The Skarveland-Scott Family

The Skarveland-Scott family originates on Skarveland Farm in Norway about halfway between Bergen and Stavanger in the fjord region of the western coast. The history of the area, as well as Norwegian land records known as much Matrikkelen, trace Skarveland farm's earliest historical record to the mid-15th century when it was known as Skaueland. The name became Skaredlandt by 1563, Skarffueland by 1610, and Scharveland in the records of 1668 and 1723. As is the case for many Norwegian farms, the name comes not from a person but from the natural features that characterize the land itself. According to University of Oslo archaeologist Olaf Rygh's study of Norwegian farm names, Skarveland means either "land of the stony heights" or "land of mountains where cormorants gather."

Most people are interested in how and when their ancestors came to America. The "why", though is perhaps more important — especially in the case of Norwegian immigrants. In 1888, a Norwegian immigrant named Knute Langeland published a book titled **Normændene i America**, or in English, **Norwegians in America**. Langeland's book portrayed a stark social and political image of life in Norway of the 19th Century. Describing his experience is a poor substitute for the much more powerful voice that emerges when Langeland speaks for himself.

"The life of the youth in the fjords of western Norway may appear for many to be pleasant and romantic enough. In a lovely green cove, in the fertile little valley, by the friendly fjord, by the even friendlier tranquil lake, by the foaming waterfall, on the precipitous birch mountainsides, on the rock strewn slope by the sheer cliff, and on the sky high mountain peaks — everywhere in this rocky land's glorious nature, where the plant life fragrance is so sweet, and where the bird song is so enchanting, the awakened spirit could not be other than delighted and happy, and the gay youth could not do anything other than be seized by admiration for the beauty and poetry in this environment, and have adulation for nature's Lord. Nevertheless, it was here as it was everywhere in the world. Only the enlightened can open the book of nature and understand its language. For many of the country's children, it was a closed book. At the side of his mother's spinning wheel, the valley's son learned to recite his Lord's Prayer. In the squalid ambulatory school, he probably learned the five parts (the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Eucharist) of his small catechism by heart so that a few years later, he could come before the pastor and be accepted into the bosom of the church — and with only this, he had also to remain content. He was barely 10 years old before all his time and all his energy had to be put to physical toil and drudgery — into toil for his daily bread, where every day returned the same uncompromising and inescapable demands. The arable patches of Earth in the narrow valleys were small, the population relatively large, and this poor land could produce no more. During the course of the last 400 years, the country had augmented itself a prolific Danish/German government and a business class that held the power in their hands. The laws had given this imported class a monopoly on everything except freehold land, and this later became so subdivided because of overpopulation and so burdened by taxes from a wasteful government, and to keep the ruling class in commanding and in enlightened heights, destitution and ignorance became the Norwegian common man's normal lot. I grew up in a place where I had occasion to see the young sons of the pastor, the chief magistrate, the company chief, and the storekeeper being taught by a tutor. And it was without a doubt, the site of those well-dressed, carefree, and cheerful youths, who had nothing else to do than play and gather knowledge, which first made it so, that the painful question, like sharp steel forged its way into my young heart asking, 'What have I done? And what have they done, so that there should be such a great difference between us?' And when they then ridiculed me because of my ragged clothing and laughed and pointed their fingers at me and called, 'Look at him!' As I being bent and crooked under a heavy burden, walked with my nose pointing to the ground. I then wept, and swore, and became angry."

This, too, was the lot of Torris Tollefsøn Skarveland in his childhood. The Skarveland – Scott family story is the story of a disenfranchised people looking to improve their life. And the conditions described by Langeland are the reasons why, in the 21st century, there are more Norwegian Americans than there are Norwegians in Norway. Social conditions in 19th century Norway resulted in the diaspora of the Norwegian nation. It seems inarguable that life as a young man in Norway awakened something in Torris that destined him, against all

odds, to take great chances with his life and the lives of his family, to brave the unknown, and to become an American pioneer. He is one of millions of immigrants who later inspired the early 20th century American novelist Thomas Wolf to write:

"*So then, to every man his chance — to every man, regardless of his birth, his shining, golden opportunity — to every man the right to live, to work, to be himself, and to become whatever thing his manhood and his vision can combine to make him. This, seeker, is the promise of America.*"

Those are powerful words that Torris, no doubt, would have appreciated and would want us to appreciate today.

From 1536 to 1814, Norway was ruled by Denmark, and the records suggest that during that time, Skarveland farm was one of more than 550 farms that were originally owned by a wealthy landowner named Axel Mowat. In 1658, Mowat's daughter Karen married a Danish nobleman named Ludwig Holgerson Rosencrantz. As a wedding gift, Axel gave them one of his farms – a farm named Hatteberg. Hatteberg was located near Rosendal, Norway, just 15 miles from Skarveland Farm. Upon Axel's death in 1661, his entire estate and all of his farms went to Karen and Ludwig. In 1678, King Christian V of Denmark elevated the estate to a Barony, and Ludwig became the Baron of Rosendal. Over time, the estate passed to their son Christian and then to Christian's son Axel. When young Axel died without an heir in 1723, the Barony of Rosendal ended, and the estate reverted to the Danish Crown, which began selling pieces of it as a means of raising money to pay debt incurred by the Great Northern War of 1700-1721.

It's here that the Skarveland family name first appears. The 1723 Matrikikelen lists the owner of Skarveland farm as Ole Skarveland. The farm has been occupied by his direct descendants ever since that time with the estate passed directly from father to eldest son.

Knowing a bit about both Norwegian law and customs in the 1800s is helpful in understanding the sequence of events that brought parts of the Skarveland family to the United States.

A newborn child's first name was selected from a short list of names approved by the Norwegian government. (See the appendix for an explanation of Norwegian naming conventions) The child's middle name or patronymic, was a combination of the father's first name with the word "søn" or "datter" appended to it, depending upon the sex of the child. It was also tradition at the time to give the eldest boy the same first name as his paternal grandfather. The second boy was named after the maternal grandfather and so on back through the family tree. Girls were named in similar fashion for their grandmothers. Norwegian law at the time also required that a person's last name be the name of the farm or village where they lived. If a person moved, the law required that the last name be changed.

If this sounds unnecessarily complicated, Norwegian inheritance law, called Åsetesrett, was even more so. Åsetesrett was the ancient Norwegian right of the eldest son to inherit agricultural property after the death of his father. Sons would inherit 100% of the farm but the daughters were only allowed to inherit 50%.

When a farmer died, his eldest son took possession of the farm, and under the law, was obligated to pay his siblings their share of the estate in cash. Sisters received a half share. Daughters could inherit half the estate only if their father left no sons. Then, the eldest surviving daughter inherited with the same obligations to pay her siblings for their share.

Åsetesrett prevented the destructive partitioning of agricultural land that had happened in so many other European countries during the same period. But it also created conditions that later led millions of Norwegian sons and daughters to leave their native land forever.

These ancient Norwegian property laws are still codified in the modern Norwegian constitution, and they have served to preserve a strong Norwegian farm culture. Meanwhile, things have changed for women in Norway, too. In 1864, unmarried Norwegian women won the right to be treated as independent adults. Near the end of the 1870s,

Norwegian women first pursued occupations other than motherhood, and by the 1970s, inheritance law had finally been changed to allow women to inherit a full rather than half share of their father's estate. Until these changes, however, women were largely dependent on husbands for survival and support.

All of these conditions had significant influence on the events that were unfolding on Skarveland Farm.

A Son is Born

On October 15, 1824, a son was born to Tollev Knudsøn Skarveland and his wife Guri Olsdatter. Tollev and Guri Skarveland, were my wife's great-great- great grandparents. They named their son Torris Tollevsøn Skarveland.

Torris was one of four known children, but likely, there were more. He had two older sisters named Sissele Tollevsdatter and Margretha Tollevsdatter and an older brother named Knud Tollefsøn. We can safely assume that Knud was the eldest boy in the family. Since Tollev's patronymic name was Knudsøn, we know that his father's name was Knud. In keeping with tradition, Tollev would have bestowed the name Knud only on his eldest son.

To some, this would suggest that upon his death, Tollev's estate would pass to Knud, who would be required to pay Torris, Sissele, and Margretha their appropriate shares. Unfortunately, none of the children was to be so fortunate. Torris' parish birth record lists Tollev's occupation as gårdsbruker or farmer in English. It's important to realize that not all Norwegian farmers were the same. For example, a person who owned his own farm, and who could do with it as he wished, was called a "gaardbruger selveier." There were also rural farm residents called "husmann," and these could be of several different types. A simple husmann was a person who leased a small cottage on someone else's farm but without any land to farm. These were called "husmann uten jord" or a "tenant without land." There were also "husmann med jord" or tenants with land. And there were husmann of different classifications who paid for their rent by providing skills and

The house where Torris was born.

services to the farm owner that were required to keep the farm operating. In reality, specific occupation names differentiated farmers who owned land from those who rented land or those who were just farm laborers.

The title gårdsbruker indicates that Tollev did not own any land nor did he lease land from a selvier. Tollev was a simple farm laborer who worked for the land owner perhaps in exchange for food and a place to live. In fact, the 1838 Matrikkelen identifies the sole owner of Skarveland Farm as a relative named Tjborn Tjbornsøn Skarveland. In reality, Knud would inherit nothing at Tollev's death, and there would be nothing for which he had to pay Torris, Sissele or Margretha. Sissele and Margretha could at least hope to find good husbands, but in 1850s Norway, Torris was expected to be a breadwinner. Without land his future as a family provider was not very bright.

We know very little about Torris as a child or as a young man growing up in Hordaland County Norway. The next big recorded event in his life was his marriage on May 19, 1840 to Seri Torrisdatter Storhaug. Seri was from Storhaug Farm just across the peninsula near the village of Holmedal. Their marriage record (shown here) is found in the

Skanevik Parish Ministerialbok. It indicates Torris was a corporal in the Norwegian Army. The record describes Torris as "unkarl" or a bachelor who was never married and Seri as "pige" or a maiden — well not quite. The next parish record for the couple was dated just six days later on May 25, 1847. It shows the birth and baptism of their first son Tollev Torrisøn Storhaug (born at Storhaug Farm).

While this would certainly raise an American eyebrow today, it was not at all unusual in Norway then and is still not unusual there today. In 21st Century Norway, children are confirmed in the Norwegian Lutheran Church at about the age of 14. Young Norwegians begin to engage in sexual relations in their mid to late teens. At formal engagement, sexual relations are openly sanctioned and accompanied by partial or complete cohabitation. Pregnancy was then, and still is today, the most common catalyst for marriage.

In 19th century Norway, there were additional mitigating factors. Norway was an agrarian society, and farms were often located some distance from the family's church. The challenge of winter weather, limited transportation, the pressure of spring planting, fall harvest, and all the other farm related chores made a church wedding a difficult task to plan. Norwegians discovered a pragmatic solution to this dilemma. In 1800s Norway, when two young people wished to be married, they simply declared their desire to their parents and asked for their permission. If the parents approved, the children were considered to be married in the eyes of God and the community. The formality of a church wedding would follow at a later more convenient time. Meanwhile, all the benefits that society permitted to young, lustful adults were theirs to enjoy. Torris and Seri obviously started fully enjoying those benefits starting about September 1846.

On January 6, 1849, their oldest daughter Ingeborg Gurine Torrisdatter Mehus was born. With Torris still in the Norwegian army Seri had moved from Storhaug Farm to nearby Mehus Farm. A second daughter named Sissele Serene Torrisdatter was born on September 18, 1850. She was given the last name of Skarveland because by this time, Seri had moved to Torris's home farm. Seri's, Tollev's, and Ingeborg's last name changed with each move, too.

By 1852, Torris had finished his military service and was himself a worker on Skarveland Farm. Their fourth child, a daughter named Ingeborg Serine, was born on July 18, 1852. The records don't indicate Ingeborg's physical condition, but she must have been frail. Norwegian Lutheran Church law allowed a child to be baptized in the home by a family member, friend, or even the mother herself if the child could not survive a trip to the parish church. Ingeborg was baptized at home by a relative named Annasdatter Skarveland. She died on August 7, 1852.

Torris and Seri pressed on, and a little over a year later on September 25, 1853, daughter Ingebor Gurine was born. On December 9, 1855 another daughter named Martha Oline was born. Martha did not survive the winter. She died on March 1, 1856.

While all this was occurring in the Skarveland's lives, big changes were happening in Norway. The country's population grew more rapidly during the middle of the 19th century than in any other period of its history. Economic growth, while favorable overall, did not benefit all societal classes equally, and it could not keep pace with an exploding population. New farmers wanted and needed land, but with existing farms already in the hands of a relative few, there was simply not enough farmland to go around. What farms there were became increasingly unable to support ever larger families, and there was little other employment to help augment incomes. It's at this point that Norwegian society begin to fracture under the stress of the Åsetesrett inheritance system as young, energetic farmers begin to see a bleak future for themselves and their families.

In 1850, Norwegian farmhands like Torris worked nearly 80 hours per week for the landowner. They had become economic serfs, and very few could work their way out of poverty. Without property, they lacked the political influence necessary to bring about meaningful changes to a system that entrapped them.

Landowners, once upon a time perceived as patriarchs by their workers, begin seeing themselves as upper-class aristocrats.

Predictably, an embittered atmosphere emerged between owner and worker even though both were, in most cases, closely related to each other.

Since the 1830s, letters had been arriving from earlier immigrants telling of cheap land, unfettered opportunity, booming economic conditions, and personal freedom in a place called America. By 1850, "Amerika Fever" was sweeping across Norway. Historical parish records show family after family was granted permission to leave. Their "udflytedde" or church emigration records show their destination simply as "Amerika."

Sometime after Martha's death, Torris must have sold Seri on the idea that they, too, should leave Norway. The 1857 Skanevik parish records document that they and their four children were the 69th through the 74th people granted permission to leave Skanevik parish that year. So many were now leaving that the parish minister no longer bothered to record the exact date of individual departures. He noted only the year 1857 instead. A Norwegian Exodus had begun.

With their departure permission in hand, Torris took the family north to Bergen. The exact date they left Skarveland Farm cannot be known, but it was most likely in March. Still winter in Norway, the days were short and the temperatures below freezing. The trip to Bergen, 80 miles by ferry and over 120 miles by land, would have been a cold journey. Once there, Torris had to make all of the family's travel arrangements. These included a family passport, smallpox vaccination certificates from the municipal police in Bergen, and travel passage on a ship headed for North America. Most historical records suggest that the family's passage probably cost the equivalent of $60-$70 in 1857 US dollars – about $2500 today.

Farewell to Norway

For a few years in the mid-1800s, Norway did not allow Norwegian flagged vessels to carry immigrants to American ports. Con artists and cheats of every description had taken their toll on Norwegian immigrants who came to the eastern United States, and beginning in 1856, all Norwegian immigrants to North America sailing under the Norwegian flag were delivered to the port of Québec City, Canada, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Unfortunately, Canada did not begin keeping immigration records until the late 1860s, and passenger manifests for most of the early trips from Norway have disappeared or were destroyed long ago. It's impossible to know for certain exactly which ship carried Torris and his family to the New World.

Existing records do show that 11 ships left Bergen for Québec in Spring 1857. All were wooden sailing vessels dependent solely on wind power to make their voyage. The events of the first few days of the trip help to eliminate nine of the 11. That's because Seri was nine months pregnant when she left on the journey. Their fifth child, Torris Andreasøn, was born at sea on April 27, 1857. Only two of the 11 ships had left port in Bergen by that date — the Haakon Adelsten and the Tegner. The Tegner did not depart Bergen until April 24, and so was barely underway when Torris Andreas was born

The Tegner was a larger but much older ship than the Adelsten, and in 1857, she was nearing the end of her commercial life. In fact, after returning to Norway from her 1857 voyage, she never made another trans-Atlantic crossing. Historical accounts tell us that the Tegner had a poor reputation among Norwegian immigrants, and that she was avoided by immigrants whenever possible. It's hoped that, for the sake of his wife and family, Torris booked passage on the Adelsten instead.

The Haakon Adelsten was built in 1854 in Bergen. A two-masted brig, she had square rigged main sails and a length of about 165 feet. On April 22, 1857, the Adelsten set sail under the command of Capt. W. Simonsøn. Accompanying Torris and his family were 190 other passengers and at least one unborn child who became my wife Martha's great-grandfather Andrew. It was a crowded voyage that took six weeks.

A six-week journey seems like a very long time, but it's important to view their trip in the proper context. The Haakon Adelsten was a sailing ship, and the currents of the upper North Atlantic Ocean flow

from west to east faster than any wind can carry a ship against them. In order to reach the port of Québec in the spring, the ship had to sail around Scotland, down the Irish and French coasts, through the Bay of Biscay, along the Spanish and Portuguese coasts, past the Straits of Gibraltar, and down the African coast until it could round the Canary Islands. From there, it caught the prevailing westerly Atlantic current, which, along with the trade winds, carried it across the ocean and up America's eastern seaboard. Finally, it passed Newfoundland into the Gulf of St. Lawrence and sailed on to Québec.

The conditions are unimaginable for us today. Luckily, we don't have to speculate. On that same voyage was a young man named Christian Logan. He was accompanying his mother and two sisters. His diary survives, and parts of it can be found on the Internet.

"On this early sailing ship, it was necessary for the passengers to take the provisions of their own in sufficient quantity to last them throughout the voyage. There were stoves on board, but as these were few in proportion to the passengers, there was actually much rivalry when all were intent on preparing their meals at the same time. However, during stormy weather the competition was less keen. To many, the mere aroma of food was unbearable. I was laid low by seasickness the entire voyage and no proposal could ever be made attractive enough to induce me to make a return trip. A malady worse to endure, being so to speak, self-inflicted, can scarcely be imagined. The ocean is merciless and makes no apologies. It asks no one to ride its heaving back, and those who do must take the natural consequences"

In the 21st Century, physicians are reluctant to allow travel for a woman in the final two months of her pregnancy, and airlines generally prohibit women from making even a short flight during their final month. Historical records show that a majority of those who died on these 1800s Norwegian sailing vessels were newborns, infants, and small children. Many of the pregnant women who delivered babies on board were destined to die themselves.

So, it's fair for us to question why Torris would risk the lives of his wife and unborn child by sailing so close to Seri's delivery date. What could Torris possibly have been thinking when he put Seri on a crowded tiny sailing ship just as she was about to have a baby?

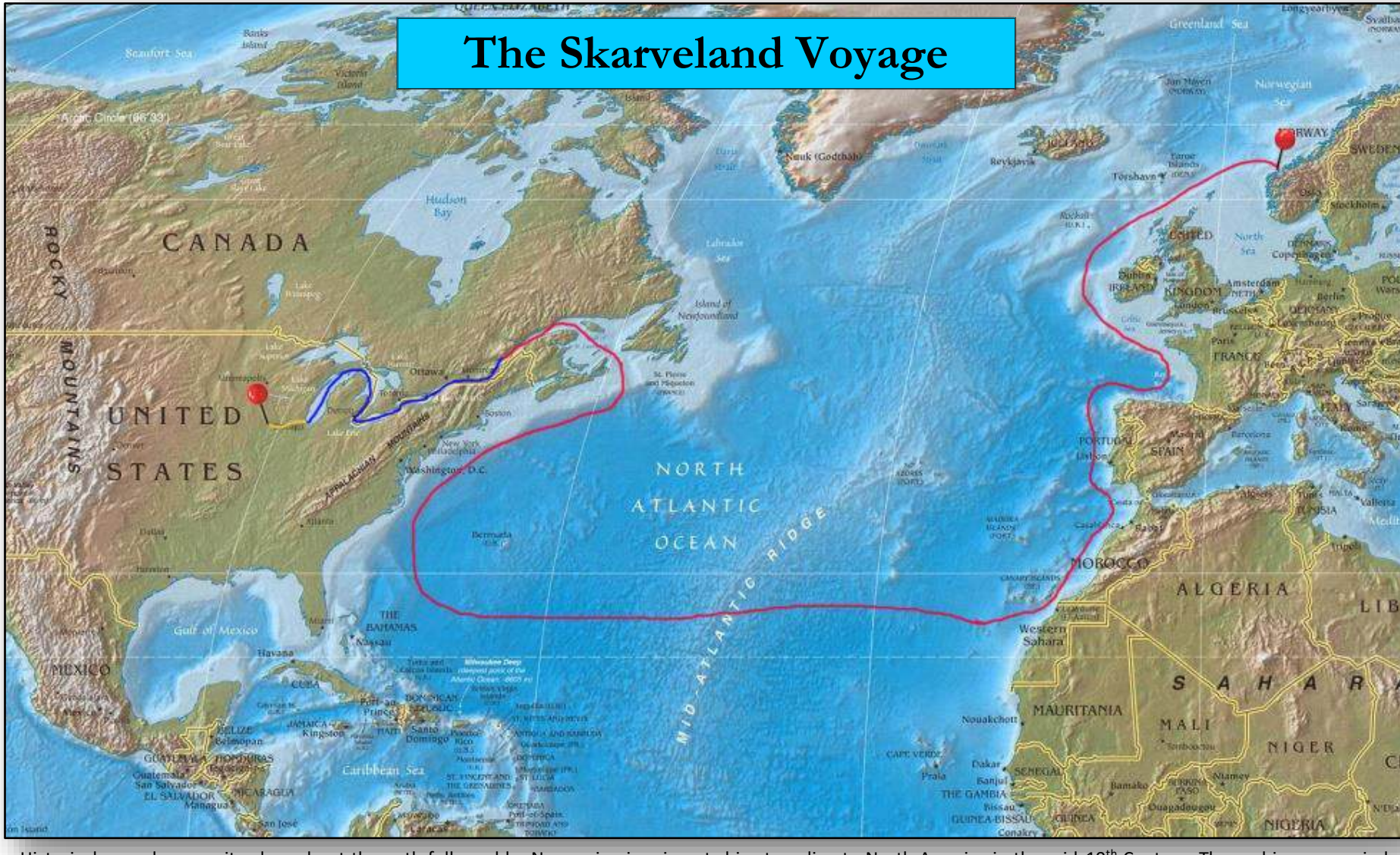
The Haakon Adelsten, like many ships of the day, was not built as a passenger ship but as a cargo hauler. Her principal task was carrying cut lumber from American and Canadian forests for delivery back to England. Ships cannot travel unloaded on the open ocean. If no cargo is aboard, some type of ballast needs to be loaded in order for the ship to be stable. In the 1800s, it was customary to load the hold with ballast stones.

