

# Birch Cooley Township

## Approximate Locations of Settler Homesteads (1862) Birch Cooley Township Renville County, Minnesota



3/4 inch = approximately 1 mile

Author: Mary P. McConnell (2014)

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The word coulee/coolie/cooley is a French word which means the bed of a stream having inclined sides. Birch Coulee Creek is spelled coulee, the township is spelled Birch Cooley, and the battlefield spelling is either Birch Coulee or Cooley. Records indicate the settlement was known in the early days as Birch Coolie, which is the spelling we have used in some of the narratives in this chapter. The original name of Birch Coulee Creek was La Croix Creek, named after Louis LaCroix. Only three of the eleven original settler families returned to this township. They are denoted by an \*asterisk by their name.

### **Mark and Jane Brooks and Thomas**

Thomas Brooks was the thirteen-year old son of Jane McConnell Brooks and Mark Brooks, the nephew of Martha McConnell Clasen and grandson of Ellen Carson McConnell. On August 18, 1862, he was shot and killed by the Dakota when he was bringing dinner to his uncle David who was working in the fields. Thomas is likely buried where he fell. It is not known if his parents were living in Birch Coolie that day or if they were visiting. Mark and Jane Brooks do not appear on the Fort Ridgely refugee lists.

After the outbreak, the family was living in Houston County, Minnesota to be close to Jane's mother, Ellen and Jane's brother, David, who had fled there from Birch Coolie in the fall of 1862. In 1870, Mark and Jane were living in Yucatan in Houston County with son, James, and daughter, Martha, and Jane's brother, David McConnell. In 1875 and 1880, they were living in Nicollet Township in Nicollet County. By 1885, Mark, Sr. was back living in Yucatan, and by 1899, he was again living in Nicollet County on a farm adjacent to his son James' farm and the farm of Martha McConnell Clasen McGowan. It is not known when Jane or Mark, Sr. died.

### **\*George and Salomé (Sally) Buery, Catherine, Margaret, George Everett, Emily, Mary Ann and Martha**

The Buery family settled in the southeast quarter of Section 30 in 1859. The entire family survived the outbreak by escaping to Fort Ridgely. In a personal account published by the Hubbard County Clipper in 1914, Catherine Buery Vogtman (Mrs. John) told her family's harrowing story in detail of how they reached the fort, survived the two attacks on the fort, and the trip they took with other refugees for safety to St. Peter, where they eventually boarded a steamship on the Minnesota River to take them to St. Paul. Their neighbors, the Kumros, the Junis and the Yesses travelled with them. Conditions were so difficult they left the ship at Le Sueur where they were well-cared for, thanks to the citizens of this town.

They stayed in Le Sueur for some time and in December, 1862 George Buery walked to Mankato to witness the hangings of the 38 Dakota Indians. By 1865 the family had relocated to Mankato, and later that year the family returned to their home in Birch Coolie where they farmed and raised their growing family. Caroline and Henrietta were born in 1863 and 1864, presumably in Mankato, and Henry was born in 1866 probably in Birch Cooley Township. Buery filed a claim for 160 acres on Sections 30 and 31 in 1871. He died in 1892 and his wife, Salomé died in 1898 in Morton Village. She was a sister to Mary Kumro, wife of John Kumro. George and Salomé are buried in the Morton City Cemetery. More on this family is found in Volume I, p. 13-17. Glenn R. Vogtman contributed to this narrative.

### **Clement and Marguerita Perreault Cardinal, and Clement, Jr.**

Clement and Marguerita Perrault Cardinal settled on land on the north side of the Minnesota River, one-half mile south of the Birch Cooley battleground. On the day of the conflict, Marguerita and her son, Clement, Jr. were taken captive; husband Clement was injured but escaped to Fort Ridgely, where he was among those who

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were armed to protect the fort. After Marguerita and infant Clement were released at Camp Release six weeks later, Marguerita testified at the military trials that she had been raped by Te-he-hdo-ne-cha; he was found guilty and later hanged.

That fall in 1862, after spending ten years in the Minnesota River Valley, the family moved to Centerville in Anoka County to live near Clement's brother, Peter. They added another ten children to their family while living there. The family remained on their Centerville farm the rest of their lives; it is still in the hands of a Cardinal great-grandson.

Marguerita died in 1893, Clement in 1907, and both are buried in St. Genevieve's Cemetery in Centerville. Clement, Jr. married Eliza Morin and died in 1930 at the age of 68 in Minneapolis, MN.

Clement Cardinale filed a Depredation Claim #626 for \$450 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages. More on this family is found in Volume I, p. 18-20. Rod Cardinal, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandson, contributed to this narrative.

### **Charles and Carolina Clasen, and Son John**

This family's war experiences included two who were killed, three who were captured and two who escaped. Charles and his son Frederick were killed at Birch Coolie, and his wife Carolina and son John and escaped to Fort Ridgely. Frederick's wife and two children were captured and freed at Camp Release six weeks later.

Charles, (also known as Henry), Carolina, John and Frederick immigrated to the United States from Willershagen, Germany in 1856 and settled first in Milford. It is not known if the Clasens were homesteading at Birch Coolie at the time of the war or just visiting their son Frederick and Martha and helping with haying. In 1860, they were living in Milford in Brown County. This family was referred to as "Clausen" or "Closen" in the historical accounts of the war. The Dakota who killed Charles and Frederick, Te-he-hdo-ne-cha, was tried and found guilty and later hanged with the 38 in December in Mankato.

After the outbreak, John joined the militia as a teamster and eventually served in the Civil War. Carolina went to live at the Milford farm with son John, the former home of her sister and husband, the Charles Heuer family, who were all killed. That property was deeded to John and the children of Frederick and Martha, as there were no Heuer survivors. Johanna Heuer (Mrs. Charles) was Carolina's sister and Charles Heuer was a half-brother to John and Frederick. The family never returned to Renville County.

Carolina lived in Brown County the rest of her life, dying in New Ulm at the age of 92 years. Her family spoke of her as being "fragile" after witnessing the deaths of her husband and son, the capture of her daughter-in-law and two granddaughters and her perilous escape to Fort Ridgely. She is buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in New Ulm. Family legend says she hid in the cornfield until found by a Frenchman (Picard or Perreault?) walking by. At about the same time, her son John was burying his neighbors.

