

---

# Our Danish Heritage: The Life of Johanna Pedersen Jacobsen

by Kay A. Wise



---

# Our Danish Heritage: The Life of Johanna Pedersen Jacobsen

---

by Kay A. Wise

©The Wise Choice. 12348 Seward St. Omaha, NE 68154. 2003.

- 
- Copyright © 2003 by TheWiseChoice.com.
  - All rights reserved.
  
  - Second printing June, 2003.
  
  - To obtain a copy of this book contact
    - Kay A. Wise
    - 12348 Seward Street
    - Omaha, NE 68154
    - Email: [Kay@TheWiseChoice.com](mailto:Kay@TheWiseChoice.com)

---

# Our Danish Heritage

---

A book compiled for American descendants of Danish settlers, Johanna and Clyde Jacobsen.

---

# Family Stories and Pictures

- This book was compiled by Kay Ann Harris Wise for her cousins and their children.
- It tells about their grandparents and great grandparents, Clyde and Johanna Jacobsen,
- with photographs from Johanna,
- family stories as told by Kay's mother, Anna Marie Jacobsen Harris, plus
- facts and observations from many other family members

---

# One winter morning, a week before Christmas,

God packaged the wisdom of a scholar, the courage of a mother lion, and the spirit of a pioneer in the fragile body of baby girl and sent her to earth as the last child born to a young Danish couple living in what was then called the Looking Glass Valley of Nebraska.

They named her Johanna. We share her heritage.

# Johanna



- Johanna Pedersen, born December 19, 1890 in Rosenberg, Nebraska was the last of seven children born to Danish immigrant parents.
- This portrait of Johanna c. 1912 appears on a postcard she mailed to friends.

---

# The Peder Pedersens

- Johanna's father, Peder Pedersen, later called Peter, was born in Gadbjerg, Vejle, Denmark in 1845.
- His father, Peder Pedersen, was born in the same town in 1814.
- His father, Peder Pedersen, was born in the same town in 1780.
- His father, too, was named Peder.

# Denmark: Home of the Vikings



Denmark is a Scandinavian nation situated north of Germany. Today it is made up of a small peninsula and several islands, but from this tiny land came the legendary Vikings who once ruled the seas roaming at will in Europe and North America.

# Peder in Uniform



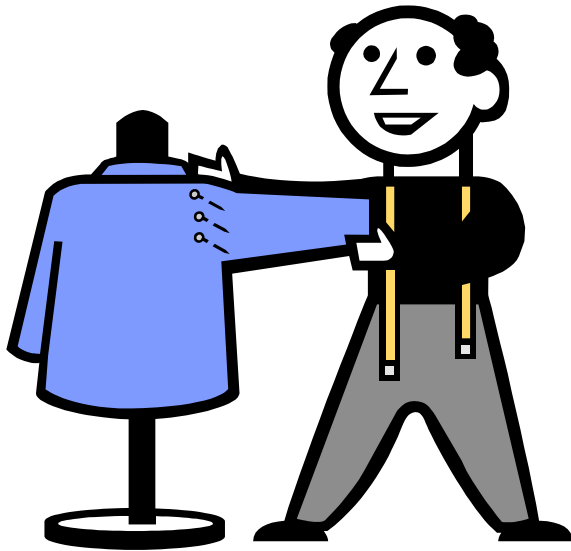
- In 1864, Denmark lost a war with Prussia and was forced to cede Schleswig, its southern province, to the Germans.
- Here is Peder, Johanna's father, looking very fine in his uniform as a Border Patriot Guard.

# The Peder Pedersens' hometown



- The 1880 census in Vejle lists Peder, a tailor, and wife Ane Else Sorensen, born in Kolding and their child, Marie.
- At that time Peder was 39 and his wife, 23.

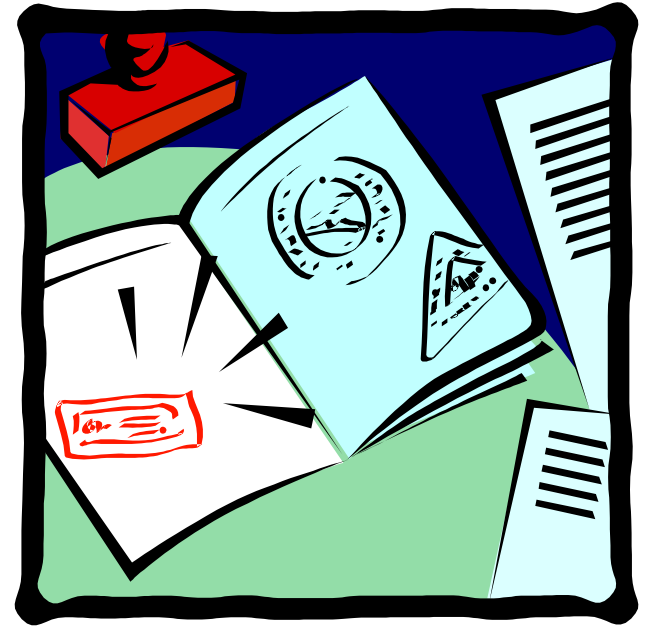
# The Tailor Emigrates to Nebraska



- After Peder and Ane Else had Marie, they begat
- Soren,
- Peder J., and
- Karn then they
- emigrated to the U.S. in 1887.

# Immigrants often change their names

- To fit into the American culture immigrants often change their names.
- Pedersen became Petersen
- Marie was sometimes Mary
- Soren was called Sam
- Peder was called Peter or P.J.
- Karn became Kare, then Karen.