With a sudden increase in immigrants traveling to North America, shipping companies had an alternative to loading and unloading ballast stones. Immigrants became their ballast. They loaded and unloaded themselves and even paid a fare, which made the outbound trip profitable for the shipping company.

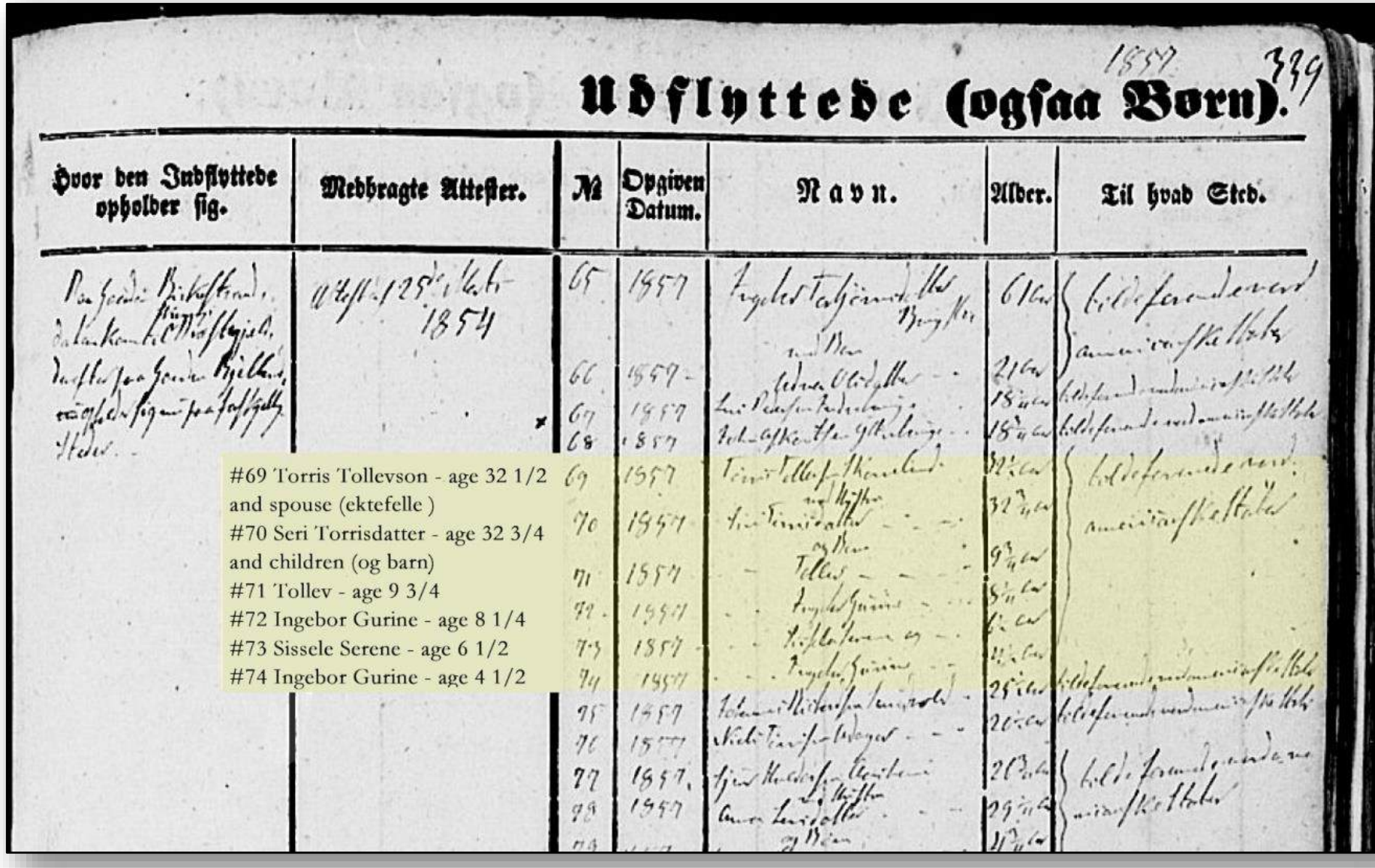
Records from the time of the Skarveland family's trip tell us that immigrants were given only three things aboard ship — toilet facilities, a place to sleep, and communal cooking stoves. Every other thing had to be provided by the immigrant. Torris and his family had to bring all their own food, water, clothing, and bedding along with any possessions they might want to have at their new home. The children might bring a few toys, and Seri obviously had to think about what she might need for a newborn baby.

The 1857 voyage of the Haakon Adelsten must have been a crowded affair. The surviving log notes indicate that the Adelsten had a "burden rating of 102 commercial lasts" – a measurement of the ship's available cargo space. A commercial last was equal to about 165 cubic feet of cut lumber, which means that the total below deck space of the Adelsten was about 16,830 cubic feet. That's about 85 cubic ft. for each of the 196 passengers, their supplies, and personal effects — equal to a space of roughly 4' x 4' x 5.5'.

When we go on a three-week vacation, we find it hard to keep our suitcases under 50 pounds each. Here was a family bidding farewell to the only home they had ever known. They were leaving Norway for the rest of their lives and could take very little with them. What would be on our packing list?



Historical records are quite clear about the path followed by Norwegian immigrant ships traveling to North America in the mid-19th Century. Those ships were wind powered and made their way using the prevailing trade winds and the North Atlantic current. In early spring, the North Atlantic current followed a more southerly track—often requiring ships to sail as far as the North African coast to the Canary Islands. There, they captured the westerly-flowing current, which, with the trade winds, would carry them to the North American continent (red line). In 1857, Norwegian law prevented Norwegian flagged vessels from landing at American ports. The immigrant ships sailed to Quebec City instead. It is ironic that the Skarveland family would have to sail for days up America's eastern seaboard, nearly within sight of their new home, and not be able to disembark their ship. At Quebec City, the Skarveland's journey shifted from ocean vessel to river and lake steamer (blue line). From Chicago, their trip became an overland trek to Polk County, Iowa (orange line).



Above is part of the page from the 1857 Ministerialbok (minister's book) for Skanevik Paris in Norway. The record is called an "Udflytedde" in Norwegian. The last five columns of the udflytedde records the emigration or departure of persons from Skanevik Parish. Highlighted in yellow are emigration entries for Torris, Seri, and their four children Tollev, Ingebor Gurine, Sissele Serene, and Ingebor Gurine. The record shows their numerical order in the Ministerialbok as well as their names, ages, and the year of their emigration. The last column heading reads "**Til hvad Sted**." This means "To what place moving." Part of the entry in this column for the Skarveland family is indecipherable, but the word "Amerika" is partly readable. More than 150 people left Skanevik Parish in 1857. Nearly all went to America.

The reason is probably a simple one. Torris most likely surmised that the trans-Atlantic crossing was going to be dangerous for his family regardless of their circumstances or when they made the trip. There was one factor, however, that probably influenced his decision. By leaving before the baby was born, he saved about seven dollars on the family's fare.

This might seem like a cruel light in which to view Torris, but throughout his life, he proved time and again that he was a pragmatic man. He probably reasoned that their unborn child was at no greater risk being born on board than he would be if they waited for him to be born on shore and then sailed with him as an infant. Money was tight, and every bit of it would be needed once they reached America. In all likelihood, Torris probably did what he concluded was in the best general interest of his family.

Seri's child was born on April 27, 1857. He was named Torris Andreasøn. As the second male child, he was given the same first name as his maternal grandfather – Seri's father Torris Storhaug.

It's uncertain exactly when the Skarveland family arrived in Quebec City, but historical records of the time do tell us that before they could complete their voyage, their ship would need to make a compulsory stopover at an island in the middle of the St. Lawrence Seaway about 30 miles below Quebec City. The island of Grosse Ile had been established in 1832 as an immigration and quarantine station. In the succeeding years, a rush of immigration, primarily from Ireland, taxed Grosse Ile's ability to safely handle immigrants. In 1847, just 10 years before the Skarveland's arrival, 5,424 immigrants died on the island from outbreaks of typhus and diphtheria.

Historical records tell us that, upon arrival, ships would have to submit to an inspection by a physician. If they were found to be disease free, they were released to continue on to Quebec City. If an arriving ship had cases of fever on board, the ship was required to fly a blue flag as it approached the island. Blue flags required the entire company of passengers and crew to disembark and be quarantined while the ship and belongings were disinfected and sick passengers recovered.

We don't know which conditions existed aboard ship for the Skarveland family in 1857. The Haakon Adelsten arrived in Québec City on June 2 of that year. Torris Andreasøn had beaten the odds. He was still alive. All of his descendants can be thankful for that, for they came incredibly close to never being — at all.

Grosse Ile Immigration and Quarantine Station in the 1800s

It's interesting to note that Torris Andreasøn's name is a distinct departure from the accepted Norwegian naming convention. By custom, his name should have been Torris Torrisøn. Interestingly, there was another informal rule among immigrants that may have come into play. It was customary for children born onboard ship to be given a patronymic based on the first name of either the ship's captain or the ship's carpenter. Since we know the first name of Captain Simonsøn began with a "W," can we assume that the ship's carpenter was named Andreas? Unfortunately, we'll never know.

Aside from a few notes written by some Scott descendants, the Scott family history as we know it has been mostly verbal. Many have believed that Torris Andreasøn was born in New York Harbor and

that the family settled in Illinois upon their arrival. We now know these stories are not accurate.

There is no historical record of the family's journey from Québec City to the United States, but we can piece together the circumstances of that era to determine what the family most likely did in their first few months after arrival. Combined with specific information from US census data, church records, seemingly unrelated newspaper stories, historical documents available in various archives, and family memoirs, a clearer picture emerges of the Skarveland's life in the United States.

In the 1830s, Canada, along with much of the rest of the world, endured epidemics of cholera. These were accompanied in 1857 by a worldwide pandemic of influenza. Most cases, of course, were more than likely brought into Canada by the mass of immigrants flowing there from Western Europe. A rumor developed among immigrants, however, that cholera was being brought into Canada because trains were transporting diseased cattle and swine. As a result, most Norwegian immigrants avoided traveling from Canada by train.

Since most were bound for the midwestern United States anyway, they chose instead to continue their journey by water. It's likely that Torris and his family did likewise. For those traveling to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, the route went by lake steamer up the St. Lawrence River into Lake Ontario, through the Welland Canal into Lake Erie, and on to Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

In his 1908 book **History of the Norwegian Settlements**, Hjalmar Holand describes this part of the immigration experience in detail.

"Once aboard, the immigrants saw a pattern of a busy, varied world that was now to become his home. The trusted company of his countrymen and friends who had accompanied him from Stavanger or Skien were now, through death or other reasons, spread out and reduced to a few neighbors. Instead, he found himself surrounded by Yankees, Englishmen, Irishmen, Germans, Indians, and others. More than on any part of the long journey, the immigrant on these lake steamers was faced with the greatest disregard for human life. The arrogance and carelessness of those in command often caused great misfortunes. The lack of good harbors in the lakes caused many ships every year in times of bad storms to become stranded or to sink. From time to time, people in those days heard the most heart-rending reports about the lake steamers — reports about ships blowing up with hundreds of passengers on board."

Holand goes on to describe how, just five years before Torris and the family made this part of their journey, the worst disaster to ever overtake Norwegian immigrants happened on this route. In August 1852, one lake steamer intentionally rammed another. In that incident, 300 immigrants were drowned. It cannot be over emphasized that, to many of the captains of the steamers, the descendants of immigrants themselves, the newly arrived Norwegians were nothing more than the dregs of foreign lands destined to be the ruination of America. The Skarveland's trip was dangerous from start to finish.

Finally, this part of their journey ended at Chicago sometime in the middle of July 1857. Notes found in some family memoirs suggest that the family spent their first few months in the Norwegian settlements of the Fox River Valley of Kendall County, Illinois near Chicago. This makes logical sense since it was too late in the season for Torris to begin farming, and the family could winter over with other immigrants from Hordaland County. Perhaps Torris even earned some money helping with the fall harvest.

A New Home at Last — and a New Name

Nevertheless, it appears that Torris wasted little time in making arrangements for the family's first formal home in America. A bill of sale dated November 1857 (discovered in the state of Iowa Historical Archives in Des Moines) shows that Torris purchased two horses and two wagons from a Des Moines man. It appears that Torris traveled to Iowa in the fall of 1857 to hunt for a farm and then perhaps return to Illinois to await the spring in 1858. The 1860 census shows the family lived on a farm in Delaware Township of Polk County, Iowa not far from the present-day hamlet of Berwick. Their mail address was the Rising Sun Post Office, which no longer exists today.

It's not known exactly when, but sometime soon after their arrival, Torris selected a new name for the family. Immigrants of all nationalities "Americanized" their names for a variety of reasons.

Most Norwegians dropped their last "farm" name and chose their patronymic or middle name as the family's new name. That's why there are so many Olsons, Jansens, Iversons, Torkelsons, etc. today. Had Torris made this choice, the family name today would be Tollefson. But Torris chose Scott as the family's new American name. Why Torris made that choice is a subject of speculation.

Circumstantial evidence points us to an answer for that question. A man named James A. Scott held a land "scrip" warrant as payment for his earlier military service in Virginia. In 1851, Scott redeemed his scrip warrant for 160 acres of land in the southwestern corner of section four of Delaware Township in Polk County. At the time, a homesteader who received government land had to demonstrate his good faith effort with the land by building a habitable dwelling, digging a well, putting some acreage into cultivating crops, and living there for five years. For a young homesteader like Scott who had never collected a wage for his military service but had only the scrip warrant, he was "land rich" but cash poor. Like many men in similar situations, Scott made an agreement with a local speculator. Scott assigned the scrip warrant and the land to Frederick Elliott, an early Polk County investor who eventually owned nearly all of sections four and five of that township. The records suggest that Scott and Elliott developed a mutually beneficial arrangement in which Elliott provided Scott with much needed cash and a share of the annual harvest. In return, Scott occupied, farmed, and improved the land for Elliott as required by the government to finalize the land warrant so that Elliot could eventually redeem it for actual land ownership or patent.

In April 1857, just when the Skarvelands were leaving Norway, Scott purchased a scrip warrant of his own in Monona County in western Iowa. He moved there with his family in 1857, probably after the fall harvest. The Delaware Township farm, which probably would have been known as the Scott farm, became vacant when he left. The 1860

A typical sod house for an Iowa homesteader

federal census places Torris and the family somewhere within four square miles of this farm's location.

We know that Torris was in Polk County in late fall of 1857. It's plausible that he learned of Frederick Elliott's vacant land and arranged to become a tenant farmer on what had been the James Scott farm. Perhaps still obedient to Norwegian law, he would have changed the family's last name to Scott as he would have done were he still living in Norway. This is purely speculation, of course, since no one can prove if Torris's first Iowa farm and the Scott farm were one and the same. The truth will probably forever remain a mystery.

Torris used both Scott and Skarveland throughout his life. Census and Civil War records always refer to the Scott name while nearly all of the birth, baptism, confirmation, and communion church records in Norway, Story County, and Kendall County are recorded under the Skarveland name. The Scott names appear only a few times in the Lisbon Lutheran Church records in Kendall County, and two of the references are for the deaths of Torris and Seri. The Scott name is on their gravestone.

Iowa had been a state for only 11 years when the family arrived there, and about the time they came to Polk County, Des Moines was officially named the state capital. It was still a wild and unsettled place. Friendly Sac and Fox Indians wandered the central Iowa countryside in 1857, and the occasional teepee could still be found. At Spirit Lake in northwestern Iowa, the Santee Sioux Indians killed 40 settlers in March of that year. Histories of the time state that the prairies were covered with grass taller than the tallest man. Even the railroad had not yet come to Des Moines. The nearest rail station was in Iowa City. Torris brought his family to the frontier.

Polk County's population was barely 5000 in 1857, and Delaware Township had only 472 residents by 1860. Crude frame houses or log cabins were considered a lavish residence. Some settlers lived inside sod houses or holes dug into hillsides. We don't know anything about the Scott family's first American home, but we can speculate that it was small — especially for a family of seven.

1858 was probably not a very successful year for Torris. A history of Polk County Iowa, published in 1880 by Union Historical Company, states that central Iowa experienced a deluge of rain that year. The weather caused a complete and total crop failure for farmers. That and the Panic of 1857 plunged most families into dire financial straits.

In September 1859, the family welcomed a third son named Ole. He's listed on the 1860 federal census (next page) with the age 9/12 and the initials "C.O." It's unknown what the initial C stood for since the church baptism records for this period are missing, and Ole's gravestone lists his name as Ole T. Interestingly in every succeeding census from 1870 on, including ones that Ole answered himself, his birth year is listed as 1860. His cemetery headstone shows the same 1860 birth year. Ole went through his entire life not knowing that he was really a year older than he believed he was.

In 1855, a group of Norwegian immigrants from Hordaland and Rogaland counties in Norway had left their original Fox River settlement near Lisbon, Illinois, and went to Story County, Iowa in search of cheaper and more plentiful land. Led by their elected pastor Ole Anfinson, they established a new colony near the present-day town of Huxley. They named it Palestine as a symbol of their high hopes. Sometime in late 1860 or early 1861, Torris moved the family about 15 miles northwest to Palestine Colony. We can't know the reason with certainty, but with so few inhabitants in Delaware Township and none of them Norwegian immigrants, perhaps the family simply felt more comfortable and found greater support around their native Norwegians. An excerpt from Story County Histories by Florence Wheeler of Cambridge, Iowa, describes what happened to the Scotts shortly after their move.

"On December 28, 1860, a very stormy winter day it was proposed to subscribe for the erection of the church in the colony. The work was started, but on account of the great national disaster, the Civil War, and as 23 of the youngest and best men enlisted in the service of the Union from this colony alone, the church was not finished and dedicated until August 1866. Following are the names of the men in the colony that enlisted in the service: Ole Anfinson, Ivor Twidt, Torris Scott . . . "

Torris and his buddies went off to war. He enlisted on October 1, 1861 and mustered into Company K of the 10th Iowa Infantry regiment 10 days later on October 11. Most of the Story County recruits were late joining the regiment and only caught up with them after they had already moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Seri was pregnant again with their seventh child.

Torris entered the Army as a private. Collectively, the 10th Iowa saw action in Cape Girardeau and participated in the capture of Island Number 10, the Siege and Occupation of Corinth, the Battle of Iuka, the Siege and Capture of Vicksburg, the Battle of Mission Ridge, and the Capture of Savannah. The 10th Iowa marched 8170 miles through 10 Confederate states. The tally of war for the regiment was 57 killed, 242 wounded, 39 who died of their wounds, 19 discharged for their wounds, 134 who died from disease, and an unknown number who suffered from disease and disability. Torris was one of the disabled.

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Page No. 66

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Delaware Township in the County of Polk State of Iowa enumerated by me, on the 18th day of June 1860. J. M. Wait Ass't Marshal.

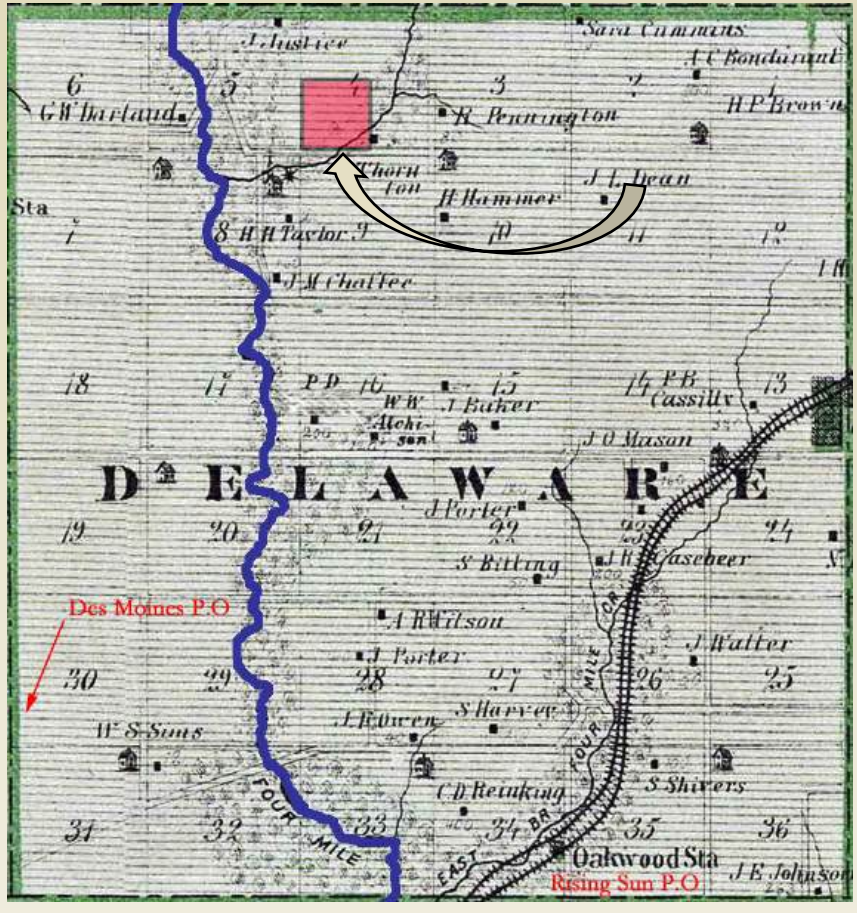
Post Office _____.