John eventually married Emilie Klappenbach Bauer, and later sold the Milford farm to his brother, Carl, who immigrated to Minnesota from Willershagen, Germany in 1876. John and Emilie and their large family then moved to Gaylord where he operated a hotel for many years. Emilie died in 1894 at the age of 50 and John died at the age of 91 in 1925 in Gaylord. Both are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in Gaylord, MN.

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Emilie was the widow of Andrew Bauer who was killed in Gallatin, TN during the Civil War. They were the parents of two children. Both Andrew and John Clasen served in the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment together and supposedly, he asked John to look in after his wife if anything were to happen to him. After Andrew was killed, John kept that promise and ended up marrying his widow. They became the parents of nine children and also raised the two Bauer children.

John Clasen filed a Depredation Claim #422 for \$550.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages. More on the Clasen family can be found in Volume I, page 22-26. Narratives written by Jan Klein, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-granddaughter.

### **Frederick and \*Martha McConnell Clasen, Ellen and Mary**

Martha, the daughter of Ellen Carson McConnell, immigrated to the United States from Scotland. She married Frederick Clasen, a German immigrant, in 1860 in New Ulm, MN. Martha and Frederick were living with or nearby her mother, Ellen, and brother, David McConnell, in Birch Coolie at the time of the outbreak. Frederick was killed in front of his wife, and she and her two young daughters, Mary and Ellen, were taken captive and later released at Camp Release. In the fall of 1862, the Dakota, Te-he-hdo-ne-cha was found guilty of killing Martha's husband, Frederick Clasen, her father-in-law, Charles Clasen, and her nephew, Thomas Brooks.

Martha married Duncan McGowan in 1865. That same year, she made a claim for land in Birch Cooley Township on the southwest quarter of Section 28 adjacent to the land once claimed by her brother, David McConnell. The land was sold in November 1875. The family was living in Nicollet County in 1870. Her daughter Mary, who was a school teacher, died of typhoid fever in 1880, and daughter, Ellen, married Norman Door of Nicollet County, Minnesota.

Duncan and Martha had a daughter Margaret, born in 1869 and she married Jarred Hendley, and after he died, she married Herman Heiser of Nicollet County. Martha McGowan died in 1914 and is buried in the Hebron Cemetery in Nicollet County. Martha's daughter, Ellen, wrote a riveting letter to Marion Satterlee in 1914, relating stories her mother had told her of her time in captivity.

Daughters Ellen and Mary were heirs of the Heuer farm in Milford along with their uncle, John Clasen, as there were no living Heuer heirs after the Dakota killed Charles, Johanna, Johan Carl, Johan Joachim, and Joachim Heinrich Heuer on August 18, 1862.

A Depredation Claim #136 was filed on behalf of Frederick Clasen (decd.) by Martha Clausen, Administrator, who received \$1,830.00 as full payment for relief of depredation damages. Martha's second husband, Duncan McGowan also filed a Depredation Claim #843 for \$260.00. It is not known if he received payment. Mary McConnell contributed this narrative.

### **David and Nancy McClure Faribault, David, Jr., and Unnamed 8-year Old Daughter**

The family of David and Nancy Faribault, and their children David, Jr., and an 8 year-old daughter were taken hostage as they were attempting to flee. They lived about 2 miles east of the Redwood Ferry, on the north bank of the Minnesota River. Their homestead was on the road to Fort Ridgely. Because of that location, the house was used as a place for the Dakota to hide their captives before they were to be taken to Little Crow's camp.

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After being freed at Camp Release, David served with the Dakota scouts and Nancy went to Faribault to stay with her brother-in-law for two years. From there, they lived in Redwood and Big Stone Lake, where Faribault worked as an interpreter. Nancy and David then moved to Fort Ransom in Dakota Territory where he was put in charge of the scouts. They then moved to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation, probably between the 1870's and 80's. They built a large, substantial house immediately next to the northeast side of the Old Sisseton Agency. Their marriage ended and Nancy then married Charles Huggan.

David, Jr. died June 11, 1913 in Roberts County, SD and is buried in Goodwill Presbyterian Cemetery, a short distance northwest of the Old Sisseton Agency.

Nancy's narrative appears in *Through Dakota Eyes – Narrative Accounts of the Minnesota Indian War of 1862* edited by Gary Clayton Anderson and Alan R. Woolworth. Her narrative stated she had only an eight-year old daughter when taken captive but the Camp Release list shows Jane, age 10, and Mary Josephine, no age given.

A depredation claim was filed by David Faribault, Claim #840, amount unknown. David received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

### **Kearn and Bridget Horan, Millie and Infant William Patrick Horan**

Kearn Horan was born in November, 1822 and his wife Bridget was born in February, 1843. Both were Irish immigrants living just east of the Magner family, probably in Section 10. Kearn's brother, Patrick, was living with them but he was at the agency the morning of the outbreak. Kearn had sent his wife and infant to the fort for safety. Both Patrick and Kearn made it there safely as well.

In 1865, the family is found living in Courtland, in Nicollet County, and they had two additional sons named William and Charles. They were living in Mankato in Blue Earth County in 1875 and added four sons to their family: James, John, Frank and Koren. In 1895, the family is living at 909 Summer St. N.E., in Minneapolis and these children are added: George, Lizzie and Rosey. In 1900, the family is enumerated in Minneapolis.

Kearn (Kern) died in Hennepin County, MN on September 28, 1900 at the age of 75 and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Minneapolis. Bridget died June 20, 1913 in Minneapolis at the age of 72 and is also buried at St. Mary's. It is not known what happened to Patrick. Kearn's story in more detail is found in the New Settler Stories chapter. Kiran Horan filed a Depredation Claim #764 for \$460.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

### **John and Mrs. Hose and Two Children**

John, age 25, is listed as a refugee at Fort Ridgely from the Lower Sioux Agency and was among the citizen soldiers at the fort. His wife, age 26 and two children were among those listed as killed. They may have been killed in Renville County while en route to the fort. John Hose filed a Depredation Claim #1043 for \$450.00; it is not known if he received any payment.

### **Philander and Susan Humphrey, John Ames, Gertrude and Jay Phelps**

Philander was the Lower Sioux Agency physician and lived there with his wife, Susan Ames and their three children. When they realized there was trouble at the agency, the family fled on foot toward the ferry. They got across the Minnesota River safely and stopped to rest at the abandoned Magner cabin. Twelve year-old John

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Ames was told to get water from a nearby spring, and while there, he heard gunshots and hid in the bushes. He was found by Captain Marsh and his men, who urged him to head for the fort for safety. His father, mother, sister and brother had been killed at the cabin. The Brown burial party buried the family on August 31 in one coffin, but they were reinterred the next spring and buried at the Green Lawn Cemetery in Traverse Township located in Nicollet County.

