

The New

MANFRED NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 2

November 2018

A Warm Welcome to Manfred!

Come join us for the
Manfred Pioneer Festival
July 13, 2019

SUPER SUMMER FOR MANFRED IN 2018!

The year 2018 was full of exciting surprises through the opportunity to have talented interns join us for the summer, making possible the launching of the first annual Manfred Pioneer Festival



Summer 2018 Interns at Manfred
Torie Jones, Casey Selzler, Lindsey English



The first annual Manfred Pioneer Festival held July 22, 2018
About 150 people attended this successful event

Through an ad placed in The Herald-Press newspaper in January 2018, MHP, Inc. secured three talented students who chose to intern for the summer season at Manfred, all of whom have grown up in Wells County: Torie Jones, Lindsey English, and Casey Selzler. The museum director Wanda Melchert and the three interns formed a team with the primary tasks 1) to do an inventory of the museum collections and 2) to do outreach. Related endeavors for the team included conducting guided tours, helping with restoration and yard work, preparing Manfred's Wells County Fair booth, participating in the Wells County Fair and the Harvey 4th of July parades, and were instrumental in planning and implementing Manfred's first pioneer festival. We are thankful for this long-needed help! Having the three interns gave MHP, Inc. an energetic jump-start into the future, for which we look forward to continuing this significant assistance.

The New Manfred News

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PO Box 321, Harvey ND 58341 Suggested rate is \$10 per year
Editor: Wanda Melchert, wmelchert@gmail.com
Historian: Audrey Solheim, administrator@manfrednd.org

Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. (MHP, Inc.) 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

In This Issue

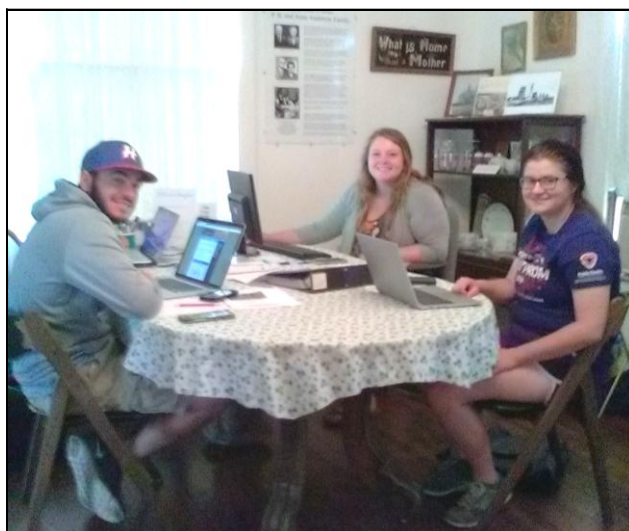
- *2018 was another amazing year at Manfred with interns helping in various ways such as technology, outreach, restoration and our first pioneer festival.
- *We pause to remember when our soldiers and our nation quickly rose to meet the challenges and needs of World War I.
- *It is with pleasure to feature in this issue the family history of Mads and Sigrid Nertrøst.

Super Summer 2018 (cont.)

Equally important priorities for MHP, Inc. and its Manfred Heritage Museum: 1-Collections Inventory and 2-Outreach

1 Collections Inventory

The Collections (the items of a museum and the management of these items) were first set up by Public History major Danielle Stuckle during the 2004 season, one year after the dedication of the Manfred Heritage Museum in 2003. During the intervening years as items were added, our MHP, Inc. members took care of Collections the best we could. In 2018, the summer intern team had a good start to do an Inventory of the museum items with the added new aspect of taking photos of each item; the information and photos are then being entered into the computer software system, "Past Perfect." In 2018 and also continuing in 2019, this Inventory is being conducted under the leadership of Public History major Torie Jones.



The interns working with online activities
L/R: Casey Selzler, Torie Jones, Lindsey English

2 Outreach

Through the years, the urgent mission for Manfred History and Preservation, Inc. has been to compile area history while there is yet time and to rescue historic buildings in Manfred. During 2015-2017, MHP, Inc. participated in a North Dakota Museum Assessment Program grant (NDMAP) which included assessment of our museum, writing a Master Plan and developing Outdoor Interpretive Panels. In November 2017, the Manfred Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, bringing forward the significant story of rural America in our country's history. Now that the Manfred historic site and its history have had opportunity to evolve more fully over time, educational experiences and avenues of outreach, near and far, are taking on greater prominence. This past summer the interns helped expand Manfred's Facebook page, wrote articles on historic themes for the newspaper, developed a captivating film trailer that can be viewed online at "Manfred Heritage Museum Trailer" and started to develop a new website that is anticipated to be published online sometime this winter. Wow! In addition, we look forward to ongoing in-person outreach, growing our volunteer and partner bases, and promoting the development of educational experiences like the pioneer festival and other activities in making use of the historic site of Manfred.