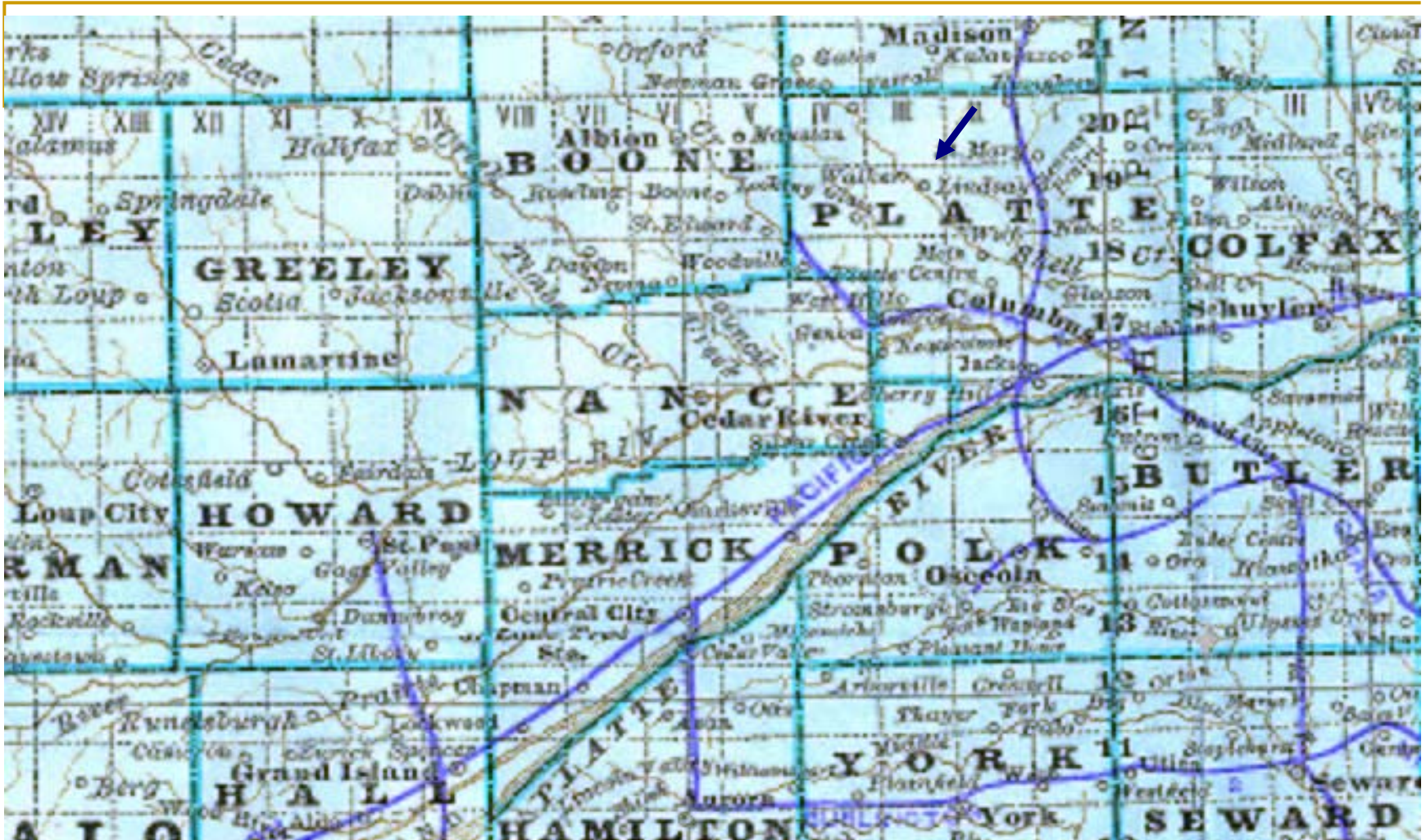
---

# The Tailor's parents stayed in Denmark

- Marie once wrote: “Now I will tell what I know about Grandpa’s family, which is not much:
- I remember Lille Bedstefar ag lille Bedstemor. Two small people.
- Their oldest was Mette Marie ...[then] Frederik... Grete...Kasper...Peder (our father) Marten, Hannah.”
- Hannah...was separated from her husband, Karl....who was drunk most of the time and then he was mean to her. The worst was when he dragged her by her hair from the barn to the house! That’s when Marten got busy and got her away from him... she was real tall. Her (sic) and Marten were the only tall ones in the family.

# Peder, Ane Else, and their children settled in southeast Nebraska





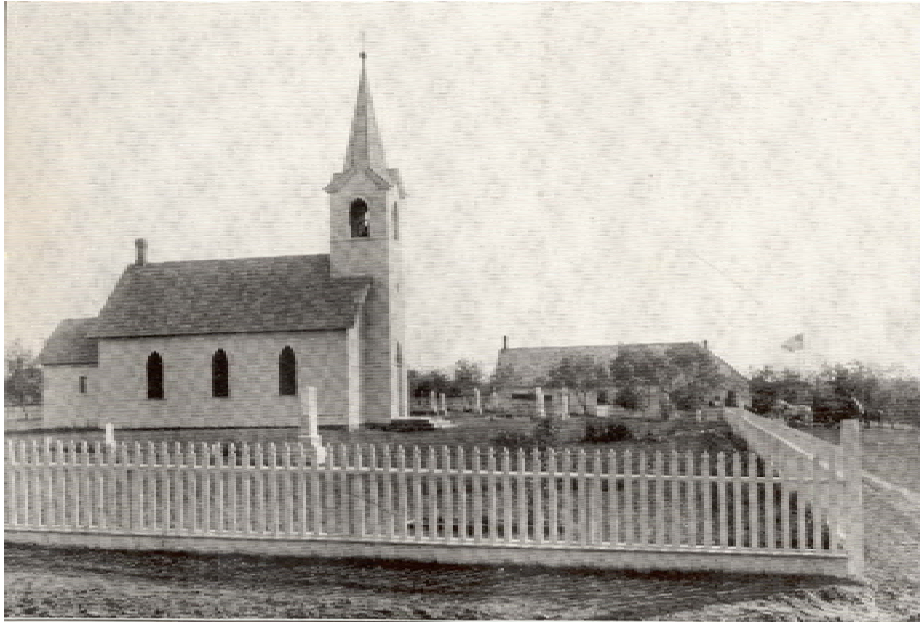
They settled in the Looking Glass valley of Platte County shown just West of Lindsey on this 1879 map of Nebraska. Our cover shows the valley as it appeared in spring 2002.

---

# The family grew in Nebraska

- **In 1887, at the time of emigration Peder was 46 years old and Ane, 30**
- **After settling in Nebraska Ane bore three more children,**
  - **Hans,**
  - **Fred and**
  - **Johanna.**

# Rosenberg



Crops were poor in 1888-89, so the settlers used the time to build a Church. They called it St. Ansgar's and the nearby town, Rosenberg.

- Peter helped build the original church building which burned. He also helped on the building above which was constructed starting in 1907 and is still active.

# Ane Else Died

- Ane Else died in 1892,
- Here is Peter with his children at about that time.
- Clockwise from the top are
  - Sam b. 1880,
  - Marie b. 1878,
  - Peter J. b. 1883,
  - Hans b. c. 1887,
  - Johanna b. 1890,
  - Fred, b. c. 1888, and
  - Karn b. 1885.
- Johanna, our ancestor is the baby. Her father, the tailor is by now 51.



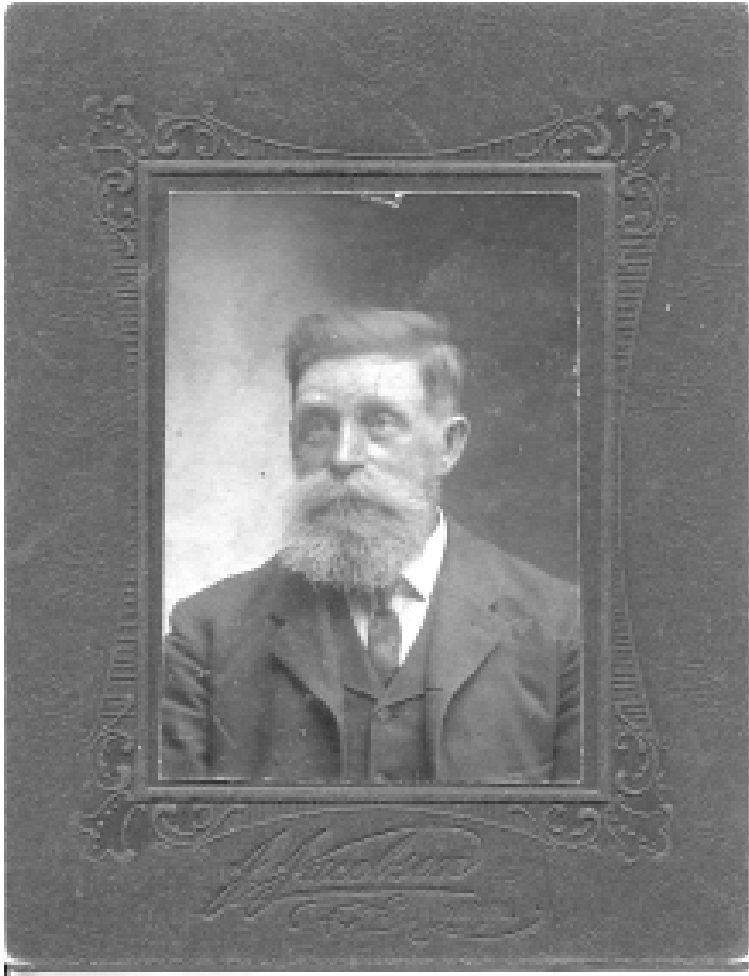
# Peter, his horse & buggy



Shown here,  
many years later,  
is Peter with his  
horse, Molly, and a  
new buggy.

