

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Wigdahl, Lars Olsson Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Palo Alto County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 7 Dec 1857 Bjerkreim, Delene, Stavanger, Norway

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Anna L. Osterhus 7 Oct 1883 Ossian, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business He was ordained in 1887; he was the pastor of the Zion Lutheran Church in Ruthven for over 50 years; member of the Board of Directors of Holdrege College

B. Civic responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_

C. Profession Minister

4. Church membership Lutheran

5. Sessions served 36<sup>th</sup> 37<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1915, 1917

6. Public Offices

A. Local Served on the Ruthven Board of Education for several years

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 18 June 1938 Ruthven, Iowa; buried Crown Hill Cemetery, Ruthven, Iowa

8. Children Alvin C. (died in 1924); Oliver L. P.; Carl H.; Leonard; Lloyd A.; Harold; Belvina (Mrs. Hadley); Lisa; Almas; two sons died in infancy; Selma G.

9. Names of parents Ole Larson and Bertha Marie (Gunderson) Wigdahl

10. Education He finished the graded school in Norway, attended the  
Haugen Evangelical Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota

11. Degrees He studied theology at Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, graduating in 1887

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He came to America from Norway in 1880, settling first at  
the home of an uncle in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin where he  
worked in a hardware store and railroad work.

- He then began working his way through the Lutheran  
Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota and later at Augsburg  
Seminary in Minneapolis.

- Here he preached and was ordained.

- He also served as a minister at Clear Lake, Iowa, Thompson, Iowa  
and in Waukegan, Minnesota

- The Zion Lutheran church was organized at Ruthton and between  
1886-1887 he became the permanent pastor.

- He organized congregations at Sanborn, Estherville, Hallingford,  
Sullivan, Emmetsburg, Cylinder, Melford, Fort Dodge, Little Sioux,  
Fulton and Palestine.

His wife, Anna, born, 17 Apr 1863 near Ossian, Iowa, died 1 Feb 1939, also  
buried in Cross Hill Cemetery, Ruthton, Iowa

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
-			- <u>Obituary - The Emmetsburg Reporter, Emmetsburg, Ia</u> <u>Thurs. June 23, 1938, p. 1, col 1, and p. 8, col. 6</u>
-			- <u>Iowa Official Register 1917-1918, p. 341</u>
-			- <u>ancestry.com (accessed 15 May 2009)</u>
-			- <u>Historical Department of school found in clipping folder</u>
-			- <u>Rathbun, The Heart of the Lake District - Rathbun Iowa Centennial 1884-1984</u>
-			- <u>Palo Alto Iowa Records WPA</u>
-			- <u>Harvard Journal 1939, p. 1886-1887</u>

ntial, S. Peter and Paul; Marcelus, Ellington No. 9; Ann Meyers, Independence; Jeannette Miller, Sta. Peter; Paul; Rosella Montag, Sta. and Paul; Grace Pirie, Ellington No. 6; Evelyn Hansen

the only home-owned yard in Palo Alto county, Middleton.

**CARD OF THANKS**  
wish to express our sincere gratitude to friends and neighbors for the many acts of kindness bestowed upon us during recent sorrow.—Mrs. D. E. and children.

**CARD OF THANKS**  
wish to express our sincere thanks to our neighbors and friends for their kindnesses following the sickness and death of beloved wife and mother, Louis Brunschler sr., and all the many beautiful floral gifts.—Louis Brunschler sr., and Mrs. L. A. Brunschler daughter and Mrs. Fred Wood and children.

**SPECIAL!**  
**Father's Day**  
**Turkey**  
**Dinner**  
**HOTEL KERMORE**  
**Sunday, June 19**

Dad will enjoy this **KEY FEAST** prepared especially for him.

Phone 97 for Reservations

**RE**  
**Comfort**  
**Specials**

# Death of Rev. Wigdahl at Ruthven

After prolonged illness and much suffering. Was Ruthven pastor for half century. Formed congregations in several north-west Iowa towns. Made many sacrifices and travelled countless miles. A large crowd at funeral services. Several ministers present.

Rev. L. O. Wigdahl, widely known retired minister of the Lutheran church, passed away at his home at Ruthven at 8:50 a. m. Saturday. Death came gently to end the intense sufferings of a prolonged illness. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the Wigdahl home and at 1:30 at the Lutheran church, where a loud speaker was necessary to carry the services to several hundred people who could not find space in the crowded edifice. Six sons of the deceased were pallbearers, and several Lutheran pastors attended the services, showing the high esteem in which their fellow minister was held.

Carl Helgen, field representative of St. Olaf's college, Northfield, Minn., preached a most impressive funeral sermon, filling a personal request of Rev. Wigdahl made several months before death. Rev. L. A. Mathre, vice president of the Estherville circuit, spoke from Job 4:3, in representing the pastors of the circuit. Dr. L. W. Bowe, president of St. Olaf college, and Dr. M. A. Larson of Ames, president of the Iowa district, both paid glowing tributes to the life and accomplishments of Rev. Wigdahl.

Rev. T. G. Wicks, pastor of Zion Lutheran church, Ruthven, preached from the text, 1st Samuel 9:27, and read from John 14:1-16, a greeting which Rev. Wigdahl had requested to have read to the congregation. A large choir supplied the vocal part of the touching funeral rites, singing "Nearer My God to Thee" in Norwegian at the house service. At the church the hymns were: "God Will Take Care of You," "I Saw Him in Childhood" (Rev. Wigdahl's favorite hymn), "Den Store Hvide Flok," "Still, Still With Thee" and "One Sweetly Solemn Thought." At the grave the choir sang "Abide

# Harvey Neibauer

Miss Pearl Harvey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harvey of near Emmetsburg, and Cletus Neibauer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Neibauer of this city, were married in the Assumption church here Saturday morning. Very Rev. Wm. Mason, the pastor, officiated at a single ring ceremony in the presence of several relatives and friends of the bridal couple. The bridesmaid was Mrs. Nyle Brodigan, sister of the bride, and Mr. Neibauer was attended by his brother, Linus. The bride was attractively attired in a white lace gown, floor length, with a finger-tip veil, and carried a bouquet of assorted roses. Following the ceremony, a wedding breakfast was served at the home of the bride's parents.

