Olene

Ingrid “Dolly” Olene Renden was born on July 9, 1920 in Manfred. She was known as “Dolly” from when she was so tiny at birth, that she could fit into a shoebox. She had a twin sister, Johanna, who sadly died while yet an infant. Dolly attended Manfred School and was confirmed at Vang Lutheran Church. She graduated from Fessenden High School as Valedictorian in 1937, and attended business school in Bismarck. She then went to work for Universal Motors in Bismarck.



Dolly in c1944

Dolly married Court F. Marty on August 16, 1947 at the farm home of her sister Norma and brother-in-law Ross Cook. Court had obtained a job at Spirit Lake, Iowa where Dolly and Court’s first home was located. Later, they moved back to Bismarck where Court worked for Lever Brothers and then he began working for General Motors, first in Bismarck, Rugby, a second time in Bismarck, Huron, and then to Moorhead in 1960.



Dolly and Court Marty in c1991

While living in Moorhead, Dolly worked as a bookkeeper for the Minnesota Migrant Health Services until her retirement. She was very involved with many activities and groups at First Presbyterian Church in Moorhead. She enjoyed baking, sewing, and gardening. She was usually found either in the kitchen or sitting at the sewing machine. Dolly was known as a fantastic cook.

Court died on July 17, 2000. Ingrid “Dolly” O. Marty died August 1, 2006 in Fargo. Her memorial service was held on August 4, 2006 in First Presbyterian Church, Moorhead, MN.

Born to Dolly and Court were five children: **1** Carol married Roger Wirkkunen, **2** Janet who died October 18, 2004, **3** Alan married Marilee Merdink and they had three children: **1** Ben, **2** Peter, and **3** Emily, **4** Gary, and **5** Charles “Chuck”.



↑ Dolly and Court on their wedding day, August 16, 1947, at the Cook farm near Mohall, ND



The Court and Dolly Marty Family

←
L/R:
Back:
Chuck, Alan, Gary
Front:
Court, Dolly, Carol, Janet

c1984

7. Margaret “Peggy”

Margaret “Peggy” Ellanora Renden was born February 7, 1930 and raised in Manfred. At 14 years of age and in the 8th grade, she became ill being diagnosed with toxic goiter and hospitalized for five weeks. After this, she had twelve periodic treatments, one of them being radio isotope. The recovery was slow resulting in Peggy missing five months of school. The next year, she repeated the 8th grade, still feeling weak. The following year, she started 9th grade in Fessenden, but found that it was too much for her. Her doctor recommended that she take just two classes. One of the classes she chose was home economics. Her high school days ended after that year. Peggy gradually regained her strength and later moved to Bismarck. She stayed with her sister Marian, and began working as a cashier in the Robertson’s Store.

Peggy met her future husband, Paul Sprague, through a friend who was writing to a service man. Peggy asked if that service man knew of someone she could write to. Peggy and Paul began to correspond and eventually met when he came to visit her in Manfred. They were out of touch for some while but then reconnected, after which Peggy was totally surprised to receive a ring by mail in 1960. Peggy and Paul planned to be married at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck. However, when Peggy’s mother became ill, they decided to have a small wedding October 21, 1961 at the home of her sister Marian.

Paul L. Sprague was born March 28, 1928 at St. Albans, Franklin, VT. Following their wedding, Peggy and Paul traveled to Vermont by train where Paul was employed at White River Junction, VT. They lived in apartments at first, and joined a Methodist Church where Peggy sang in the choir as a soprano and eventually began singing solos. Peggy worked at a dry goods store for a time, and then worked in a school cafeteria for 24 years.

Two sons were born to Peggy and Paul: **1** William “Bill” and **2** Peter. Paul died October 24, 1991, and son Peter died July 19, 2006. Peggy remained in Vermont for some years, and later moved to Mohall at the encouragement of her niece Judy Duerre who also lives at Mohall. Peggy is enjoying her apartment in the Good Samaritan Home in Mohall.



