

## **The Brothertown Indians Who Moved to Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN**

The story of the courageous Brothertown Indians who created a closely related community in the densely forested wilderness of Minnesota is one of perseverance and survival.. From the east coast to New York, to Wisconsin, after the Civil War, many Brothertown families were on the move once again. Some went only as far as the towns and cities in Wisconsin; Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Colby, Unity, Gresham, Milwaukee. Others had left to settle in Indian Territory as the federal government wanted. Still others looked to the homestead lands in Minnesota – Redwood Falls and Reynolds Township. This is the story of those who settled what was to be known as Whiteville, Minnesota, just west of today's Long Prairie in Reynolds Township, Todd County.

No sooner had the Brothertown Indians arrived in Wisconsin than the federal government, struck new treaties with the Menominee Indians and the Brothertown and Stockbridge/Munsee tribes were forced to abandon their homes in Kaukauna and move to reservations on the east side of Lake Winnebago, even before that move was finalized, the government announced they would have to move to Indian Territory in Kansas along with the other New York Tribes. Thomas Commuck, said, "Here, then, are the Brothertown Indians on the east side of Winnebago Lake, in Calumet County, trying to imitate our white brethren in all things except their vices. Here we have taken our last stand, as it were, and are resolved to meet manfully, that overwhelming tide of fate, which seems destined, in a few short years, to sweep the Red Man from the face of existence."

Determined not to lose the property they had recently purchased, the Brothertown Indians petitioned Congress to grant them citizenship and individual title to their lands. On March 2, 1839, Congress passed legislation, which made the Brothertown Reservation into a township within the territory of Michigan. And made the Brothertown citizens of the United States and individual owners of their lots, rather than the communally owned reservation lands.

As a result of this land division, most adults received fifty acres, enough to operate a family subsistence farm. The Brothertown community thrived for a few years. Fifty acres was a small farm, sufficient for a small family, but as children grew up the land either had to be divided to provide for those needing a place to live, or the children had to move away. The economic conditions of the 1870's through the 1880's made it difficult for small farmers to meet their costs and pay their taxes. Many lost their land or sold off acreage to the hundreds of Germans pouring into the area.

The Civil War saw every able bodied man at Brothertown joining in the fight. Many leaving the small community of Brothertown for the first time and traveling all over the southern states. When the war was over, life did not seem to be the same in Brothertown; there were too many vacant places; too many friends gone. Some began thinking of the lands in Kansas they had refused but reports coming back from those who had gone to Indian Territory in the 1850's, were discouraging. The land was bleak, sparsely timbered and the whites and native Indians had both treated them harshly. The Whiteville settlement in Minnesota was attractive because of the luxuriant grass and the rich bottom land, flanked by fine timber on the higher lands.



Beginning in the 1870's Brothertown men started looking for homestead land where they could better provide for their families. Articles began appearing in the Chilton Times Journal about the men looking for homestead land in Minnesota.

*" E.C. Adams and Ansel Johnson shook the Brothertown mud from their feet last week and betook themselves to the wilds of northern Minnesota, in search of new homes."*

Issue November 5, 1881 Brothertown Column:

*" Mr. Ansel Johnson and family started on Tuesday for Todd Co., Minn. Mr. Johnson having located there."*

Issue August 10, 1881 Brothertown Column:

*"Miles M. Johnson lately returned from a few months sojourn in Nebraska, and from his description of the country we should judge he was not in love with it."*

Issue November 9, 1881 Brothertown Column:

*"Quite a ripple of excitement was raised here last week, by the departure of Miles M. Johnson for Minnesota, and at the same time, without any noticeable preparation or even bidding her friends goodbye, Miss Mary Skeesuck took the same train."*

We do not know who was the first to conceive the idea of moving to Todd county and settling in new homes on the Long Prairie river. There may be some reason for thinking it may have been John Shelley and his brother, David because their sister, Lettie and her family had already settled that area. The settlement was founded in September, 1865 by a group led by George White, when four covered wagons, drawn by ox teams, wound their slow way up the Long Prairie river valley into what is now known as the Whiteville neighborhood. This group was composed of White and his family, accompanied by his three brothers-in-law, Lester S. Hoadley, Albert P. Madison and Horace Pierce, each of the last three having married a sister of Mr. White. George White was born in Vermont. He moved from Vermont to Wisconsin, and at Brothertown, married Lettie Shelley, a Brothertown Indian, whose father was Simeon Shelley, a Mohegan Indian. This was a Christian settlement and shortly after they arrived, a frame Methodist church, painted white, was erected, 6 ½ miles from the county seat, and nearby they built a schoolhouse. The church and school were the only ties that time developed to bind the settlers together as a community, but since that day in 1865, when the county was an unclaimed wilderness, that particular region has been called Whiteville.

In the late 1870's and 1880, the Brothertown families of Miles Johnson, Orrin Johnson and his **large** family, William Johnson and his sons, Laton D. and Hiram; John and David Shelley, Lewis F. Fowler, and Rufus Skeesuck with his young wife Amanda Fowler and two young sons, all moved to the Whitesville settlement six miles west of Long Prairie.

Among the first was William Johnson, who established himself in the settlement in the year 1880. He and his wife Amanda Dick were born in New York, before the Brothertown move to Wisconsin. Amanda died in 1873 at the age of 46, leaving William to raise three sons, five other sons and one daughter having preceded her in death. He traveled to Minnesota with his young sons, Laton Dick and Hiram, leaving Asa behind working for a farmer. Only a few short years later on April 19, 1883, he died of lung fever at the age of 65.





**Laton Johnson and his wife Fredericka Pemberton, her Grandmother was Brothertown, Sally Potter, a Narragansett Indian.**

Albert P. Madison was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, on September 10, 1840, his parents being natives of the state of Pennsylvania. In Wisconsin he married Miss Eliza White. Sometime prior to 1880, Mrs. Madison and her five children passed away and are buried in the cemetery near Long Prairie. On February 22, 1880, Mr. Madison married Mrs. Wealthy (Johnson) Dick. Wealthy was the daughter of Orrin Johnson. They had two sons, Archie Perry and Orrin Bird. Mrs. Wealthy Madison and her infant son died in Reynolds. Madison's brother-in-law, Horace Pierce, a Civil War veteran, was born in the state of Delaware and after his service in the army, joined the caravan to Reynolds township in 1865.

Their journey required six weeks and it was not until September that they found the land that suited them in the valley west of the old Indian agency. The agency had disappeared, only traces of former buildings could be seen, for the buildings that had not been stolen, had been burned to the ground, and charged to the Indians.

The succeeding weeks were busy ones for the new settlers, for houses had to be prepared for the several families and hay provided for the wintering of their ox teams. However, Wisconsin was not so new that they were ignorant of pioneering, and they set to work intelligently to provide for their necessities. For the first three years in Reynolds, the nearest trader was at Sauk Centre, and the nearest



railroad point was Sauk Rapids, east of the Mississippi.

The men were skillful hunters, and the flesh of deer provided meat, while they tanned the skins of the deer to make clothing. As a usual thing, the Indians passing up and down the river in canoes, were friendly, though at one time misunderstanding over an accidental injury to an Indian threatened hostilities. The Indians were skeptical about the accidental character of the injuries suffered by one of their number at the hands of the whites. After a friendly understanding was established, these Indians were friendly and useful as well, teaching them to make beaded moccasins, the best kind of footwear in the woods.

To open up a farm in that region and support a family at the same time, before the land could make a profitable return, compelled the newcomers to employ every expedient, since the timber from the newly cleared fields, had no market value. They trapped and hunted in the winters, made maple sugar and syrup in the spring. The deer they killed brought most of the money in the wintertime. The hind quarters, or saddles as they were termed, were hauled to Sauk Centre, where they were sold, sometimes, having to take pay in trade at the stores. This was still the case after a store was established at Long Prairie in 1868. Gradually the fields broadened, and they depended less on hunting and trapping as the game became scarcer; but in the years 1875 and 1876, the grasshoppers devoured all their crops except the rye and rutabagas. As a result, they lived for two years, almost entirely on rye bread and rutabagas, along with deer meat.<sup>112</sup>

One of the Brothertown men who came to Reynolds from Wisconsin, was David Shelly and his brother, John, they came early and settled in Reynolds, probably in 1878. There David resided until 1891 when he moved into the village of Long Prairie where he bought an acre of land north of the fair grounds and erected a comfortable residence. David Shelley, at the age of 12 years, had emigrated with his father's family to Brothertown, in what was then Michigan Territory. He lived there till he was 22 years old when he returned to his old New York home and was married to Miss Marietta Charles. They remained in New York three years when they removed to Brothertown, Wis. Both John and David Shelley served in the Civil War, returning after the war to Brothertown where they lived till 1878 when they went to Todd county and settled on a farm near the Reynolds church. They had but one child, a daughter, who died of consumption at the age of 20 years, her death occurring the year before they came to Minnesota. David died suddenly while getting ready to drive into the village from his home.<sup>113</sup>

Miles M. Johnson was born at Brothertown on December 5, 1855 and was seven years old when the news came of his father, Henry Clinton Johnson's death. He could vividly remember when his father left to the war. He remembered going with his mother, Avis Sampson Johnson, to the post office, two miles distant, to see if there might be any letter from his father, and the only letter was one telling them that the soldier had died in battle. Mrs. Johnson subsequently married Edwin C. Adams, and the Johnson and Adams children all came to Todd county with the family in 1881 and settled in the vicinity of the other Brothertown families, who had arrived a few years before them.

In Minnesota, Miles M. found employment superintending the wood railroad tie business for George Maynard, who was then carrying on a very active trade at Clotho, buying logs, cordwood, and wild

<sup>112</sup> "Todd County, MN Township History" written by O.B. DeLaurier for the Long Prairie newspaper in 1935. Thursday, May 18, 1935 Town of Reynolds p97.

<sup>113</sup> Ibid. June 27, 1935.p103



game for shipment. He continued with Mr. Maynard for seven years, until Mr. Maynard disposed of the business. Miles then settled on a farm which he had purchased in Little Sauk. Some years later he sold this farm and bought a farm in Round Prairie, then later he took up residence at Little Sauk Station. April 5, 1887, he married Miss Cecilia A. Baker, whose father had settled in Leslie, and to this marriage were born five children , Claude, Lloyd, Mabel, Herbert and Frieland.<sup>114</sup>

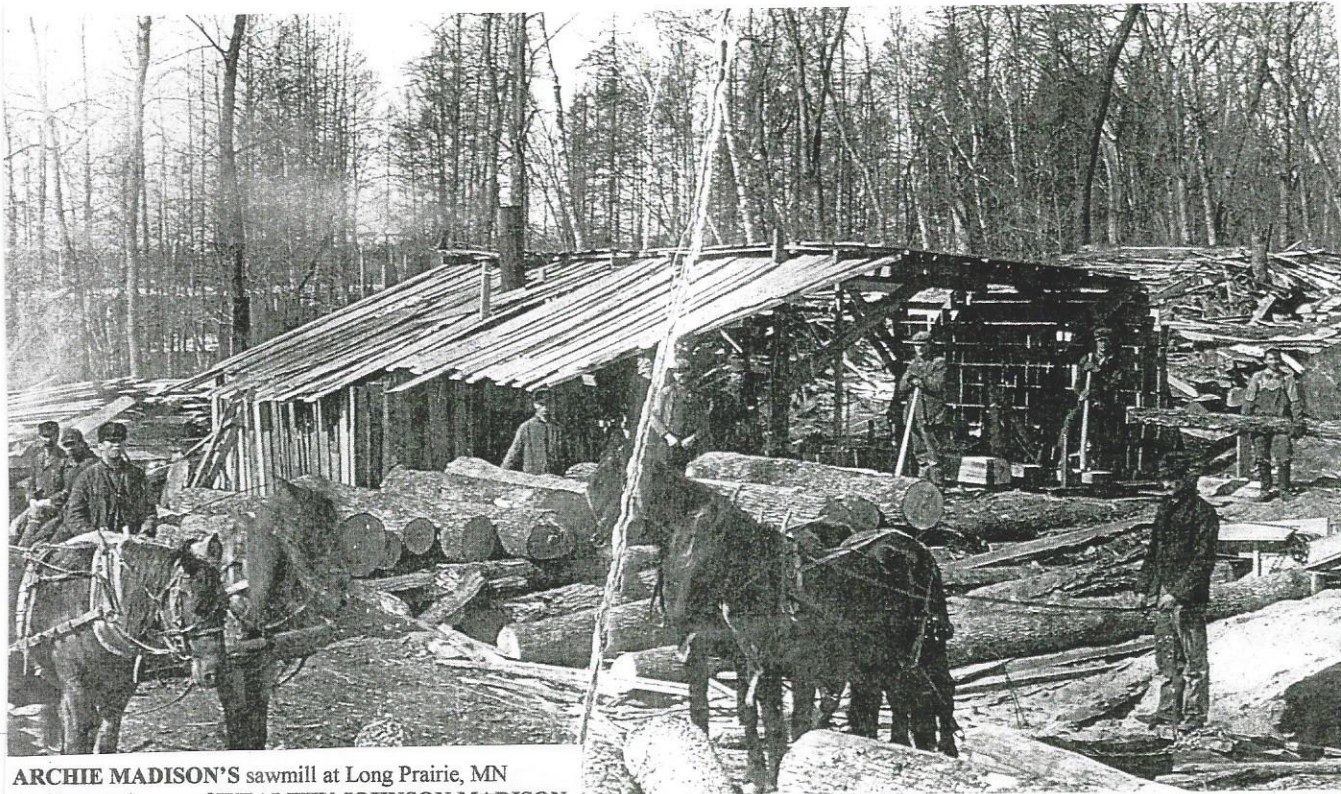
When the Edwin C. Adams family came to Reynolds there was considerable excitement in certain religious circles over the imminent ending of the world, which was thought to be at hand. A farmer living west of Whiteville in that expectation, wished to sell his farm, pay off his debts, and be ready for the great day. Mr. Adams came from Wisconsin with the expectation of purchasing that farm; but on his arrival found he was too late. The property had already been sold. Mr. Adams liked the locality and decided to look up another place, which he did, and became a resident of Todd county. Mr. Adams was 63 years old at the time of his arrival; but he lived for many years in the town.