Dwelling-houses—numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Description. Age.	Sex.	Color, white, black, or mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned. Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
25	482	435	T. Scott	36	m				Norway					25
26			Sarah "	36	f				"					26
27			T. "	13	m				"		/			27
28			Isabella "	11	f				"					28
29			C. "	9	f				"		/			29
30			G. "	7	f				"		/			30
31			T. A. "	3	m				"					31
32			C. C. "	1/12	m				Iowa					32
33														33
34			Concluded											34

Shown above is an excerpt from the June 1860 Federal Census (the first 24 entries have been deleted). It shows the Torris Scott family living in Delaware Township of Polk County, Iowa. Delaware Township is immediately east of present–day Ankeny, Iowa. It lists

Torris as T. Scott, his wife Sarah, and their children Thomas (T), Isabelle, Sissele/Celia (S), Gurine/Julia (G), Torris Andreas/Andrew (T. A.), and Oli (C.O.). It's uncertain what Oli's baptized first name was but several male names were popular at the time including Cyrus. Note that Oli's age is shown as 9/12 of a year indicating that he was born in September 1859 not September 1860 as later records (including his gravestone) indicate.

The Delaware Township census was completed over a two–day period of Saturday, June 16 and Monday, June 18, 1860. The census consists of 12 pages of entries from two distinct parts of the township. The western section of the township was serviced by a post office in Des Moines with the eastern part receiving mail service from a nearby village known as Rising Sun. In 2022, the village remains but not the post office. Note that immediately after the family's listing is the word "Concluded," which indicates they were the last family counted in the township.



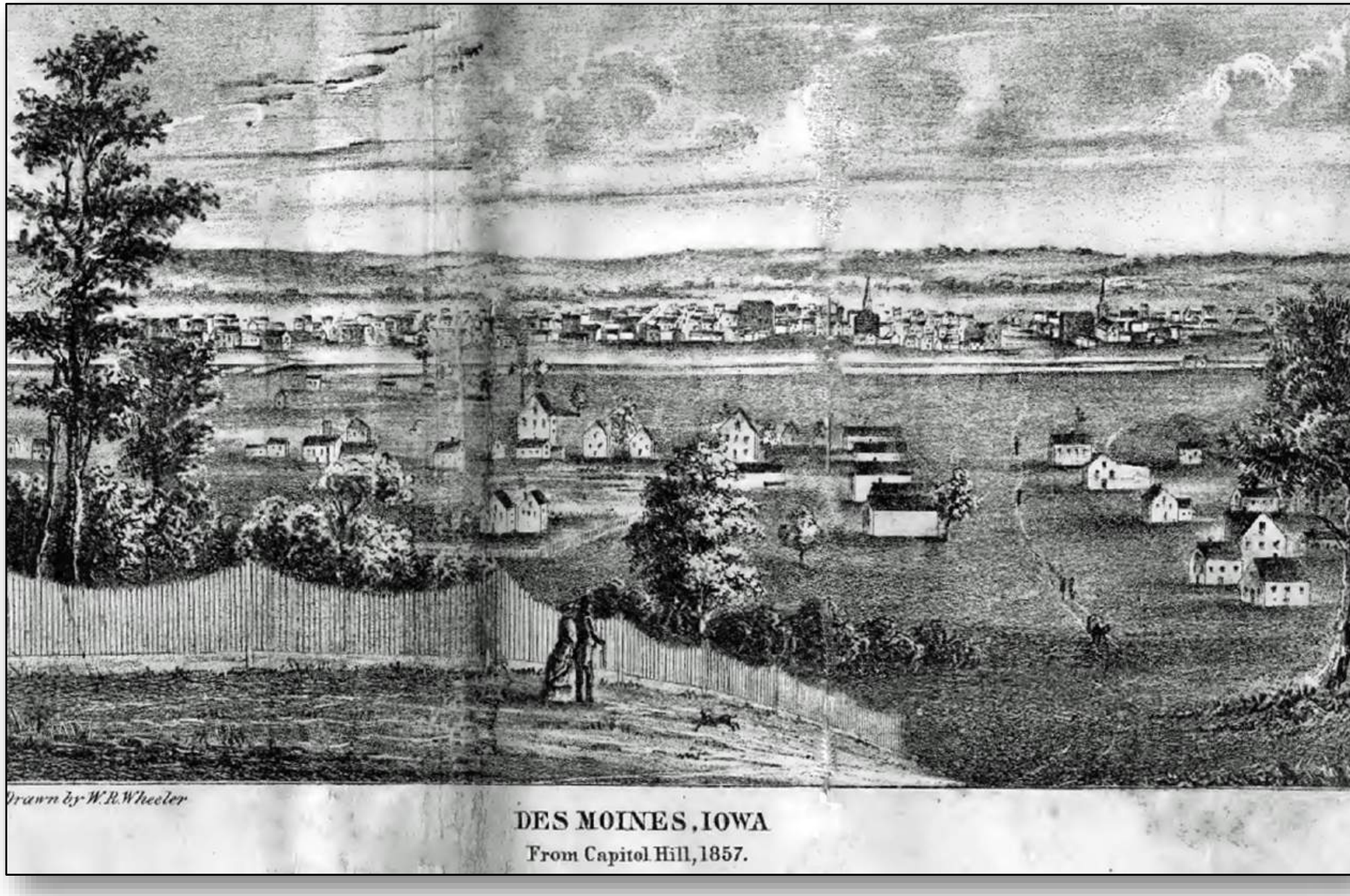
The map above shows Polk County's Delaware Township as it appeared in 1875 just 15 years after the census on the preceding page. Shown on the map are names of residents in different sections of land. Shown in blue is Four Mile Creek. It got its name from the fact that travelers coming to Fort Des Moines from the east still had 4 miles left to travel when they reached it.

In the early years of Polk County, Four Mile Creek was untamed, frequently flooded violently, and caused much damage. In 1877, the train trestle over it washed away, and a Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad train plunged into the water killing 18 including 10 members of PT Barnum's circus crew. Because of the wild nature of Four Mile Creek, it served as a natural barrier across much of Polk County for many years. The creek was the boundary between the two sections of the Delaware Township census in 1860. Because of this fact, we know that, in 1860, Torris and his family lived to the east of Four Mile Creek.

The 1860 census for Delaware Township consists of 12 pages. Seven are for the area west of Four Mile Creek and five are for the much more lightly populated area east of Four Mile Creek. Several names appearing on the lower one third of the map's southeastern section appear early on in the five pages of the 1860 census for the Rising Sun section of Delaware Township. This seems to indicate that the census enumerator began in the southern part of the eastern section of the township and worked his way north. That would imply that, when he concluded his enumeration of the area east of Four Mile Creek with Torris and his family, he found himself in the northern part of the township near the border with adjoining Douglas Township.

This hypothesis suggests that the Skarveland family had settled near the top of the map at the left — somewhere within the top four sections of land. The red–shaded square indicated by the arrow identifies the southwest one quarter of section 4 (mentioned previously) that was redeemed by James A. Scott's scrip warrant in 1851 and homesteaded by him with the support and assistance of the land speculator Frederick Elliott. While all this evidence is circumstantial, it's a reasonable conclusion that this quarter section of land, which would have been informally known as the Scott farm, was the farm where Torris and the family lived beginning in late 1857 when they first arrived. It's equally reasonable to assume that settling on this farm was the catalyst that prompted them to change the family name from Skarveland to Scott. To many, it is a reasonable hypothesis.

The eastern part of Delaware Township was lightly populated with only 148 people living on more than 25 square miles of land. Only two other families were recent immigrants, and they were from Germany. The Scotts were the only Norwegian immigrants in the entire township.


Drawn by W.R.Wheeler
DES MOINES, IOWA
From Capitol Hill, 1857.

The Civil War Service of Torris Scott

With the retrieval of Torris's Consolidated Military Service Record (CMSR) from the National Archives in Washington DC, it's possible to see his Civil War service in greater detail.

Torris's military record serves as an example of what so many men experienced on both sides of America's most deadly conflict. His term of military service stretched from his enlistment on October 1, 1861 until his disability release in October 1863. His CMSR shows that while he was officially discharged on March 14 of that year, the U.S. Army held onto him until October before letting him return home. That's because his discharge was due to a serious disabling illness that spanned most of his enlistment.

The CMSR documents that out of the 25 total months that Torris was attached to the Union Army, he was hospitalized at one location or another for all but eight months of that time. Those eight months were October, November, and December 1861; January 1862 and September, October, November, and December 1862. For the remaining 17 months, the Company K muster rolls show that Torris was hospitalized in one of several Army hospitals at Keokuk Iowa; Mound City, Illinois; Bird's Point, Missouri; Holly Springs, Mississippi; St. Louis, Missouri; and Memphis, Tennessee. With the exception of the larger hospitals in St. Louis and Memphis, the rest of the hospital locations coincide with the movements of his regiment. It's likely that these were regimental field hospitals and that when the regiment moved, the hospital and Torris moved, too.

Specific records regarding Torris's hospitalization, though, are largely nonexistent. Hospitalization reports for all Iowa units were sent to the Iowa Adjutant General's office, and they are on file at the Iowa State historical Library. The records are remarkably detailed, but wading through the repetitious accounts of chronic diarrhea, gangrene, bullet and shrapnel wounds, and missing limbs, there seems to be no specific mention regarding Torris Scott.

This circumstance suggests that, while Torris was consigned to the hospital muster roll for the months in question, he may have been an ambulatory patient. That was probably not good news for him either. Ambulatory sick or wounded soldiers were usually pressed into duty as regimental hospital nurses. Military nursing in 1861 was a brutal and haphazard affair. Performed by convalescent soldiers, regimental musicians, or those "least effective under arms", nursing involved little or no formal training and was stigmatized as a sign of inability or cowardice. Soldiers sometimes concealed their wounds to avoid being taken to hospitals which were seen as little better than prisons or morgues.

American poet Walt Whitman volunteered as a Civil War nurse and described a nurse's daily circumstances in vivid detail. According to Whitman, the hospital nurse lived with "*a heap of amputated feet, legs, arms, hands, etc., a full load for a one-horse cart.*" Nurses were also expected to retrieve the wounded and dying from the battlefield, which created great tension and stress for those already suffering from some ailment. We cannot assume that nursing duties befell Torris during the 17 months he was on hospital rosters, but the possibility was certainly a real one.

During the eight months that Torris was present with his Regiment, though, he had several smaller enemy clashes and was involved in two major battles. Most likely, it was during one of those actions that he received a minor wound. In his memoirs Torris's grandson Rudolph Scott recalls his father Andrew telling him that Torris "had his hair cut above his ear by an enemy bullet."

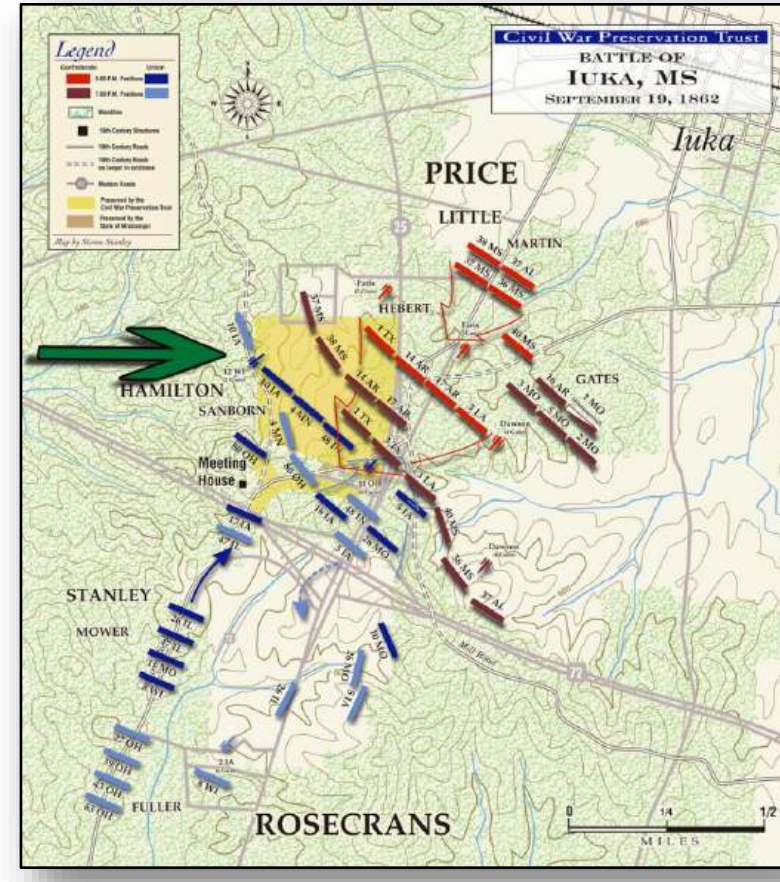
From November 1861 through January 1862, the 10th Iowa was stationed near Cape Girardeau, Missouri. From there the regiment skirmished repeatedly with small Confederate units encamped in the area of Bird's Point. In January 1862, Torris and the 10th Iowa participated in a minor night attack on a Confederate force at Charleston, Missouri. As it marched by night, it passed through a dense forest where it was ambushed by the enemy. It soon recovered from the surprise and sent the enemy fleeing. The cost to the 10th Iowa from that encounter was 10 wounded and five killed.

With the coming of spring, the 10th Iowa moved downriver and took part in the siege of New Madrid and the capture of Island Number 10. The ingenuity of a lowly 10th Iowa private is credited with the clever suggestion to dig a canal across swampy, low-lying ground. This action allowed Union forces to avoid approaching New Madrid from the river. As a result, Union forces trapped the Confederate garrison between them and the Mississippi River forcing the rebels to abandon their positions and flee across the river to Island Number 10. Torris spent this action in the field hospital.

After Island Number 10, Union General Ulysses S. Grant ordered the 10th Iowa to be loaded onto river steamers. The regiment headed back up the Mississippi River, into the Ohio River, and then into the Tennessee River. They landed at Hamburg, Tennessee just upriver from Pittsburgh Landing on April 27, 1862 — just three weeks after the horrible carnage at the Battle of Shiloh. Torris was probably thinking of home. That day was his son Andrew's fifth birthday.

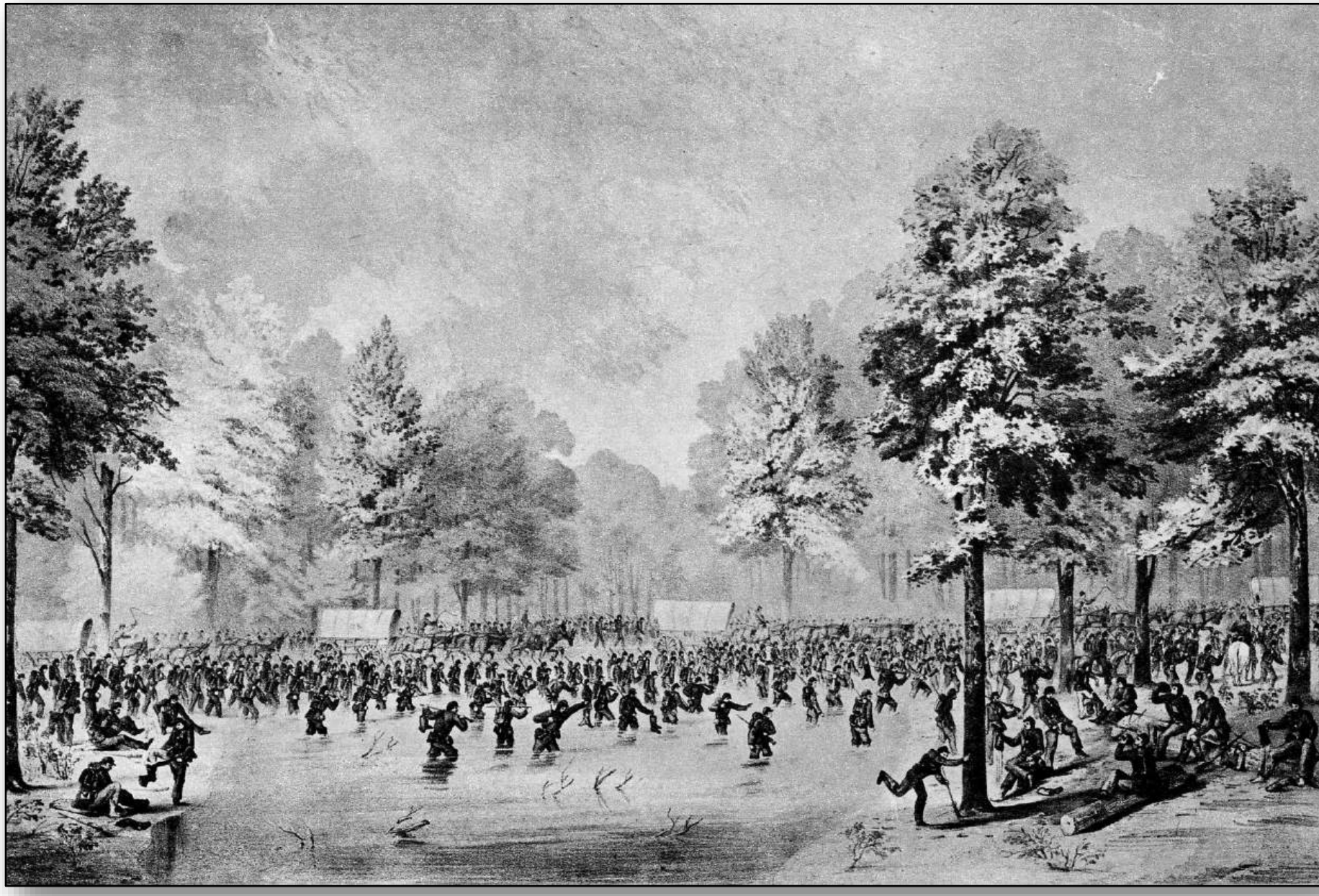
From there, the unit marched southwest through 17 miles of swampy forested ground to the Confederate stronghold at Corinth, Mississippi. There they participated in the Siege of Corinth and were largely responsible for union reconnaissance in the area. Still in the hospital, Torris was excluded from these actions too. Meanwhile, Ulysses S. Grant had placed a small garrison of Union soldiers 20 miles to the southeast in the Mississippi town of Iuka. There they established a supply depot at their easternmost outpost on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. Five months after the Confederate forces abandoned Corinth, they managed to route the Iuka Union garrison, take control of the town, and salvage the Union supply depot and its supplies. Torris got out of the hospital just in time to join the march to Iuka where a major action took place on September 19, 1862.

The written history of the 10th Iowa tells the story. *"At the Battle of Iuka, fought by Rosencrantz on the evening of the 19th, the Rebels precipitating their column on his partially formed lines before General Grant came up, the 10th Iowa occupied a rising ground on the left in the first line. In defense of this position was also placed a section of artillery under the command of Colonel Perczel. The Rebel attack on this position was made with spirit, but was repulsed with loss. Unlike the attack on the right, it was not renewed, and we occupied our place in line until darkness put an end to the battle. Owing to the advantageous position of the regiment, our loss was light, amounting only to six wounded."*



The Battle of Iuka, Mississippi. Green arrow marks the 10th Iowa.

The one-day battle was a union victory. The Confederate force had total losses of 1516 — including 263 killed, 692 wounded, and 561 captured or missing. Union losses totaled 790 — including 144 killed, 598 wounded, and 40 captured or missing.

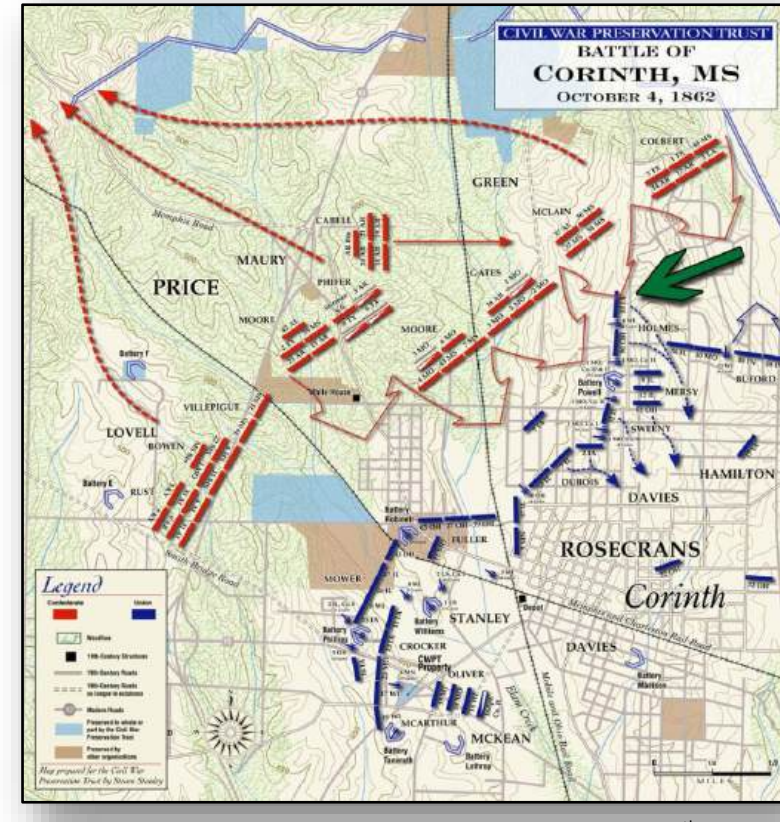


The picture above was sketched by a Union Army artist in 1862. It depicts the 10th Iowa Infantry Regiment slogging through swampy territory at Corinth, Mississippi. The sketch is now part of a collection in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Sometime during that night, the Rebels retreated. The next morning, the 10th Iowa, along with other units, pursued the rebels for the entire day until nightfall. On September 21, 1862, the 10th Iowa returned to their encampment near Jacinto, Mississippi about 12 miles southeast of the main Union body at Corinth.

