Chapter 10: Clay Hill-Spring Creek School District

This community includes two neighborhoods, one along each east-west road. School Road connecting the two only went in during the 1940s.

The Clay Hill School once stood on the Jacob Halvorson farm, 28, about a half mile from its present location. The lot bordered on the Hanley's Woods, which the Norwegians preferred calling Irish Woods, in acknowledgement of Mr. Hanley's heritage. The school, 35, was known as the Espeseth School, after the family in the closest farmhouse, 32.

Although it was probably organized about 1870, the first records available were from 1890. In addition to the Halvorsons and the Espeseths, families that attended this school included the Grimstads at farm 26, the Olsons at 1, the Tvedts at 18, the Chestelsons at 38, the Oimoens at 4, the Brattlies at 13, and the Valstads at 8. The first recorded census, taken in 1891, reported a total of 31 students: 11 boys and 20 girls from the age of 4 to 19.

The first attempt to move the school to its present site was made at the Annual Meeting of July 6, 1896: five for and eight opposed. Another attempt was made the next year, that time six voted for moving and five against. So, Hans Valstad, N.A. Brattlie, and A.K. Grimstad were chosen to select a new site.

The August 1, 1898, Meeting decided to buy a half acre from Sever Chestelson at farm 35 for seven or eight dollars. They also agreed, in a 12 to 4 vote, to move the schoolhouse to its present site, add two feet to its height, ten to its length, and append a four-foot by ten-foot porch to the front. All the work was to be completed by October 1, 1902, at a cost of $65 for the move and $222 for the alterations.

The July 3, 1899, Annual Meeting voted to have 5 months of school in winter and 2 months of school in summer. Previously, there had only been 4 months of school in the winter.

The same year that the remodeled school (20) opened, the Meeting decided to begin paying the school board $10: $5 to the clerk, $3 to the treasurer, and $2 to the director. In 1906, the district voted to provide free text books. Such expenses are part of what drove the annual school budget up from $75 in 1894 to $150 in 1908. Of course, these figures pale when compared to the $3,200 it cost to run this same school building in 1962.

But, then, the tax base had changed, too. In 1900, for tax purposes the real estate in the district was valued at $46,465 and the personal property at $15,340.000. In 1962, it was $180,000!

Meanwhile, the district kept improving the facility. In 1908, a $90 heating plant was installed. In 1937, electric lights were put in. In 1943, the school year was lengthened to 9 months. Then, in 1945, a $645.37 well was drilled, ending the years of carrying water.

The issue of whether to continue operating the school first arose at the 1941 Annual Meeting: 23 in favor of continuing and 8 in favor of closing the school. The next year’s vote was 17 for closing and 11 for operating, but at a special meeting ten days later ballots tallied 19 for operating and 2 against.

The school closed in 1963 and the elementary children began attending school in Barneveld where their older brothers and sisters were already going for high school.

Larry and Kristine Ketterer converted the schoolhouse to a private residence.
1. Oscar and Annie (Daley) Olson
   Marie, Knudt, Alvira, Albert

   Oscar and Lillian (Spannem) Oimoen
   Oscar was a native of the district, having been raised at 4. His brother, Joseph, took that farm over after their parents. Oscar's brother, Edwin, also stayed in the district, at 24.

   Julius and Ragna (Lovstad) Westby
   Esther, Helen, Melvin, Ruth, Edith, Jennie

   Reuben and Helen (Westby) Valstad
   They also lived at 14, 15 and 28. Both were natives of the district. Reuben's parents lived at 29. His sister, Marie, also stayed in the district, at 31. Helen's parents lived at 1.
   June, Roger

   Florian and Rosella (Disrud) Handel
   Violet, Gladys, Grace

   Helmer and Olga (Oimoen) Grinder
   Albert, Ernest, Arlene, Ralph, Ethel

   Walter and Magdalena Tschanz
   Heidi, Walter, Herman, Werner, Magdalena

   Vernon and Ruby (Foss) Oimoen
   Vernon was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District, having been born and raised at 4, which his brother Ralph, farmed after their father.
   Jean, Greg, Jackie, Peggy, Patti

   Greg and Barbara (Luebke) Oimoen
   Sheila, Kelly, Cory

2. Maynard and Grace (Ihus) Peterson
   They moved to this new home when their son, Roland, took over the main house at farm 34.
   Jancan, Randall, Roland, Tracy, Trudy, Carissa

