

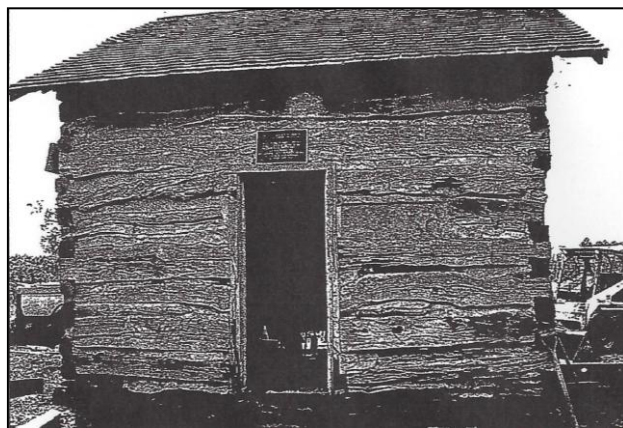
# **Prairie Log Cabins**

## **built near**

## **Rembrandt, Iowa**



Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin  
Built in 1871  
One-Half mile northeast of Rembrandt  
Section 36 of Barnes Township



Syvert & Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin  
Built in 1881  
About 4 miles southwest of Sioux Rapids  
Barnes Township

## **Scrapbook**

## **of**

## **Newspaper Articles, Pictures, and Notes**

Latest Update (August 9, 2017)

# Prairie Log Cabins built near Rembrandt, Iowa

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**Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin**  
Built in 1871

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**Buena Vista County Historical Society**

***The first major gift to the Buena Vista Historical Society was the donation of the Prairie Log Home by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar "Ossie" Anderson of Rembrandt.***

The Prairie Log House was originally built in 1871 on a site near Rembrandt, IA by Scandinavian immigrants. It was taken down and reconstructed in Storm Lake on the northeastern shore of the lake in Sunrise Park. It was later relocated to its present location at 300 Railroad Street.

The use of oak logs that have been split and dovetailed with an ax can be seen as one tours the exterior and interior of the house. The home contains furniture and other items typical of pioneer life in the 1870s.



Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (December 9, 1954)

**A UNIQUE ANTIQUE**

In form of a log-house is offered to the Centennial project by Mr. and Mrs. Ossie Anderson of Rembrandt. It will be donated to the cause if moved to a public place and remodeled into a reminder of the pioneer era.

"Log-house" is a misnomer, since in reality the logs had been "squared" off by axe into huge planks six inches thick with dovetailed joints and corners; and wooden pegs through verticle holes made it a rigid wall. It is of unusual size-16 by 24 by 12 ft.

It is nearly, one hundred years since Ole Dahl, a Viking of imposing structure, swung his axe deep into the oaken logs which were to become his citadel in his adopted country.

He was a man of unusual vigor and counted neither time; nor exertion, that he might carve out of the wilderness a plot where he might erect a castle to harbor his dreams.

Here is hoping the "log house" will be reconstructed to become a shrine in commemoration of that valiant front line of pioneers who broke the sod, and hewed the logs that we might enjoy the blessings they scarcely dared to pray nor hope for.

We salute the donors. J. F. Thompson

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (February 19, 1959)

**Letters From Our Readers**

J. F. Thompson, one of the pioneers of this area, and who has contributed to these pages at different times, has made an offer to this community, written before the Gabrielson project was announced.

We feel that J. F. will be pleased with the progress and am sure he will be more than happy to make the contribution that he speaks of in his letter.

Originally this contribution was offered to assist in moving and preserving the old Ole Dahl log house, located near Rembrandt. But his reason for changing it, is explained in his letter.

From this point on we will use quotes of Mr. Thompson's letter.

Editors Soo Rapids Bulletin Press

Dear Sirs:

Thinking the matter over from different angles I began to realize it would be next to impossible to rally enough support to move that log cabin.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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In the first place, the Pioneers, who should be the main support to the movement exist mainly in memory. The Grim Reaper has taken a woeful swath in their ranks since last I were in S. R. Right now I cannot think of more than three who still are among the living.

Thinks I, there are other things both to Sioux Rapids and Rembrandt more practical. More in need than that old log house. That very day I got the Bulletin-Press in which I noticed the Editorial items referring to swimming pools at our schools. That touched off a train of thoughts. That was what was really needed for the community; not so much the log cabin.

Yes, there is a crying need for swimming pools, and in same connection, ice rinks.

From a cost standpoint it is peculiar it has not been more generally observed. Tell me, how can money be spent that will give bigger returns? Swimming and skating are foremost in physical development. And the cost of inserting them would meet with no opposition, whatsoever. Soon the result would be that every high school graduate would know how to swim as well as skate.

There is a continuous caravan that sink to the bottom because they never learned to swim. And being of all who, had there been someone around that knew how. should have been saved. Needless to argue the case any further.

Just to show that I am as much interested now in the welfare of our schools as I was in 1912 when Messrs. Bert Louthan. Geo. Parker, John Reng and myself fought for consolidating when every Mother's son, daughter, uncle and aunt rose up in opposition.

Cornell was the first Consolidated school in this part of the state. Do you think the rank and file of the citizenry would go back to the former sub-districts system. Not on your life. Nor would they discontinue the use of a swimming pool and ice rink if installed. The two are ever valid tickets to the health and happiness of our school generation. How can you oppose to have your school kids scrubbed up at public expense?

No. I am not joking. The twenty dollars spoken of goes to the first village — Sioux Rapids or Rembrandt who installs a combination swimming pool and ice rink commensurate to the needs of their school. This is just to start the ball rolling.

J.F.T. Skaalen, Stoughton, Wisconsin

Storm Lake Register (August 8, 1961)

### Return to Log Cabin Near Rembrandt After 80 Years

by Linda Stratton

photo by Jeanette Anderson of Rembrandt



## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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Returning to their former home after nearly eighty years were Mrs. H. O. Rollag of Alberta, Canada, and her sister, Mrs. B. E. Lackness, Oakland, Calif. when they visited their old log cabin home on the farm of Ossie Anderson, one-half mile north of Rembrandt, Saturday.

The old cabin has stood there for about ninety years and has housed several families. It has been contributed by the Andersons to the Buena Vista County Historical Society for rejuvenation and movement to one of the Storm Lake parks.

The two ladies and the other members of their family moved into the cabin in the spring of 1884 and resided there until October of 1893. Inga (Mrs. Rollag), who is 78, and Rosine (Mrs. Lackness), who is 80, are the only two still living of twelve children who lived with their parents in the four room cabin which measures 16 by 24 feet.

### Describing the Interior

They related the following facts about the cabin. Upon entering the door from the south, you come into the kitchen. This room covered the west half of the structure and the east half was occupied by the living room. The kitchen has now sunken about six inches from the door sill, but the ladies said it bore most of the traffic in and out of the house. All the cooking was done in this room.

The living room was partially used for sleeping, because as the ladies testified, with twelve children there was quite a problem with sleeping room. All the young people were not at home at the same time, however. Some worked out. The living room still has a huge chimney and it can be supposed that there was a fireplace in that room which furnished the warmth for the home.

### Changes Upstairs

When the ladies were living in the cabin there were two rooms upstairs. They were reached by way of a staircase going up from the kitchen through a hole in the ceiling. One room was used for sleeping and beef was dried in the other. The room above the kitchen is gone now, but the other room is still here.

According to Mrs. Rollag and Mrs. Lackness, the stairway has been turned. It formerly slanted to the west so entrance could be gained to the room above the kitchen. Since the room was removed the stairway has been turned so it slants east. There are two windows upstairs, one each on the east and west.

### Old Well Remains

They got all their water from a well located just south of the cabin. The well still remains and there is water in it. The barn and buildings lay south of the cabin. The lane for the farm formerly came in from the north, through the grove, but it now comes from the south, cutting through what was virgin land. Mr. Anderson first plowed it in 1954. The ladies said that big ponds gathered in the meadow south of the buildings after a heavy rain.

The logs for the cabin itself probably came from the banks of the Little Sioux River. It was the custom of the time to cut the logs there and haul them to the location of the home. The house was put together by hand, and axes were used instead of saws. The corners are dove-tailed.

### Made It Sturdy

The builders of the cabin evidently wanted a substantial home, because after they built the base of solid logs, they put a siding over them. Some of this siding still remains. Long, narrow boards were placed vertically and spaced about a foot and a half between, then the siding boards were nailed to these. The inside of the house was plastered. Some of this original plaster still remains.

The corners of the logs still show. These are held together by wooden pegs. They fit together like the intricate pieces of a jig-saw puzzle.

