

The Grover Family in  
*The Clay County Family Album:  
A History of Rural Clay County.*

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*Webmaster's Note: Details about living individuals have been removed*

*There are portions of Tarje's immigrant/pioneer story as told in this article that  
subsequent research has brought into question or proved to be inaccurate.*

### **Tarje A Grover Family (Torgeir A. Graver)**

Tarje Grover seeking landing the Red River Valley in the fall of 1873 first had thoughts of the northern part of the Valley in the area of Warren. However, after visiting old friends from Houston, Minnesota who had already established a settlement on the Buffalo River, Moland Township Clay County, in 1870, they liked what they saw and purchased 480 acres for \$1600.00 cash on the Buffalo River in Sections 27 and 28, Moland Township, Clay County. Tarje hired Halvor Findalstvedt to erect a one and one-half story cabin on the land purchased. The following spring, 1874, Tarje, his wife Geline, their four sons and two daughters moved with their belongings in two horse-drawn covered wagons from their home in Houston, Minnesota, to their new home on the Buffalo River.

Tarje Grover (Torgeir Graver) was born in Moland, Telemark, Norway June 16, 1830. He emigrated to America in 1846 with his widowed mother Kristi, two sisters Rannei and Aase and an older brother Olav, arriving in New Orleans after a four month ocean voyage and proceeded up the Mississippi River to Geline, Illinois, LaCrosse and Koshkonong, Wisconsin. Later moved to Houston, Minnesota and after 28 years in America moved with his wife Geline and family to what was to be their permanent home on the Buffalo River, Section 28, Moland Township.

Tarje married Geline Andrea Kassenborg June 6, 1857. Geline was born in Lands (parish) Valdres, Norway. November 1, 1834 and came with her parents to America and to Wisconsin in 1850 and settled in Rock County, Wisconsin. In 1853 moved to Houston County, Minnesota. Eight children were born to their marriage. Together with their children they rapidly developed the 480 acres they had purchased into one of the many fine farms and homes in the area. Tarje was active and held important positions in church, township, county, school and community affairs. The first meeting to organize "Our Saviours Church" (Vor Frelzers Meninghet) was held in the home of Tarje and Geline the first year after arrival. The "Moland" Church nearby later joined with "Our Saviours" Church to become the present Concordia church.

*p. 468* From letters written to friends, and the early involvement in establishing a church, it was evident Tarje and Geline were of deep religious conviction as was evident with so many pioneers of the area. Tarje was elected and served two terms as Clay County Commissioner. It was said Tarje was largely responsible for selecting the present north Moorhead location for the Court House rather than a downtown location, no doubt a controversial issue in the 1890's as it was recently when the new Court House was built. Tarje was active in politics, a lifelong Republican and a leader in his party. Tarje died at the age of 65, March 14, 1895. His wife Geline died March 22, 1908 at the age of 73. Tarje and Geline are buried in the cemetery of Concordia Church which they helped to found and of which they were charter members.

### **The Children of Tarje and Geline Grover**

The five (5) sons and three (3) daughters of Tarje and Geline Grover all attended the local schools and grew to manhood and womanhood on the family farm. Alexander Theodore, born 1860; Christian Alfred, born 1864; Otto Julius, born 1878; Elisa Andrea, born 1873; and Tilde Moline, born 1875 all married and had families. Gustav Adolph, born 1858; Edward Gilbert, born 1861; and Anne Marie, born 1869, remained unmarried.

Anne Marie, a very personable and outgoing young lady became paralyzed in adulthood from what was then an unknown cause, remained an invalid for several years and died at the age of 39 in 1908.

Elisa Andrea (Lisa) attended the Moorhead State Normal and/or Concordia College and taught in the local "Grover" school District #6. She married Louis Olson of Lake Park, Minnesota, March 3, 1898. They moved to their farm three miles south of Lake Park where two children were born to their marriage, Oscar J. and Esther. Their family histories are recorded in Becker County, Minnesota. Elisa died at the early age of 28 in 1901.