3. Ole Hansen and Ronnaug Margarette
   (Petersen-Rolstad) Grinder
   Came to America in 1859 on the ship "Brebar". They bought this property in 1863. Ole was a brother to Jacob and Nils at 8. Their father lived next door at 8 with Jacob.
   Hans, Martin, Karen, Laura, Caroline, Petra, Maren (Olava), Emma (born in America)

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Iver and Laura (Grinder) Retrum
   Were the second of three pairs of Grinder sisters and Retrum brothers to marry. Ola and Knudt were the first couple to marry. They went farming where his parents lived. This second couple to marry took over the Grinder parents' farm. The third set, Thosten and Emma, took over a southern part of what had apparently been the original Retrum farm (26 and 28 in the Sandy Rock School District). Then, Iver and Laura moved from here to farm 1 in the River Forks School District. That farm adjoined Thosten and Emma's farm, putting all three Retrum-Grinder couples on adjoining farms for many years.
   Amanda, Tillie, Ruth, Clara, Isabel, James, William, Elmer, Alexander

Archibald and Frederica (Helmenstine) Campbell
   Purchased this farm from Iver Retrum in 1881.
   John, James, George, Edwin, May, Palma

Edwin and Edith (McKenzie) Campbell
   Ed's brother, George, married Edith's sister, Minerva. They lived at farm 5 along with Ed and George's mother, Frederica.

Arthur and Emma Wallace
   Bernice, Bayard, Esther

Christian and Karina (Peterson) Weck (Vik)
   Christ was born and raised at 33. His sister, Bergit, lived next door at 8. Before moving here, Christ and Karina lived at 38.
   Vernell, Arvin
Vernell and Clara (Lehnher) Week
Clara is a native of the district, too. Her parents were cheesemakers at 17.
   Irene, Robert, Ann

Sherry, Dennis, Dean, James, Eugene, Randy

Eugene and Merle (Andres) Oimoen
Eugene’s sister, Sherry, also stayed in the district, at 16, until Eugene took over the big house here. Then, their parents replaced Sherry and her family at 16.
   Matthew

4. Iver and Helena (Lena Brattlie) Oimoen
Lena was a Clay Hill-Spring Creek native, having been raised at 13 which her brother, Nickolai, farmed after her parents. Her sister, Aslaug, also stayed in the district, at 9. Lena and Iver also lived at 15 -- which is simply the southern end of this farm.
   Oscar, Joseph, Henry, Edwin, Alfred

Iver and Helena Oimoen’s five sons: (L to R)
Joseph, Alfred, Oscar, Edwin and Henry

Joseph and Esther (Stenseth) Oimoen
Joe’s brothers, Oscar and Edwin, also stayed in the district at 1 and 24, respectively. Joe later lived at 18. Esther was also a native of the district. Her parents lived at 16 and her sister, Violet Campbell, lived next door at 5.
   Ralph, Vernon, Anita

Ralph and Arlene (Dougherty) Oimoen
Ralph’s brother, Vernon, also stayed in the district at 1.

5. George and Minerva (McKenzie) Campbell and
   Frederica (Helmenstine) Campbell
George’s brother, Edwin, married Minerva’s sister, Edith. This second couple farmed at 3.
   Albert, Scott, Clair, Archibald

Archibald and Violet (Stenseth) Campbell
Both were natives of the district. Violet’s parents lived at 16 and her sister, Esther Oimoen, lived next door at 4.
   Kathryn, George, James

Emil and Jane (Klundt) Gust
Walter and Kathryn (Gust) Jabs
   Karen, Larry

Alvin and Alvilda (Valstad) Johnson
Alvilda was a native of the district, having been born and raised at 8.
   Garry, Luanne, Roland, David

Gregg Nettesheim and Maggie Steele
   Charles

6. Campbell Cheese Factory
Known Cheesemakers:
   John and Annie (Schraepfer) Lehnher
   Emma, Clara
   John and Leocadia (Fennis) Lehnher
   Albertina, Anna
7. **Abe Elliot**  
Used as a summer home. Earl Reynolds is repairing it for use as a summer home again.