### Remember Old Trees

When the two former residents strolled to the grove which lies north of the buildings, they remarked that the trees had grown so tall. They remembered the walnut trees which are still standing.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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While in Rembrandt, Mrs. Rollag and Mrs. Lackness visited old friends and visited the graves of some of their relatives in the Little Sioux cemetery.

### History of Land

The actual history of the land is very brief, but extends back to 1871 when the United States granted it to Halvor E. Dahl. In 1872, he took possession of the 160-acre farm. This is the same as it is at the present time.

Mr. Dahl and his wife sold the land to Ole H. Dahl in February, 1879, who then mortgaged it several times. On January 9, 1883, the farm was sold to John Halverson, uncle of the ladies who visited the cabin.

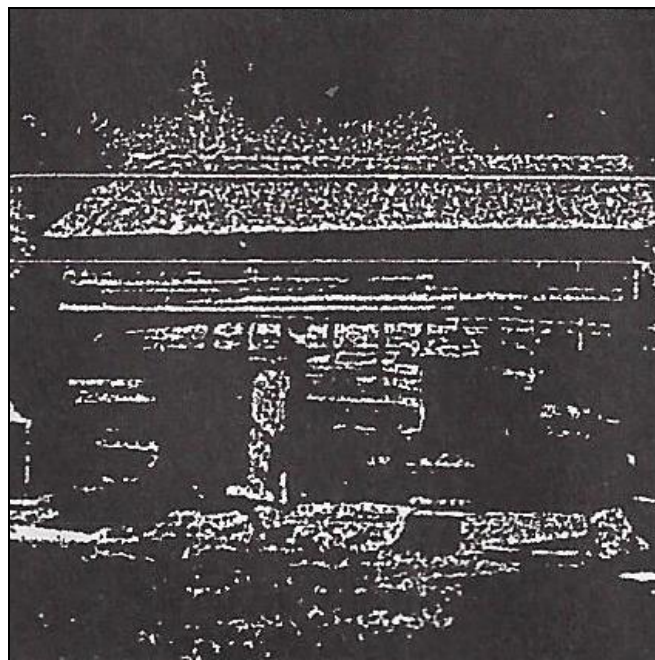
He sold it to T. T. Bertness in 1899, who gave the place to Tennis Bertness and his new bride, Mrs. Ossie Anderson's father.

The present farm house was built as a gift for Tennis. When he died, Mr. Anderson bought the shares of the farm from the children and now owns the tract.

Storm Lake Register (August 15, 1961)

### Log Cabin Near Rembrandt Has Interesting History

by Stella Kindwall



On the Ossie Anderson farm north of Rembrandt stands an old log cabin which was built by Ole Dahl back in the pioneer days, the exact date not being known, but it certainly is of historical value.

According to the abstract Halvor Dahl acquired the land from the government in 1871 and in turn sold it to Ole in 1879. and it no doubt was soon thereafter that he built the cabin. In 1899 T. T. Bertness purchased the farm and his son, Tennis, acquired it. The latter's daughter is now Mrs. Ossie Anderson, and the Andersons are the present owners of the property.

The cabin, which is 16x24 feet has been used more or less for a cob shed and tool shop by the Bertness and Anderson families. Mr. Anderson has been talking of dismantling the cabin, but friends have kept him from it because of its historical interest.



## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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Mr. Anderson has now given the cabin to the Buena Vista County Historical Society and plans are to either have it moved to Storm Lake, or to dismantle it and store the logs until a suitable place can be found to put it. It is hoped that some day it can be used for a historical museum for Buena Vista County.

The cabin is built of oak logs which are about two feet wide and six inches thick. The corners and splices are dovetailed and very well preserved. From appearances the logs were cut with an axe, rather than with a saw.

There is one partition in the cabin, which is also of logs. Formerly there was a loft over the whole cabin, however, part of the floor of the loft has been taken down so that it now is over only the larger of the two rooms. The stairway is still intact. The outside walls are 12 feet high.

### Early History

John Thompson of Soughton, Wisc., has furnished some information in regard to the early history of the cabin and its occupants. He also says that a brother, Claus Dahl, built a log cabin on the road crossing where Thorgeson lived and later sold it to the Mosbo brothers. Mosbo later tore down this cabin.

In the pioneer days Ole Dahl was the county auditor at the time the county seat of Buena Vista County was at Sioux Rapids. He was a stately Viking of about 200 pounds and very pleasant. He was also the school director. He sent to Janesville, Wisc., for a school marm, and being a single man, he later married her.

An article and photograph of two sisters who formerly lived in this log cabin and recently returned to their old home appeared in Tuesday's Storm Lake Register on August 8.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (April 19, 1962)

### Historical Society Needs Your Help to Preserve Log Cabin



Attention readers: The Buena Vista County Historical society needs your financial help. As stated elsewhere a log cabin landmark which has stood north of Rembrandt has been donated to the group by O. G. Anderson. It will be moved to the new east park in Storm Lake. But to do so and see that it is properly installed, money is needed. So we're starting a fund.

County Treasurer G. Basil Rice, president of the Historical society, has started the fund with \$25. To this The Storm Lake Register and The Pilot-Tribune have added another \$25. What will YOU give?

Send your donations to the office of The Storm Lake Register and The Pilot-Tribune or to Mrs. Walter Luhmann, 122 Cayuga, Storm Lake. Mrs. Luhmann is secretary-treasurer of the society.

"We know there are many people in Buena Vista county interested in the history and in the preservation of the past for future generations." says a statement issued to the public by President G. Basil Rice and Mrs. Rice.

The Buena Vista County Historical Society is now in the process of moving and restoring the last remaining log cabin in Buena Vista county. It is to be located to the west of the Country club and along highways 5 and 71, on land newly acquired by the City of Storm Lake to add to the City Park System. The city council and the park board have both given the go ahead on this worthy project.

The cabin, which was given by O. G. Anderson of just north of Rembrandt to the Historical Society, is of exceptional construction. It is made of large large oak logs, dovetailed at corners and pinned together by oak pegs of about 8 inches in length and 3 inches in diameter.

We marvel at the workmanship of the cabin and the vast amount of work and ability that went into the construction. The logs themselves were trimmed with axes.

### Must Be Preserved

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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We are very anxious to preserve or restore this cabin to the same appearance that it had when it was first built. It was built in the 1870's and the plan is to furnish it as nearly as possible to that period.

"The project is going to take money and we are asking for help from the people of Buena Vista county. If you are interested in the preservation of this old land mark for the county, will you help with a donation for its preservation. Your donations may be sent to The Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune or direct to the Society's Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Luhmann.

### More Workers Wanted

Our membership is growing, but we are anxious to have more members, Wouldn't you like to become a member and assist in the future work of the organization? Dues are just \$1.00, and may be sent to the Treasurer also. Anyone interested in becoming a member is eligible to join.

Our youngest member is in his teens and we are very proud to have him as a member. We also have our first member to become a life-member. A person may have a life membership by paying \$100.

Plans are also under way for an open meeting on June 14th, Flag Day, at which time, Wm. J. Peterson, the Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa will be the speaker. Be sure to watch the Storm Lake newspapers for future information about "this meeting and plan to attend."

### Let's Save This Landmark



The Rembrandt Booster (May 10, 1962)

### Old Land Mark Gets Moved to Storm Lake

The old log cabin landmark that has stood in the grove at the Ossie Anderson farm for many years, Monday morning, left its place, when it was put-on-wheels and moved to Storm Lake, where it will be restored and put back into its natural early-day appearance.

The log cabin will start a new life as an attraction, a preservation of the past for future generations to view.

The cabin has been moved to the new east park on Lake Shore drive at Storm Lake a very suitable spot.



## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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After the outside and interior has been restored, many pieces of antique furniture will be placed in it.

The old log cabin was donated by O G Anderson, to the Buena Vista County Historical Society, which group, at no small expense in moving are now busy in its preservation.

The B. V. Historical Society is accepting donations in any amounts as a financial help to preserve the log cabin. If you want apart in this worthy project, send your contribution to Mrs. Walter Luhmann, 122 Cayuga, Sec.-Treas., of the Society, Storm-Lake.

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (May 10, 1962)

### Rembrandt Notes Moving of Cabin

(By Lillian Siefken)

REMBRANDT — Ours may not be a "Window on Main Street," but occasionally an unusual sight is viewed. A glance out of an east window Monday forenoon brought us up short at what we saw going "over the hill."

After nearly a century of sitting on a hillside in the O. G. Anderson barn yard, the old log cabin, once a landmark and farm home, was rapidly approaching the top of a small hill and was soon out of sight.