The bride is a graduate of the Emmetsburg High school. Since graduation she was employed in various local positions, including a number of years as local reporter and office attendant at the Palo Alto Tribune and later as bookkeeper at the Bleber Auto hospital, and proved to be a trusted and fully capable employe. She is naturally attractive and possesses personality and charm that win friends readily. Mr. Neibauer is a graduate of St. Mary's academy. He is a popular young man, and regarded as honest, reliable and industrious. He is engaged with his father in a truck transportation line that enjoys a large patronage in this part of the state.

Following a short wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Neibauer will establish their home in Emmetsburg. Sincere good wishes for success and happiness are extended to them.

# Martin a Graduate St. Louis College

Mrs. J. J. Martin, in company with "Jed" Appleby of this city and Mrs. Marie Malia of Ayrshire, left for St. Louis, Mo., Tuesday morning to be present at the graduation of Mrs. Martin's son, Emmet, from the Hohenschuh-Carpenter College of Mortuary Science. The graduation festivities will open with a banquet at Hotel Forest Park this (Thursday) evening, at which the college board of trustees will entertain the faculty, the graduates and members of their families and friends. The 1938 class is the largest the institution has ever graduated into the field of professional embalming. More than 80 per cent of the graduates are either sons or partners of established morticians or members of mortuary firms, which would indicate that very few of them are without definite positions waiting for them. Mr. Martin will arrive in Emmetsburg the latter part of this week where he will

# Installed State D

Of Knights at impressive Emmetsburg day. Installation noon. Testimony in St. Mary's church. Several members of district deputized named.

Lawrence D. Brennan, elected state deputy of the Knights of Columbus convention of the Sioux City, will be installed in the new impressive exercises rooms of the order Sunday afternoon. He will be honored a dinner in St. Mary's Sunday evening. Several Knights of Columbus church take part in a program following the installation of the new officers by the new

The afternoon exercises will be conducted by state executive committee of past state deacons whom are: E. G. City, 1912-13; J. O. Sioux City, 1914-15; Carroll, 1916-17; Cascade, 1918-19; Ian, Waterloo, 1920; Ford, Fort Dodge, 1921-22; James M. City, 1926-27; Clinton, 1928-29; Leo roll, 1930-31-32; Ossian, 1933-34; Imond, Cedar Rapids, 1937-38. The men above named past are expected to attend day's installation together with several prominent members of Iowa.

Mr. Brennan was elected state deputy of the Knights for a number of years. He held a number of local council in past years and is chairman of the Soil Conservation

# Specials

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# erson

79, Emmetsburg

service. At the church the hymns were: "God Will Take Care of You," "I Saw Him in Childhood" (Rev. Wigdahl's favorite hymn), "Den Store Hvide Flok," "Still, Still With Thee" and "One Sweetly Solemn Thought." At the grave the choir sang "Abide With Me."

The remains were interred in Crown Hill cemetery. The Lightle Funeral home was in charge. Many gifts of money were made to the Lutheran church in memory of Rev. Wigdahl, the gifts totaling approximately \$200. Numerous friends from far and near were present at the church and cemetery services.

Rev. Lars Olson Wigdahl was born December 7, 1857, in Hjerkeim, Dalene, Stavanger, Norway. Thus he was 80 years of age at the time of his death. His parents were Ole Larson Wigdahl and Bertha Marie Gunderson Wigdahl. Both preceded him in death. He was the third child in a family of eight children, four of whom came to America after the deceased made the journey, as follows: Rev. George O. Wigdahl, now of Watertown, S. D., and Albertina Kristensa Brat-tebo, Gamalla Berke and Knut Wigdahl, all deceased.

Rev. Wigdahl immigrated to America in 1880, coming first to the home of an uncle at Fort Atkinson, Wis., in whose hardware store he was employed. He also did railroad work for a time before working his way through the Lutheran seminary at Red Wing, Minn. Later he attended Augsburg seminary at Minneapolis where he received the call to preach and was ordained to the ministry. He served as pastor at Clear Lake and Thompson in Iowa and at Mankato, Minn., before completing his ministerial training.

While a candidate in theology, he preached at Ruthven about once a month. Zion Lutheran church was organized in Ruthven in 1886, and in 1887 Rev. Wigdahl became its permanent pastor, serving the congregation with great love, devotion and sacrifice for 50 years. He also organized congregations at Sanborn, Estherville, Wallingford, Dolliver, Emmetsburg, Cylinder, Milford, Fort Dodge, Little Sioux, Fulton and Palestina.

While attending the seminary, Rev. Wigdahl taught a parochial school at Ossian, Ia., where he met Anna L. Osterhus. On October 7, 1883, she became his bride in the home of her parents at Ossian. For more than 50 years she was his devoted help-mate and constant companion, carrying the heavy duties of a minister's wife with true Christian devotion and in a deep spirit of love.

Twelve children were born to Rev. and Mrs. Wigdahl, nine sons and three daughters. Two sons died in infancy. A third son, Dr. A. B. Wigdahl, passed away in 1924. Surviving are his widow,

graduates are either sons or partners of established morticians or members of mortuary firms, which would indicate that very few of them are without definite positions waiting for them. Mr. Martin will arrive in Emmetsburg the latter part of this week, where he will assist his father, J. J. Martin, in the management and operation of the Martin Funeral home.

## Huge Mid-season Sale at Beebe's

A huge mid-season sale opened at the Beebe clothing store in Emmetsburg on Wednesday of this week to continue for 10 days. Bargains galore in men's and boys' clothing and furnishings are being offered. For instance, overcoats are going at one-half price; one lot of men's suits are marked down to \$9.95; 800 suits have been reduced \$5.00 to \$15.00. And hundreds of other bargains are awaiting you at the Beebe store. Here is your opportunity to "dress up for the Fourth of July" at ridiculously low cost from the largest stock of men's and boys' clothing in north-west Iowa. Remember, the sale lasts only 10 days. Get your share of the Beebe bargains while you have this unusual opportunity.

## Boxing Show Heart Attack Is Fatal

Everett Baugh, 62-year-old bachelor, died suddenly at Graettinger Tuesday morning following a collapse from a heart attack near the ringside at the Punch Bowl boxing show at Graettinger Monday evening. He was sitting near a friend, Frank Swanson, when stricken. Mr. Swanson rushed the sick man to a physician, and death came a few hours later at the home of his sister, Mrs. E. A. Baumgartner.