In Memory

Chris D. Ongstad

August 21, 1953 – March 27, 2018

Son of Duane and Mary Ongstad, grandson of Oscar and Christine (Thune) Ongstad who were residents of Manfred

James Perry Thorson

October 6, 1951 – March 22, 2018

Son of Ted and Margaret (Anderson) Thorson, grandson of Perry and Lily Anderson, great grandson of settlers P.B. and Anna Anderson

Douglas Olschlager

August 23, 1948 – July 7, 2018

Grew up near Manfred the son of Harold and Betty (Erflie) Olschlager

Donald "Don" Ranum

May 2, 1938 – September 29, 2018

Son of Gerald and Esther Ranum, grandson of Ole and Guri (Melby) Ranum, great grandson of pioneers Juel and Guri Ranum and Knud and Guri Melby

Arlene D. Triebold

December 24, 1929 – October 11, 2018

Born near Manfred and attended Manfred Grade School, the daughter of Edward and Myrtle (Moen) Hustoft

Theodore W. "Ted" Thorson

July 17, 1922 – October 29, 2018

Husband of Margaret (Anderson) Thorson who was the daughter of Perry and Lily Anderson, the granddaughter of settlers P. B. and Anna Anderson

James Lillemon

June 30, 1928 – October 30, 2018

Had fond childhood memories of Manfred and a friend and supporter of Manfred

Dorothy Ann Nertrorst Harris

November 27, 1931 – November 6, 2018

Raised near Manfred and attended school there, the daughter of Nels and Cora Nertrorst, granddaughter of Mads and Sigrid Nertrorst and P. B. and Anna Anderson

Manfred Newsletter

Thank you for your newsletter subscriptions! There are 35 new or renewing subscriptions that have been received since the last issue!

"AmazonSmile"

Keep in mind that AmazonSmile is a program in which Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to charitable organizations like MHP, Inc. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-0458460>.

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. Thanks for your assistance in this!

Super Summer 2018 (cont.)

See MHP, Inc. Facebook for photos and film clips of the festival

Manfred Pioneer Festival

The Manfred Pioneer Festival made a very nice splash of success on July 22, 2018, as the first annual pioneer festival! 150 attendees and volunteers enjoyed an afternoon that began with a program celebrating “Manfred Historic District” having been placed in the National Register of Historic Places in November 2017, with certificates presented by Claudia Berg of the SHSND. The program also included skits written by Lindsey English, introduction by Torie Jones of Tom Isern-distinguished history professor of North Dakota State University, and a historic musical review by Jean Hauser and Dave Mettler. Photography was provided by Casey Selzler, and sound system provided by Perry Anderson.

Many thanks to everyone who attended or helped in some way. A number of people dressed in historic attire adding much to the ambience of the day. Historic demonstrations were provided by Nancy Bollingberg-knitting, Danielle Stuckle-quilting and a ministry of Sandy Rudolph-an exhibit of an Angel preemie baby outfit. The Standing-Still Parade attendant was Eric Bollingberg with entries by Bill and Sam Ongstad, Donna English, Greg Seidel, Marion Justus and Don Roerick. Hot dogs and ice cream were served with the help of Jim and Donna English, Tom and Carol Alvesshere with their grill and Mike Alvesshere. At the registration table were Audrey Solheim, Verna Bowers and Wesley Gross. Among others who helped were Merlin and Laurie Schwartz, Janice and Andrea Graber, Marlene Ripplinger, Pam Norstedt, Rose Anderson, Laura Muscha, Tabitha Hoffer, Glen Gorder, Dale and Dynella Schmitz, Jamie Schindler with his freezer and Richard and Wanda Melchert. Food and supplies were provided, in part, by Hinrichs Supervalu, Warehouse Grocery, Tracey’s Market and First State Bank of Harvey. Publicity was provided through Facebook, flyers and posters, Harvey Chamber of Commerce, KHND, Herald-Press, as well as other regional newspapers.