Tilde Maline was born on the farm in Moland Township. She was educated in the local schools and Concordia College, Moorhead Minnesota, and possibly Moorhead State Normal. She, like her sister Elisa, taught rural school in the District #6 "Grover" school. Tilde married Andrew Sandwick February 6, 1900. Andrew and Tilde farmed first in Ottertail County where their two oldest children Arnold and Ethel were born. They moved from there to a farm in Section 20 Moland Township not far from the "Old Grover Farm." Three children, Geline, Alma and Earl, were born to them on the farm in Moland Township. Earl died in infancy and is buried in the Concordia Church Cemetery. In 1908 or 1909 they sold the farm and moved to a farm they had purchased near Corvallis, Oregon. Three children, all boys, ----- were born to them in Corvallis, Oregon, where their family history is recorded. Tilde died in 1970 at the ripe old age of 95.

### **Edward Gilbert Grover**

Edward Grover was born in Houston County in 1861 and came to Clay County with his parents Tarje and Geline Grover, three brothers and two sisters

in 1874. He grew to manhood and with his brothers helped develop his father's 480 acre farm on the Buffalo River in Moland Township. He also taught rural school in the "Grover School" District #6. In 1882 he began in the mercantile business. He was field representative for the McCormick Harvester Company from 1883 to 1890 and in 1890 and 1891 as representative for the Deering Company, then located in Fargo, North Dakota. In 1891 Edward together with his brother Christian purchased the 480 acre home farm from their father Tarje and after a year purchased his brother's interest. His first years of farming were not particularly successful on account of poor crops and low prices. Regardless, he expanded his farming operation rapidly, eventually owning 1120 acres and rented several hundred acres in addition. Livestock, small grain, corn and potatoes constituted the major farming enterprises. Beginning with 12 acres of potatoes in 1894 he increased his potato acreage to 700 the year of his death in 1903. Three potato warehouses were built to store the crop for winter and spring shipment – two on the farm and one on the NP Railroad adjoining land that he owned.

Extensive as his operations were, he had visions of much further expansion. Among which were the purchase of *page 469* additional land and inducing the Northern Pacific railway to construct a spur track to the home farm. Edward was elected Clay County Commissioner in 1900 and in 1903 was elected chairman of the board. Like his father he was a staunch Republican and for several years was a member of the executive committee of his party.

Edward built probably the first rural telephone line in the area connecting directly the Fargo-Moorhead telephone exchange with the home farm and later neighboring farms at a reported cost of forty dollars. (The phone number was 1165-2.)

Edward died at his home October 11, 1903, at the early age of 42 following an illness of two weeks diagnosed by doctors as cerebral meningitis. Constant overwork and pressures in pursuing and managing his many public and farming interests – 15 to 20 hour days not being uncommon, injury caused in handling an unruly steer, effects of plunging into the cold water of the Buffalo River to refresh from the dust and sweat of threshing; friends believed may have lowered his resistance to combat and overcome the meningitis.

### **Christian Alfred Grover Family**

Christian Alfred Grover (Chris), son of Tarje and Geline Grover, was born August 6, 1864 in Houston County Minnesota. At the age of ten moved with his parents, brothers and sisters in two covered wagons to Moland Township, Clay County in 1874 to the 480 acre farm his father had purchased the fall before. Chris grew to manhood on the family farm helping his father and brothers in developing the newly purchased 480 acres. Besides rural school, Chris had a desire for further schooling and attended Luther College, Decorah Iowa, and St. Olaf College, Northfield Minnesota. He enjoyed music and learned to play the violin and sang in the choir. His brothers at times made him practice his violin in

the farm blacksmith shop to be spared from the “hideous noise.” Once after a ‘spirited’ local choir practice he came home and remarked with glee, “they had ‘stumped’ the organ accompanist.”

In 1891 Chris together with his brother Ed purchased the home farm from their father and after the first year farming sold his interest to his brother. January 24, 1895 Chris married Elsie Bergland of Climax, Minnesota. Elsie was born in Telemark Norway, July 27, 1869, and came to America either alone or with her brother Saave in the late 1880’s or early 1890’s. Christian purchased 293 acres on the west bank of the Buffalo River in Section 20, Moland Township two miles northwest of the home farm. This he farmed until his death in 1910. Upon the death of his brother Edward in 1903, 320 acres of Edward’s estate was added to his farming operation. To augment farm income Chris and his brother Edward would some winters take their horses to the northern Minnesota woods, engage in logging operations returning in the spring to their farms. Chris also about 1904 or 1905 made and kiln-dried brick to use together with native stone in the construction of a new farm home he had planned and to market the surplus. His wife Elsie’s failing health however prevented the home building from materializing. The brick however was used in the community. Some uses were brick for the chimneys of the two schools in District #6 and for the potato cellar of next neighbor Gunder Gunderson.

