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Lyng, Julia Pederson (Haroldseth) (1850 -)

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LYNG, JULIA PEDERSON (HAROLDSETH)

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Julia Pederson Haroldseth was born on December 4, 1850 at Ness, Hollingdahl, Norway. She is the daughter of Knute and Randi (Jensen) Haroldseth who were both born at Ness, Hollingdahl, Norway. Her brothers and sisters were Corrie, Ole, Per, Jens, Oline and Christian. Only one is living, Mrs. Corrie (Haroldseth) Ericson of Los Angeles, California. Julia Haroldseth attended the Parochial schools.

She came to America with her parents in 1858. They wished to make a home in the "Land of Promise." The boats in those times didn't have much to offer. Each family had to bring their own provisions with them and prepare their own food. They were on the ocean for five weeks. It sometimes took as long as nine weeks for passage. Their sailboat was named the "Helvitia." It was an adventure Julia never forgot. She wasn't seasick at all and so was busy observing things. While on the boat she witnessed two funerals.

They landed at Quebec, Canada. From there they traveled by train, boat and on foot until they got to LaCrosse, Wisconsin. They spent one night in the woods in a thunderstorm without any shelter. From LaCrosse they crossed the Mississippi on a ferry boat into Minnesota. They settled on a small piece of land which Mr. Haroldseth purchased in Houston County near Spring Grove. They had a team of oxen, no machinery, a home-made wagon, and a drag made out of tree trunks with pegs or tines made out of wood. They sowed the grain by hand and pounded the grain out with large sticks. Their home was a log house, containing one room and an attic. Their stable was made of logs and all the fixtures were made of wood. Not even a nail was used in building it. Where nails were needed, Mr. Haroldseth used wooden pegs which he made. The halters to tie the cattle with were made of hickory twigs

and willows.

When the Civil War broke out, the single men went first. Then the married men were drafted which was worse. They went in wagon loads to Fort Snelling. The women and children were weeping and the drums were beating, which was a lot of excitement for ten year old, Julia.

During the Indian outbreak they lived in constant fear. Three or four families assembled together in the evenings so that they could take turns sleeping and watching. They got a newspaper once a week so the people never knew how near the Indians were. False rumors sometimes made whole neighborhoods pile their families, and what belongings there was room for, in their wagons and start for Spring Grove, which had only a log store, log school house and postoffice. The Indians were not always bad.

One family had moved to their locality from Wisconsin. The husband left his wife and three children in their covered wagon in the woods. He went back to Wisconsin to work. The mother had two cows which she tended. One evening they did not come home, so she went to look for them. She became lost in the woods. She wandered about trying to find the right way back, and worrying about her children. She came upon some Indians who immediately captured her and held her. She couldn't understand what she said, but was sure they were going to kill her. The Indians knew her and so did her no harm. When daylight came, they led her to her covered wagon.

The first reaper in Haroldseths' community was bought by Peter Lomen, about 1863. It was painted blue and was quite a curiosity. They named it The Bluit.

When Julia Haroldseth was about seventeen or eighteen years old, they began surveying for the Great Northern Railway. It took two or three

years to complete the railroad as it had to be built across the Mississippi at LaCrosse.

During the Civil War, the Haroldseths raised flax and had sheep. From the wool and linen they spun and wove all their clothing, mattresses, grain sacks, etc.

There were no heating stoves. A cook stove was used to heat the homes.

When they had social gatherings, they all crowded in one room in the wintertime and during the summer months they stayed out in the open air. The people had good clean enjoyment and enjoyed every minute of it.

Julia Haroldseth was married on May 2, 1875, at Deborah, Iowa, in the Norwegian Lutheran Church, to Herman Renholt Lyng. Herman Lyng was born on January 11, 1852, in Trondhjem, Norway. He is the son of Ole and Martha Lyng. Herman and Julia (Haroldseth) Lyng then moved to Rice county, Minnesota, near Northfield where they settled on a small farm.

About 1883, they moved to Estelline, South Dakota on a claim. In 1888, they decided to leave South Dakota, a country of continued draught, and settled four miles north of Sauk Centre, near Fairy Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Lyng lived there until 1915 when they retired and moved into Sauk Centre where they still live.

Herman and Julia (Haroldseth) Lyng have had several children. Those living are Oscar J. Lyng, born on February 26, 1876 at Spring Grove, is a farmer in Sauk Centre; Mrs. Albert Eckberg (Mary), born on May 22, 1878 near Northfield, Minnesota, is living in Sauk Centre; Mrs. Jonas Eckberg (Clara), born April 25, 1879, also born near Northfield and who now lives in Sauk Centre; Mrs. Hans Fossen (Hilma),

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employed at the Sauk Centre Swift and Company plant, was born on August 28, 1885 at Estelline, South Dakota; Jens L. Lyng, a farmer near Sauk Centre, was born on March 3, 1888 at Estelline, South Dakota; and Mrs. Al Bohne (Ruth) , who resides in Sauk Centre. Mr. and Mrs. Lyng have fourteen grandchildren.

Interviewed: Mrs. Julia P. (Haroldseth)
Lyng.

Date: November 4, 1936

By: Melba Peterson

Publication Granted