

THE WESCHLER COLONY

Bismarck Tribune
July 6 1883. p 1

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An Insane Emigrant.

Chicago, July 5.—Mary Smith, an assisted Irish emigrant, who appeared in the county court today by violent insane and incoherent. Enough can be learned about her, however, to show that she has been in this city only since Sunday, that she is without money, friends or acquaintance in America, and that she recently reached this country from Clair, Morris county, Ireland. She is 30 years old.

Brooklyn, of Course.

New York, July 5.—Rev. Louis Bardick, a young Methodist clergyman of Brooklyn, was arrested on a charge of leading astray Josephine Harrigan, aged 16.

About thirty pauper immigrants arrived here today by the steamer Bolivia, of the Anchor Line. Should any of them become chargeable to the public they will be sent back to Europe.

A Crooked Frencher's Death.

MIDDLEROWN, N. Y., July 5.—Rev. Schmalz, of the Reformed Church of Callier, N. Y., was charged with too much drinking and later with improper advances to a half-witted girl in his congregation. He disappeared and Monday last came back and started to drive to Thumansville, Pa., and was found dead by the roadside. His death is thought to be the result of hard drinking.

Railroad Thieves Arrested.

St. Louis, July 5.—Henry Voegel, Wm. Allen and Thomas Kerwin, members of a gang of thieves who have been robbing freight cars in and near St. Louis, were arrested yesterday and are now in jail. Considerable tobacco and other stolen property was found in their possession. These arrests will probably break up one of the worst bands of railroad thieves ever organized.

It Doesn't Suit 'Em.

BELLEVILLE, July 5.—The decision of the home government to repudiate the proposed annexation of New Guinea to Queensland has been the content here. Premier Mellorath in the executive assembly of Queensland will do his utmost to effect the wishes of the colonies. In the legislative assembly at Melbourne the premier of Victoria declined to accept the decision as final.

Doesn't Owe a Dollar.

Des Moines, Iowa, July 5.—The state treasurer has just paid the last dollar of the state

St. Paul, July 5, 3 a. m.—Wood Opera house burned at midnight. The performance had just closed and the people gone out when it was discovered. It was entirely destroyed. Loss, \$15,000.

Confessed Judgment.

CINCINNATI, July 5.—Whitcomb & Wendell, provision dealers, confessed judgment today in favor of Philip Armour for \$28,000. The total liabilities of the firm are placed at \$200,000. Assets unknown.

Owings Safe.

KEOKUK, Iowa, July 5.—The balloon got away from Prof. Owings on the Fourth, after he depended, he drifted northwest of Keokuk. He was not hurt or killed as was supposed.

The Weechler Colony.

The Hebrew Standard, published in New York, published a letter purporting to come from Birmingham signed "M. E. L." charging Dr. Weechler, the Jewish Rabbi of St. Paul, with not giving his colony, located at Painted Woods a few miles north of Burgrack, proper attention. The colony consists of thirty-five families in all. It originally numbered twenty families and was later joined by others, principally from the Co-taxpy colony in Colorado, which was broken up as the lands were not regarded suitable for farming. Here, however, the colonists find themselves located on exceedingly rich lands, convenient to water, timber, coal and markets, and without exception they have united in a written statement declaring the letter of M. E. L. false in every particular. John Yegen, a leading merchant of this city, and one of the finest men in the land, has given Dr. Weechler a statement that to his personal knowledge the doctor has paid large sums of money for these people, and became personally responsible for over one thousand dollars for their benefit in excess of the relief funds he had at his command. He paid their transportation to the colony, and the fees for their entry of public lands, each family having 160 acres, assisted them to build houses, purchased oxen and farming implements for them, and the necessities of life, and has recently purchased cows for the families having small children. They are in need, it is true, but refused to tender them to the county preferring to depend upon the charities of their own people. They have thirty acres in wheat, forty acres in potatoes and small ones in beans and other vegetables, and are busy working and industrious people. They do need assistance, however, and those of their countrymen who have been blessed with an abundance should aid them. Dr. Weechler had between six and seven thousand dollars contributed for the benefit of refugees. Of this \$3,000 was used for the benefit of those located in that city, and \$4,000 at St. Paul, and the remainder has been expended for the benefit of these colonists. And as before stated the law upon the subject of relief for their benefit. Dr. Weechler is one of our noblest men, and for all who know him for his kindness and heart. Let for his intelligence, and be ever so encouraged by all who love their fellow men in his good work, instead of being derided by irresponsible persons who have no disposition to help him in aiding fellow beings in distress.

