

The New
MANFRED NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 4

November 2017

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

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Tabs of special interest: Biography, Business, Newsletter

Dedication of Outdoor Interpretive Panels in Manfred on August 5, 2017



Participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony L/R: Claudia Berg-State Historical Society of North Dakota Preservation Officer, Laverne Johnson-Assessment Grant Team Member, Audrey Solheim-Assessment Grant Team Member, Carol Beck-Wells County Historical Society President, Aaron Novodvorsky-Museum Consultant, Colette Hertz-Harvey Area Chamber of Commerce Chairperson, Dale Schmitz-Manfred Township Board Chairperson, and Wanda Melchert and Pam Norstedt-Assessment Grant Team Members

The New Manfred News

A periodical published by Manfred History and Preservation, Inc.
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Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. Board of Directors

Audrey Solheim-President, Pam Norstedt-Vice President;
Judy Weigelt-Secretary; Richard Melchert-Treasurer; Peter Anderson,
Rose Anderson, Verna Bowers, and Lewis Weigelt
Wanda Melchert-Museum Director

THANK YOU for patiently waiting for this newsletter, which in this issue we are pleased to feature the Le Grand Family History! 2017 has been a remarkable a year for MHP, Inc. with the development of outdoor interpretive panels, completion of the North Dakota Museum Assessment Program with a long-range Master Plan, assisting the State Historical Society of North Dakota with a National Register application, and making great progress on several restoration projects!

North Dakota Museum Assessment Program

During 2015 to 2017, Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) has had the honor to participate in a North Dakota Museum Assessment Program (NDMAP) grant through the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) for the benefit of MHP, Inc. and the Manfred Heritage Museum. Team members: Wanda Melchert, Pam Norstedt, and Audrey Solheim with Laverne Johnson as editor/advisor.

The first assignment for the assessment team was to work through a self-study of our non-profit organization, MHP, Inc. The team then chose Aaron Novodvorsky from Minneapolis as museum consultant. Aaron reviewed the self-study and then conducted a workshop with the team. He also visited Manfred for an on-site review of the Manfred Heritage Museum complex.

Aaron wrote an evaluation which was studied by the assessment team for their input. With Aaron leading a collaborative effort, a Master Plan has been developed. This Master Plan will serve as a helpful tool for Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. in the years to come. Implementation of the Master Plan includes long-range planning, volunteer recruitment, partnership development, outreach activities, and guiding the museum to serve as an educational resource.

Amy Munson, SHSND Grant Administrator gave approval for the panel project. Mann Signs of Bismarck provided graphic design assistance, fabrication of the posts and panels, and installation on June 14th.

Dedication of the panels on August 5, 2017 was an enjoyable event with beautiful weather. Perry Anderson provided the sound system. Refreshments were served by Fagerlund Sons of Norway and Vang Ladies Aid.

Project portion of the NDMAP Grant

Exciting new Outdoor Interpretive Panels!

Twelve interpretive panels are at six locations around Manfred in sets of two, mounted on either side of a common post. Each panel features a different portion of the village with information, maps, and photos. Panel 1, pictured at right, is an overview of Manfred entitled “Historic Manfred – Then and Now.” See panel topics below:



I	Panel 1 Panel 2	Historic Manfred-Then and Now Le Grand’s Addition
II	Panel 3 Panel 4	Manfred Lake on the James River Lake Avenue Neighborhood
III	Panel 5 Panel 6	East Side of Main Avenue Soo Line Railroad at Manfred
IV	Panel 7 Panel 8	North Side of Elevator Street The Elevators of Manfred
V	Panel 9 Panel 10	West Side of Main Avenue Central Office and Neighborhood
VI	Panel 11 Panel 12	School and Neighborhood Church and Neighborhood

Program on August 5, 2017 to celebrate dedication of the Outdoor Interpretive Panels

Introduction The THEN and the NOW – a skit given by Wanda Melchert, Marlene Ripplinger, and Laura Anderson Muscha

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Wanda Melchert, Manfred Heritage Museum Director

Speakers

Claudia Berg, North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer
 Aaron Novodvorsky, Museum consultant for the NDMAP grant
 Dale Schmitz, Manfred Township Board Chairperson
 Carol Beck, Wells County Historical Society President
 Colette Hertz, Chair of Harvey Area Chamber of Commerce
 Ann Adams, Chamber Director and Mayor of Harvey

Humorous “Commercial Break” Wanda Melchert and Shirley Teske

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Closing Remarks

Audrey Solheim, MHP, Inc. Chairperson and Historian

Special Music “Manfred’s Song” by Laverne Johnson

Group Song “America the Beautiful”

Restoration Update for Some of the Historic Buildings in Manfred

Solheim Station

The three top facial roofs were stabilized and rebuilt by contractor Charles Bolin. One decorative scroll was restored and one built new by Clyde Moldenhauer. Painting of station by Wanda Melchert.