8. **Hans Olsen and Mari (Larseth-Hofset) Valstad**  
After Mari died in Norway, Hans came to America with his son Jacob and his family.  
Martha, Ole, Birthe, Nils, Jacob, Maren (stayed in Norway)

**Jacob Hansen and Anne (Amundseth) Valstad**  
Came to America in 1853. Bought property in the Town of Brigham in 1860. His father lived with them.  
Martin, Anna Maria, Elise, Helene, Jane Andrea

![Hans and Anna Maria Valstad about 1869](image1)

**Hans and Anna Maria (Jacobsdtr) Valstad**  
Hans was Nils’ son.  
Eliza, Ida, Andreas, Matilda, Hannah,  
Ludvig, Lydia (died of TB), John, Ludvig,  
Hilda, Alpha and Augusta (twins)

![Nils and Inger Hansen-Valstad and their son Jacob](image2)

**Nils Hansen and Inger (Olsdtr) Valstad**  
Came to America in 1867 and built a home on Jacob’s farm. Nils and Jacob’s brother, Ole  
Hansen-Grinder, lived next door on farm 3.  
Jacob, Hans, Maria, Nils, Ludvig, Elise,  
Paulina Olava

![Hans and Anna Maria Valstad's children: (L to R) Hilda, Lydia, Ludwig](image3)
Ludvig and Birgit (Tallacksettin-Vik) Valstad
Both were natives of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District. Birgit was born and raised at 33. Her brother, Christ, also stayed in the district, at 38 and then 3. Ludvig’s sister Hilda stayed in the district at 19.

Luella, Talvick, Alvilda, Victor

The Halvor Helgeson family c. 1904: (L to R) Abner, Aslaug, Annie, Ida, Julia, and Halvor

Halvor and Aslaug (Brattlie) Helgeson
Aslaug was from across the road at 13, which her brother, Nickolai, farmed after their parents. Their sister, Helena (Lena), also stayed in the district at 4 and 15.

Julia, Annie, Abner, Ida

Abner and Hazel (Paulson) Helgeson
They moved from here to 17.

James, Paul, Janet

James and Susan (Harris) Helgeson
Konni, Shawn, Kim

10. Ben and Anna (Johnsrud) Peterson
Percy, Raymond, Darwin, Lloyd, Verda, Alta, Bernice Florence, Amos, Delbert, Maynard, Bernard
Family went to school in Adamsville but belonged to Perry Church.

Delbert and Marcia (Erickson) Peterson
Delbert’s brothers, Percy, Ray and Maynard, and their sister, Alta, also stayed in the district.

Leland (Pete), Vicki, Juanita, Debbie, Todd

11. Raymond and Lulu (Lee) Peterson
Ray and Lulu built this new log cabin on a small piece of property across the road from the farm where he grew up. Delbert and Ray’s brother, Percy, married Lulu’s sister, Thora. This couple also remained in the district for a while, at 14.
Before moving here, Ray and Lulu had lived at 31. In his youth, Ray was a traveling “barn stormer”. In later years, he was very involved with the Flying Farmers.

Evelyn, Richard, Lucille, Donna, Robert (Bobber), Donald, Sandra, Joette
Lulu (Lee) Peterson, Joette Peterson and Robert (Bobber) Peterson

David

12. Ole and Astrid (Juulseth-Haavrud) Swenson
In 1878, they had a new, 20’x20’, frame house. When the tornado came through on May 23rd, it totally demolished this house. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson and four of their children were in the house when it happened. Mr. and Mrs. Swenson were killed instantly. When Mrs. Swenson was found dead, she was holding their uninjured, infant child. One of the other children suffered a broken thigh, another was badly cut and bruised and the fourth was uninjured.

John, Ole, Gunhild, Evan, Lewis, Margit

John and Annie Swenson
Kenneth, Walter, Robert, Alma, Olin, Bessie, George, Malcolm
Family attended Adamsville school but belonged to Perry Church.

Echo Valley Girl Scout Camp

13. Aadne (Tollefson-Hoildal) and Johanna Brattlie
The log house they built is still on this farm.
Nicolai, Aslaug, Helena (Lena), Asher, Mattie, Tollef

Nicholai and Lizzie (Elzie Halvorson) Brattlie
Both were native of the district. Lizzie’s parents lived at 23. Nicolai’s sisters, Aslaug and Lena, also stayed in the district. Aslaug across the road at 9 and Lena at 4 and 15.
Agnes, Morris, Norman

Morris and Gwynetha (Ball) Brattlie
Reginald, Marie, Kenneth

Kenneth and Beverly (Dodge) Brattlie
Lisa, Sonja, Kathy, Cheryl

14. William and Jane Andrea (Valstad) Bjerke
Jane Andrea was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District. Her parents, Jacob and Anne, were 1853 immigrants who lived at farm 8. Hjalmer, Alma

Seymour Peterson

Emmett Bunker

Albert and Alta (Peterson) Marty
Although she attended school in Adamsville, Alta was a native of this district as defined in this book. She was born and raised at 10. Her brothers, Delbert, Ray and Percy, stayed in the district. Alta and Albert also lived across the road at 15. LaVern, Joyce, Sharon, Leon, Larry, Lois

Martin and Ruth Peterson
They also lived at 24.