The next month, October 1862, saw Confederate forces attack Corinth in force, and it was this two-day battle where Torris experienced the most violent fighting of his military service. The best description of the battle comes from an 1865 report from the 10th Iowa's Lieutenant Colonel William Silsby to the Iowa Adjutant General. *"In the first day's engagement, in the memorable Battle of Corinth, on the third and fourth of October, the brigade to which the 10th was attached, (2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, Army of the Mississippi) was a part of the day posted near the old Rebel fortifications between the Chewalla and Kirby Roads. In the afternoon, we were moved down the Kirby Road near town; thence were ordered across the ravine through an almost impenetrable undergrowth of cane and wild vines to the M. and O. Railroad. Emerging from the thicket, we found ourselves confronted by a Rebel battery, supported by a force of infantry. Here we came in contact with the Rebel skirmish line; a number of whom, taken by surprise by the rapidity and suddenness of our advance, were taken prisoners. The Rebels opened upon us a brisk fire of grape and canister, from which we partially sheltered by a cut in the railroad. To capture the battery in a place where we could not have removed it in the face of a superior force would have been folly to attempt. By movement to the left, we returned to our former position on the Kirby Road. This apparently rash attack had the effect of deterring the rebels for making any further attempt, on this day, to swing to their left around on the Kirby Road.*

In the second day's engagement, we occupied the extreme right of the first line. The Rebels, reinforced by division of Lovell, attacked our lines with the utmost impetuousity. The line to the left of us had given away, and for a while, the regiment stood alone. The Rebels meanwhile were rapidly bearing around upon our right flank. In this emergency, we were ordered to about-face and retire to the second line. This was done in good order, our men frequently facing to the enemy and returning the fire, which was poured into our receding ranks. Forming on the second line, we soon after moved forward in the grand charge that decided the fortune of the day in our favor. The rebels were pursued to the Hatchie River, where they encounter General Ord's command, and they bore off to the left upwards toward Ripley. We followed in pursuit to near that place and then returned to Corinth via Rienzi. The loss of the regiment at the Battle of Corinth was three killed and 36 wounded."



The Battle of Corinth, Mississippi. Green arrow marks the 10th Iowa.

After the Battle of Corinth, Torris and the 10th Iowa hopped around the local Mississippi countryside as they cleared out small bands of Rebels around Grand Junction, Davis Mills, Holly Springs, and Yaconapatalfa. By January 1863, Torris was back in the hospital where he would remain until late in the year.

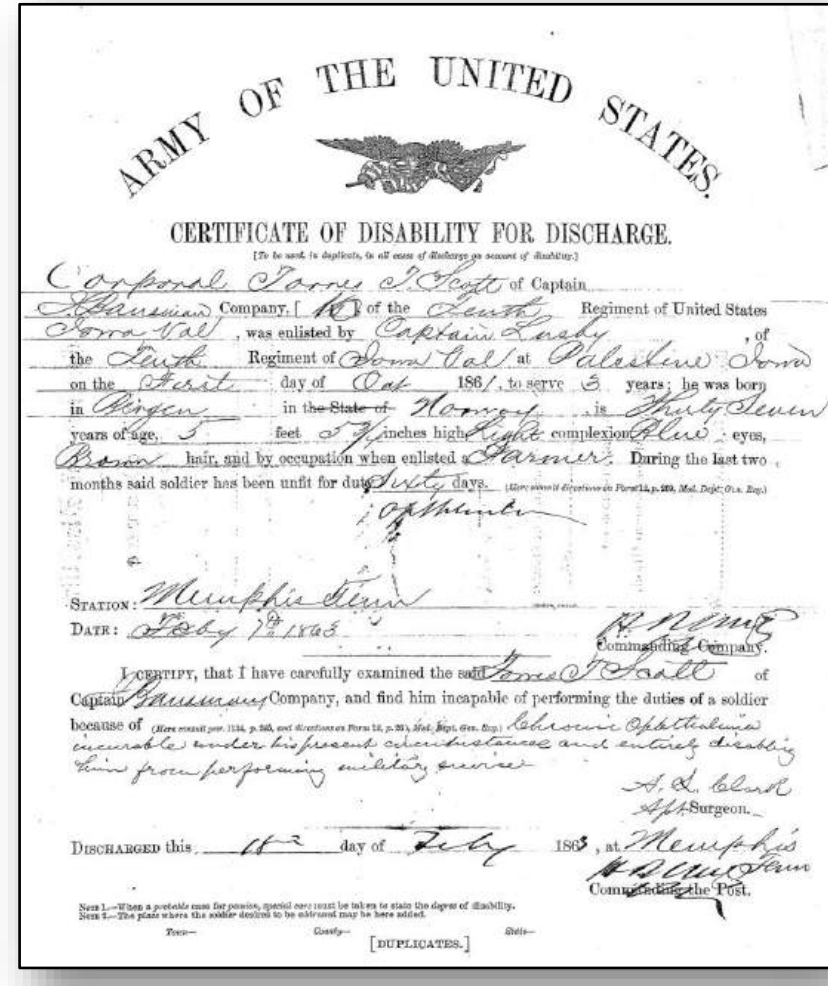
Torris' hospitalization and discharge records tell us a lot about his physical characteristics, which is valuable since we have no pictures of him. Torris was a short man 5' 5 ¾" in height. He had light complexion with blue eyes and brown hair. From the records, we also know that Torris was chronically afflicted with serious eye problems.

His discharge records state that he suffered from "chronic ophthalmia" or what today would be called kerato-conjunctivitis. Even with proper treatment, the condition in the mid-19th century often led to scarring of the cornea and permanent blindness. Modern medical researchers looking back at Civil War medical records are now convinced that the condition was caused by a bacteria called chlamydia trachomatis, which thrives in areas with fly infestations, poor hygiene, poor sanitation, and tainted water.

These conditions aptly describe many Civil War camps. Corinth was particularly bad. In 1860, the town's residents numbered 1500 with sanitation facilities and clean water supplies suitable for that size of population. The Civil War exploded the population of the village with the appearance of hundreds of thousands of soldiers from both sides. Sanitation problems followed. In and around Corinth in 1862, conditions were miserable. Six inches of dust covered the streets from lack of rain. Water and soil were polluted from the waste of 200,000 soldiers and their horses. Flies infested the area.

Torris's disability certificate, shown to the right, states that his disability was due to *"chronic ophthalmia incurable under his present circumstances and entirely disabling him from performing military service."* After his formal March discharge, he was transferred to a St. Louis hospital where he stayed until finally being released in October 1863.

In spite of his frequent hospitalizations, regimental records on file with the US Adjutant General show that Torris was promoted several times from private to second corporal. Any of the corporal ranks would have put him second in command to the regimental sergeants at a squad level. During the Civil War, the Union Army "order of battle" charts show that corporals were placed in the front row of the company's battle line. Interestingly, rather than being placed by rank, they were



ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

CERTIFICATE OF DISABILITY FOR DISCHARGE.

[To be used in duplicate, in all cases of discharge on account of disability.]

Corporal Torris C. Scott of Captain Brennan's Company, [K] of the Tenth Regiment of United States Iowa Vol., was enlisted by Captain Leahy, of the Tenth Regiment of Iowa Vol. at Palestine Iowa on the First day of Oct. 186/, to serve 3 years; he was born in Bergen in the State of Norway, is Thirty Seven years of age, 5 feet 7½ inches high, Light complexion, Blue eyes, Brown hair, and by occupation when enlisted a Farmer. During the last two months said soldier has been unfit for duty Sixty days. [Here insert if discharge on Form 14, p. 289, Med. Dept. U.S. Army.]

Opthalmia

Station: Memphis Tenn

Date: Feby 12th 1863

R. Rowett
Commanding Company.

I CERTIFY, that I have carefully examined the said Torris C. Scott of Captain Brennans Company, and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier because of [Here consult par. 1134, p. 345, and directions on Form 14, p. 20, Med. Dept. Gen. Reg.] Chronic Opthalmia incurable under his present circumstances and entirely disabling him from performing military service

A. L. Clark
Asst Surgeon.

Discharged this 12th day of Feby 1863, at Memphis Tenn

R. Rowett
Commanding the Post.

Note 1.—When a portable case for pension, special care must be taken to state the degree of disability.
Note 2.—The place where the soldier desires to be addressed may be here added.

Town— County— State—

[DUPLICATES.]

The official disability certificate for Torris Scott

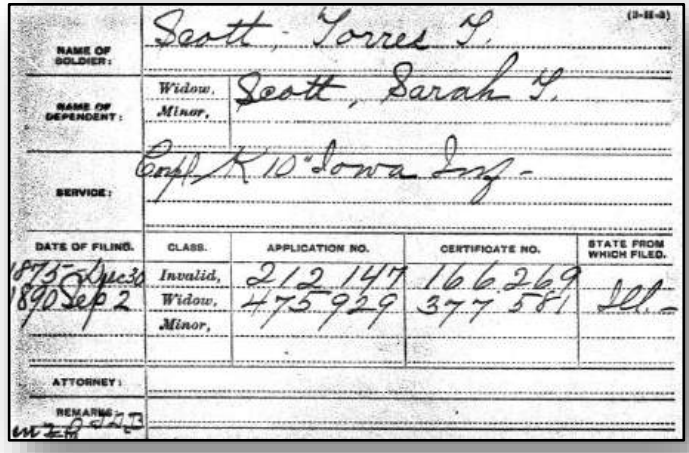
placed by their relative height, with tallest on the right and the shortest on the left.

It's also possible, that Torris was promoted due to his prior military experience in Norway. Going back to the days of Denmark's control of Norway, the Danish king hired German military personnel to run Norway's military structure, and German became the de facto

command language of the Norwegian military. So, it's likely that Torris had a working knowledge not only of his native Norwegian tongue but of the German language as well. This may have been especially valuable in an Army where almost one out of four soldiers was an immigrant – many of German and Norwegian origin.

It's possible, of course, that Torris's promotions occurred as a result of attrition within the company ranks, but it's unlikely that this many promotions could have occurred without some type of distinguished behavior or service. Obviously, Torris conducted himself well during his eight months of active duty, but no personal records have been found to tell us more.

On March 14, 1863 at Memphis, Tennessee, Torris received a disability discharge because of his eye problems. Held in the hospital until he was fit to travel, Torris was finally released in October of that year. In 1875, he applied for his disability pension of eight dollars per month. In 1890, this passed to Seri after Torris's death.


NAME OF SOLDIER: Scott, Torres S.

NAME OF DEPENDENT: Widow, Scott, Sarah S.
Minor,

SERVICE: Corp. K 15th Iowa Inf.

DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
1875 Dec 30	Invalid,	212 147	166 269	Del.
1890 Sep 2	Widow,	#475 929	377 581	
	Minor,			

ATTORNEY:

REMARKS:

Torris Scott's Disability Pension Record

A question now needs to be asked. Why would a young immigrant farmer enlist in an army, leave behind his pregnant wife and six children, and fight for a country he barely knew? Maybe Torris felt an obligation to defend his new home where he had finally found opportunity. Perhaps he harbored a deep-seated hatred of slavery, which did not exist in his native Norway. These ideas, however, are probably only the notions of a fanciful or romantic mind.

There could be many reasons, but it's important to remember that Torris was a pragmatic man. His reasons were probably simple ones. Farming central Iowa prairie was a tough proposition when the family arrived in America. Bad investment decisions, eerily similar to those preceding the 2008 Recession, brought on the Global Panic of 1857. Just as they arrived in America, credit dried up, loans to buy land became nonexistent, and commodity prices plummeted. Combined with the 1858 crop failure, many families in Iowa had serious money problems that lingered well into 1860 and 1861. Torris was not wealthy when he arrived in 1857, and by 1861, he was probably not in any better financial shape. Above all, he still couldn't purchase the farmland he wanted to have.

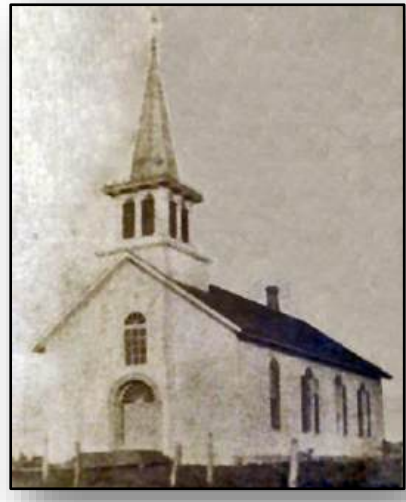
When the Civil War started, Torris (who had military experience in Norway) probably saw an opportunity to earn a regular monthly salary while doing something he knew how to do. As a private, he received $13 per month and a raise to $14 with his promotion to corporal. Attractive enlistment bonuses amounting to several hundred dollars more (all payable after discharge) probably enticed him even more. In reality, his reasons for enlistment were probably economic ones. And, of course, many of his close buddies in the Palestine Colony were enlisting, and he may have been carried along on a wave comradery.

The U.S. government also offered a fast track to citizenship for immigrants enlisting in the Union Army, and an extra benefit was added while he was serving when President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act of 1862. This provided up to 160 acres of land at $1.25 an acre to any citizen or intended citizen who had never borne arms against the United States. All Torris had to do was make a few minor improvements to the land and live on it for five years. Union veterans of the Civil War were allowed to deduct their months of

service from their five-year residency requirement. Clearly, economics and opportunity were motivating factors for Torris.

Torris returned to Palestine Colony, civilian life, and a new son born in March 1862 while his father was away in the war. Seri had named him Torres after her Palestine minister dispiritingly suggested that her husband might not return from the war. Torris was now 39 years old and the father of seven children. Apparently, the family was not yet large enough for them because Seri became pregnant again soon after he returned. Their eighth child, a girl named Sarah, was born on March 9, 1864. She later took the name of Lina.

In 1865, Torris and Seri helped form a new Lutheran Church near the Palestine Colony. It was named the Fjeldberg Lutheran Church, and the organizational meeting was held in their farm home. According to a 2015 article in a local paper commemorating the 150th anniversary of



Fjeldberg Lutheran Church in 1867

the church's founding, their farm was located on the southeast corner of what is today the intersection of Highways 69 and 210 just a half mile south of Huxley. The church was built directly across the road from their home on land that is now the Fjeldberg Lutheran Church Cemetery on the northeast corner of that same intersection. The church was completed in 1867, and Torris served as an early church secretary. His name figures prominently in church minutes, and Seri's name along with those of Belle, Celia, and Thomas appear repeatedly in connection with church activities for the years of 1866 and 1867. The church was destroyed by fire in 1945. The photo at left was taken in 1867 and is the only one that remains of the original structure.

On April 6, 1866, a group of Civil War veterans founded the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). It was a fraternal organization for men who were honorably discharged veterans of the Union forces. Torris became a member. While he is listed in the post records for the personnel of Post #234 in Story County, his specific GAR membership records have not been located. They may have been transferred to an Illinois GAR post or lost.

Just 10 days later on April 16, 1866, a ninth child was born into the Scott family. She was named Inger Karina. Inger later adopted an Americanized version of her middle name and became Carrie.

The Scott family in Illinois

In 1868, Torris left Story County, Iowa and moved his family to Kendall County, Illinois. By that fall, Seri was pregnant once again — this time with their last child. A son was born to the Scotts on July 23, 1869. He was baptized George Tobias at Lisbon Lutheran Church.

Now in Illinois, Torris and Sarah purchased 40 acres of Big Grove Township land for $1800. He and Sarah owned the farm for a little more than five years before selling it in 1873 for $2000. In 1874, they purchased a larger 99-acre farm not far away.

As mentioned earlier, Torris would have possessed a federal scrip warrant for 160 acres of homestead land as a reward for his service in the Civil War. Records at the Bureau of Land Management contain no evidence that Torris ever laid claim to the land. Torris probably discovered, as had other veterans, that the only available land in the Federal inventory was much farther west than he wanted to take his family. The Kendall County, Illinois Voters and Taxpayers Directory

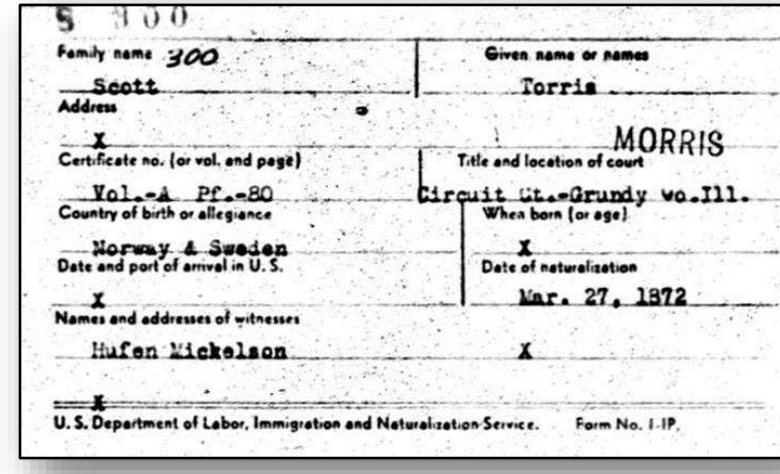
of 1876 shows that Torris was farming a 99-acre farm that he owned in section 35 of Big Grove Township. The listing shows that he had been living in Kendall County for nine years. It lists his political affiliation as Republican. Curiously, the historic part of the listing states that the family lived for their first 10 years in Story County, Iowa. It makes no mention that the family lived for several years in Polk County, Iowa near Des Moines. It's likely that Torris never knew exactly where the Polk/Story County border was or where exactly the family lived when they first arrived in their new country.

The chance discovery of some old school records for Kendall County, Illinois tells us a little bit more about exactly where the family's farm was located in section 35 of Big Grove Township. The record states:

"The Scott School was built in 1849 or 1850. Like many early schools, the furniture in the first school was quite primitive. The seats were rough boards or hewn logs and the teacher's table rested on crossed pieces of wood. The first school house was painted sky-blue and for years was known as the Blue School. It was also known as the Rasmussen School. In 1874, a Mr. Scott bought the farm near the school house, and its name was changed to the Scott School. In 1876, the building was remodeled, enlarged, and equipped with new furniture. The Scott School was located in the northwest quarter of section 35 of Big Grove Township at the southwest corner of the intersection of White Willow and Scott School roads."

These Kendall County historical records agree perfectly with the Kendall County, Illinois Voters and Taxpayers Directory of 1876. In addition, the 1903 Kendall County Farm Atlas shows that the same 99-acre property was owned by Lina and Hector Wicks — Torris's daughter and son-in-law. It's likely that the couple purchased Torris and Seri's farm sometime after Torris's death. The original farm home was probably close to the location of the present home shown just to the west of the red pin in the picture on the following page. Thanks to this discovery, we can now document the location of the family's farm. Not only was the school's name changed to reflect the owner of the adjacent farm, but the name of the road passing by the farm and school was named after the family as well. Scott School Road in Kendall County is both evidence and lasting legacy of the Scott family's presence there in the late 19th century.

Court records document that on March 27, 1872, a Torris Scott of Norwegian nativity became a naturalized U.S. citizen at the Circuit Court in Morris, Illinois. Morris is only about 5 miles from Big Grove, and both the 1870 and 1880 federal censuses show that there is only one Torris Scott living in the area at that time. It's reasonable to assume that these two Torris Scotts are the same man, and that Torris became a citizen of his new country 15 years, five children and one war after he arrived. No naturalization record has been found for Seri.


5 100

Family name 300 | Given name or names
Scott | Torris

Address

X | MORRIS

Certificate no. (or vol. and page) | Title and location of court
Vol.-A Pf.-80 | Circuit Ct.-Grundy Co.Ill.

Country of birth or allegiance | When born (or age)
Norway & Sweden | X

Date and port of arrival in U. S. | Date of naturalization
X | Mar. 27, 1872

Names and addresses of witnesses
Hufen Nickelson | X

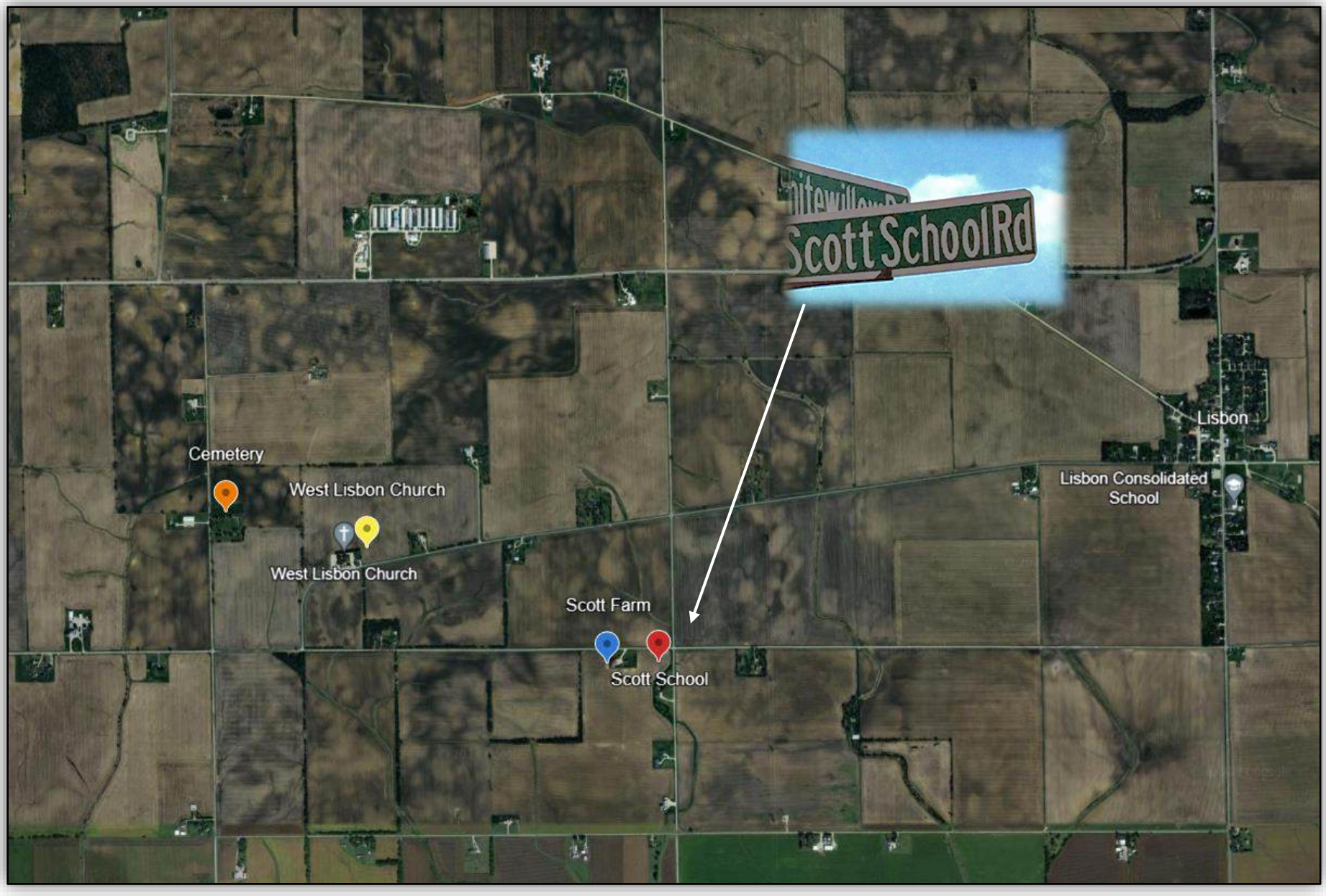
X

U. S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. I-IP.

Torris Scott's 1872 Naturalization Record

Torris lived another 22 years after he finally settled in Kendall County. On October 10, 1889, he was driving a team of horses and a wagon when the team was spooked by something and bolted. During the incident, the wagon hitch came undone and speared into the ground. The wagon was upended and Torris was thrown into the air. When he hit the ground, his neck was broken, and he died instantly.

