

# The Langemo Legacy

The inspiration to write "The Langemo Legacy" came about through the encouragement of cousins and other members of the family. It was our feeling that it was time to gather some facts and record some events before our memories failed us.

Being that Jørgen's family lived at "Langemo's", where the three generations resided together for twenty-eight years, there are many memories. I also had at my disposal a collection of a few of Per's manuscripts. Per lived until I was twelve years old, and Karen Maria (as we called her) outlived him by six years. My memories of them and incidents told to me by parents and uncles are many. That the life style of grandpa and grandma was simple and routine can possibly not be disputed. When Uncles came to visit, they all seemed to me to carry the same likeness of character—pleasant and respectable.

It is not intended that this booklet be a complete family account, but with the help of Marcus Langemo and other members of the Langemo families, we have a collection of background stories. A "Thank you" is due to all who gave time and effort to gather the family information.

Shirley and I have restored and preserved the old bedroom furniture of Per and Karen and we have set aside a room where interested guests are welcome to see some of the belongings of the Goodhue County pioneer couple. Other members of the family have restored the original homes of their former generations.

Herman Langemo

## FORWARD

Why write a story covering Per, Karen, and their seven sons? The first reason, no doubt, would be that members of the third generation have known them personally and have memories which they should like to retain and also to share with others.

In the second place, a wise philosopher once said: "Know thyself". Where can one find heredity and environment wrapped up into one package which would be more meaningful than the story of one's ancestors? The forebears are the carriers of our genetic qualities and the seven sons project a lifestyle seasoned in a special type of environment.

Members of the third generation who find certain components missing in the Langemo narratives may have to explore the maternal side of the family free for the answer.

Through special efforts on the part of Uncle Edward, the youngest of the seven Langemo sons, records from Norway, dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, provide a glimpse into the family background of grandmother Karen Wraalstad Langemo. For those familiar with the mother tongue, the original wording is being provided. For those not familiar with Norwegian, an attempt has been made provide equivalent words so as to convey the thoughts represented in the family records.

History is a continuous process and it is conceivable that some branch of the family may wish to pick up the thread as it applies to the nearest of kin. The loose-leaf form of the stories which have been gathered will provide elasticity through duplication for subsequent requirements.

Every family has its set of priorities and the Langemos were no exception. Certain priorities make greater demands than others. Per and Karen, through their deep-seated Christian faith, surrounded their boys with a set of standards which served them well. Devotion to duty seemed axiomatic in the lives of the boys and when this virtue was accepted in perspective and tempered with a sense of humor, the quality made a positive contribution.

Typical of others with roots in Norway's rugged terrain, the Langemos were hard working, sturdy, resourceful people with no pretensions. In brief, it is hoped that the following pages will help some of us to discover where some of our personal characteristics had their origin and help to preserve memories dating back to the pioneer days when the Langemo family had its beginnings in the Kenyon community of Goodhue County.

## MEET PER AND KAREN OF GOODHUE COUNTY

The following memories dealing with the life-style of Per and Karen Langemo are based on observations by some members of the family of Mr. and Mrs. Jørgen Langemo where the Goodhue pioneers made their home for between twenty and thirty years.

Per and Karen, like many of the other Norwegians who settled in the mid-west in the 1850's left their native land at a time when economic conditions were unfavorable for those who sought to earn a living from the farm. Per often spoke of the adversities which surrounded his early life and later found no impelling reason why he should revisit his native land when his sons suggested that they would like to finance such a trip as an anniversary gesture. He preferred to live by the memories of his life in America. Judging by the picture of the home where Karen was born, which appears on another page, it appeared as though she might have been surrounded with a more favorable financial situation than was the case of her husband.

Peter (Per) Nilsen Langemo was born September 30, 1832 at Stranisted in Kiil in the parish of Sannikedal, Norway. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Nils Halvorson Langemo who came to America in 1849 or 1850. They were accompanied by two sons, Per and Thyge. A third son, Halvor, was a seaman and apparently died in a sea disaster. The trip, which brought the Langemo family to America, consumed six weeks at sea. Per and Karen, as well as Per's parents are buried in the Holden Cemetery.

Karen Mari was born in 1835 and was one of four children who accompanied their parents, Torbjørn Einertsen Vraalstad and Maiken Jonsdatter, when they came to America in 1853. Several sisters and one brother were born to Karen's parents after they arrived in the United States.

September 13, 1855, Per and Karen were married in Koshkong, Dane County, Wisconsin. In 1856, at the age of twenty-four, Per took his recent bride by way of ox-team to Goodhue County, Kenyon, Minnesota. For lack of other building material, the first shelter was built from logs. By 1860, lumber was available and a fairly large house was built which served as a family home while the seven sons grew to maturity.

One of the darker moments in the life of Per and Karen came early in their married life. Three children were stricken with whooping cough. When one of the children had passed away, Per set out on foot for Red Wing, Minnesota, a distance of forty miles, in order to secure medicine. With an occasional lift from ox-team drivers who happened to come along, Per made the trip in three days and two nights. Upon his return, he found that a second child had died. With pioneer ingenuity, Per carved and shaped appropriate grave markers for the children who had fallen victim of pioneer hardships.

Herman Langemo, the youngest boy in the Jørgen Langemo household, often wanted to be Per's little helper, but now thinks of himself as a little menace as he hung around Per who preferred to work undisturbed. Per lingers in Herman's memory as a well-proportioned person about five feet, eight or nine inches tall, weighing about 170 pounds. Herman remembers Per as having a strong constitution and even stronger will power.

Per assumed community leadership through active participation in school and church organizations. He wrote the by-laws of the Holden Warsaw Insurance Company which is still functioning. In the absence of a pastor, he would be called upon to minister to the sick. Friends and neighbors guilty of excessive use of strong drink were often made aware of Per's dislike for this type of indulgence.

From time to time, Per wrote articles for Norwegian religious periodicals. He often sent obituaries of relatives and neighbors to Norwegian newspapers. Those who saw some of the letters written by Per to his respective sons, could well be impressed with his meticulous handwriting.

Per's interests extended beyond the immediate neighborhood in that he served in the State Legislature in 1878-79. At about this time, the Northern Pacific Railroad Company made some of its government subsidized agricultural land available for sale in order to provide additional capital for construction. Per, recognizing opportunities in the Dakota Territory, invested in substantial acreage in what is now Barnes County, North Dakota. Prices have been reported as ranging from three to six dollars per acre. Although only two sons, Nils and Halvor, became permanent residents of that community, several of the boys were the recipients of land which was later sold.

