

CHRISTINE AUSTAD *married Charles Krantz*  
*Mother of Mrs Nels Lunde*

Christine Austad was born on February 16, 1857 in Indherred, North Trondjem County, Norway. Her parents were Ane Bergethe Austad and Mikal P. Austad. When she was nineteen she left Norway and came to America. She had heard so much of America and wished to see more of the world. She gives the following account of her journey from Norway to Crisco Iowa:

"I left my home April 26, 1876. I arrived at Liverpool, England April 13. We remained there ten days because we were too late for the first ship and had to wait for the next. We were fourteen days on the journey from Liverpool to New York on account of a storm at sea. We stayed at Ellis Island one day and were vaccinated. I came to Crisco, Iowa the 20 of May. Here I lived for 5 years."

On the eighth of May 1879, Christine married Charles Krantz. They decided to go to North Dakota because there was so much vacant land and it was easy to get. The next day, accompanied by her brother Lewis Austad and his wife Elsie, they set out to secure homesteads. Mrs. Krantz continues her account concerning the trip from Crisco to North Dakota:

"A man by the name of Thompson had two teams and wagons. He was also going west to get himself a home and we went in company with him. We had a covered wagon in which we rode in the daytime and where we slept at night. The other wagon carried our trunks and what little we owned. We didn't go very far each day for the road was so very poor and many times in the day we were stuck fast in a slough or other wet places and we had to be pulled out. We made all our own meals on the way, which took us five weeks. We had plenty to eat for the men shot ducks and rabbits and they fished many kinds of good fish. We rode along the shore of the Mississippi for many days. At one

place we had to cross to the other side of a ferry. The horses, wagons and everything were taken at once and the river was over a half mile wide. After this we traveled quite far until we came to Fargo. At that time there were only a few houses and two stores on Front Street. Each of us bought dress goods which cost five cents a yard for the best calico. We stayed there a day and then we drove ten miles out and stopped over night. The next morning we went to the Sheyenne River and stayed there for a short time until we knew where we should settle. Elsie and I remained there while the men rode around and looked for land. We had our wagon in a grove of trees and we heard the wolves howl during the night. We had little to eat but we found a family where we bought bread and milk. When the men returned they went to Fargo and bought food. It was a fifty mile drive. My husband then bought a pair of oxen and a little sled upon which they loaded the food. It took them a day and a night on this journey.

In the meantime we heard of a norwegian family living by Maple River. It was over twenty miles and not a house could be seen. The families name was Thor Mosted and on Sunday the men went to see them and they greatly wished to have us come and stay there until we found land. We went over and were well taken care of. The men returned to Fargo and each took a quarter section of land two miles from the Maple River. It was very large at that time and full of all kinds of fish. I especially remember that one day my husband came home with fifteen large fish.

We bought an old wagon without a box with only a board to sit on. We drove to Casselton and bought a stove for \$16. We also purchased all sorts of pans, kettles, a boiler and many other things. We bought boards and set over the stove. There I cooked for a long time.

We used logs from near the Sheyenne River for fuel. Later we paid one dollar for a load of oak wood. We slept in the covered wagon. Charles ploughed up twelve acres of land with two oxen. I went with him and dug holes and dropped corn in the sod but it did not ripen. In the fall we built a little house twelve by twelve feet. We put sod around the whole house and it was very warm. The stable was of only sod. He made board chains and a bed. I believe there were a thousand nails in that bed. He hauled enough wood to last all winter. We bought flour, pork, and other necessities so that we had enough to last the whole winter. At that time we bought twenty six packages of Arbuckle coffee for two dollars. We were kept at home during that winter because it stormed and snowed nearly every day. But during all this time we had our prayer meetings in the evenings and sometimes in the day, and so we lived in close relationship with the Master.

The next summer we had our first real church meeting, with Pastor Torde from Fargo, at Thor Mostuls. He drove with an old horse and buggy. It took him many days on the journey. Where we had settled there was no prospect for either church or school.

My brother came up from Iowa and got a homestead five miles from where Endeelin is at present which then was only a large lake where we went to fish. Later Sheldon was built, about five miles east of my permanent home.

We lived on our first quarter of land for two years. The 13 of September, 1881 our first child, Anne, was born. She was six weeks old when we moved on our first homestead. We had to be on our land the first of November. We could not start until the third. On the journey the baby cried so much that we stopped twice to get warm. When we were twelve miles from our destination we were caught in a severe blizzard. My husband had to take the baby inside his buffalo

coat and lead the oxen while I sat in the wagon. At ten o'clock in the evening we came to my brother's place. We were almost frozen for there had been no house to stop at for these twelve miles. The day after went to our land. Here I lived for thirty years. The following winter was very lonesome because it stormed continually. The house was very cold for we did not have time to fix it up in the fall. When it stormed the stable would be nearly covered with snow and Charles had to chop a hole in the roof to get hay to the cattle. Once the snow was twelve feet deep over the well and the cattle had nothing to drink for three days. We had no sickness during the winter so it passed swiftly.

The first machinery we had was a McCormick reaper. We bound the grain by hand with straw. In 1880 we bought a self binder, instead of twine we used steel thread to bind with. Our first drag was made like a "V". For six years we used four oxen. We raised mostly wheat which was seventy-five cents a bushel, barley, and oats which was twenty cents a bushel.

We received word the Pastor Bale from Kindred would come and hold services in the homes. The first was held at Elif Nordhagen's home. At this meeting my baby was baptized. We formed a congregation and it grew very fast. We also formed a Ladies Aid Society. When we met we brought all the children and remained all day. We had both dinner and supper there. It was as though we were all brothers and sisters. A schoolhouse was built one-half mile east of our home. Here we had both school and church. Our first teacher was Helga Homme.

That winter so many new homes were built on the prairies and we always went to visit the people and find out who they were and ask them to come to our services. Our closest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shelver and Mrs. Smith."

In 1893 Charles Krantz died and his widow was left with five small children to support, the youngest being one year of age.

Her descendants are: Mrs. Gust Olson, Hankinson, N. Dak., daughter Jewell, Mr. Herman Krantz (deceased) Dazey, N. Dak., daughter Phyllis, Mr. Carl Krantz, Los Angeles, California, daughter Betty Joyce, Mrs. Nels Lunde, Cooperstown, N. Dak., daughters Eunice, Mayvis, Lorraine, Mrs. Frank Drey, Watkins, Minnesota, daughter Dolores.

Mrs. Krantz is now living in Enderlin, North Dakota.