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LONDON, July 5.—The Duke died of cardiac failure today, three years old. He was eight today but died with his last hour and died apparently well dead on the floor of his room.

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OKLAHOMA TERRITORY, July 5.—At a picnic yesterday evening a rough drunk started a disturbance on it retaining. Jess Harker stabbed the side and was immediately by his brother. The latter escaped.

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TRON, N. Y., July 5.—John Wheeler, union member at the millable he was found on the sidewalk last night skull fractured and badly injured. He was found dead with.

Royal Sympathy.

LONDON, July 5.—The queen has sent graphic dispatches to the mayor of the pressing sympathy with the cause which by the capturing of the steamer Dahomee attempts to raise the Dabbe, swayed.

Woman Killed.

NEW YORK, July 5.—A street car was the track of the Manhattan railroad at 17th street when a train was approaching and a man was killed but the train hit the car killing one woman and injuring.

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NEW YORK, July 5.—Dr. W. H. Hooper, a respected physician, was shot and killed by a man named Hemminger, a farmer with whom he had some dispute about Hemminger was arrested.

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Bismarck TRIBUNE

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THE JEWISH REFUGEES

Julius Austrian, a leading commission merchant of St. Paul, and the owner of several steamers on Lake Superior, arrived a few days ago with a party of Russian Jewish refugees, whom he located at Painted Woods, thirty miles north of Bismarck, where they have taken claims, purchased railroad lands and will establish a village. They located in the immediate vicinity of Wm. Falconer's and purchased the improved farm owned by Nick Bellmore. The settlement now consists of twenty-two families. They will be joined by sixty additional families in a few weeks. They are pleased with the country and feel under great obligations to Mr. Austrian, who conducted them to this locality as agent for the American relief association. It is said that Russia loses \$200,000,000 by the exodus of the Jews whom she has oppressed beyond endurance.

Bismarck Tribune
June 9, 1882, p. 4

Russian Colony

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Tom Nizjed found
1 Don Eisenby's new store

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to ME? BENEFIT
of _____ of this \$3000 was ME of seven(?)
hundred had at ST PAUL and the
REMAINDER has been expended for the benefit(?) of these(?) people(?)
— debt for their BENEFIT(?). DR WESCHLER is one of gods
noblemen(?) — — all who know him for his kindness
— — — — — for his INSULGENCE(?) and be — — —
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BISMARCK TRIBUNE JULY 6, 1883 p 1

Is this Muey ~~Barne~~ *Barne Williams?*

Russian Jewish Refugees

There arrived in New York City from southern Russia, from the latter end of 1881, to about the middle of 1882, between 18,000 and 20,000 Jewish refugees of both sex and of all ages, who had come to escape the cruel persecution of Russia's despotic czar. Of this number, there were many large families, with little children, a great many single men and not more than 100 single women. These immigrants were mostly tradesmen, as nearly all Jews are; there were some merchants, but very few agriculturists.

What to do with these great hordes of destitute people, that swarmed off every passenger boat that arrived at the New York harbor was a gigantic problem. There were no immigration laws then to restrict the number or weed out the less desirables. Vigorous appeals for donations, charity affairs, balls, plays, socials, teas, musicals, and other forms of entertainment were staged to raise funds for these needy refugees. All of which helped but did not suffice.

Out of this dire need, a Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society was inaugurated in December 1881 and received as the nucleus of its treasury \$1,836, which was the balance in the hands of the Russian Jewish Committee, which then went out of existence. Large collections were made in Europe. In June of 1882 after appeals and soliciting for funds from all their co-religionists, resulted in a collection of \$281,418.

It was thought advisable to make agriculturists of these Jewish refugees and send them out in colonies into the sparsely settled states, where land was cheap, pay their transportation, outfit them for farming and then from thence on, they could support themselves. The first three agricultural colonies were located at great expense

citabile, jabbering, queerly dressed crowd of people, whom he in his youthful estimation thought were poor material for prairie farmers.