When, the cabin was less than half its present age, the farm was purchased by the father of Tennis Bertness. Tennis built the present farm home for his bride. His daughters grew up always knowing the old cabin. Later his granddaughters, Judy and Jeanette Anderson were to live on the farm to know the cabin as an object of history and Monday his little great-grandson, Kurt Harris, visiting from California, was to wave a little hand in farewell to the old cabin.

The cabin was given to the Buena Vista Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Anderson and it has now been moved to a new site in Storm Lake near the lake as a shrine to pioneer days in this county

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (May 17, 1962)

### Historical Cabin to Storm Lake

THE OLD LOG CABIN, which for nearly a century has been a part of the farm yard on the Ossie Anderson farm north of Rembrandt, has now been moved to its new location in the east Lakeshore Park on the shores of Storm Lake. The park is just west of the Storm Lake Country club.

The cabin, which measures 16x24, is believed to have been built in the 1870's by Ole Dahl. The farm was later purchased by T. T. Berrness and the family lived in the cabin for a number of years. A son, Tennis, who later acquired the farm built the new house for his bride and since that time the cabin has served various purposes.

Ossie Anderson, the present owner of the farm, gave the cabin to the Buena Vista County Historical Society last year and a committee from the Society has been working on a likely spot on which to place the cabin and they have now been successful in finding a place and the cabin has been moved,

A new foundation was built on which to place the cabin and there have been considerable expenses in the moving and free will donations to this fund will be appreciated by the Society. A new roof will have to be put on the cabin as well as a door and windows. Nearly \$300 has been raised through free will donations from interested citizens but more is needed.

Contributions may be left with Franklin Halverson, Eilet Torkelson or at this office or sent direct to Basil Rice, president of the Society, or to Mrs. Walter Lumann. 122 Cayuga, Storm Lake, secretary-treasurer of the Society.

The above photograph of the log cabin was taken by Basil Rice when it was still at its original site.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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The Rembrandt Booster (July 16, 1964)

### Sunday Is Rembrandt Day at Log Cabin

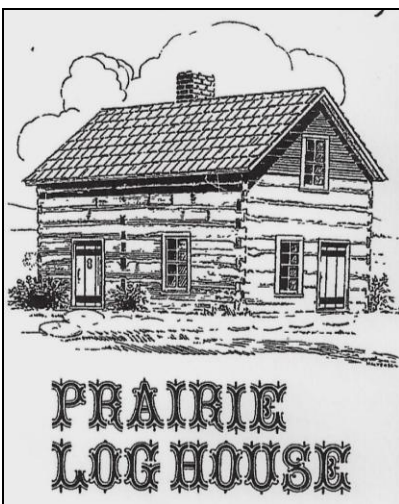
Next Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from the hours of 2:30 to 4 :30, will be Log Cabin Day, at the site of the Historical log cabin at Storm Lake.

The cabin now being restored and furnished with great care, to look as if the owner still lived there, will be open next Sunday from 2:30 to 4:30 for folks from the Rembrandt area to view what has already been accomplished.

Mr. and Mrs. Ossie Anderson and Mrs. Anna Hegna will be on hand to greet the Rembrandt callers.



Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune - Centenary Papers (May 23, 1973)



In the fall of 1960, the Buena Vista County Historical Society officially incorporated as a non-profit organization. Shortly thereafter, they took on their first major project the restoration and preservation of a log house near Rembrandt.

A campaign to save the structure got underway and donations poured in from all over the county and across the state. In good time plans were made to move it to a city park in Storm Lake.

Today, the old home is located in Storm Lake's Sunrise Park at the east end of the Lake. The land was donated to the society for this purpose by the city fathers.

Research on the home was well underway at that time also. Over the years a complete history has been pieced together. It was built by Halvor Ellerton Dahl and located on his homestead on the southwest quarter of Section 36 of Barnes township, about a mile north of Rembrandt.

### Homesteaded

The land was acquired from the United States government by homesteading. Mr. Dahl received his title on Sept 24, 1871, so it is likely the log house was completed before that time, as it took three to four years to prove up a homestead. The Dahl family, which consisted of eight children, arrived in the county via a covered wagon train in 1866.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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A party of 35 persons traveled in the caravan, all of whom located their homes in the area of Barnes Township. (Read the full account of this covered wagon train elsewhere in this issue.)

The house was constructed of oak logs cut from the timbered areas along the Little Sioux River. The logs were squared by the "striking off and splitting" method, as was

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Sketch of the Prairie log House is by Franklin Halverson. The pioneer residence is located in Storm Lake's Sunrise Park and owned by the county historical society. It is open for tours on Sundays and Holidays during the summer.

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used for a tight and permanent wall in those days. The logs were dove-tailed at the corners and all the work was done by ax, which meant long hours of painstaking labor.

### A Family Home

This is a good example of Scandinavian type construction. As you may have noticed, we call it a log "house" because if it is of a later period and is larger than a log cabin, it was not a temporary structure — a few logs carelessly thrown together as a trapper's cabin might have been. This was a homesteader's home, made with loving care and infinite pains — a home for the family.

The property on which the house was located was transferred to Dahl's son, Ole H. Dahl, in 1879. Ownership passed from the Dahl family in 1882. At one time a family of 12 is said to have lived in the house, which consisted of two rooms down stairs and a large room upstairs. A ladder was used to get to the second level, but today the society has placed a solid walnut stair case in the building to accommodate visitors.

Ownership again passed hands, until in the 1960's it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ossie G. Anderson, who gave it to the Buena Vista historical society in 1962. Mrs. Anderson's family lived in the house at one time also. The log house has been restored and is furnished to look as if the original owners still lived there. As visitors approach the old structure they discover at the doorway an old grindstone, which is used as a stepping stone. Imagine for a moment that the log house is surrounded by tall prairie grass, gently waving in the summer wind. You can hear the chirping of the prairie birds, and can smell the homemade bread being baked in the old iron stove. Nowhere in sight can one see a neighbor's place. It may be four or five miles to the next homestead.

As we enter the door we step into a room which might be compared with today's living room, not that it looks anything like our living rooms today, only in that this is the room where the family spends most of its time during the daylight hours. Over the door is pa's double barrel shot gun, ready for any intruder. In the center of the room sits a Ben Franklin stove, near it a spinning wheel from Norway and which was used here on the Iowa frontier.

There is also a child's rocker one made by a father for his daughter over 100 years ago. In the walls are several holes one inch in diameter and about 2 inches deep. Pegs are stuck in these holes to hang up clothes, boots, and so on. Nails were not available on the prairie.

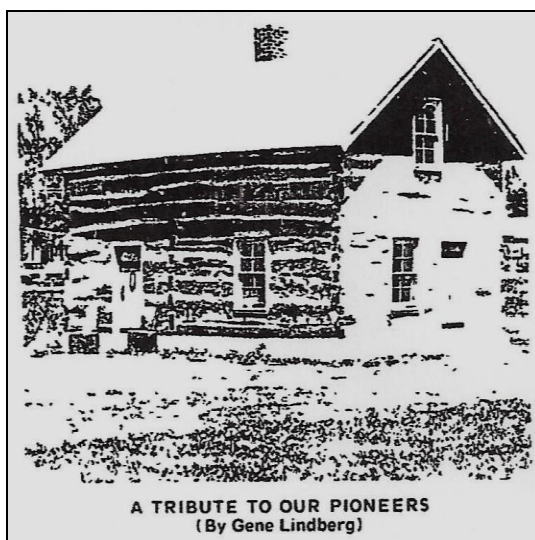
To the right is another room, a larger room used for the kitchen and dining area. A cook stove is against one wall, a food safe is in a corner, and a dry sink in the other corner.

All about this room are many interesting items, candle molds, horn sausage stutters, spice cabinets, wall reflector lamps, fluting iron washing basin, Abner Bell's traps and boot jack (Abner was the first permanent settler in the county, see story in first issue of the Centenary Papers) and farm hand tools.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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Upstairs we find a rope bed which is over 105 years old, a trundle bed, a home-made baby rocker, and the indoor bath room (The indoor bath room sits on a small table and consists of a small kerosene lamp, a pitcher and wash basin or bowl a soap tray, towel, and underneath is a pot). Imagine sleeping up here with 10 or 12 other people. It should make us more thankful for what we have today.

We are thankful for the pioneer people who braved the hardships of their time so that we could enjoy our present way of life. We hope you will take the time to visit the log house during regular visitors hours every Sunday afternoon during the summer months. There is no charge for admission.