Mr. Adams was the adopted son of Samuel Adams and Mary Fowler. He was brought up by Emeline Adams and Lothrop Dick. Early in life he was called Edwin Edwards and Edwin Hathaway, but soon went by the name E.C. Adams. E.C. had been married twice before his marriage to Avis and he had three children of the first two marriages. The Chilton Times Journal recorded the sale of their numerous lots on the Brothertown reservation.

His son, Simeon, by his second wife, called Simeon Adams, was known by everyone in the area. He was probably the fiercest looking man that ever lived; but there was never a kinder hearted, nor a friendly man in town. Sim never married and probably to this he owed his kindly disposition. He passed his years working in the woods in the winter, and with railroad construction crews in the summer time. His sole ambition was to do more work in a day than any other man could accomplish. He is said to have cut five cords of maple wood in one day. His Saturday afternoons were usually devoted to conviviality. His one recreation was reading history. He died at a wood cutter's cabin in Reynolds.<sup>115</sup>

<sup>114</sup> Ibid. June 6, 1935

<sup>115</sup> Ibid.



ARCHIE MADISON'S sawmill at Long Prairie, MN



Rufus Skeesuck's mother was a sister to William and Orrin G. Johnson. She had married George Skeesuck, both parents had died before he was thirteen years old and his Aunt and Uncle, John C. and Esther Johnson Hammer, were appointed his guardians. He enlisted as a private May 10, 1861 at Taycheedah, Wis. for the term of three years. In Company I, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Wisconsin and was mustered into service on the 13th day of July 1861 at Madison. Transferred on 13 July 1864 from Company I to B 5th Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers after reenlisting on December 18, 1863 at Brandy Station, Va. for another 3 years. He was mustered out on July 11, 1865 at Jeffersonville, Ind. to Madison, Wisconsin. In January of 1866, at the home of his cousin Charlotte Schooner Keeville in Brothertown, he married Amanda Fowler. They came to Todd county from Brothertown, about 1878 and lived in Reynolds with their family which consisted of three sons, George, Milo and Ernest.



**Thomas Keeville**

Lewis Franklin Fowler was born at Brothertown, Wisconsin on Christmas Day in 1854 and was descended from the Montauk tribe on Long Island, New York. With the coming of the Civil War, Fowler's father enlisted in the 21<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Regiment in Wisconsin and at the battle of Perryville received critical wounds, from which he died a few weeks later at a hospital. Lewis was eight years old when his father died. He grew up in Brothertown, married Mercy L. Johnson, and came with the group of Brothertown relatives who came in the early 1880's.

Mr. Fowler was a most friendly and companionable man, and proud of his pure blood descent from the real American race. He had a rich fund of humor and delighted to poke fun at his white neighbors in his friendly way. He was a warm friend of a man who was a descendant of the Mayflower colonists, and enjoyed joking with him



**Charlotte Schooner Keeville**



about the colonial days. He claimed that all his friend knew of farming was what the Indians taught the Pilgrims to keep them from starving when they first landed. Mr. Fowler would continue, "I think the Indians

made a great mistake at that time; if they had not fed you, you would have gone back where you came from, and where you belonged. You should have left the poor Indian to his hills and his stony land, where you couldn't make a living, until the Indians showed you how."

Mr. Fowler was very successful in raising corn and he had quite a market for what he could raise at Long Prairie. Once the writer was buying some sweet corn from him when he remarked; "It's funny how much smarter the Indian is than the white man. You know that don't you? We intimidated we did not agree with him, and he returned to the attack with the statement, "Of course they know more; if you knew as much as I do, you would be raising your own corn instead of depending on me to feed you."

He died at his home in Reynolds April 9, 1925.<sup>116</sup>

**MRS. LEWIS FOWLER DIES FRIDAY MAY 4**  
Well Known Resident and Old Settler of Reynolds, Passes to the Great Beyond Came From Patriotic Family that Traces Its Roots Back to Early Colonial Days  
Mrs. Lewis L. Fowler died at her home in the town of Reynolds Friday, May 4. The funeral was held Monday afternoon from the Methodist church in this village, and interment was in Evergreen cemetery.

Mercy L. Johnson was born in Brothertown, Wisconsin, the daughter of Henry C. and Avis T. (Sampson) Johnson, April 9, 1857. She grew to young womanhood in her home community and December 3, 1877, was married to Lewis F. Fowler. They came to Minnesota and Todd county May 1, 1882. They settled on a piece of land in the town of Reynolds, which at that time was a piece of solid timber. With very few tools, implements, or other assistance they proceeded to carve out a home amid these hard surroundings. After long and patient effort they developed the fine farm which is their home today, and which stands as a monument not only to the industry, perseverance and thrift of Mr. Fowler, but of his faithful wife who assisted him throughout all the years.



During her lifetime Mrs. Fowler associated with the Methodist church and took an active part in all the church affairs of her home community. She was one of the dependable workers of the Whiteville church, always ready to do her share. She took the right side of all movements in her community and county

**Mercy L. Johnson Fowler**

<sup>116</sup> Ibid. Thursday June 6, 1935.



that were in the interests of the public welfare, and gave what service she could toward assisting in their consummation. She was an intensely patriotic woman and during the war time was active in all public and patriotic affairs.

She took a great interest in public questions and when women were granted suffrage, took pleasure in studying the problems of the day. It was a great regret to her that due to her sudden illness last fall she was denied the privilege of casting her first vote and often referred to her regret over the matter.

Mrs. Fowler was the kind of neighbor who is always ready to help throughout the community in times of sickness and trouble. For over 40 years she gave generously of her time and talents along these lines in her home community and many who mourn have been in the past direct beneficiaries of her thoughtful kindness.

There is an interesting bit of history in connection with the life of Mrs. Fowler. She was a direct descendant of the tribe of Narragansett Indians famous in Colonial and Revolutionary War days. They later became a part of the famous Six Nations, who occupied a large part of the territory of what is now central New York. These Indian tribes played an important part not only in the early colonial history of the country, but in the history of our country at the beginning of the last century. The greater part of these Six Nations joined the British during the Revolutionary War and fought the colonists, but the Brothertown tribe to which Mrs. Fowler's ancestry and family belonged remained loyal to the American cause. This part of the tribe broke away from the tribal customs and took up the mode of life of their white neighbors. They organized what was known as a Brothertown Community in New York. Some time after the Revolutionary War and after immigration began to move west the government got them to move to Wisconsin, where they formed another Brothertown. These people have always been very loyal to the government and numerous of Mrs. Fowler's ancestral relatives have fought in wars in behalf of our country. Mrs. Fowler's father was a veteran of the Civil War and was killed at the Battle of Stone River.

Mrs. Fowler is survived by her husband and four sons, who are Ralph, Arthur, Harold and Marion. Four other children have preceded her in death. They were: Maude, Maurice, Elwyn, and Pearl. She is also survived by her brothers, Miles M. Johnson, of Round Prairie, Henry C. Johnson, of Livingston, Montana, and her half-sister, Mrs. Susan M McCabe of Grand Rapids, Minnesota.<sup>117</sup>

The church and school photographed here in 1980, have now crumbled and are only a small pile of rocks and wood. The hardy Brothertown Indians who built them are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Long Prairie and in other small cemeteries in the area. Some of their descendants still live in the area, while others moved ever further west – to Montana and Washington.

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<sup>117</sup> "The Long Prairie Leader" Issue May 10, 1923 Obituary Page 3 Col 1.





**The Whiteville Methodist Church**



**The Whiteville School**



**APPENDIX**

**BIOGRAPHY of the BROTHERTOWN INDIANS  
WHO SETTLED WHITESTOWN,  
TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA**



## Individual Report for Rufus Skeesuck

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**Individual Summary:** Rufus Skeesuck

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Sex: Male

Father: George Skeesuck

Mother: Abigail Johnson

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 25 Oct 1835 in Brothertown, Oneida Co., NY  
Military Service: 10 May 1861 in Wisconsin  
Military Service: 1863  
Residence: 1870 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States  
Residence: 1880 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, United States; Age: 44; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Self  
Residence: Jun 1890 in Burleene and Leslie, Todd, Minnesota, United States  
Residence: 1900 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Age: 63; Marital Status: Widowed; Relation to Head of House: Father  
Death: 03 Dec 1903 in Gutches Grove, Todd Co., MN; Age: 68  
Rufus Skeesuck: 03 Dec 1903 in Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota, USA  
Burial: Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN  
Civil: Minnesota  
Residence: Brothertown, Wisconsin

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**Shared Facts:** Amanda Malvina Fowler

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Marriage: 31 Jan 1866 in Town of Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI  
Children: George Archie Skeesuck  
Ernest Alonzo Skeesuck  
Milo Skeesick

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes:

NATIVE AMERICAN ALGONGUIAN  
1. Love, William De Loss. SAMSON OCCOM AND THE CHRISTIAN INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND.  
Massachusetts: Pilgrim Press, 1899 (BYU 970.62 L94s) (FHL 970.1 L947g)

NOTES:

Page 362/63 Samson Occom Book  
"Arnold Skeesuck, probably the son of Daniel, received lot 49 in 1804, which was sold in 1836, Eliza, Arnold and Abigail having shares. He died at Brothertown, N.Y., about 1820, and his widow married B.G. Fowler. Chn.: I. Arnold. II. Samuel. III. David. IV. Eliza. V. Martha. VI. Abigail (?). George Skeesuck, whose mother was Thankful Dick, is thought to have been also of this family. He married Abigail Johnson, and removed to Wisconsin. They had a son, Rufus, in Co. I, 5th Wis. Vols."  
Page 346, Samson Occom Book  
"William Fowler (3 James, 2 David, 1 James) was born about 1815, and married Mary Brushel. He lived at Brothertown, Wis., until he enlisted in Co. E., 21st Wis. Vols. He was killed at Perryville, Oct. 8, 1862. Chn.: I. James D., b. 1840, was a soldier in the 38th Wis. Vols. II. Emeline, m. William Welch, and d. Jan. I, 1865, ae. 22. III. Ella, d. 1865. IV. Melvina, m. Rufus Skeesuck, and d. in 1892. V. Lisetta, m. Miles M. Johnson, and d. in 1876."



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**Notes:**

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Source: Land Patentees for Leslie Township, Todd Co., MN  
Rufus Skeesuck on November 23, 1889.  
Minnesota Land Records

Name: Rufus Skeesuck Land Office: ST CLOUD Document  
Number: 6313 Total Acres: 80 Misc. Doc. Nr.: 11137 Signature: Yes Canceled  
Document: No Issue Date: 23 Nov 1889 Mineral Rights Reserved: No Metes  
and Bounds: No Statutory Reference: 12 Stat. 392 Multiple Warantee  
Names: No Act or Treaty: May 20, 1862 Multiple Patentee Names: No Entry  
Classification: Homestead Entry Original Land Description: 1NWSE 5TH  
PM No 129 N35 W122 NESW 5TH PM No 129 N35 W12

**!MARRIAGE:**

The marriage record of Rufus Skeesuck and Amanda Malvina Fowler is at  
the  
Wisconsin Historical Society - Calumet Co. - #01345 dated 01-21-1866 and  
a  
second listing #01374 dated 01-31-1866 with the last name spelt Skeesuc.