Elsie died July 1, 1905, at the age of 36 from tuberculosis, the scourge for which there was no known cure at that time. Four children were born to Christian and Elsie: Evelyn, born 1896; Mable, born 1898; Oliver, born 1899; and Obert, born 1902. In December 1906, Christian married Tone Dolen of Grygla, Minnesota (a cousin of first wife Elsie). Tone was born in Telemark, Norway on May 2, 1879 and came to America with her parents in 1898. One child was born to this marriage, Alice, born March 2, 1908.

Christian died September 14, 1910, at the age of 46 from tuberculosis of the spine. The ailment was not diagnosed as such until a matter of months before his death. After Christian’s death his wife Tone moved with the children to Moorhead where she lived until her death February 28, 1956.

### **Daughters of Christian A. Grover**

Eveline (Evelyn) Geline Grover was born at the farm home of her parents in Moland Township, Clay County, Minnesota Nov. 19, 1896. Her parents were Christian and Elsie Grover. She attended rural school and in 1911 after her father died, moved to Moorhead. She attended Concordia College Academy and Moorhead High School, graduating in 1916. She attended Moorhead State Normal, graduating and receiving an advanced diploma in 1918. Evelyn entered upon a career in teaching. Her first position was teaching a rural school at Perley Minn. and at a later date Riverside School Dist #8 Clay County Minn. and then chiefly the intermediate grades in the town schools of Minnesota – Alvarado, Middle River, Blackduck, Isanti – and English and Penmanship at Lewiston, Idaho. In 1926 Evelyn married Carl E. Hegland of McIntosh Minn. They engaged in farming in Moland Township, Clay County, until Carl’s sudden death

from a heart attack March 27, 1943. Evelyn purchased a home in Moorhead, attended summer school at Moorhead State Teacher's College, and resumed teaching in the Public Schools of Oregon, Washington, Ohio and ended her teaching career with eight years of teaching intermediate grades in the Public Schools of Moorhead, Minnesota. She retired in June 1962. In addition to regular academic requirements for teaching, Evelyn attended special Penmanship summer sessions at Cedar Rapids Iowa and Capital Business College, Salem, Oregon, receiving special Penmanship Diplomas. She also attended several summer sessions at Moorhead State Teachers College and Monmouth College of Education, Monmouth Oregon and the International Summer School, Oslo Norway. Tours and ravel constituted Evelyn's major recreation. Evelyn passed away Nov. 8, 1975. She and her husband are both buried in the Concordia Church Cemetery.

Mable Eugene Grover was born March 24, 1898 at the farm home of her parents, Christian and Elsie Grover, in Moland Township, Clay County, Minn. She attended Rural School Dist #6 and in 1911, after her father died, moved to Moorhead. She attended Concordia Academy and Moorhead High School, graduating in 1917. She attended and graduated from Concordia College in 1920 with a B a degree. She taught high school (history) one year at Benson, Minn. Public Health Nursing was her field, however, and she entered the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, Baltimore Maryland, in 1921. She graduated, received a degree "Diploma in Nursing" and became a registered nurse, State of Maryland, October 1824. She performed general and private duty nurse services at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Psychiatric Hospital 1924-1925. 1926 to 1928 found her at Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio as a college nurse. From 1928 to 1940 she was connected with the famous Henry Street Settlement in New York City, first as Staff Nurse, then as Supervisor and finally as Associate Director and Coordinator. She took graduate study at Columbia University, New York City, receiving a Master of Arts degree in 1944. She then moved to Hartford, Connecticut to become Educational Director of its Visiting Nurse Ass'n from 1940 to 1944. From 1944 to 1947 she was Associate [page 470](#) Director of the "National League for Nursing, New York City." Her next position was a 20-year term as Executive Director of Public Health Nursing and visiting Nurse Service for the City of Columbus, Ohio. Mable has been and is active in Church and public affairs wherever she has been. She retired from active Public Health Service March 1967. Tours and travel are dear to her heart. USA and Canada, Europe, Near East, Far East, Caribbean, Panama Canal, Pacific Islands, India and Australia have been included in her travels. Her career has taken her beyond the boundaries of Clay County, but that is where she got her start.