Peter's cousin wrote that "On New Year's eve the young men from around Rosenberg would go out and shoot in the New Year and do tricks. Pete's buggy had two big wheels in the back and two smaller ones in the front, and they took the wheels off and put the big ones in front and the little ones in the back and he drove it like that for quite awhile."

# Bedstefar: Danish for Grandpa



- Peter never remarried. A tailor by profession, he was also a scholar. He translating books from Danish into English.
- He served as an officer of St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church from 1895 – 1916.
- Peter was born Nov 8, 1845 and died in 1925.

# Marie is not in this photo

- This photo shows Karen and Johanna, the two youngest of Peter's three daughters.
- When this picture was taken Marie was living in South Dakota with her husband, Nels Terpager Friesman.



Karen & Johanna

---

# Why Marie went to S. Dakota

- When Johanna was about ten, her sister, Marie, became pregnant out of wedlock.
- Their father, a pillar of the church, could never forgive his eldest child for her transgression.
- After waiting for the birth, “to be sure the baby was his,” Nels married Marie and moved her to South Dakota where they raised Elsie, Edna, Harold and Carl.
- Marie continued to correspond and stayed close to her sisters all their life.

# Karen b. 1885 marries Hans in 1906

- When Ane Else died, Johanna's sister, Kare, had to leave school in the 2nd grade.
- She worked for a neighbor family helping to cook and watch babies
- Kare married Hans Skanderup in 1906 and had four children, Ella, Lillie, Oscar & Dean.



# Aunt Kare & Uncle Hans

- Hans proved to be an able farmer, so he and his family prospered even during hard times.
- Kare always loved to read and was sorry to have had her schooling cut short, but she insisted that all her children be well educated.
- Their descendants include several successful businessmen, doctors and nurses.
- In 2003 their grandson, Ken Schaeffer, Ella's son was named outstanding Nebraska Pediatrician.



Their 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
Dean, their youngest, wrote of his life in  
a self-published book titled,  
“Don’t Squirt the Cat.”

# Johanna's coming of age



- Johanna was very close to her father and her family, but missed having a mother.
- Mrs. Hald, the pastor's wife, cared for her during her early teen-age years.
- Johanna was quiet, serious and a bit shy.
- This photo was probably taken when Johanna graduated from high school, about 1907.

---

# Who will Johanna Wed?

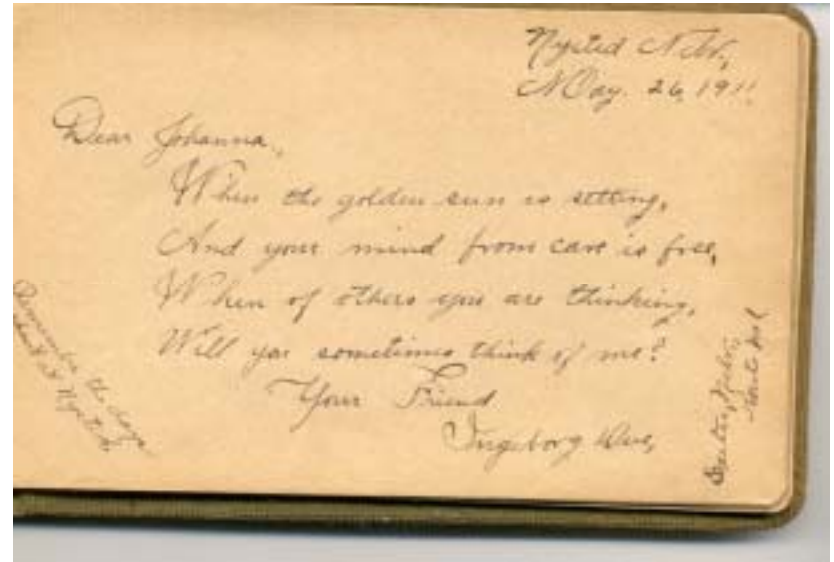
- Johanna was born in 1890. By 1910 she was 20 years old. Her sisters were married and her friends' weddings filled her social calendar.
- She received and saved many photos and cards from her friends and from her older brothers & sisters. .



- Johanna saved this photo of the double wedding of a brother & sister, Albert & Christina Sorensen.
- Christina Sorensen married Morris Pedersen.
- Albert Sorensen married a Christina, but we do not have her maiden name.

# Nysted

- Johanna's father continued her education, sending her after high school to a Danish women's school in Nysted, Nebraska in 1911.
- She saved an autograph book and many photos from those years.



# Postcard from Marie to Johanna at Nysted

- Kirley, SD May 15, 1911
- ... This is our school... Do you recognize Edna & Elsie? They are both wearing sweaters so you can find them. We are lonely up here, it is boring. Love from us all. Marie. \*



\*Translated from Danish

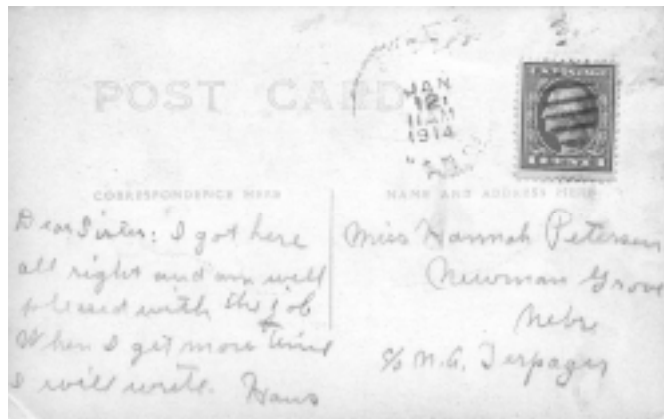
Copyright: TheWiseChoice.com 2003

# Marie and Nels Friesman Family



- Although the photo is unlabeled, this appears to be Johanna's sister, Marie, with her husband, Nels, and their children: Elsie, Edna, Harold and Carl.

# Hans card, Jan 12, 1914

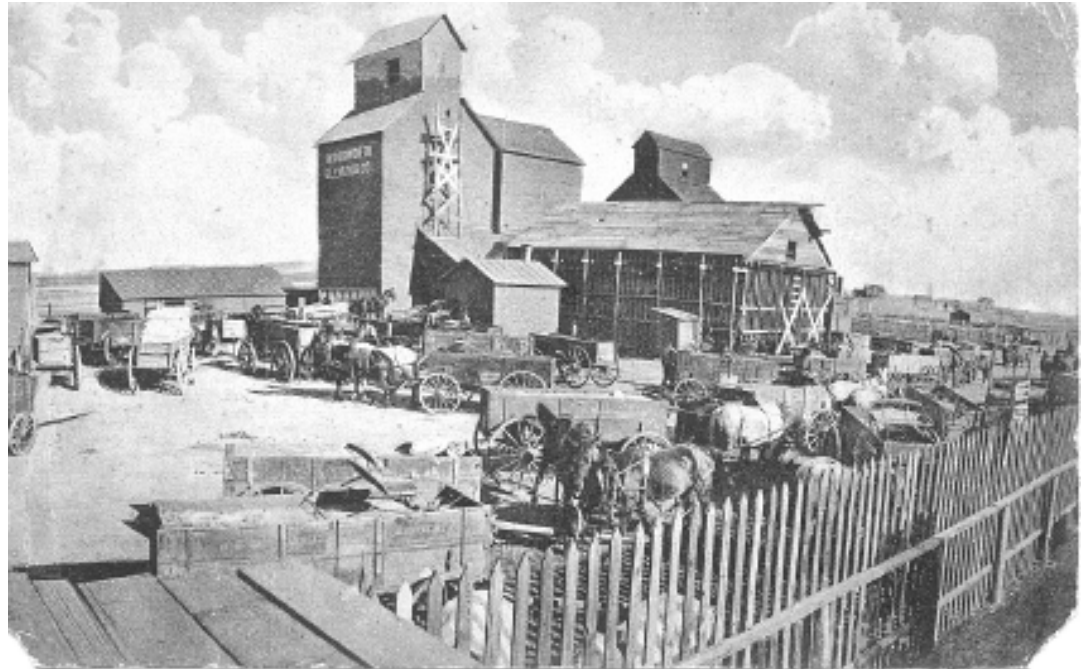


- To Miss Hannah Petersen, Newman Grove, Nebr.
- Dear Sister,
- I got here all right and am well pleased with the job. When I get more time I will write. Hans