During the afternoon, Tom Isern gave a talk sharing stories, musical compositions and excerpts from his new book “Pacing Dakota.” Wanda Melchert gave a talk on the history of Vang Church and its decorative features. Touring of the historic village was ongoing. The interns Torie Jones, Lindsey English and Casey Selzler very ably managed this event. One of the classrooms in Manfred School was restored as a historic classroom in time for this event. Many thanks to the businesses providing funding this year for the school restoration: First International Bank & Trust of Fessenden, First International Bank & Trust of Harvey, Dakota Heritage Bank of Harvey, First State Bank of Harvey, Harvey Farmers Elevator, North Dakota Telephone Company and Verendrye Electric Company!

Please save Saturday, July 13, 2019 to join us in Manfred for the second annual Manfred Pioneer Festival. Whether you enjoy the fun of this event through volunteering or as an attendee, a warm welcome awaits you! We plan to feature the “Opening” of Manfred School with a “class in session” and exhibits on the history of Manfred School District. The goal by July 13 is for the main level of the school, except for the windows, to be restored. Along with demonstrators from 2018, additional demonstrations planned will include spinning, weaving and blacksmithing.

Donations

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

MHP, Inc. General Fund

Lila Anderson (Hokanson)
in memory of Betty Melby
Peter and Rose Anderson in memory
of Betty Melby and Carol Beck
Melvyn and Janice Bleeker
Tim and Lyn Boese
Verna Bowers
in memory of Betty Melby
John R. Cook
Dave and Doreen Kartes
Gerald and Clara Elhard
Fessenden Thrift Shop
Carolyn Golberg
Janice Graber
Robert and Gwen Green
John and Mary Hovey
Tom Isern – portion of proceeds from
the sale of his book “Pacing Dakota”
Mark and Marie Lithun

MHP, Inc. General Fund (cont.)

Jim and Debbie Lochow
Clyde and Carol Moldenhauer
Carroll and Sonya Mortenson
Jean Narksompong
Keith Ranum
Steven and Joleen (Albrecht) Schultz
Myron Soiseth
Terry L. Solberg
Dean and Alicia Vorland
in memory of Doug Olschlager
Reiner and Ruth Widiger
in memory of James Perry Thorson
Becky (Anderson) Wilcox

MHP, Inc. Everlasting Fund

Invested funds providing for the future
Richard and Wanda Melchert in memory
of Betty Melby and Carol Beck
Audrey Solheim in memory of Betty Melby

Designated Gifts for MHP, Inc.

Rural Vestige Alliance Committee
Oversees Manfred School and Solheim House
Arthur Companies – Harvey Elevator
Boese Family in memory of Esther Boese
who served as Manfred School
Custodian for a number of years
Lorraine Quie taught school in Manfred
Merlin and Laurie Schwartz

Melby Heritage Society Committee
Oversees Anderson House, Cash Store, and
Hotel Johnson

Darlene Quenette and Sandy Krebs
in memory of Betty Melby

Johnson-Ostrem Preservation Committee
Oversees the Johnson-Ostrem property
Darlene Quenette
in memory of Uncle Lars Ostrem

Future Comfort Station
Milton and Adeline Guy

World War I

On November 11, 1918, an armistice was signed ending the hostilities of the Great War, later known as World War I. This war began overseas in 1914, with the USA entering the conflict in 1917. It took until well into 1919 before the many US troops returned home, having assisted with postwar efforts. The following excerpts and photos are from "In The World War 1917-1918-1919 Wells County, No. Dakota" Published by Fessenden Free Press, Inc., Fessenden, N.D. (This book is available for study in the resource library collection at the Manfred Heritage Museum.)

People from Manfred participating in the World War I effort – the Soldiers and the Home Front

THE SOLDIERS

Eilert Berve, son of Ole Berve
Albert N. Bieber, son of Matt Bieber
Frank J. Bieber, son of Matt Bieber
Oscar Brede
Clement Francese
W. H. Goedecke, son of W. Goedecke
Oscar Hedahl, son of Ingrid Hedahl

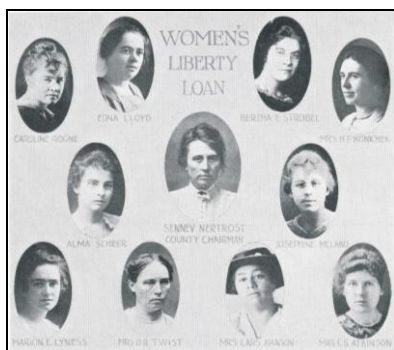
Swen O. Hedahl, son of Ingrid Hedahl
Arthur L. Larson, son of Peter Larson
Emil F. Larson, son of Peter Larson
H. N. Le Grand, son of Anna Le Grand
Howard Maust
Edward Mennegar
Andrew Muhlbeier
Johnny Nelson, son of E. E. Nelson