## Former Resident Dies in No. Dakota

Walter Sprout, former resident of this community, and a brother of Mrs. J. C. Thompson of Emmetsburg, Len Sprout of Cylinder and Alfred Sprout of Mason City, passed away in a hospital in Bismark, N. D., June 12, after an illness of two weeks. The deceased moved to Mercer, N. D., from Emmetsburg a number of years ago. Sincere sympathy is extended to his surviving relatives.

## Miss Pruitt Weds in Des Moines

Word was received here a few days ago that Miss Evelyn Pruitt, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Edward Pruitt of this city, was married in Des Moines recently. A detailed account of the marriage has not been completed up to the time we go to press, and it will be published in next week's issue of the Reporter.

## Snappy Box in Punch Bowl Graettinger

Promoter Phillips fans with the Monday evening Allen wins from ton in sury Negro too mterville Mexio Pettit smoth boy with blow

Promoter Jack Palo Alto and of Iowa boxing fans card at the Grae Bowl Monday eve sized crowd howle of the five bouts, was a fight.

For the opener, Kenneth Ridenour, edged it out with C Taylor of Bancroft the stronger and making the first two at Curlew clouter fi The Bancroft "Kid" round and rated a second, while Ride third and shaded h the fourth for a d

Alex "Sleepy" Tied with Fritz Bros ville; a tall, rang second offering, an er. Thompson, rug has been in the C Bob Jackson and fi He is anything but carries plenty of sponents about six where his rapier Brosett could de Thompson, althoug him down once. Th boy cuffed and ju plenty, and in the ed him down so h head bounced off t The towel saved h via the referee.

Phillips' next of supposed human n form of Emmetabl fighter, Claude Pe seemingly badly o with Johnny Cosgro a much bigger and However, with wily to second him Clau a left jab and a rig four out of six r

Boxing (Continued on

# LETS

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## Bring Results!

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100 extra good  
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20 guests at a miscellaneous shower in honor of Miss Mary Kelly at the Kelly apartment on Tuesday afternoon. A 1 o'clock luncheon preceded an afternoon of contract bridge, at which Mrs. Charles Duhigg Jr. won the prize for high score and Mrs. Alan Bailey won the draw prize. The guest of honor, Miss Kelly, was presented with many lovely gifts.

Other courtesies this week in honor of Miss Kelly, whose marriage will be an event of July 2, were a 1 o'clock luncheon at the Kermore hotel Wednesday, given by Miss Genevieve Daley, and an afternoon bridge party given by Mrs. Wade Sullivan at Algona this (Thursday) afternoon, with Emmetsburg and Algona guests included in the gathering. On Friday afternoon, Mrs. Earl Beebe, Mrs. J. I. Hobson and Mrs. F. X. Cretzmeyer will entertain at a luncheon and bridge party at the Cretzmeyer home, and on Saturday morning Mrs. James Ausland and Mrs. Alan Bailey will be hostesses to a group at a breakfast at the Bailey home.

On next Monday evening Mr. and Mrs. John McDonald will entertain Miss Kelly at a dinner party at the McDonald home and on next Tuesday afternoon Mrs. T. F. Rutledge will entertain a group of friends of Miss Kelly at a 1 o'clock luncheon and recipe shower at the Kermore hotel.

## Newslettes

Mrs. James Collins was called to Galva, Ill., Monday due to the serious illness of her mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thompson are the parents of a baby girl, born at the Thompson home Monday.

Rev. Father Leo McEvoy and his aunt, Miss Tessie Rashford, both of Ruthven, visited with Emmetsburg relatives and friends Wednesday.

Walter Middleton and his daughter, Virginia, spent Sunday at the Middleton cottage at Lake Okoboji, returning to Emmetsburg the same day.

James Brereton, who attended Grinnell college the past year, arrived in Emmetsburg last week end to spend the summer months here with his mother, Mrs. L. D. Brereton.

Miss Dorothy Kerwick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merle Kerwick, is visiting Miss Mary deSales Critz at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. V. Critz, near Fort Dodge. Miss Kerwick will also attend the Girl Scout camp in Dolliver park at Fort Dodge.

## ★ Wigdahl From— Page 1

six sons, Rev. O. L. N. Wigdahl of Mason City, Carl G., Emmetsburg, Leonard, Lloyd A., Selmar A. and Harold, all of Ruthven, and three daughters, Belvina Hadley and Lisa, Wigdahl, both of Ruthven, and Alma Wigdahl of Flandreau, S. D. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren. One grandchild, Arthur Hadley, is deceased.

Rev. Wigdahl was truly one of the sturdy pioneer pastors who endured many hardships and travelled many weary miles over northwest Iowa in establishing a network of churches and exhorting human beings to the worship of God. No sacrifice was too great for him to make in his zeal for saving souls. He served in many positions of honor in his church and spent much time in keeping in close and encouraging contact with those whom he baptized and confirmed in his chosen faith. And despite the crowded hours devoted to his ministerial duties, he found time to become well versed in matters of public interest and to take positions of leadership in matters of his community, state and nation. At one time he served very creditably as representative from Palo Alto county in the Iowa legislature.

Although profoundly wrapped up in his own religion, Rev. Wigdahl was very broadminded and tolerant toward the religious beliefs and practices of others. He was known to be in constant search of spiritual truth and enlightenment and, with open mind, listened to the expressions and teachings of ministers in other religions.

When the ravages of time weakened his physique and brought on pain and disease, he cheerfully accepted a prolonged period of illness as a means to greater eternal merit. Instead of embittering him, intense suffering seemed to draw him closer to the God he strived so faithfully to serve throughout more than half a century in the ministry. He made a brave fight for recovery, to be of further earthly service to his Master, and he refused to die until every vestige of his mental, physical and spiritual energies were consumed in devotion to his Creator.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the widow and the splendid family of sons and daughters he leaves. They will miss him greatly, but the memory of his ex-

emplary life and accomplish-ments should be an immense consolation.