Alice S. Grover was born March 2, 1908 on the farm home of her parents Christian A. and Tone Grover in Moland Township, Clay County, Minn. After her father's death in 1910 she, with her mother and family, moved to Moorhead, Minn. Her education began with Kindergarten at Moorhead Normal School (1913), the first three grades at Concordia Normal School department, and then to Moorhead State high school and teacher's course there with the then 5-year plan. She could not receive the State Certificate to teach since she was under

the required legal age, being only 17 years old. Her field of teaching at MSTC (it became Moorhead State Teacher's College the last year of her training there) was in Kindergarten-Primary. She received her diploma in 1925. That same year she took residence work at Moorhead High School and received the regular 4-year high school diploma. Along with these educational activities, she had also been attending the Dakota Conservatory of Music, Fargo, North Dakota, which culminated in her graduation from its Teacher's Course in 1925. She transferred her credits to Concordia College, graduating with a BA degree in English and Education in 1927. Her teaching included two years at Westby, Montana, one year each at Huntley, Minnesota, Weldona, Colorado, and Antonito, Colorado. She returned to Moorhead to live with her Mother and to work as Deputy Register of Deeds of Clay County for 22 years. After her office work, she had her own music studio, giving lessons in piano and organ. She was pianist for the Moorhead Lions Service Club in Moorhead for 23 years and for the Rotary Club for 3 years. She has also been substitute organist for her churches. In 1963 she married E C Studlien. This marriage was terminated in 1974. She now lives in Moorhead, Minnesota where her interests in Church, music, politics and reading keep her involved. Her travels, also, have taken her to many parts of the US and Canada and to Mexico and Norway.

### **Alexander Theodore Grover and (son) Clarence Grover Family**

Alexander Theodore Grover was born in Loony Valley, Houston County, Minnesota in 1860, the second son of Tarje and Geline Grover. In 1874 the family migrated to the banks of the Buffalo River in Clay County and established a homestead.

By surmise, we imagine the teen-age years as being full of pioneer labors for this husky lad.

In 1884 he married a school teacher, Paulina Kroshus, who had been born in Decorah, Iowa in 1862. Their first home was a parcel of land east of Perley known as a "tree claim." There in 1886 their first son, Clarence, was born. The immediate ensuing years Alec spent farming the tree claim, laboring as a lumber jack and working at a grain elevator in Perley. Upon the death of his brother Edward in 1902, the family returned to Clay County to farm his portion of the estate.

Paulina continued her career as a teacher for awhile after marriage. She was dedicated to duty and a perfectionist demanding much of herself and her students, especially in the realm of mathematics. They tell the story of Ivor Klokseth who evidently got into a heated discussion with two companions over a problem in percentage. Eventually Ivor was proved to be correct and his comment was, "I knew I was right, because I went to school for Paulina." Needless to say this highly developed sense of duty and devotion to work permeated her entire life.

Caught in the coils of the approaching depression they too were forced into retirement. For several years they lived near the Concordia Church. There

Alec suffered a stroke and was an invalid for almost five years before his death in 1940.

Paulina survived her husband, but she was also stricken; bedridden several months, she died in 1941.

Clarence, the eldest son, spent much of his boyhood alternating between Perley and his grandparents' home.

Paulina's proclivity for math was one of her strong traits and it became his also. During Elementary school and later at Concordia he developed this gift so much that he became quite a bit of a math buff. Another of his early avocations was calling square dances. He became skilled enough to be in demand at other places in the community besides the Club House.

November 9, 1912 he married a twenty-five year old local girl, Lenora Lee. They followed the family tradition and became farmers.

Their son Albert L. was born February 12, 1914, followed by a sister Florence A. in 1916, and in 1920 by another sister Phyllis.

The older children began their education at the Grover School, then in 1926 the family moved to Perley where all were enrolled in the Riverside school. After eight grade graduation Albert and Florence attended various high schools.

1934 saw this branch of the Grovers back in Clay County. Clarence became engaged in farm related pursuits briefly but soon returned to active farming.

Albert went into farm work and also spent several years as a fireman on the railroad.

Florence studied at Moorhead State Teachers College for her two year teaching certificate and had several teaching assignments in the surrounding area.

Phyllis graduated in Home Economics Education from North Dakota Agricultural College, taught in a number of different states, and married Earl Nichols, a Californian.