There is a memorial to this family in the Woodlawn Cemetery in LeSueur, MN where the surviving son, John, is buried. John Ames died at the age of 70 on May 31, 1921 in St. Paul, MN. He and his wife Mary were the parents of three known children, Constance, Oliver and William.

A Depredation Claim #717 filed on behalf of P.P. Humphrey (decd.) for \$1,150.00, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages. This family is included in this chapter because they were victims in Renville County during their escape to Fort Ridgely.

### **Henry and H. Kaertner**

Henry was killed and his wife escaped to Fort Ridgely. There is nothing further found on his wife so she may have remarried. She was listed only as H. on the Fort Ridgely list.

### **\*John and Mary Kumro, William, Louisa and Ferdinand**

This family settled on Section 32 in the spring of 1859. On August 18, 1862, the entire family escaped to Fort Ridgely. Kumro filed for a land claim for 160 acres on Section 32 in 1870. John and Mary remained on that homestead, a mile east of Morton, for the rest of their lives. John died at the age of 71 in 1896, and Mary died in 1911 at the age of 80. Both are buried in the Morton City Cemetery. Mary was a sister to Salomé (Sally) Buery, wife of George Buery.

Son William Kumro provided a newspaper interview in the Morton Enterprise in 1936 which detailed the experiences the family endured during their escape and the time spent at the Fort. The family was eventually transported to Le Sueur and then located at Mankato until they returned to their homestead in Birch Coolie. Lavina, Mary, Albert, Rosa, John and Matilda (Lillian M.) were born after the war, probably in Birch Coolie.

William H. married Mary Catherine Duval in 1889 and they were the parents of two daughters, Rilla Gertrude and Geneva Mae. He died in Morton in 1934 at the age of 77 and is buried in the Morton City Cemetery. Mr. Kumro owned photography galleries in Morton and in Franklin and was the oldest settler in Morton at the time of his death. There is nothing further found for Louisa and Ferdinand after the 1870 and 1880 census respectively. More on this family can be found in Volume I, 36-38 and 53-58.

John Komro filed a Depredation Claim #590, amount unknown, and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages. Glenn R. Vogtman contributed to this narrative.

### **The Louis LaCroix Family**

Louis LaCroix was among the first to locate in Renville County settling on the Birch Coulee Creek, just across from the Lower Sioux Agency in 1845 on Section 5. The creek was formerly called LaCroix Creek, and named after him. This family filed claims for land in 1860 in Sections 4 and 5.

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Louis and his wife Rosette and children Louis, Jr., L., Spencer, Adrienne, Olivia and Mary LaCroix escaped to Fort Ridgely. He was one of the armed citizens at Fort Ridgely. Louis died June 16, 1874 at Big Stone Lake. His biography states: "His life was full of romance. He was born in St. Louis about 1800 of French parents and was an old settler in Renville County and ever since he was first known here he possessed property enough to have made him well off, but in the days of prosperity he divided with all hands and died poor."

Louis LaCroix filed a Depredation Claim #14, amount unknown, and received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

### **The Edward Magner Family**

Irish immigrants Edward and Julia Magner lived just east of David Faribault on Section 10 on the Ridgely Road, very near where the village of Franklin would be today. Magner sent his family to the fort, but did not take the warnings seriously and wanted to protect his cattle. He was killed on the Fort Ridgely Road along with Patrick Kelly and David O'Connor. Edward's wife Julia and children Margaret, 16, James, 14, Ellen, 9, Mary 5, Patrick 3, and David, 1, reached the safety of the fort. This family was living in Waseca County in 1857 and Birch Cooley Township in 1860. After 1862, the trail goes cold. Julie probably remarried and no records are found for any of her children after that date.

A Depredation Claim #89 was filed on behalf of Edward Magner (decd.) for \$1,750.00 by Julia Magner, Administrator, who received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

### **The John Magner Family**

John, 35, and Nancy Magner, 32, and children James, 15, Ann, 13, Thomas, 12, David, 9, Ellen, 7, and Catherine, 4 probably lived very near the Edward Magner family and they were most likely brothers. They all escaped to Fort Ridgely where John and James were citizen defenders of the fort. A Depredation Claim #88 was filed by John Magner for \$1,550.00 and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages. There is nothing further known about this family.

### **Oliver and Peter Martell**

Oliver Martell was the ferry operator and lived at the ferry, probably on Section 5 between the LaCroix and Faribault homes. This history was submitted by descendant Don Dawson: "Oliver Martell was born in Quebec in 1818 and moved to Minnesota in 1856. By 1859, he was operating the ferry at the Redwood Agency. When the war broke out, he fled to Fort Ridgely, spreading the alarm to those he saw along the way. Nancy Faribault testified Oliver had ridden by their place on horseback at a gallop and without slowing down warned them the Dakota had broken out and head to the fort.

After losing his home and business in Birch Coolie and helping to defend Fort Ridgely, Oliver went to Faribault with Major Dyke for a couple years. In 1864 Oliver returned to rebuild the ferry, but I am pretty sure he did not rebuild his home in Birch Coolie because he comes up as a taxpayer directly across the river in Sherman Township of Redwood County in 1868.

In 1870 Oliver and his family were living in Redwood Falls. In 1871 Oliver turned the ferry business over to his sons Charles and David and set off on foot for South Dakota where he was one of the first homesteaders in what became Big Stone City, South Dakota. Oliver married my great-great grandmother in 1875 and they had one

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child. My blood great-great grandfather had passed away in a blizzard January 7, 1873. In 1878 Oliver was appointed treasurer of Grant County, South Dakota. Oliver set off to Canada in 1898 at the age of 80 to homestead, but returned home to the Big Stone City area when his health started to fail; he passed away there in 1904." A Depredation Claim #317 was filed by Oliver Martell for \$1,950.00 and full payment was made to the claimant for relief of depredation damages.

Oliver's brother, Pierre, was listed as a defender at Fort Ridgely. Peter Martell filed Claim #806 for \$3,200.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages. For more on the Martell's, see the Historic Sites chapter.