Kim Olesko
Halvor Olsen
Oscar Ongstad
John Reule, son of William Reule
Harold E. Skogmo, son of A. Skogmo
Bernhard Svendsen
Sigvart Svendsen

THE HOME FRONT

Liberty Loans

"Since wars must be financed as well as fought, it became the problem of the United States treasurer, when we entered the World War, to conceive some scheme by which American dollars would be quickly massed and available for our war chest... The conscription measure was quickly passed in order that America would lose no time in building up the largest army." Through five bond drives, \$1,130,000.00 was gathered just from Wells County, led by the Wells County Liberty Loan Organization with the Women's Liberty Loan division supporting the effort. Sennev Nertrost (photo left-at center) was the chairperson of the Women's Liberty Loan division in Wells County and Carolyn Rodne of Manfred (left upper corner) served on this committee.



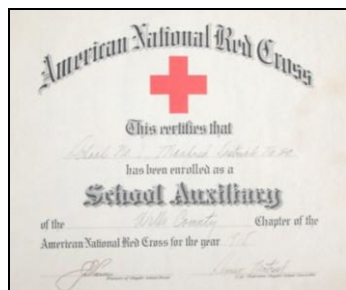
American Red Cross

The Manfred branch of the American Red Cross was organized in July 1917. During the duration of the war, the Manfred branch produced 622 knitted articles, 1,364 articles produced by the sewing committee and \$5,334.30 total funds collected from membership, donations, and acre drives. Pictured at left, the committee consisted of (L/R:) Mrs. O. K. Melby, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Le Grand, Mr. and Mrs. A. Erickson and Mrs. Lars Hanson.



American Red Cross School Auxiliaries

"The American Red Cross created a junior membership with school activities in which all school children of the United States could find a chance to be of real service to suffering humanity... In Wells County, over two thousand school children became members, and the greater majority of schools became school auxiliaries." At left reads: "This certifies that School No. 1, Manfred School District No. 20 has been enrolled as a School Auxiliary of the Wells County Chapter of the American National Red Cross for the year 1918." Sennev Nertrost served as vice chairperson in 1917-1918 and chairperson in 1918-1919 of the Junior Red Cross.



United War Work

Both **1** Sennev Nertrost (the history in this issue) and her future husband **2** B. F. Whipple served together on the Wells County United War Work committee. Many welfare and relief organizations wishing to raise funds for their war cause, banded together under the United War Work for a campaign that began the day the armistice was signed and concluded one week later. "Victory had just been won on the battle field, and the people at home were happy and enthusiastic, and their rising spirits were exemplified in prompt and generous response to this call for funds." Wells County residents contributed \$8,224.00 to this United War Work campaign.



Mads and Sigrid Nertrost Family History

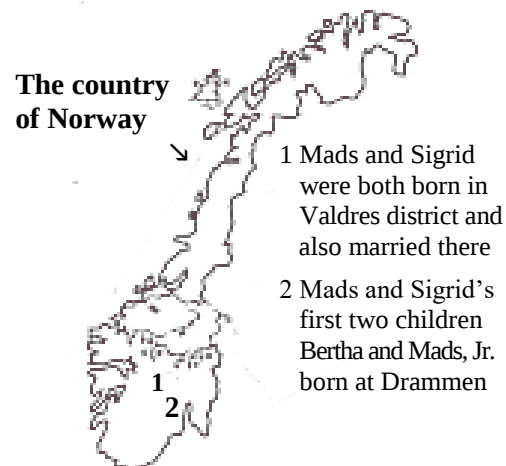
IN NORWAY



Mads M. Nertrost



Sigrid Nertrost



Mads and Sigrid Nertrost were both born in North Aurdal, Valdres, Norway: Mads in 1848 and Sigrid in 1845. Sigrid was the daughter of Nils Strand and Sennev Hande. Mads and Sigrid were married in Øystre Slidre, Valdres, Norway on April 5, 1877. Their first child, Bertha, was born March 16, 1878 in Drammen, Norway and their second child, Mads, Jr., was born there in February of 1880.