Matthias Brown, the father of Wm., was a pioneer farmer, who came to the Painted Woods section in 1881 and was well and favorably known. The Browns was a wayside stopping place for many who traveled the old military road past there. Wm. grew up, married and remained on the old place. He came to know the Jews personally and was in close contact with many of them as neighbors. Wm. is the last remaining Brown of that large pioneer family and has a wealth of early history, he could relate and should be recorded.

These agricultural Jewish Colony enterprizes proved failures, for the reason that a great many came unaccustomed to manual labor. Most of the heads of families were burdened with numbers of small children. Many had an exaggerated idea of America. Another mistake was, these colonies were sent out without a leader or a head, to govern them and show or direct them in their new work or undertakings. They got into difficulties and troubles and had no one to officiate for them. They quarreled among themselves and with their American neighbors, by whom they were often misused reproached and despised. They could not speak the English language. Experience proved that the system by which these Jews were made objects of charity did not inspire them to any degree of energy or independence. Many would not work or take the least interest in learning how to support themselves. It might be said; these refugees, were not the higher type Jew, but were a poor, oppressed, ignorant peasant class, uneducated, inexperienced and utterly lost in their new freedom from serfdom. Without an overlord or master in charge, they did not seem to be able to care for themselves. They were an incompetent lot, to transplant in a new country, with its strange

tongue and customs and were pitiable indeed.

Other things to have its effects; the Russian then 35 years of age, was as old in feeling and appearance as the American of 50. This was due to a very early marriage and the subsequent hard lot of the peasant there. They could not adapt themselves to rural American life. Farming in Russia was a very different thing from what it was here. The Russian Jew knew nothing about sub-soil, ensilage, farming, farm animals or farm implements and cared little to learn. Very few Jews farm in any country. The result was that over 4,000 were sent back to Russia. Many of these were glad to go back. Some had left their families at home, hoping that a short stay in America would give them the means to send for them. They were disappointed and homesick and they felt that they had a better chance to earn a living there by trade than in America by farming. All who expressed a desire to return to their native country were sent back by the United Hebrew Charities. It is on record that this society spent in one week over \$11,000 in sending refugees back.

It was not possible to find this great influx of Jews work, other than of an agricultural character. It was impossible to set them up in business even in a small way, in a city like New York. Their ignorance of the language was against them. As for peddling, the field was already occupied; indeed there were too many in it. Most of them were adverse to peddling, even when a chance was offered them, but in the end, some had to take to it because that was the only way they had of earning a living. Almost every day, refugees came trailing into New York that year of 1882, from all parts of the U. S. and Canada, where they had failed in farming.

The Bismarck Tribune comments on the dismal plight of the Russian Jews colony in the northeast part of the state: "There are 22 Rus-

sian Jews in the Devils Lake country, whose situation in view of the cold winter, is extremely perilous. They live in four mud houses, 16 miles from timber and are inexperienced, thoughtless and extremely poor. An effort is being made in Grand Forks to raise funds for their relief, Dec. 10, 1882.

The Russian Jews at the Painted Woods colony continued to remain huddled together on the school section in the village of New Jerusalem and would not go separately and establish homes on the claims they had filed on, until a petition signed by 25 American neighbors all within a distance of five miles, requested their removal from this school section to their own land holdings, was officially executed August, 1883.

These signers, complained that, this colony of Jews were so quarrelsome among themselves, that their screaming abuse and wrangling could be heard at a distance of two miles; that they were tricky and dishonest in dealing with their neighbors, catching up stock and using it, petty theiving; that they were totally unacquainted with American farm implements and methods of tilling the soil and seemed utterly incapable of learning; that they devoted most of their time to devising petty schemes to annoy and extort money from the people about them. In view of these facts it is not to be wondered at, that the people of that locality were desirous of ridding themselves of New Jerusalem.

This protest brought out their advisor and over-seer, the Rev. Dr. J. Weehsler, Rabbi from St. Paul, who had visited them on several occasions before. He called them together for an interview in Bismarck October 31st, 1883 and the Jews received a very emphatic notice that they must go on their own lands and behave themselves, or leave the country. This edict from their Rabbi, they obeyed. New Jerusalem was abandoned. The 14 miserable hovels were torn down and

the material used on their various homesteads. Traces of the old dug-outs and caves that some of the families lived in, can yet be seen on the sides of the bench land bordering Nettle Creek school section.