Solheim Station

Repaired and painted in 2016

Outdoor Interpretive Panel set 1 and 2 pictured at far right

Solheim House

A chimney was roofed over to protect from moisture damage by contractor Charles Bolin, as well as removing the decorative trim in the roof peaks for further restoration. A small dilapidated out building was taken down by Richard Melchert, Jamie Schindler, and Wesley Gross.

Hotel Johnson

Repaired and painted in 2017



Hotel Johnson

The top front roofing was re-stabilized by contractor Charles Bolin. Painting of hotel by Wanda Melchert and Jamie Schindler.

Cash Store

Through the encouragement of museum consultant, Aaron Novodvorsky, the north side of the Cash Store was totally renovated by contractor Greg Seidel this year. Because of rotting sub-walling, the pressed tin panels were falling off. The panels were removed, new sub-walling installed, and panels reattached. In addition, the pressed tin panels on the south and east sides of the building have all been secured.



Cash Store

Clockwise: new plywood base on north side, vapor barrier rolled on and tin reattached, Cash Store with tin in place and secure



Repainting the "Cash Store" wording on north side planned as a future project

Vang Lutheran Church

The basement parlor had been re-walled several years ago protecting the vulnerable stone-rubble foundation walls. In 2017, this project was completed with walling installed in the furnace room, back stairway, and a small section in the front stairway. Painting by Verna Bowers, and other help by Wanda Melchert.



Manfred School

Restoration is taking place both outside and inside. The main level classrooms are now painted and woodwork restoration is in process by Greg Seidel and volunteers. The crumbling chimney and remnant of the bell tower have been roofed over to protect from moisture damage and restoration of the east dormer by Charles Bolin. Help in securing second story windows was provided by Harry Detling, Jamie Schindler, and Richard and Wanda Melchert.

Main level classrooms have been painted. Woodwork project in process



East dormer port window and decorative cut wood shingles were installed this fall. Painting and staining has been started.

Manfred News

Letter of Appreciation

Greetings Manfred!

August 15, 2017

I just returned from Manfred, a trip that has been on my bucket list for so many years! My great grandmother, Martha Torkelsdatter Erfjord, emigrated from Norway in 1895 settling at Manfred. Coming with her at that time were her two youngest children, Martha E fjord Nelson, and David Nelson (my grandfather). Other children had previously immigrated to the Manfred area: Clarence Nelson, Thomine Erfjord Natland, and Svend S. Erfjord. They married and settled in Manfred, farming and raising their families just north of the town.

What a treat to visit the town and find it so well taken care of and its history kept alive! As an avid historian and genealogist, experiencing Manfred was more than I could have hoped for! It has been wonderful to share photos of the museum, the church, the school, the gas station, the cemeteries, and the new interpretive panels with my relatives.

I greatly appreciate all the time, energy, and heart the Manfred History and Preservation group has put into keeping the history of Manfred alive for us to visit so many years later. My family lived there 100 years ago! I felt like I was walking among them and experiencing firsthand their beginnings in America.

My heartfelt thanks to Audrey Solheim for meeting me and for all the information and background research you provided me. Thanks, too, to Wanda Melchert, for showing me the treasures at the Museum and directing me to the town landmarks and the cemeteries.

It was so exciting to walk on the land homesteaded by my pioneer ancestors. My ancestors are part of the great Scandinavian immigration story that came alive for me during my visit. I hope it's not a problem that I took home rocks from the farms! Maybe the most exciting find was discovering the grave of my great grandmother, Martha Erfjord.

I am so in awe of my immigrant ancestors, and especially Martha, who came over as a widow. She is buried in Bethel Cemetery with the Natland family. Svend and his wife, Sofie Natland Erfjord, were there, too. All three had unmarked graves (not for long), and thanks to Audrey, my family now knows of their resting place. What a special discovery! (Monument company information was provided to Elizabeth, and the grave markers have now been installed!)

My hat is off to you for maintaining the site of Manfred and all its historic buildings. What a treasure! My visit was an once-in-a-lifetime experience, thanks to your work in keeping the history alive for us! The interpretive panels are a wonderful addition that will continue the experience for many more visitors. Keep up the good work!

*Elizabeth Nelson
Lacey, Washington*

The Manfred staff greatly enjoyed meeting Elizabeth and assisting her – and likewise, with others in their adventure of experiencing the places where their ancestors once walked.

Job Opportunities in Manfred for 2018

Student Position

We would be delighted to have a student join us for the 2018 season in a contracted position. The student would focus on Collections – to do an inventory of the current Collections and to accession new artifacts and archival items to become part of the Collections of the Manfred Heritage Museum, and to assist with activities and visitors. This position would be ideal for a college or graduate school student.