As a farmer, Per moved from ox-team to horse-ox team to horse powered type of tillage. As new inventions in farm machinery came into use, Per moved with the times. Since Per was well supplied with manpower in the family, it was possible for him to be released from much of the drudgery associated with farm work so as to pursue the other activities for which he was known. If the interest shown in the blacksmith shop in retirement years is an indication of his abilities as a fix-it man, he was probably a person who helped keep the machinery in working condition.

The early settlers found the country store a convenient place to purchase the necessities, but the arrival of the railroad took its toll of these service centers. It is said that Per helped in the liquidation of the Dovre Store in which the wholesale prices of the merchandise were coded to the Norwegian expression: "Hjaelp Dovre". (Help Dovre)

The school building where the Langemo boys received their elementary education was known as the Dovre School. Although the building is no longer used for educational purposes, it serves as a landmark to many Kenyonites who spent childhood days within its stonewalls.

Per, being a deeply religious person, became one of the pioneer supporters of St. Olaf Academy at Northfield, Minnesota. From the individual stories covering the activities of Per's seven sons, it is quite apparent that many trips were made between Kenyon and Northfield by the Langemos. One of the sons mentioned that the washbasin was one of the standard items brought from home by those who attended St. Olaf Academy during that period.

Apparently Per and Karen were blessed with unusual health. Not only did they share their married life for sixty-seven years, but they were never in a hospital. It is said that Per never went to a dentist and never had a haircut by a professional barber. He shaved himself with a straight edge razor until he became ill at the time of his death. A blood-letting process known as "kopping" was reputed to have certain merits and it seems that Per and a friend in the neighborhood took time out to tap some of the stale blood which had accumulated during the inactive winter months.

After the seven sons of Karen and Per had reached maturity, the time had arrived when arrangements had to be made for a change in the family farm operation. Per drew up a contract with his son Jørgen covering the sale of the land. The contract carried a set of conditions whereby Per and Karen were to be able to make their home with Jørgen and his wife, be provided with a reliable horse for transportation, and to enjoy certain other consideration. The contract called for a delay in payment until the time of the death of the owners. The owners retired at about the age of sixty-five and died when they were in

the nineties, which, according to the contract, would be a long time for the buyer to wait before he could say he was free of obligations.

The house which had served Karen and Per while their sons grew up continued to serve as the family residence until 1917 when Jørgen carried out a substantial remodeling program. Per and Karen were provided private rooms with more personal privacy, but continued to take their meals at Jørgen's family table.

Mrs. Roy Voxland, the oldest daughter of Jørgen and Randi, made some observations which shed a little light on the retirement side of Per and Karen. Although Per may be mentioned more often than Karen, she was not a passive person, but known to share in decision making. By virtue of disposition and experience, Per was more diplomatic and viable than Karen which did help to bridge some of the problems which could arise as parents live in the son's household for a quarter of a century.

Karen was remembered for her remarkable memory. Even when she was in her nineties, housebound from a hip injury which kept her from attending church, she would ask what babies were baptized, what their names were and remembered them from then on. She was taught to read the printed page by her husband, but she never did learn to write. Although Per generally read the devotionals, Karen liked to read "Gammel og Ung" and "Skandinaven".

Per was known for his good sense of humor, but the grandchildren enjoyed a little fun of their own at grandfather's expense. Per had a routine of checking the outside thermometer in the morning. With precise timing, the youngsters were known to exhale a few warm breaths on the thermometer and rush inside to hear the weather report.

Karen and Per preferred to wash their own clothes to avoid the severe effects on the clothes of the regular family wash. Jørgen's White Daisy wooden tub washer was turned by Per who was guided by a stopwatch for precise timing. Ironing, however, was done by the helping hands of Jørgen's family. Stiff white bosom shirts require painstaking care.

Those of us on the outside who saw Per and Karen in their cozy quarters were naturally impressed by the comforts they were able to enjoy in their sunset years. None of us walked in the shoes of those who provided the loving care which must have required persistent patience and a sense of humor. While providing a home for Per and Karen, Jørgen and Randi reared six children of their own. After twenty-seven years of married life, Randi passed away and was outlived by Karen who died in 1929 at the age of ninety-four.

What is told about the sons of Per and Karen on the succeeding pages tends to reflect the quality of citizenship inspired by the lives of this pioneer Goodhue County couple. They were frugal, but not niggardly. They provided leadership, but in a spirit of humility. Their strong Christian faith seemed to guide them in priorities of life. Like others, they were born, they lived, and they died and will soon be forgotten. The heritage which they passed on is not dead; may this and the stories dealing with the boys reared in the Langemo home help to reacquaint us with traditions, sense of duty, and some of the other forces which have made an impact of our lives.

Marcus Langemo

## PER BIDS FAREWELL TO PASTOR B.J. MUUS

From an address by Pastor S. O. Simundsen at the “Foundation Exercises” at St. Olaf College, November 7, 1931, we find a paragraph which points to the close friendship which existed between Per and Pastor Muus who had served the Holden Congregation for many years.

After Pastor Muus had relinquished his duties as pastor of the Holden Congregation, his health began to fail. At one time when Pastor Simundsen made a sick call on Pastor Muus, the wish was expressed that Simundsen preach the funeral sermon on a text from 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 12:8,9,10. From the following paragraph, however, it is apparent that the change of events made that impossible.

We quote from Simundson’s “Foundation Day Address”: “Pastor Muus skulde dog ikke dø ved den tid. Han reiste til Norge for at bo med sin datter. Hvor godt jeg husker den dag han reiste. Mange hundrede mennesker var mødt from for at si farvel, men han var for svak til at ta personlig avsket med nogen. Der var kun en undtagelse; den gamle lægmand Per Langemo som han hadde arbeidet sammen med, of som hadde staat ham bi og altid forsvaret ham imet at kritik. Avskeden mellem disse to var rørende. Saaledes skiltes vi med Pastor Muus og det sidste jeg mindes er hans gamle bøiede skikkelse der han gik fram i sovevognen. Toget satte sig i bevægelse og han var borte.”

No attempt will be made to translate Simundsen’s well chosen Norwegian words, but in brief for those who are not familiar with Norwegian, Simundsen tells of the many friends who had gathered at the depot to bid farewell to the pastor who had served them for many years as he left for Norway to spend his last days with his daughter. The condition of his health made it impossible for him to express farewell to individuals.

There was one exception--- Per Langemo with whom he had worked closely over the years and who had supported Pastor Muus through good days and bad days was that exception. Those who saw the parting of the two devoted friends remembered it for a long time.