IN THE USA

In the spring of 1880, Mads and Sigrid and their two children Bertha and Mads, Jr., ages 2 and 6 weeks, immigrated to the United States. Their daughter Sennev Nertrost Whipple wrote of her parents, "America, believed to be the 'Land of Promise,' beckoned, so they decided to try their luck in the new world." Mads and Sigrid and their children set sail on the White Star Line. After a voyage of six stormy weeks, they arrived at the port of entry, Castle Garden, in the harbor of New York City. Mads and Sigrid went first to Northfield, Minnesota where they stayed for two years.

Sennev Nertrost Whipple writing about her parent's early experiences in the "Land of Promise":

They (Mads and Sigrid) decided to go to Dakota Territory to file on a Preemption claim of 178 acres, traveling by train as far as Valley City where the railroad ended. From there, on a June day in 1882, a covered wagon caravan started out in the direction of the setting sun en route to what now is Jessie, nine miles northwest of Cooperstown, Griggs County, Dakota Territory. In this company were several families who became our neighbors. They slept on a feather bed spread on the ground in the leeway of the covered wagon. First came the task of building a shelter. A small patch of virgin soil was broken up. The turf lay glistening in the sun for a few days, then it was cut up and shaped into convenient sizes. These were built up like bricks, creating a humble one room "home." It had one window, a door and the floor being just the good old earth. The main articles of furniture were a small wood-burning stove, a bedstead, a table, several chairs and a huge chest brought from Norway. In this container were mother's prized Norwegian articles - linens, silverware, a large leather-bound Bible, several hymn books, Luther's enlarged Catechism, readers for children, Hans Christian Anderson's Fairy Tales and The Arabian Nights. Our bedding and a feather bed were also included.

It was in this little sod house that I (Sennev) was born the following October, in 1882. Parents and three children lived in this single turf abode until spring, when a one-room frame house was erected and sodded up to the eaves. In half a dozen years two more children were born (Anna in 1885 and Nels in 1887), and we were five. Accommodations had to be arranged for the growing family. I recall an extra bed, a box like affair, a foot high - made of boards, low enough to be pushed under the big bedstead in the daytime. This was furnished with a straw mattress and blankets, a feather quilt for covering, where the three of us slept soundly. Although poor, as the common lot of all pioneers, we were rich in the love that held us together as a family.

Mads and Sigrid Nertrost

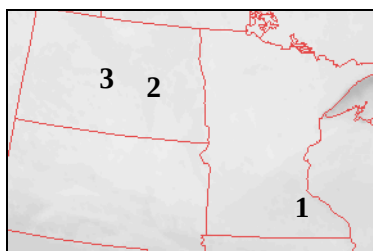
Sennev Nertrost Whipple in writing about her parents (cont.):

In those early territorial days there were no places of worship except the home family altar. A mission minister held services in some far-distant school house twice a year. It was on such an occasion when I was nine months old, that my father and mother took turns carrying me as they walked to a school house six miles distance where I was baptized on a hot July day in 1883.

It was the coming of the Soo Line Railroad that brought home seekers to Wells County. We arrived at Manfred in 1894 where father made use of his Homestead right, establishing permanent residence on a quarter section of land four miles northeast of Manfred. In those early years, the site of Manfred was known as the James River Crossing of the Mouse River Trail.

On December 13, 1895, the Nertrost family became members of the newly formed Vang Lutheran Church. The congregations often met at Manfred School #3, known as the Nertrost School located just north of their farmland. In 1896, their children Mads, Jr. and Sennev were confirmed at the Nertrost School.

Mads, Sr. died in May of 1898. Sigrid remained on their farm and carried on in raising their children. She was very active with the Vang Ladies Aid serving as its first president from 1896 to 1900. Sigrid served as its secretary in 1924-1925. She then went to live in Towner, North Dakota with her daughter Sennev who was serving as field district superintendent in McHenry County. Sigrid died at Towner on October 21, 1926. Both Mads and Sigrid are buried in Vang Lutheran Cemetery north of Manfred.