## ★ Boxing From— Page 1

fifth even and the first going to Cosgrove. Johnny, a long range hitter with a terrific swing, was almost helpless in his efforts to damage Pettit, because a left or a right was in his face most of the time. Both lads were very tired at the end.

In the semi-windup, an 8-round affair, Santos Reyes, Centerville Mexican, took a good shellacking from "Wild Bill" Hendricks, Okaloosa Negro. Hendricks seemed content to go along with the Mexican until Phillips talked him out of it. The Negro boy's left was the most effective on Reyes' jaw, while uppercuts and rights failed to damage him. The Centerville lad had no time for clowning and fought back gamely, but did not seem to faze the Negro. The crowd got a big kick out of this fight, both fighters and Referee Phillips coming in for some razzberries.

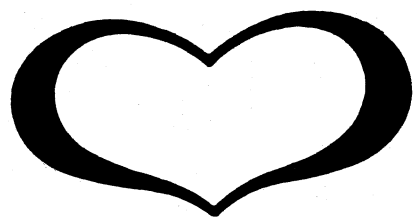
The final go and big surprise of the evening was the "Swede" Allen - Francis Warrington 8-rounder. Warrington of Estherville, tall and rangy golden gloves champ, looked like an easy winner over Graettinger's pride, but "Swede" simply kept his opponent busy dodging a nice left jab and a right sock during the entire eight rounds, and took the second, fifth, seventh and eighth, while the Estherville boy could glean only the sixth. In this round, however, Allen was in a bad way and a different story might be written had Warrington's right been right. The bout had the crowd crazy, especially in the eighth round, when Allen simply snowed his opponent under with blows. Ted Goeders was in Allen's corner and directed him in his victory.

Neville of Algona refereed the first two bouts, also the last as Phillips has more than a promoter's interest in Allen.

### CARD OF THANKS

We wish to acknowledge, with sincere gratitude, the many acts and words of kindness and the numerous floral offerings so generously given during our recent sorrow in the death of our beloved husband and father.— Mrs. S. P. Boles, sr., and family.

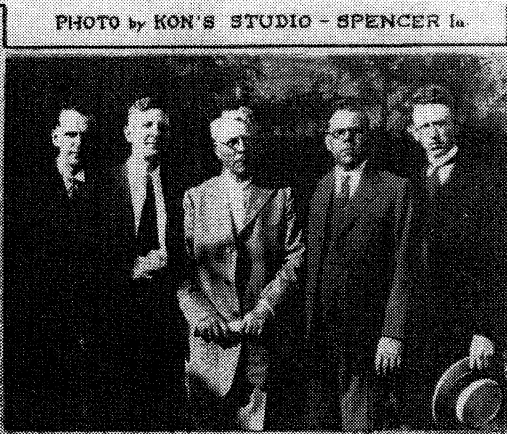
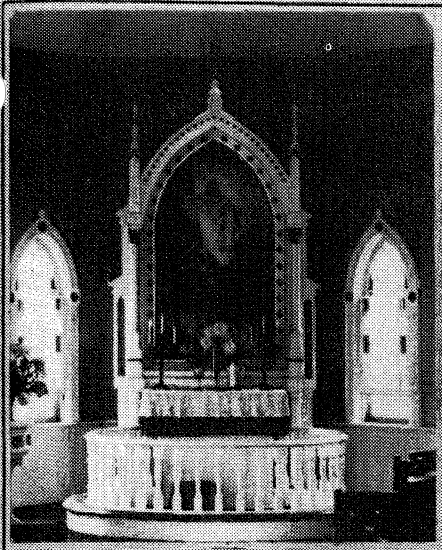
Ruthven . . .



The Heart  
Of The  
Lake District.

Production And Printing By  
**BIRELINE PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
General Office In Newell, Iowa 50568.

PHOTO by KON'S STUDIO - SPENCER Ia.



# 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

IN HONOR OF

## Rev. L.O. Wigdahl

PASTOR OF THE

### Zion Lutheran Church RUTHVEN IA.

18

87

19

27





Wilcox.

Mary A. (but we all knew her as Mae) was born in 1881. She grew up in the Minneapolis area. She was adopted into her family.

Earl and Mae farmed after their marriage. They farmed where the Leo Geelan family now resides. When they retired, they purchased the house where Bob Fieseler now lives. They took pride in their garden and their fruit trees.

Earl worked in the Hoekstra Clothing Store until his health failed him. Mae worked at the Hot Lunch Program at school.

Earl and Mae had one daughter, Doris M., born in 1909. She attended the local school. Later, she married Walter P. Henderson. Walt had previously owned a bakery in Ruthven.

Doris and Walt lived in Spencer, Iowa, at the time of Walt's death. Doris was employed at the Beehive, known now as Winslows. She worked there until her health forced her to retire.

Earl, Mae, Doris and the Edd Bowles family enjoyed their watermelon patches. We've seen many old pictures of them and other neighbors eating melons (out by the chicken house). No mess, no fuss!

### THE L. O. WIGDAHL FAMILY

Rev. L. O. Wigdahl was the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Ruthven for over 50 years. He was one of the pioneer pastors of northwest Iowa.

Lars Olson Wigdahl was born in Stavanger, Norway, Dec. 7, 1857. He was the third child in a family of eight children. He came to America in 1880 and made his home with an uncle, Ole Wigdahl, at Fort Atkinson, Wis. He was employed for some time in his uncle's hardware store in Fort Atkinson and then worked for a short time for a railroad.

Deciding to enter the ministry, he enrolled at a Seminary at Red Wing, Minn., and later attended the Augsburg Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn.

While attending the Seminary in Minneapolis, he spent some time



Mrs. L. O. Wigdahl



Rev. L. O. Wigdahl

teaching in a parochial school near Ossian, Iowa, where he met Anna L. Osterhus. They married on Oct. 7, 1883.

Anna Osterhus was born near Ossian, Iowa, on April 17, 1863. She was the fourth child in a family of six boys and six girls. Her parents had emigrated to the state of Iowa from Stavanger, Norway. Anna grew up in a log cabin home on her father's homestead amid rolling hills, timber and winding creeks. This brought forth within her a keen love of nature which remained with her all her life. She was a loyal helpmate and close companion in her husband's ministerial work for more than half a century.