But they had a sorry time of it and could not make a success of farming. With the generous help of the Hebrew Charities furnishing them from time to time with milk cows, machinery, work oxen and provisions, they managed somehow to stay on their claims until they proved up, when they immediately sold their land or mortgaged it for all the money they could get and left for the cities all over the country.

An interesting item appeared in a Bismarck paper during the fall of 1883 when the capitol building was being erected—Six sons of Israel, carrying hods of mortar in Indian file, a sight that could not be seen in no other part of the world. These worthies were from Russia and would tell you in broken German of the fearful hardships they had to endure at the hands of the infuriated Russian peasants ere they were driven to accept the hospitality of Uncle Sam. Most of these sons of Abraham have claims thirty or forty miles out and were only working to get a little money to help them over the fast coming winter. So at the first snow they disappeared and were seen no more.

Joe Katz was the only one that remained of the original colony. His homestead was at the mouth of Painted Woods Creek, with the old log cabin, that stood on a knoll by the side of the road, until a few years ago, when it was replaced by a small frame building. Chas. Benzi the gardener is its present occupant and renter. The property still belongs to the Katz family.

While Joe Katz continued to hold his land, he, like the other Jews did not succeed as a farmer, but found employment elsewhere. He

worked in the kitchens, as 2nd cook of Bismarck's Sheridan House and the Banner Hotel, for years. Later he was the proprietor of a livery stable in Bismarck. He married a Jewish girl. Many will remember his diminutive wife and their four children, two boys and two girls. They lived in Wilton for several years, where the writer was teaching and the oldest of the Katz children was her pupil. The Katz's residence on their farm was intermittent and of short duration. About 10 years ago the family, with the exception of Mr. Katz, who remained in Bismarck, moved to San Francisco, Cal., where the boys hold responsible positions in a large Jewish bank corporation. Their father went out to visit them a few years ago and while there, met his death in a car accident.

The original colony consisted of 22 families, but as time went on, others joined it until there were 40 or more located here. The following are the names of some of the family men; Barnef Israel, Elijah and Simon Rugofe, Hyman Goldstein, Benjamin Krushmer, Zacariah Kraswaski, Solomon Kohn Simon Rogoway, Solomon Linetsky, Chueber Kasovsky, Abram Wolf, Nachim, and Sh. Katz, L. Sclink, Levi- and Solomon Deller, Burach Hechtman, Jos. Nudelmann, Marcus Gali, and Michael Kaminsky. With them were their wives, Rachael, Rosie, Mary, Rebecca, Sophia, Ruth, Martha and so on and their numerous prodigy.

The Russian Jews attempted to found another village. The townsite of Nudelmann was platted and filed with the McLean county Register of Deeds, May 17, 1888. This townsite was eight miles south and east of Washburn, Sec. 23, Twp. 143, R. 81, with Jacob Nudelmann, of Chicago, Ill., as proprietor. The townsite consisted of 32 blocks, the majority of the blocks containing 46 lots and a few 48 lots, ranging in frontage from 25 to 75 feet.

There were five streets and nine avenues. The streets were named Bentley, Jackson, Lincoln, Missouri and Boucher and the Avenues Low, Baley, Weehsler, Franklin, Washington, Monroe, Adams, Main and Goldie. The postoffice address was Falconer. Needless to add, this townsite was never promoted and died in embryo stage.

Most of the Jewish colonists, located on land east of Painted Woods, extending to the alkali coulee north of Wilton and bordering the Yanktoney Creek. It is interesting to know that they held their religious rites, baptisms, etc., at a certain spring in this coulee. Not far distant, seven miles north of Wilton, lies their forsaken and neglected cemetery, containing about 2 graves, marked with sandstone slabs, inscribed in Hebrew. Their method of burial, was trussing the limbs to the body and burying, in a sitting posture, facing east, with a bible placed back of the head.