Marcus Langemo

## NELS P. LANGEMO (1857-1931)

Nels, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Per Langemo, was born July 10, 1857, near Kenyon, Minnesota. He was confirmed at the age of 14 and was the first of several of the Langemo boys to attend St. Olaf Academy. He also attended Luther College for a time and was introduced to Latin, which was a part of the classical program of that day. The Norwegian Lutheran Church split during the time Nels was attending College; for that, and perhaps other reasons, he discontinued. He later attended St. Paul Business College and graduated from that school. He came to the Dakota Territory in 1882 and farmed during the summer months and returned to Minnesota to teach school during the winter months.

He married Minnie Dunham Maasjo in July, 1892. She was born in Norway in 1865 and came to America when she was three years old. Mr. and Mrs. Langemo had seven children. The first two died as infants. Later, the following five boys were born: Peter, November 21, 1894; Melvin, May 30, 1897; Clarence, December 1899; Rudolph, October 29, 1902; and Oscar, March 13, 1905.

The community trust which Nels enjoyed, is evident from his many years of community service. He was township supervisor and school treasurer for many years, perhaps thirty-five years or more in each of these positions. He was secretary for the Fingal Creamery during its short existence until 1903. He was president of the Farmers Elevator at Fingal for at least twenty years. He was vice president of the First National Bank of Fingal for at least twenty years, and president of that institution from 1919 until the time of his death in 1931. He interested in a local insurance firm, writing up policies and making adjustments when losses occurred. He was a Republican and one year or so, a populist, during the height of its popularity.

He attended church regularly and it is doubtful that he ever missed church except perhaps if he were ill. He sat towards the front of the church on the right side and the boys sat with him. He always sat next to the aisle. Alcoholism was never a problem in Nels' family.

Nels was a pioneer steam engine thresher. He began near Kenyon, Minnesota and spent two or more seasons near Hillsboro, North Dakota. He and John Halvorson operated a threshing rig for several years until Mr. Halvorson left some time in the early 1890's. Halvor, the brother of Nels, was the threshing machine operator and Nels was the engineer. It may be of interest to know that his first engine used wood for fuel. The later models used straw. In 1923, both Nels and Halvor purchased threshing rigs from Wagner and Langemo and threshed separately from then on.

Nels died in 1931 and Minnie died in 1932 and both are buried in the Immanuel Cemetery southwest of Fingal.

(Information provided by son Melvin who was assisted by his brothers.)



## JOHN THORBJØRN LANGEMO (1861-1947)

John Thorbjørn Langemo, the second son of Per and Karen Langemo was born near Kenyon, Minnesota on January 12, 1861. He was baptized and confirmed by Rev. B.J. Muus in Holden Congregation, Kenyon, Minnesota.

He received his elementary education in the rural school a short distance from his home and later attended St. Olaf Academy, Northfield, Minnesota. He graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa in 1883. He attended Luther Seminary, Madison, Wisconsin from 1883 to 1885 and was graduated as a Candidate of Theology from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio in 1886.

Upon receiving a Letter of Call from Zion and Immanuel Lutheran Churches of Walsh and Cavalier Counties, he was ordained to the holy ministry by Rev. B.J. Muus at Holden Church, Kenyon, Minnesota on October 20, 1886. The parish to which he was called soon enlarged to include highland Congregation in Cavalier county and Urland Congregation in Pembina County. Odalen Congregation was added to the parish in 1897. Pastor Langemo served this parish until 1934 when he retired from the active ministry.

Rev. Langemo came to Walsh County as an unmarried man shortly after the early settlers arrived in covered wagons to settle on their homesteads. During the first two years of his ministry, Langemo kept an appointment book which provides a few details concerning his early ministry. The pioneers had been without pastoral service for a few years; hence, baptisms and funerals had been conducted by the settlers and during Langemo's first year, a number of committal services were recorded. Several parents asked to have baptisms authenticated at a regular service. Eighty-five children of different ages were baptized during the first year of his ministry. Religious instruction of the young was an important part of his weekly assignments.

At the first service of Immanuel Congregation, Langemo was tendered a welcome offering of \$14.95. Zion had a similar welcome offering at the services held in a schoolhouse and the amount was \$8.80.

At a congregational meeting held the first year, the matter of providing a place where the pastor might be housed was an item of business. Nils Anderson, who was a member of the congregation, offered to provide board and room for a year for the pastor for \$3.00 per month. It so happened that when Nils Anderson came to Walsh County from Wisconsin in a covered wagon in 1882, one of his children was twelve year old Mina. Between 1886 and 1888, a number of people would come to the Anderson home to be married or have their children baptized. For lack of witnesses, Mina would often be called upon to serve as such. It later developed that Mina became more than a witness in the life of the young pastor. They were united in marriage July 18, 1888.

Five children were born to this union: Maria (1890-1947), Peter (1892-1956), Marcus (1898- ), Emma (1900- ) and Joseph (1906-1972).

Three of the five congregations were within reasonable driving distance during the days of the horse and buggy. The other two congregations required a round trip of about forty miles. Since Langemo had a high sense of urgency in meeting appointments, he sometimes traveled under treacherous weather conditions during the winter months. There were times he had to depend upon the sixth sense of his team of horses to follow the drifted trail in the dark of night. Sick calls to homes where parishioners suffered from lingering diseases were a part of the weekly ministry. In case of critical illness, he was ready to take off day or night.

As a father, he was firm but reasonable. He was an avid reader of newspapers and periodicals. His college training placed great emphasis on classical languages in his period of training for the ministry. Although he would have liked to share some of this background with his children, the seed did not always fall on fertile soil.

If there are certain things which stand out among the precepts he passed on, they would probably be tolerance and consideration for other people; a high sense of honesty and industry; an acceptance of consequences without searching for a scapegoat; to him a promise was a promise and life was a gift from God and was not to be squandered

Although John T. Langemo lived long before there was great emphasis on pastoral counseling in theological seminaries, many sought his guidance in matters of vital concern. He was called upon to administer estates and he gave of himself where he felt his service could help fill needs of the members of his parish.

As a tribute to his religious and civic contributions to the community, his former friends placed a bronze plaque in the Village Park a few years after his death. Rev. and Mrs. Langemo, as well as Maria and Peter, are buried at the Zion Cemetery.

Marcus Langemo

## MARTIN LANGEMO (1863-1954)

Martin Langemo, the third son of Per and Karen Langemo, was born April 13, 1863. His elementary education was secured within the same rugged stone walls of the Dovre school which served hundreds of pioneer children in the rural community northeast of the Village of Kenyon. As was the custom, Per sent Martin to St. Olaf Academy for instruction beyond the elementary grades.