# A Card from Sam

- October 18, 1912 Dear Sister,
- I received your card a few days ago. I was glad to hear from you. I got a letter from Kare the same day. I would like to come home a while this winter but I don't think I can. Well good-bye.
- Write soon. Sam



# Uncle Fred Pedersen

- Johanna tried to stay in touch with all her siblings. Here she shares a photo, taken in 1915, with Fred.
- Fred married Christine Anderson and they lived in Emporia, Kansas with their children, Earl, Alva, Della and Carl.
- Johanna called Carl a “change-of-life” baby.
- Fred’s wife was always called “Fred’s Christina,” to distinguish her from others called Albert’s Christina and Morris’ Christina.
- Fred died in 1952.



# Uncle Peter. J.'s daughter



- Peter J. Pedersen, the 5<sup>th</sup>, had four girls, Elna, Florence, Elfrida, and Louise. “all married”
- This photograph, taken at the Anderson studio was sent to Johanna with the words, “Sincerely, Elna, 1925.”

# Uncle Hans Pedersen



- Ann remembers her uncle Hans as a dapper, handsome, well-dressed newspaper man in a white shirt with his sleeves rolled up as shown here.
- Hans married Lizzie Johnson. They had four children.
- Then during the depression, Hans left his family, donned old clothes and traveled with his elder brother, Sam, riding the rails as a bum.
- Hans children, Raymond, Evelyn and Melvin, shown here, were raised in an orphanage. Russell, the youngest, (not shown) was passed from family to family.
- An old sailor's home in Portland, Oregon wrote Johanna when Hans and Sam died there many years later.
- Sam had no children that we know of.

# The Pedersen Sisters



- Peter Pedersen's three daughters remained close all their lives, but seldom could they get together.
- From left to right, Marie, Kare & Johanna in about 1950



# Johanna's Brothers and her Suitors?

Johanna saved these postcard photos of young men, but no one is identified.

# Clyde Jacobsen



- Clyde Jacobsen was born in Colby, Kansas Oct 19, 1888.
- He played the fiddle and called square dances in the “Gymnasium Hall” of St. Ansgar’s church.
- He could also play “Red Wing” on the harmonica.

# Clyde wins Johanna's favor

- Stern old Peter Pedersen, pillar of the church, may have been disappointed when his baby girl fell in love with Clyde, this handsome son of Chris Jacobsen, a St. Paul saloon keeper.
- Even then everyone in the Danish community knew and liked Clyde.
- Clyde could sing and dance and play the fiddle. He must have swept the serious young Johanna off her feet.



# Clyde + Johanna

## August 24, 1916

**MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**



State of Missouri County of Boone

*This Certifies, That* Clara Josephine of Boone County Missouri in the State of Missouri and Johanna Christiane Petersen of Clatsop County Oregon in the State of Oregon were at 12:00 in said County, by me joined together in

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

on the twenty-fourth day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and sixteen

In presence of John E. Christensen residing in the County of Clatsop and State of Oregon and James Petersen residing in the County of Clatsop and State of Oregon

James Mitchell  
County Judge

# Great Great Grandpa Jacobsen

- Clyde's father, Chris Jacobsen, was born in Wester Boonderslev, Denmark on March 27, 1854 and died in St. Paul, NE October 2, 1927.
- Chris and his wife had six children before she died in 1907 when just 27 years old.
  - Oscar: died at age 11
  - Clyde: married Johanna & had 7 children.
  - Eva: married Henry Peterson & had Clayton
  - Albert: married Artie and had Wayne
  - Maude: married Emery Petersen and had Eva and Darrel.
  - Willie: died in World War I



# A Kind & Friendly Farmer

- Clyde loved people, and people loved him back. He often stopped his plow to visit with a neighbor or even a stranger passing by.
- After the wedding Clyde & Johanna lived on a farm in Howard county near his parents home in St. Paul, but Johanna was lonely for her family.
- In 1920, they moved to a farm east of St. Edward, NE. One year Clyde permanently set aside a corner of that farm for the gypsies, who had to bury their baby there.



# First born, Anna Marie

- Johanna & Clyde's first child was born on September 8, 1917 in Howard County.
- They named her Anna Marie, after Clyde's mother who had died when he was 9.
- Johanna's second child, named Clyde, died in infancy.

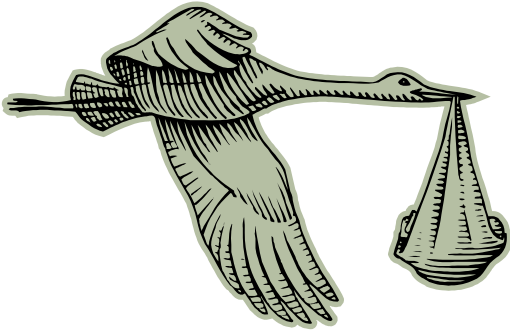


# Dale came next



- Their next boy, Dale Harlan, was born on January 8, 1921 in Platt County.
- This photo shows Anna Marie & Dale on the farm near St. Edward in the summer or fall of 1922.

# After Ann & Dale, then Glen



- On September 8, 1922, on Ann's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, Johanna used a dish towel to tie baby Dale in a chair.
- Johanna told Ann to stay, watch Dale and not move no matter what she heard.
- Then Hanna went into the bedroom all alone and gave birth to Glen Harold.
- Ann stayed to watch Dale as she had been told to do.

# Next came Calvin Clyde

- After Ann & Dale & Glen came Calvin Clyde b. Aug. 3, 1924.
- Calvin was not very healthy. Johanna said he had had meningitis as a child.
- For much of his life Calvin was called “Pete”.



Back row: Clyde, Anna, Johanna

Front row: Glen, Dale, Calvin

---

# Gene Luther Jacobsen

- Gene Luther, the next child, was born on Sept 18, 1927 when Ann was 10.
- The Jacobsen farm was next door to the country school. One day after that a little school girl, during recess, came running in to Johanna from the front porch shouting in Dane that someone was putting cotton in Gene's mouth. Sure enough one of the school children was busily stuffing cotton balls into baby Gene to "keep him quiet."

# The Jacobsen Legacy

- When Clyde's brother, Willie, died in World War I, Ann's Grandpa Jacobsen had received \$10,000 in insurance money. That money allowed him to retire a relatively wealthy man.
- He traveled by train, dividing his time between living with Clyde & Johanna or with Maude & Emery.
- Grandpa usually slept with the children who were arranged like sardines in the 2<sup>nd</sup> bedroom of their small farmhouse.
- Grandpa Jacobsen died just two weeks after Gene was born and Anna Marie celebrated her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.



- Clyde inherited \$3000 from his father's estate.
- He used \$828 of his inheritance to buy a new 4 door Chevrolet and put the remainder down toward purchase of the land they were farming east of St. Edward

# Hard Times Coming



- Most young families with five growing children have a hard time making ends meet. When this photo was taken, times were hard for the Jacobsen clan, but soon they went from bad to much, much worse.