Wisconsin Marriages, pre-1907  
about Rufus Skeesuck  
Name: Rufus Skeesuck  
Marriage Date: 21 Jan 1866  
County: Calumet  
Volume: 01  
Page: 0062

**!BIRTH:**

Source: Records Relating to the Kansas Claims of the New York Indians,  
application #1763, filed by Rufus Skeesuck on November 8, 1901. His  
address  
at that time was Town of Reynolds, Long Prairie, Todd County, MN.

**!MILITARY:**

Rufus Skeesuck, Brothertown, Wisconsin  
Enlisted as a private May 10, 1861 at Taycheedah, Wis. for the term of  
three years.  
Was mustered into service on the 13th day of July 1861 at Madison.  
Company I, 5th Infantry Regiment Wisconsin  
Transferred on 13 July 1864 from Company I to B 5th Regiment of the Wis  
Inf Vol after reenlisting on December 18, 1863 at Brandy Station, Va., by Lt.  
Richard Carter for another 3 years.  
Mustered out on July 11, 1865 at Jeffersonville, Ind. to Madison,  
Wisconsin.  
His birthplace is given as Oneida, New York and both his residence and his  
service was credited to Brothertown, Calumet County, Wisconsin.  
The records show that the soldier was single, black eyes, dark hair, dark  
complexion, was 5 feet 11 1/2 inches in height and by occupation a farmer.  
Tombstone at Evergreen Cemetery - 5th Regiment Wis Vol

**U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles**

Name: Rufus Skeesuck  
Residence: Brothertown, Wisconsin  
Enlistment Date: 5 Oct 1861  
Rank at enlistment: Private  
State Served: Wisconsin  
Survived the War?: Yes  
Service Record: Enlisted in Company I, Wisconsin 5th Infantry Regiment on  
10 May 1861.  
Mustered out on 11 Jul 1865 at Madison, WI.



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**Notes:**

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Sources: Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers: War of the Rebellion

**!DEATH:**

Obituary - Todd County Argus - Issue December 3, 1903 - Page 1 Col 2  
ANOTHER OLD SETTLER GONE

Rufus Skesucks Died at His Home in Reynolds Nov. 27th.

Rufus Skesucks, one of the old residents of the town of Reynolds, died Friday morning, Nov. 27th. He has been sick for several years, the trouble being an affection of the throat, and it has been known for some months that

his sands of life were about run. He suffered a great deal and death was an actual relief.

Rufus Skesucks came to Todd county from Brothertown, Wis., about twenty-five years ago and has lived in Reynolds ever since. His wife died nine or ten years ago and there remains of the family but the three sons, George, Milo and Ernest, all residents of this county. Deceased was 68 years,

1 month and 2 days old at his death. He was a good citizen and neighbor, honest and upright in his dealings and has gone to his rest.

The funeral was held at the Lunceford schoolhouse Sunday, Rev. A. Deboard, officiating and the remains were buried beside those of his companion on the old farm.

**!BURIAL:**

There are tombstones at Evergreen Cemetery, Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN in Block 6 Row 12

SKEESUCK Rufus 5 Regt Wis Vol 1837 - 1903

Amanda 1851 - 1893

**!FEDERAL CENSUS:**

1870 - Wisconsin - Calumet County, Brothertown June 28th, 1870  
Line 216

Skeesack, Rufus age 32 born in WI

Malvina 21 born in WI

George 3 born in WI

Ernest 3/12 born in March in WI

1880 United States Federal Census

about Rufus Skeerue

Name: Rufus Skeerue

[Rufus Skeesuck]

Age: 44

Birth Year: abt 1836

Birthplace: New York

Home in 1880: Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota

Race: White

Gender: Male

Relation to Head of House: Self (Head)

Marital Status: Married

Father's Birthplace: New York

Mother's Birthplace: New York

Occupation: ... Mason

Household Members: Name Age

Rufus Skeerue 44

Melvina Skeerue 25



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**Notes:**

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George Skeerue 13  
Ernest Skeerue 10  
Milo Skeerue 8



## Individual Report for Edwin C. Adams

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**Individual Summary:** Edwin C. Adams

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Sex: Male

Father: Samuel Adams

Mother: Mary B. Fowler

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 16 Jan 1818 in Brothertown, Oneida Co., NY

Residence: 1850 in District 36, Calumet, Wisconsin, USA

Residence: 1860 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, USA

Residence: 1870 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States

Residence: 1880 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States; Age: 62; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Self

Death: 17 Aug 1888 in Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

Burial: Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

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**Shared Facts:** Lovina Mathers

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Marriage: 10 Jan 1846 in Fond du Lac Co., WI

Children: Arthur F. Adams

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**Shared Facts:** Elizabeth Shelley

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[no facts]

Children: Simeon Shelly Adams

Almira Lovina Adams

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**Shared Facts:** Avis Theresa Sampson

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Marriage: 10 Sep 1865 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI; Ceremony performed by James Kindness

Children: Susan May Adams

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes: !TRIBE: Tunxis Farmington, Connecticut

Source: "A Man Called Sampson" by Will and Rudi Ottery

Page 110-111

Edwin C. Adams was the adopted son of Samuel Adams and Mary Fowler. He

was brought up by Emeline Adams and Lothrop Dick. Early in life he was called

Edwin Edwards and Edwin Hathaway, but soon went by the name E.C. Adams.

E.C. had been twice married before his union with Avis, and he had fathered

three children, prior to the child he and Avis parented.

The Chilton Times recorded the sale of the Brothertown, Wisconsin property of Avis and E.C., and their plans to move to Minnesota. E.C. had been assigned the east 1/2 of Lot 56 and part of the west 1/2 of Lot 135 on the Brothertown Reservation. Avis had been assigned the east 1/2 of Lot 141.

Henry Clinton Johnson's property had consisted of the west 1/2 of Lot 119. Because his children were grown by the time the family moved to Minnesota,

Henry's property was probably sold for their benefit.

At that time, there was some excitement in religious circles over the imminent ending of the world. One Minnesota farmer planned to sell his farm

and pay his debts so he would be ready for that great day. This was the



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**Notes:**

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farm

Avis and E.C. left Wisconsin to purchase. When they arrived at Todd County, someone else had already purchased it. Avis and E.C. liked the locality and decided on another farm.

Source: Todd County, MN Township History written by O.B. DeLaurier for the Long Prairie newspaper in 1935. Thursday, June 27, 1935 Reynolds Township. Page 103

Edwin C. Adams came to Reynolds from Brothertown in 1881. At that time there was considerable excitement in certain religious circles over the imminent ending of the world, which was thought to be at hand. A farmer living west of Whiteville in that expectation, wished to sell his farm, pay off his debts, and be ready for the great day. Mr. Adams came from Wisconsin with the expectation of purchasing that farm; but on his arrival found he was too late and that Martin Rodman had made the purchase. Mr. Adams liked the locality and decided to look up another place, which he did, and became a resident of Todd county. Mr. Adams was 63 years old at the time of his arrival; but he lived for many years in the town. He was thrice married; but we have only the Christian names of his wives. First was Lavena, and to this union was born Arthur Adams. The second marriage was to Elizabeth, and to this union were born two children, Almira and Simeon. His third marriage was to Avis E., and to them was born one daughter, Susan. Mr. Adams died at his home in Reynolds many years ago.

Of the children of Edwin C. Adams we have personal acquaintance with only the son, Simeon, and few in this region did not know Simeon Adams. He was probably the fiercest looking man that ever dwelt in these parts; but there was never a kinder hearted, nor a more friendly man in town. He never married and probably to this he owed his kindly disposition. He passed his years working in the woods in the winter, and with railroad construction crews in the summer time. His sole ambition was to do more work in a day than any other man could accomplish. He is said to have cut five cords of maple wood in one day. His Saturday afternoons were usually devoted to conviviality. His one recreation was reading history, and in our first acquaintance with him, we won his confidence and approval by passing the test he had contrived for measuring and estimating the capabilities of school teachers. By chance we happened to be able to answer his question as to the date when Moses led the Hebrews out of their Egyptian bondage. He died at a wood cutter's cabin in Reynolds some years ago.

!DEATH:

Obituary - Newspaper - Todd County Argus - Issue Aug. 23, 1888 page 4 col 4

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**Notes:**

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DIED

At his home in Reynolds on Thursday night, August 16th, 1888, of heart disease, E.C. Adams, aged 72 years 7 months and 6 days.

The funeral was held at the house Saturday morning at ten o'clock by Rev. H. C. Klingel and the remains were buried in the Long Prairie cemetery, a large

cortege following the remains to their last resting place.

Deceased has been a resident of Todd county about seven years, having

come here from Calumet county, Wisconsin. He leaves a wife and two grown

children. His death was very sudden, he having been seemingly well as usual

up to within a few minutes of his death. The doctor was sitting by him trying to find his pulse and talking with him when he gasped and was dead.

Source: Records Relating to the Kansas Claims of the New York Indians application #2226, filed by his daughter Almira Lovina Adams, on November 22, 1901. Almira's residence at that time was, 1330 South 14th Street, Denver, Arapahoe Co., Colorado. She was not married.

Source: Records Relating to the Kansas Claims of the New York Indians application #2106 filed by Simeon Shelley Adams on November 11, 1901.

His address is Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN. He lists his father's birth date as January 16, 1818.

Edwin C. Adams received East 1/2 Lot #56 at Brothertown, WI. and West 1/2 of

Lot #135 and Avis Theresa Sampson drew East 1/2 of Lot #141.

Marriage record of Edward C. Adams and Avis Johnson are at Calumet County

Courthouse, Chilton, WI Vol 1 Page 102.

W. DeLoss Love's Book "Samson Occom and the Christian Indians of New England"

ADAMS, ADAM, --- Tunxis tribe, Farmington, Conn. A Quinnipiac Indian, nicknamed "Adam" of East Haven, "bought of a squaw" land at Farmington, which

he divided Nov. 3, 1756, between his sons, John and Samuel Adam. He signed as

"John Adam," but Oct. 10, 1776, he is "Thomas Adams late deceased." He was

the head man of the Quinnipiac Indians who exchanged rights at New Haven for

lands at Farmington, removed thither and were adopted by the Tunxis tribe. In

1770 he was aged and infirm and soon after died.

John Adams (Adam). New Haven, 1756, and of age, married Sarah --- and

moved to Farmington. He was a councilor and landowner: a soldier in the French wars and the Revolution; was at Stockbridge, Mass.; and a founder of

Brothertown, where he soon died. Chn: I. John, b. 1755. II. Sarah, m. Abraham Simons. III. Simeon IV. Samuel.

John Adams (John, Adam) was an early settler at Brothertown, where he received lot 126 in 1795. He married later "Widow Sarah Davies," born in 1748, owner of lot 6, and died before 1804, without issue. His lot was then assigned to Eliphalet Adams (Marthers), subject to the dower of Widow



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**Notes:**

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Sarah.

Simeon Adams (John, Adam) was a soldier in Capt. Elisha Lee's company in 1776. He moved to Brothertown before 1799, and had lots 99 and 124 in 1804.

He died about 1829, his heirs being his brother Samuel's children.

Samuel Adams (John, Adam) married Mary, daughter of David Fowler, and settled at Brothertown. He had been a soldier in the Revolution, enlisted in the War of 1812, and was killed at Black Rock. She was living at Brothertown

in 1817. Chn: I. Thankful, m. Stevens. II. John, who with his wife Sally removed to Wisconsin in 1832, and died at Dickenson's Mills. III. Simeon, who m. Rebecca Abner, moved to Wisconsin and died there. IV. Hannah, m.

Solomon Paul. V. Emeline, m. Lothrop Dick. Edwin C. Adams, alias Edwin Edwards or Edward Hathaway, an orphan, was brought up in this family. He m.

Lovina Matthews, and moved to Brothertown, Wis. Their son Arthur Adams, was

in Co. G, 36th Wis. Vols., and died in Andersonville prison Sept. 2, 1864.