The Minnesota History magazine tackled the confusion about the Martells' and the supposed ferry manager, Hubert Millier in this story written by Joseph Connors, '*The Elusive Hero of Redwood Ferry*'. It can be found here: <http://collections.mnhs.org/MNHHistoryMagazine/articles/34/v34i06p233-238.pdf>

### **Ellen McConnell and Sons David and Joseph McConnell**

Ellen, a 71-year-old immigrant from Scotland, was living with her son David in Birch Coolie at the start of the war. She was alone in the house when the Dakota attacked, and her life was spared by an Indian to whom she had shown previous kindness. She and David made their escape to Fort Ridgely the next day. Her son, Joseph, was living and working as a plasterer at the Lower Sioux Agency at that time, and also escaped to the fort, eventually meeting up with his mother and brother. Ellen's daughter, Martha McConnell Clasen, was taken hostage along with her two small children after watching her husband Frederick Clasen and his father Charles being shot to death. At the same time, Ellen's grandson, Thomas Brooks, son of Jane McConnell Brooks, was shot while bringing dinner to his uncle David who was working in the fields.

Ellen never returned to Birch Coolie. She and David moved to Yucatan in Houston County, Minnesota in the fall of 1862 where she lived the rest of her life, dying at the age of 77 years. It was reported that her mind was "shattered" after her experiences during the Dakota War. She is buried in the Sheldon Cemetery in Sheldon, Houston County, Minnesota along with her son, David. Ellen McConnell filed a Depredation Claim #2559 for \$112.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

Shortly after the outbreak, David and his brother, Joseph, began serving as Privates for three months under Captain Mark Hendricks' Battery of Light Artillery. This Company was organized at the commencement of the Dakota War and served with General Sibley's First Expedition and participated in all the engagements of that command. David McConnell filed a Depredation Claim #221 for \$1,000.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

Joseph also made a property claim in Birch Coolie Township after the war in the same section where his mother and brother lived, but it appears he never returned there to live. He died in St. Paul in 1872 at the age of 33. Joseph McConnell filed a Depredation Claim #200 for \$200.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

The land in Birch Coolie was later claimed and owned by his brother, Alexander McConnell, who moved to Birch Coolie from Massachusetts in 1865 and remained in the McConnell family until the mid-1950s. More on the



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McConnell family can be found in Volume I, p. 39-43. Mary McConnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-granddaughter provided the McConnell narratives.

### **Pierre and Elizabeth Perreault, Genevieve, Melina, Joseph, George and Philomene**

Pierre Perreault was killed and his wife Elizabeth and children escaped to Fort Ridgely the first day of the war. Elizabeth was noted as cheerfully and bravely assisting in the defense of the fort. After the massacre, the remaining members of the Perreault, Picard and Cardinal families lived at Fort Ridgely for 2 months. They then travelled by way of the Minnesota River to Shakopee where they wintered over until the spring thaw. The family left for the St. Paul Landing and continued on to Centerville in Anoka County where there was a large settlement of French Canadians.

Elizabeth never remarried and passed away in Centerville in 1872 of tuberculosis. Joseph and George were living there in 1870 with their sisters Marguerita Cardinal and her family and Elizabeth Picard, who had married Joseph Renaud and their family. Eliza Pero filed a Depredation Claim #1331 for \$525.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

It is not known what happened to Melina after she was last found on a census in 1870.

Joseph married Rosilda Cardinal, the niece of his brother-in-law Clement Cardinal.

Genevieve at the age of 12 was left behind in Shakopee. Being the oldest of the unmarried children, she perhaps stayed behind to work for a family. She married Theolon Luce two years later at the age of 14 and they lived near Shakopee in Scott County where they raised 13 children. Both are buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul. Genevieve died in 1939.

George married Josephine Lambert. They lived for a time in White Bear Township, MN in 1920.

Philomene (Mary) married Edward Bell and they raised a large family near Stillwater. For more on the Perreault/Picard story, see the New Settler Stories chapter. Coleen Hanson-Harvey, 4<sup>th</sup> great-granddaughter, contributed to this narrative.

### **Eusebi and Elizabeth Picard, Elizabeth and Eusebi, Jr.**

Eusebi Picard was killed on the family homestead, his wife Elizabeth and son Eusebi, Jr. escaped to Fort Ridgely and young Elizabeth was taken hostage. Elizabeth, a daughter of Pierre and Elizabeth Perreault, is noted as bravely assisting in the defense of the fort. After the war, she married Joseph Renaud in 1863 and they became the parents of eleven children. Eliza Picard filed a Depredation Claim #627, amount unknown, and received full payment for relief of depredation damages.

Eusebi Picard, Jr. married his cousin Auxillianne Cardinal (Clement and Marguerita's daughter) in 1881. Eusebi, Jr. died in Centerville, MN in 1926 at the age of 66 years.

Daughter Elizabeth, also known as Elise and Eliza, married Oliver Gerault in 1876 in Centerville; the marriage was witnessed by Clement Cardinal, her uncle. More on this family is found in Volume I, page 44.

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### **John and Mrs. Rosbe and Family**

It is not known where in Renville County this family lived but they are included here as the entire family was killed in the Renville County bottoms, near the Minnesota River. They are probably buried where they fell.

### **Ole and Anna Sampson (Quam), Two Daughters and Samuel**

Ole and Anna were immigrants from Quam (Kvam), Norway and had moved recently from Waseca County settling in the southeast quarter of Section 13. Ole was killed while cutting hay a quarter mile away from their house. When the Dakota attacked their home site, Anna sought shelter in their prairie schooner with her daughter and son, but they were soon found. The Dakota then set fire to the wagon and the two daughters were killed, but Anna, who was severely burned, managed to escape the wagon and save her infant, Samuel, and escape to Fort Ridgely.

Anne Sampson filed a Depredation Claim #1170 for \$525.00 and received full payment for relief of depredation damages. It is not known what became of Anna and her son Sam. She may have remarried.

### **Alfred and Harriet LaBathe Valiant, Edmund and Joseph**

Harriet and her two children, Edmund, 5 and Joseph, 2, were with the Cardinal family of Birch Cooley the day of the outbreak. Marguerita Cardinal, Harriet and her children were taken captive. Harriet's husband Alfred apparently escaped to the fort as he is recognized on the Fort Ridgely monument as one who rendered valuable services during the battles. It is thought this family lived at the Lower Sioux Agency.