Torris' death and funeral were reported six days later in the October 16 1889 edition of the Kendall County Record – the local newspaper. It contains some inaccuracies concerning when the family came to America, the dates they lived in Iowa, and when they moved to Illinois. Still the stories are interesting – particularly with regard to the number

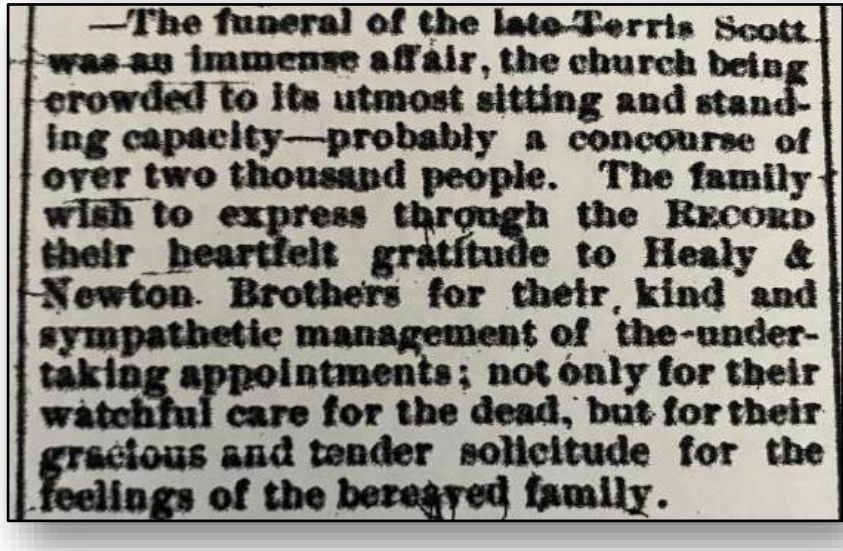


An aerial view of the area around Lisbon, Illinois. The colored pins mark the location of the Scott Farm, the Scott School, Torris and Sarah's church and the cemetery where they are buried. The small community of Lisbon, Illinois is shown about a mile to the east.

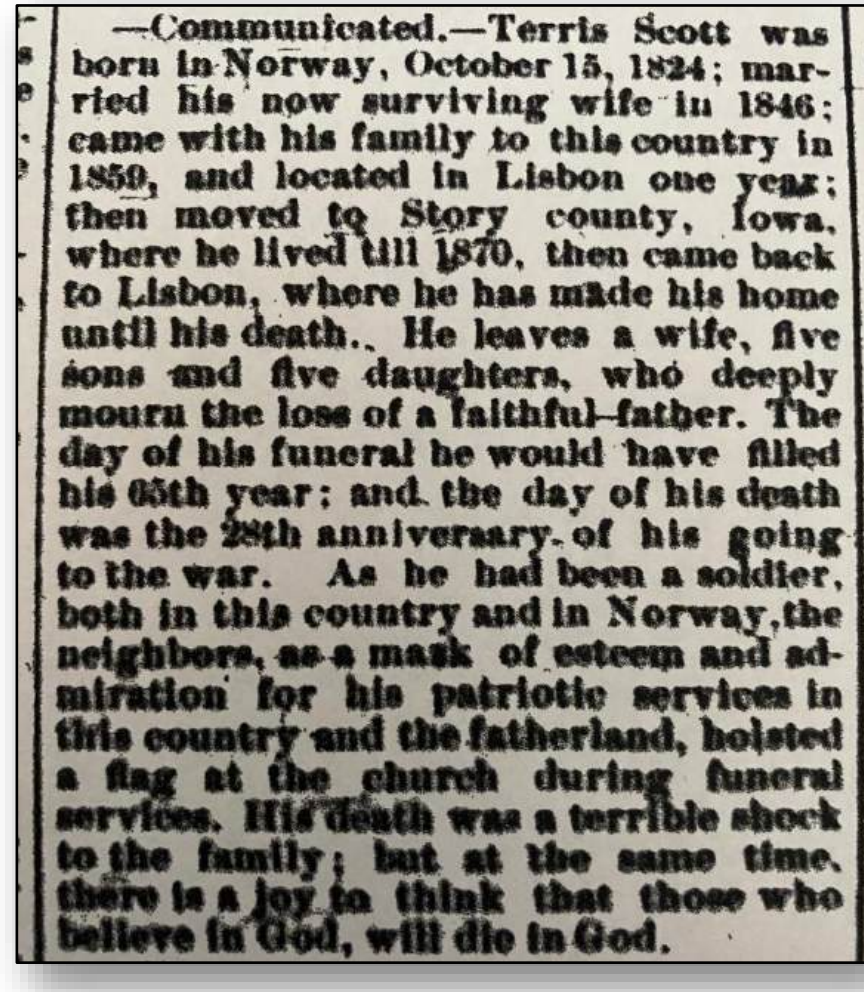
of people reported to have attended Torris's funeral. If the report is accurate, one-sixth of the county's residents were in attendance.

Torris was 64 years old when he died – exactly 28 years to the day he left Iowa for the Civil War. His funeral was on his 65th birthday. Seri survived him for another five years and died on May 31, 1894, at the age of 69. Torris and Seri are buried in the cemetery of the West Lisbon Lutheran Church at Lisbon, Illinois. An American flag decorates their gravesite to this day.

Our first child was a boy. Martha and I named him Scott in honor of her family's name.

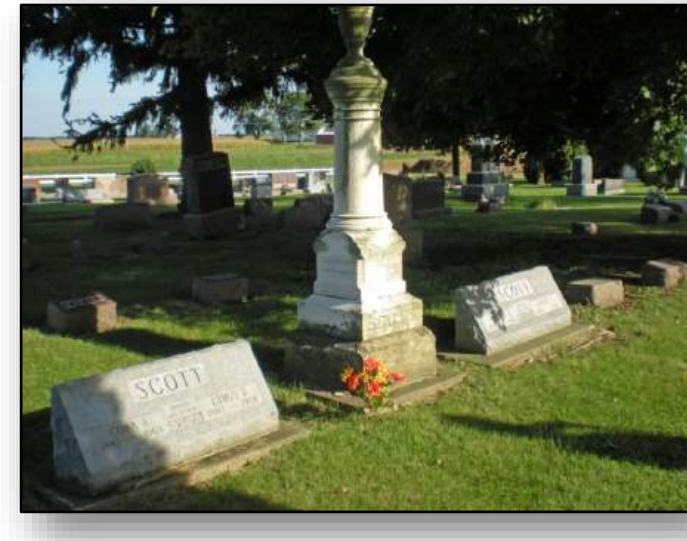


—The funeral of the late Terris Scott was an immense affair, the church being crowded to its utmost sitting and standing capacity—probably a concourse of over two thousand people. The family wish to express through the RECORD their heartfelt gratitude to Healy & Newton Brothers for their kind and sympathetic management of the undertaking appointments; not only for their watchful care for the dead, but for their gracious and tender solicitude for the feelings of the bereaved family.



—Communicated.—Terris Scott was born in Norway, October 15, 1824; married his now surviving wife in 1846; came with his family to this country in 1850, and located in Lisbon one year; then moved to Story county, Iowa, where he lived till 1870, then came back to Lisbon, where he has made his home until his death. He leaves a wife, five sons and five daughters, who deeply mourn the loss of a faithful father. The day of his funeral he would have filled his 65th year; and the day of his death was the 28th anniversary of his going to the war. As he had been a soldier, both in this country and in Norway, the neighbors, as a mark of esteem and admiration for his patriotic services in this country and the fatherland, hoisted a flag at the church during funeral services. His death was a terrible shock to the family; but at the same time, there is a joy to think that those who believe in God, will die in God.

The grave of Torris and Seri Scott



The graves of Thomas and Kari Scott and their children

About Torris and Seri's Children

Tollev's name was changed to Thomas once the family reached America. The 1870 Federal Census shows him as a farmworker living with Torris, Seri, and all of his siblings on the 40-acre family farm in section 11 of Big Grove Township.

In May 1876, Thomas married Kari Boyd. Kendall County Lutheran Church marriage records for the couple state that Kari was from Lisbon, Illinois, and that she was the daughter of Norwegian immigrants from Skanevik Parish.

In 1881, Thomas purchased a 90-acre farm on Walker Road in Kendall Township of Kendall County. There, he and Kari raised two boys named Louis and Cyrus. Kari died in 1881, and Thomas never remarried. 1920 Federal Census records show that he was living in Story City, Iowa. The reasons for his residence there are unknown. The census also shows that he was naturalized at the age of 15 in 1863.

He later moved back to Kendall County, Illinois and lived with his son Cyrus and family. Thomas died in Ottawa, Illinois on July 15, 1938, at the age of 91. He and Kari are buried in the Helmar Lutheran Church Cemetery not far from Lisbon. Louis and Cyrus and their wives are buried next to them.

Ingebor Gurine Americanized her name to Isabelle. Unlike her siblings, Torris and Seri did not send her to school. She left home and began working as a domestic servant for a Norwegian immigrant family in Kendall County. Later, she worked as a housekeeper and dressmaker. Belle never married. By 1930, she owned her own home in Lisbon, Illinois, where she died a naturalized American citizen at the

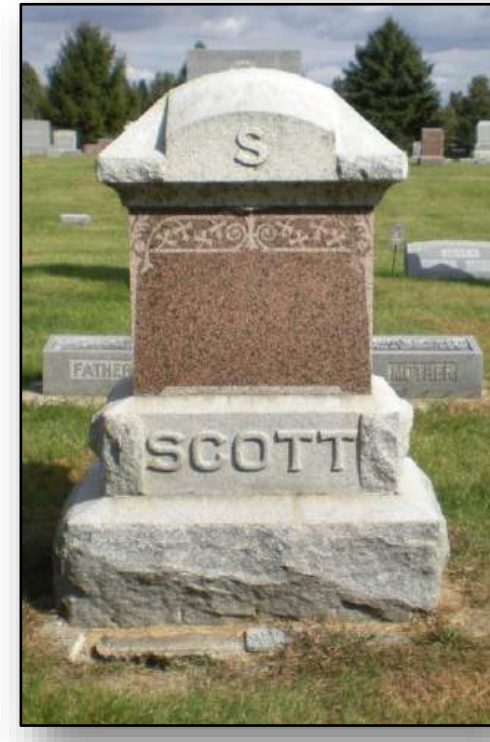
age of 87 in 1936. She is buried in the West Lisbon Lutheran Church Cemetery next to Torris and Seri.

Sissele Serene became Celia. She married a Norwegian immigrant named Isaac Anderson. They had six children together — Sarah Marie, Cora, Annabelle, Tavia, Omer, and Ida. Celia died in 1936 at the age of 85, still retaining her Norwegian citizenship. She and Isaac are buried in the Helmer Lutheran Church Cemetery.

The graves of Belle Scott at left and Celia Scott (Anderson) at right

Ingebor Gurine (#2) became Julia. She married a Norwegian immigrant named John Gaard in 1893. They had one son named Alfred. John died leaving Julia a widow, and for a time, she lived alone at 204 Canal St. in Lisbon. She listed her occupation on the 1900 census as a grocer. Later, Belle moved in with her. A Norwegian immigrant named Christopher Visness owned the local grocery store and was Julia's employer. In 1902, Christopher's first wife died, and Julia married him soon after. She either sold or gave her house to Belle. In 1929, Christopher died, and Julia moved back in with Belle for a time. She died a naturalized citizen in Chicago in 1941 at the age of 88. Records say that she is buried in the West Lisbon Lutheran Church Cemetery, ostensibly next to her second husband Christopher. There is an empty headstone foundation to the left of Christopher Visness's headstone. To his right is the headstone of Christopher's first wife. Perhaps Christopher's family simply didn't want evidence of two wives buried next to their father.

Martha's great-grandfather Torris Andreas was born at sea – a man without a country. His name was changed to Andrew some years after the family arrived. With the birth of his younger brother Torres and his father's return from the Civil War, there would have been three family members with the same first name, and so it probably made logical sense to someone that Torris Andreas would Americanize his patronymic from Andreas to Andrew and use that name for the rest of his life. While no naturalization record can be found, the 1930 Federal Census indicates that he became a naturalized citizen. He met a young lady from Yorkville, Illinois named Marie (Mary) Thompson. She was a daughter of Norwegian immigrants. They were married on February 21, 1884, at West Lisbon Lutheran Church. In 1887, they moved to Wright County, Iowa, where they farmed north of Clarion for 28 years. They retired there after 1915 and built a new home at 208 1st St., N.E. Andrew and Mary had five children — Mariel Silas, Clarence, Mabel, Rudolph, and Myrtle. Andrew died in December 1935 at age 79. He and Mary are buried in Clarion's Evergreen Cemetery.



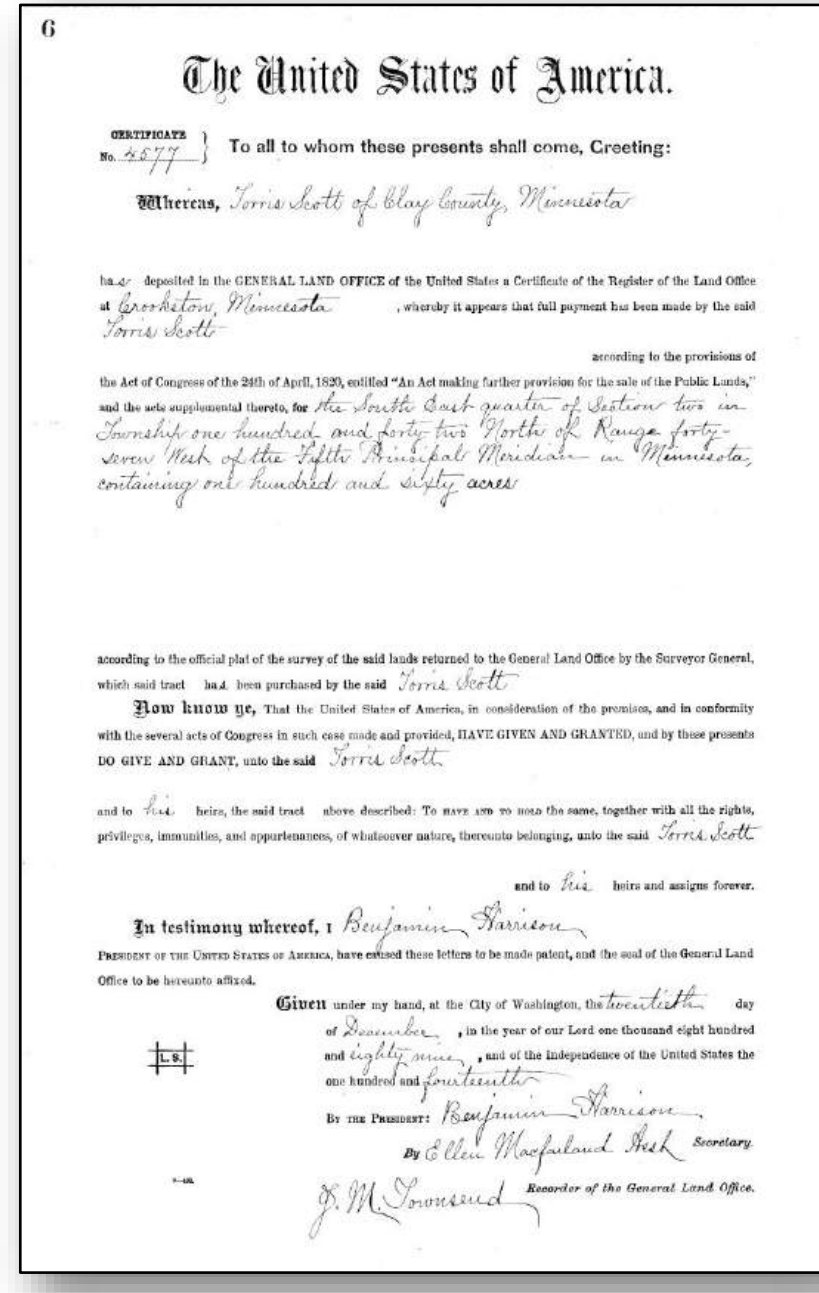
The grave of Andrew and Mary Scott

Ole married Eugenia Sigstad, a daughter of Norwegian immigrants, in April 1894. They, too, lived in Wright County Iowa, and farmed for a time near Andrew. They later moved to Eagle Grove, where Ole became a veterinarian. They had one son who died from whooping cough in 1896 at the age of one. Ole died in 1934 at the real age of nearly 75. They are buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Eagle Grove, Iowa.

The grave of Oli and Eugenie Scott

The Strange Tale of Torres Scott, Jr.

Every family must have a mystery, and Torres, Jr. is the mystery man for the Scott family. He married Sarah Ingemunson, a daughter of Norwegian immigrants, in 1883 in Webster County, Iowa. The Minnesota territorial census places them in Norman County, Minnesota in 1885. They had a newborn son named William. By 1888, the family was in Wright County, Iowa, where their second child Lizzie was baptized. By December 1889, the family was back in Minnesota in Clay County, where Bureau of Land Management records show Torres purchased 160 acres of former Indian land from the Federal Government for $1.25 per acre. Considering that his father had died just two months earlier, the transaction might possibly be related to his father's unexercised Civil War scrip warrant, which would have been part of Torris's estate.


6

The United States of America.

CERTIFICATE No. 4677 } To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, Torris Scott of Clay County, Minnesota

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Crookston, Minnesota, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Torris Scott according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the South East quarter of Section two in Township one hundred and forty two North of Range forty seven West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Minnesota, containing one hundred and sixty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said lands returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said Torris Scott

Now know ye, That the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said Torris Scott and to his heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Torris Scott and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I Benjamin Harrison PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the twentieth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty nine, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and fourteenth

L.S.

By the President: Benjamin Harrison

By Ellen Macfarland Asst Secretary

J. M. Townsend Recorder of the General Land Office.

The land patent document for Torres'1889 farm purchase in Minnesota

By 1896, the family was back in Wright County, Iowa. Obviously, Torres took after his father in terms of his reproductive prowess because he and Sarah had four more children between 1888 and 1896. They were named Bertha Isabel, Edwin, Ruth, and Clara. Just five years later, in 1901, the family was living near Algona, Iowa. Here their last child, a daughter, was born. She was named Florence Maria.

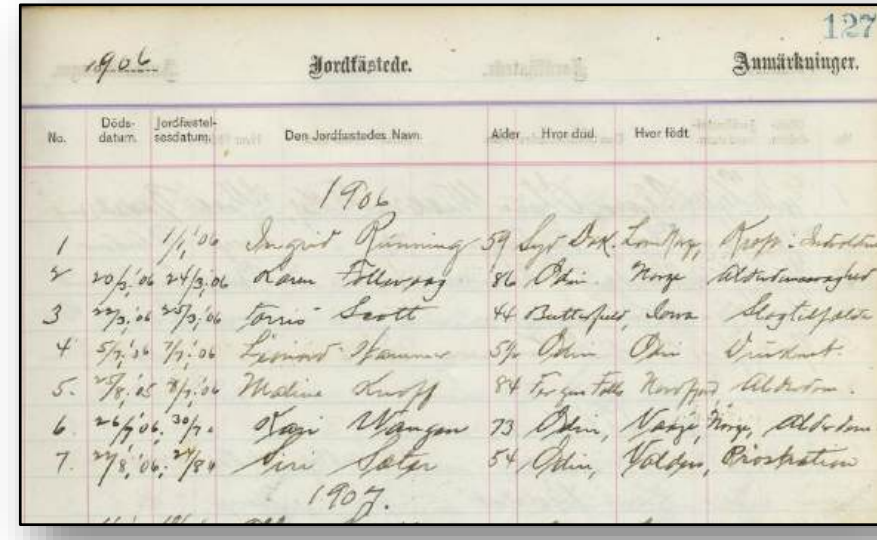
The 1905 Minnesota Territorial Census shows that they had moved to a farm in Des Moines River Township of Murray County near Avoca, Minnesota. They had been there for just six months. Vital records at the Murray County Courthouse record that Florence Maria had just died of pneumonia. Torres, Jr. supposedly died the next year in 1906, but there is no death record, and a search of the most likely cemeteries in Murray County turned up no evidence of either his grave or Florence's. In 1906, he would have been 44 years old. Sarah later lived with the children in Butterfield Village in Watonwan County, Minnesota. There she met and married a German immigrant named Fred Kiefer. With her new husband, she and her son William moved to Illinois. With those few facts, the trail on the family went cold — but not for long. The strange tale of Torres Scott, Jr. is a good example of how dead ends (no pun intended) often come back to life when least expected.