Clifford Johnson

Reuben and Helen (Westby) Valstad
They also lived across the road, at 15, and at 1 and 29. Both were natives of the district. His parents lived at 29. His sister, Marie, also stayed in the district at 31. Helen’s parents lived at 1.
June, Roger

Percy and Thora (Lee) Peterson
As his sister, Alta, above, although he attended school in Adamsville, Percy is a native of this district as defined here. He was born and raised at 10. Percy’s brother, Ray, married Thora’s sister, Lulu, and also stayed part of his adult life in the district at 31 and then 11.
Russell, Raphael, Gary, Gerald, Jeanette

Amos and Ida (Helgeson) Steensland
Ida was also a native of the district, having been born and raised at 9.

Michael and Sue (Bomkamp) Nechkash
Mike is from this district, too. His parents live at 38. Mike and Sue have built a new house at 36. Pamela, Christopher, Becca

James and Penny Nechkash

15. Iver and Helena (Lena Brattlie) Oimoen
Lena and Iver also lived at 4 – that is, the north end of this farm, where her family ties are noted.
Oscar, Joseph, Edwin, Henry, Alfred

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Thorwald and John Topper

Albert Hauge
Leonard, Melvin, Mabel

Oscar Peterson

Ole and Emma (Gilbertson) Swingen
Clara, Wallace, Enderlein, Eleanor, Doris, Gaylord

Reuben and Helen (Westby) Valstad
They also lived across the road, at 14, and at 1 and 28.

June, Roger

Albert and Alta (Peterson) Marty
Lived across the road at 14, where there is more information on her family.
LaVern, Joyce, Sharon, Leon, Larry, Lois

Sever and Myrtle Gladem
Delores, Virginia, Glen

Clarence Boe

Steven and Sele (Schlieff) Hufton
Jonathan, Stephen, Christine

Mollie Stenseth with her son Chestel in Daleyville. The horse’s name was Fanny.

16. Ole K. and Mollie (Chestelson) Stenseth
Ole was chairman of the town of Brigham for 25 years. He went farming before his brother, Knudt, died at 34. Mollie was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District, having been born and raised at 38. Her brother, Carl, worked that place with their mother after their father’s death. Eventually their sister, Sophia, farmed there. Their sister, Randine, also lived in the district, at 18.
Esther, Violet, Marguerite, Chestel, Quintin, Marie

The Ole K. Stenseth family. Standing: (L to R) Esther, Mollie, Violet, Ole, Marguerite. Front: Marie, Quinton, and Chestel.

Quintin and Hazel (Bang) Stenseth
Quintin’s sisters, Esther and Violet, also stayed in the district at 4 and 5, respectively.
Ann Marie, Elaine, Philip, David, Jane, Ron

Chestel Stenseth

Ted Watrud

Leonard and Sherry (Oimoen) Harpold
Sherry is a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District, having been born and raised on 4, which her brother, Eugene, took over from their parents. When her parents left that farm they replaced Sherry and her family here.
John, James, Jeremy

Ralph and Arlene (Dougherty) Oimoen
Sherry, Dennis, Dean, James, Eugene, Randy

The Clay Hill Cheese Factory as a home.

17. Clay Hill Cheese Factory
Known Cheesemakers:
Mike Thoni
Fred Mani and wife  
(not to be confused with the other Fred Mani  
who was a cheesemaker at the Daleville  
Cheese Factory)  
Emma, Matilda, Fritz  
Carl and Louise Lehnher  
Ernest and Regeli Blaser  
Converted to a private residence.  

