

Room 417, Roosevelt Hotel  
Jones & Eddy Streets  
San Francisco, Calif.  
August 24, 1959.

Mrs. Myrtle Porterville  
Finley, N. Dak.

Dear Mrs. Porterville,

Your hobby of collecting genealogies of the Griggs County Pioneer families for public record is a rewarding, continuing activity I am sure. It will be highly prized by many, many descendants speculating upon their progenitors who have not had the foresight to compile the elusive facts pertaining to their ancestry. Thank you so much for the informative material pertaining to my forebears and particularly for the assessment record of our old homestead just east of the Cooperstown Cemetery. My grandmother 'Marthia Hogensdtr Asprusten', as well as, sister, Efthel, are buried there.

At the present time I have considerable time on my hands and am utilizing it in reconstructing our family tree from memory because my records are all in Whittier where I hope to be in about three months to verify some of my data. I am considerably hazy regarding the Elsaas, Sletten branch of the family and cannot now recall the names nor the particular relationships until I get back to my records. You may already have considerable information relative thereto, and so I shall only mention a few of the names, so that you may be able to fit them in to the particular generation where they belong. As I now recall the matters as related to me prior to my Mother's death, Dec. 4, 1941, (no the funeral was Dec. 4th, Saturday, the day before Pearl Harbor) my great grandfather was Jo Johnson, born or at least living in Gudbrandsdalen, Norway. He had a daughter, Ollana, by his first wife, and a son Haaken, by a second wife. The Elsaas, Sletten, John and Thorwald Gunderson, families are descended from that daughter, Ollana, and many of them lived near the Ottawa Bridge about 12 miles north of Cooperstown, or in that vicinity.

The son, Haaken, married my grandmother, Marthia, and they lived on the tenant farm Asprusten, in Østerdalen, Norway, near the towns of Gjøvik and Lillehamar, and the River Rena and Lake Mjøsen. They had four children; 1) Anna Haakensdtr Johnson Asprusten, married Martinus Skramstad whose name was Hanson. 2) John Haakensen Johnson Asprusten, married Karen Vestern. Grandfather, Haaken Johnson Asprusten, passed away right after Christmas 1865, and John left for America shortly after the first of the year 1866 arriving in Lanesboro or Rushford, Minn. Fillmore County. He assumed the name Hogenson in America, actually Haakensen. 3) Helene Haakensdtr Johnson Asprusten, married Christian Lien. They lived in Nelson County 8 miles south of Tolna, N.D. and their children and grandchildren live for the most part in that area. 4) Ollina Haakensdtr Johnson Asprusten, married Nils Christian Anderson, who had come to Southern Minnesota about 1860 from Telemarken, Norway, the town of Vinje. Their children were: Maria (Malla), Charles, Nellie, Mabel, Julia & Efthel, twins, and Ener Osman, the writer of this letter. Ollina and Nils Anderson were married, I believe, in 1878, just before Ollina became 18 years of age, she having been born May 20, 1860. They left that summer or spring for Sioux Falls, S. Dak. and later came to Cooperstown, about 1880, attracted there by Ollina's brother, John Hogenson. The mother, Marthia and youngest daughter, Ollina, had been brought to U.S. by John Hogenson in 1871, and they also lived near Rushford or Lanesboro, Minn. until the whole tribe moved to N. Dak. One of the incidents establishing the date of the journey of Ollina and Nils Anderson to S. Dak. was the posse pursuing the Jesse James & Younger brothers near Madelia, Minn. shortly after their robbery of the First National Bank, Northfield, Minn. (By the way, I examined the books of that bank about 1927 when stationed in St. Paul, Minn. as a U. S. Internal Revenue Agent.) The book, I de Dage, by Rølvaag, of St. Olaf's College, Northfield, Minn.

Hogenson, Anderson Lineage.

translated into and published in English as 'Giants in the Earth' is an interesting historical novel depicting the struggles of the So. Eastern Minn. to S. Dak. treks of the pioneers. A sequel thereto is 'Peter Victorious' by the same author. I have read them in norwegian and english, and my mother, Olina Anderson, after reading the norske version said that it was so realistic that it could easily have been a description of the group in which she migrated.

Marthia Hogenson Asprusten, my grandmother, homesteaded on I believe 80 acres near the Pinkerton Crossing on the south side of the Sheyenne River, now commonly referred to in that community as the 'Pinkerton Bottom lands'. It could be that your assessments records for 1889 might show that ownership. She died about 1891 while living with Olina and Nils Anderson at the cemetary farm.

I, Ener O. Anderson, was born at that cemetary farm Jan. 20, 1894, and my family moved to the Romness twp. farm adjoining Anton Dahl's on the south in 1897. The picture you refer to is supposed to have been taken that same year, and I should be the baby three years old. We have in mother's scrap book the deed to the Romness farm which was sold to Anton Dahl and is now owned by his son Selmer, I believe.

My sister Maria attended Cooperstown grammar school in the late 1880s and early 1890s when Warner was superintendent and Mrs. Hodge was one of her teachers. She came to school with the Glaspells and Fierings in those days. I attended Cooper High from about 1910 to 1914 and graduated from the U. of N. D. in 1924 after serving in the first world war. After my father's death in 1902 Mother attempted to operate the farm for a few years with hired help, but in the fall of 1905 we moved to Cooperstown where my sister Julia (Mrs. Mark Buechler, Lamoure, N.D.) and I attended grade and high school. Please pardon my typing.

The story of Olina and Nils Anderson was written up in the Griggs County Sentinel-Courier during the late depression years when the "Boondogling W. P. A." or some such alphabetical organization was making work for persons interested in writing up the histories of many of the early settlers of Griggs County.

There are so many, many more data pertinent to my story but this will give you a thumbnail sketch which may add something to your collection. When I return to Whittier, Calif. I shall attempt to put together the Oliniana Sletten, Elassa, Gunderson lineage, although I have very much less information concerning that side. I shall also get you some snap shots of my wife and children and grandchildren in case you can use them for your record collection.

That Pinkerton Crossing area is east of Peder Knutson's farm and north of Anton Dahl afirm and west of the Hogenson and Idsvaag farms, in case that will aid you in locating it on the 1889 assessment lists. I should very much like to have that assessment record in case you have it.

Sincerely yours,

*Ener O. Anderson*

Mr. & Mrs. Ener O. Anderson.

I, also, studied two years of Norse at U. N.D. under Tinglestad while completing my foreign language requirements.