Washburn Times, March 5, 1887 --At the school election in township 143, R. 80, held in accordance with a call issued by the county clerk under instructions from the county board last Monday there were 18 votes cast and the following officers were elected: Borach Hechtman, director; Joseph Nudelmann, treasurer; Solomon Dellar, clerk. There was no contest except for the office of treasurer for which Nudelmann received 13 votes and Solomon Cohn, 5. A name for the district was also voted and Montefiore was chosen unanimously.

Montefiore township and the Montefiore school district, which includes the present city of Wilton, were named in honor of one of their leaders and benefactors of New York City and for whom one of the Aid Societies was named. This name will ever be a reminder of this colonization of Russian Jewish refugees, that once resided here.

PAUNTED Woods Township

Burling County

US Census - 1900

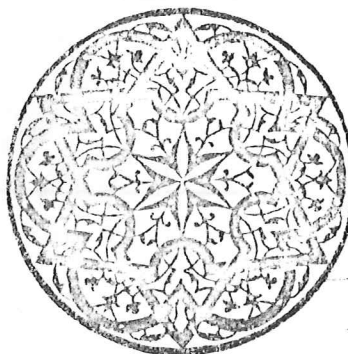
No Jewish names present

Mainly Swede, some Norw. and Anglo Sax
etc

PAINTED WOODS

*copy sent
to
Sally Rekow*

THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH NUDELMAN



Edited and Published by
EUGENE R. NUDELMAN
1969

NOTE: SOURCE IS NOT LISTED

*THIS WAS SENT TO FR W SHERMAN
BY MRS TOBA GELLER, FARGO*

PERHAPS THE ORIGINAL IS IN THE GELLER COLLECTION

JOSEPH NUDELMAN, ROBERT AND LOUIS

and only child in his family.

T H E

F A M I L Y

O F

J O S E P H N U D E L M A N

A BIOGRAPHY AS RELATED BY HIS SONS HYMEN, ROBERT AND LOUIS

Our great grandfather Mordecai Nudelman was the only child in his family. During his life span he married twice. With his first wife he had nine children. The eldest was Joseph, our father, who was born in 1844 and brothers David, Phillip, Maurice, Israel, Samuel and sisters Kala, Rose and Sarah. With his second wife, Edie, there were three children, Robert, Hymen and Harry.

Joseph being the eldest felt the urge as a young man to forge out for himself and at an early age took a position as an apprentice carpenter for several years at a salary of eight rubles a month, (the equivalent of \$4.00 American at that time plus board, room and clothes. At that time the Nudelman family lived in the area of Odessa, Russia.

Much of the details of the life of Joseph during his early manhood have not been found in our search. More details become available for the years following his marriage to Anna Bertha, his first wife. They had four children, Samuel, Maurice, Sophie (Levitt) and Pearl (Palmer). It was not easy to earn a living for a family in Russia at that time, so he moved his family to Bucharest, Roumania, where he opened a "schenk" which was a wine establishment, dealing primarily with the farmers. He would sell them wine on credit and they would pay after harvest. He would also buy their grain, have it milled and sold in the area. It is not known how long this venture lasted. However, when they returned to Russia in the 1880's conditions were turning bad for the Jewish people.

There was a great movement of families to Spain and the Baron Hirsch Foundation was instrumental in aiding the Jews to leave Russia. Joseph had a great desire to form a colony in a foreign land and become a farmer. He went to see the directors of the Baron Hirsch Foundation and after much discussion and some delays he was told to gather his group together. The group consisted of about twenty-five families. All arrangements were made for their boat trip

to New York. They were directed to contact Mr. Jacob Schiff in New York.

In the year 1881, when the time came to leave Russia, Joseph's wife, Anna Bertha was very ill and he decided to stay on until she recovered. The rest of the group went on to New York as planned and on arrival were sent to Winnipeg, Canada, to establish a colony. Early in 1882, Joseph's wife had recovered sufficiently to travel and a second group was formed.

Among these was Joseph's brother Phillip, wife and three children, Nettie, Ray and Sam; Mr. Katz and his family; two Goldstein brothers with their families; Mr. Dellar with his wife and sons John and Joe; Mr. Shank with wife and sons, Labe and Joe; Mr. Cohn with a large family. Mr. Cohn was "Schöcket and Moile" for the group. Mr. Cohn was the father of the brothers who later formed Cohn Brothers Furniture in Portland, Ore. Our Uncle Lauterstein and wife, Kala, with children Laura, Annie, Jacob and Beckey; along with Uncle Moisha and Auntie Rose arrived a year later to join the group.