From left: Calvin, Glen, Gene, Dale.

# Tragedy struck in 1929



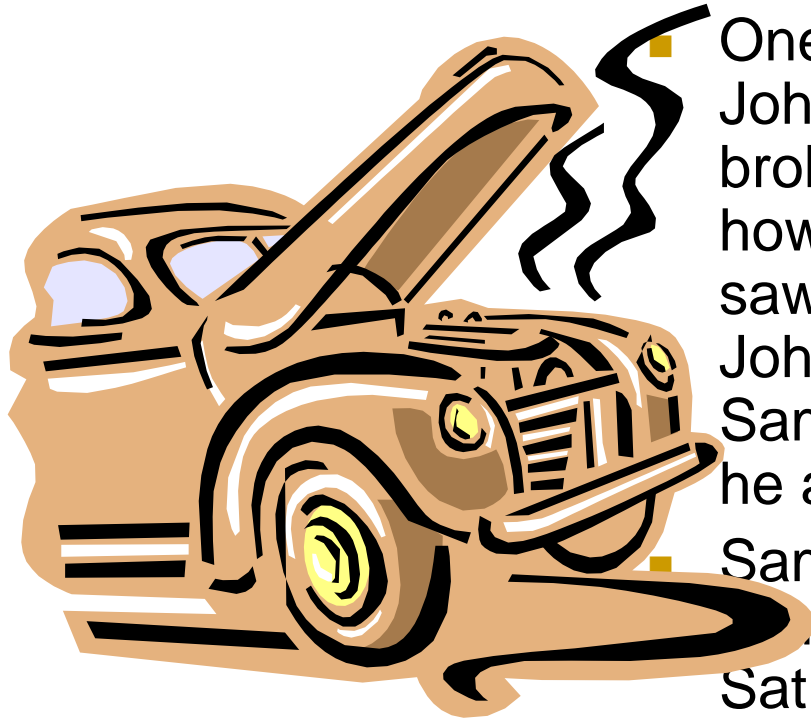
- Ann was eleven when extreme pain struck her father, Clyde. He could barely move.
- A friend flew Clyde to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota where they diagnosed him with severe arthritis, put him in a full body cast and sent him home immobilized for six months.
- So Johanna is living in a farmhouse with no electricity and no plumbing. She has five children, a daughter age 11, sons ages 1, 4, 6 & 7, and her dearly beloved is an invalid.

# Ann does what she can.



- Ann cared for all the boys, organizing their play and directing their work, entertaining them, disciplining them, dressing and diapering them. She especially remembers being “mother” to Gene.
- But Ann was just a little girl, not quite five foot tall. Her wit and intelligence usually got her through the most difficult situations, but sometimes the dangers of such a farm life were more than she could handle.
- Once boiling hot water from the cook stove left 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns on her wrist and forearm. Another time a mean hog bit her tiny leg when she tried to herd it in the pen.

# Uncle Sam comes to help

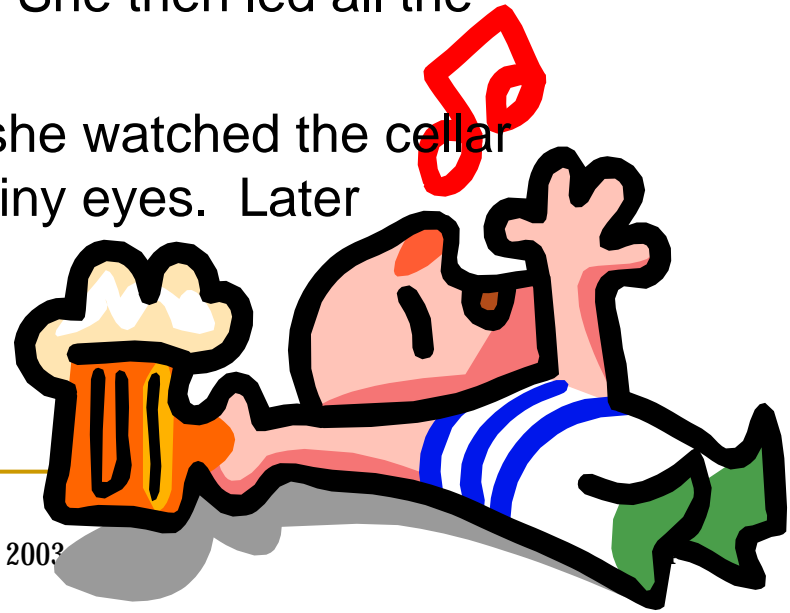


■ One evening, about suppertime Johanna's brother Sam drives up in a broken down old car and Ann recalls how her mother's face lit up when she saw him. As the evening wore on, Johanna broke down and confessed to Sam how hard her life had been and he agreed to stay the winter.

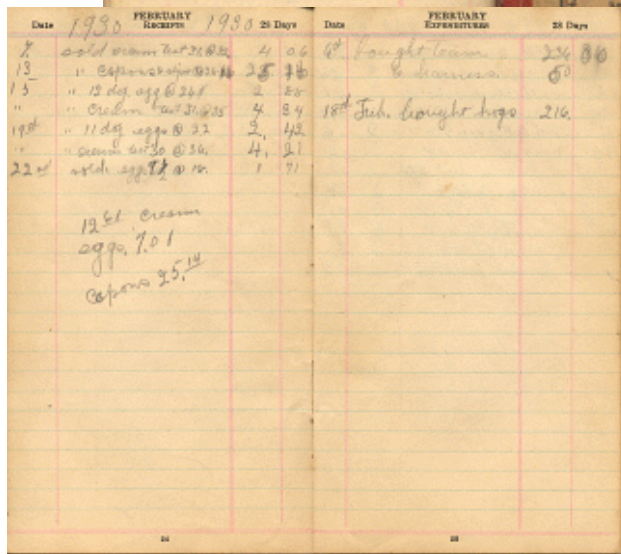
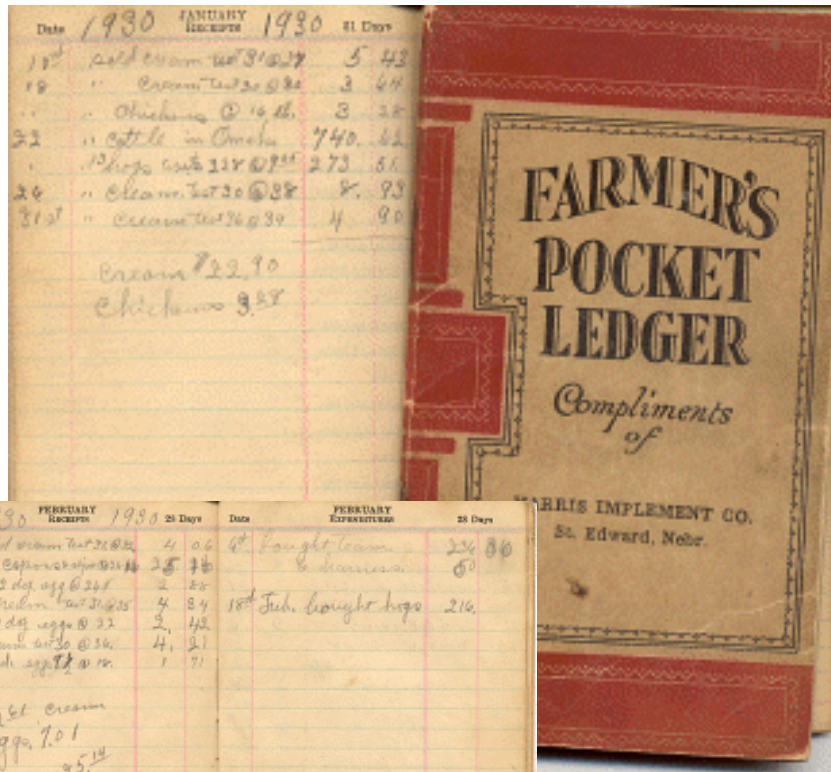
■ Sam worked hard on the farm all week, Johanna would go to the general store on Saturday night, play cards and drink beer. He inevitably came home very, very drunk.