Samuel Adams(Adam) was born in 1734, and married Hannah Squamp of the

Wangunk tribe, by whom he had rights in the Mattabesett lands at Middletown,

Conn. Both were well educated. He was a soldier in Capt. John Patterson's

company in 1756, and in Capt. Timothy Northam's company, 1st Regt. N.Y. troops, in 1762. He was a councilor and landowner at Farmington; an early settler at Brothertown; was driven out by the war, and went to Hancock, Mass.

He returned to Brothertown and in 1795 received lot 7, where he had built his

first hut. He died about 1800. Chn: Solomon and perhaps others.

Solomon Adams (Samuel, Adam) received part of lot 52 at Farmington from

his father, March 21, 1782. He married Olive, daughter of Rev. Samson Occom,

was a soldier in the Revolution, and died about 1783. His widow held " a part

of the 5th lot west of the Indian tract and the house thereon," whence she afterwards emigrated to eastern New York. Chn: I. Philena, m. (1) James Waucus, (2) Thomas Crosley. II Damaris, m. Jacob Thomas. III. Ellen, New

Marlboro, Mass. These sold their father's rights at Farmington in 1801.

Probably also there was a son David, who received lot 134 at Brothertown in

1797, and died without issue.

**!FEDERAL CENSUS:**

1850 - Wisconsin - Calumet County, District No. 36

Line 71 Edwin Adams age 33 male farmer Land worth \$286 born in New York

Arthur 3 male born in Wisconsin

1860 - Wisconsin - Calumet Co., Brothertown

Line 61

Edwin Adams age 42 Indian \$1000 \$400 born in New York

Eliza 30 Indian born in New York

Arthur 13

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**Notes:**

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Simon 6  
Almira 4

1870 - Wisconsin - Calumet Co., P.O. New Holstein Page 185A  
Line 289/295

Adams, Edwin Indian age 52 born in NY

Avis age 38 born in NY

Johnson, Ansel Indian age 18, born in WI

Miles age 15 born in WI

Mercy age 14 born in WI

Henry age 9 born in WI

Adams, Susan age 2 born in WI

Simeon age 16 born in WI

Almira age 14 born in WI

1880 United States Federal Census

about C. Edwin Adams Name: C. Edwin Adams

Home in 1880: Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin

Age: 62

Estimated birth year: abt 1818

Birthplace: New York

Relation to Head of Household: Self (Head)

Spouse's name: T. Avis Adams

Father's birthplace: New York

Mother's birthplace: New York

Neighbors: View others on page

Occupation: Farm

Marital Status: Married

Race: Indian (Native American)

Gender: Male

Household Members: Name Age

C. Edwin Adams 62

T. Avis Adams 48

S. Simeon Adams 26

M. Susan Adams 11



## Individual Report for Avis Theresa Sampson

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**Individual Summary:**      **Avis Theresa Sampson**

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Sex: Female

Father: David Sampson

Mother: Olive Waucus

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 02 May 1829 in Brothertown, Oneida Co., NY

Residence: 1850 in District 36, Calumet, Wisconsin

Residence: 1860 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States

Residence: 1870 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States

Residence: 1880 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States; Age: 48; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Wife

Residence: 1895 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA

Residence: 1900 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Marital Status: Widowed; Relation to Head of House: Head

Death: 30 Sep 1906 in Long Prairie, Reynolds Twp., Todd Co., MN; Burial Evergreen Cemetery, Long prairie, Todd Co., MN

Avis Theresa Sampson Ada 30 Sep 1906 in Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota, USA

Burial: Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

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**Shared Facts:**      **Henry Clinton Johnson**

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Marriage: 01 Apr 1851 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI

Children: Ancel Avery Johnson

Miles Marcellus Johnson

Mercy L. Johnson

Winfield Henry Clinton Johnston

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**Shared Facts:**      **Edwin C. Adams**

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Marriage: 10 Sep 1865 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI; Ceremony performed by James Kindness

Children: Susan May Adams

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes:    !TRIBE: Pequot, Groton, CT  
Native American Algonquian  
Love, William De Loss. SAMSON OCCOM AND THE CHRISTIAN INDIANS  
OF NEW ENGLAND.  
1899 (BYU 970.62 L94s) (FHL 970.1 L947g)

!FEDERAL CENSUS:

1850 - Brothertown, Calumet Co., Wisconsin Line 14:

Avis Sampson, age 20, F., Born in NY., also listed Avery L. Sampson age 22,

born in NY., and Henrietta, age 23, born in NY, and Henry Johnson, age 29, M.

born in NY.

1880 - Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin

Family History Library Film 1255418

NA Film Number T9-1418

Page Number 20C

T. Avis ADAMS Wife M Female NA 48 NY Keep House NY NY

S. Simeon ADAMS Son S Male NA 26 WI Labor NY NY

M. Susan ADAMS Dau S Female NA 11 WI School NY NY

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**Notes:**

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**!BIRTH:**

Henry Johnson's Civil War Pension file  
1860 Census for Calumet Co., Wisconsin gives her age as 28  
1901 Rolls of Brothertown Indians.

**!MARRIAGE:**

Marriage Certificate from Calumet Co., Wisconsin, Copy of in Civil War Pension File for Henry Johnson  
Henry Johnson's Civil War Pension File also gives information on her marriage to Edwin Adams.

**!DEATH:**

Henry Johnson's Civil War Pension File states Avis Adams was dropped from pension roll Nov 1906. She received her last payment, July 1906.  
Henry Johnson's Civil War Pension File

Obituary - Newspaper - Todd County Argus - Issue Oct4, 1906 Page 1 Col 6

**CALLED TO HER LONG HOME**

Mrs, Avis Adams Passes Away at a Ripe Old Age

Mrs. E.C. Adams passed away Sunday evening about six o'clock at her home in Reynolds township after a short illness. A week ago Monday she suffered a paralytic stroke and never rallied. Her old age being against her recovery.

The funeral was held yesterday noon at the White church in Reynolds and J.F. Woodward preached the funeral sermon. A large number of friends were present. The remains were interred in the local cemetery.

Avis Theresa Sampson was born in 1827 in Oneida County, New York, state, and at the age of nineteen years she moved to Wisconsin in the same year that state was admitted to the Union. She resided in that state for many years and was married to a Mr. Johnson, who died some years later. She married again and her second husband's name was Adams. They came to Todd county 26 years ago and settled on a farm in Reynolds, where he died some years ago.

Deceased leaves five children. They are M.M. Johnson, of Round Prairie, Mrs. Louis Fowler, of Reynolds, Ansel Johnson, who is in the asylum, and Henry C. Johnson, of Livingston, Montana, and Mrs. Susan Wynn, also of Reynolds. The first four are by her first husband.

Deceased was a kind hearted woman and a good mother. She was a devoted Christian and devoted her life for the good cause. The family have the sympathy of all the community in their loss.



## Individual Report for Orrin G. Johnson

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**Individual Summary:** Orrin G. Johnson

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Sex: Male

Father: William Johnson

Mother: Charlotte Skeesuck

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 12 Jan 1822 in Brothertown, Oneida Co., NY  
Residence: 1860 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States  
Residence: 1860 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States  
Residence: 1870 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States  
Residence: 1870 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States  
Residence: 1880 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, United States  
Residence: 1880 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, United States  
Residence: 1880 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, United States  
Death: 16 Jul 1884 in Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN  
Burial: Evergreen Cem., Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

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**Shared Facts:** Mary Crowell

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Marriage: 11 Mar 1854 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI  
Children: Horenzo Johnson  
William Johnson  
\* Wealthy Jane Johnson  
Amasa Johnson  
Amasa Rolette Johnson  
Hoel Emerson Johnson  
Maie Luane Johnson  
Elmore Delano Johnson  
Marshall Johnson  
Avery Johnson  
Hulda Johnson

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**Shared Facts:** Wealthy J. Fowler

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Marriage: 28 May 1848 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI  
Children: Orsil Johnson

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes:

!TRIBE: Mohegan, Mohegan, Ct  
NATIVE AMERICAN ALGONGUIAN -  
Love, William De Loss. SAMSON OCCOM AND THE CHRISTIAN INDIANS  
OF NEW ENGLAND.  
1899 (BYU 970.62 L94s) (FHL 970.1 L947g)

NOTES:

Page 350, Samson Occom book.  
"William Johnson (1 John) married Charlotte Skeesuck, and they removed  
to  
Wisconsin in 1832 where they died. Chn.: I. Esther, b. Nov. 10. 1813, m.  
John  
CrosleyHammar. II. Nancy, m. Jonathan Schooner. III. William, m. (1)  
Charlotte  
Wiggins (2) Mandy Dick. IV. Orrin G. V. Elsiha. VI. Abigail, m. George  
Skeesuck. VII. Huldah.  
page 351, Samson Occom book.  
"Orrin G. Johnson (2 William, 1 John) married (1) Wealthy  
J. Fowler, who died Aug. 6, 1849, ae. 22; (2) Mary, daughter of Peter

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**Notes:**

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Crowell.

He was a lay preacher, removed to Minnesota, and died there in 1880, age 65. Amasa, Horenzo, Orsil and Maie, his children, all died young.

Source:

Pioneering the Upper Midwest: Books from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ca. 1820-1910

Thirty years in the itinerancy, by Rev. W.G. Miller, D.D.

Miller, Wesson Gage, 1822-1894.

CREATED/PUBLISHED

Milwaukee, I.L. Hauser & co., 1875.

CHAPTER III. Exhorter in Charge.--The First Sabbath.--The Superb Singing--Class and Prayer Meetings.--A Revival--Stockbridge Counted In.--A Remonstrance.--Another Exhorter Found.--Decide to Hold a Great Meeting.--The Loaves and Fishes in the Lad's Basket too Few.--Chief Chicks.--Conversion of a Noted Character.--Quarterly Meeting at Fond du Lac.--Licensed to Preach.--Camp Meeting at Clason's Prairie.--Camp Meeting at Brothertown.--Church Enterprise.--Missionary Merchant.--Logging Bee.--Successive Labors.

My first Sabbath, April 4, 1845, as "Exhorter in Charge," gave me an opportunity to take the measure of my new field of labor. The chapel, as before stated, was constructed of logs. These were hewn on both sides, thus giving a smooth appearance both within and without. The logs were halved together at the ends, and filled between with small pieces of wood laid in mortar, and, on the whole, the chapel made a very respectable appearance. It contained rude seats that would accommodate about one hundred and fifty persons, and furnished standing room in addition for one hundred more.

On the advent of the young "Elder," for it was their custom to call all ministers by that name, the chapel was packed to its utmost capacity. Opening the services with great perturbation of spirit in the presence of so vast a crowd, I proceeded with difficulty until the people arose to sing. Instantly I was at ease. I was not a stranger to good singing, for my surroundings had always been fortunate in this particular, but, I am free to say, that, up to that hour, my ears had never been so thrilled by Christian melody. The tones were not as mellow as those of the African, but they were more deep and thrilling. Inclined rather to a high key, and disposed to be sharp and piercing, yet the voices of the vast congregation swept through every note of the gamut with equal freedom. I was thoroughly entranced. And, on coming to myself, I found my perturbation had left me and my soul was on a plane with the responsibilities of the hour.

At the close of the public services, a class meeting was held under the charge of Father Abner, the leader. This brother was a man of age and experience, well adapted to his position, and universally beloved. The meeting was conducted in the usual manner, and was an occasion of spiritual refreshing. The testimonies were direct and touchingly simple, usually accompanied with weeping, and sometimes with the shout of triumph. The singing, however, was the principal feature, both in quantity and quality, for this highly susceptible people had given this part of the services, in all their meetings, a leading place. Among the most noted leading voices were those of mine host, Alonzo D. Dick, Jeremiah Johnson, Orrin Johnson, and Thomas Cummock. My labors were now fairly opened, and I soon found abundant opportunities for usefulness. The regular meetings at the chapel were supplimented by others, principally prayer



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Notes:

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meetings, in the more remote parts of the town. These meetings were held on the week-day evenings, and in a short time became occasions of great interest. I attended them usually, and found every evening thus employed when not engaged at the chapel. In these excursions through the settlement. I was almost always accompanied by one, or all of the above named brethren, to lead the singing, as I found myself, though belonging to a singing family for three generations, unable to lead in this branch of the service. And in addition to these, I was also favored with the company of a young man of great worth and precious memory. I refer to Lewis Fowler, an Exhorter of great promise, but who soon after fell under the withering touch of consumption, and passed on to the better land.