Outreach Coordinator Position

Also for the 2018 season, we would be pleased to contract with an individual to serve as an Outreach Coordinator. This person would work with the Museum Director in planning and coordinating activities, grant writing, help with outreach in the Wells County region, and assist with visitors and tours in Manfred. This position would be ideal for a person who has the summer free or for someone who is retired and would enjoy this interesting opportunity.

Please make inquiry to
Wanda Melchert
wrmelchert@gmail.com
701-870-4627

Your Family History

We would be pleased to work with you in compiling your history for a future Manfred Newsletter. Please contact Audrey Solheim
asolheim@bis.midco.net

Thank you for your support of MHP, Inc. enabling the celebration of rural America through Historic Manfred!!

MHP, Inc. General Fund

Ronald Albrecht
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Lila Anderson IM of Leonard Wiesz
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of Fred Schmidt
Dean and Alicia Vorland
Clifford and Betty Wahl
Margaret Walz
Lewis and Judy Weigelt
Duane and Cecilia Weinmann
Becky Wilcox

MHP, Inc. Designated Donations

Johnson-Ostrem House
Rod Anderson
Anderson House/Hotel Johnson/Cash Store
Wayne Everett
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Richard and Denelle Smith
Manfred School/Solheim House
Kevin Boese in memory of Wesley Boese
Family of Muriel Boyum
Jean Narksompong
Audrey Solheim in memory of Helmer
and Annie Solheim
Jacqueline A. Thuma in memory
of Adele Hanson

MHP, Inc. Everlasting Fund

An invested fund providing for the future

Gerry and Karen Beutler and Otto Rodne
in memory of Olive Rodne
Marvin and June Bieber
John and Margaret Bollingberg
Family of Muriel Boyum
Leo and Crystal Detling
William Detling
Wayne Everett
Laverne Johnson and Gwyn Herman
David and Carol Langseth
Richard and Wanda Melchert for friends
of Manfred who died during the past year
Erling and Ruth Olson in memory
of Muriel M. Boyum
Aaron and Carrie Opdahl
Family of Marlys Piatz
Darlene Quenette
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz
Floyd and Barbara Simmons
Irene Skogmo
Audrey Solheim in memory
of Wesley Boese, Olive Rodne,
Orvin Ongstad, Fred Schmidt

Manfred Newsletter

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions!
There are 155 new or renewing subscriptions
that have been received since the last issue!

In Memory of Arthur C. Neuschwander

December 23, 1907 – December 7, 1941

A special memorial service was held on
June 24, 2017 in Fessenden for Arthur
C. Neuschwander who died on the
USS Oklahoma during the surprise
attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7,
1941. On that day, 429 men from this
ship died, most were buried unidentified.
In April 2015, the Department of Defense
began the process of identifying the
remains of the USS Oklahoma crew
members through DNA analysis.
Arthur's remains were positively
identified and brought ceremoniously
to Fessenden for an inspiring service
with the presentation of colors by the
Frank Proisl American Legion Post #33
of Fessenden and program led by John
Neuschwander with thoughts shared
by Laurie Neuschwander O'Connor.
Full military honors were provided for
the inurnment at Hillside Cemetery near
Fessenden. Arthur was the son of Otto
and Lillian (Haugen) Neuschwander,
and grandson of Tollef and Bertha
Haugen who had settled in the Manfred
area in 1904.

In Memory

Carol Wilcox Dybing

December 29, 1938 – January 4, 2015
Wife of LeRoy Dybing, the son of Clarence and Clara (Solberg) Dybing. In 2011, LeRoy donated his mother's reed organ to the Manfred Heritage Museum

Glen Bendickson

March 14, 1931 – June 10, 2015
Born at Manfred son of Martin and Olga (Lund) Bendickson

Myron K. Miller

May 14, 1934 – July 2015
Son of Ben and Emma Miller, grandson of David and Amolia Miller who settled south of Manfred. Myron taught music in Manfred

Charles "Chuck" Aasand

April 9, 1928 – March 21, 2016
Son of Anton and Emma (Opdahl) Aasand who owned and operated a hardware store in Manfred

Lorraine Brye

November 17, 1924 – April 16, 2016
Lorraine and her husband William Brye farmed northwest of Manfred and were active supporters of the Manfred projects

Joyce Albrecht Olschlager

August 2, 1931 – May 29, 2016
Joyce was a friend of Manfred. Her brother Clifton Albrecht was a farmer north of Manfred

Ralph Hofrenning

September 4, 1921 – May 31, 2016
Ralph served as pastor of Vang Lutheran Church from 1975 to 1983

Gary Hoornaert

April 26, 1948 – June 15, 2016
Gary and his family lived in Manfred and Gary worked for a Manfred grain elevator for twenty eight years