# Sam gets drunk

- One Sunday morning Johanna & Clyde got up early and went to church, leaving the children home with Sam.
- That Sunday Ann and the boys got up early too. They went outside to peek in Sam's window..
- Sam, who had been out late the night before and was perhaps still drunk, began whooping and whirling his shirt in the air as the children watched.
- Ann's imagination flared. She told the boys that Sam was a violent maniac who could murder them. She then led all the children to the cellar.
- When Johanna and Clyde came home she watched the cellar door open a crack and saw six pairs of tiny eyes. Later hearing the story, Johanna laughed
- 'til her tears ran.



# Johanna's Ledger



EGG RECORD								EGG RECORD									
Date	Sec.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Total	Date	Sec.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Total
for the year of 1928									for the year of 1929								
								313.92									383.62
								95.4									104.18
								3.70									192.87
								73.56									85.00
								98.20									120.00
								623.38									1942.35
								1711.73									2748.02
								2809.55									

Total Cash Receipts, before expenses, recorded by Johanna:

1928 .... \$2809.55 and

1929 .... \$2748.02.

March, 1929 hogs sold @ \$11.40

January, 1930 hogs sold @ \$9.65.

By 1932 good hogs sold @ \$2.00.

# Farm Expenses Feb. 1930

- February 6, 1930
- Johanna's ledger records that they bought a team for \$236 and a harness for \$50 and on the 18<sup>th</sup> they bought hogs for \$216.



# 1933: Another Baby: A. Byron

- Gene, youngest of the boys, was just starting school when Johanna and Clyde were both blessed and beset with yet another son: Arnold Byron Jacobsen, always called by his middle name, Byron.
- Perhaps because of poor prenatal nutrition, Byron was a sickly, cranky child who grew up to be a tiny adult with big ears. Ann remembered him crying all the time as a baby. She came home that summer to help care for him.
- But Byron had a good heart and a philanthropic spirit, even endowing a scholarship at his high school.
- He and Johanna lived together until her death.
- Byron was one of the first Nebraskans to die in the AID's epidemic.



Byron

# Drought & Low Prices

- “There were fairly good crops in 1932, but corn was not worth much over 10 cents a bushel that fall, with good hogs selling for \$2 a hundred.
- The better prices in '33 were offset by poor yield - about half a normal crop.
- 1934 was disastrous for farmers. Even before corn planting started the drought had begun and no crops worth mentioning were raised. Livestock wintered on Russian thistles in '34 and again in '35.
- Crops were a little better in 1935, about like '33.
- But 1936 was as bad as '34, except where there had been a few isolated rains. Corn was almost a total failure, but there was a fair yield of small grain.
- Any chance for a corn crop in '37 disappeared in two days - August 14 & 15 - when searing winds literally cooked the stalks as they stood in the field.
- In '38 good crops were raised all over the country.”\*
  - From The history of Arnold, Nebraska, a town west of St. Edward



# How Bad Was It?



- Marie's son, Dean, wrote in his memoirs, that the Jacobsen's were "dirt poor," but he loved to visit his cousins. His mother would sometimes bring him to stay for several days; she also would bring some beef or pork or an apple pie. Dean became one of "the boys" and is often in photos of the period. Dean and Calvin were best friends.
- "In the late fall," Dean wrote, "they would buy a barrel of salted codfish and a big sack of flour for making bread to last them all winter."

---

# Togetherness was key

- Anna Marie recalls days when oatmeal may have been about all they had to eat, but by and large they had a cheerful and pleasant childhood and enjoyed being part of the family.
- Sometimes in the evening they would play games, like “Button, button, who has the button?”

# Shetland Ponies

- The Jacobsen's along with Dean Skanderup, shared two Shetland ponies that Uncle Hans got from the local veterinarian. This photo shows Gene riding Tony.



- This pony was named Tony, like Tom Mix's horse. He was very attached to Ann, but all the children played with them.
- Whenever one of the ponies got tired of playing, he would run home and stop abruptly, head down, dumping his young rider head first into the water tank.

# Discipline



- The only disciplinary action Ann recalls was that a naughty child would have to eat in the corner and was banned from his normal place at table and from listening to Johanna read from the “big book” at bedtime.
- As the boys grew older, peer pressure worked as discipline since none of the children ever would do anything to “hurt Mom.”

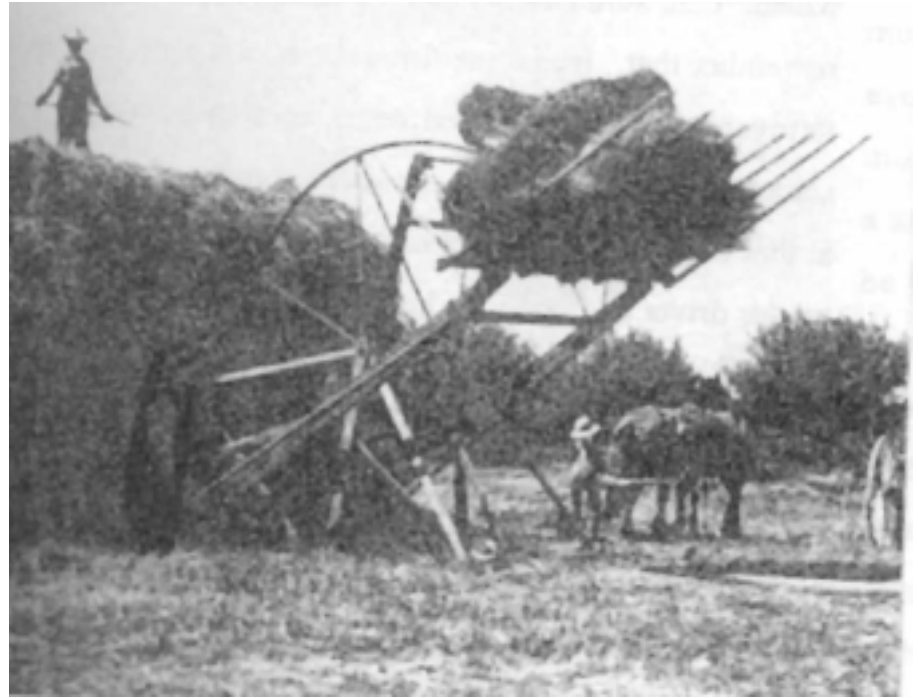
# Hunting Gophers



- 4<sup>th</sup> of July was a major holiday when the circus would come to town. The children would hunt gophers to earn their spending money 5¢ per gopher.
- The operation was a cooperative affair with the money split evenly 4 ways: Ann, Dale, Glen and Calvin.
- One or more of the team would be stationed at each gopher hole then one would flood the system with water so that when each gophers came out a child would hit it with a baseball bat. Peer pressure was intense. Missing a gopher would cost the whole team.

# Stacking Hay

- When she was 10 years old Ann organized her brothers and other boys she knew into teams to stack hay. She got 10¢ for each boy she recruited for a farmer.
- Uncle Hans was one of the farmers whose hay they stacked. Glen remembers how hard they worked on those stacker teams, starting when they were just 6-7 years old.