After being freed at Camp Release, Harriet and Marguerita testified against Te-he-hdo-ne-cha who they claimed raped Marguerita. He was found guilty of rape and also the murders of Charles and Frederick Clasen and Mark Brooks and was hanged. Harriet was the sister of Matilda LaBathe and was part Dakota.

In 1870, Alfred, Harriet, Jane, Joseph and Lizzie were farming in Richland, Rice, MN. There is nothing further known about this family.

### **Carl and Fredericka Witt, and children William, Augusta, Louise, Herman Carl, Mary, and Joseph**

Frederika Witt, the second wife of Carl (his first wife, Louisa, passed away in Wisconsin) was killed on August 18, 1862, and Carl and five of his children fled to Fort Ridgely. The family stayed at the fort until the worst of the fighting was over and then headed to New Ulm, then to St. Paul and finally to Belle Plaine, where they were housed with other refugees. They made this long journey to find daughter, Augusta who had been working in New Ulm when the attacks happened and they eventually found her. In 1863, they relocated permanently at Union Hill, LeSueur County where Carl met and married widow Helen Giesen. Carl had four sets of children: four from his first wife Louisa, William, Augusta, Louise and Herman Carl; two from his second wife Fredericka, Mary and Joseph; two step-children, Frank and Elizabeth Giesen, and four children from his marriage to Helen, John, Margaret, Henry and Helena.

Carl died in 1885 at the age of 65 and is buried in St. John's Cemetery in Union Hill. Altogether, Carl Witt was the grandfather of 85 grandchildren and 18 step-grandchildren.

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William married Antoinette Brahy, died in 1920 and is buried in the Shakopee Cemetery in Scott County. They had 12 children.

Augusta married Joseph Hoffman; she died in 1894 and is buried in St. John's in Union Hill. They had 9 children.

Louise married Peter Klinkhammer; she died in 1894 and is also buried in Union Hill. They had 12 children. Peter was a soldier in the Minnesota 10th, Company G and was stationed in Mankato in December 1862.

Herman Carl lived until 1932 and is buried in Union Hill. He married Matilda Spaetgens and they had 9 children.

Mary married Peter Bettendorf, died in 1903 near St Cloud and they had 8 children.

Joseph married Elizabeth Fischenich, died in New Ulm in 1945 and is buried in the New Ulm Catholic Cemetery. They had 8 children.

William enlisted in Lt. Sheehan's Company as a Citizen Soldier on Aug 19, 1862 at Fort Ridgely. During this time he severely and permanently dislocated and lacerated his left hand. He could no longer farm and instead became Clerk of Courts in Scott County and elsewhere. When he applied for a pension in 1905, affidavits were filed on his behalf by Dr. D C Jones, Mary Converse, John Clasen, Joseph Perrault and Thomas Brennan. For more on the Witt family, see Volume I, p. 60-62 and the New Settler Stories in this book. Mary Lou Erickson, 2<sup>nd</sup> great-granddaughter, contributed to this narrative.

### **John and Mary Zimmerman, John Jr., Gottfried, Mary, Elizabeth and Sam**

This family lived in Beaver Bay, MN in 1857 and about 1860, they moved to Birch Coolie. Their home was one-half mile from the agency and about ten miles upriver from Fort Ridgely. On the day of the outbreak, John, Sr. was haying with his neighbors. After being warned that the Dakota were shooting whites, John loaded his wagon with their belongings and hooked it to his oxen team. John, Jr. drove a neighbor's team with a blind woman who had three children. Both teams headed for Fort Ridgely but John, John Jr., and Gottfried Zimmerman were killed en route and wife Mary and children Mary, Elizabeth and Sam made it safely to the fort. Mary, nee Tisher, was born in 1820 and died in St. Paul in 1864, just two years after the conflict. She was blind.

Their daughter, Elizabeth Zimmerman married Jacob Hangartner, and they were the parents of Caroline, Eliza, Louise, Emma, Jacob, Mary, John and William. She wrote a personal memoir about the events surrounding the war for New Ulm's diamond jubilee in 1929. That story is told on the website, [www.dakotavictims1862.com](http://www.dakotavictims1862.com) and in Volume I, p. 62-64. The family lived in Beaver Bay and Two Harbors, MN. Elizabeth was born in 1849 and died in 1932 and is buried in Two Harbors, MN.

Mary Zimmerman married John Busch, born in 1847 and died after 1910, death date and burial unknown.

Sam Zimmerman, 1853-1943, married Jane Maymaushkawaush Elliot and died at the age of 91; Jane died in 1941. They are buried in the Chippewa Cemetery, Chippewa, Cook, MN. Sam and Jane were the parents of George, Lenore, William, Samuel, Henry, Josephine, Emma and Rosy. The family lived in Grand Marais.

## Birch Cooley Township

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From Bruce Klosowsky, 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandson of John: "After the War, the Zimmerman family had no men to work the farm. They did not return, but lived for a little over two years in St. Paul, where mother Mary died in about 1864. The three children, Mary, Elizabeth and Samuel, went to Duluth to live with their mother's brother, Urs Tisher, in 1865. Elizabeth married Jacob Hangartner in Duluth. They then moved to Beaver Bay, where a homestead was established 2 miles up the river from Lake Superior. There, their first child, Caroline (my great-great-grandmother), was born in 1870. The family remained in Lake County. Brother Samuel located to Grand Marais, a few miles away, where he married a half Ojibwe woman. Mary married John G. Busch, who apparently was a soldier, and possibly they met during the siege of Fort Ridgely. Mary's life is somewhat of a mystery to this part of the family; her death date and if she had any children is unknown to us at this time."

The heirs of John Zimmerman filed a claim for 155 acres of land in Sections 31 and 32 in 1866. Whether they returned to live on that land is not known. A Depredation Claim #79 was filed on behalf of John Zimmerman (decd.) for \$1,250.00, and full payment was made for relief of depredation damages.