Joelyn Bymoan Scriba

May 3, 1943 – June 16, 2016
Daughter of Anna Ekrem Bymoan, who taught Grades 5-8 at Manfred School for the years 1939-1940 and 1940-1941

Irene Mehrer

October 10, 1924 – June 21, 2016
Raised near Manfred, the daughter of Daniel and Rose Martin

Doris Rogelstad Rudel

January 24, 1931 – July 10, 2016
Raised on a farm north of Manfred, the daughter of Leonard and Mary Rogelstad

Robert Pearson

August 9, 1977 – July 16, 2016
Great grandson of Ole L. and Anna Rodne who settled north of Manfred, grandson of Laura Rodne Cook, son of Sandy and Tim Pearson

Larry Dean "Sparky" Solberg

June 26, 1958 – August 12, 2016
Son of Cora Gladheim Solberg who was the daughter of Ole and Clara Gladheim

Betty Holzer

August 12, 1930 – September 7, 2016
Wife of Joe Holzer who lived at the Skogmo/Harley Boese farm with his parents 1937-1945

Helen Fritchie

February 21, 1930 – September 17, 2016
Her parents Lawrence and Lucille Fritchie and she were all members of Fagerlund Sons of Norway Lodge of Manfred

Darlene Flick

July 4, 1929 – October 2, 2016
Wife of Roger Flick, son of Ray and Gena Flick, grandson of settlers C.C. and Anna Melby who owned the C.C. Melby Store in Manfred

Manfred D. Deutsch

February 13, 1936 – October 2, 2016
Friend of Manfred, his wife Marjorie is related to the Langseth family

Muriel Melby Boyum

May 2, 1921 – November 11, 2016
Grew up near Manfred and attended Manfred School, the daughter of Oscar and Bertha Melby, granddaughter of settlers Knud and Guri Melby

Marlys Boese Platz

May 30, 1937 – December 8, 2016
Grew up at Manfred and attended school in Manfred, the daughter of Harley and Lydia Boese, granddaughter of Louis and Ella Boese. She taught in Manfred: 1966-1967 (Grades 7-8) and 1968-1969 (Grades 4-6)

Tammy Schimke Vetter

August 28, 1958 – December 20, 2016
Daughter of Gordon and Betty Schimke, granddaughter of William and Lydia (Koenig) Schimke, great granddaughter of settlers Jacob and Fredreca Koenig. Tammy's father, Gordon, grew up near Manfred

Laurel Nelson

December 9, 1952 – January 20, 2017
Wife of George Nelson, the son of Vern and Bernice Gladheim Nelson, grandson of Ole and Clara (Ranum) Gladheim, great grandson of Juel and Guri Ranum and Knud and Guri Melby

Gladyce Christensen Wolf

February 7, 1926 – February 11, 2017
Born in Manfred, daughter of Gerhard and Geoline Christensen. Gerhard served as manager of the Rogers Lumber Co 1924-1932

Audrey Jean McDermott

August 3, 1935 – March 31, 2017
Born in the Manfred area, the daughter of Fred and Elizabeth (Hustoft) Schagunn and granddaughter of Jens and Bertha Hustoft

Olive Rodne

April 3, 1920 – April 15, 2017
Long-time rural Manfred resident and active with Manfred's history together with her husband Burger who was the youngest son of settlers Ole L. and Anna Rodne

Orvin Ongstad

February 8, 1921 – April 16, 2017
Grew up at Manfred, attended school there and was active with Manfred's history project, the son of Manfred residents Oscar and Christine Ongstad. Oscar was Manfred's postmaster 1944-1962

Fred J. Schmidt

February 21, 1923 – April 17, 2017
Lay pastor during the 1990s to 2000s of Trinity Parish, a three-point parish that consisted of Trinity-Bethany of Harvey, Hoff of Heimdal, and Vang at Manfred

Lorraine (Lindbo) Hovland Olson

February 27, 1930 – May 12, 2017
Born at Manfred the daughter of Gilbert and Celia Lindbo

Arlene (Hillesland) Krause

April 21, 1927 – June 7, 2017
Born on the farm of her grandparents Ole L. and Anna Rodne north of Manfred. Arlene was the daughter of Andrew and Sena (Rodne) Hillesland

John L. Dethloff, Jr.