On Christmas Day, 1884, while still a student at the Seminary, Rev. Wigdahl preached his first sermon in this locality. He continued coming here once a month and in 1885 he organized the Zion Lutheran Church in Ruthven and became its pastor, where he served for more than half a century. He also organized congregations at Estherville, Emmetsburg, Fort Dodge, Sanborn, Walingford, Milford, Cylinder, Little Sioux, Fulton and Palestina.

In 1915, Rev. Wigdahl was elected State Representative from Palo Alto County and served four years

in the Iowa legislature. At one time he was a member of the board of directors of Waldorf College and also served for several years on the local board of education.

Rev. Wigdahl delivered his 50th anniversary sermon on Christmas Day, 1934, and on July 19, 1936, he delivered his farewell sermon to the congregation and retired from active work in the ministry.

Rev. Wigdahl passed away June 18, 1938, and his wife, Anna, passed away Feb. 1, 1939.

Children born to Rev. and Anna Wigdahl were:

Oliver who graduated from Ruthven High School, St. Olaf College, Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul. He married Galena Hanson of Northwood, Iowa. He served congregations at Detroit Lakes, Minn.; Badger, Iowa; Mason City, Iowa (21 years); Meckling, S.D.; Norway, Kan.; and at Seward, Alaska, for two years after the age of 83. Five children: Marie, Beatrice, Ruth, Gladys and Luther were born to Oliver and Galena. Oliver passed away in 1981.

Leonard attended school at Ruthven. He homesteaded in Montana; farmed south of Ruthven for many years. He married Nettie Knutson of Ruthven and they had one son,

Alden. He passed away in 1956.

Almer attended Ruthven School, Waldorf Academy, dental school at University of Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army in Italy in World War I. He practiced Dentistry at Decorah, Fort Dodge and Ruthven, Iowa. Almer married Elizabeth Sorenson of Rollin, Iowa. Almer and Elizabeth had two children: Francis and Louise (Dolly). He passed away in 1924.

Lloyd attended Ruthven School, Waldorf Academy. He served in the U.S. Army in France in World War I. He worked on the farm with his brother, Leonard and he loved horses and working with them. Lloyd passed away in 1939.

Selmer attended Ruthven School and Waldorf Academy. Sam and his brother, Carl, bought the Currans Hardware in Ruthven in 1919 and Sam continued to operate the store until he suffered a stroke in 1959. He married Louise Hofstad of Fostoria, Iowa. Sam and Louise had two sons: Marvin and Eugene. He passed away in 1961.

Carl attended school in Ruthven and Waldorf Academy. He owned the Hardware Store with Sam in Ruthven and opened a second store, along with his brother Sam in the 1930's in Emmetsburg. Carl operated the store in Emmetsburg until suffering a severe heart attack in 1969. Carl married Elsie Hofstad of Fostoria, Iowa. Children born to Carl and Elsie: Lois Ann and Lowell. Carl passed away in 1969.

Harold graduated from Ruthven High School and St. Olaf College. He served in U.S. Army in World War II, worked several years in the Hardware Store with his brothers Carl and Sam. Harold was deputy Palo Alto County treasurer for eight years. He worked at Globe Machinery & Supply in Spencer for 11 years. He and his wife, Anne, operated Wigdahl Dry Goods & Clothing in Ruthven from 1959 to 1972. He was married to Anna-Marie Nelson of Ruthven, Iowa.

Belvina attended school at Ruthven; graduated from high school at Detroit Lakes, Minn.; graduated from St. Olaf College and taught

school at Ruthven and Wesley, Iowa. She married Dr. L. M. Hadley, veterinarian. Doc and Bel had two children: Arthur and Harriet.

Alma graduated from Ruthven High School, Iowa State College in Ames; Master's Degree, University of Minn. Alma taught at Cylinder, Edgewood, and Forest City, Iowa, and at St. Cloud Technical High School at St. Cloud, Minn., and at the Government Indian School at Flandreau, S. D. She also was a partner with a long-time friend, Avo Weir, in a cafe at Sac City, Iowa, and a department store at Northwood, Iowa. She passed away in 1982.

Lisa attended Ruthven School. Because of ill health much of her life, she lived with her parents until their death and then lived with her sister, Belvina, until Lisa died in 1951.

By Anne Wigdahl

#### WESLEY AND PRUDENCE WUNN

Wesley and Prudence Lloyd Wunn moved to the farm two miles north and 3¼ miles east of Ruthven from a farm west of Milford, Iowa, in February 1949. The two youngest of their five children moved with them and graduated from the Ruthven Schools.

Wesley Luther was born Oct. 20, 1900, at Everly, Iowa. The youngest of seven children born to Jacob and Katherine Jones Wunn. Prudence Ellen Lloyd was born March 3, 1905, at Dedham, Iowa — the youngest of 12 children born to Edward C. and Annie Somes Lloyd.

Wesley and Prudence were married Dec. 22, 1924, at Sioux City, Iowa, with Peter Lloyd, Prudence's brother, officiating the ceremony. They farmed near Spencer, Everly, Milford, and finally settled on the farm northeast of Ruthven. Five children were reared:

Donald Jacob married Eleanor Parrish, now living at Greenville, Ohio.

Lois Anne married Lewis Boers,



Prudence and Wesley Wunn - summer of 1964.

now living at Pleasantville, Iowa.

Lu (Lula) Jean married Kenneth K. Grandstaff. They are divorced and now she is married to Virgil Eaton and living at Ruthven, Iowa.

Audrey Marie married Arlo Roberts, now living at Alliance, Neb.

Phyllis Teleen married Ronald Roehler, now living at Estherville, Iowa.

Due to failing health Wesley retired from farming in 1962, rented out the farm land, but continued to live in the buildings. Wesley passed away Oct. 1, 1966. Prudence continued to live in the buildings until she bought a home in Estherville, Iowa, in 1979. She passed away Nov. 13, 1981, with cancer. Both Wesley and Prudence were laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery.

#### ALFRED — FLORENCE WICHMAN FAMILY By Florence Wichman

Alfred and Florence Miller were married March 27, 1929, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Graettinger, Iowa.

They were the first couple to be wed at the old church after it was moved to Graettinger.

