

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

No. 1520

MS 1520

Among the most outstanding Pioneers in Nicollet County in Minnesota, we find Mr. and Mrs. Jonas P. Lundeen. They left their home in Smoland, Sweden in the early spring of the year 1853, It took them three months in a sailboat to get to U.S.A. Three-fifths of the passengers on the same boat died of cholera. They traveled as far as Galesburg, Ill. where a brother Isaac Lundeen was living, having been there two years. Mr. Jonas P. Lundeen and wife Eva and two children John August and Christen Mary rented a house from a sister of Dr. Hazzelquist where they lived for two years. During that time Jonas P. Lundeen worked at his trade as carpenter at 50cts. a day. His wife did dishwashing and ironing for a near by Boarding house and in payment got food for the family. The 11th. of March 1855 a daughter was born to them. Dr. Hazzelquist baptized her and she was given the name Mathilda, Mrs. Hazzelquist was the God-mother.

The glowing account of the wonderful climate in the New Territory of Minnesota came and Jonas P. Lundeen decided to leave Galesburg and find a home in Minnesota, He with his family and his Uncle Peter Ahlstrom, and friend Sven Lundholm left Galesburg, Ill. in the early summer, arrived safely by boat at St. Paul, Minnesota, where Jonas P. Lundeen invested in a pair of Oxen and a Covered wagon to hold their household goods and family, They crossed the Minnesota river at Carver on a Ferry. Jonas P. Lundeen left his wife and three children at Carver with a family Mr. and Mrs. Gudmonson, while he and his Uncle Ahlstrom and Sven Lundholm traveled on to St. Peter where they located on two farms two miles west of St. Peter. Jonas P. Lundeen immediately cut trees on his land and built a log cabin, Then returned to Carver and got Mrs. Lundeen and children, They were the first family that settled in Lower Oshawa township. There were a number of single men there, Mr. Ahlstrom, and Lundholm boarded with the Lundeen's for a number of years.

For six months Mrs. Lundeen did not see a white woman, There were many Indian squaws that came to the Log cabin and wanted food, there was an Indian village only a mile and a half from their home.

The following year Isaac Lundeen and wife and two children came also a neighbor, Mr. Peter Modin with his wife and two children from Galesburg, Ill. More settlers were coming emigrants from Sweden. In August the 30th. 1857 another daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Jonas P. Lundeen, She was named Anna Sophie after her Aunt in Sweden. During this time there was no Lutheran Church in St. Peter, Religious services were held at the Jonas P. Lundeen home, The Bible and Luther's Fastilla were read on Sundays and Hymns were sung. The need for a place to worship God was felt. In the fall of 1857 thru Jonas P. Lundeen's correspondence with Dr. Hasselquist, it was decided that he would come to St. Peter and organize a Lutheran Church, The meeting was held at the home of Jonas P. Lundeen, when the First Lutheran Church was organized. Peter Ahlstrom was the first secretary, As soon as possible a church was built, Very simple of frame structure across the street from where the present First Lutheran Church stands. Jonas P. Lundeen was the builder, He built four other churches and a number of school houses, Most of the early farm homes were built by him, He also built houses in St. Peter and Kasota. The people wanted him as he was moderate in his price and not wastful with material. The people would pay him when they were able, altho he was lenient he usually got his pay on time. Men liked to work for him, One was with him for 25 years another for thirty and so on. He had hired man at home working the farm, Lundeen used to be home during haying, harvesting, stacking and threshing, otherwise he was away building. The 28th. of August 1859 another daughter was born to them, She was namrd Josephine, and in 1862 during the Civil War the youngest daughter Emily was born, This year they had to go to St. Peter for fear of the Indians who burned New Ulm and killed many people.

While Jonas P. Lundeen was busy building up the community, Eva his wife was busy helping in many ways, She was called upon in sickness and death. She was the midwife of the community taking care of over a hundred babies and their mothers without the aid of a doctor, No mother or child died of those who took care of.

She also did a lot of sewing for neighbors. A great number of emigrants came and stayed at their home until they found other work. Mr. and Mrs. Jonas P. Lundeen were known for their kindness, hospitality and generosity, Theirs was a home where people were made welcome and happy, their influence was for the good of the community. Their only son John August learned early to carry the gun and hunt ~~pari~~<sup>81</sup> chickens, ducks, rabbits, partridges and even deer for food for the family. He went to St. Peter to school and also worked in the Postoffice, in summer he worked on the farm and later went with his father building. He also was sent to St. Anskar Academy in Carver where he was also confirmed by Dr. Peter Carlson, The following year he was sent to Paxton, Ill. to the School there but he came home sick with the fever and ague. He taught school in New Sweden and Oshawa townships. In June 1869 he went to West Point, N.Y. Military Academy where he graduated in 1873. and he became Lieut. later Captain, Major and Colonel, Retired from the Army at the age of 65, and was called to the Colors at the World War II, as Commander of Fortress Monroe at the age of 70. After the war he resided in Washington D.C. until 1937 when he left for St. Malo Beach, Oceanside, Calif. lived there until his death the 2nd. of September 1940. Jonas P. Lundeen's had five daughters, the oldest one Christen married Charles J. Johnson, They bought a farm about five miles west of St. Peter, They had three children, E. Walter; J. Victor, and Alma who married Sigfrid Nelson, Alma died leaving three children. Mathilda the next oldest daughter of Jonas P. Lundeen's married John P. Turner at the age of seventeen, To them were born six children, A. Elmer, Lorinda, Esther, Winfield, Amelia and Florence. Anna married Charles J. Leven they had only one daughter Eva Lean. Josephine married John M. Turner, they had five children Amy, Arthur, Clarence, Bernard, and Herman. The youngest daughter Emily married Andrew L. Skoog of Carver, They had two children, Esther and John Lundeen. Mr. Jonas P. Lundeen died September 21, 1898. Mrs. Eva Lundeen died May 5th. 1904.

The influence this Pioneer couple left in the community where they lived is being felt long after they are gone, They were God fearing homest , believed in Education. Mr.Jonas F.Lundeen was a great reader and thinker, He believed in being a good neighbor. His four grandson's Elmer, Arthur, Winfield, and Clarence Turner and his nephew Edmund W.Sandeem and their friends Homer and Willard Holteen started the Lakeside Bible class which has become a great factor in keeping the Christian community spirit. It was started in 1904, and it is interesting to know that many neighbors come together on Sunday afternoon to study the Bible.

All the Lundeen children belong to the Lutheran church, The grandchildren also are church members. Only one of the Lundeen daughter's is living Mrs.Emily Skoog of Adams, Minnesota. Mrs.Emily Skoog was the first secretary of the Ladies Aid Society of the First Lutheran Church of St.Peter, The Ladies Aid Society was organized in Aug.1887. This is a short sketch of the history of one of the Early pioneer families. The same quality that endeared the father and mother are found in their children and grandchildren, The desire to live honorably and be industrious and good neighbors by helping in the good works of the community.

September 3rd.1948 by Mrs.Emily L.Skoog.

per C.T.