March 17, 1932 – June 4, 2017
Landscape contractor of Manfred's first grant for the Vang Church drainage project

Wesley Boese

November 6, 1932 – July 18, 2017
Grew up near Manfred and attended Manfred School, the son of Louis and Ella Boese. Wesley was active with the Manfred projects

Harold Albert Pantsari

January 11, 1935 – August 24, 2017
Husband of Phyllis Opdahl Pantsari, daughter of Edwin and Sophie (Rogness) Opdahl, and granddaughter of settlers Peder and Kristine Opdahl

Anna Marie Benson

1929 – August 25, 2017
When young, she delighted in visiting her Aunt Tillie Nelson near Manfred and in recent years had enjoyed reading this newsletter

Dianne Keller Lageson

March 27, 1959 – September 28, 2017
Wife of James Lageson. Dianne created our beautiful Founders' Document for founding members of MHP, Inc. to sign in 2000

Jean Hendrickson Koenig

January 5, 1941 – October 4, 2017
Wife of Marvin Koenig, son of Edward and Lorene (Keller) Koenig, grandson of Jacob and Fredericka Koenig

James Lageson

July 29, 1943 – October 7, 2017
Son of Ernest and Dorothy Kucera Lageson who lived south of Manfred for a time

Leo F. Detling

February 8, 1941 – October 3, 2017
Born on a farm near Manfred and attended Manfred School, the son of Mathias and Mary Detling

Joseph and Anna Le Grand Family History



Anna and Joseph Le Grand



Map of Sweden showing where Anna and Joseph were born

1 Anna was born in Sparlösa, Götaland, Sweden

2 Joseph was born in Stora Harrie, Skåne, Sweden

Joseph and Anna settled at Malmö not far from Joseph's birthplace where their first child was born, and later moved to Mariestad very near Anna's birthplace where their fifth child was born.

Joseph Alfred Le Grand was born February 2, 1838 at Stora Harrie, Skåne, Sweden, the only child of Jean Louis "Ludvig" Le Grand (1804-1874) and Christina "Stina" Svensdotter born 1797 of Vireda, Jonkoping, Sweden. In 1814, Jean Louis moved from France to Sweden with his parents following the Napoleonic War. Jean's father Yoseph Le Grand (1764-1840) was an aide to Gen. Bernadotte, who became king of Sweden. In Sweden, Yoseph became the manager of a sheep farm.

Anna Christina Lindstrom was born July 2, 1847 in Sparlösa, Sweden, the eldest daughter of Lars Lindstrom (1822-1890) and Kaisa Carlson (1824-1899). Lars was a hunter and trapper in Sweden. Lars immigrated to the United States in 1873, with his wife Kaisa following in 1879. Lars and Kaisa are buried at Northwood, North Dakota.

Joseph and Anna met while they were both employed at a large estate in Sweden: Joseph as a bookkeeper and Anna was training in all the arts of homemaking. Joseph and Anna were married October 23, 1868 and settled at Skåne, Sweden. Their first five children were born at Malmö, Kalmar, Sweden: (1) Axel born in 1871, (2) Astrid known as Esther born in 1873, (3) Ines known as Inez born in 1875, (4) Sigrid known as Sarah born in 1879, and (5) David born in 1880.

With some financial assistance from his brother, Joseph and Anna together with their five children immigrated to the United States on the ship Thingvalla in a rough ocean crossing, arriving in New York on August 3, 1881. The family was accompanied on this journey by Anna's sister Charlotte and another sister's son. Joseph and Anna homesteaded in Northwood Township in Grand Forks County, North Dakota where four more children were born to them: (6) Hulda in 1883, (7) Gertrude "Gertie" in 1885, (8) Harry in 1887, and (9) Klara known as Clara in 1889. In 1894, Joseph and Anna and family moved to Manfred.

On June 15, 1906, Joseph and Anna sold 80 acres of their river bottom land near Manfred: the south 40 acres to their son Axel for land adjacent to his homestead and the north 40 acres to S. G. Klev. Joseph and Anna intended to made Denhoff their permanent residence with their daughter Hulda, however, on September 2, 1906 Joseph died. His obituary follows: "Joseph Le Grand died last Saturday night at the home of his daughter Hulda near Denhoff. Joseph was born in Sweden 70 years ago next February and emigrated to this country and was living at Northwood until 1894 when he came to Manfred and took up a homestead, which he farmed until last spring, with the exception of a few years in the hotel business in Manfred. He led a quiet and peaceful life and will be remembered with respect by all who knew him. His remains were buried at the cemetery at Denhoff."

Joseph and Anna Le Grand (Cont.)

When Joseph and Anna sold some of their land at Manfred, they hadn't sold their home located near the home of their son Axel so this is where Anna lived after Joseph died. As Anna grew older, she didn't like to stay alone anymore, so her granddaughter Evelyn would come over each evening to spend the night with Anna. Anna would tell her stories about life in Sweden such as doing laundry only twice a year, in the spring and in the fall when they changed from winter to summer clothing and from summer to winter clothing. During those big laundry times, the neighbors would all come to help. Through the years, Anna would visit her married children and stay with each of them for several weeks. She was remembered as being a very sweet, kind, and quiet person. Anna died October 2, 1923 and is buried at Vang Cemetery north of Manfred.