Storm Lake Register (July 30, 1983)

### Her ancestors lived in log house

A distant descendant of residents of the Prairie Log House was in Buena Vista County earlier this week for a personal glimpse of her "roots."

Beatrice Hansen James of Vancouver, British Columbia, and her husband, Arthur, a retired contractor, spent several days in the county.

The log house, now located across from the Storm Lake swimming pool, was located on a farm in Barnes Township, about a mile north of Rembrandt, before being moved to Storm Lake in 1963. The last owners of the house, Ossie Anderson, gave it to the Buena Vista Historical Society in 1962.

Mrs. James' father, Helmer H. Hanson, was born in Buena Vista County and later moved to South Dakota and Saskatchewan, Canada. His first cousins, Inga Rollag and Rosie Lackness, lived with their parents in the log house. Both are buried in the Little Sioux Valley Cemetery.

In 1961, two years before the log house was moved to Storm Lake, Rollag and Lackness returned to Buena Vista County to visit the house, nearly 80 years after they had lived there.

The two ladies and other members of their family moved into the cabin in 1884 and moved out in 1893. Their parents and the 12 children lived in the four room cabin which measures 16 by 24 feet.

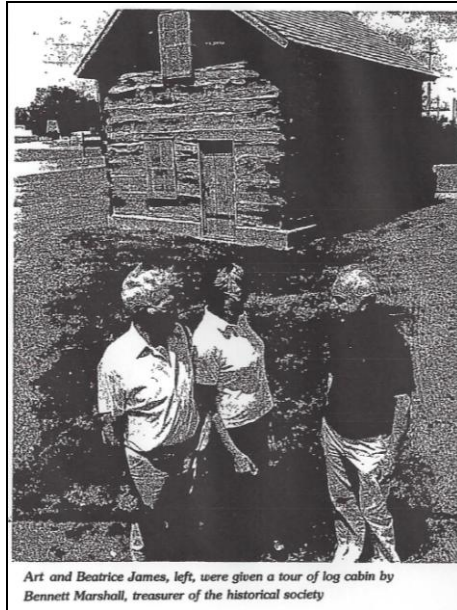
Mrs. James said their trip is part of a family tree research. In her genealogy research, she likes to visit areas where her ancestors had lived.

The James arrived in the area last Friday and on Sunday went to Sioux Rapids. On Monday they visited Paullina where other descendants of the family live.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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*Art and Beatrice James, left, were given a tour of log cabin by Bennett Marshall, treasurer of the historical society*

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (August 28, 1991)

### Little House of the Prairie

One of Storm Lake's best-known landmarks may also be one of the most under appreciated. The prairie log house will be open for one last viewing this season on Sunday this Labor Day weekend.

The cabin was built in 1871 or before by Scandinavian pioneer Halvor Elverton Dahl just north of Rembrandt. It was donated to the Buena Vista County Historical Society in 1962, and the battered old building was moved to its current lakefront site in Sunrise Park for more than a year of restoration.

The oak logs from the banks of the Little Sioux were squared and split, dove-toiled with an ax — not as a trapper's cabin might have been, but in the manner of a prairie pioneer who meant his home to last as long as its hardy family.

"Halvor the Elder's" brood included 12 children and one son-in-law, who lived in the 16-by-24-foot cabin when they were not "worked out" — roomed with other families as apprentices.

"It's furnished with pieces authentic to the original period, and that's what the people really seem to like," former historical society director Carolyn Hemmen said. "The comment that you always hear is that they can't believe that so many people — up to 12 family members at a given time — could live together in such a tiny log cabin."

The cabin is regularly re-chinked and caulked to keep the elements out, and renovation work uses as many authentic materials as possible. Furnishings include a cupboard that was original to the prairie house, a classic Ben Franklin stove, and the bed with its "springs" of netted rope and mattress stuffed with cornhusks. Everything from traps to quilts to ice skates from the 1800s were donated by area residents to complete the experience.

The historic touches go right down to the dinner table, set with iron stone china, oil lamp and bone-handled utensils, just as if the long-ago family is about to troop in for a holiday meal.

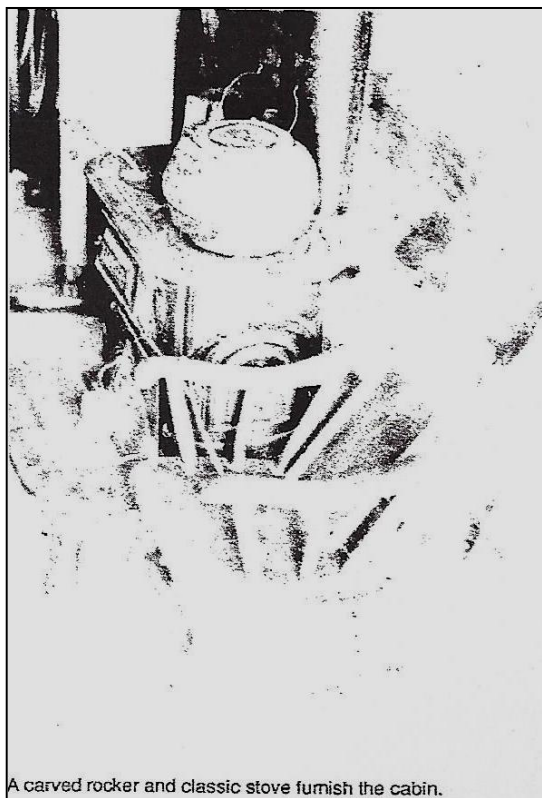
"Sometimes it takes a glance into the past" Hemmen said, to appreciate what we have today."



## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

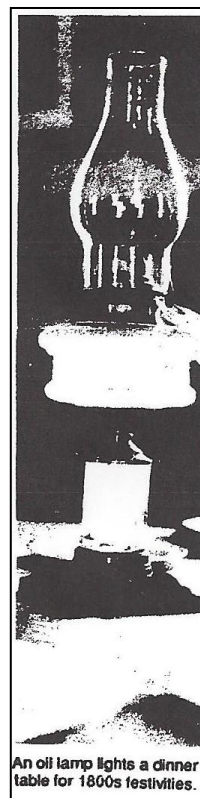
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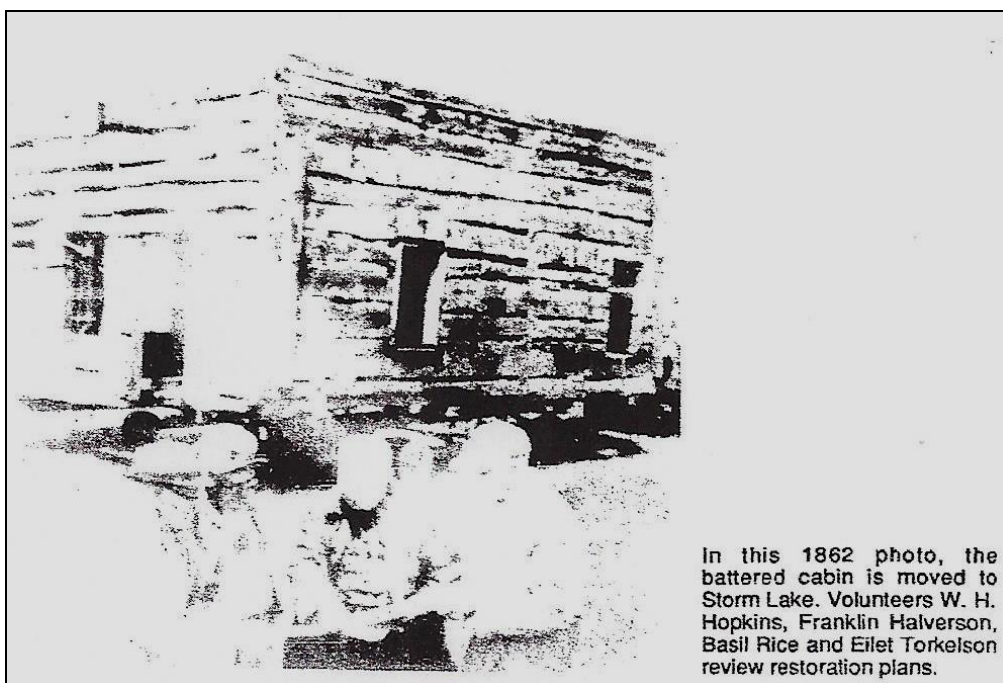
A carved rocker and classic stove furnish the cabin.



Paulson poses with an antique spinning wheel from Norway.



An oil lamp lights a dinner table for 1800s festivities.