!MARRIAGE:

Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI., Fond du Lac Co.  
Wisconsin Marriages, pre-1907  
about Orrin Johnson  
Name: Orrin Johnson  
Marriage Date: 28 May 1848  
County: Fond Du Lac  
Volume: 01  
Page: 0040

Source: Records Relating to the Kansas Claims of the New York Indians application #2921, filed by Albert P. Madison for James Madison, his son. Filed on November 27, 1901, his address at that time was Reynolds, Todd Co., MN. "My grandfather Orrin Johnson drew the East 1/2 of Lot212 at Brothertown, Wisconsin. My father was a white man and my mother was not born at the time of drawing of land at Brothertown, Wisconsin." His claim was accepted.

!FEDERAL CENSUS:

1850 - Wisconsin - Calumet County, Dist #36 Line 20  
Orrin G. Johnson age 27 born in New York farmer Real Estate worth \$600

1860 - Wisconsin - Calumet County, Brothertown Line 25  
Orin Johnson age 38 male Indian farmer Real Estate \$800 Personal \$200  
born in New York

Mary	24 female Indian	born in Wisconsin
William	4 male Indian	born in Wisconsin
Elisha	33 male Indian	born in New York

1870 - Wisconsin - Calumet County, Brothertown Line 226  
Johnson, Orin age 48 farmer owns 2600 Real Estate and 540 Personal  
born NY

Maria	36	born WI
Wealthy	14	
Amasie	10	
Hoel	7	
Elmore	2	

Skeesuck, James 73 Indian born NY

1880 -

Census Place Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota  
Family History Library Film 1254635  
NA Film Number T9-0635  
Page Number 311D

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**Notes:**

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Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
Orin JOHNSON	Self	M	Male	W	57	NY	Farmer	RI	RI
Mary JOHNSON	Wife	M	Female	W	43	WI	Housekeeper	VA	RI
Amasa JOHNSON	Son	S	Male	W	18	WI	Works On Farm	---	---
Hoel JOHNSON	Son	S	Male	W	17	WI	Works On Farm	---	---
Elmore JOHNSON	Son	S	Male	W	14	WI	Attends School	---	---
Marshall JOHNSON	Son	S	Male	W	7	WI	Attends School	---	---
Avery JOHNSON	Son	S	Male	W	4	WI	---	---	---

**!DEATH:**

Union Cemetery, Brothertown, Calumet County, WI - The following is on one

tombstone:

Children of O G & W J & M Johnson

Orsil died Sept. 12, 18?? / aged 4 months

Horenzo died Mar 11, 1855 / aged 2 months

Amasa died June 16, 1858/ aged 1 year 4 months

Another Tombstone:

Maie I. dau of O G & M Johnson died April 17, 1867 / aged 1 year

**ACTS OF FORTY-FIFTH CONGRESS SECOND SESSION, 1878.****Chapter 63**

April 20, 1878. | 20 Stat., 513.

An act to authorize the issue of a patent of certain lands in the Brothertown reservation in the State of Wisconsin, to the persons selected by the Brothertown Indians.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Commissioner of the General Land Office be, and he is hereby, authorized to give full title to the Brothertown Indians of all the township of land, containing twenty-three thousand and forty acres of land lying on the east side of Winnebago Lake, in the State of Wisconsin, which, by the provision of a treaty made with the Menomonee Indians, on the seventeenth day of February, eighteen hundred and thirty-one, and ratified on the ninth day of July eighteen hundred and thirty-two, was reserved for the use of the Brothertown Indians, and

{Page 174}

which, by a subsequent treaty with the Menomonees, bearing date October twenty-seventh, eighteen hundred and thirty-two, and ratified the thirteenth day of March, eighteen hundred and thirty-three, was further secured to the Brothertown Indians, the right to have the same partitioned, divided and held by them separately and severally in fee simple.

**SEC. 2**

That for such purpose, the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby fully directed, empowered, and authorized to make and issue a patent of all the lands contained in said township which are now unpatented to Laton Dick, senior, Lucius S. Fowler, David Fowler, and Orrin G. Johnson, residents of Brothertown, Calumet County, and State of Wisconsin, and members of the Brothertown tribe, in trust for the Brothertown Indians: Provided, however, That said lands, or any part thereof, shall be sold by said trustees whenever a majority of said Brothertown tribe shall petition for the same: a such sale to be made at public auction and to the highest and best bidder in cash therefor, after first



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**Notes:**

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giving sixty days' notice of such sale by advertisement in some newspaper published in Calumet County, State of Wisconsin; such advertisement to state the time and place of sale, the terms of sale, and a description of the land to be sold. And the said trustees shall distribute and pay over the proceeds arising from such sale or sales to the Brothertown Indians, according to the former usages, customs, and regulations of said tribe.

Trustees filed petition of March 23, 1879, in General Land Office for patent for said lands.

Approved, April 20, 1878.

Source: Todd County, MN Township History written by O.B. DeLaurier for the Long Prairie newspaper in 1935. Issue: Thursday, June 27, 1935  
Reynolds  
Township  
Page 103

Orrin G. Johnson, brother of William, came about 1880, possibly a little later. He was born in New York and moved with the others to Wisconsin, and after the Civil War made the move to Reynolds. Some years ago he passed away at his home in Reynolds. On March 11, 1854, he married Miss Mary Crowell and to them were born six children as follows: Wealthy, Amasa, Hoel E., Avery, Elmer and Marcie. Of these children, Wealthy married Albert P. Madison after the death of his first wife, and died shortly afterward. Amasa lived at Long Prairie and Reynolds for many years and is still a resident of the county. Hoel E. (Hode to all the ball players of other days), farmed for years in Reynolds, moved to Long Prairie village and later to Swanville, where he met death in an automobile accident. Avery worked on the Reynolds farm for years and later moved to Long Prairie village where he died about 20 years ago. Elmer was a farmer and operated a sawmill and threshing machine successfully. He married Miss Minnie Hoadley in 1895 and to them were born three children. He died from a sudden attack of appendicitis, March 26, 1905. Marcie we are unable to trace.

**!DEATH:**

Chilton Times Journal - Microfilm at Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI

Fil #P69-1328 July 28, 1884

Brothertown Column:

News was received here that Orrin Johnson died at his home in Minn. Mr. Johnson was one of the early settlers of this town and resided here until almost four years ago when he moved to Minnesota.



Mary Crowell, wife of Orrin G. Johnson

Wealthy Jane Johnson Madison,  
daughter of Orrin G. Johnson

**!DEATH:**  
 Obituary - Newspaper - Todd County Argus - Issue Feb 13, 1896 Page 3  
 Col 3  
 At Asbury Hospital, Minneapolis, Friday, Feb. 7th, 1896, Wealthy J., wife of  
 A.P. Madison, aged 40 years.  
 The remains arrived here Saturday evening and the funeral was held in  
 the  
 M.E. church Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, Rev. J.F. Locke officiating  
 and  
 the interment made in the cemetery here.  
 Deceased was taken sick in September, the trouble being an internal  
 tumor, and as a last hope she was taken to the hospital to undergo an  
 operation. She was unable to stand the operation and passed away after  
 the  
 preliminaries to the operation had been preformed. When she was married  
 to  
 Mr. Madison sixteen years ago she was a widow with one daughter, who is  
 married now. Two children were born of the second marriage, the younger  
 being  
 about two years of age, who are left with the husband and several brothers  
 to  
 mourn her death.  
 Mr. Madison has had his full share of grief, as he has followed two  
 companions to the grave beside two sons, and when the train arrived  
 Saturday,  
 bearing the remains, a large crowd met him at the depot to extend help and  
 sympathy.





## Individual Report for Miles Marcellus Johnson

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**Individual Summary:** Miles Marcellus Johnson

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Sex: Male

Father: Henry Clinton Johnson

Mother: Avis Theresa Sampson

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 05 Dec 1854 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI  
Residence: 1860 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States; Age: 5  
Residence: 1870 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States; Age: 15; Census Post Office: New Holstein  
Residence: 1880 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States; Age: 24; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Self  
Residence: 1900 in Little Sauk, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Age: 44; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head  
Residence: 1910 in Round Prairie, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Age: 54; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head  
Residence: 1920 in Round Prairie, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Age: 64; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head  
Residence: 1930 in Round Prairie, Todd, Minnesota; Age: 74; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head  
Residence: 1935 in Rural, Todd, Minnesota  
Residence: 01 Apr 1940 in Little Sauk, Todd, Minnesota, United States; Age: 84; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head  
Death: 07 May 1945 in Little Sauk, Todd Co., MN; Age: 59  
Burial: Evergreen Cem., Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

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**Shared Facts:** Lisetta Fowler

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Marriage: Bef. 1879 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI  
Children: Ethel May Johnson

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**Shared Facts:** Celia Ann Baker

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Marriage: 05 Apr 1887 in Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN  
Children: Claude Johnson  
Lloyd Johnson  
Mabel Johnson  
Herbert Johnson  
Freeland Clinton Johnson

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes:

!TRIBE: Mohegan, Mohegan, CT  
Native American Algonquian  
Love, William De Loss. Samson Occom and the Christian Indians of New England.  
Massachusetts: Pilgrim Press, 1899 (BYU 970.62 L94s) (FHL 970.1 L941g?)

!BIRTH:  
Birth and Marriage information from census, 1860 and 1880 of Brothertown, Calumet County, Wisconsin and 1895 and 1900 Census of Staples, Todd County, Minnesota. Military Pension Records of father, book " Sampson Occom and the Christian Indians of New England", Death certificate of Ethel May (all in possession of Audrey Andrus)

!MARRIAGE:  
Marriage to Celey A. Backer: Certificate from Minnesota, Married by Justice

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**Notes:**

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of Peace, April 5th, 1887. 1900 Census for Little Saub, Todd Co.,  
Minnesota  
states they have been married 13 years.

Newspaper - Todd County Argus - Issue April 7, 1887 Page 6 Col 3  
MARRIED

At the parlors of the American House, Long Prairie, by Justice J. H. Cates,  
on Tuesday, April 5th, 1897, Mr. Miles M. Johnson to Miss Celey A. Backer,  
all  
of Todd County.

!FEDERAL CENSUS:

1860, Brothertown, Calumet Co., Wisconsin, 5 yr. old Milas in household of  
Henry  
and Avis Johnson

1880 - Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin  
Family History Library Film 1255418  
NA Film Number T9-1418  
Page Number 20C  
Household:

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Miles M. JOHNSON	Self	M	Male	NA	24	WI	Farm NY NY
Lisetta JOHNSON	Wife	M	Female	NA	26	WI	Keep House NY NY
Ethel JOHNSON	Dau	S	Female	NA	8M	WI	WI WI

1900 - Minnesota - Little Saub Township, Todd Co. Sup 6 ED 195 Sheet 1  
Johnson, Miles M. born Dec 1855 age 44 born in WI Father b. NY Mother b.  
NY

Celia, wife born March 1867 age 33 in Ohio Father b. Ohio Mother  
Ohio

Claude, son, born Feb 1887 age 12 in MN Father b. WI Mother b.  
Ohio

Lloyd, son, born Dec 1889 age 10  
Mable, dau, born June 1892 age 7  
Herb, son, born March 1898 age 3

1910 - Minnesota - Round Prairie, Todd Co. Sup 6 ED 183 Sheet 3 Line 45  
Johnson, Miles M. age 54 born in WI Father b. NY Mother b. NY

Celia	44	Ohio	Oho	Ohio
Claude	22	MN		
Lloyd	20			
Mable	17			
Herbert	13			

1920 - Minnesota - Round Prairie, Todd Co. Sup 6 ED 239 Sheet 3a Line  
74

Johnson, Miles M. age 64 born in WI Father b. NY Mother b. NY

Celia A.	54	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Lloyd	30	MN		

Beatrice Robinson granddaughter age 11 1/2 born MN Father born MN  
mother born CA

1930 United States Federal Census

about Miles M Johnson  
Name: Miles M Johnson  
Gender: Male



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**Notes:**

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Birth Year: abt 1856  
Birthplace: Wisconsin  
Race: White  
Home in 1930: Round Prairie, Todd, Minnesota  
[View Map](#)  
Marital Status: Married  
Relation to Head of House: Head  
Spouse's Name: Celia A Johnson  
Father's Birthplace: New York  
Mother's Birthplace: New York  
Occupation:

Education:

Military Service:

Rent/home value:

Age at first marriage:

Parents' birthplace: [View image](#)  
Neighbors: [View others on page](#)  
Household Members: [Name](#) [Age](#)  
Miles M Johnson 74  
Celia A Johnson 66

Source: Chilton Times Journal - Microfilm Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI #P68-915 Issue August 10, 1881 Brothertown Column:  
Miles M. Johnson lately returned from a few months sojourn in Nebraska,  
and from his description of the country we should judge he was not in love with it.