The Children of Joseph and Anna Le Grand

Children of Joseph and Anna Le Grand

Child	Born	Died	Married
1 Axel	1871	1929	Jennie Fincher in 1903
2 Esther	1873	1938	Gilbert Melby in 1895
3 Inez	1875	1914	Paul Rognlie in 1902
4 Sarah	1879	1910	Emil Olaf Tansem in 1898
5 David	1880	Unknown	
6 Hulda	1883	1977	1) Emil Torkelson in 1908 2) Ed Jacobson in 1921
7 Gertrude	1885	1919	Ernest Bergstrom in 1915
8 Harry	1887	1982	
9 Clara	1889	1969	Nels Anderson in 1915



L/R: David, Gertrude, Hulda, Axel



Standing: Axel and Hulda
Seated: Gertrude and Harry



L/R: Sarah, a cousin, Clara, Gertrude



L/R: Esther and Inez

1 AXEL



The Axel and Jennie Le Grand Family

L/R: Norman, Evelyn, Axel, Helen, Genevieve in front of Helen, Jennie, Lyle, Herbert

Axel Ludvig Le Grand was born July 16, 1871 in Malmö, Kalmar, Sweden, the eldest of nine children born to Joseph and Anna Le Grand. In 1881, at nine years of age, Axel traveled with his parents and four siblings from Sweden to Northwood, North Dakota where his parents began farming. In 1894, his family moved 125 miles west to the new community of Manfred, filing on a homestead there. In 1895, Axel filed on his own homestead at Manfred. In addition to starting up his farm, Axel drove for the Fincher mail and stage line between Fessenden, Viking, and Oberon for several years.

On November 20, 1903, Axel married **Jennie Mae Fincher**, born November 19, 1885 at Milan, Michigan, the daughter of Herbert J. and Elizabeth “Eliza” (Cone) Fincher who homesteaded in Pony Gulch near Harvey. The Fincher family had lived in a cave in the hills until a cabin could be built. Jennie remembered the hardships. Sioux Indians were their only neighbors and they often would come to her father seeking help.

Axel and Jennie’s first child, Norman, was born in September of 1904 and their second child, Evelyn, in January of 1906. On November 13, 1906, Axel became Manfred’s postmaster. He built a small building to serve as the post office, at first located in the western part of Manfred. In May of 1908, Axel moved this building to Main Street which was fast becoming the business center. That year, Axel also made some significant improvements in the rural mail route after which time more farmers were placed on the route. In January of 1908 their third child, Herbert was born. In December of that year, “Modern Woodman of America” was organized at Manfred of which Axel was a charter member. Axel served as postmaster until May of 1911.

With his homestead land being adjacent to the village of Manfred and people inquiring if he might sell part of his land to them, it was in 1907 that Axel had part of his farm platted into lots as Le Grand’s Addition to the Town of Manfred. Over time, this addition became a major residential area for Manfred. In June of 1911, Axel and Jennie celebrated the birth of their fourth child, Helen. Axel ran for county sheriff in 1912, serving one term. By this time, his farm had increased to 250 acres. Also by 1912, Axel began serving as manager of the Osborn-McMillan Elevator which he continued in for the remainder of his life.

In the 1915 Manfred Township election, Axel was voted in to serve as Justice of the Peace. Axel and Jennie’s fifth child, Lyle, was born in February of 1916. Axel was elected as Manfred Township Constable in 1917. That same year he was one of the people appointed to lead the Red Cross drive for Manfred district to help with the war effort. Their sixth child, Genevieve, was born in April of 1918. Through the years, Axel had been the manager of the Manfred Shipping Association from which he retired in 1926.

1 AXEL (Cont.)

Axel's daughter, Evelyn, remembers that Axel did some acting in home talent plays and was also a member of a debate team. Axel was a member of the Manfred Community Club which held monthly good-natured and interesting debates for the community on different topics. One of debates was on the topic, "Lincoln, a Republican versus Steven Douglas, a Democrat." Evelyn said that her father practiced his rebuttals in their living room with the children listening in. Later in life, Axel also became a member of the Masons.

By 1925 with her children of school age, Jennie was helping at St. Luke's Hospital in Harvey on quite a regular basis. Because of the distance, she would stay in Harvey for several days in a row before going back to Manfred. She was also frequently called upon by people in the community to serve as a home nurse. She was very active with the Literary Society, Manfred Homemakers Club, and Vang Lutheran Church. In this organization, she was active with the Ladies Aid, and both Axel and she were active with Sunday School and Bible class with Axel having served as Superintendent. Axel and Jennie's home was a warm and hospitable destination for many local people, and for friends and family from afar. Axel died January 5, 1929 at the age of 57 following a short illness with influenza and complications.

Axel and Jennie had six children born at Manfred, and there they grew up and attended Manfred School.