After having shared the duties on the family farm, Martin found himself succeeded by younger brothers who could take care of the farm duties; hence, at the age of twenty-three, set out to be a pioneer in his own right in Barnes County, North Dakota. After spending three years on the Dakota prairies, he married Anna Thompson on May 23, 1889. Anna's father, who served as Chief of Police in Moorhead, Minnesota for twelve years, lost his wife; hence, his daughter Anna made her home with the Einert Wraalstad family of Kenyon for some time.

After spending a short time in a sod hut in Barnes County, where Anna gave birth to her first son, Martin and Anna chose to look for opportunities nearer the community from which they came. From such information as is available, Peter Andreas, who was born in the sod hut March 8, 1890, became ill on the way back to the Kenyon community and died while the parents were temporarily making their home with Mr. and Mrs. Per Langemo. Peter Andreas was buried on his grandfather's lot after having passed away March 11, 1891.

Martin and Anna purchased land in Ellington Township where they lived until 1918 when they sold the farm and purchased the Peterson Hardware and Furniture store in Kenyon. While living on their farm in Ellington Township, six children were born. Marie (Mrs. Rodde) November 21, 1891 - 1941; Anna, 1892-1898; Martha, 1894-1898; Peter, 1896-1915; Albert, September 29, 1897 --; and Martin Andreas, Jr. August 11, 1905 --.

Martin's consistency and fair-mindedness was evident from his years of service in organizations with which he was associated. He was Secretary of the Ellington Creamery for 22 years, Secretary of the Farmer's Telephone Company of West Concord for 20 years, and Secretary of the Hegre Congregation for many years. He also served as assessor in Ellington Township for 20 years. After he sold his hardware and furniture store in Kenyon, he became the bookkeeper of the Kenyon Farmer's Implement Company and for many years took care of the Village assessments. He served as a custodian of the local Lutheran Congregation during retirement years.

Although Martin lost his wife on April 8, 1920, he outlived all his brothers except the youngest (Edward), who died at the age of 96. Martin spent the last five years of his life at the Kenyon Sunset Home and passed away January 25, 1954 at the age of ninety.

Those who had an opportunity to visit with him while he was at the Sunset Home, found him to be alert. The keen memory, which proved useful in his many years of civic responsibilities, could recall that the labor cost when he built a house and barn in 1893 was \$300.

To those who knew Martin as an uncle, he was thought of as the physically rugged one in the group of brothers. He always seemed cheerful and his personality radiated a confidence which made one feel comfortable in his presence.

(Information provided by Martin Jr. and his brother Albert.)

## HALVOR P. LANGEMO (1865-1946)

Halvor P. Langemo, the sixth of eleven children in the family of Peder N. Langemo and Karen Marie (Wraalstad) Langemo, was born in Goodhue County, Minnesota on April 6, 1865. His given name, Halvor, had been in use in his mother's family since the fourteenth century, appearing as Halvard and later, Halvor in at least six generations before his.

He was educated in the district schools of Goodhue County and at St. Olaf Academy in Northfield, Minnesota.

On August 3, 1886 he arrived in North Dakota and worked on the farm of his oldest brother, Nels P. Langemo, until 1894 when he settled on his own farm. This farm was to be his home for fifty-two years, the rest of his life.

Halvor and Ida Beatte Maasjo were married on November 22, 1899 in Immanuel Lutheran Church. Ida was the second of twelve children in the family of Ole and Mary (Dunham) Maasjo, whose farm, where Ida was born in a typical sod house on December 26, 1882, was two miles from the Langemo farm. She had completed the school work in the local rural school and had attended Ladies Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota before her marriage at the age of seventeen. This wedding was the first one performed in Immanuel Church, about two miles from the Langemo farm.

The farmstead which Halvor envisioned and planned consisted not only of buildings to house his family and accommodate his farming operations, but also of a variety of plantings. Those who remember Halvor in those days, recall his purchasing and planting trees on rainy days when other farming activities were halted. First planted were two bushes, a lilac and balm of gilead, transplanted from the Maasjo farm. Next was a grove of trees to serve as a windbreak which included such varieties as box elder, cottonwood, willow, elm, maple and buckthorn. The lawn near the house was landscaped with lilac, caragana, and honeysuckle bushes and with pine, mountain ash, horse chestnut, and elm trees. In the garden were currants of several varieties, gooseberries, and strawberries. Of considerable pride was the orchard with its apple trees of several varieties, plums, cherries, and black walnuts. The first apples Halvor picked, he polished and packaged carefully to send to his father in Minnesota as proof that apples could be grown in North Dakota.

A family of fourteen children, all of whom grew to adulthood, was born and reared on this farm: Marie (born August 22, 1900), Martha (born October 31, 1901), Peter Oscar (born May 19, 1903, died December 3, 1967), Inga Mathilda (born November 23, 1904), Arthur Theodore (born August 27, 1906), Henry Ingvald (born September 3, 1908), Edwin Norman (born July 28, 1911), Erven Maurice (born April 14, 1913, died February 11, 1935), Herman Milford (born August 23, 1919), Walter Timan (born March 30, 1917), Lillian Eleanore (born August 23, 1919), Leone Dorothy (born August 15, 1921), Ruth Elaine (born July 11, 1923, and Howard Warren (born January 7, 1926).

In March of 1935 the largest barn was destroyed in a fire in which 18 horses and 49 cattle also perished. The loss, which seemed especially disastrous in a time of financial depression and at an age of seventy years, did not deter Halvor. With the help and encouragement of his wife, his son Edwin, and others, he succeeded in rebuilding the barn and a herd of livestock.

In the same way in which he served as leader of his family, Halvor assumed positions of leadership in his church and community. For 48 years he served as treasurer

of Norma Township and for thirty years as secretary of Immanuel Church. He played a tuba in the Norma Township band and sang bass in the Immanuel choir in a men's community chorus, first directed by his brother Nels and later by his friend T. J. Seby.

Halvor was a serious minded man of quiet dignity and deep religious convictions. His presence brought order in the family group with only a glance needed to stop any youthful prank. Other personal qualities remembered by his children are honest, frugality, industriousness, modesty, sense of humor, courage, sympathy, and a keen sense of right and wrong.

On August 21, 1946 he passed away in Mercy Hospital in Valley City, North Dakota and was buried on August 24 in Immanuel Cemetery. A fitting final tribute was the sermon text used by the pastor in the service, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith ...."

Prepared by Mrs. Tyler Hoiland (Marie) and her brothers and sisters.

## JØRGEN ANDREAS LANGEMO (1867-1939)

Jørgen was the seventh of eleven children born to Per and Karen Maria Wrolstad Langemo. He was born June 1<sup>st</sup> 1867 at Kenyon, Minnesota in Holden township. The name Jørgen was used in his mother's family since the year 1500. He attended the district school, Dovre #56, Holden Township, also St. Olaf academy at Northfield.