Mads and Sigrid's westward trek
1 Northfield, Minnesota
2 Jesse, North Dakota
3 Manfred, North Dakota



Mads and Sigrid Nertrost
Farm in Section 14



Church Picnic at Nertrost in 1901

The Children of Mads and Sigrid Nertrost

Name	Born	Died	Married	Spouse
1 Bertha	1878	1949	1899	Helge B. Myhre
2 Mads, Jr.	1880	1910		
3 Sennev	1882	1970	1929	B. F. Whipple
4 Anna	1885	1969	1913	Harry E. Smith
5 Nels	1887	1972	1916	Cora P. Anderson

1 Bertha



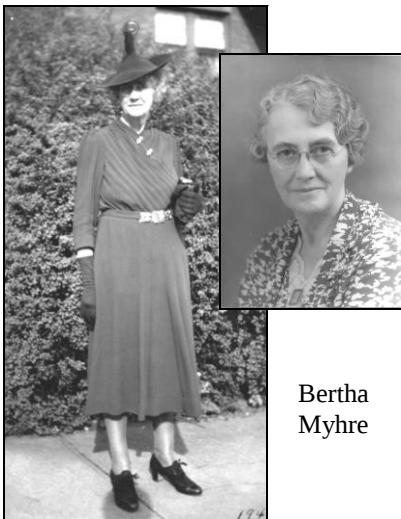
Helge and Bertha Myhre
January 22, 1899



Helge and Bertha Myhre's home

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

Helge and Bertha Myhre farm
in the NW Qtr of Section 6



Bertha
Myhre

Bertha Nertrost was born March 16, 1878 in Drammen, Buskerud, Norway. In the spring of 1880, she came to the USA with her parents and brother Mads, Jr. The family lived in Northfield, Minnesota for two years before moving to their claim at Jessie near Cooperstown, Dakota Territory. After attending country schools in that area, Bertha entered high school at Cooperstown and then at age 16 taught her first rural school.

In 1894, the family moved to their homestead northeast of Manfred. After completing her teaching term near Cooperstown in June of that year, Bertha joined her parents and siblings at Manfred. Bertha continued teaching in various schools in Wells County. One of her positions in 1895 was at Manfred School #3 where four of her thirteen students were her siblings. After teaching school for a few years, Bertha attended the State Teachers Normal at Valley City to obtain her teacher's certificate. Bertha's parents joined Vang Lutheran Church in 1895, and in 1896 the Vang Ladies Aid was founded. Bertha served as its first secretary from 1896 to 1900, later serving again as secretary and several years as president.

Bertha's future husband, **Helge Myhre** was born in 1858 at Vang, Valdres, Norway to Boie Leine Myhre and Berit Brekke. In 1869, he and his sister Betsy immigrated to North Dakota. The two siblings lived at Fargo for some years before moving to Kindred, North Dakota where Betsy established a successful dressmaking shop and Helge was employed as a clerk in the Lund General Store. In 1898, Betsy met and married Henry Helgerud, after which time they moved to their homestead claim five and one-half miles east of Harvey.

In 1898, Helge Myhre also filed on a claim near Manfred. It was there that he met and married Bertha Nertrost on January 22, 1899. They lived first in Manfred where their first child, Conrad, was born October of 1899. In 1902, the Myhre family moved to their farm northwest of Manfred, and in 1905, they secured water on their farm with the help of well diggers, Leun & Tangen. Their son Walter was born in 1906, and that year they made improvements to their farmstead. That fall, Bertha began hosting the Vang Ladies Aid society at their home. In 1908, Helge was elected assessor for Manfred Township, and their children attended Manfred School #3 known as the Nertrost School.

On July 22, 1932, Helge died suddenly at home. Bertha continued to live on the farm where her son Walter carried on with the farming. In 1935, their son Conrad married Barbara Arville Weisel. After graduating from UND with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Conrad joined Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While there, he was assigned the drawing up of most of the electrical equipment for Hoover Dam. During World War II, he was part of a select group of power specialists to the Philippines. His knowledge of four languages was a great asset in his work.

Bertha died on June 26, 1949. Helge and Bertha are buried at Vang Lutheran Cemetery. Their son, Conrad died in 1981 at Honolulu, Hawaii, leaving his body to the Medical Department of the University of Hawaii. Walter retired from farming in 1980. In his later years, he lived at St. Aloisius Nursing Home until his passing in 1994. He is interred in Vang Lutheran Cemetery.

2 Mads. Jr.

Mads, Jr. Nertrost “Matt” was born in February of 1880 in Drammen, Buskerud, Norway. In the spring of 1880, when Matt was but six weeks old, the family departed from Norway and traveled by ship to America. They lived at first in the Northfield, Minnesota area and after two years moved to their claim at Jessie near Cooperstown, North Dakota. There, his parents farmed and Matt began his schooling. In 1894, the family moved to their new claim northeast of Manfred. During 1895 and 1896, Matt attended Manfred School #3, known as the Nertrost School, being located across the road from the Nertrost farm. His sister Bertha, just two years older than him, served as his teacher. In 1896, Matt and his sister Sennev were confirmed through Vang Lutheran Church, which had been founded just a couple years earlier.