### Those Who Were Killed

Thomas **Brooks**, 12, son of Mark and Jane

Charles **Clasen**, 59

Frederick **Clasen**, 33

Mrs. John **Hose** and two children\*

Philander, 39, Lower Sioux Agency physician, and Susan **Humphrey**, Jay Phelps, 4 and Gertrude, 1, killed at Magner cabin

Henry **Kaertner**

Edward **Magner**, 42

Pierre **Perreault**, 44

Eusebi **Picard**, 26

John and Mrs. **Rosbe (Rusby)** and two children

Ole **Sampson** (Quam) and two daughters

Fredericka **Witt**, 26, wife of Carl

John **Zimmerman**, John Jr., 19, and Gottfried, 18

### Those Who Were Captured

Marguerita Perreault **Cardinal**, 20, wife of Clement, and Clement, Jr., 5 months

Martha McConnell **Clasen**, 32, wife of Frederick, Ellen, 1 1/2 and Mary, infant

David, 46 and Nancy **Faribault**, 25, David, Jr., 23, and unnamed 8 year-old daughter

Elizabeth **Picard**, 2, daughter of Eusebi and Elizabeth

Harriet **Valiant**, wife of Alfred and their children, Edmund, 5 and Joseph, 2

### Those Who Escaped

George, 36 and Salomé **Buery**, 34, Catherine, 14, Margaret, 12, George Everett, 6,

Emily, 4, Mary Ann, 3 and Martha, 1

# Birch Cooley Township

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Clement **Cardinal**, 27  
Carolina **Clasen**, 57, wife of Charles  
John **Clasen**, 28, son of Charles and Carolina  
Kearn, 37 and Bridget **Horan**, 24, Millie, 3 and infant William  
Patrick **Horan**, 34  
John **Hose**, 35  
John Ames **Humphrey**, 12, son of Philander and Susan  
Mrs. H. **Kaertner**, 28, wife of Henry  
John, 37 and Mary **Kumro**, 32, William H., 6, Louis H., 3 and Ferdinand, infant  
Louis, 54 and Rosette **LaCroix**, 32, Louis, Jr., 14, L., Spencer, 10, Adrienne, 5, Olivia, and Mary  
John, 35 and Nancy **Magner**, 32, James, 15, Ann, 13, Thomas, 12, David, 9,  
Ellen, 7, and Catherine, 4  
Julia **Magner**, 32, wife of Edward, Margaret, 16, James, 14, Ellen, 9,  
Mary, 5, Patrick, 3 and David, 1  
Peter, Oliver, 43 and Louise **Martell**, 24  
Ellen Carson **McConnell**, 71  
David, 40 and Joseph **McConnell**, 25  
Elizabeth **Perreault**, 47, wife of Pierre, Genevieve, 11, Melina, 10, Joseph, 8,  
George, 6 and Philomene 3  
Elizabeth Perrault **Picard**, 24, wife of Eusebi, and Eusebi, Jr., 4  
Anna **Sampson** (Quam), 34, wife of Ole and son Samuel, infant  
Alfred **Valiant**, husband of Harriet  
Carl **Witt**, 45, husband of Fredericka, William, 14, Maria Augusta, 12,  
Johanna, 10, Herman (H. Carl), 8, Mary, 3, and Joseph, 17 months  
Mary **Zimmerman**, 44, wife of John, Mary, 17, Elizabeth, 14 and Sam, 7

## Birch Cooley Descendants

Buery	Deanna Baertsch, Glenn Vogtman, Ruth Buery Hansen, Cheryl L. Vogtman, Michelle R. Vogtman Mauney, Kathryn M. Vogtman Mikula, Jennifer R. Vogtman
Cardinal	Rod Cardinal, Jenna Taverna, Chris Cox Knott, Colleen Hanson-Harvey, Mary Cardinal Benkler, Kaye Cardinal McKee, Kelly Cardinal McKee, Ann Cardinal Nicolai, Richard Cardinal, Russ Cardinal, Amy Lynn Meilstrup, Anna Marie Bonkowske, Amber Lee Cardinal-Ferstenou, Colleen Cardinal, Nancy Boyles, Rollie Cardinal, Michael Oven, Mary Girard-Richard, Laurie Anne Richard-Sayer, Yvonne Lefebvre- Sharp, Clifford Lefebvre, James Lefebvre, Gilbert Lefebvre
Clasen	Jan Clasen Klein, Joyce Clasen Kloncz, John Clasen, Ronald Clasen, Kay Ellen Clasen Gager, Michael Prohaska, Jay Robert Clasen, Mary McConnell, Lynn Clasen, Barbara Kopischke, Michele Blom, Ina Maxwell, Cheryl Klinkenborg,

## Birch Cooley Township

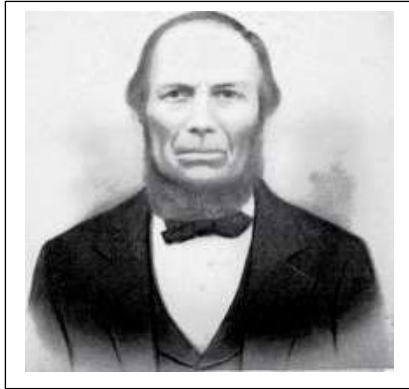
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Clasen (cont.)	Hazel Koll, Tim Koll, Joan Becker, Marlene Prohaska, Karen Ingeman, Kevin Prohaska, Iowa Rozenberg, Robert Clasen, David Clasen
Kumro	Glenn R. Vogtman, Cheryl L. Vogtman, Michelle R. Vogtman Mauney, Kathryn M. Vogtman Mikula, Jennifer R. Vogtman White, Deanna Baertsch
Martell	Don Dawson
McConnell/Brooks	Mary McConnell, Dorothy McConnell McGuiggan, Mary McGuiggan, Kathleen McConnell, Jim DuBois, Steve McConnell, Tom McConnell, Mollie McConnell, Ann Kellen
Perreault	Chris Cox Knott, Jenna Taverna, Colleen Hanson-Harvey, Mike Bell, Michael Oven, Mary Girard-Richard, Laurie Anne Richard-Sayer, Yvonne Lefebvre-Sharp, Clifford Lefebvre, James Lefebvre, Gilbert Lefebvre
Picard	Chris Cox Knott, Jenna Taverna, Colleen Hanson-Harvey, Michael Oven, Mary Girard-Richard, Laurie Anne Richard-Sayer, Yvonne Lefebvre-Sharp, Clifford Lefebvre, James Lefebvre, Gilbert Lefebvre
Vogtman	Glenn R. Vogtman, Deanna Baertsch, Delbert Schmidt, Janetta Knapp, Cheryl L. Vogtman, Michelle R. Vogtman Mauney, Kathryn M. Vogtman Mikula, Jennifer R. Vogtman White
Witt	Mary Lou Erickson, Mary Carlson, Carol Helmer, Tim M. Teynor, Ralph J. Teynor, Eric J. Teynor, Tom K. Teynor, John P. Teynor, Barbara Teynor Vingelli, Brian Witt, Claude Witt, Mary Witt Martin
Zimmerman	Catherine Wetzel, Linda Albert, Bruce Klosowsky