The Dovre schoolhouse, a stone building, built in the 1870's, though not in use, is still standing. He was baptized by Rev. B.J. Muus at Holden church, and confirmed later by the same pastor. On June 1, 1901, he was married to Randi Cline Ramstad, at Holden church by the Rev. N. J. Ellestad. They made their home with Per and Karen as long as Randi lived. Mother died Oct. 7, 1928. Grandma Karen Maria out-lived her and died in July 1929.

Six children were born to Jørgen and Randi: Marie, March 29, 1902; Peter, April 10, 1904 -- December 1, 1970; Amanda, November 9, 1905; Gerhard, April 23, 1908 -- June 30, 1971; Herman, June 30, 1911; Leona, June 20, 1915.

Randi's parents were Ole Andreas Ranstad and Ragnhild Valsengen. They were married in Norway and came to America from Fetsund, Norway in 1858, settling first in Stoughton, Wisconsin. In 1860 they moved to Goodhue county, Minnesota, homesteading in Wanamingo Township. Randi was the tenth child in a family of eleven, eight of whom grew up. She attended St. Olaf academy and Moorhead Teachers' College and taught country school for several years prior to her marriage.

Jørgen's family and community leadership was sound and reasonable. His discipline was firm but he was always patient, kind and understanding, and had a very good sense of humor. Often when working together with his sons, he related much family and neighborhood history. He told of harvesting progressing from hand-binding to the reaper, then the wire binder to the twine binder. Although he did not own a combine, he saw it used. One of the many memories of him was how he turned somersaults on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and said he felt like 25.

He held many positions of responsibility in community and church. He served on the building committee for the "new" Holden church, built in 1924. He was secretary of the congregation, a member of the Board of Trustees and its chairman for many year until his death. He was a director in the farmers' State Bank, secretary of the Kenyon Canning company for many years. He was also chairman of the Board of the Farmer's Mercantile and Elevator company, helped establish the Kenyon Co-op Oil Company. He was the president from 1925 to 1939. He saved many legal fees for relatives and friends by serving as administrator for estates whenever asked to do so. Especially after the death of his wife, he spent much time calling on sick and lonely people. Pastor Simundson paid him this tribute in the sermon at his funeral: "Often when I was called to a sick-bed, Jørgen Langemo had been there before me with a message from the word of God."

He remained active and alert until his last brief illness. He suffered an accident when a tree fell on him. As a result some surgery was necessary, complications set in, pneumonia developed and he passed away at Fairview Hospital in Minneapolis, February 14, 1939.

Prepared by Mrs. Roy Voxland (Marie)

## PETER CORNELIUS LANGEMO (1869 - 1942)

Peter Cornelius Langemo was born October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1869 in Holden Township, Kenyon, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed at Holden Lutheran Church by the Rev. B.J. Muus. He attended the Dovre district school. Being less interested in farming than his older brothers, he attended school at different colleges and universities. He received an M.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin. He taught English at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn. For a short time, but decided he would prefer a business occupation. He worked in banks or managed small banks for many years in various places: Newman Grove and Lincoln, Nebraska, Kelliher, Gary, and Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

He never married and as long as his parents lived, he would visit occasionally. In his younger years, his health was not the best. Doctors ordered either change of location or outdoor work. About 1913 or 1914, he spent a whole year on the home farm with his brother Jørgen and family, where his parents were also being cared for.

“P.C.” as he was called, to distinguish from many nephews named Peter, was a tall handsome man, very neat and immaculate in habits and appearance. He took long walks and spent much time reading and studying in local libraries in cities where he lived. In disposition he was quiet and retiring, a good conversationalist, but never one to make the first move.

He retired from banking early in life and lived for many years in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Many members of the family remember visiting him at McCarthy’s Hotel and Restaurant. After a number of years in Detroit Lakes, he tired of Minnesota winters and moved to California in the early 1930’s. Here he lived at the Willard hotel in Los Angeles, close to the library, and attended meetings and services at “The Church Of The Open Door”.

Some of his nieces and nephews from his brother Halvor’s family were living near there, so he had some relatives near him his last years. He died of a heart attack in California on June 14, 1942 and is buried in Grand View, Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Roy Voxland (Marie) and Inga Wilkins

EDWARD MARTINIUS LANGEMO (1875-1972)

Edward Marinius, the youngest of seven brothers, was born on the Langemo homestead in Goodhue County, Minnesota, December 1, 1875. He was baptized and confirmed by the Reverend B. J. I. Muus, pastor of Holden Congregation, attended the Dovre District rural school, later enrolled at the Lutheran church academy at St. Ansgar, Iowa, and at the St. Olaf Academy at Northfield, Minnesota. From then on, it must be said unreservedly, he continued his education the rest of his life without benefit of salaried instructors or programmed courses of study. The world was his classroom, and his fellowmen were his teachers. Though not highly schooled, everyone who knew him respected him as a cultured and learned man.

At an early age his adventuresome spirit and already-evident dependability took him to Buffalo, New York, as an apprentice-employee with the Buffalo-Pitts Company, manufacturers of steam engines and farm machinery. He soon proved his capabilities as an expert mechanic, a systematic organizer, and a first-rate public relations executor and gradually advanced to positions of increasing responsibility.. He came to Minneapolis in 1906, and from then on his residence there was interrupted only by a short period of employment in Dallas, Texas. During these years in the farm machinery business, he was a salesman, a repair consultant, and an office manager.

In 1908, Edward was married at Baldwin, Wisconsin to Christine Hillmoe, who preceded him in death in 1959. For more than forty years, Uncle Edward and Aunt Christine's home was "open house" to all the relatives and friends from far and near. Whether we arrived by bus or train, singly or in pairs, at all hours and in all seasons, Uncle Ed. Was always on hand to meet us with a welcoming smile. Certainly few can claim kinship to anyone who was more acquainted with public transportation terminals and schedules, who carried more "grips" and opened more car doors, who threaded his way through more miles of city traffic, and extended hospitality to more guests than he.

Along with unusual business acumen, Edward had an imaginative, resourceful, and inventive mind. In 1910, in partnership with a friend and co-worker, he established the Wagner-Langemo Implement Company with offices on Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis. This firm operated very successfully in the manufacture of the Hooverizer (and the Grain-Saver) threshing machine over a period of twenty-one years. In 1931 he found it expedient to sell his patent and to devote time and talent to other interests and enterprises.