1. Norman was born September 16, 1904. After moving to California, he met and married Theresa "Theo" (Rogers) Winter, a widow with two children. Two children were born to them. Norman and Theo lived in Lubbock, Texas and later in Hemet, California. Norman retired in 1971 following a career as an Air Force machinist. Theo died in 1976 and Norman died April 24, 1979.
2. Evelyn was born January 21, 1906. She taught school for a few years and then sewed on power machines in factories in Los Angeles and Hollywood. Evelyn married Art Carter on February 23, 1938 at El Cajon, later moving to San Diego. After Arthur died, Evelyn moved to Hemet, California. She enjoyed oil painting and traveling. Evelyn died sometime before 2006.
3. Herbert was born January 29, 1908. On March 10, 1935 he married Esther Janz in Fessenden, the daughter of Reinhold Janz. Herbert and Esther began their married life at Manfred and by 1942 they had moved to Richmond, California. They had one daughter and she had three sons. Herbert died October 15, 1952 in Richmond, California.
4. Helen was born June 18, 1910. She was a housekeeper for a time and also studied nursing at Minot. She married George A. Ruber, a house painter. They lived in Sacramento and Fresno before moving to Hemet, California in retirement. Helen died on Oct 3, 2003 at age 93 in San Bernardino, California.
5. Lyle was born February 8, 1916. He became a mechanical engineer and helped build the DEW line in Northern Canada during World War II, and later continued as a builder. He married Jewel De Lashe and they lived at Del Mar, California. In his retirement, Lyle became very interested in sculpting birds and animals. Lyle died September 20, 1995.
6. Genevieve "Jean" was born April 28, 1918. She married on September 16, 1941 in Havre, Montana to Edward Thomas. Ed was born August 19, 1919. They had one son and he had three children. After retirement, Jean and Ed spent their winters in Mesa, Arizona and summers in Kalispell, Montana. Jean died sometime after 1998.

After Axel died, Jennie continued to manage the farm with the help of her children and also continued very active with nursing care in the Manfred community and at St. Luke's Hospital in Harvey. In 1934, both she and her son Norman made the decision to sell their properties and move to California. Jennie remained in California for nearly two years, and then on May 20, 1938 she married Guy Fisher at Long Beach, California. When Jennie and Guy returned to Manfred, they were greeted with a community bridal shower and also a chivalry party. Guy had the job of manager at Farmers Elevator Company and Jennie resumed her various activities in the Manfred community. They were married 29 years before Guy died March 19, 1967. Jennie died March 21, 1971 in Orangevale, California.

2 ESTHER

Astrid “Esther” Hildegard Le Grand was born September 7, 1873 in Skåne, Gotland, Sweden. She immigrated with her parents and siblings to the USA in 1881. She met **Gulbrand “Gilbert” Knudson Melby** at Manfred and they were married there on December 11, 1895. They lived at Manfred



At left:
Gilbert Melby
when he served as
director of the
Coteau Concert
Band.



At right:
Esther (Le Grand)
Melby

until moving to Kenmare, North Dakota in 1904. After four years they moved to Coteau, North Dakota, then to Bowbells, North Dakota and lastly to a farm west of Bowbells. Esther was quiet, caring, and thoughtful to each family member and a fine Christian woman, well-respected in the community. Gilbert is remembered as having been very musical, as were his children. He was the band director of the Coteau Band. Later, he was director of the Bowbells Band. He also played the violin. He served one term as county auditor 1914-1920. See more about Gilbert and Esther at manfrednd.org: Newsletter, December 2004 issue, page 9. Esther died May 30, 1938 at Bowbells Hospital as the result of heart and kidney complications. Gilbert died October 9, 1963 at Kenmare Hospital of complications resulting from a stroke.”

Born to Esther and Gilbert were thirteen children: Georgiana in 1896, Carlton in 1897, Arthur in 1899, Marion in 1900, Ida in 1901, Elmer in 1902, Gordon in 1904, Morris in 1906, Evelyn in 1907, Raymond in 1909, Earl in 1911, Alice in 1913, and Irene in 1916.

3 INEZ

Inez Signild Le Grand was born December 4, 1875 in Sweden. She moved with her parents to the USA in 1881, living first at Northwood, North Dakota before coming to Manfred in 1894. There, she met **Paul Christopher Rognlie** who began a hardware, furniture, and harness business in Manfred with Ben Sorenson, known as Rognlie and Sorenson. The store later added farm machinery to its inventory. Paul wrote in his autobiographical piece - that after completing business school in Willmar, Minnesota, he at first was part of a traveling troupe of entertainers and later decided to return to Benson County. While proving up a homestead, he took employment as store manager for T. L. Quarve in his Viking Store at Viking. Paul then went into the hardware and furniture business at Manfred. In 1901, he built the first hardware and furniture store in Esmond, which he continued for a period of 27 years.