Upon arrival, Joseph immediately left for Winnepeg, Canada, leaving his family and other members of the group in New York. In Winnepeg he met his good friend, Mr. Finkelter, who had left Russia with the first group. Joseph spent a short time in Canada then returned to New York as conditions were not satisfactory for another colony in Canada at that time. He then called upon Jacob Schiff for further advice and the group was sent to Denver, Colorado. After a short time in that area the group decided not to stay there. While they were looking for what they felt was good land on which to settle and raise their crops, they took jobs with the Union Pacific Railroad that was then being built. Joseph worked in a silver mine in Leadville in late 1882.

The following year, 1883, the group decided to settle in North Dakota, and filed claims for homesteads that were located in McLean County, 35 miles from Bismark; Washburn being the County seat. They all built sod-houses and a year

later Joseph built a log house. The farm life was very rugged for people who had never tilled the soil and didn't know how to go about it. A government agent did give them some help and instructions and some of their crops were of fair size, but the majority of the group were unable to raise crops worthy of the effort. In the first year Joseph followed the instructions carefully and although he was a man of good understanding, his crop, while the best, was not up to a decent standard. They struggled in this new land and even though the times were very difficult, when more families came to the colony they were urged to take up homesteads and work hard to eke out a living.

Joseph's sister, Kaila, was married to Mr. Lauterstein; his brother Moisha remained single; his brother Israel and wife, and sister Rose came to the colony but did not stay long and left soon for St. Paul, where Rose married Maurice Barde, who founded Barde Steel Co. in Portland years later. There was also a Mr. Kasofsky, with two married sons, Tovia and Abraham and their families and two single daughters, Fanny and Lena. The years passed slowly and a number of the families moved to other areas of the country. In 1884, after several years of illness, Joseph's wife, Anna Bertha, passed away. (Research indicated that she was born in 1846 and was only 38 when she passed away.)

A few months later Joseph married Fanny Kasofsky. About three years later her father moved with his two sons, their families and daughter Lena, to Chicago. There Lena married Aaron Bernstein. In 1886, a son was born to Fanny, and given the name Hymen. In 1888 another son Robert was born and in 1890 a daughter, Dora. Also at that time, three more children were born to Uncle Phillip's family at the colony in North Dakota, daughters Laura and Florence and son Charlie. About the same time Uncle Lauterstein passed away leaving Aunt Kaila with one son Jacob, and three daughters, Laura, Annie and

Beckey. They all moved back to Bismark and Jacob went to work to help support the family and Aunt Kaila took in boarders.

About the same time, Mr. I. Bromberg and his son Harry came to Bismark. They were boarding at Aunt Kaila's house, he proposed to her, they were married and moved to Portland, the first of the group to go to Oregon.

Many stories have been told of the hardships of survival in the colony. In nine years there was only one really good crop. Joseph told many times of the severe winters in North Dakota. During most of the winters it snowed so hard that snow was banked up to the roof when the blizzard winds blew. The cattle barns were also covered and it was necessary to tunnel from the house to the barn in order to reach the cattle and feed them. The snow was melted for their household use and also to water the horses and cows. On one occasion Uncle Phillip came with other men and had to dig out the family. On another occasion, Joseph and Mr. Katz (who was Mel Blanc's grandfather) had to make a special trip to Bismark during the winter. They drove a sled drawn by oxen. They had to load the sled with hay for the oxen, and blankets for their own use to keep warm. On the way back to the colony, a great snow storm started. The wind and the snow was terrible and the only thing they could do was to cover themselves with the hay and blankets and let the oxen find their way home. All night long they could feel the sled moving. Thinking they were getting close to home, when the storm subsided, they uncovered and to their surprise found they were at the same spot they were when the storm started.

All the settlers eventually left the colony except the families of Joseph and Phillip, but after a few more years, Joseph, too, moved his family to Portland in 1892. Shortly after arrival, Joseph's son Sam, by his first wife, was married to Sophie Overback, and the happiness of this event was further extended, for in the same year, 1893, a son was born to Fanny and Joseph and named Louis. Son Hymen had just started in the Portland grade school.