After their marriage, Henry and



The Alfred Wichman family. In the front row [left to right] are David, Alfred, Florence and Dennis. In the back row [left to right] are Donald, Marilyn and Kenneth.

Rebecca moved to Spencer, Iowa, and Alf and Florence started up farming on the home place, which his folks had bought in 1892.

After the death of both parents we purchased the farm from the estate and resided there our entire married life, which was 52-plus years. Alf passed away in 1981.

We were blessed with four sons and one daughter. The oldest being Donald who is married to Darlene Nissen and lives in Emmetsburg where he is in construction work. Kenneth married Elsie Smith and lives in Ruthven and is also in construction work. Marilyn married Cyril Rouse Jr. and are farming near Ayrshire, Iowa. David married Marilyn Lester and lives in Canby, Ore., where he is a Pharmacist and has his own business. Dennis married Elaine Anderson and both are employed at the University of Rhode Island at Kingston, Rhode Island, but reside at Wakefield, Rhode Island.

All our children graduated from Ayrshire school, where Alf also attended school after it was consolidated.

Alf was on the school board at Ayrshire for nine years and president of the board for three years. He was on the Palo Alto County school board for six years.

We have also been active in our church which is Zion Lutheran at Ruthven where Alf was confirmed also all our children.

One oddity is that Alf had never lived anywhere else and we slept all our married life in the bedroom he was born in.

Since Alf's death and having been told by him not to stay on the farm, I bought the old Oliver lot at Ruthven and built a new house on it. It is much different living in town, but I am getting used to it. Of course having lived on the farm for over 53 years it was pretty hard to leave it, but having so many nice friends and neighbors I am sure I'll get used to it.

#### THE LEONARD WIGDAHL FAMILY

Leonard Wigdahl was born in Ossian, Iowa, April 10, 1887, to Lars and Anna Wigdahl. He was the second oldest of 10 children. At an early age they moved to Ruthven where his father was a pastor of Zion Lutheran Church for 50 years. He attended Ruthven schools and in 1910 he and Knut Knutson homesteaded at Inverness, Mont., for 10 years. They returned to Ruthven with all their belongings by rail.

On Jan. 20, 1920, he married Nettie Knutson and moved to a farm southeast of Ruthven, owned by his father. Nettie was a daughter of Thore and Joran Knutson. Thore was a blacksmith in Ruthven for many years. Her mother, Joran, died at a very early age of a ruptured appendix. Nettie's sisters were Nora (Tripp) and Carrie (Osterhus) and a brother, Knut Knutson.

Nettie and Leonard had one son, Alden, born May 24, 1921. In 1936, they moved to a farm two miles north of Silver Lake. They were members of Zion Lutheran Church and Leonard was a Pioneer salesman for many years until his retirement. They moved into Ruthven in 1948. Leonard passed away from a heart attack July 26, 1956, and Nettie on Aug. 11, 1972, after a lingering illness.

#### LUVERNE WILLIAMSON FAMILY

Luverne Leon Williamson graduated from Ayrshire High School in 1946. He enlisted in the Army and served overseas in Korea for 27 months and worked at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. for three months. He spent the winter of 1953 in Arizona working at Allison Steel. Luverne was married to Betty Westergard, the daughter of Alfred and Ruth Nelson Westergard, on Dec. 28, 1955, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Graettinger. Luverne was engaged in farming and Betty was teaching school at the time.

They lived for three years on a farm three miles east, one mile south and one mile east of Ruthven and in 1958 moved to a farm three miles south and 2½ miles east of Ruthven where they still live. Luverne and Betty have two children. David was born Sept. 27, 1963, graduated from Ayrshire High School in 1982, and is presently a student at Iowa State University at Ames majoring in business administration. Lori was born on Oct. 13, 1965, graduated from Emmetsburg High School in 1984, and will be attending college in the fall.

Fish Company was not hiring anyone for work in Ketchikan, Alaska. Inquiry at the Alaska Steamship Line told of no passage available until September. Funds were running low and the boys were staying in a Japanese hotel for room rent of 35 cents a day and food consisted of apples, rolls and milk. In a week luck changed and the steamship line said they had two steerage passages available. A few days later the ship docked in Ketchikan and employment was obtained with the same fish company that said there was no work available. After 10 days of work the boys had a day off and decided to climb Deer Mountain east of the town. Going up the trail was fine but it was a poor decision to seek a new route down. Marv slipped in a stream, went over a waterfall, and Dean and a companion saved his life by pulling him from the water. The accident happened at six in the evening and a rescue party reached them at five the following morning. Dr. Stagg met them at the base of the mountain and Marv remained unconscious in the hospital for five days. After recovery the remainder of the summer was spent working in the salmon cannery and then home across Canada by train in September.

With the attack of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, many things changed. Marv joined the Marine Corps and was sent to the V-12 unit at the University of Notre Dame. Evie went to Des Moines and worked in the ammunition plant at Ankeny and later entered nurses training at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines. Marv went to boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., then to Camp Lejeune, N.C., from there to Quantico, Va. Following officer's training he was assigned to an artillery unit and in June of 1945 he joined the 6th Marine Division in the final days for the battle of Okinawa. Following that the unit went to Guam to prepare for what was to be the invasion of Japan. With the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima, the war was over and the Division was sent to Tsingtao,

China, for the winter of '45 and '46 to repatriate the Japanese.

In the spring of 1946, Marv came home from China. The many letters exchanged through the years by Marv and Evie had kept them close and they were married on Sept. 29, 1946. Living in Ruthven Marv worked in the hardware store and also helped Ralph Lightle at the funeral home. Following a year's apprenticeship with Ralph, Marv and Evie moved to Lake Park, Ill., where they lived while Marv attended the Worsham College of Mortuary Science. A year of Class A apprenticeship then followed in Charles City, Iowa, at the Grossman Funeral Home and on Nov. 15, 1948, their first son, David, was born.

The following year a letter from home told of help needed at the hardware store. Moving back to Ruthven, they purchased the old Roland home, then occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Orrie Olson. The year was 1950 and the Korean War was in progress. In December, Marv received a letter calling him back into the Marines. At Camp Lejeune he found housing where Evie was able to join him only to fly home a few weeks later in a hurry for the birth of their first daughter, Janet, born April 6, 1951. Shortly after this, Marv was sent to Fort Sill, Okla., and the family lived in Lawton for six months. Then it was back to the east coast where a home was found on an island complete with sand crabs and the Atlantic Ocean at the front door. A year and a half was spent this time in the service and then back home to Ruthven.