Paul and Inez Rognlie

On June 1, 1902, Inez married Paul, the son of Syvert Bertinus Zachariasen Rognlie and Mary B. Solum. He was born June 25, 1871 in Spring Grove, Minnesota. Paul and Inez made their home in Esmond, but made frequent trips back to Manfred. Their first three children were baptized at Vang Lutheran Church. In 1908, Paul sold his interest in the Rognlie and Sorenson business to Jacob Klev. To Inez and Paul were born six children: Donaven in 1904, Forrest in 1906, Verdi in 1908, Alden in 1910, Rhema in 1911, and Harry in 1913. Sadly, Inez died suddenly on August 19, 1914 in Esmond, North Dakota leaving behind her husband and six young children. She is buried at Esmond.

Paul married again to Juliana K. Jenson. Paul and Juliana had three children: Myrtle, Phillip, and Jarl. Paul also had a nursery and fruit groves all through his years living at Esmond. When he sold his hardware business, he continued full-time with his nursery and fruit business. The autobiographical piece written by Paul can be viewed at Manfrednd.org, Biographies under Rognlie. Paul died March 27, 1952 in Fargo North Dakota.

4 SARAH

Sigrid Elisabeth “Sarah” Le Grand (also known as “Thea”) was born January 9, 1879 in Sweden. As a young child, she came with her parents to the USA in 1881. They settled first at Northwood, North Dakota and in 1894 arrived at Manfred. In 1898, she married **Olaf Emil Tansem** in Manfred. Olaf was born 1872 in Minnesota. He was a blacksmith in Manfred and farmed south of there. Sarah and Olaf welcomed their first child Hjalmer in 1900, Eva Ruth in 1901 who died of diphtheria in 1903, Clifford in 1904, Daphne in 1906, and Edina born in 1907 who died of diphtheria in April of 1910.

While Olaf was keeping busy with his blacksmith business, Sarah would go with their children to their homestead claim in the Balfour area. While she was gone, her sister Gertie helped with housekeeping at Sarah and Olaf’s house. In 1905, Olaf rented his blacksmith shop to his employee Jacob Klev and joined Sarah on their claim north of Balfour. In 1906, Olaf sold his farm south of Manfred to Carl Hirschhorn. In 1907, Olaf and Sarah proved up their land near Balfour where Olaf continued with his blacksmith work. His blacksmith shop building in Manfred was sold to Ole Onstad and moved to the Onstad farm. Sarah was known as an accomplished dressmaker and tailor. By 1909, Sarah became stricken with pulmonary tuberculosis and died December 30, 1910 leaving behind her husband Olaf and three children. She was buried at Vang Cemetery next to her two children that had gone before her.

After Sarah’s passing, Olaf went to Montana and located in the Dooley-Stady, Montana area where some of his brothers are thought to have been living. His children Daphne, Clifford, and Hjalmer stayed with their grandmother Anna Le Grand in Manfred. All three children are listed as attending Manfred School during the 1913-1914 school year, and Daphne also attended school there for the 1914-1915 school year. In 1914, Olaf married Mrs. Sadie Moore who had a ranch at Comertown, Montana.

In 1917, Olaf’s brother Peter moved to Peace River, Alberta, Canada, and then in 1918, Olaf and his family also moved to the Peace River area. Olaf was an expert horseman, veterinarian, and farmer. Olaf and Sadie’s home was known as a gathering place for neighbors to congregate. Sadie died in 1930 and Olaf died in 1943.

5 DAVID

David Samuel Le Grand was born May 1, 1880 in Sweden. In 1881, he immigrated to the USA with his parents and siblings, learning to walk during the ocean crossing. The family settling first at Northwood, North Dakota and then in 1894 moved to Manfred. He grew up at Manfred and attended school there. He became a carpenter. Sometime around 1907, David went to Canada to help build the stations along the railway. He also had dreams of going to the gold fields in the Yukon.

Here are excerpts from his letter to Hulda written February 26, 1908 at Edmonton: “...I was with the railroad the biggest part of the winter, started in early last fall. The working staff was reduced considerably for awhile a few days ago, so I will be off duty for a time. I put in pretty good time since I began last September, did not lose an hour. We built a few stations, freight sheds, repaired bridges, etc., between here and Winnipeg. The last place we were at was North Battleford, Sask., where we repaired a big station that was pretty near burned down.... This has been a remarkable fine winter. It can hardly be called a winter, just a continuation of the fall. The last three weeks there has hardly been any frost at all. The most of the snow has gone which we can thank the Chinook winds for.... I heard you were going to get married pretty soon, is that right? I will come down to the wedding. Well, I guess I will put the brakes on for this time. With regards to the folks. Your brother David, Edmonton, Alta., Canada.” In 1910, another family member heard from him, but after that the family received no further word from him.