A 2012 query to Elmer Dixon, the Kendall County genealogist, yielded no immediate information — that is until April 1, 2013. Dixon sent an email that he'd found a short item in the April 4, 1906 edition of the Kendall County Record. Posted in the social column, the item read, *"Thomas Scott has gone to Minnesota to attend the funeral of his brother, Torres, who died suddenly from heart disease."* At last, there was a date establishing when, where, and how Torres, Jr. died.

There was now an opportunity to establish exactly where the family had lived in 1905. There is no farm atlas for that year, but there is a farm atlas for Murray County for 1908, and it shows a parcel of land in section 20 of Des Moines River Township owned by a woman named Sarah Scott. Was this Torre Jr.'s wife? A quick search was done on the Murray County Assessor's website where it was determined that the present owner of the land was a local farmer named Marlo Lindstrom.

A letter was mailed to Lindstrom with the request that, if possible, he examine his land abstract to determine if the land had at one time been owned by a Torres and Sarah Scott in 1905.

Shortly after, Lindstrom kindly replied with actual copies of the relevant pages from the abstract. They proved that in 1905, Torres and Sarah owned the land in the southeast one quarter of section 120 of Des Moines River Township in Murray County, Minnesota. And the abstract revealed much, much more. It tells about how Torres and Sarah bought the farm in August 1904 and mortgaged it with the Buffalo Center State Bank. The farm was about 170 acres for which they paid $16,729. Shortly after Torres's death, the bank filed a "lis pendens" notice against them — an action that is a precursor to foreclosure. Almost immediately the bank withdrew the filing and then


127

1906 Jordfästede. Anmärkninger.

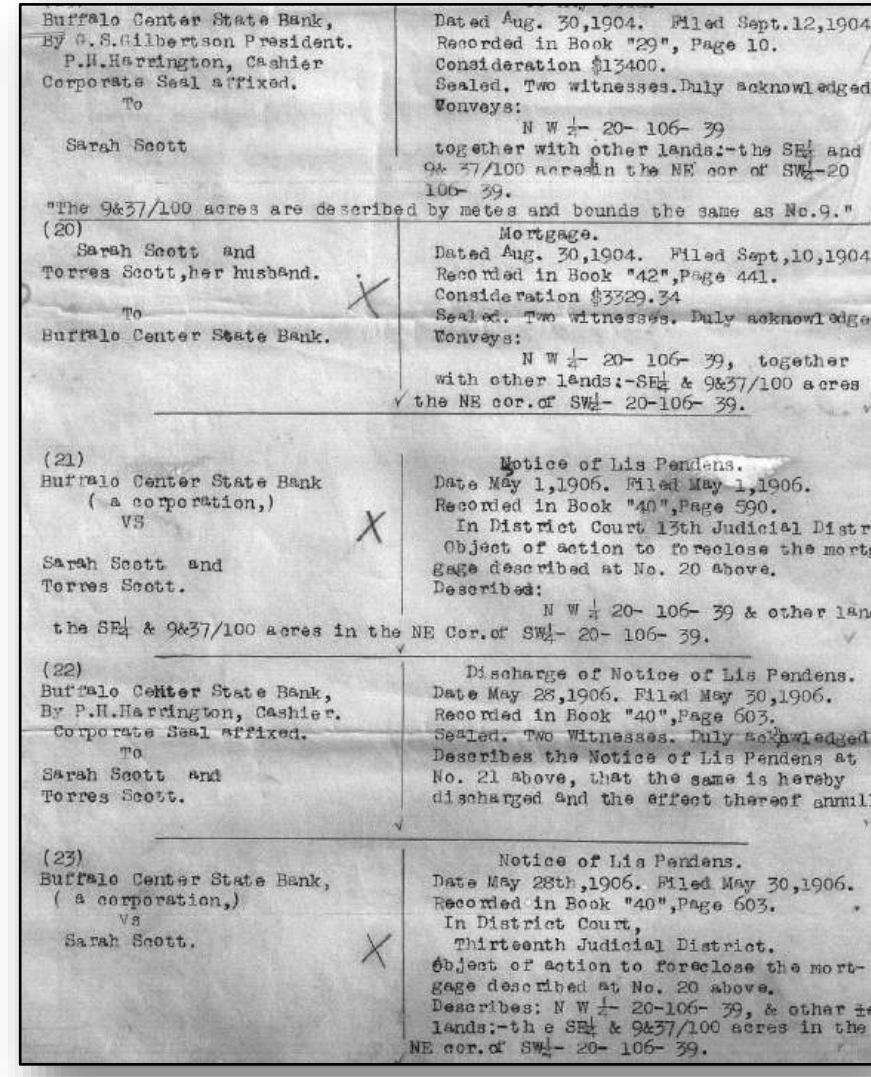
No.	Döds-datum.	Jordfästel-sesdatum.	Den Jordfästedes Namn.	Ålder	Hvar dód.	Hvar födt	
			1906				
1		1/1 '06	Ingrid Running	59	Lyr Dak.	Lom Norge	Kopp: Lutheran
2	20/3 '06	24/3 '06	Karen Tollersrud	86	Otin	Norge	Altstatsmorgher
3	22/3 '06	25/3 '06	Torris Scott	44	Butterfield	Iowa	Slagtilfælde
4	5/7 '06	7/7 '06	Lennard Hammer	5/6	Otin	Otin	Difteri
5.	27/8 '05	2/9 '06	Malene Knopp	84	Forgotten Falls	Norsjø	Alderdom.
6	26/6 '06.	30/7 '06	Kari Wangen	73	Otin,	Vaage	Norge, Alderdom.
7	27/8 '06.	29/8 '06	Siri Sater	54	Otin,	Valdres,	Hjerneslag
			1907.				

The 1906 Lutheran Church death record for Torres Scott is shown on line 3. It lists his age as 44, his death date as March 22, 1906 and shows his funeral was three days later on March 25. The far right column heading, ***Anmärkninger*** means Remarks. In that column for Torres' record is the Norwegian word **slagtilfælde.** Technically, this is the Norwegian term for stroke not heart attack, so there is some reason to question the exact cause of his death.

refiled it against Sarah alone. Sarah sold 160 acres of the farm less than two months later for $25 per acre — a $73 per acre loss. There are no notes on the abstract to indicate how she settled with the bank or why she kept 10 acres of the farm. The pending foreclosure coming at the same time as Torres's death would suggest that the family had been missing mortgage payments for some time, and that they had perhaps been struggling financially for a while. The financial difficulties along with the death of Florence Maria were without doubt the stressors that caused Torres's stroke or heart attack.

As these developments were unfolding, a new mystery surfaced. Along the way, a connection had been made with a young lady in Medina, North Dakota. Her name was Cheri Odenbach, Torres's great-great granddaughter. As a teenager, she had been fortunate enough to know her great-grandmother, Torres's daughter Ruth Lilly. Ruth had related to Cheri that the family had always believed Torres, Jr. did not die of a heart attack but was, under suspicious circumstances, poisoned instead. No evidence has so far been found to substantiate the story, and while this question will never be answered, it would make a great plot line for a modern-day murder mystery.

Ruth explained to Cheri that Torres, Jr. was a lay veterinarian who worked with horses and bought raw land to develop into farmland, which he then would sell for a profit. According to Ruth, the family was quite prosperous until Torres's death. His work as a farmland developer would explain the family's frequent movements, but the story itself raises additional questions. It's difficult to believe that an experienced farmer with an eye for quality land would pay $98 per acre for a farm that, in this case, was worth much, much less. And if Torres had an eye for good farmland, why would he buy a farm that abutted swampland on one side and that today is mined for sand and gravel? Whatever Torres's talents, and whatever the family's financial circumstances leading up to 1904, the family was not so prosperous during their final sojourn in Minnesota. In the months following Torres's death, Ruth related to Cheri that the family was so destitute they ate whatever wild animals William and Edwin could kill. According to Ruth, family meals often consisted of skunks and other wild varmints.



Buffalo Center State Bank,
By G.S.Gilbertson President.
P.H.Harrington, Cashier
Corporate Seal affixed.
To
Sarah Scott

Dated Aug. 30,1904. Filed Sept.12,1904.
Recorded in Book "29", Page 10.
Consideration $13400.
Sealed. Two witnesses. Duly acknowledged.
Conveys:
N W ¼- 20- 106- 39
together with other lands:-the SE¼ and 9& 37/100 acresin the NE cor of SW¼-20 106- 39.
"The 9&37/100 acres are described by metes and bounds the same as No.9."

(20)
Sarah Scott and
Torres Scott,her husband.
To
Buffalo Center State Bank.

Mortgage.
Dated Aug. 30,1904. Filed Sept,10,1904.
Recorded in Book "42",Page 441.
Consideration $3329.34
Sealed. Two witnesses. Duly acknowledged
Conveys:
N W ¼- 20- 106- 39, together with other lands:-SE¼ & 9&37/100 acres in the NE cor.of SW¼- 20-106- 39.

(21)
Buffalo Center State Bank
(a corporation,)
VS
Sarah Scott and
Torres Scott.

Notice of Lis Pendens.
Date May 1,1906. Filed May 1,1906.
Recorded in Book "40",Page 590.
In District Court 13th Judicial Distri
Object of action to foreclose the mortgage described at No. 20 above.
Described:
N W ¼ 20- 106- 39 & other land
the SE¼ & 9&37/100 acres in the NE Cor.of SW¼- 20- 106- 39.

(22)
Buffalo Center State Bank,
By P.H.Harrington, Cashier.
Corporate Seal affixed.
To
Sarah Scott and
Torres Scott.

Discharge of Notice of Lis Pendens.
Date May 28,1906. Filed May 30,1906.
Recorded in Book "40",Page 603.
Sealed. Two Witnesses. Duly acknowledged.
Describes the Notice of Lis Pendens at No. 21 above, that the same is hereby discharged and the effect thereof annull

(23)
Buffalo Center State Bank,
(a corporation,)
VS
Sarah Scott.

Notice of Lis Pendens.
Date May 28th,1906. Filed May 30,1906.
Recorded in Book "40",Page 603.
In District Court,
Thirteenth Judicial District.
Object of action to foreclose the mortgage described at No. 20 above.
Describes: N W ¼- 20-106- 39, & other lands:-the SE¼ & 9&37/100 acres in the NE cor.of SW¼- 20- 106- 39.

The abstract page documenting the Scott's farm purchase and foreclosure. The term "lis pendens" refers to a pre-foreclosure action by the lender for three months of unpaid mortgage

Even with all this new information, there was still no information about where Torres and Florence were buried. In the reply to Marlo Lindstrom's 2013 letter, I thanked him for the abstract and explained

our search for Torres's grave. I inquired if it was possible there might be some private graves on his farm.

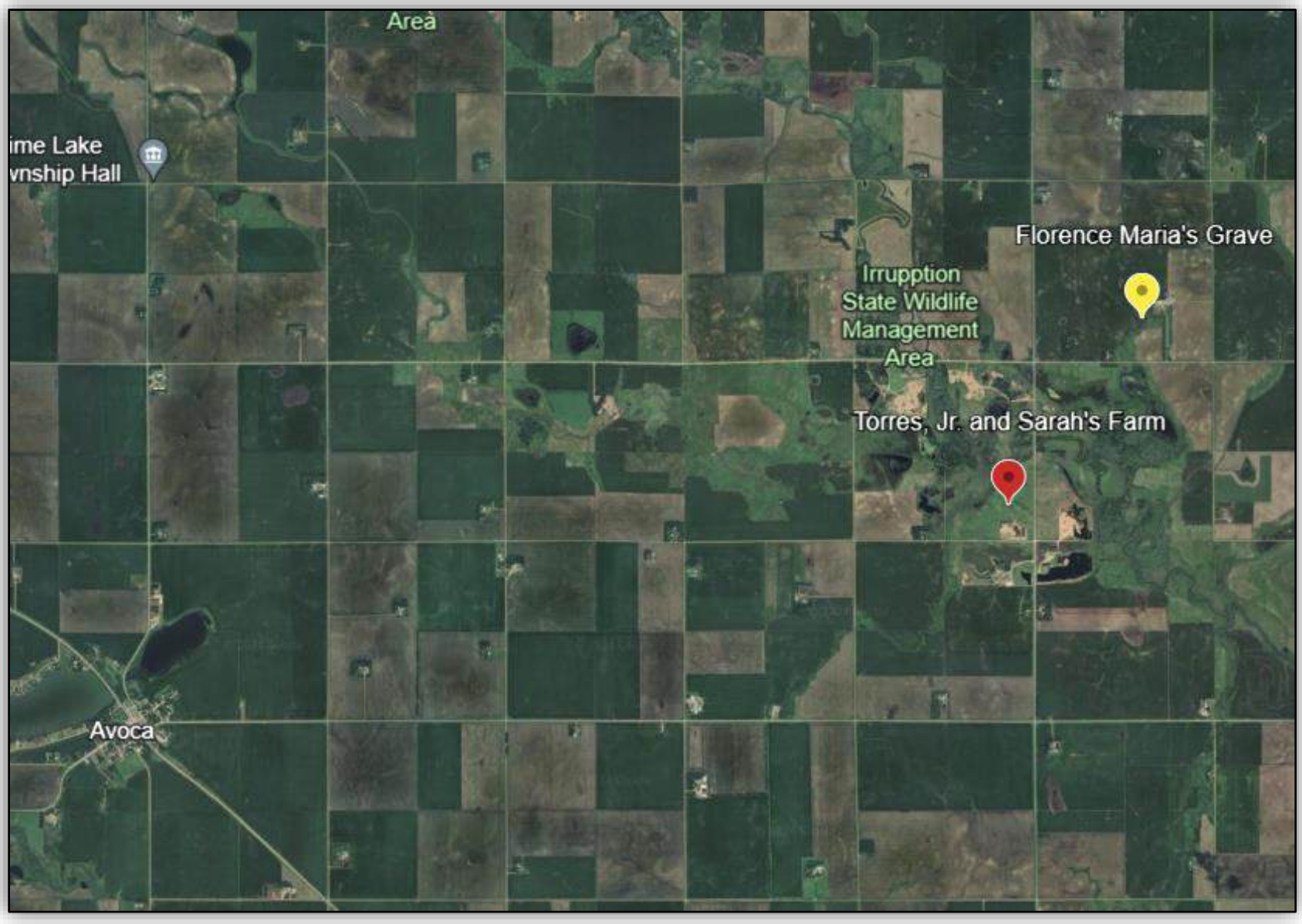
Several months passed before, in late 2013, Lindstrom unexpectedly called one day to relate that he had purchased land in the adjoining section 16 of Des Moines River Township and discovered that his acquisition contained an old private cemetery. The seller related to Lindstrom that his family had lived in the area for generations and that they had donated a burial plot in the cemetery to some poor neighbors whose young daughter had died in the early 1900s. There could be little doubt that this was the gravesite of Florence Maria. A trip was made to Murray County in Spring 2014 to investigate. The cemetery has no markers and consists only of a small, very dense thicket of lilac bushes less than 30 feet in diameter. It's surrounded by field stones and the remains of an old rusty fence and broken garden gate. At last, the grave of Florence Maria Scott had been located in the middle of a Minnesota farm field. But where was Torres? More than a year passed before another clue surfaced. This time it came in the form of burial information at Findagrave.com.

Martha at the burial site of Florence Maria Scott

The cemetery in the middle of a Murray County farm field

Pam Sandbo is a genealogist for Watonwan County, Minnesota. In the summer of 2015, Pam posted newly transcribed burial records to the databases at Findagrave.com. One of the entries indicated that a Torres Scott was buried in St. Olaf Lutheran Church Cemetery in rural Martin County just across the border from Watonwan County. The death date was March 22, 1906 — remarkably close to the date from the Kendall County Record where it was reported that Thomas Scott went to Minnesota for his brother's funeral. But how could this grave listing be for Torres? St. Olaf church is nearly 60 miles and two counties away from the farm were Torres and the family lived. Pam was contacted by email immediately. Her response was equally immediate and very helpful. Unfortunately, it was also equally frustrating. Pam was able to locate several important and useful pieces of information to help us understand more about the family and the events in the final years of Torres's life.

In the March 9, 1906 edition of the Butterfield Advocate, Pam found a society column notice stating that "Mrs. Sarah Scott and family have



This is an aerial view of Torres, Jr. and Sarah Scott's farm location in Murray County, Minnesota. Avoca, Minnesota is shown in the lower right corner. The two markers show the farm location and the location of Florence Maria's gravesite.

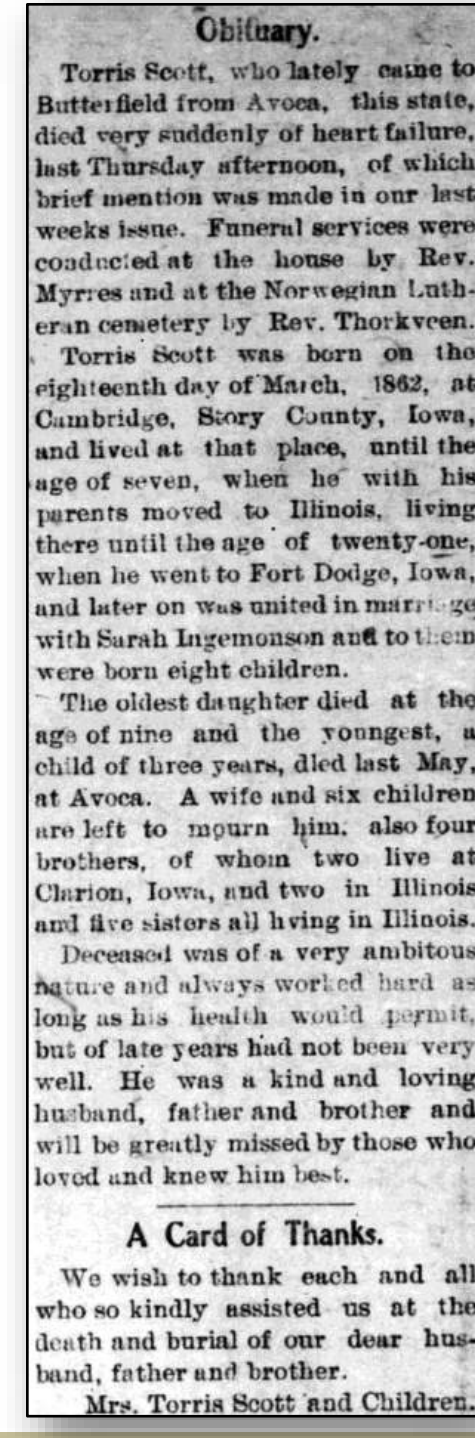
moved into an apartment in the old Butterfield post office." From this item, we know that Sarah did not move to Butterfield alone but that Torres, Sarah, and family had left the Murray County farm months before any foreclosure proceedings had begun.

In the March 23, 1906 edition of the Advocate, Pam located another society column notice stating that Torres *"who had just moved to town recently was found dead in his chair yesterday afternoon at about 3 o'clock. It is supposed that the cause is heart disease. Particulars next week."*

Torres's obituary appeared in the March 30, 1906 edition of the Advocate. It's reproduced here. It indicates that a Rev. Myhres conducted a funeral service in the home and a Reverend Thorkveen conducted the service at the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery — the St. Olaf Cemetery previously mentioned. No Rev. Myhres is known to ever have served in Watonwan County, Minnesota. However, there are records of a Rev. John H. Myhre who first served at the church Torres and his family attended in Story County, Iowa. That same Rev. Myhre later served a Lutheran Church in Clay County, Minnesota in 1889 while Torres and his family were living there. It's possible that Rev. Myhres and Rev. Myhre are the same person. Possibly he become close with the family and returned at Sarah's request to conduct Torres's funeral eulogy.

There is one discrepancy in the obituary. It notes that Torres moved to Illinois when he was seven, which would have been in 1869. We know that his father actually moved the family a year earlier in 1868. The obituary is also a source of valuable new information. It tells us that Torres and Sarah had a heretofore unknown daughter who died at the age of nine. Thanks to this obituary and a query of Lutheran Church records, we now know that her name was Clara Maria, and she died in 1896 in Wright County, Iowa. We also know from the obituary that Torres had been in declining health in "late years," which may explain the farm's failure.

The family's frequent relocations and the subsequent foreclosure suggests to some that Torres was a ne'er-do-well. Obituaries always cast people in a favorable light, but in this case, the mention that he



Obituary.

Torris Scott, who lately came to Butterfield from Avoca, this state, died very suddenly of heart failure, last Thursday afternoon, of which brief mention was made in our last weeks issue. Funeral services were conducted at the house by Rev. Myrres and at the Norwegian Lutheran cemetery by Rev. Thorkveen.

Torris Scott was born on the eighteenth day of March, 1862, at Cambridge, Story County, Iowa, and lived at that place, until the age of seven, when he with his parents moved to Illinois, living there until the age of twenty-one, when he went to Fort Dodge, Iowa, and later on was united in marriage with Sarah Ingemonson and to them were born eight children.

The oldest daughter died at the age of nine and the youngest, a child of three years, died last May, at Avoca. A wife and six children are left to mourn him, also four brothers, of whom two live at Clarion, Iowa, and two in Illinois and five sisters all living in Illinois.

Deceased was of a very ambitous nature and always worked hard as long as his health would permit, but of late years had not been very well. He was a kind and loving husband, father and brother and will be greatly missed by those who loved and knew him best.

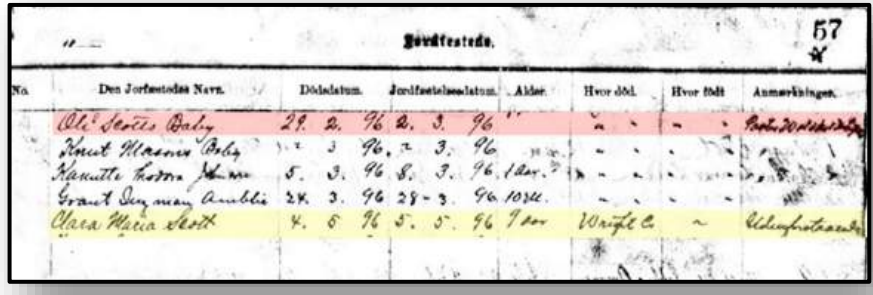
A Card of Thanks.