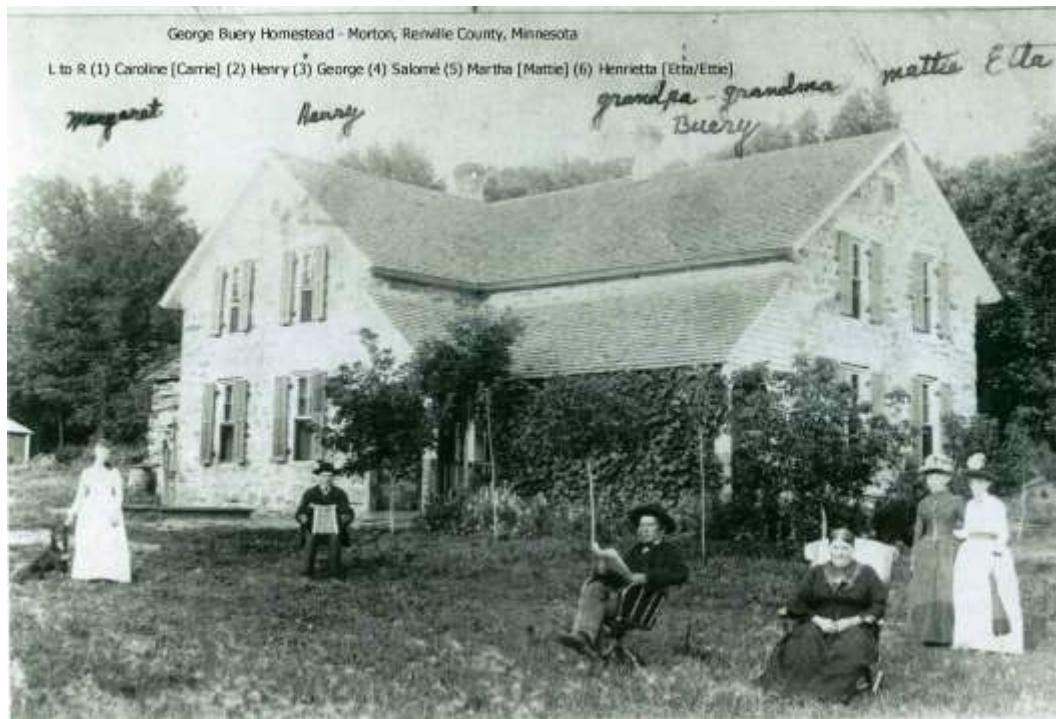
# Birch Cooley Township

## Birch Cooley Survivors

### George and Salomé Buery, Photos Submitted by Glenn E. Vogtman



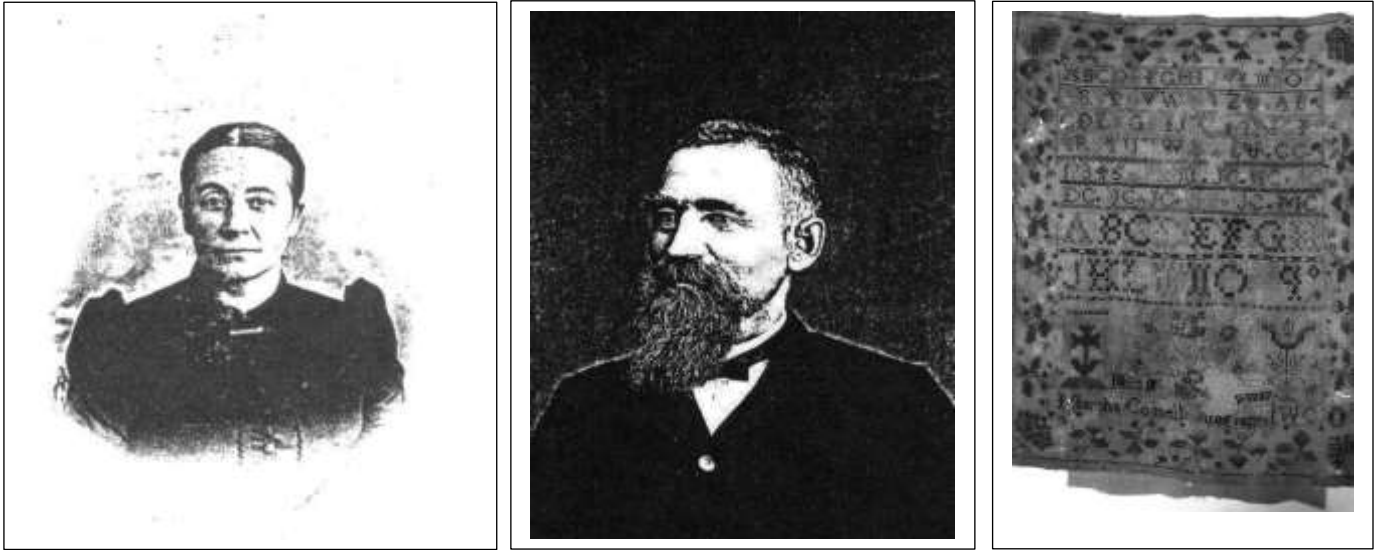
### Buery Homestead



George Buery farm around 1878-1879

# Birch Cooley Township

**Emilie and John Klappenbach Clasen, photos courtesy of Jan Clasen Klein**

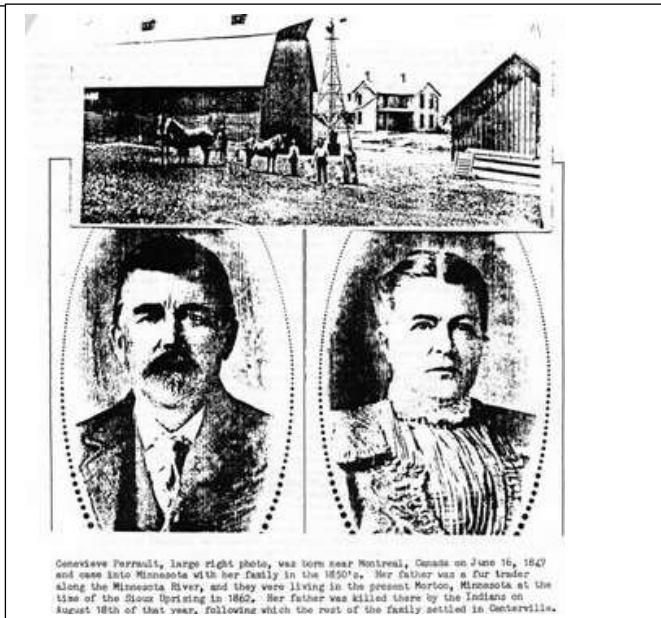


**Above, right, a sampler done by Martha McConnell Clasen ca. 1839 when she was 13 years old, photo submitted by Mary McConnell**