In 1955 the home was enlarged and remodeled as there were now three children, Steve was born May 24, 1953. Time rolled on with life in the old home town just what they always wanted. The first three children were such a joy that three more were ordered with Jim joining the family on Sept. 15, 1957, his brother, John, arrived on March 31, 1960 and the family was made complete when Joanne was born on April 5, 1961.

As the years passed, Evie spent most of her time being the perfect

wife and mother. With this she also found time to work at the hardware store and was noted for her work in crafts and flower arranging. Later she took up painting and has made beautiful pictures we will always treasure. As the children gradually left home the golf clubs came in so if you don't find her at home during the summer months, try the golf course, any of them in northwest Iowa.

Marv's hobby seems to be the hardware store. His interest in photography has provided a family history in pictures becoming more treasured as the years pass. He also found it interesting to serve on the various boards, being in on the planning and construction of the Lakeside Lutheran Home in Emmetsburg. For 10 years he was a director of the Iowa Retail Hardware Association in Des Moines serving as President of the group in 1976. For seven years he served on the Board of Trustees of the Palo Alto County Hospital. In 1968 Marv became a member of the Board of Directors of the Ruthven State Bank and is serving in that capacity at the present time.

As we look back through the years we give thanks for the health and happiness that has been ours. What more can you ask than to raise a family in a friendly small town like Ruthven.

#### **SELMER [SAM] WIGDAHL FAMILY**

Rev. L. O. Wigdahl served the Zion Lutheran Church in Ruthven for over 50 years. During that time he made calls by train, horse and buggy, and later automobile to other churches in the area. One was the Little Sioux Lutheran Church northwest of Fostoria, Iowa. The Olaf Hofstad family lived a mile south of the church and their farm home became his home away from home on many weekends. The Hofstads had five sons and two daughters. The daughters, Louise and Elsie, soon became acquainted with the Wigdahl boys in Ruthven. One day, Rev. Wigdahl told his son, Sam,

that if he didn't marry Louise, he was going to. That must have been all that was necessary, Sam and Louise were married on Feb. 16, 1921.

The hardware store had been in operation for about two years when Sam moved his new bride to Ruthven. They purchased the home now occupied by the Gunnar Thims. This was the period of the wood and coal cook stoves and the ice box with cakes of ice delivered twice weekly by horse and wagon. On Aug. 7, 1922, their first son, Marvin, was born there in the home under the direction of Dr. Mock, an Army doctor who was practicing in Ruthven.

On Aug. 22, 1923, the Wigdahl-Hofstad family relationship became all the more secure when Sam's brother, Carl, married Louise's sister, Elsie, at the Hofstad home then in Spencer. They, too, moved to Ruthven and sisters and brothers had many interesting stories to tell of those early years together. On Feb. 6, 1927, Eugene was born to join his brother Marvin. They say this was quite a disappointment to Marvin as he had expected a brother who could pull him in his wagon and the new arrival was rather small and not what he expected.

Carl and Elsie had a daughter, Lois Ann, who is now Mrs. Stanley Fagre of Estherville, Iowa. Their son, Lowell, is now a doctor in Edina, Minn. The two families became very close remaining so through all the years.

Sam passed away in November of 1961 and Carl died in September of 1969. Louise now lives in her home across the street from Marv and Evie and Elsie is a resident at Lakeside Lutheran Home in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

#### **WHITFORD, LENA MILDRED**

I was born Sept. 22, 1905, at Collins, Story Co., Iowa. My father was Charles Henry Whitford born at Volga, Clayton Co., in eastern Iowa on Nov. 13, 1874. He came to Clay Co. with his parents with a pair

of oxen and lived in a sod house which they had built and left for a few years. His young life was spent in hunting and fishing. Later working on a farm for his brother-in-law in Story Co. where he met and married Grace Ann Brown. They were married Aug. 16, 1904.

Grace was born May 13, 1887. They moved to Ruthven in the fall of 1906 and started farming on the Tim Hughes farm north of Ruthven. After four years they moved to Graettinger and in 1913 to the E. P. Barringer farm about five miles northwest of Ruthven where they lived 38 years. The farm joined Round and Trumbull Lake.

Dad being a good carpenter, built his own boats, renting them on Round Lake to hunters in the fall then moving them to Trumbull Lake in the summer for fishing. We children had great fun fishing and boat racing in the summer, skating and sledding in the winter. Mother was a famous gardener and had beautiful flowers. On Sundays many people stopped just to view her labors.

There were seven of us children. Father died Dec. 14, 1966, and Mother died Jan. 25, 1946. The children were: Rena, Mabel, Edith, Faye, Raymond and Gene; all living but Edith.

#### **THE C. E. AND MAUDE YOCUM FAMILY**

**Written By Mary Yocum**

Charles E. Yocum was born in El Paso, Ill., on March 21, 1864, and Maude A. Cook was born in Hardin, Iowa, on Nov. 4, 1872. They met in South Dakota and were married in Chamberlain on Oct. 26, 1893. They moved to Ruthven in 1897, where their three children, Roland, Vincent and Mary, were born. In 1917 the family moved to Terril and in 1921 to Storm Lake, where they lived until their deaths.

All during his working life, Mr. Yocum was in the farm implement business, and while in Storm Lake was in partnership with his sons.

Mr. Yocum died in 1960 and Mrs. Yocum in 1963; Vincent in 1946 and

Roland in 1975. Mary taught in Eldora and Correctionville before moving to Austin, Minn., where she still resides.