Then suddenly the family lost their "Papa" (Clarence) in April of 1949.

By the middle 1950's the Nichols had three sons and the gentle Lenora, who had been living with her daughters, suffered a relapse of her respiratory problems and was hospitalized til she passed away in 1957.

Albert continued working in both California and Minnesota until his death in 1966.

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### **Obert R. Grover Family**

Obert R. Grover was born on his father's farm in Moland Township, Clay County, Minnesota, February 2, 1902, the son of Christian and Elsie Grover. Obert started school in the Dist #6 "Gunderson School." Due to ill health, his father sold the home farm and died Sept. 14, 1910 when Obert was 8 years old. Obert then lived with his Uncle Otto on the old Grandpa Grover homestead and attended the Dist #6 "Grover School." Following his father's death, a home was

built at 824 5th Street South, Moorhead to which Obert, his sisters and stepmother, Tone, moved.

Aware of the need for further schooling, Obert enrolled at Concordia College in the fall of 1915 and graduated from the Commercial Department in the spring at the age of 14. He continued school intermittently at Concordia and NDAC and graduated from Concordia Academy in 1919. His freshman and sophomore college years were spent at NDAC and Concordia College and his junior and senior years at the University of Minnesota. From there he graduated in 1925 with a Bachelor of Science Degree "with distinction" in Agriculture and a University Teachers Certificate.

Obert taught Vocational Agriculture in the high school at Hector Minn. 1925-1927 and briefly part time Agriculture and Adult Farmers evening classes at New Richland and Austin Minn. before becoming Wilkin County (Minnesota) Agricultural Extension Agent, Dec. 1928. He continued in that position for 14 plus years.

Obert's first farming experience started at the age of seven, when he and a neighbor boy, George Lee, in 1909 planted <sup>page 471</sup> probably a 5 or 10 acre field of corn by hand, after it had been marked and cross marked by a horse drawn implement. At the age of 12 he was President of the local 4-H Club (then called "corn clubs" and "bread-baking clubs.") During his adult farming career, Obert engaged in the production and promotion of certified seed grains and potatoes. From a mutation and/or selection he developed a variety of potatoes known as "Redburt." Redburt was accepted as a new variety and published as such in the American Potato Journal April 14, 1953. Obert was one of the first potato growers in Clay County to adopt machine harvesting of potatoes bulk, eliminating hand picking and sack handling in harvesting. He was elected and served as director from Clay County to the Red River Valley Potato Growers Assn and to which he was later elected as president.

Obert married Lydia Sophia Loftness, daughter of Ole and Synneva Loftness of Gibbon Minn., December 1929. Lydia grew up on the farm of her parents and attended the schools in the community. Her love for music prompted her to pursue the study of Piano at the Minnesota College of Music, engaged in giving private piano lessons and has continued to be church organist practically her entire adult life. Lydia is active in the ladies organizations of her church, the Women's Study Club and local chapter of PEO sisterhood. She is an interested spectator of sports (Mostly TV) and in retirement is an active participant in golf, along with her husband.

Obert and Lydia have one son. ---

### **Otto Julius Grover Family**

Named Otto (the eighth) Julius (born July 18, 1878) he attended the Grover School in Moland township and later took a business course at Concordia College in Moorhead. A trip out to Big Timber country in Montana set a pattern he and his family were later to follow on their "Way West." On November 6, 1901 he married Hulda Nicklason, who at the age of nine had left Smaaland Sweden

for Chisago County (near St Paul) and had come to Clay County to keep house for her two brothers.

The young couple lived for a short time at Lake Park, where Ivy was born. On the death of his older brother, Edward, Otto returned to take over the "homeplace" where the other five children were subsequently born. Marion, Elvine, Eugene, Wilfred and Frances. Otto continued through the war and depression years to farm and to raise a dairy herd of purebred Holsteins. In 1937, he turned the farm over to his eldest son Eugene and headed for Oregon, to live near Salem, then Eugene and finally Bend.

Ivy graduated from Concordia, taught in high schools from Minnesota to Washington. A professional library degree led to twenty-two more years in Lake and Deschutes counties in Oregon, from which, as county librarian, she retired in 1969 and now lives in Bend.