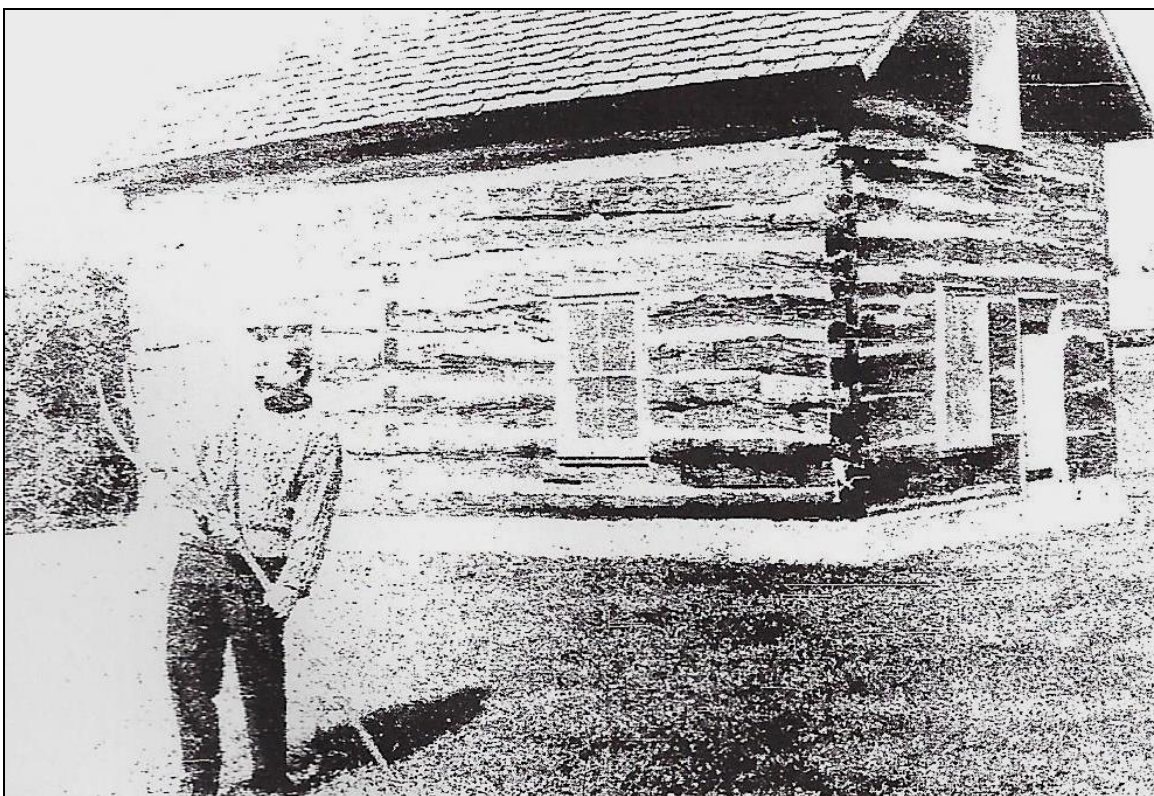
In this 1862 photo, the battered cabin is moved to Storm Lake. Volunteers W. H. Hopkins, Franklin Halverson, Basil Rice and Eilet Torkelson review restoration plans.



## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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Jeff Perrill poses with the restored cabin in a previous P/T shoot.



'Halvor the Elder' and his family — up to 12 at a time lived in the 16' by 24' cabin.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin Built in 1871

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Merly Crandell in period costume in the cabin's loft. The last open house of the season is this Sunday.

Storm Lake Times (May 21, 1997)

### Plaque marks prairie log house

In 1962 Ossie and Alice Bertness Anderson of Rembrandt gave the log house, which stood on their farm to the newly organized Buena Vista County Historical Society who then moved it to Storm Lake.

While serving as a Log House volunteer host and fielding questions from visitors it occurred to Marianne Waldstein, BVCHS board member, that an informational plaque would be helpful. The plaque would provide historical background and recognize the Log House donors.

Discussions with the Andersons about the idea and about appropriate language for the plaque followed. The Andersons were amenable to the proposal and volunteered to contribute to the cost. Ossie noted that his wife Alice's family the Bertness', longtime owners of the farmstead and log house, should be acknowledged. Sadly and before the recognition could be fulfilled Alice died in November 1995. The plaque providing historical information and recognition of the donors reads:

#### *"Prairie Log House*

*"Built by homesteader Oliver Dahl in 1871 on a prairie farm 1/2 mile northeast of where the town of Rembrandt, Iowa was later established. In 1899 the Bertness family acquired the farm. In 1962, heirs Ossie and Alice Bertness Anderson, donated the log house to the Buena Vista County Historical Society whereupon it was moved 14 miles south to this site. It is preserved as a memorial to our predecessors and an exhibit of their frugal life on the prairie.*

*"Buena Vista County Historical Society"*



## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

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The plaque will help make a visit to the Log House more meaningful. The Log House is scheduled to be open for visitors on Memorial Day weekend, on Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. through the summer and on major holidays through Labor Day.

As finances permit it is the Historical Society Boards long range plan to relocate the Log House next to the nearby, recently acquired, country school to form a Pioneer Heritage Exhibit.



**A Log House plaque shown above recognizes to donors Ossie and Alice Anderson, Rembrandt. Ossie Anderson is shown with BVHS members Mari-  
anne Waldstein, left and Margaret Weber, Secretary of the Board.**

Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune (October 10, 1998)

### Historians search for Craftsmen to Restore 132-year-old Log Cabin

By CAROL ANDERSEN  
Pilot Staff Writer

There was a time in Iowa when every man knew how to transform a stand of trees into a home sturdy enough to withstand even the worst winter winds blowing down from Canada. Not so today. The Buena Vista County Historical Society is scouring the state for someone with log cabin-building skills to repair a tiny lodge for a Pioneer Heritage Exhibit along Storm Lake near the municipal swimming pool.

The historical society acquired the 132-year-old log cabin from a farm site near Rembrandt in 1962 and had it moved to the area near the city pool. The society plans to move it across the street and adjacent to an old country school acquired in 1996 from Elk Township.

Together, the two buildings will comprise an exhibit area where life as it was on the Iowa plains a century ago will be portrayed. The area will also be used to stage temporary, changing expositions such as blacksmithing demonstrations and appearances by black powder-era reenactment clubs like the Cherokee Ridge Runners.

## **Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin**

Built in 1871

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"Before we move the cabin, however, we need to repair it," said Arne Waldstein, historical society member. "It sits in a low area and water has seeped into it through the years causing some rotting and deterioration. There are four to six log sections that need to be replaced."

"That is a bigger challenge than it might seem," Waldstein said. "First of all, there are not many Burr Oak need for the logs and there are fewer and fewer sawmills capable of cutting the logs the way we need them."

Waldstein has searched extensively for people and sawmills capable of doing the kind of work needed on the log cabin. His work has turned up a handful of carpenters, lumberyard workers and tree professionals from around Iowa who may be able to shape logs to the proper dimensions and craft dove-tailed comers and other nearly lost arts of log cabin construction.

"I haven't been able to find anyone yet who's highly skilled in the actual workmanship of building log cabins," Waldstein said.

The logs must be cut in slabs, ideally 16 feet long (the length of the cabin), but at least 8 feet long. They must measure at least 6 inches thick and have a depth of 8 inches to 20 inches.

First, however, Burr Oak trees must be located. "You can still find them along the Little Sioux River, and some have been preserved on farmsteads around the area," Waldstein said, "but it's going to be hard to find them large enough. To get a 20-inch deep log, you need a tree that is at least 24 inches in diameter. That'll be hard because they've been harvested so heavily in the past."

Waldstein said he does not know what the cost might be to have the cabin repaired, but moving it could cost between \$2,000 and \$3,200, based on estimates acquired at the time the country school was moved to Storm Lake.

If the trees, a craftsman and sufficient funding can all be secured, Waldstein said it is the historical society's goal to repair and move the log cabin next spring.

## **Prairie Log Home – Rembrandt, Iowa**

### **Interviews**

**Jeanette Anderson Anderson (RHS Class of 1961)**

2002 - Rembrandt Remembers

#### Log House

My family moved to Rembrandt in 1952 to live in my grandparents' former home. Right in the center of the farmyard was a log house! Over time the house had been used for various purposes and had been neglected. In the next few years I explored it and played in it. A lean-to on the north side allowed us to slide down the roof in the winter onto a snow bank. Never did I consider what a history the log house had.