#### **VERNON AND JEAN ZIELSTRA FAMILY**

Vernon Eldon Zielstra was born July 15, 1933, at the Zielstra family farm 3½ miles west of Ruthven. He was the son of Abraham and Evelyn Zielstra. Vernon attended Lake Center School until he graduated in 1950. For six months he worked with his uncle Laurence Chase traveling the U.S.A. for the Geodetic Survey. He then joined the U.S. Air Force and was sent to Germany, and then to England where he met his wife Jean Joynson. She lived in Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire England. They returned to this country in 1954 where they settled on the home farm. Vernon farmed with his father. Vernon and Jean had four sons, one deceased, the others being Paul born 1956, Brian 1958, and Kevin in 1963. In 1962 Jean returned to England with Brian and Paul to visit with her



**Vernon Zielstra and sons, Brian, Kevin and Paul - 1965.**

STATE OF IOWA  
1939

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# Journal of the House

OF THE

Forty-eighth General Assembly

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CONVENED JANUARY 9, 1939  
ADJOURNED APRIL 26, 1939

GEORGE A. WILSON, Governor  
BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, President of the Senate  
JOHN R. IRWIN, Speaker of the House

41843

Published by  
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Des Moines

Iowa. Admitted to the bar in 1890, he began his practice of the law in Sioux City, Iowa, where he continued to reside until his death. In 1901 he became county attorney of Woodbury county, Iowa, holding that office for ten years, at the end of which he was elected to the Iowa legislature, serving as representative from Woodbury county in the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth General Assemblies.

In 1914 he was appointed reporter of the Supreme Court. During the period of code revision from 1914 to 1924 he served as one of three code commissioners whose work of compilation and revision resulted in the Code of 1924—the first complete code in Iowa since 1897. As a part of this work the legislature had added to the duties of his office the position of Code Editor, in which capacity he was responsible for 1924, 1927, 1931, and 1935 editions of the Iowa Code. He died at his home in Sioux City, Iowa, March 6, 1938.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Forty-eighth General Assembly, That in the passing of the Honorable Ulysses Grant Whitney the state has lost an honored citizen, a man of high ideals in brotherly living and useful citizenship. The House would tender, by this resolution, its sincere sympathy to the surviving members of the family in their sorrow, and*

*Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.*

JOHN A. DAVENPORT,  
MRS. FRANK A. ELLIOTT,  
E. A. JOHNSON,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted, April 12, 1939.

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#### HONORABLE LARS O. WIGDAHL

MR. SPEAKER: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character and public service of the Honorable Lars O. Wigdahl, a former member of the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh General Assemblies of Iowa, begs leave to submit the following memorial:

Lars O. Wigdahl, son of Ole Larson Wigdahl and Bertha Gunderson Wigdahl, was born at Vigsdahl, Stavaanger, Norway, December 7, 1856. He finished grade school in Norway. In the spring of 1880 the Wigdahl family came to the United States and located in Columbia county, Wisconsin.

In 1883 he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Osterhus. That year he took up the study of theology at Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran seminary in Minneapolis, having previously studied for three years at the Hauges Evangelical Lutheran seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota. In 1887 he was ordained as a minister of the Lutheran church and shortly afterwards was named pastor of the Zion Lutheran church at Ruthven,

Iowa. In early days he served pastorates at Fort Dodge, Milford, Sanborn, Cylinder, Little Sioux and Emmetsburg.

Reverend Wigdahl's interests were not limited to church affairs. He was a firm believer in good government and progressive citizenship. He served for two terms in an able manner as representative from Palo Alto county. Here as in all his activities he could be depended upon to act justly and conscientiously in any legislation that came to his attention. His record in the Iowa legislature is one that his family and his Palo Alto constituents can review with pride.

Reverend Wigdahl was one of the staunch defenders and one of the oldest preachers of the church of which he was a minister. He was interested in the fundamentals of the Christian religion and his mind delved deeply into its truths and the correct interpretation of it. For over a half century the members of his congregation found him ever solicitous of their spiritual interests. Many were the occasions when this solicitude was evidenced even into their material welfare.

Lars O. Wigdahl passed away at his home at Ruthven, Iowa, June 18, 1938, following an illness of several months' duration. The funeral was held at Ruthven Monday afternoon, June 20th. Services were conducted in the Zion Lutheran Church by the Rev. T. J. Wicks, Reverend Wigdahl's successor. Interment was in the Ruthven cemetery. The funeral procession was one of the largest ever witnessed in Ruthven. Surviving are six sons and three daughters. Mrs. Wigdahl passed away in January, 1939. The sons are Rev. L. O. Wigdahl, of Mason City, Iowa; L. J., S. A., L. D., and H. A. Wigdahl, all of Ruthven, Iowa, and C. B. Wigdahl, of Emmetsburg. The daughters are Mrs. L. M. Hadley and Miss Elizabeth Wigdahl, of Ruthven, and Miss Alma Wigdahl, of Flandreau, South Dakota. A son, Dr. A. L. Wigdahl, passed away six years ago.

The sudden removal of such a life from our midst a life of absolute trust and assurance; a believer and promoter of the great essentials of truth, honesty and sincerity, leaves a vacancy and a shadow that is deeply realized by all and has proven to be a serious loss to the community and the public.

*Therefore, Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Forty-eighth General Assembly of the State of Iowa in regular session, That in the death of Lars O. Wigdahl the people of Palo Alto county and of the entire state of Iowa have sustained a great loss. He was a man who occupied an enviable position in the hearts of all who knew him and loved him for his genuine worth; a man whose wide influence was at all times exercised for the good of humanity.*

*Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of the House, and that the Chief Clerk be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.*

GEO. H. KEENEY,  
ARCH W. MCFARLANE,  
A. H. AVERY,

*Committee.*

Unanimously adopted, April 12, 1939.





R. 36 G.A.

TRUSTEES

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SUPT. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Historical Department of Iowa

(FOUNDED BY CHARLES ALDRICH)

EDGAR R. HARLAN, CURATOR

Des Moines,

Oct. 19, 1914.

*Per Alt's Co.*

My dear Mr. Wigdahl:

As yet I have not received your biographical outline, almost imperative for me to have before November 1st in order to supply indispensable data to the office of Secretary of State.

If for any reason you do not wish us to permanently preserve full biographical information, I trust you will at once give me at least the information called for below.

Sincerely,

*Ed R. Harlan*

Hon. L. O. Wigdahl,  
Ruthven, Iowa.

What is your age? *54*

How long have you lived in Iowa? *31 years*

What is your occupation? *Pastor - Lutheran Church*

For what are you a candidate? *For State Representative*

On what ticket are you nominated? *Republican*

What is the number of your district? *84*

What is your post office? *Ruthven, Ia.*