Until within two years of his death he supervised extensive Midwest farm properties of several landholders, a number of whom turned their estates into an endowment fund for the Evangelical Lutheran Church. In the interest of Fairview hospital in Minneapolis, he gave forty years (1918-1958) of personal service as a member of the Board of Trustees, and from 1946 until 1951 he was the chairman of the All-Minneapolis Hospital Council.. For twenty-five years he served Bethlehem Lutheran Church as member of the Board of Trustees in the capacity of Vice-President of the Congregation. For his faithful devotion from 1909 until his death in 1972, a part of the church's facilities has been officially named the "Langemo Lounge".



In 1960, Edward married a long-time friend of Aunt Christine's and his, Martha Reishus of Minot, North Dakota, whose faithful companionship was a great source of comfort and strength in the last decade of his long life. Martha now resided in Minneapolis.

Though Uncle Edward never had any children of his own, he loved people of all ages and gladdened the hearts of many. His great concern for the well-being of all his nieces, nephews, and other relatives, as well as for scores of strangers whom he befriended, expressed itself tangibly in words of advice and encouragement and in financial help when most needed.

His strong support of higher education manifested itself repeatedly in very generous bequests to Lutheran church-oriented colleges and various church-related institutions as well as in private financial aid to individual students on numerous occasions.

Among the many experiences he enjoyed during his life was his first train ride on the initial run of the Chicago Great Western between Kenyon and St. Paul. He had vivid memories of two days at age nine in the threshing season of 1885, when he was a horse-and-buggy chauffeur for ex-Governor Marshall of Minnesota who needed to discuss the planned railroad with township farmers. As a reward, he was promised a first train ride, and the ex-Governor was a man of his word. Again in 1956 when this train made its final run, the only living "first passenger" was honored by repeating the trip.

Edward was more widely traveled than were his six brothers, and in later years he reminisced entertainingly concerning incidents and impressions of his visits to Norway, Mexico, South America, Canada, and Coast-to-Coast United States.

Uncle Edward's legacies to all of us are the fruits of an indomitable Christian spirit born of sensitivity, good humor, self-discipline, and devotion to worthy causes. He was understanding of governors and of the governed, of management and of labor, of youth and of old age. In all his dealing through most of a century with people of different races, faiths, and life-styles he was kind and patient. In my frequent conversations with him, I never heard him censure any one more severely than to say: "Poor fellow ---he made a mistake."

Written by Amanda Langemo

## REFLECTIONS

The Langemo Legacy may mean one thing to one descendant and something else to another. Like other parents, Per and Karen were the recipients of a diverse collection of hereditary ingredients which were passed on by natural laws. However, the environmental atmosphere of the home, over which they had some control, projected a standard for life which, fortunately, could be passed on without the element of biological chance.

What is told about the boys who were the product of the home of Per and Karen seems to suggest that Paul's letter to the Galatians, Chapter 5, verses 22-23 might have been a guideline in their daily living. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law." What better description could one find as representing the kernel of the Langemo Legacy?

Among the by-products, one could point to: industry, tolerance, integrity, common sense, a desire for self-improvement, and a willingness to live and to let live. However, that which seems to stand out above and beyond those qualities is a basic reliance on a personal guiding hand rooted in a faith which was as real as life itself.

I would seem fitting to dedicate the foregoing narratives to the perpetuation of the fine qualities which the family pioneers represent.

Marcus Langemo

THE GENEALOGY OF KAREN EINERTSEN WRAALSTAD  
LANGEMO (1341 - 1835)

To supplement the original records secured by Edward M. Langemo on one of his visits to Norway, an English translation is intended to convey the approximate thoughts to generations not familiar with the Norwegian Language. The first paragraph deals with a name change which relates to the person who will serve as a starting point.

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday and Saturday after Holy Thursday in 1341, Presiding Judge Tord came to Gjestegaarden in Skien. Here he met Olav and Gunleik Halvardsen Roalzstadum. The name Roalzstadum was changed to Roaldstad and later to Vraalstad.

1<sup>st</sup> Generation

Signe Roaldstad married Torbjørn Sveinsen and became the parents of Halvard.

2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

Halvard Torbjørnsen Roaldstad married Liv Helgesdatter and were the parents of son Torbjørn. (Additional information) On March 12 in 1378 he purchased 3 pieces of precipitous terrane in lower Roaldstad; his mother Signe and son concurred.

3<sup>rd</sup> Generation

Torbjørn Halvardsen Roaldstad purchased a part of the Roaldstad farm which became known as the Fiskvann farm. (The name of the wife is missing) Their son was named Halvard.

4<sup>th</sup> Generation

Halvard Torbjørnsen Roaldstad married Turid and they named their son Torbjørn. Halvard was also called "Graatopp" (gray top) and sometimes called Lord Halvard, 1400-1454. As a leader of the farmers, he assembled an army and moved toward Oslo to bring an end to Danish misrule.

5<sup>th</sup> Generation

Torbjørn Halvardsen Roaldstad traded in real estate so as to acquire ownership of the farm in Sandvik, but forfeited Dale. (Wife's name omitted) The son was (unreadable)

6<sup>th</sup> Generation

Halvard Torbjørnsen Roaldstad married Liv. The next generation was represented by son Torbjørn. On August 11, 1515, he purchased 3 farmsteads in Djupedal in Hjartdal.

7<sup>th</sup> Generation

Torbjørn Holvardsen Roaldstad had a child by the name of Aslaug. (Wife's name omitted) (He served as a juror on a case in 1540)

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Generation

Aslaug Torbjørnsdatter Roaldstad married Jørgen Torvildsen and had the following children: Jørgen, Torbjørn and Gunnar. (On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March in 1564 presiding judge Mils Andersen and feudal lord, Claus Huitfeldt appeared in the courthouse where an intelligent woman, Aslaug, introduced a statement in court concerning the sale of Dale in Seljord.) (Jørgen Torvildsen was one of the jurors who helped select emissaries to the allegiance of Kristian IV of Oslo in 1591. The following year he paid house-tax to Akerhus castle for Roaldstad.

#### 9<sup>th</sup> Generation

Torbjørn Jorgensen Roaldstad, changed to Vraalstad, born in 1584, died in 1667, married Liv and later, Sigrid Bjørnsdatter. The children were: 1, Halvor; 2, Jorgen (who came to the outermost district of Vefall); 3, Anund, who came into possession of Vraalstad; 4, Bjørn, who came into possession of Dustrak; 5, Tor; 6, Iari, married to Per Fineid; 7, Live; 8, Taran, married to Nilsmand Knutsen Voje; 9, Aslaug, married to Tellef Steinsland; 10, one daughter married to Tervild Ase; 11, a daughter married to Halvor Bjørnsen. (Torbjørn was a well-to-do and respected man). He had complete or part ownership of 19 farms. In 1640, he was a sheriff in Drangelal).