It had been at its site for over 80 years when we moved there. It was built by Ole Dahl a few years prior to 1871 on land obtained by homesteading from the United States government. These Norwegians had come from Norway to Section 36 in Barnes Township when Buena Vista County made free land available to anyone willing to stake a claim. To record their land, they would have had to walk to Sioux City. The land was all prairie, and each farmer cultivated only enough land each year to support his family. The 16' x 24' house was at one time home to a family of 12. The Dahls owned the land until 1882.

There were other landowners following the Dahls. My great-grandfather Timan Bertness and his wife Sarah eventually owned part of the land, and their son Tennis owned another part. When Tennis (my maternal grandfather) married Amelia Gulbranson in 1902, they built a new home. It stood very near to the log home, which by then was being used as a cob house. When my grandparents were both gone, my parents Oscar and Alice Anderson became the landowners when they bought the inherited shares owned by my mother's sisters. In 1962 my parents donated the log house to the Buena Vista County Historical Society, and the home was moved to Storm Lake in one piece by the Benberg Moving Co. Later it was moved by Heartland Building & Moving to its present location to be part of the Prairie Heritage Exhibit.



## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

The log house was built entirely of hand-hewn logs with the ends being dove-tailed. In the top of one log and in the bottom of the next log, there was a hole drilled so that a two-inch peg could be inserted to keep them from shifting. The cracks between the logs had to be filled with clay caulking to make them tight. The roof was built in three steps. The rafters came first and were not uniform in dimension - 2x4s, 1 1/2x4s, or 3x5s, etc. Next, the sheathing was actually scrap lumber from the outer edge of the log when each log was trimmed to size. These varied in width from six inches on the ends to twelve inches in the middle, so they had to piece them together to cover all the gaps. Placed on top of the sheathing were the shingles.

The house has two floors. The living and dining areas are downstairs, and the sleeping quarters are upstairs. As you enter the front door you are in the living room. Two pegs in the wall were probably for hanging clothes. Separating the living area from the kitchen/dining area is another wall of logs. To this day the house contains an original chest which was in the house when it was occupied by the Dahls. Upstairs the sleeping quarters contained a rope bed on which rested a cornhusk or straw mattress.

If I had known more of the history of the house when I was a little girl, I think I would have had a greater appreciation of the home at even a young age. I'm sure I would have pictured other little children living in a house that was surely not as warm as the one I lived in, having to work harder to help maintain their pioneer life, and yet children just like me, with toys and imaginations and a future that held promise.

Credits go to my references: Ossie Anderson—my dad; *A Portrait of Rembrandt—The Early Years* by Rolf Mosbo; and *A Tour Through the Prairie Log Cabin* published by the Buena Vista County Historical Society.



Storm Lake Times (August 22, 2009)

### Log house offers a glimpse of the past Call Historical Society for tours



Built about 140 years ago on homesteaded land north of Rembrandt, the log cabin was moved to two different sites in the Project Awaysis area before coming to rest at the corner of West Railroad and Geneseo.

## Oliver 'Ole' Dahl Family Cabin

Built in 1871

The Historical Society Musings for this month will give you a tour through the prairie log house at the corner of West Railroad and Geneseo Streets.

When the house was built, probably in the late 1860s, all of Buena Vista County was prairie except along the riverbanks. There was only one tree along the shores of Storm Lake. The structure was carefully built. In its earliest days, a family with 12 children made it their home.

Logs were squared by the "striking off and splitting" method, making tight and permanent walls, dovetailed at the corners. All work was done with an ax, involving long hours of painstaking labor.

Doors and windows were cut after the walls were up. Windows of the log house were originally covered with oiled paper or greased deer hide, to let in light.

On the door was an inside wooden latch that could be opened from the outside by a leather string running through a hole. At night, the string was pulled inside, for protection.

The house has two floors, which distinguishes it from a cabin. Downstairs is the living and dining area, with the sleeping area upstairs.

Imagine living in this house in homesteaded land north of Rembrandt, surrounded by tall prairie grass, with no neighbors in view.

As you come in the front door, you enter the living room. Over the door hangs a double-barrel gun. On the small Franklin stove sits an iron tea kettle.

In the dining-kitchen area, a dry sink from the basement of Harker House holds a dishpan and water pail. Among the period furnishings is a food safe, used for storing food and crocks of cream and butter.

After climbing an open stairway, visitors see a rope bed with trundle bed, a handmade cradle, a walnut chair, and trunks and chests typical of the period. Smaller furnishings include a china bowl and pitcher and a kerosene lamp.

During its approximately 140-year history, the log house has changed hands a few times. It has been surprisingly mobile.

Oliver and Ole Dahl built the house in Sec. 26 of Barnes Twp. Halvor Dahl received title to the property in 1871. The property was transferred to his son Ole Dahl in 1879, with ownership of the land passing from the Dahl family in 1882.

Mr. and Mrs. O.G. "Ossie" Anderson gave the log house to the Buena Vista County Historical Society in 1962. The building had been used as a cob shed and tool shop.

The historical society first moved the log house from the Anderson property to the intersection of Sunrise Park Road and Lakeshore Drive, on city land that is now part of Project Awaysis.

The site was on a low area. After a heavy rain, water ran across the floor of the house.

The log house was later moved across Sunrise Park Road, again on city park land. A country school was brought in and the two buildings were placed together between the shoreline and the bike/walk trail along the lake, becoming the Pioneer Heritage Exhibit.

When Awaysis was developed, the log house was moved to property next to Paul Park Co. Constructors on West Railroad Street across from The Storm Lake Times. The historical society purchased the lot and moved both the log house and the country school.

To bring your family or group to tour the log house and see what it was like to live in the 1865-75 era, make an appointment with the historical society office by calling 732-4955. The office is open between noon and 4 p.m. At other times, leave a message.



## **Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin**

Built in 1881

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Sioux Rapids Republican-Press (August 10, 1905)

### **Struck by the Train**

Syvert Enderson, a farmer living about four miles south-west of Sioux Rapids, was struck and probably fatally injured by the Tuesday morning freight on the M. & St. L. Mr. Enderson was driving to Sioux Rapids and reached the crossing two miles south-west of town just as the freight came along. It is supposed that the heavy crop of corn so obscured his view that he did not see the train until too near the track to stop. The engineer, as soon as he saw the danger, attempted to stop the train and Mr. Enderson tried to whip up his horses, but the engine struck the buggy, throwing its occupant out upon his head fracturing the skull and causing internal injuries from which it is believed he cannot recover.

The train backed up and took the unfortunate man to Rembrandt where Dr. Newman dressed the wounds. He seemed to retain partial consciousness and was able to recognize A. J. Martin, who was on the train and assisted in getting him to Rembrandt. Dr. Nordstrum was also called in the case and Mr. Enderson was taken to his home, since which time he has gradually failed. His body seems to be totally paralyzed from the shoulders down and it is feared that there is little chance for his recovery.

Sioux Rapids Republican-Press (October 25, 1928)

### **MRS. S. ENDERSON ANSWERES FINAL SUMMONS**

Mrs. Joran Enderson, nee Sorenson, was born at Aasral, Norway, on October 10, 1880. She was baptized, instructed and confirmed in the congregation where she was born. On October 19th, 1877, she was united in marriage to Mr. Syvert Enderson. In the year of 1880, they emigrated to America coming to Sioux Rapids. They soon came in to possession of a piece of land, west of Sioux Rapids. Here she made her home for forty-five years. On August 23, 1905, her husband departed this life, leaving her with eleven children, the youngest being two years of age. One child died before the departure of the husband. She continued to live on the farm until two years ago.

The departed enjoyed good health and was able and willing to work hard and faithfully until about two years ago, when her health failed. She sought medical aid at Rochester, Minn., where two operations were performed. This brought relief and no doubt lengthened her life; but it proved only temporary relief. She suffered a relapse and gradually grew weaker and passed away at the home of her son, Elmer, Friday, October 19th, her fifty-first wedding anniversary. She was then sixty-eight years and nine days old. She was a kind mother, a consistent Christian and a helpful neighbor. Through all her suffering and sorrows she was patient and cheerful and sought comfort thru her bible and songs.

The departed is survived by eleven Children, two sisters, one brother, twenty-six grand children and four great grand children. The children are: Mrs. Ida Tolifson of Windom, Minn.; Mrs. Randa Jensen of San Francisco, Cal.; Mrs. Clara Hanson of Sioux Rapids; Mr. Sam Enderson of Linn Grove; Mrs. Mina Pond of Perry; Mrs. Louise Davis of Marathon; Mrs. Agnes Van Deland of Eagle Grove; Mrs. Opal Lawson of Fort Dodge; Mrs. Emma Paulson and Elmer Enderson of Sioux Rapids. Two sisters, Mrs. Carrie Meadows and Mrs. Sarah Jensen, and one brother, Lars Sorenson also reside in Sioux Rapids.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 1:30 at the Lutheran church, Rev. K. G. Hatlen officiating. Interment was made at the L. S. V. cemetery near Rembrandt.



## Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin

Built in 1881

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The Cherokee Courier (October 28, 1965)

### LOG CABIN ON THE MOVE



Members of the Cherokee Historical Society are shown here hard at work preparing their recently acquired log cabin for moving to Cherokee County. An appeal for funds necessary to move, preserve and furnish the cabin is being made. A permanent site has not yet been decided on and the Society is open to suggestions.

(Photo by Mrs. Doyle Simonsen)

The Cherokee Courier (November 4, 1965)

### Log Cabin Finds New Home

The log cabin recently acquired by the Cherokee County Historical Society will soon have a new home.

It is to be located on the Prichard Estate, just south of the by-pass, east of Old highway 21. This is a most appropriate location for this tangible link with the past as it will be just about 100 feet from the site of Old Fort Cherokee and approximately one-fourth mile north of the old mill site in the very area where the Milford colony first settled.

The land for the cabin has been made available by the Prichard Educational fund through the Cherokee State Bank.

The cabin, 14 by 15 feet, story and a half, is of oak logs with dovetailed corners, was sided for many years thus the logs are in quite good condition.

The Society is appealing for monetary donations for the interested public to move the building from Buena Vista county to Cherokee and aid in the restoration and furnishing, in the way appropriate to the period.

## **Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin**

Built in 1881

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Donations for this cause may be made to Mildred Moorhead, Cherokee, Mrs. Doyle Simonsen, Quimby; Mrs. Keith Pearse, Washta; Mrs. Vance Marquis, Marcus or at the Cherokee Newspaper office.

The County Historical Society is now incorporated as a nonprofit organization.

A step toward the goal of raising the required money to move the cabin was taken Monday night as the Society cleared approximately \$100 at the Sample Session and bake sale held at the VFW Hall.

The place was gay with red checked table clothes and kerosene lights with several of the hostesses in pre-1900 costumes.

Old-fashioned cookery was featured with generous sampling and recipes available for all.

Mrs. Bill Berger, Jr. and Mrs. Don Burkhardt, Cherokee, were chairmen of the event.

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (September 29, 1966)

### **Coffee Time by Ted Witter**

We clipped the following from Old Timers column in The Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune:

"The Sunday Sioux City Journal recently published an article about efforts to preserve a long abandoned log cabin once located some four miles south of Sioux Rapids. Seems that the Buena Vista County Historical Society tipped off the existence of this cabin to the Cherokee County Historical Society.

"As nearly as we could detect from the Journal article the cabin has been transported and now sits forlornly in a three-tenths acre weed patch near the Highway 3 by-pass northeast of Cherokee.

"We presume that Buena Vista county told the Cherokee County Historical Society about this landmark because we have the old Ossie Anderson log cabin down on East Lakeshore Drive. One is about all any county can handle for restoration and collecting relics.

"We're turning this article over to Ted Witter of the Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press since the cabin was once located near that neighboring town. We are sure Ted will find the article interesting. He may even reprint it in the B-P."

Old Timer was right, we found the article interesting and reprinting it on another page in this issue of the B-P. We'll have to admit, however, we didn't know there was another log cabin up in this area. The only one we can recall is the one Old Timer refers to as the Ossie Anderson log cabin.

Sioux Rapids Bulletin-Press (September 29, 1966)

### **HISTORICAL GROUP SAVES NORTH WEST IOWA PIONEER CABIN**

(Sioux City Journal)

CHEROKEE—It won't bear a sign reading, "Carl Enderson Slept Here," but Mr. Enderson, a 72-year-old Rembrandt Iowa, man, will be proud of his cabin birthplace when the Cherokee County Historical Society gets done with it.

The tiny, 16-feet-square cabin is the object of a restoration project by the historical group—a project that is apt to last for quite awhile. In the market for a cabin to restore, the Society jumped at the chance last winter when a Buena Vista County Historical Society member tipped them off about a long-abandoned cabin four miles south of the town of Sioux Rapids.

Current owner of the property where it stood was about to burn it down anyway, and was more than happy to give the building away—if the historical buffs would haul it off. It now sits forlornly in a three-tenths acre weed patch near the Highway 3 bypass, northeast of Cherokee. Considerable work, inside and out, is left to be done by volunteer laborers.

Historical Society personnel aren't even mentioning a timetable. "Our completion date is very indefinite. We have 70 Society members, but you know how it goes, only a few do the work," says Charles Smith of Cherokee.



## Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin

Built in 1881

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### How to Furnish

Mr. Smith said the group hopes to restore the cabin authentically, but noted that they are sort of flying blind, even though a former resident of the two-story hut is alive and lives nearby. Mr. Enderson, a retired farmer and a brother-in-law of the late Siouxland radio-TV personality Les Davis, remembered that the cabin was built in 1881, that six of the 12 children born to his Norwegian immigrant parents were brought into the world there, and that the place has been vacant for 66 years. He says his memory is foggy when it comes to recalling how the old place was furnished, however.

Its rustic logs covered by house siding for many years, very few persons knew the place as a real log cabin. Society members call attention to notches keyed on each log and ponder whether the cabin was at one time torn down and reassembled elsewhere. Mr. Enderson draws a blank on that question.

With a facade that looks extremely weather-beaten, the durability of the relocated cabin becomes suspect. Society members say that they had to replace only one log in the building, and the others are good for many years yet.

### Another Setback

It had been planned to restore the cabin with pioneer tools. But the originator of this idea, John Vincent, resigned his post as director of Cherokee's Sanford Museum, moved away and took his tool collection with him. The Society is still in possession of an ancient shaving horse, and toyed with the idea of at least making their own shingles, until the dearth of the necessary wood (white oak) was noted.

When the cabin is finally furnished, staffed and open to the public, museum - conscious Cherokee Countians see expansion in prospect. Contemplated is a display of old-time farm implements.

Looking to the future, Society members already are talking about moving the cabin across the road onto a ten-acre site, if and when the Society's pet project — the rebuilding of old Fort Cherokee becomes a reality.

"But," admits Mr. Smith, nodding at his partially-finished log cabin, "that's a long way off."

Cherokee County Daily Times (October 2, 1992)

### Log Cabin Needs New Home

by Bob Schettler, Editor

One of Cherokee County's oldest landmarks is looking for a new home.

Members of both the Cherokee County Historical Society and the Grand Meadow Heritage Center are working together to find a way to move the pioneer log cabin located in Phipps Pioneer Park in Cherokee, to the Grand Meadow Heritage Center south of Marcus.

The log cabin will likely be destroyed, if it doesn't get moved sometime soon, members say. The City of Cherokee is planning to give the park land back to its owners, and something will have to be done with it.

The cabin in Phipps Pioneer Park is the only pioneer log cabin in Cherokee County.

"We just don't want to see this cabin destroyed" said Historical Society member Ann Wilberding.

At issue in determining whether the log cabin will be moved or not, is the subject of funding. Presently, the two groups have about \$150 raised to help pay for moving costs. They are about \$1,350 short and are interested in knowing if members of the community will support the effort.

"If money comes in to move it, we'll accept it on our grounds," said Eleanor Sokolowski, president of Grand Meadows. "We will accept it, but we don't have the money ourselves to move it."

Wilberding said the groups have asked for funding from the state but have not been able to get it.

Moving the log cabin to Grand Meadows will also allow members to see that the cabin is restored and cared for.

"It should be preserved," said Sokolowski. "It's a good thing for us." She added that trips to Grand Meadows have been educational for children and moving the cabin there would be "something for people to see down there."

## Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin

Built in 1881

Wilberding said she has a person who is willing to move the cabin, however, the project lacks the necessary funding.

"We want to know if there is interest in the community to have it," she explained.

The log cabin was built in 1881 by Carl Enderson who raised 12 children there. It was moved to the park in the late 1960's. At one time it received a lot of love, care and dedication, Wilberding said.

"Lots of history took place down by the river when the area first developed," Wilberding said, adding that there had also been a mill and some of the original homes of the area in the immediate area.

Eventually, members would like to see the cabin placed on the National Historic Register.



### **Saving history**

Members of the Cherokee County Historical Society and the Grand Meadow Heritage Center are working to save this pioneer log cabin now located in Phipps Park in Cherokee. It is the only pioneer log cabin in the county. (Photo by Bob Schettler).