**Left, Eusebi and Elizabeth Picard, Photo courtesy of the Brown County Historical Society and submitted by Chris Knott**

**Below, Theolon and Genevieve Perreault Luce, daughter of Pierre and Marie Elizabeth Perreault Clipping from the Brown County Historical Society, New Ulm, MN, provided by Nancy Altman-Zuber. Photo submitted by Jenna Taverna.**



Genevieve Perreault, large right photo, was born near Montreal, Canada on June 16, 1847 and came into Minnesota with her family in the 1850's. Her father was a fur trader along the Minnesota River, and they were living in the present Horton, Minnesota at the time of the Sioux Uprising in 1862. Her father was killed there by the Indians on August 18th of that year, following which the rest of the family settled in Centerville.





## Birch Cooley Township

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**Genevieve Perreault and Theolon Luce, courtesy of Jenna Taverna and Colleen Hansen-Harvey**



**Mary Philomene Perreault and Edward Bell and family, submitted by Chris Knott**



**Mary Philomene Perreault and Edward Bell submitted by Chris Knott**



# Birch Cooley Township

## Witt Family, photos courtesy of Mary Lou Erickson



Left,  
**Augusta Witt and Joseph Hoffman Family**

Below, right, **Mary Witt and Peter Bettendorf Family**: Taken after Mary Witt died, a space was left open in the family picture and Mary was "superimposed" into the photo. Front - Henry, Mary, Peter, Helen. Back - Joseph, Margaret, Rev. John, Brother Leo, Peter C., and Mary.

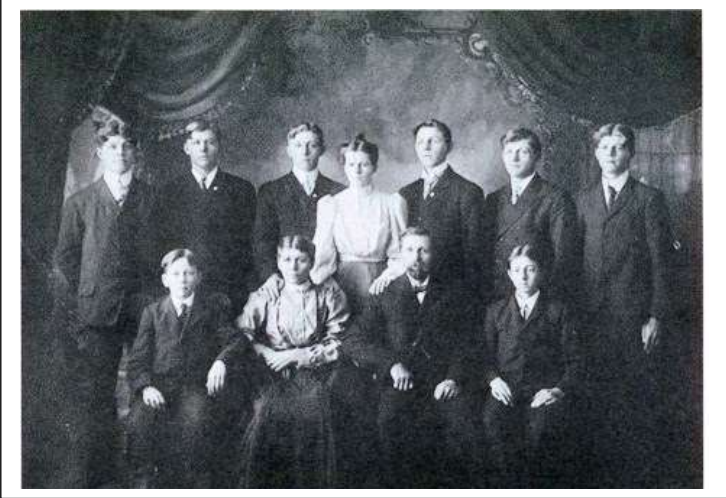


**Joseph and Mary Fischenich Witt Family**: Back row L to R - Bertha, Elizabeth, Anna, William, Helen. Front row - Louise, Mother - Elizabeth, Edward, Father Joseph, Marie. 6-23, 1914 Mayer Studios, New Ulm, Minnesota

**An early photo of the Herman Carl and Matilda Witt Family**



Right, **The Herman and Matilde Witt Family**: Top row, John, Henry, Joseph J., Helen, Charles J., William and Peter. Lower, Herman, Matilda Spaetgens, Herman Charles and Frank.



## Birch Cooley Township

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### Witt Family (cont.)

**The William Frank  
and Antoinette  
Brahya Witt Family:**

Top, L to R:

Elizabeth L., Helena,  
Peter G., Joseph R.,  
Margaret and Mary,  
Seated, William N.,  
William Frank,  
Antoinette,  
Antoinette Brahy  
Witt and Mildred.

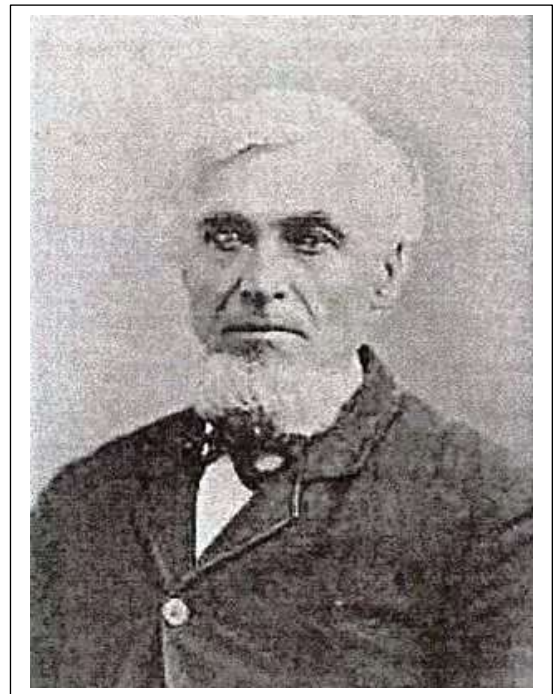


**Below, Elizabeth Zimmerman Hangartner and daughters, photo submitted by Bruce Klosowsky**

This photo was taken in Beaver Bay, of Elizabeth and thought to be three of her daughters, at the homestead built ca. 1869. The photo was likely taken in the 1920's.



**Oliver Martell, photo submitted by  
Don Dawson**



# Birch Cooley Township

## Birch Cooley Homestead Sections

Buery – Section 30, 31

Cardinal – Section 29

Clasen – Section 32

Faribault – Section 3

Horan – Section 10

Kumro – Section 32

LaCroix – Section 5

Magner – Section 10

Martell – Section 5

McConnell – Section 33

Perreault – Section 20

Picard – Section 20

Sampson – Section 13

Witt – Section 20

Zimmerman – Sections 31 and 32

