

THE LYONS FARM REUNION - 1950 August

By Florence (Lyons) Finley Kolbach

The second reunion of the clan was held at Bill Lyons' farm in Yankton, South Dakota in August, 1950. Again we are indebted to Florence Kolbach for her rhyming account of that event.

As a rule it takes a sad occasion to bring big families together,

Then they come, regardless of distance, time or weather,

Or perhaps a christening, a wedding or reception,

To this our family was, indeed, no exception.

So we sort of got our heads together and set aside a day,

When everyone was happy, relaxed, and feeling gay.

And I'm here to tell you, we had ourselves a time

At George Kolbach's farm in 1949.

You wouldn't believe it, and s'pose you think I lie,

We had to introduce first cousins, this is the reason WHY.

We hadn't been together and sort of drifted apart,

A condition, had they known, would've broke our Mother's heart.

So it was agreed to set a day aside each year,

For a family to gather, with the ones we hold most dear,

All the kin folks were invited regardless where they roam

On the second Sunday in August, at the Will Lyons home.

Winter passed, the seasons fairly flew,

Alfalfa baled, corn laid bye, we were combining and the first thing we knew the day of the reunion was here,

The one we had looked forward to, for almost a year.

The road that leads to Yankton is a truly lovely drive,

I think we were about the last ones to arrive;

The yard was lined with cars, clear down to the barn,

We knew the Roaring Lyons had taken over Bill Lyons' lovely farm.

There were cousins here, and cousins there,

Cousins, Cousins, everywhere!

As each one was greeted, they received a written name
They would need no introduction to know from whence they came.
There were small tables and many chairs out on the lovely green
And one big long table with more food than we had ever seen,
The table was arranged picnic style, Mary must have set it-
Bill rang the dinner bell, and hollered, "O.K., come and get it."

Needless to say, the next hour was happily spent,
With wonderful food, visiting and joyful merriment.
Then we took a walk down the shady lane', arm in arm
Until we came to a little school house on the corner of the farm,
It brought back memories, of childhood days of yore,
We were too many and some stood in the door,
They put the desks close together, where we used to sit with ease,
Some of us couldn't make it, and others had to squeeze.

Moving pictures were shown, of relations at the coast,
Then group singing, but what we enjoyed the most
Was the Lyons orchestra and the reading and the jokes,
Everyone was happy and everyone was gay, and I forgot
What all took place that day.

Then we had our meeting and decided to meet again
Coughlins extended the invitation, would notify us where to find the den,
N ell Finley Herrick was from the farthest away
Margaret Coughlin Weiland, the best surprise of the day
Bill and Mary and the whole Uncle Will family were to be congratulated
on the planning-everything went off to the letter.
There were one hundred members present.

-August, 1950
Yankton, South Dakota Bill and Mary Lyons Farm