Issue November 9, 1881 Brothertown Column:

Quite a ripple of excitement was raised here last week, by the departure of Miles M. Johnson for Minnesota, and at the same time, without any noticeable preparation or even bidding her friends good by, Miss Mary Skeesuck took the same train.

Source: Todd County, Township History written by O.B. DeLaurier for the Long Prairie newspaper in 1935. Thursday, June 6, 1935 Reynolds Township Page 100

---Miles M. Johnson was born at Brothertown, Wis. on December 5, 1855 and was seven years old when the tidings came of his father's death. He has related to the writer the story of his going with his mother to the post office, two miles distant, to see if there might be any letter from his father, and the only letter was one telling them that the soldier was dead.

Mrs. Johnson subsequently married Edwin C. Adams, and the Johnson and

Adams children all came to Todd county with the family in 1881.

In Minnesota, Miles M. found employment superintending the wood railroad tie business for George Maynard, who was then carrying on a very active trade at Clotho. He continued with Mr. Maynard for seven years, until Mr. Maynard

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**Notes:**

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disposed of the business. Miles then settled on a farm which he had purchased in Little Sauk. Some years later he sold this farm and bought a farm in Round Prairie, where he lived until recently, when he took up residence at Little Sauk Station. April 5, 1887, he married Miss Cecilia A. Baker, whose father had settled in Leslie, and to this union has been born five children as follows: Claude, Lloyd, Mabel, Herbert, now dead, and Frieland, now dead. Lloyd is an invalid as the result of his service in the World War. Mabel is now Mrs. Charles Aldrich, a Little Sauk merchant. Claude is engaged in farming.

Thursday, November 12, 1942 Long Prairie and Round Prairie  
Pages 411 and 412

For some years there resided in Round Prairie, Miles M. Johnson, who was born at Brothertown, Wis. Brothertown was settled originally by a band of New York Indians, a group who were ever friendly to the whites and who sided with the Americans in the Revolutionary war. When the Revolutionary war closed, a large group of Indians were granted a tract of land in Wisconsin. This group was intensely loyal during the Civil War. A township was organized where they settled in Wisconsin, called Brothertown. When the president called for men to put down the rebellion, practically the whole male population of Brothertown enlisted in the 21st Wisconsin Infantry. At the Battle of Perryville, this regiment was practically annihilated. Miles M. Johnson's father was one of those who lost his life in this battle. There was a saying in Wisconsin that there was a widow in every home in Brothertown.

In the early seventies, a part of this Brothertown community moved to Todd County and Miles M., who came in 1881, was one of the younger ones. He could remember when his father went away to war. In 1881 he came to Minnesota and to the vicinity of others who came a few years earlier.

He was born at Brothertown, Wis., December 5, 1855, a son of Henry G. and Mercy Johnson. In Todd county he soon found employment with George W. Maynard, then the storekeeper at Clotho, and who for some years carried on a thriving business, buying logs, cordwood and wild game for shipment. Soon he bought a farm for himself in the Town of Reynolds, but continued to work for Mr. Maynard who found him a valuable employee. However, in 1889 he went on his own farm in the Town of Little Sauk. Selling this, he bought the C.S. Hamlin farm in Section 17, Round Prairie. This was one of the historic spots in the town; Charles S. Hamlin settled on it soon after the Sioux uprising was put down.

For something like a quarter of a century, Miles M. operated this farm. Finally retiring, he moved to Little Sauk station where he now resides. He has shown himself to be a useful citizen.

!DEATH:



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**Notes:**

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Obituary - Long Prairie Leader - Issue May 17, 1945 page 9 col. 1  
RITES CONDUCTED FOR MILES JOHNSON  
Aged Little Sauk Resident is Laid to Rest Thursday.

Long Time Resident of County Died at Home of His Son.

Funeral services were conducted last Thursday afternoon at Calvary Lutheran church in Little Sauk for Miles Johnson, mention of whose death was made in The Leader last week, Rev. Neilson of Nelson, officiated and interment was made in Evergreen cemetery in this village, beside Mr. Johnson's wife, with Harry Johnson, Ralph Thompson, James Curtis, Ernest Mills, George Johnson and Philip DeLong as pallbearers.

Miles M. Johnson or "Deed" Johnson, as he was better known to a host of friends, was born Dec. 5, 1855 near Oshkosh, Wis., son of Henry and Avis Johnson. His father was killed in the Civil war in 1862, leaving his wife, three sons and a daughter. Mrs. Johnson married again and in 1880 the family moved to a farm which they purchased near Clotho.

On April 5, 1887, Mr. Johnson was married to Celia Anne Baker in Long Prairie. They started housekeeping in Little Sauk and after a year moved back to Clotho, where they made their home for the next two years. They then returned to Mr. Johnson's farm in Little Sauk, later known as the Ahlstrand farm, where they resided until 1900. Mr. Johnson then purchased a farm in Round Prairie, where they made their home for the next 30 years.

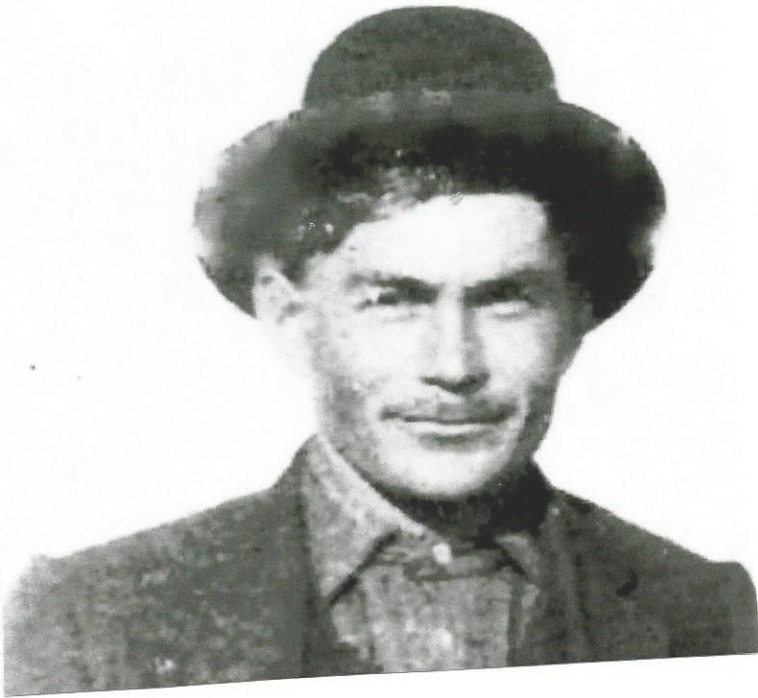
In 1930 they moved to Little Sauk, where Mr. Johnson maintained his home until his death. His health had been failing since the death of his wife a year ago. Until that time he had always been active in public affairs. He was pathmaster in Little Sauk for many years and many of the roads in that community are a tribute to his ability. Besides doing road work, he did his own farming until about 12 years ago, when he retired. He was clerk in School Dist. 40 and 116 for a number of years and also served on the town board for some time.

Mr. Johnson loved the outdoors. Up until a few years ago, he used to bring home a deer every season and since his retirement spent much time fishing.

About seven weeks ago Mr. Johnson made a trip to Wadena to visit his daughter, Mrs. Aldrich, seriously ill in the hospital there. He returned home and the week following Easter became ill and was taken to the home of his son Claude Johnson, near Grey Eagle, where as stated he passed away on May 7.

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Charles Aldrich of Verndale, who is ill and was unable to attend the last rites; Claude Johnson of Grey Eagle, and Lloyd Johnson of Forreton; 17 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. His wife preceded him in death on April 24, 1944, and two sons also preceded him. Herbert, on July 2, 1929 and Freeland, on Oct. 6, 1908.

Mr. Johnson was a member of Calvary Lutheran church of Little Sauk. The last few years he spent much time reading his bible, in which he found great comfort. He will long be remembered by many friends as a good neighbor.



**Miles Marcellous Johnson**



**Miles Marcellous Johnson, wife Celia Ann Baker  
and family**



## Individual Report for Laton Dick Johnson

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**Individual Summary:** Laton Dick Johnson

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Sex: Male

Father: William Johnson

Mother: Amanda Dick

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 08 Feb 1858 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI

Residence: 1900 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Residence: 07 Jun 1905 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA

Residence: 1910 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Residence: 1920 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota

Death: 14 Jun 1932 in Gordon Twp., Todd Co., MN

Burial: Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

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**Shared Facts:** Fredricke C Pemberton

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Marriage: 1886

Children: Archie Alexander Johnson  
Philip Johnson  
Jesse Jerome Johnson

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**Shared Facts:** Emma Jane Allee

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Marriage: 20 Jan 1883 in Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

Children: [no children with Emma Jane Allee]

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**Shared Facts:** Eveline Smith

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Marriage: 21 Jul 1900 in Todd County, MN

Children: Harry W. Johnson  
Acie Lavenis Johnson  
Theresa M. Johnson  
Rolland Johnson  
Gordon Hugh Johnson

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes: !BIRTH:

Source: Records Relating to the Kansas Claims of the New York Indians, application #1538, filed by Laton Dick Johnson on November 8, 1901. His address at that time was Town of Reynolds, Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN. His wife was a white woman.

!DEATH:

Gordon Twp., Todd Co., MN District Court Records. Date of Death - June 14, 1932, male, white, married, father William Johnson. Mother unknown. Date of birth, Feb. 8, 1856. Death Certificate #15172. Died of Myocarditis. Record also at Todd County Courthouse, which also lists birth as Feb. 8, 1856. Age at time of death 76 years 4 months and 6 days.

Obituary - Newspaper - Long Prairie Leader - Issue June 16, 1932 Page 7 Col 2

REYNOLDS PIONEER IS CALLED TUESDAY

Laton Johnson, Who Came To This County in 1876, Died at Home of Son

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**Notes:**

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in Gordon

Funeral Services Will Be Conducted This Afternoon at Methodist Church in Long Prairie

Laton Johnson, since 1876 a resident of Reynolds township, died on Tuesday at the hom of his son, Jess Johnson, in Gordon township, following a six day illness. Death was due to heart disease. Mr. Johnson was one of the pioneers of this county and came herewhen there were but few residents.

Born in Brotherton, Wisconsin, February 8, 1856, Laton Dick Johnson was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson. At the age of 21 he came to Minnesota directly to the central part of this state and bought a tract of land in Reynolds township. At the time he came here there were but few business places and residences in Long Prairie. When the Great Northern extended its line to long Prairie and North of here, Mr. Johnson was one of the pioneers who assisted in the construction work.

Mr. Johnson was married to Aricka Pemberton, who passed away in 1897. In 1900 he was married to Evelyn Smith, at Long Prairie, who with the following

children survive: Jess Johnson, of Gordon township; Harry and Acie of Minneapolis; Roland and Gordon, of Reynolds; and one daughter, Mrs. Oscar Schlensog, of Northome. Three children preceded the father in death.

Funeral services will be conducd this (Thursday) afternoon, at one o'clock at the Methodist church, Rev. H.W. Bel officiating. Interment will be made in the Evergreen Cemetery.

**!MARRIAGE:**

Marriage record for Emma Jane Allee lists the marriage date as Jan. 20, 1883

at Long Prairie, Reynolds Township, Todd Co., MN. The witnesses were Hoel E. Johnson and Edward S. Caldwell.

Newspaper - Todd County Argus - Issue March 8, 1883 Page 4 Col 4

**MARRIED:**

On Saturday evening, Jan. 20, 1883, at the residence of Mr. Ed Caldwell,

by the Rev. J. S. Bouck, Mr. Laton Johnson to Miss Emma Allee, both of Reynolds.

Newspaper - Todd County Argus - Issue July 26, 1900 Page 8 Col 3

Laton Johnson, of Reynolds, and Miss Eveline Smith, of this place, were married Saturday afternoon at four o'clock at the home of the bride's parents,

Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Smith, in this plce, Justice G.W. Mapes officiating. The newly married couple will go to housekeeping at once on the groom's farm in Reynolds township.