Cherokee Chronicle (August 11, 1994)

### **Cabin Transported to Grand Meadow Heritage Center**

by Brenda Reiter

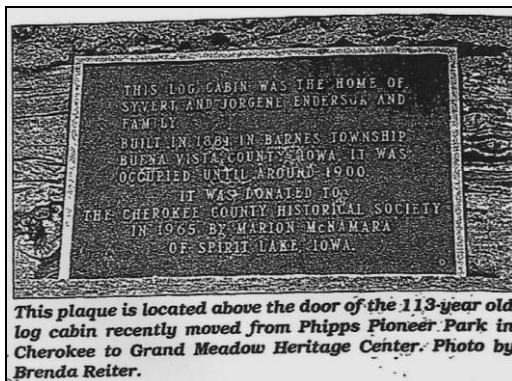
## Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin

Built in 1881

The Grand Meadow Heritage Center south of Marcus has a new addition. Actually the newest building on its grounds is very old.

On Friday, Aug. 6, a log cabin built in Buena Vista County in 1881 was painstakingly moved from its resting place in Cherokee to its new home at the center.

According to the plaque above the door, the structure which is about 16 feet square, was the home of Syvert and Jorgen Enderson and family in Barnes Township near ~~Peterson~~ Rembrandt. It was occupied until about 1900 by the family, and six of the Norwegian immigrant family's 12 children were born in the building.



The structure was vacant for 66 years, and in 1965, it was donated to the Cherokee County Historical Society by Marion McNamara of Spirit Lake. It was moved to its original Cherokee County site, near Highway 3 bypass, and was relocated some time later to a small park in the northeast part of Cherokee,, where it sat for more than 25 years.

"We want to have it at Grand Meadow, where people can take tours and it can be used for the Grand Meadow Heritage Festival in September," said Eleanor Sokolowski, a member of the board of Grand Meadow.

She noted that in the past years, the cabin has been locked up, with its furnishings stored in the attic to avoid damage by vandals. The furnishings will be refurbished, and replaced in the cabin, along with other items already collected by Grand Meadow.

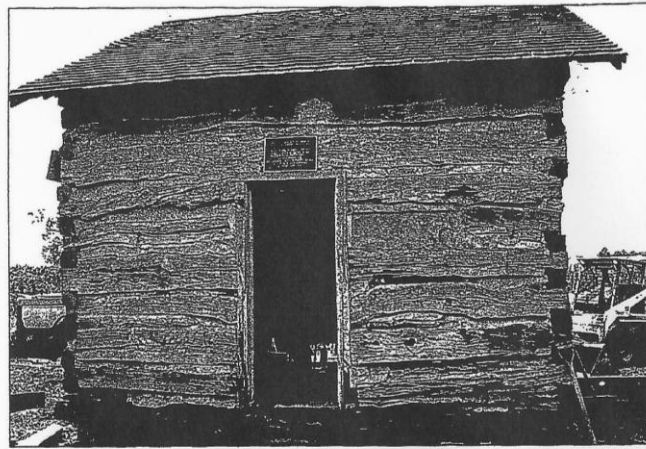
"It will finally get the love and care that we want it to have," said Anne Wilberding, a member of the Cherokee County Historical Society. She and other members of the historical society said since the building has been located at Phipps Pioneer Park in the northeast part of Cherokee, vandalism has been a major problem, as well as flood waters from the nearby river.



## Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin

Built in 1881

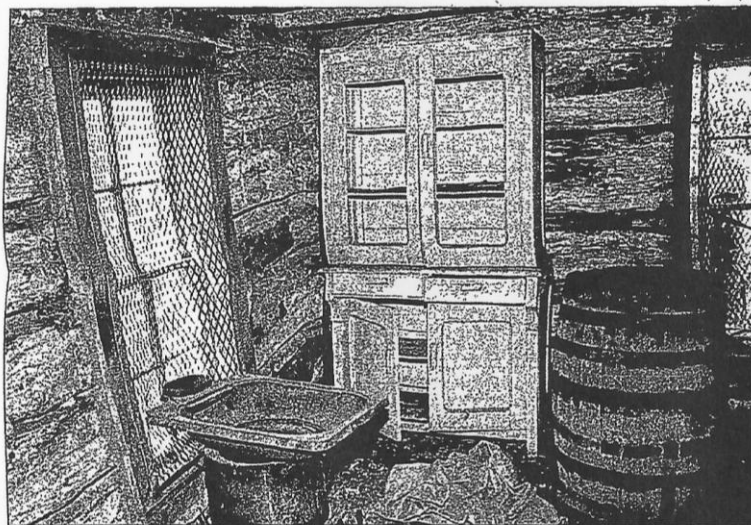
With the move last week, ownership of the cabin was transferred to the Grand Meadow Heritage Center and the cost of \$1,200 to move the structure was shared equally by the two organizations: Wilberding said plans for moving the cabin, complete with keyed notches, has been in the works for more than ten years.



*The log cabin, which has been located at Phipps Pioneer Park in the northeast part of Cherokee for more than 25 years, was moved to its new location at Grand Meadow Heritage Center south of Marcus. One of the features of the cabin, according to Cherokee County Historical Society member Anne Wilberding, is its keyed notches on the logs. Photo by Brenda Reiter.*

Donations and fund-raisers by both the Cherokee County Historical Society and the Grand Meadow Heritage Center have made the move and restoration possible.

"We're real excited," said Sokolowski.



*These are just some of the items that were in the log cabin before it was moved last Friday. Some of the items will be restored, while others are beyond repair. The restored items will be replaced in the cabin at Grand Meadow Heritage Center, along with other items already collected by the members of the board.*

The cabin, complete with furnishings, should be ready for viewing and touring during the Grand Meadow Heritage Festival, to be held Sept. 10 and 11. The center is located 13 miles south of Marcus on L36 or four miles west and three miles north of Washta.

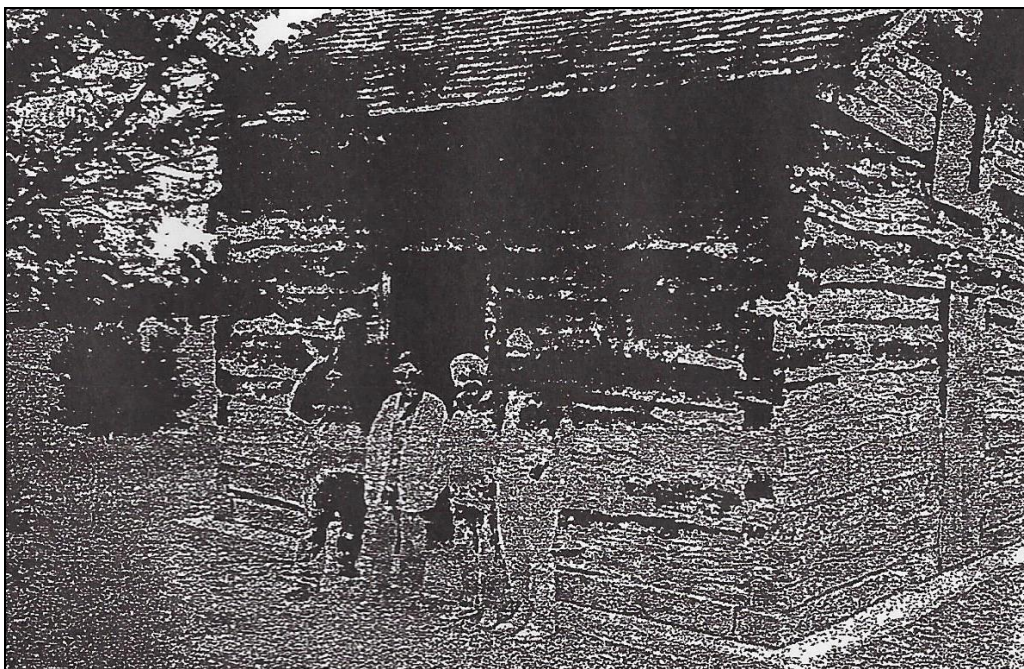
## Syvert and Jorgenia Enderson Family Cabin

Built in 1881

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Cherokee Chronicle (August 25, 1997)

### Grand Meadow Heritage Board members



Wayne Waller, Elma Klingensmith, Eleanor Sokolowski and Rev. Bob Blair examine the Enderson Log Cabin at the Heritage Center. The cabin, which was built in 1881, will be dedicated during the Heritage Days on Sept 7.