Matt’s father died in 1899 after which time his mother remained on the farm, and Matt continued helping her with the farming. When Matt reached the age of 21, he took a claim near Lincoln in McLean County, North Dakota as noted in the June 4, 1905 issue of the Wells County Free Press: “Matt Nertrost and his brother Nels left last week for the former’s claim in McLean County where they have some flax land to put in as yet.” Matt continued returning to his claim, each year breaking more acreage. The May 7, 1909 issue of the Wells County Free Press told of a new pursuit: “Mads Nertrost and Emil Ranum returned from Fargo where they have taken a course at a business college.” Sadly, Matt died of peritonitis on July 22, 1910 and was laid to rest in Vang Lutheran Cemetery.

3 Sennev (See page 9)

4 Anna

Anna Nertrost “Annie” was born October 8, 1885 at Jessie near Cooperstown on the farmstead of her parents, Mads and Sigrid Nertrost, where she began her schooling. In 1894, she and her family moved to a farm northeast of Manfred. She continued her studies at the nearby one-room Manfred School #3 where one of her teachers was her sister Sennev.

In 1903, Anna, herself, taught in Manfred School #3 and also Manfred School #2. She went on to hold teaching positions in the grade schools of Cathay, Granville, and Chehalis, Washington – this school being where her sister Sennev served as a principal. In 1909, Anna graduated from Valley City State Normal. During the 1911-1912 school year, Anna’s nephew Conrad Myhre, was one of her students.

In 1911, Anna filed on a homestead claim near Alexander, North Dakota in McKenzie County where in 1913, she met and married **Henry “Harry” Eugene Smith**. Harry was born December 5, 1887 in New Rockford, North Dakota. Harry and Anna settled on Anna’s claim and began their family. Children born to them were Eugene-1914, Wilbur-1916, Marland-1918, Raymond-1920, Robert-1922 and Helen-1924. They continued farming until 1942 when they moved to Melbrae, California and then to Zolma in San Bruno County, California.

Harry died August 19, 1945 in San Mateo, California. Anna remained in San Bruno where she was a charter member of the Lutheran Church there. Anna died December 16, 1969 at a convalescent home in Tuolumne, California. Harry and Anna are interred in Cyprus Lawn Cemetery in San Mateo County, California.

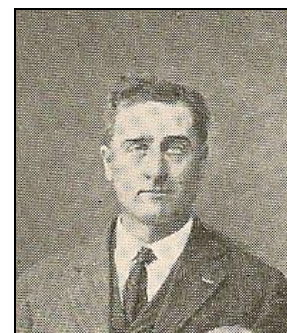
3 Sennev

Sennev Nertrost “Susie” was born October 29, 1882 on her parent’s farm near Jessie, Griggs County in Dakota Territory (seven years before North Dakota became a state in 1889). Sennev began her schooling there. She then moved with her family in 1894 to their claim northeast of Manfred. In 1895 and 1896, with her older sister Bertha as her teacher, Sennev studied at Manfred School #3. Through Vang Lutheran Church, she was confirmed in 1896 together with her brother Mads, Jr. Then, in 1897, Sennev entered high school in Fessenden.



Sennev Nertrost
c.1917

In the spring of her senior year in 1901, Sennev had the opportunity to begin teaching with the salary of \$45.00 per month. Two of her students were her sister Anna and brother Nels. She again taught during the 1902-1903 school term. She later graduated from Valley City State Normal attaining her teachers’ certificate. Following this, she taught for some years at Bottineau. She continued to advance in her career as noted in the following entries in the Wells County Free Press: June 27, 1913 “Sennev Nertrost came home from Chehalis, Washington this week where she has been a principal of a school;” and January 7, 1915 “Sennev Nertrost, superintendent of schools, moved to Fessenden Thursday in preparation to commence her duties.”



B. F. Whipple
c.1917

Sennev served as Superintendent of Wells County Schools from 1914 to 1922. In this position, Sennev instituted the first county-wide declamation contest, athletic contest, and play day held each spring. During the years of World War I and postwar (1917-1918-1919), she was appointed chairperson of the Women’s Liberty Loan Drive and of the American Junior Red Cross. After completing her four terms as Superintendent of Wells County Schools, Sennev took additional schooling in Los Angeles. She then moved to Towner, North Dakota where she served as field district superintendent in McHenry County. In 1925, her mother Sigrid moved to Towner to live with Sennev. Sigrid died there on October 21, 1926.