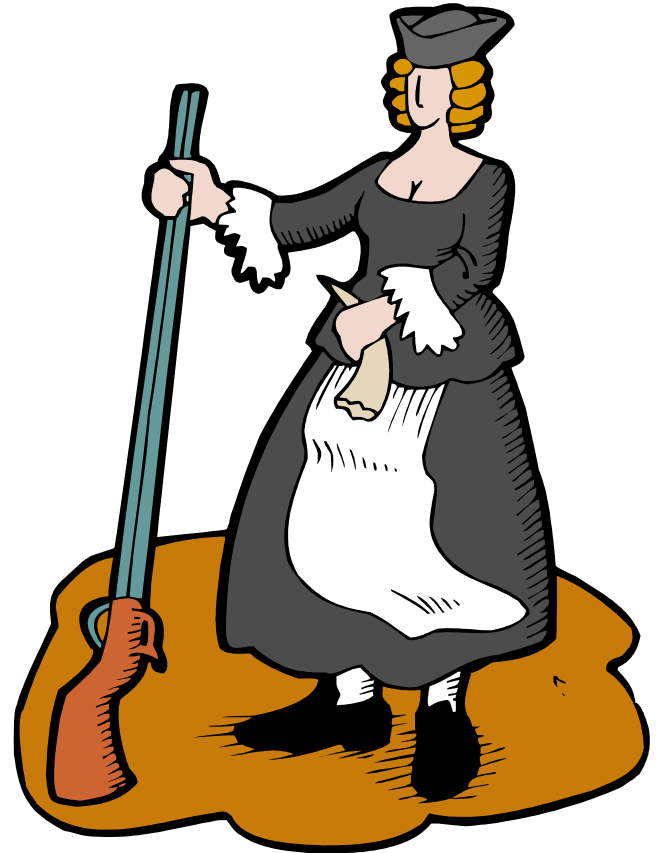
# School or Work

- Ann, the eldest Jacobsen, spoke only Danish until she went to school at age 5.
- After that Johanna made English the language of the household so that all the children could learn.
- Ann, Calvin, Gene and Byron stayed in school, worked and graduated from St. Edward High.
- The two oldest boys, Dale & Glen, left after grade school to do farm work.



# Hunting for Dinner

- When meat was scarce, as often it was in the 30's, Johanna would send Dale and Glen out to shoot something for dinner. They had only one gun and she gave them only one shell.
- If a boy missed his target, the family had no squirrel, no rabbit, and no pheasant for supper that night.
- As time went on all the boys became very good shots.



---

# Anna Marie Leaves Home

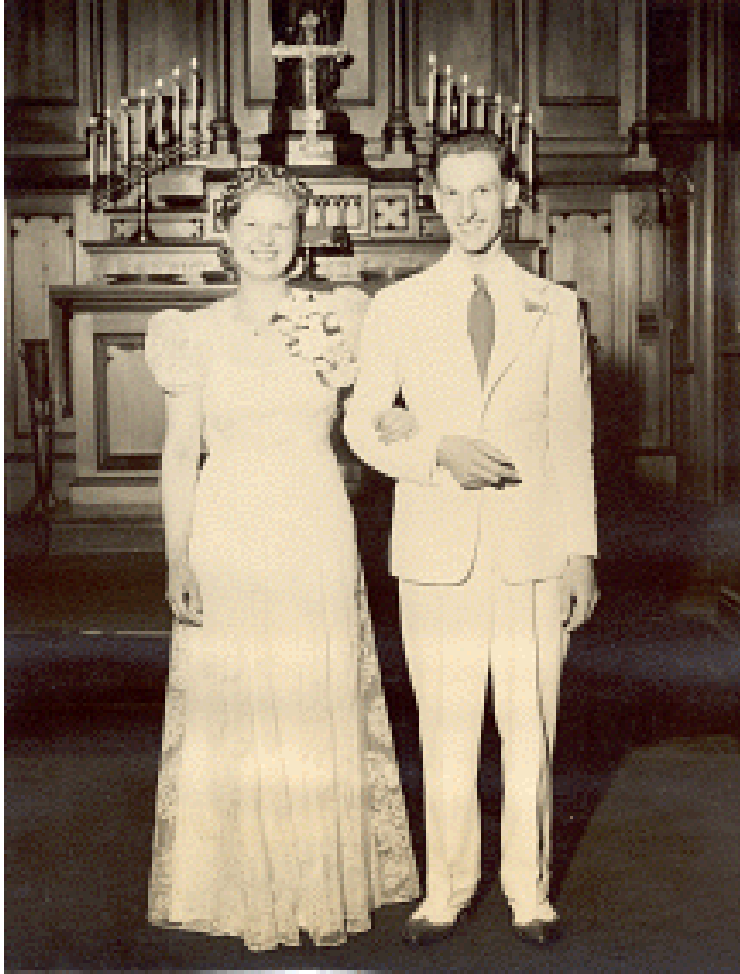
- In 1930, at the age of 13, Ann left home to work for her board and room. She kept house and watched the baby for her cousins, Lillie & Roy Smith.
- Lillie, daughter of Uncle Hans and Aunt Karen was just seven years older than Ann, but she and Roy were busy running the Royal Cleaners in St. Edward as well as selling and tailoring made-to-measure suits.
- Anne cooked and cleaned to earn her board & room all through high school.

---

# The Depression took a toll on Dale

- Dale always tried to keep the hogs together, but often they would get out and have to be corralled again.
- He was the eldest on the farm after 1930
- With food scarce and many mouths to feed, with his father's disability and Ann gone, Dale eventually had a nervous breakdown.
- After his recovery Dale “got religion” and was often called Rev.

# Ann married Dwayne Harris in 1940



- After graduating from St. Edward High, Ann went to Omaha where she worked as a maid.
- There she met Dwayne and Dale Harris from Henderson, Iowa.
- She married Dwayne on June 27, 1940.
- The same day, Dale married Phyllis.

---

# Ann & Dwayne were both successful in business and later retired to California.

- Dwayne was a partner in A-1 Printing, then in 1957 he started the Harris & Sons printing company, later run by son Jim.
- After Jim took over the print shop, Dwayne worked as Development Director for Martin Luther School and later for Handicapped Village, in Clear Lake, Iowa.
- Ann, an entrepreneur, started several businesses including a market research firm, the ISAT agency, which allowed her to indulge in her love of nice clothes and fine cars.

# Ann & Dwayne's Children



*Dwayne Ann  
Jim Kay Ronnie*

- Kay Ann Harris, b. August 7, 1941, graduated summa from Midland Lutheran College then married Kenneth L. Wise on June 1, 1962. They have two adopted children: Kristl Marie and Kenton Gilbert Wise.
- James Len Harris, b. Nov. 23, 1945 became a successful printing salesman, but died in December 1991 of ALS, Lou Gerig's disease.
- Ronald Dwayne Harris, b. Nov. 4, 1948 is a friendly, cheerful person who is aphasic and developmentally disabled. Ron attended Martin Luther School and now lives & works at Opportunity Village in Iowa.

# Clyde & Johanna's Silver Wedding '41



# Glen and Gene go to War



- When the U.S. entered World War II, Dale and Calvin were exempt for health reasons, but Glen and Gene were drafted.
- Glen served in Europe with General Patton.
- Gene served in the Pacific, including Okinawa.

After the war,  
Gene worked as a  
dispatcher for the  
Union Pacific RR  
in Big Springs,  
NE.

Gene married  
Marilyn and they  
had a daughter,  
Diane.