**!FEDERAL CENSUS:**

1900 - Minnesota - Reynolds Township, Todd Co. Sup 6 ED 198 Sheet 1  
Johnson, Laton D. born Feb 1860 age 40 b. in WI Father b. NY Mother b. NY

Fredricka, wife, born May 1871 age 29 b. MN Father b. NY Mother Ger

Archie A., son, born Oct 1891 age 8 b. MN

Jessie J., son, born Sept. 894 age 5 b. MN

1910 - Minnesota - Reynolds Township, Todd Co. Sup 6 ED 182 Sheet 6A  
Line 87

Johnson, Laton D. age 59 b. in WI Father b. NY Mother b. NY



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**Notes:**

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Eveline age 30 b. MN Father b. NY Mother MN  
Harry W., son, age 9 b. MN  
Asa L., son, age 8  
Thressa M., dau, age 6  
Rolland L., son, age 4  
Archie A., son, age 18  
Jessie J., son, age 16

1920 - Minnesota - Reynolds Township, Todd Co. Sup 6 ED 235 Sheet 5B  
Line 75

Johnson, Layton age 60 born WI Father b. NY Mother b. NY  
Eveline 39 born MN Father b. NY Mother b. NY  
Harry W. 18 born MN  
Asa L. 17  
Theresa 16  
Roland 14  
Gordon

1930 - Minnesota - Reynolds Twp., Todd Co. ED 29 Page 6A  
111/115

Johnson, Laton age 72 Indian born WI  
Evelyn 50  
Basset, Orland 8 adopted son

## Individual Report for Lewis Franklin Fowler

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**Individual Summary:** Lewis Franklin Fowler

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Sex: Male

Father: Orrin Gridley Fowler

Mother: Ruth Skeesuck

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 25 Dec 1853 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI

Death: 09 Apr 1925 in Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

Burial: Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

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**Shared Facts:** Mercy L. Johnson

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Marriage: 03 Dec 1877 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI

Children: Sadie Maude Fowler  
Ralph Rutherford Fowler  
Arthur Winfield Fowler  
Maurice L. Fowler  
Edwin D. Fowler  
Harold C. Fowler  
Marion C. Fowler  
Elsie Pearl Fowler

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes: !FEDERAL CENSUS:  
1880 - Wisconsin- Marathon Co., Spencer Town  
Vol 15 ED 92 Sheet 13 Line 17  
Fowler, Lewis Indian Male 25 born WI  
    Mercy, wife age 23 born WI  
    Maude, daughter, 2 born WI  
    Ralph, son, 2/12 born WI

1900 - Minnesota - Todd County, Town of Reynolds Sup 6 ED198 Sheet 192

Line 16 Fowler, Lewis F. b. Dec 1853 age 46 married 22 yrs b. WI  
    father b. NY mother b. NY

    Mercy, wife, Apr 1857 age 43 b. WI father b. NY mother b. NY

    Ralph R., son, Apr 1880 age 20 b. WI

    Harold, son Sept 1888 age 11 b. WI

    Marion, son Sept 1892 age 7 b. WI

1920 - Minnesota - Todd County, Town of Reynolds Sup 6 ED 237 Sheet 5B

Line 91 Fowler Louis F. age 66 born in WI Father born NY Mother born NY

    Mercy L. Wife age 62 born in WI Father born NY Mother born NY

    Arthur Son age 37 single born in WI

    Ralph Son age 39 single born in WI

    Harold Son age 29 single born in WI

    Marion C. Son age 27 single born in WI

!DEATH:

Obituary - Newspaper - Long Prairie Leader - Issue April 16, 1925 Page 9 Col 1

LOUIS FOWLER

DIES SUDDENLY

Old Settler of Reynolds is Found Dead in Bed Thursday Morning - Had Been Ill A

Long Time

Resident of County for Oer 40 Years - Descendant of Indians Who Fed



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Notes:

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Pilgrims

Louis Fowler, one of the old residents of Reynolds Township, died at his home some time Wednesday night. He was alone at the time and was found by Henry Connor and George Kuenzel, neighbors, who had gone to the home to see him.

Mr. Fowler had been in poor health and quite seriously ill for some time past. His son, Marion, had been living with him and neighbors thought that Marion was still at home. It seems, however, that he had gone away, although just when he went is not known. Mr. Connor and Mr. Kuenzel went to the house to see how Mr. Fowler was getting along and found him dead in bed. A coroner was called and physicians who examined the body were of the opinion that he had been dead about eight hours.

The funeral was held from the Methodist church Saturday afternoon at four o'clock, Rev. Mr. Medland officiating and interment was in Evergreen cemetery.

Louis Fowler was born in Brothertown, Calumet county, Wisconsin, December 25, 1854. He was of Indian descent and belonged to the Brothertown band of Indians. He was married to Miss Mercy Johnson and in 1882 they came to Todd county, locating on their farm in Reynolds. At that time the township was but little developed and Mr. and Mrs. Fowler had literally to hew out their home in the forest. They were industrious and after many years of labor developed a nice farm home. Mrs. Fowler died about two years ago. Mr. Fowler is survived by four sons, Ralph, Arthur, Harold and Marion. Four other children have preceded him in death.

Mr. Fowler was held in high esteem by all who knew him and at various times during his residence in Reynolds his neighbors elected him to numerous head offices. He was treasurer of his school district for ten years, also served as assessor of Reynolds and several terms as supervisor. His funeral was attended by a large number of the citizens of Long Prairie and Reynolds.

The pallbearers were old neighbors, Charles Gutches, August Bliese, John Zehnle, William Reinboldt, Mike Reinboldt and W.W. Brooks.

Mr. Fowler took great pride in his Indian descent and claimed to be able to trace his family back to the Indian tribes that met the pilgrims when they landed in Massachusetts in 1620. He had numerous historical proofs as evidence of his ancestry and he often liked to tell that it was his forefathers who furnished the corn and food that kept the first settlers of Massachusetts from starving during the historic first winter after the Mayflower had delivered her passengers on the Massachusetts coast.

Members of the family in generations past had served our country in many wars from the Revolution down to the present time.

Mr. Fowler himself was a very patient man and delighted to do what he

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**Notes:**

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could to uphold his country and its institutions. To the extent of his ability he was active during the World war and assisted in all the patriotic drives.



## Individual Report for Mercy L. Johnson

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**Individual Summary:**      **Mercy L. Johnson**

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Sex: Female

Father: Henry Clinton Johnson

Mother: Avis Theresa Sampson

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 09 Apr 1857 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI

Death: 04 May 1923 in Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

Burial: Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

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**Shared Facts:**      **Lewis Franklin Fowler**

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Marriage: 03 Dec 1877 in Brothertown, Calumet Co., WI

Children: Sadie Maude Fowler  
Ralph Rutherford Fowler  
Arthur Winfield Fowler  
Maurice L. Fowler  
Edwin D. Fowler  
Harold C. Fowler  
Marion C. Fowler  
Elsie Pearl Fowler

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes:    **!DEATH:**  
Obituary - Newspaper - Long Prairie Leader - Issue May 10, 1923 Page 3  
Col 1  
**MRS. LEWIS FOWLER**  
**DIES FRIDAY MAY 4**  
Well Known Resident and Old Settler of Reynolds, Passes to the Great  
Beyond  
Came From Patriotic Family that Traces Its Roots Back to Early Colonial  
Days

Mrs. Lewis L. Fowler died at her home in the town of Reynolds Friday, May 4. Her death was due to heart failure. She had been in poor health the past six months and at times her condition had been quite serious, but of late she had appeared to be rallying and her family and friends confidently believed that she was on the road to health and strenght. She was up and around the day she died; in fact, was doing some work aroud the house when she was suddenly stricken. Death came almost instantaneously. The suddenness of it came as a great shock to her family and friends. The funeral was held Monday afternoon from the Methodist church in this village, Rev. C.H. Blake officiating, and interment was in Evergreen cemetery.

Mercy L. Johnson was born in Brothertown, Wisconsin, the daughter of Henry C. and Avis T. Johnson, April 9, 1857. She grew to young womanhood in her home community and December 3, 1877, was married to Lewis F. Fowler. They came to Minnesota and Todd county May 1, 1882. They settled on a piece of land in the town of Reynolds, which at that time was a piece of solid timber. With very few tools, implements, or other assistance they proceeded to carve

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**Notes:**

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out a home amid these hard surroundings. After long and patient effort they developed the fine farm which is their home today, and which stands as a monument not only to the industry, preserverance and thrift of Mr. Fowler, but of his faithful wife who assisted him throughout all the years.

During her lifetime Mrs. Fowler associated with the Methodist church and took an active part in all the church affairs of her home community. She was one of the dependable workers of the Whiteville church, always ready to do her share. She took the right side of all movements in her community and county that were in the interests of the public welfare, and gave what service she could toward assisting in their consummation. She was an intensely patriotic woman and during the war time was active in all public and patriotic affairs. She took a great interest in public questions and when women were granted suffrage, took pleasure in studying the problems of the day. It was a great regret to her that due to her sudden illness last fall she was denied the priviledge of casting her first vote and often referred to her regret ovr the matter.

Mrs. Fowler was the kind of neighbor who is always ready to help throughout the community in times of ickness and trouble. For over 40 years she gave generously of her time and talents along these lines in her home community and many who mourn have been in the past direct beneficiaries of her thoughtful kindness.

There is an interesting bit of history in connection with the life of Mrs. Fowler. She was a direct descendant of th tribe of Narrangansett Indians famous in Colonial and Revolutionary War days. They later became a part of the famous Six Nations, who occupied a large part of the territory of what is now central New York. These Indian tribes played an important part not only in the early colonial history of the country, but in the history of our country at the beginning of the last century. The greater pat of these Six Nations joined the British duing the Revolutionary War and fought the colonists, but the tribe to which Mrs. Fowler's ancestry and family belonged remained loyal to the American cause. This part of the tribes broke away from the tribal customs and took up the mode of life of their white neighbors. They organized what was known as a Brothertown Community in New York. Some time after the Revolutionary War and after immigration began to move west the government got them to move to Wisconsin, where they formed another Brothertown. These people have always been very loyal to the government and numerous of Mrs. Fowler's ancestral relatives have fought in wars in behalf of our country. Mrs. Fowler's father was a veteran of the Civil War and was killed at the Battle of Stone River. After the Revolutionary War our government gave a special grant of land to these loyal Brothertown Indians, but for some reason they never received it. Lately the government has tried to atone for its neglect by planning some other grant of land and in all likelihood something is to be done. The original grant is now a part of central New York and several very large cities in that state are now located



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**Notes:**

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upon the land.

Mrs. Fowler is survived by her husband and four sons, who are Ralph, Arthur, Harold and Marion. Four other children have preceded her in death. They were: Maude, Maurice, Elwyn, and Pearl. She is also survived by her brothers, M.M. Johnson, of Round Prairie, Henry C. Johnson, of Livingston, Montana, and her half-sister, Mrs. Susan M McCabe of Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

The Leader joins the many other friends of Mrs. Fowler in expressions of regret over her death and of sympathy to those who mourn.

## Individual Report for David Shelley

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**Individual Summary:**        **David Shelley**

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Sex: Male

Father: Simeon Shelley

Mother: Sabrina Welch

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 20 Jun 1829 in Marshall, Oneida Co., NY

Residence: 1850 in District 36, Calumet, Wisconsin

Residence: 1880 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Self

Residence: 1900 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Death: 24 Feb 1903 in Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

Burial: Long Prairie, Todd Co., MN

Service: Co K 19th Wis Vol

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**Shared Facts:**                **Maryetta Clare Charles**

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Marriage: 01 Jan 1851 in Oneida Co., NY

Children: Frances Ann Shelley

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes:    !MARRIAGE:

Todd County Argus - Issue December 26, 1901 Page 1 Col 3  
TO CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING.

Next Wednesday, New Years day, Mr. and Mrs. David Shelly will be married

fifty years. For half a century they have braved the storms of life together.

The event will be celebrated by the gathering of many old friends at their home on the evening of that day. Mr. and Mrs. Shelly although well advanced

in years are enjoying the late years of their life in rest and contentment on their little farm just north of the village. Mr. and Mrs. Shelly were among the earliest settlers to take up their abode along the river in Reynolds.

They resided on the farm on which they first settled until a few years ago, when Mr. Shelly disposed of it on account of being unable to take care of the

big farm. He then built a residence just north of the fairgrounds on a piece of land purchased of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Bundy a year or two ago where they have

since resided. The old people have a large number of friends in Long Prairie

and also in the neighborhood in which they lived up the river. We hope that Mr. and Mrs. Shelly may continue to live until they can celebrate their diamond wedding - seventy-five years of wedded life.

