

Biography of Rasmus K. Valentine
--Inga Valentine

June, 1928

Rasmus K. Valentine was born September 2, 1878 at Svenborg, Denmark. His childhood days were spent on his father's home, together with his three brothers and three sisters. He gained his education in a country school house where the rod was the master of learning. After he was confirmed, he was sent out to work in the neighborhood, to earn his own living.

At the age of twenty he set sail for America. Like many others, his chief interest was to see the world and lured by fascinating stories of the "get rich quick country." He crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the St. Paul steamer. The weather being fairly good, the trip lasted fourteen days.

He arrived at his destination at Amboy, Minnesota, a stranger. He chose this place as his brother, Andrea, who had already been here for seven years, was working near here. Here Rasmus received a job on a farm. The operating of a farm here was carried on somewhat different from what it is in Denmark, and the hardships he encountered were many.

First was speech. Norwegian and Dane may sound quite a bit alike to us now, but to one who had never heard it before, it was hard. Then there were many people who spoke only English.

During the first two years he was here, he went to town only twice or so. The wages he received were about seventeen dollars a month and during the winter months, he worked for his room and board.

Harvesting the crop in Denmark was done by hand, while here they used the earlier form of a binder.

Threshing operations were not of the modern means in Denmark. They used a small machine that stood in a room in the granary occupying very little space while threshing. The machines here were of the larger type, requiring several men to run it. Throughout the threshing season, which lasted all fall and early winter, the men saw and felt many hardships. And so on with the other farming operations.

On Sundays all the neighbors would go to church in a wagon drawn by horses or mules. This was great style as the people never dreamed of self propelling vehicles.

After Rasmus had worked here for seven years, he and his brother sailed for their home in Denmark for a three months visit with relatives and friends who were very anxious to hear the tales of this country.

He and his brother returned to America again as working conditions here were better. Two years later he went to Denmark again where he was united in marriage to Miss Marie Nielson.

Together they came to Minnesota where they settled on a rented farm six miles southeast of Amboy. Three children were born to this union, two boys and a girl.

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Marvin Arnold was born February 7, 1910 on the Pete Peterson farm. Here they lived a year and then moved to the E. K. Rue farm where Inga Marianne was born on July 3, 1911 and Niels Valdemar Nordstrom on May 5, 1913. He and his family lived on the E. K. Rue farm for about nine years. In 1916 Rasmus and his brother-in-law, Simon Nielson, went to North Dakota to buy land. At this time there was a westward movement to North Dakota where the land was very fertile and sold cheap to increase settlements in North Dakota.

He purchased a half section of land five miles southwest of Blabon, from George Warner of Hope. This farm was known as the old Brown's homestead in the early days; a place where the farmers from the west stopped on their way to Hope, the closest town.

In the fall of 1918 he moved with his family to North Dakota where the climate was better, to improve his health. He is still residing on this farm with his family.