PHONES HAVE REPLACED THE "BUG." The "bug" is the telegraph key at the Big Springs Union Pacific RR Depot. Gene Jacobsen, agent, is shown with his hand on the key which went out of operation here Friday, March 17, along with the rest of the telegraph equipment. By coincidence it was removed just 50 years to the date when a young man named C. H. Bagby sat down at the Depot chair for the first time and tapped out telegrams on the key. After serving 18 years as agent here Bagby retired in 1955. A "composite" phone now serves to relay telegrams. There is also a dispatcher phone and a regular telephone in the Depot. The Railroad is also installing two-way radios on its trains and in depots and has a micro-wave communications system.

---

# Clyde Jacobsen died in 1946.

- Clyde and Johanna lived on their farm east of St. Edward from 1920 until 1942 when they moved to a farm north of Monroe.
- In 1945 they moved to Genoa.
- Kay remembers Gram'pa Jacobsen, confined to a chair from arthritis, taught her to tie her shoes. Although arthritis kept him from playing the fiddle, he would play cheerful tunes on the harmonica.

Glen married  
 Idelle Kummer  
 They rented a farm  
 and raised five  
 children:  
 Russell,  
 Charmayne,  
 Joyce,  
 Cindy, and  
 Holly.

Family Group Sheet

<b>Husband: Glen Harold Jacobsen</b>	
Born: September 08, 1922	
Married: May 29, 1949	
Father: Clyde Jacobsen	
Mother: Johanna Christine Petersen	
<b>Wife: Idelle Kummer</b>	
Born: August 07, 1929	
<b>CHILDREN</b>	
1 M	Name: Russell Clyde Jacobsen Born: April 29, 1952 Married: July 12, 1972 Spouse: Janice Olsen
2 F	Name: Charmayne Lea Jacobsen Born: April 19, 1951
3 F	Name: Joyce Ida Jacobsen Born: April 07, 1958
4 F	Name: Cynthia Ann Jacobsen Born: January 22, 1954
5 F	Name: Holly Jo Jacobsen Born: December 26, 1964

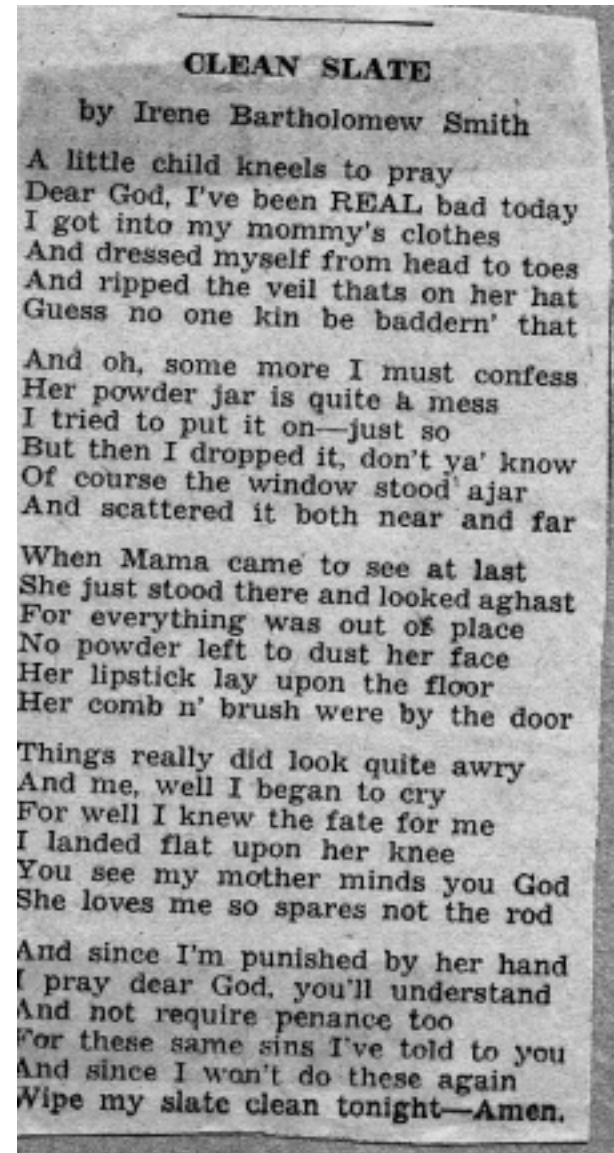
# Dale and Calvin tested milk

- Dale and Calvin lived as bachelors until in their 30's.
- For a while they raised mink, but gave it up as the mink were nasty little critters.
- During this time Johanna ran a small restaurant in Monroe while Byron went to school.
- Dale & Calvin got jobs testing the butterfat content of milk.



# Johanna's Scrapbook

- In addition to newspaper clippings and photographs of friends and relatives, Johanna collected poems in her scrap book.
- The poem at the right is typical of her choices which blend humor, faith and down home charm.



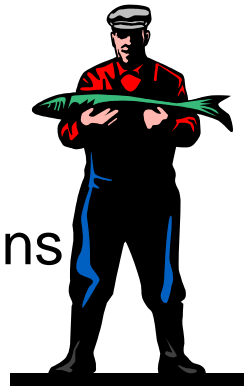
# Calvin married Hilda Nov 4, 1956

- Johanna saved this news clipping of Hilda's engagement photo: which reads:
- The engagement of Miss Hilda Alberta Steinhausen to Calvin Jacobsen, son of Mrs. Clyde Jacobsen of Columbus, is announced by her parents, Mr. & Mrs Roy Steinhausen.



# Calvin & Hilda's Family

- Calvin and Hilda settled on an acreage south of Lincoln. Calvin continued his career testing for the Cornhusker Dairy Herd Improvement Association for which Hilda was secretary/treasurer. Hilda had to wash all the milk test containers and remembered her thrill when she first got a dish washer.
- Calvin and Hilda had two children, Linda Kay born August 1, 1959 and Paul Jae, born January 10, 1962.
- In their spare time Calvin and Hilda would go to auctions and bought figures from occupied Japan and Fenton glassware.
- They also enjoyed going fishing. Calvin would go almost every day in the summer and earned several Master Angler awards.



# Dale married Velma



- Johanna saved this clipping of Velma's engagement photo.
- It reads: Miss Velma Peckham of Lincoln. Mrs. George Peckham announces the engagement of her daughter, Velma, to Dale Jacobsen, son of Mrs. Clyde Jacobsen of Columbus. The wedding will be an event of April.

# Dale & Velma and their pig farm

- Dale & Velma pooled their resources and bought a farm south of Lincoln where they built up a state of the art hog breeding facility.
- The work was difficult and the whole family had to pitch in, but they were successful and raised quality hogs and children with a strong work ethic.
- Their son, Bill, and daughter, Kathy, also raised families on farms nearby.



---

# Dale & Velma's descendants

- Clyde Jacobsen & Johanna Pedersen's son
  - Dale Harlan Jacobsen was born 1921
  - Married Velma Jean Peckham, 1924-2000.
  - They had three children:
    - Donald George Jacobsen b. 1958
    - William Clyde Jacobsen b. 1960 married Janice and had
      - Brandon Jacobsen
      - Nicole Jacobsen
    - Kathryn Ann Jacobsen b. 1962 married Tom and had
      - Jill
      - Luke
      - Carrie

---

# Johanna's family often stood close.



- Taken in 1965 at Ann & Dwayne's 25th wedding anniversary celebration. From left: Ann, Glen, Johanna, Calvin, Byron, Gene, and Dale.

# In 1974 at Glen & Idelle's Silver Wedding



Standing from left: Dale, Byron, Gene, Ann, Glen, Calvin  
Seated: Johanna

Johanna died in June, 1976 in  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
of Congestive Heart Failure

She will be long remembered as  
a most exceptional "Mom".