!FEDERAL CENSUS:

1870 - Wisconsin - Calumet Co., P.O. New Holstein Page 185A Line 288/294

Shelly, David Indian age 41 born in NY \$100 Real Estate \$300 Personal  
Maryetta, Indian age 40 born in NY  
Frances, Indian age 21 born in NY

1900 - Minnesota - Todd Co., Town of Reynolds, Leslie Line 61

Shelley, David age 71 born June 1828 in NY married 49 years

Father born CT Mother born NY

Maryette, wife age 70 born May 1830 in NY



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Notes:

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Source: Todd County, MN Township History written by O.B. DeLaurier for the Long Prairie newspaper in 1935.  
Thursday, June 27, 1935 Reynolds Township:  
Page 103

"One of the men of Indian descent who came to Reynolds from Brothertown, Wisconsin, was David Shelly. We have written somewhat at length in a former article about this group of men, but there were some of them of whom we lacked sufficiently definite information. Mr. Shelley and his brother, John, came early and settled in Reynolds, probably in the later seventies. David Shelley was born in New York on June 20, 1829, and moved with his parents to Wisconsin in 1841. It is probable that his arrival in Reynolds was in 1878. There he resided until 1891 when he moved into the village of Long Prairie where he bought an acre of land north of the fair grounds and erected a comfortable residence.

In 1851 he returned from Wisconsin to New York and married Miss Marietta Charles. To them was born one child, a daughter, who died of consumption at the age of 20 years. He returned to Wisconsin and moved to Minnesota, settling in Reynolds. Mr. Shelley was one of the few soldiers from Brothertown who came back alive from the Civil War. He died suddenly on February 24, 1903, while getting ready to drive into the village from his home."

DEATH:

Tombstones: Evergreen Cem  
SHELLY David Co. K 17th Wis Inf  
Died Feb. 24, 1903 Age 73 yrs.  
Maryetta Born May 20, 1831

Death Certificate at Todd Co. Courthouse:  
David Shelly died Feb. 24, 1903, age 73 years, 8 months and 3 days of heart disease. Married. Father Simeon Shelley, Mother Sabrina.

Obituary - Newspaper - Todd County Argus - Issue Thursday, February 26, 1903

Page 1 col 4

**A GOOD MAN GONE**

David Shelly Dies Very Suddenly at His Home of Heart Failure  
The Summons came Unexpectedly While He was Preparing to Come to Town.

His Death due to Heart Disease from Which he has Suffered for Some Time.

Painless Death Ends a Useful Life.

The truth of the saying that in the midst of life we are in death was illustrated Tuesday when David Shelly, an old and respected citizen, was suddenly called to the unseen world without scarcely a moment's warning. Mr.

Shelly had an attack of erysipelas some months ago and for weeks it was feared he would not recover, but he rallied and was able to be about, but was not as strong as before. Tuesday morning he was feeling quite well and strong

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**Notes:**

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and he  
and Mrs. Shelly had prepared to drive to this village, a mile distant. Just  
as they were ready to start they saw Mrs. Hall, a neighbor woman who  
supplies  
them with milk, coming. Mrs. Shelly got out of the cutter to take care of the  
milk and as she was coming out after taking care of the milk she met her  
husband coming into the house. He then told her he was not feeling well  
enough to go to town. She assisted him into the house and removed his  
overcoat and got him on a couch when he died without a struggle. His  
death  
was due to heart failure and it cannot be said that it was entirely  
unexpected. The funeral occurs this afternoon from the house, E. H.  
Nicholson  
officiating.

David Shelly was born at Marshall, Onieda County, New York, June  
20th,  
1829, and his age was 73 years, 8 months and 4 days. At the age of 12  
years  
he emigrated with his father's family to Brothertown, Wis. He lived there  
till he was 22 years old when he returned to his old New York home and  
was  
married to Miss Marietta Charles, who survives him. They remained in New  
York  
three years when they removed to Brothertown, Wis. Here they lived till  
1878  
when they came to Todd county and settled on the old farm near the  
Reynolds  
church. They had but one child, a daughter, who died of consumption at  
the  
age of 20 years, her death occurring the year before they came to this  
county.

As they began to feel the weight of advancing years they found it  
necessary to quit the old farm which they sold and purchased an acre of  
ground  
on the road north of the fair grounds and built a comfortable home where  
they  
have since resided. John Shelly, a brother of the deceased; formerly lived  
in  
Reynolds, but last fall removed to Washington.

They have both been members of the M.E. church for many years and  
have  
lived devoted christian lives doing what their hands found to do for the  
master. They have been loved and respected by all who have known them  
all  
these years and what we call death is but the call of the master to come  
home.

To the faithful companion and partner who has walked by his side for  
more  
than half a century and shared his joys and sorrows, we extend our deepest  
sympathy in this the darkest shade she has been called to pass through.



## Individual Report for John Shelley

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**Individual Summary:** John Shelley

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Sex: Male

Father: Simeon Shelley

Mother: Sabrina Welch

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**Individual Facts:**

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Birth: 17 Aug 1831 in Brothertown, Oneida Co., NY

Residence: 1850 in District 36, Calumet, Wisconsin; Age: 19

Residence: 1855 in 36th District, Calumet County, WI

Residence: 1860 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States; Age: 28

Residence: 1870 in Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin, United States; Age: 37; Census Post Office: New Holstein

Residence: 1880 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, United States; Age: 48; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Self

Residence: 01 May 1885 in Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Age: 53

Residence: 1895 in Villard, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Age: 63

Residence: 1900 in Villard, Todd, Minnesota, USA; Age: 68; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head

Death: 09 Feb 1905 in Georgetown, Pacific Co., WA

Burial: Odd Fellows Cem., Mt. Vernon, WA

Service: Civil War -" Pioneer Corp"

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**Shared Facts:** Margaret Boyer

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[no facts]

Children: Lettie Sicily Shelley

Magdalena Shelley

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**Shared Facts:** Sylvia Priscilla Dygert

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Marriage: 1868

Children: Franklin Paul Shelley

Jobe Perry Shelley

John Mark Shelley

Sadie M. Shelley

Mary Iva Shelley

Reuben R. Shelley

Benjamin Shelley

Iva Shelley

Ethel Shelley

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**Shared Facts:** Charlotte Simons

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[no facts]

Children: James B. Shelley

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**Notes:**

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Person Notes:

!MARRIAGE: Wisconsin Historical Soc., Madison, WI Calumet Co.  
Marriages Vol 1  
John Shelly - Margaret Daugreath - June 3, 1856

Marriage to sylvia:

Following the death of her mother in 1866, Silvia married her step-father, John. All of her brothers had left home by now and she became her half-sisters, Lettie and Laney's step-mother

!MILITARY:

He was in the "Pioneer Corps" like a predecessor of the Army Corps of

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**Notes:**

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Engineers for the  
Civil War.

**FEDERAL CENSUS:**

1870 - Wisconsin - Calumet County, Brothertown

Line 151

Shelly, John age 37 farmer Real Estate \$200 Personal \$375

born in NY

Silva 26 born in NY

Lettie 14 born in WI

Lena 9 born in WI

Frank 10/12 born in WI

Brothertown, Calumet, Wisconsin U.S. Federal Census - John was a farmer. Living with John and Silvia were his daughters, Lettie and Laney, and their son, Mark. (John's wife, Silvia, was the daughter of his deceased wife. Not his daughter)

1880 - Wisconsin -

John Shelly age 48

Sylvia Shelly age 36

John M. Shelly age 10

J. Perry Shelly age 8

Paul F. Shelly age 6

Sadie Shelly age 4

Ivy Shelly age 1

WM. Kohl age 20 son-in-law

Lannis Kohl age 19 wife

Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota U.S. Federal Census - John, Silvia and their five children were farming. The three oldest attended school. John's daughter, Laney and her husband, William, lived with them and helped on the farm. John's brother, David and his wife lived on the next farm.

Minnesota, Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905

Name: John Shelley

Age: 53

Census Date: 1 May 1885

County: Todd

Locality: Reynolds

Birth Location: New York

Gender: Male

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1832

Race: White

Line: 26

Roll: MNSC\_43

Reynolds, Todd, Minnesota Minnesota Territorial and State Census - John, Silvia and their seven children were farming. John's brother, David and his wife were still farming next door.

1900 - Minnesota - Todd Co., Villard

John Shelley Head white male b Aug 1831 NY age 68 parents born father Conn mother NY married 32 years occupation laborer owned home was farm could read and write English

Sylvia wife, born Nov 1842 NY age 57 married 32 years had nine children



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**Notes:**

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eight still  
living parents both born NY could read and write English

#### Children

Job P b Nov 1871 WI age 28 farm laborer parents born both NY could read and write English

Reuben R b Mar 1885 age 15 born MINN parents both born NY at school could read and write English

Benjamin E born Sept 1886 MINN age 13 both parents born NY at school could read and write English

Source: Todd County, MN Township History written by O.B. DeLaurier for the

Long Prairie newspaper in 1935.

Thursday June 27, 1935 Reynolds Township:

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"Of John Shelley there is much that we would like to know. Details of his early life are almost entirely lacking. However, we have some information that leads us to believe that he was born in New York and came to Wisconsin in 1841. We cannot learn that he served in the Civil War, though we find that

his brother, David had a fine army record. There is some reason also to think he died at Georgetown, Washington. The writer has an early recollection

of John Shelley, as a man of giant stature, with a black beard covering his face. He was a man of strong religious convictions and we do not like to pass from the subject without paying tribute to the character of the older men, the heads of families that came from Brothertown. They were without exception men of high character. Orrin G. Johnson was a Methodist Episcopal minister and licensed to preach in the churches of that denomination. It may be that some of the younger generation failed to live up to the standards set by their elders, but they were not worse than their associates.

We are unable to learn the name of John Shelley's wife, but they were the parents of seven children as follows: Mark, Job, Frank, Rueben, Sadie, Iva and Ethel. There were also two step-daughters, Mrs. George White and Mrs. Larry Kohl."

Thursday, May 7, 1936 Villard

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"Another old settler in Villard was John Shelley, who had lived for some years in Reynolds township, and in some of the articles relating to that town brief mention was made of him. He was born in New York state, and moved to the Indian settlement named Brothertown after the town in New York from which came the first residents. As may be inferred from the foregoing, he was of Indian blood and belonged to the colony of Brothertown Indians who moved to Minnesota, settling first on the Long Prairie river west of the Village of Long Prairie. Inasmuch as we have already discussed quite fully the story of

this band of Native Americans, we will not find it advisable to discuss them to any length at this time. The Brothertown Indians were placed on the same

reservation in New York with the Iroquois and did not find the situation agreeable. The Brothertown Indians were loyal to the Americans during the Revolutionary war, while the Iroquois were pro-British. The government offered the Brothertown people a tract of land in Kansas, but many did not wish to seek a home on the wide treeless plains. One tribe of the six nations was given a tract of land along the east side of Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin; but this tribe, the Senecas, did not like the Wisconsin location

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**Notes:**

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and were given a home elsewhere. Part of the Brothertown band obtained the tract on Lake Winnebago and did not move to Nebraska. John Shelley was one of those who chose Wisconsin in preference to Kansas. In Wisconsin they laid out a township which they named Brothertown after the town in New York. When the Civil war came on, the men of Brothertown were eager to fight against slavery. It might be stated here that these Indians were "praying Indians," belonging to the Methodist church and their religion was the kind that did not rub off with hard usage. Substantially all the grown men in Brothertown township enlisted in the 21st Wisconsin Infantry, and at the Battle of Perryville, this regiment was cut to pieces and the Brothertown contingent was next to wiped out. It was said by some that there was a widow in every house in the township. However, they were not daunted, and boys and even older men rushed to fill the depleted ranks of the regiment. When the war was over, life did not seem to be the same in Brothertown; there were too many vacant places; too many friends gone. We cannot say who was the first to conceive the idea of moving to Todd county and finding new homes on the Long Prairie river. There may be some reason for thinking it may have been John Shelley and his brother, David, but the answer to the question must be found in future research. Six miles west of Long Prairie there sprang up a religious community, and a Methodist church was organized and a neat building erected, and it was known as the Whiteville church. The Brothertown band has vanished from this place, but the church is still a vigorous organization and is yet engaged in carrying on the work of the founders. The heads of the families that came in this way, were men of admirable character, and it as never been the lot of the writer to live among a more honorable class of men. John Shelley was an active leader in this group and possessed the confidence of the entire circle of his acquaintances. Sometime in the nineties, John Shelley sold his interests in the Town of Reynolds, and located west of Motley, where he lived until about 25 years ago, when he moved to Washington state. He died in that state at Georgetown, we think about 1912. Here was a good man; what more can be said of anyone.

**!BURIAL:**

Mount Vernon, Skagit, Washington Mount Vernon Cemetery - John and Silvia are buried together. Lot: 1, Block: 35, Section: 2.