Sennev continued in her work at Towner until 1929 when she returned to Wells County. Early that year, she became Mrs. B. F. Whipple. **Benjamin Franklin Whipple** (Judge B. F. Whipple) was born September 10, 1880 in Alden, Iowa to Charles Crary Whipple and Ella E. Hackett. He located first in Buckeye, Iowa. In 1901, he homesteaded in Wells County and taught there for a short time. In 1904, he graduated from UND in law. He practiced law in Sheyenne for a year and then moved to Fessenden in 1905. He became a law partner of J. J. Youngblood. In 1913, Mr. Whipple became Wells County State’s Attorney and served in this capacity through 1924. In 1937, Mr. Whipple was appointed judge of the Wells County Court serving until retiring in 1967. He died in February of 1970 and is interred at Hillside Cemetery near Fessenden.

In her later years, Sennev devoted her time to writing pioneer history and poetry. After a time, she became a resident of St. Aloisius Nursing Home, passing away there on July 30, 1970. Sennev is buried in the Nertrost family plot at Vang Lutheran Cemetery.



Sennev Nertrost Whipple

5 Nels



Nels and Cora Nertrost
June 29, 1916

Nels Oliver Nertrost was born March 19, 1887 in Griggs County, North Dakota. In 1894, he moved with his parents and siblings to their farmstead north of Manfred. Nels attended Manfred School #3 beginning in 1895, at which time his oldest sister Bertha was his teacher. In 1901, he was confirmed through Vang Lutheran Church. During 1901 to 1903, his sister Sennev was his teacher.

Nels and his older brother Matt helped their parents with the farming but they also ventured out to Montana to do some farming when Matt was old enough to file on a homestead claim. When Matt died at age 30 of peritonitis and with their father having passed some years prior, the farming fell on Nels. He handled this well and also was active with other local farmers and businessmen in going hunting, taking trips together and other interests.

On June 29, 1916, Nels married **Cora Pauline Anderson** who was born May 27, 1893 to Peter Beck and Anna Anderson. Cora has the distinction of being the first child born in Manfred Township. Cora grew up on the family farm and attended primary school in Manfred. From there, she attended Fessenden High School and later the State Teachers College in Valley City. She began teaching in Manfred School #3 in 1912, and later taught Grade 1-3 in the Manfred School #1 for the 1914-1915 and 1915-1916 school years.

The following article appeared in the July 6, 1916 issue of the Wells County Free Press

ANDERSON-NERTROST

The Manfred Lutheran church was the scene of a very pretty wedding at 3 o'clock last Thursday afternoon, June 29, when Miss Cora Pauline Anderson became the bride of Mr. Nels Oliver Nertrost. Rev. J. J. Langseth of Manfred officiating. The altar was beautifully decorated in potted plants, ferns and cut flowers consisting of pink and white peonies and carnations.

Just before the appointed hour, Miss Edith Paulson played the Bridal Chorus of Lohengrin; and the Recessional from Mendelssohn and the Melody of Love were selections rendered after the ceremony. The bride was daintily gowned in white georgette crepe over mescaline, fashioned with trimmings of satin panniers and pearls. She wore a veil and carried a bouquet of bride's roses. The bridesmaids were Miss Esther Anderson and Miss Emma Nordtorp of Manfred. They wore oyster white marquisette with bouquets of pink sweet peas. The groom was attended by Mr. Conrad Myhre and Mr. Fremont Hanson both of Manfred

After the ceremony a wedding dinner was served to over a hundred guests at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Anderson. In the dining room, peonies, roses and carnations were effectively used as table decorations. The Roble orchestra furnished music for the dance in the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Nertrost left for points in western North Dakota for a short wedding trip and will also spend a week camping at the Devils Lake Chautauqua.

Mrs. Nertrost is very well known here having lived most of her life near Manfred. She is a very popular young lady and has many warm friends here. For the past two years, she has been teaching the primary department in the Manfred public schools. Mr. Nertrost is well and favorably known and is a prosperous young farmer. He is the brother of Wells County's superintendent of schools. A host of friends wish them happiness and prosperity, in which your correspondent and the Free Press join.