We wish to thank each and all who so kindly assisted us at the death and burial of our dear husband, father and brother.

Mrs. Torris Scott and Children.

was ambitious and hard-working suggest that Torres should perhaps be given the benefit of the doubt.

Frustratingly, though, Sandbo relates that, while Reverend Thorkveen recorded Torres's burial at St. Olaf Cemetery, there is no tombstone marking his grave. While Torres and his family were financially poor and unable to buy a gravestone, at least three of his brothers were prosperous and could have contributed to the cost. Was his grave marked with only a wooden marker that has long since disappeared, or is Torres, Jr. really buried somewhere else? The hunt for Torres, Jr. continues.



Jordfestede. 57

No.	Den Jordfestedes Navn.	Dödsdatum.	Jordfæstelsesdatum.	Alder.	Hvor död.	Hvor född	Anmærkninger.
	Oli & Scotts Baby	29. 2. 96	2. 3. 96				
	Knut Hansens Baby	1. 3. 96	3. 3. 96				
	Henriette Thoms Hansen	5. 3. 96	8. 3. 96	1 Aar.			
	Grant Seymour Amblis	24. 3. 96	28-3. 96	10 M.			
	Clara Maria Scott	4. 6 96	5. 5. 96	7 Aar	Wright Co.		

Highlighted in yellow above is the death record for Torres' daughter Clara Maria who died at the age of eight. Until Torres' obituary was discovered, it was not known that Clara even existed. She died in 1896 in Wright County, Iowa. Interestingly, just four lines above Clara's death record is the death record for a child of Torres' brother Oli (highlighted in red) who also lived in Wright County. It shows that Oli and Eugenie's child, a one-year-old boy died just a few months before Clara.

The rest of the children

Carrie was never married. Thanks to news articles, though, we're fortunate to know quite a bit about her. Carrie moved to Chicago where she graduated with honors from the Chicago Musical College. She paid for her education from her own earnings as a piano teacher. Articles describe Carrie as an accomplished pianist and a gifted teacher with several musical compositions to her credit.

Carrie was an ardent promoter of the temperance movement and a member of the Law Enforcement League of the northwest side of Chicago. She was also a member of the Covenant Aid Society, the Deaconess Home Society, and the Children's Home Society — all charitable organizations in the Chicago area.

In the fall of 1906, Carrie, her brother George, and three other investors incorporated the Mendelsson Conservatory of Music where Carrie was the president. The school was located in the Atheneum Building on the corner of East Van Buren and East Wabash in the Loop area of Chicago. The Atheneum building was torn down and replaced in 1930 by the present-day Buckingham Building.

The 1930 Federal Census shows that Carrie was the owner of a rooming house in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, an area that was popular among the city's Norwegian immigrants. The house was located at 2519 North Campbell Ave. She rented rooms to a family of six. Carrie died in Chicago in December 1948 from chronic myocarditis. She was 82. Her body was returned to Kendall County, and she is buried next to Torris, Seri, and her sister Belle.

The grave of Carrie Scott

Carrie Scott in the early 1900s

Carrie's Logan Square Rooming House

The grave of Lina Scott (Wicks)

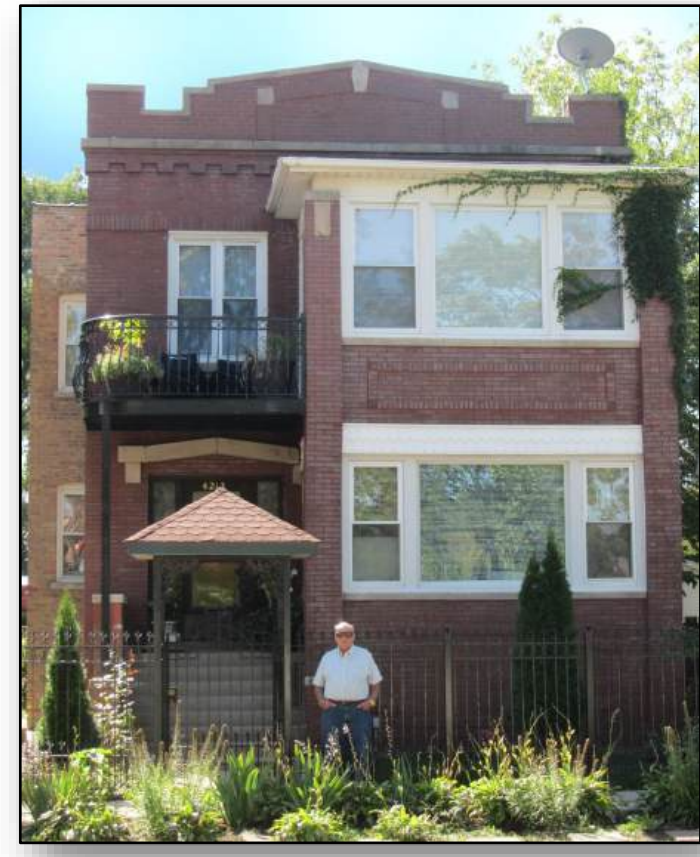
Lina became the second wife of Hector Hagtor Hagtorsøn Wicks (Yup! Another Norwegian immigrant) in 1899. They had two children named Hillman Silas and Bertha Gertrude. After her father's death, the Scott farm was occupied by Lina and Hector. The 1922 Kendall County Atlas shows it was still in the Wicks family at that time. Lina died in July 1941 in Elgin Illinois at the age of 81. She and Hector are buried in West Lisbon Cemetery.

George traveled around a bit in the early 1900s as a grocery salesman, possibly for Christopher Visness. Remarkably, he is listed three times in the 1900 Federal Census — once as a boarder of his sister Julia in Lisbon and twice as a boarder with his brothers Oli and Torres Jr. on their farms near Clarion Iowa. George later moved to Chicago where he married Henrietta Monson, a daughter of Norwegian immigrants. She was 20 years younger than he, and it appears that she brought her daughter Irene to their marriage. Census records show that they had two children one of whom was a daughter by adoption. Their older daughter Irene was born in Duluth, Minnesota in 1918, and the youngest daughter Edith was born in Chicago in 1921.George is listed as Edith's father.

The couple owned a rooming house in the Irving Park neighborhood of Chicago not too far from Carrie. Henrietta's parents, John and Lina Monson, lived with them at first, and by 1930, George and Henrietta also rented rooms to a family of six.

At different times, George worked as a paint salesman, a clerk at a coffeehouse, and later as a night watchman. He died of pneumonia after a brief illness in 1936. He was 66 years old. Inexplicably, the death date on George's tombstone is off by three years — stating that he died in 1939. He and Henrietta are buried next to Henrietta's parents in Mount Olive Cemetery in Chicago.

This small chest accompanied the Skarveland family to America. Too tiny to store large items, it was most likely used to hold documents and family valuables.



George Scott's home in Chicago's Irving Park neighborhood

The grave of George and Henrietta Scott

The Family of Torris Andreas (Andrew) Scott

(L-R) Mary's youngest sister Betty (Thompson) Gunsell, Mary's older half-sister Anna (Thompson) Olson, Mariel, Clarence, Andrew, Mary, Mabel

The Next Generation

Martha's great-grandparents Andrew and Mary Scott raised a family of two girls and three boys. Their eldest son Mariel Silas was Martha's grandfather. His nickname was "Ell", and he was born in 1884 while the family was still living in Kendall County, Illinois. As a little boy, his father Andrew moved the family to Wright County, Iowa. They farmed a few miles north of Clarion.

In 1909, Ell married Helen Mary Poundstone, a young lady who had been born in LaSalle County, Illinois. By 1910, Ell and Helen moved to a farm of their own in Dayton Township of Wright County not too far from Clarion.

By 1914, their first three boys were born. They were named Eldon, Wayne, and Howard. In 1915, Ell purchased a farm in Redwood County, Minnesota. The family left Iowa and moved to Minnesota that year. Their postal address was Springdale, a little village that no longer exists. It was about halfway between Tracy, Minnesota and Walnut Grove—the town of Laura Ingalls Wilder fame. Martha's father Don was born there in 1919. Don was son number four.

Now saddled with the obligations of a farm mortgage as well as the responsibility of taking care of his family of six, it wasn't long before financial problems developed. First, though, the family had to deal with a singular tragedy of an entirely different sort. On July 1, 1922, young Wayne was hauling a load of grain to the local elevator. The newspaper report from 1922 provides the details.

"Saturday afternoon at about 4:30, a terrible accident took place at Revere when little Wayne Scott, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Ell Scott of North Hero Township, was fatally injured. He had taken in a load of grain to Revere, unloaded it, and was driving down the driveway when he dropped a line. As he pulled the other line, the horses turned over the side of the driveway, and the boy, who was sitting in a spring seat, was thrown out in front, and the wagon passed over him. He passed away within the hour.

The grave of Mariel and Helen Scott

Wayne was nine years old and the second Scott to die in a farm accident involving a horse and wagon. That same year, Ell and Mary's last child Doris was born in October. She was their first and only girl.

When the Great Depression came on full force, Ell and the family found that the farm was an impossible burden. Like so many farmers with a big mortgage, it was impossible to keep their heads above water. The farm was lost to foreclosure. Ell moved the family to Fairmont, Minnesota where he worked as a mechanic for a machine company. By 1935, Ell and the family were back in Wright County, Iowa where he worked on roads for the county.

Don remembered that his mother Helen enjoyed numerous activities. Among her favorites were playing cards, cooking, embroidery, camping, travel, and shopping for new dresses. Other family members recall her less fondly for constantly nagging Ell for a bigger and better house. Helen was the only girl in a family of boys and as a result it was said that she never got along with any of her brother's wives.

Ell was a short, stocky man with reddish brown hair and blue eyes. Like his son Don, he enjoyed fishing and playing ball. He also spent his spare time tinkering in his workshop. It's apparent that he had quite a bit of mechanical ability, which probably helped him find a job as a mechanic in Fairmont after he lost the farm.

Later, when Don met his future wife Edna, Ell counseled his son about their five-year age difference. He warned Don not to marry her because he said Don would end up having to take care of her when she got old. However, it wasn't too long before both Ell and Helen decided that Edna and Don were a good match. Years later, it was Edna who, ironically, was the one to care for Don during the last years of his life.

Ell died on April 12, 1958, at age 74. Helen eventually moved to a retirement home in Mason City, where she died in 1974 — a month short of her 85th birthday. Both are buried in Clarion's Evergreen Cemetery.

Martha's parents

Martha's father Don was born in September 1919 in Redwood County, Minnesota. While too young to remember his brother Wayne's death, he was probably old enough to understand what happened when the family moved from the farm to Fairmont.

By the age of 16, he was back in Wright County, Iowa. In 1940, Don worked as a meat cutter for Vern Schaeffer Grocery in Eagle Grove, Iowa. His salary that year was $848.

On September 1, 1940, having ignored his father's advice, he married Edna Nauman. Originally, the couple had planned to elope. They went to Albert Lea, Minnesota in late August and applied for their license. Unfortunately, Don wasn't yet 21, and when the judge found out, he wouldn't issue them one. They went back to Iowa to wait until September 1.

That was still week short of Don's 21st birthday, but finding a friend in the county clerk's office, and without his parent's approval, they got the license anyway. They were married at 8 AM on a Sunday September 1, 1940 surrounded by a few family members.

It was a couple of years before they added to their family. Their first daughter Beth was born on October 23, 1942. Like many young couples at that time, Don and Edna soon found themselves separated while Don served his country in World War II.

Don was inducted into the U.S. Army at Camp Dodge near Des Moines on March 23, 1943. Destined for the Pacific Theater, he was first sent to Camp Hahn near Riverside, California, for his basic training. Hahn had originally been designated as the Coastal Artillery Antiaircraft Replacement Training Center. Don was initially attached to the 782nd Coast Artillery Battalion – Antiaircraft. The men stationed at Hahn were America's first line of coastal defense in the event the Japanese launched a West Coast invasion after their attack on Pearl Harbor. By the time Don arrived, Hahn had been expanded into a U.S. Army Service Depot and a POW camp housing 1200 Italian prisoners of war. Entering the service as a private, he arrived at Camp Hahn on April 4, 1943. Seven weeks later, on May 23, 1943, he received his first promotion to corporal and was shipped out the next day to Camp Irwin, California, about 150 miles away.

Camp Irwin was about 50 miles from Barstow and in the middle of the Mojave Desert. It was 1000 square miles of sand, rocks, and sagebrush that had been designated as the Mohave Antiaircraft Range. With summertime temperatures routinely reaching 120° or more, he arrived just in time for the start of the summer season. A favorite saying of the men stationed at Camp Irwin was that, "If this isn't hell, it's awfully damn close!" At Irwin, Don and his fellow troops received advance gunnery training. And Don cooked — literally.

So, what did Don do during the nearly 20 months he languished in the California desert? For one thing, he wrote a lot of letters. They provide some excellent insight into the boredom that characterized the Army experience for many men who served in uniform. The letters

make it clear that there wasn't much of anything to do. The nearest town, Barstow, was 50 miles away. In 1944, Barstow had one hotel six taverns, a grocery store, a post office, and a few shops. There were ten GIs for every civilian.

However, like Camp Hahn, Camp Irwin had its own baseball team. Don's letters suggest that in between cooking and training, he spent a lot of his time either playing baseball or watching it. Nevertheless, he remained ready to do whatever duty his country called him to do — whether cooking or firing antiaircraft guns. His time finally came when he shipped out in 1945.

He was reassigned to the 600-man headquarters unit of the 14th antiaircraft command. He was a meat cutter and cook. Originally based in Brisbane, Australia, the 14th moved to Finschhafen, New Guinea in late 1944. On January 20, 1945 Don left California to join them. In June 1945, Don and the 14th moved up to Manila in the Philippines after the Japanese defeat in those islands. By this time, although no one knew about the atom bomb, the war with Japan was nearly over.

The letters also tell a little about his experiences in the Philippines. They speak to how eager he was to leave there and about his distaste for some of the Philippine people toward the end. His most memorable experience while there involved a very large Python that crossed his path, nearly scaring him to death.

Don left the Philippines on December 9, 1945, and returned to the United States mainland 16 days later on Christmas day. 11 days later, he found himself at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was discharged on January 6, 1946. The records show that before he could be discharged, he had to refund the Army $9.90 because the paymaster in the Philippines had paid him too much for the month before. He arrived home in Clarion a couple days later.

Don earned the rank of T4, a rank equivalent to Sergeant. He was awarded a Distinguished Unit Badge, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal.

The grave of Don and Edna Scott

Now back to civilian life, Don and Edna took up their lives once again. Over the next six years, their family grew with the addition of two more daughters named Janine, born in 1947, and Martha, born in 1952.

After the war, Don entered the men's clothing business, managing the local Crowes Clothing Store in Clarion. He worked there for the rest of his life. Their lives fell into the quiet rhythm that was common in so many small Midwestern towns after the war. They were active in their local church and community, Don enjoyed fishing for walleyes in nearby Lake Cornelia, and he became an avid woodworker.

Edna was active with her daughters in 4-H and Campfire. For a time, she worked at the local bakery. Later in life, she took up painting and the Norwegian art of rosemaling as hobbies. She eventually provided each of her daughters with enough product to someday open their own Norwegian souvenir store.

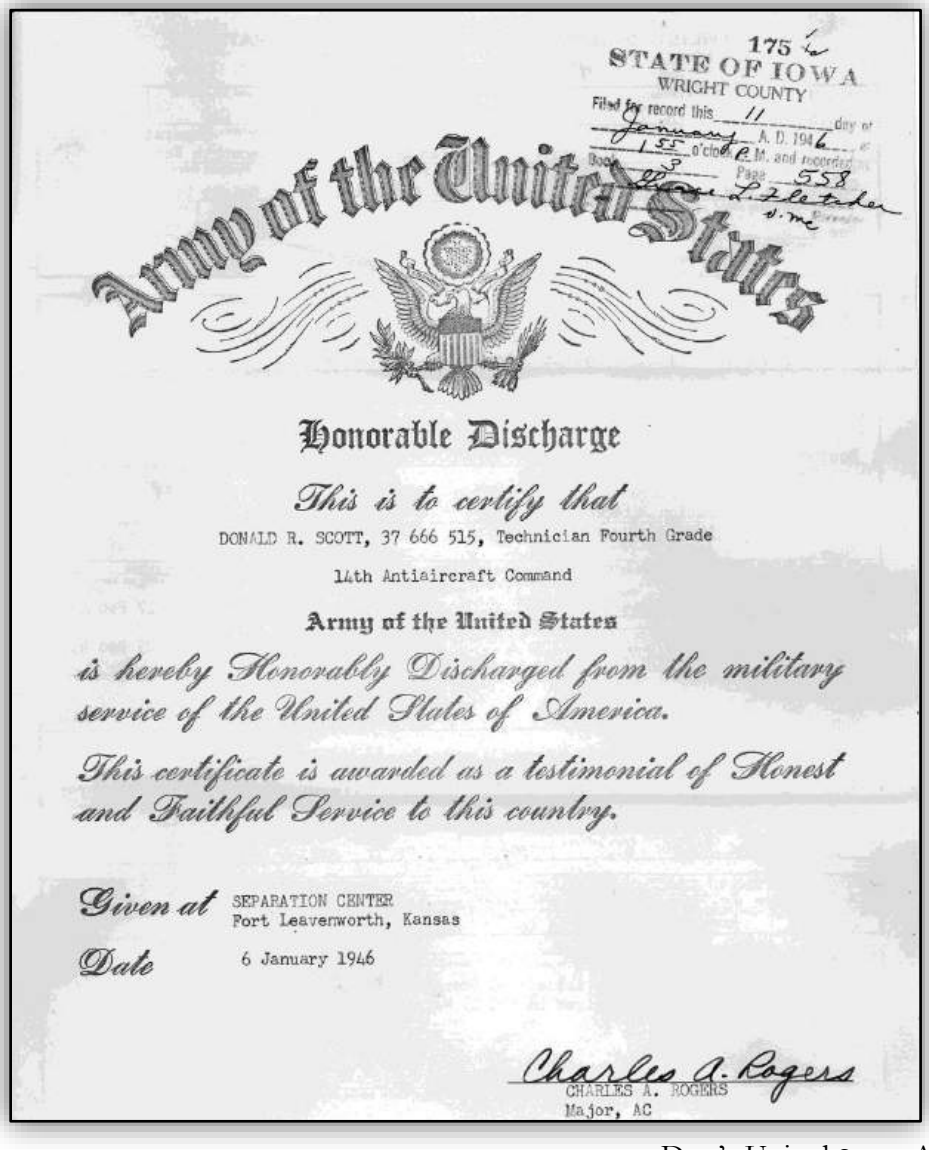
Over the years, they often went fishing in Minnesota, and they took several vacation trips. In June and July 1979, they traveled to Don's ancestral homeland of Norway. They visited Skarveland Farm where

Don's great-grandfather Torris had been born 155 years earlier. They also took a cruise up the Norwegian coast above the Arctic Circle to the North Cape. Later, Edna described the trip as a *"dream come true"* and the most memorable of all of their vacations. It was Don's last. He made the trip on crutches and in a wheelchair following the return of his neurofibromatosis, which had become malignant. He died on March 8, 1980, at the age of 60.

Now on her own, Edna did something she'd never done before. At the age of 66, she learned how to drive. She bought a new car and enjoyed independence for the rest of her life. Along with some of her other widowed friends, she participated in Elderhostel, a low-cost educational and cultural program for people 60 years and older. Edna survived Don for 10 years. On February 7, 1990, after a lingering liver ailment (possibly the result of liver damage sustained earlier in life), she died at the age of 75. Don and Edna are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Clarion Iowa

Don and Edna's wedding photo

Don and Edna in later life



STATE OF IOWA
WRIGHT COUNTY

Filed for record this 11 day of January A. D. 1946 at 1:55 o'clock P.M. and recorded in Book 3 Page 558

Army of the United States

Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

DONALD R. SCOTT, 37 666 515, Technician Fourth Grade

14th Antiaircraft Command

Army of the United States

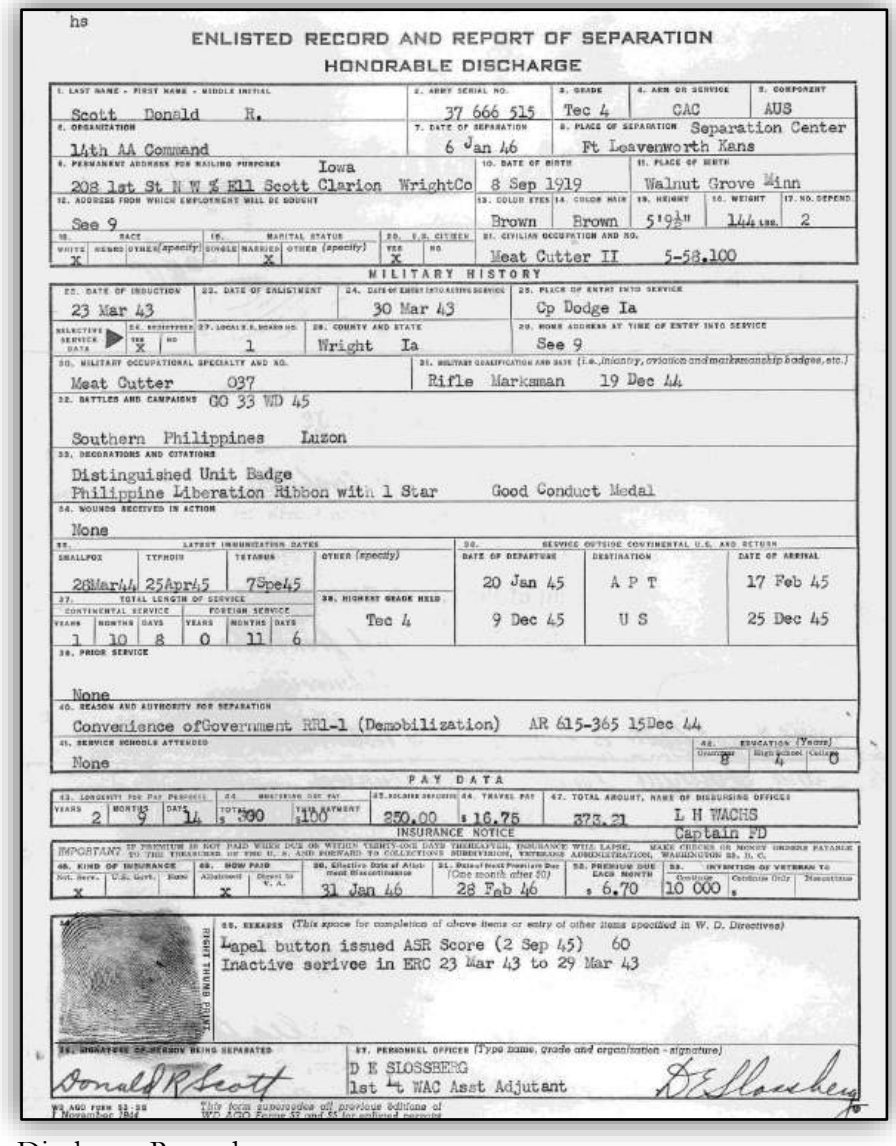
is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the United States of America.