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Generation

Anund Torbjørnson Vraalstad, died in 1680, was married to Aase Nilsdatter, who was born in 1622 and died in 169-. The children were Halvor and Lars.

#### 11<sup>th</sup> Generation

Halvor Amundsen Vraalstad, born in 1654 (The wife's name is missing) Son was named Torbjørn.

#### 12<sup>th</sup> Generation

Torbjørn Halversen Vraalstad, of age in 1711, married Helge Einersdatter who was born 1706 and died in 1766. The son Einert received the Vraalstad farm. Torbjørn was a respected man who served as the church sexton for many years.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Generation

Einert Torbjørnsen Vraalstad, born 1724, died in 1789, married in 1767 to Sigrid Ambjørnsdatter Grimstveit in Nissedal. She died in 1792. The children were Torbjørn and Berulf who remained on the Vraalstad farm.

#### 14<sup>th</sup> Generation

Torbjørn Einertsen Vraalstad, born in 1749, died in 1828. He was married in 1767 to Sigrid Ambjørnsdatter Grimstveit in Nissedal. She died in 1792. They had a son by the name of Einert.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Generation

Einert Torbjørnsen Vraalstad, born in 1787, died in 1858. He was married in 1811 to Kari Persdatter Tveit, born in 1790 and died in 1834. (All 6 children of Einert and Kari left with their families to America. (Some are mentioned below.)

## 16<sup>th</sup> Generation

1. Torbjørn Einertsen, born in 1812, married in 1832 to Mariken Jonsdatter, outermost district of Vefall, born in 1812. Children born in Norway were Kari, Karen (who became Mrs. Per Langemo), Anne and Mariken. Children born in America were Jurine (Mrs. Ole Verdale), Ernest, Anne (Mrs. Gunlick Aase), Helene (Mrs. Erik Monson), Sigrid (Mrs. Ole Baken ), Mariken, the youngest but who never married. Those underlined were not listed in the records from Norway, but are included because of the number of descendants of the couples mentioned.)

(It would seem from the information available, that Marikan who was listed among the children who accompanied her parents to America may have died before reaching maturity.)

2. Per Einertsen, born 1820, married in 1847 to Kari Olsdatter Vraalstad, born in 1822. The children were Einer, Kari, Olaf, Halvor, Jon, Torbjørn, Torbert. All were born on the Vralstad farm. Per and Kari left with the children for America in 1861. After coming to America, the following children were born: Helene, who married Per Roe; Maria, who was married to Halvor Gunnarsen (Dalane ved Voje); Andrea married Sven Svensen.

3. Halvor Einertsen, born in 1825, married in 1849 to Ingeborg Olsdatter Aase who was born in 1827. They left with their son Einert for Sannidal in 1851 and later to America. Jon Lauvstad is supposed to have written the following concerning Halvor: "He was an active, considerate and handsome man. Rumors have it that he is a millionaire in America and that he has a very large farm with 18 horses and 70 stanchion tied cows."

4. Jon Einertsen, born in 1828, left for American at the age of 22. He married Dorthea Mathea Lilloe, daughter of Andreas and Elline Lilloe of Oslo. Their son Andrew J. Volstead was a member of the United States Congress. The prohibition amendment was often called the Volstead Act.

5. Sidsel Einertsdatter, married Tomas Jonsen Lensgrav and migrated to America in 1846.

6. Asborg Einertsdatter left for America in 1853.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Generation

Mr. and Mrs. P.N. Langemo (Per and Karen and their seven sons are the subjects of the narratives of this booklet.

## 18<sup>th</sup> Generation

Grandchildren of Per and Karen

Translated by Marcus Langemo with the help of Amanda Langemo, Norse scholar.

Edvard ----. Langemo ætt. -----(unreadable)

Fredag og Lördag etter helgetorsdag 1341, kom Tord lagmann til Gjestegården i Skien. Der møtte Olav og Gunleik Halvarsen Roaldstadum. Navnet Roaldstadum ble forandret til Roaldstad senere til Vrålstad.

1 slektledd.

Signe Roaldstad, gift med Torbjörn Sveinsen. Barn: Halvard.

2 slektledd.

Halvard Torbjörnsen Roaldstad, gift med Liv Helgesdatter. Barn: Torbjörn. Den 12 mars 1378, kjøpte han 3 staups land i nedre Roaldstad, hans mor Signe og hans Sonn Olav gav sitt samtykke til det.

3 slektledd.

Torbjörn Halvarsen Roaldstad, kjøpte i 1393 gården Fiskvann en part av Roaldstad. Barn: Halvard.

4 slektledd.

Halvard Torbjörnsen Roaldstad, gift med Turid. Barn: Torbjörn. Halvard ble også kalt Halvard „Gråtopp” eller Herren Halvard, 1400-1454. Bondefører som samlet en hær og gikk mot Oslo, for å få slutt på det danske vanstyre.

5 slektledd.

Torbjörn Halvarsen Roaldstad, som makeskiftet til seg 7 markabol i i Sandvik og gav bort Dale. Barn: Halvard.

6 slektledd.

Halvard Torbjörnsen Roaldstad, gift med Liv. Den 8/11 - 1515 kjøpte han 3 markabol i Djupedal i Hjartdal. Barn: Torbjörn.

7 slektledd.

Torbjörn Halvarsen Roaldstad, lagrettsmann i en sak på Steinsland i 1540. Bran: Aslaug.

8 slektledd.

Aslaug Torbjörnsdatter Roaldstad, gift med Jörgen Torvildsen. Barn: Jörgen, Torbjörn og Gunner. Den 3 mars 1564 var lagmann Nils Andersen og lensherren Claus Huitfeldt på rådstua i Skien. Der kom „fornuftig” kvinne Aslaug Roaldstad og la et brev i retten, om salg av Dale i Seljord. Jörgen Torvildsen var av de lagrettsmenn, som i 1591 valte utsendinger til Kristian IV hylling i Oslo. Aret etter betalte han sbygningsskatt til Akershus slott for Roaldsted.

9 slektledd.

Torbjörn Jorgensen Roaldstad, (Forandret til Vrålstad) født 1584, død 1667, gift med Liv sea med Sigrid Björnsdatter. Barn: 1) Halvor, 2) Jörgen, som kom til ytrd Vefall, 3) Anund, som fikk Vrålstad, 4) Björn, som fikk Bustrak, 5) Tor, 6) Kari, gift med Per Eineid, 7) Liv, 8) Taran, gift med Nilsmund Knutsen Voje, 9) Aslaug, gift med Tollef Steinsland, 10) en datter gift med Torvild Ase, 11) en datter gift med Halvor Björnsen. Torbjörn var en rik og adlet mann. Han hadde hele, dels parter i 19 gårder, og i 1640 ara lensmann i Drangedal.