Peggy



Peggy and Paul Sprague were united in married on October 21, 1961



Peggy and her mother Marie



L/R: Norma, Dolores, Peggy, Marian, and Dolly on the Peggy’s wedding day



Peggy and Paul with their sons Peter and Bill



Peggy with her sons Peter and Bill

8. Wilbur “Pete”

On March 5, 1926, Marie’s sister, Mrs. William Peterson (Ella Hedahl) of Mercer gave birth to a baby boy born two months premature, given the name Wilbur “Pete” Earl Peterson. Sadly, Ella died the next day, on March 6, 1926. William was left with two children, Ervin and Margery, and new baby Pete. William was at a loss to care for the baby, so a neighbor of the Petersons took on nursing Pete. When Pete was a month old, Marie came to visit and found that Pete was not doing very well. Since William felt he was unable to care for a baby, he gave Pete to Marie to care for. Marie took her sister’s son into her heart and home and brought him up giving him the same mother’s love and attention she did her own children. Thus, Jens and Marie raised Pete as their own son. To Pete, Jens and Marie were his dad and mom, and for them he was their son. Likewise, Marian, Norma, Dolores, Dolly, and Peggy were his sisters; and for them he was their brother. Pete was also known as Kiki.

Pete grew up at Manfred, attending Manfred School and was confirmed at Vang Lutheran Church. His birth father, William, and his two siblings visited the Renden home often during Pete’s growing up years, enjoying time together. In November 1943, Pete enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserve, graduating from Fessenden High School on June 4, 1944. He was called to active duty in July of 1944, serving as a gunner on a B-29 Bomber crew during World War II. He was discharged on June 27, 1946.

In the fall of 1946, Pete entered the North Dakota Agricultural College in Fargo. Then on September 11, 1948, he was united in marriage to Mary Louise Smith. He graduated from NDAC in June of 1950 and that fall entered the University of Kansas, graduating with a Master of Education degree in 1952. He did additional graduate work at University of Kansas and Teachers College of Columbia University.

Pete began teaching in Horton, Kansas in 1952, becoming a high school principal in 1955 at Lecompton and Fairview, Kansas, and then superintendent in 1959 in Wellsville, Kansas, 1963 in Syracuse, Kansas and 1981 in Belle Plaine, Kansas, for a total of 42 years in the field of education.

Through the years, Pete was a member of the American Association of School Administrators, a member of service clubs at various places, and a Mason. In 1973, the Hamilton County Jaycees in Syracuse, Kansas, named him the “Boss of the Year”. Pete enjoyed playing golf, reading, and traveling. He was a member of the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Blue Springs, Missouri, being active and serving as an elder several times. He enjoyed watching his favorite teams, the Kansas Jayhawks, the Kansas City Royals, and the Kansas City Chiefs. During the late 1990s through email conversations among Pete and a few others, he was instrumental in helping to encourage the beginnings of the Manfred history projects. Pete died August 6, 2010 in Olathe, Kansas at age 84. Mary died April 30, 2011.

Five children were born to Pete and Mary:

- 1 Mark married Dawn Hedges and they had two children: 1Ted, and 2Ellen married Dan Kliethermes and they have three children Riley, Addison, and Parker. Mark then married Dianne Schultz and they had a son 3Treyton. Mark later married Becky Walters.
- 2 David married Dawn Valles and they have two children 1Nicholas married Susan Melgren, and 2Waverly.
- 3 John married Mary Farber and they had two children 1Michael married Shelley McCubbin and they have a son Leo, and 2Julie married Max Phillips. John later married Melanie Young.
- 4 Paul married Laura Lonborg and they have three children: 1Emma, 2Elise, and 3Erica.
- 5 Diane married Tom Hevener.



←
Pete about
8 years old



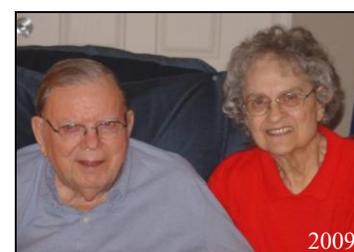
→
Pete while
serving
in the military
during WWII



Pete and Mary Peterson



Pete and Mary Peterson with their children
Paul, Diane, John, Mark, David



←
Pete and
Mary