This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service to this country.

Given at SEPARATION CENTER
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

Date 6 January 1946

Charles A. Rogers
CHARLES A. ROGERS
Major, AC



hs

ENLISTED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL	2. ARMY SERIAL NO.	3. GRADE	4. ARM OR SERVICE	5. COMPONENT
Scott Donald R.	37 666 515	Tec 4	CAC	AUS
6. ORGANIZATION	**7. DATE OF SEPARATION**	**8. PLACE OF SEPARATION**		
14th AA Command	6 Jan 46	Ft Leavenworth Kans		
9. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES	**10. DATE OF BIRTH**	**11. PLACE OF BIRTH**		
208 1st St N W % Ell Scott Clarion Iowa WrightCo	8 Sep 1919	Walnut Grove Minn		
12. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT	**13. COLOR EYES**	**14. COLOR HAIR**	**15. HEIGHT**	**16. WEIGHT** / **17. NO. DEPEND.**
See 9	Brown	Brown	5'9½"	144 lbs. / 2

18. RACE			19. MARITAL STATUS			20. U.S. CITIZEN		21. CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND NO.
WHITE	NEGRO	OTHER (specify)	SINGLE	MARRIED	OTHER (specify)	YES	NO	
X				X		X		Meat Cutter II 5-58.100

MILITARY HISTORY

22. DATE OF INDUCTION	23. DATE OF ENLISTMENT	24. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE	25. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE
23 Mar 43		30 Mar 43	Cp Dodge Ia

SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA	26. REGISTERED YES	26. REGISTERED NO	27. LOCAL B.D. BOARD NO.	28. COUNTY AND STATE	29. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE
	X		1	Wright Ia	See 9

30. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY AND NO.	31. MILITARY QUALIFICATION AND DATE (i.e., infantry, aviation and marksmanship badges, etc.)
Meat Cutter 037	Rifle Marksman 19 Dec 44

32. BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS GO 33 WD 45

Southern Philippines Luzon

33. DECORATIONS AND CITATIONS

Distinguished Unit Badge
Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Star Good Conduct Medal

34. WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION

None

35. LATEST IMMUNIZATION DATES				36. SERVICE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND RETURN		
SMALLPOX	TYPHOID	TETANUS	OTHER (specify)	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DESTINATION	DATE OF ARRIVAL
28Mar44	25Apr45	7Sep45		20 Jan 45	A P T	17 Feb 45
				9 Dec 45	U S	25 Dec 45

37. TOTAL LENGTH OF SERVICE						38. HIGHEST GRADE HELD
CONTINENTAL SERVICE			FOREIGN SERVICE			
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	
1	10	8	0	11	6	Tec 4

39. PRIOR SERVICE

None

40. REASON AND AUTHORITY FOR SEPARATION

Convenience ofGovernment RR1-1 (Demobilization) AR 615-365 15Dec 44

41. SERVICE SCHOOLS ATTENDED

None

42. EDUCATION (Years)		
Grammar	High School	College
8	4	0

PAY DATA

43. LONGEVITY FOR PAY PURPOSES			44. MUSTERING OUT PAY		45. SOLDIER DEPOSITS	46. TRAVEL PAY	47. TOTAL AMOUNT, NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER
YEARS	MONTHS	DAYS	TOTAL	THIS PAYMENT			
2	9	14	$ 300	$100	250.00	$ 16.75	373.21 L H WACHS Captain FD

INSURANCE NOTICE

IMPORTANT: IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER, INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTIONS DIVISION, VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

48. KIND OF INSURANCE			49. HOW PAID		50. Effective Date of Allotment Discontinuance	51. Date of Next Premium Due (One month after 50)	52. PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH	53. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO		
Nat. Serv.	U.S. Govt.	None	Allotment	Direct to V. A.				Continue	Continue Only	Discontinue
X			X		31 Jan 46	28 Feb 46	$ 6.70	10 000		

54. REMARKS (This space for completion of above items or entry of other items specified in W. D. Directives)

Lapel button issued ASR Score (2 Sep 45) 60
Inactive serivce in ERC 23 Mar 43 to 29 Mar 43

55. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED

Donald R Scott

57. PERSONNEL OFFICER (Type name, grade and organization - signature)

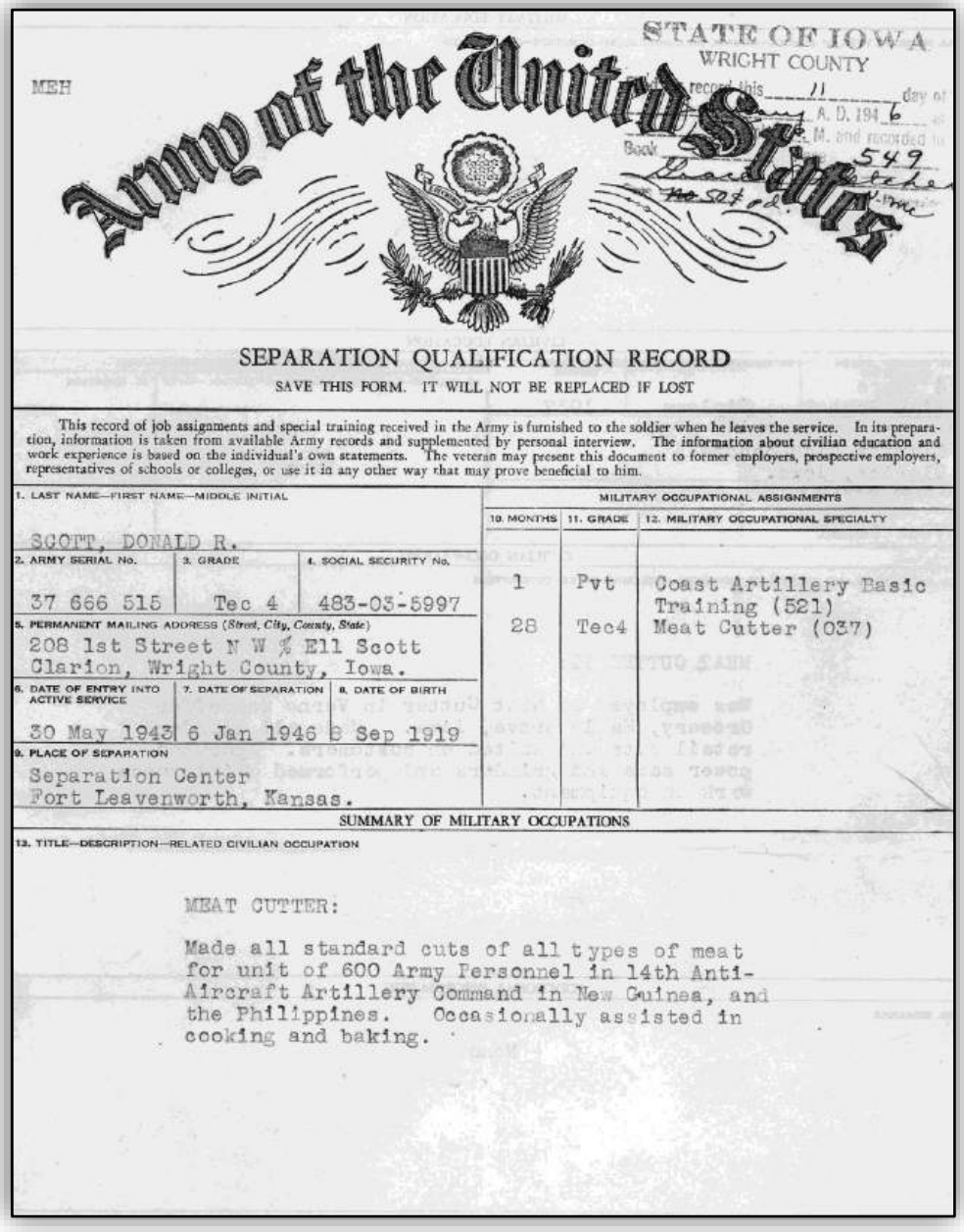
D E SLOSSBERG
1st Lt WAC Asst Adjutant

D E Slossberg

WD AGO FORM 53-55 (November 1945)

This form supersedes all previous editions of WD AGO Forms 53 and 53-55 for enlisted personnel

Don's United States Army Discharge Record



STATE OF IOWA
WRIGHT COUNTY

MEH

Army of the United States

549

SEPARATION QUALIFICATION RECORD

SAVE THIS FORM. IT WILL NOT BE REPLACED IF LOST

This record of job assignments and special training received in the Army is furnished to the soldier when he leaves the service. In its preparation, information is taken from available Army records and supplemented by personal interview. The information about civilian education and work experience is based on the individual's own statements. The veteran may present this document to former employers, prospective employers, representatives of schools or colleges, or use it in any other way that may prove beneficial to him.

1. LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL
SCOTT, DONALD R.

2. ARMY SERIAL No. 37 666 515
3. GRADE Tec 4
4. SOCIAL SECURITY No. 483-03-5997

5. PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, County, State)
208 1st Street N W % Ell Scott
Clarion, Wright County, Iowa.

6. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 30 May 1943
7. DATE OF SEPARATION 6 Jan 1946
8. DATE OF BIRTH 8 Sep 1919

9. PLACE OF SEPARATION
Separation Center
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

10. MONTHS	11. GRADE	12. MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTY
1	Pvt	Coast Artillery Basic Training (521)
28	Tec4	Meat Cutter (037)

SUMMARY OF MILITARY OCCUPATIONS

13. TITLE—DESCRIPTION—RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

MEAT CUTTER:

Made all standard cuts of all types of meat for unit of 600 Army Personnel in 14th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Command in New Guinea, and the Philippines. Occasionally assisted in cooking and baking.

Don's United States Army Separation Record

During WWII, an organization was formed to support mothers whose sons or daughters served in the United States Military. The organization was named the Blue Star Mothers. Soon, flags with blue stars or frames with blue stars appeared in the windows of homes throughout the country. Each star represented one child in active service of the United States. When a son or daughter died, the blue star was replaced by a gold star. Local shops and stores often supported the organization by providing the flags. The framed blue star above was provided to Don's mother Helen by two local Clarion businesses –Sargeant and Company and the Clarion Mill.

Bergen Harbor in 1870

Bergen Harbor today

Descendants of Knud Skarveland

Generation #1 – Knud Skarveland – b. ??, d.??, m. ??
& Unknown Spouse had a child named

Generation #2 – Tollev Knudsøn Skarveland – b. ??, d. ??
& Guri Olsdatter – b. ??, d. ??, m. ?? had a child named

Generation #3 – Torris Tollevsøn Skarveland – b. 15 Oct 1824, d. 10 Oct 1889
& Spouse Seri Torrisdatter Storhaug – b 22 Jun 1824, d. 31 May 1894, m. 19 May 1847 had a child named

Generation #4 – Torris Andreas (Andrew) Scott – b. 27 Apr 1857, d. 26 Dec 1936
& Spouse Mary (Marie) Thompson – b. 10 Jan 1863, d. 29 Sep 1943, m. 21 Feb 1884 had a child named

Generation #5 – Mariell Silas Scott – b. 18 Jan 1884, d. 12 Apr 1958
& Spouse Helen Mary Poundstone – b. 26 Apr 1889, d. 27 Mar 1974, m. 22 Dec 1909 had a child named

Generation #6 – Donald Rudolph Scott – b. 8 Sep 1919, d. 8 Mar 1980
& Spouse Edna Desdamonia Nauman – b. 31 Mar 1914, d. 7 Feb 1990, m. Sep 1940 had a child named

Generation #7 – Martha Leu Scott – b. 14 Apr 52, d. --
& Spouse Dennis Eugene Ver Mulm, b. 6 Jul 1952, d. --, m. 15 May 1976 had two children named

Generation #8 – Scott Evan Ver Mulm – b. 10 Feb 1982, d. –
& Spouse Kasey Baker – b. 27 Feb 1979, d. – m. 9 Oct 2010

Generation #8 – Molly Erin Ver Mulm – b. 7 Nov 1986, d. --

Torris Skarveland was born on Skarveland Farm near the present-day village of Sandvoll in Hordaland County, Norway. Seri Storhaug came from Storhaug Farm just across the peninsula near the present-day village of Holmedal. They were married in 1847 and immediately began raising their family.

Torris had limited prospects in Norway. His father was not a landowner, and he stood to inherit nothing. Knowing only farming, his future in Norway meant one thing—farming for someone else.

With rumors of plentiful cheap land in a place called "Amerika," Torris and Seri decided in 1857 to leave Norway and seek new opportunity in a new home. They left in April 1857 with four children. Like many European families in the 1800s, Torris and Seri had children who died in infancy. They left behind two daughters—Ingeborg and Martha. Seri was nine months pregnant at the time of their sailing.

The sailed the Atlantic Ocean for six weeks in a small sailing ship with nearly 200 other passengers. Their fifth child, Torris Andreas, was born less than a week into the voyage. They traveled to Quebec City and then on to Chicago. They spent at least some time in Kendall County, Illinois with other Norwegian immigrants, but by 1858, they had settled on a farm in Polk County, Iowa not far from the modern-day village of Berwick.

A Norwegian husmann and his family

A sailing brig of the same design as the Hakon Adelsten

TORRIS T. SKARVELAND/SCOTT - *Family Group Sheet*

Torris Tollevsøn Skaveland/Scott

Birth: 15 Oct 1824 at Skarveland Farm - Sandvoll, Norway
Death: 10 Oct 1889 in Newark, Kendall, Illinois
Parents: Tollev Knudsøn Skarveland & Guri Olsdatter

Seri (Sarah) Torrisdatter Storhaug

Birth: 22 Jun 1824 at Storhaug Farm - Holmedal, Norway
Death: 31 May 1894 in Big Grove, Kendall, Illinois
Parents: Torris Thorson Storhaug & Ingebor Torbjornsdatter

Marriage: **May 19, 1847 in Skanevik, Hordaland, Norway**

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Tollev (Thomas) Scott	M	25 May 1847 at Storhaug Farm	Kari Boyd	25 May 1876 in Kendall, Illinois	15 Jul 1938 in Ottawa, Illinois
Ingebor Gurine (Belle) Scott	F	6 Jun 1849 at Mehus Farm			18 Jan 1936 in Lisbon, Illinois
Sissele (Celia) Scott	F	18 Sep 1850 at Skarveland Farm	Isaac Anderson	15 Mar 1873	29 May 1936 in Kendall, Illinois
Inborg Serine Skarveland	F	18 Jul 1852 at Skarveland Farm			7 Aug 1852 at Skarveland Farm
Ingebor Gurine (Julia) Scott	F	25 Sep 1853 at Skarveland Farm	John Gaard Christopher Visness	22 Jul 1893 in Kendall, Illinois 1902 in Kendall, Illinois	15 Nov 1941 in Chicago, Illinois
Martha Oline Skarveland	F	9 Dec 1855 at Skarveland Farm			1 Mar 1856 at Skarveland Farm
Torris Andreas (Andrew) Scott	**M**	**27 Apr 1857 on Atlantic Ocean**	**Mary (Marie) Thompson**	**21 Feb 1884 in Kendall, Illinois**	**26 Dec 1935 in Clarion, Iowa**
Oli Scott	M	23 Sep 1859 in Polk, Iowa	Eugenia Aleta Sigstad	6 Apr 1894	12 Aug 1934 in Eagle Gove, Iowa
Torres Scott (Jr.)	M	1862 near Huxley, Iowa	Serena Ingamundson	18 Dec 1883 in Webster, Iowa	22 Mar 1906 in Butterfield, MN
Lena Scott	F	9 Mar 1864 near Huxley, Iowa	Hector Hagtosøn Wicks	1899 in Kendall, Illinois	1 July 1945 in Elgin, Illinois
Inger Karine (Carrie) Scott	F	16 Apr 1866 near Huxley, Iowa			6 Dec 1948 in Chicago, Illinois
George Tobias Scott	M	23 Jul 1869 in Big Grove, Illinois	Henrietta Monson		17 Apr 1936 in Chicago, Illinois

The Family of Torris Scott (believed taken after his death)
Front (L-R) Andrew, Seri, Thomas, Belle, Ole
Back (L-R) George, Carrie, Torres, Jr., Lena, Julia, Celia

TORRIS ANDREAS (ANDREW) SCOTT - *Family Group Sheet*

Torris Andreas (Andrew) Scott

Birth: 27 Apr 1857 on the Atlantic Ocean
Death: 26 Dec 1935 in Clarion, Iowa
Parents: Torris T. Scott & Seri (Sarah) Storhaug

Marie (Mary) Thompson

Birth: 10 Jan 1863 in Yorkville, Kendall, Illinoix
Death: 29 Sep 1943 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa
Parents: Sjur (Severt) Thompson & Mary (Mari) Teigland

Marriage: **February 21, 1884 in Kendall County, Illinois**

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Mariell Silas Scott	**M**	**18 Jan 1884 in Kendall, Illinois**	**Helen Mary Poundstone**	**22 Dec 1909**	**12 Apr 1958 in Clarion, Iowa**
Mabel Severine Scott	F	31 Mar 1889 in Clarion, Iowa			26 Nov 1903 in Clarion, Iowa
Clarence L. Scott	M	11 Mar 1891 in Clarion, Iowa	Rose Pletcher		7 Feb 1919 in Clarion, Iowa
Rudolph Arthur Scott	M	26 Apr 1895 in Clarion, Iowa	Bernice Bleeker Pauline (Polly) Jones Kathryn (Mohr) Piper	Aug 21, 1917 July 6, 1944 1967	5 Oct 1988 in Eldora, Iowa
Myrtle Ruth Scott	F	26 Jan 1905 in Clarion, Iowa	James Stroup	September 2, 1925	13 May 1995 in Clarion, Iowa

The Family of Andrew Scott
Front Row (L-R) Andrew, Myrtle, Mary
Back Row (L-R) Mariell, Clarence, Rudolph
Inst – Mable (Died in 1903)

MARIEL SILAS SCOTT - *Family Group Sheet*

Mariel Silas Scott

Birth:18 Jan 1884 in Kendall County, Illinois
Death:12 Apr 1958 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa
Parents: Andrew Scott & Mary (Maria) Thompson

Helen Mary Poundstone

Birth: 26 Apr 1889 in Grand Ridge, LaSalle, Illinois
Death: 27 Mar 1974 in Mason City, Cerro Gordo, Iowa
Parents: John Poundstone & Bellzora Eliza Ostrander

Marriage: **December 22, 1909 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa**

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Eldon Mariel Scott	M	21 Oct 1910 in Clarion, Iowa	Mollie Whitman Leah Barkdull Margaret Gray	20 Dec 1937 21 Nov 1949 22 Nov 1959	26 Nov 1981 in San Diego, CA
Wayne Eldon Scott	M	13 Nov 1912 in Clarion, Iowa			1 Jul 1922 in Springdale, MN
Howard Andrew Scott	M	28 Feb 1914 in Springdale, MN	Edith Streit		2 Jul 1951 in Jackson, Mississippi
Donald Rudolph Scott	**M**	**8 Sep 1919 in Springdale, MN**	**Edna Desdemonia Nauman**	**1 Sep 1940 in Clarion, Iowa**	**8 Mar 1980 in Clarion, Iowa**
Doris Irene Scott	F	25 Oct 1922 in Springdale, MN	Joseph Clifford Helgeson William Eugene Coke	5 Aug 1940 22 Feb 1969	7 May 2017 in Independence, MO

The Family of Mariell Scott
Front Row (L-R) Doris, Helen, Donald, Howard
Back Row (L-R) Mariell, Eldon
Inset – Wayne (Died in 1922)

DONALD RUDOLPH SCOTT - *Family Group Sheet*

Donald Rudolph Scott

Birth:8 Sep 1919 in Springdale, Redwood, Minnesota
Death:8 Mar 1980 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa
Parents: Mariel Silas Scott & Helen Mary Poundstone

Edna Desdemonia Nauman

Birth: 31 March 1914 in Oxley, Ripley, Missouri
Death: 7 Feb 1990 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa
Parents:Luther Harold Nauman & Edna Bell Eddy

Marriage: **September 1, 1940 in Clarion, Wright, Iowa**

CHILDREN	SEX	BIRTH	SPOUSE	MARRIAGE	DEATH
Beth Donelle Scott	F	23 Oct 1942 in Clarion, Iowa	Richard Graham George (Pete) Harker	17 Oct 1964 3 Oct 1974	
Janine Marie Scott	F	22 Mar 1947 in Clarion, Iowa	Larry Ray Hebner	10 Sep 1965	
Martha Leu Scott	**F**	**14 Apr 1952 in Clarion, Iowa**	**Dennis Eugene Ver Mulm**	**15 May 1976**	

The Family of Don Scott
(L-R) Don, Martha, Janine, Beth, Edna