#### 10 slektledd.

Anund Torbjørnsen Vralstad, død 1680, gift med Åse Nilsdatter, født i 1622, død 1698.  
Barn: Halvor og Lars.

#### 11 Slektledd.

Halvor Anundsen Vralstad, født 1654. Barn: Torbjørn.

#### 12 slektledd.

Torbjørn Halvorsen Vralstad, myndig 1711, gift med Helge Einersdatter, født 1706, død 1766, barn: Einert, som fik Vralstad. Torbjørn var en aktet mann og i mange år kirkeverge.

#### 13 slektledd.

Einert Torbjørnsen Vralstad, født 1724, død 1789, gift i 1748 med Anne Berulfsdatter Heldal, født 1721, død 1775. Barn: Torbjørn og Berulf, som ble på Vralstad.

#### 14 slektledd.

Torbjørn Einertsen Vralstad, født 1749, død 1828, gift i 1767 med Sigrid Ambjørnsdatter Grimstveit i Nissedal, død 1792. Barn: Einert.

#### 15 slektledd.

Einert Torbjørnsen Vralstad, født 1787, død 1858, gift i 1811 med Kari Persdatter Tveit, født 1790, død 1834.

Alle 6 barna til Einert og Kari, reiste med familien til Amerika, som i denfor nevnt.

#### 16 slektledd.

1) Torbjørn Einertsen, født 1812, gift i 1832 med Mariken Jonsdatter ytre Vefll, født 1812. Barn: Kari, Karen, Anne, og Mariken.

I 1853 reiste Torbjørn og Mariken med barna til Amerika.

2) Per Einertsen, født 1820, gift i 1847 med Kari Olsdatter Vralstad, født 1822, Barn: Einert, Kari, Olav, Halvor, Jon, Torbjørn, Torberg, som alle er født på Vralstad. Per og Kari 1861 med barna til Amerika. Da de kom over fik de barna, Helene, gift med Per Roe, Maria, gift med Halvor Gunnarsen Dalane ved voje, Andrea, gift med Sven Svensen.

3) Halvor Einertsen, født 1825, gift i 1849 med Ingeborg Olsdatter Åse, født 1827. De reiste i 1851 med sønnen Einert til kSannidal og senere til Amerika. Jon Lauvstad skrev om han „Halvor var en sprek \_ betenksom og vakker mann. Som det er fortalt om er milionair i Amerika og har en felande stor gard med 18 hester of 70 klavebundne kuer”.

4) Jon Einertsen, født 1828, reiste 22 år gammel til Amerika. Der han ble gift med Dorthea Mathea Lilloe, datter til Andreas og Eline Lilloe, Oslo. De har m.a. sønnen Andrew J. Volstead, som er advokat og kongresmann i Amerika.

5) Sidsel Einertdatter, gift med Tomas Jonsen Lensegrav, reiste i 1846 til Amerika.

6) Asbor Einertsdatter, reiste i 1853 til Amerika

(Portions of the following is quoted from an article written by Tom Langemo from Fingal, North Dakota, that appeared in a publication produced by Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion in Rollag, MN. The date this article was written is unknown. A copy of the article was sent to me, in March 1998, by Marion Enerson from Hamilton, North Dakota, who got it from her uncle, Orville Erickson, from Albert Lea, MN.)

Edward M. Langemo was the co-founder of the Wagner-Langemo Company in Minneapolis, MN. He was employed, in 1906, as a "salesman, repair consultant and office manager" for the Buffalo-Pitts Company in Minneapolis. His associate, and agent for the Buffalo-Pitts Company was Charles C. Wagner. Mr. Wagner became an agent for Buffalo-Pitts in 1898. Both Mr. Langemo and Mr. Wagner had extensive ag machinery training with Buffalo-Pitts in New York and for a time, in Texas. The Buffalo-Pitts Company, headquartered in New York, manufactured and sold grain threshing machinery, in addition to steam powered traction engines. (The name "tractor" wasn't in use until kerosene and gasoline powered machines came out later. The word "tractor" was first used in 1907, by W. H. Phillips, sales manager for the Hart-Parr Company in Charles City, Iowa, in an ad he prepared for the company.)

While Charles and Edward were associated with the Buffalo-Pitts Company, the idea of forming their own company began to emerge. In 1913, their plans came together. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1913, the Wagner-Langemo Company was incorporated. Mr. Wagner was named President, W. A. Kerr (another colleague), was named Vice President, and Mr. Langemo served as Treasurer. Capitol stock in the new corporation was set at \$50,000.

The Wagner-Langemo Company was originally located on North 1<sup>st</sup> Street, in Minneapolis. In 1931, the Company moved the factory to a site on Washington Avenue, the Lindsay Building. The Company retained ties with Buffalo-Pitts and added other lines as well. The general purpose of the business was "buying, selling, manufacturing and dealing in all kinds of merchandise, farming implements and machinery". They sold new and rebuilt steam engines, threshers, weighers, feeders, sieves and stackers. They had an extensive inventory of supplies and parts, and served the upper Midwest area.

The face of agriculture was beginning to change. The introduction of the Fordson in 1916-17, brought a smaller, more efficient and mass-produced machine to the market place. Other companies were assembling similar smaller machines. The Wagner-Langemo Company saw a demand for a smaller, high capacity thresher that could be matched up with the popular "tractors".

They put their experience and creativity to work. In about 1919, the Wagner-Langemo Company produced it's first production machine, the "Hooverizer Steel Frame Thresher-The Biggest Threshing Capacity for the Fordson". The name Hooverizer was changed to "Grain Saver" in 1928, when Herbert Hoover ran for President of the United States. A Grain Save Thresher still continues to be used at the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion at their annual show each year in Rollag, MN. The Grain Saver design was bought by the John Deere Company of Moline, IL in 1936.

This concludes the currently available documentation of family information for the Langemo Family as of August 12, 1998.

Respectfully submitted by Cal Overtee, hopefully for the enjoyment and enlightenment of family members and future generations. Some of the information included in this Langemo family documentary came from the 1980 edition of the Community History Book of Fingal, North Dakota and I sincerely acknowledge that all rights are assigned to the respective authors, which are not necessarily identified by each particular individual or written passage. I shall appreciate hearing from anyone who can fill in some of the blanks (unknowns) that exist in this material.

Thank you.

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