Marion and Elvine did film work in Fargo and "points west." She who joined Ivy to be the much-loved "Bookmobile Lady" for the next seventeen years. A stroke in 1964 was followed by cancer which caused her death the following August. That year saw life end also for Hulda and Otto Grover.

Films and related work brought Elvine to Seattle, Portland, and Eugene, where she married Lester Wick. They too left the Willamette Valley to farm, raise hatching eggs, and bring up their three sons in the Alfalfa community bordering Bend. They now farm thirty miles from Bend at Powell Butte.

Taking over the home farm when his folks left, Eugene followed them to Oregon a few years later. He had married Pearl Shetler, a Moorhead State Teacher's College graduate teaching in Riverside School District #8. The youngest of their five children was born in Eugene, Oregon. They too came to farm in Alfalfa area. In 1952 Pearl died of cancer. In 1964 Eugene married Ruth Poetschat of Bend and a few years ago, partly because of heart surgery, quit the "chicken page 472 business."

Wilfred remained in Minnesota, electing to farm in the Averill area. Luella Stensrud became his wife in 1940 and Tom, the oldest of their four children, farms with Willie. Potatoes, grain, and beets have been the main crops.

Frances attended Moorhead State Teachers College briefly. An early interest in art led to a school of fashion design in Minneapolis and remained thru years of homemaking to teaching painting classes today. She married Stanley Hansen of Eugene, moved to Hollywood California to raise their four children and help him run a church film rental shop. After twenty years the pull of Oregon brought them back to Oregon. Stan is an industrial technologist with the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland, and they live in Scotts Mills, Oregon.

### **Wilfred V. Grover Family**

Wilfred V. Grover, son of Hulda and Otto J. Grover, has been farming in Moland Township, Clay County, since 1929. He started raising sugar beets in 1936, being the first to bring in a load of beets to the newly completed American Crystal Sugar Factory in 1948. He has farmed four miles north of Glyndon since

1940, small grains and sugar beets being the main crops. Wilfred was educated in Moland Township, attending the Grover School, located a short distance from the Grover home, and also attended in Fargo. He has served on the Averill School, Moland Township and Glyndon Farmers Elevator boards.

In 1940 he married Luella May Stensrud, whose parents Tom and Melissa Stensrud farmed south of Averill in Spring Prairie Township on the land now owned by Wayne Champ. After the death of her father, the family moved to Moorhead in 1925.

Wilfred and Luella are the parents of four children, all of whom were raised on the farm and graduated from Glyndon High School. The family is a member of Concordia Lutheran Church. ---

Wilfred's favorite way of relaxing is enjoying lake life with the family on Big Cormorant Lake, where the family has shared many happy times.

### **Raymond Grover Family**

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Pearl and Raymond were born in this vicinity and have lived here ever since. Raymond has one brother, Gerald, also living and farming in Oakport township. One sister, Mrs. Herman Sem (Wanda) of Plentywood, Montana.

Pearl has two sisters, Mrs. Margret Sorby, living in Moorhead and Mrs. Ernest Sorby (Elanor) of Felton, Minnesota. One brother, George, of St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Raymond's father, Elmer Grover, was born and raised in the area and lived and farmed here all of his life. Elmer was the son of Alexander T. Grover who came to Moland township as a young boy with his father, Targe, in the early 1870's from Houston County in southern Minnesota settling in Moland township north of Glyndon, Minnesota.

Raymond's mother Allette C. Hegland from McIntosh Minnesota, the daughter of Thor M. Hegland. Thor came from Norway as a small boy with his parents to southern Minnesota migrating north when he got old enough. His farm is located just north of McIntosh, Minnesota.

Pearl Boulton and Raymond were married November 30, 1948. Pearl, the daughter of George and Anne Boulton of Kragnes, Minnesota. George came from England as a young man and lived and farmed in this area the rest of his life.

Pearl and Raymond took a trip to England in 1974 visiting her relatives.

Pearl and Raymond live on the farm they purchased in Oakport township, Section #1, shortly after they were married. We like it very well. Our main crops are sugar beets and small grain.

We are members of Concordia Lutheran Church, Elks, Eagles, Sons of Norway. Raymond has served on the Kragnes Farmers Elevator Board for the past twenty years and has bowled with the elevator team for several years.

Pearl belongs to North Oakport Homemakers, Country Gardeners Garden Club, Elketts, and bowls with the Elketts Bowling League.