Larry and Sharon (Marty) Jabs  
Both were natives of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek  
District. His parents lived at 4 and hers, across the  
road from here, at 15.  
Crystal, Anita, Cathy, Diana, Gregg  

Abner and Hazel (Paulson) Helgeson  
They lived at 9 before they moved here.  
James, Paul, Janet  

Greg and Anne (Hathaway) Burreson  
Greg is a native of the district, having grown up on  
23 and 24.  
Benjamin, Nicholas  

18. Edward and Annie (Halvorson) Tvedt  
Annie was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek  
District from farm 29.  
Clara, Elmer, Gunda, Melvin, Roy, Doell,  
Minerva  
The farm buildings on this land were originally  
located by the creek. They were moved to their  
present location in the early 1900s. The story is  
that one horse was used to move these buildings.  
Ed’s mother Turi Tvedt owned part of the land and  
had a small house by the creek.  

Edward and Randine (Chestelson) Westlund  
Randine was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek  
District, having been born and raised at 38. Her  
brother, Carl, farmed there with their mother after  
their father’s death. Eventually, their sister, Sophia,  
took over that farm. Another sister, Mollie, lived  
at 16 most of her married life.  

Sigurd  

Ole and Hilda (Valstad) Stensby  
Hilda was also a native of the district. Her parents  
lived at 8, which her brother, Ludvig, took over  
after them. Her brother, John, lived at 29.  
Valarie, Marvin  

Henry and Julia (Steensland) Vollen  
Stanford, Raymond  

Ole and Mollie (Chestelson) Stenseth  
Retired here after Quintin took over their farm, 16.  
Esther, Violet, Marguerite, Chestel,  
Quintin, Marie  

Lloyd Windom family  

Joseph and Myrtle (Brattlie) Oimoen  
Joe was Chairman of the Town of Brigham for  
many years. He was a native of the Clay Hill-  
Spring Creek District, having been born and raised  
at 4. He farmed that place before moving here  
with his second wife. Joe’s son, Ralph, took over  
farm 4 after Joe. Two of Joe’s brothers, Oscar and  
Edwin, also stayed in the district at 1 and 24,  
respectively.  
Rita Brattlie  

Donald and Phyllis (Martinson) Murphy  
Steven, Pamela, Dennis  

19. Ole and Gro (Olsdtr-Breiehagen) Sanderson  
(Oio)  
Came to America in 1847.  
Ole, Louis (Lars), Birgit, Lukris  

Kittle and Gro (Olsdtr-Breiehagen-Sanderson)  
Paulson  
Kittle was a Civil War Volunteer. Kittle and Gro  
got to Iowa.  

Louis (Lars) and Sigrid (Gulleksdtr-Svensrud)  
Sanderson  
Went to Iowa.  
Ole, Anna Marie, Gunhild, Sophie, Birgit,  
Grete, Gullick, Amanda, Sander, Lewis,  
Olena  

Halvor and Berit Gordon  
(Grogar in Norway)  
Clara, Thomas, Gunhild, Gurina, Henry,  
Palmer, Selmer, Lena, Gilman

**Henry and Clara (Lindokken) Gordon**
They also lived at 23. Henry's brothers, Selmer and Gilman, and sister, Gurnia, also stayed in the district, at 23 and 24, respectively.
Hazel, Virgil, Harvey, Orvin, Maynard

**The Gordon Homestead**

**Maynard and Dorothy (Olday) Gordon**
Maynard's sister, Hazel, also stayed in the district at 23 and 24. Their brother, Virgil, succeeded Hazel at 23. This house burned in a fire during Maynard and Dorothy's residence.
Larry, Diane, Nancy, Keith

**Dorothy (Olday) Gordon and Larry and Wendy (Marks) Gordon**
Amber, Tayler

20. Clay Hill School

**Larry and Kristine (Fairback) Ketterer**
Converted the school to a private residence.
Matthew

**Dan and Ames (Christianson) Miller**
Jessie

21. School Hill
Use to be called Bjorndalen Hill. It was the main sledding hill for children who attended Clay Hill School. The sledding was stopped when cars became common.

22. **Hans and Inger Bjorndalen**
After Hans' death Inger moved this house into Daleyville. It is discussed as 45 in the Village of Daleyville. There is no sign of any buildings here now.

23. **Sigurd and Anna Marie (Mari Isaakson) Halvorson**
Isaac, Elzie (Lizzie), Anne, Helga, Amanda

**Sofie and Ole Langfoss**

**Ole and Sophia (Hagen) Langfoss**
Einar, Hartvig, Christie, Orville, Dennis, Stanley

Henry and Clara (Lindokken) Gordon
Henry was a native of this school district, born and raised at 19. Henry and Clara eventually moved back there to take over the family farm.
Hazel, Virgil, Harvey, Orvin, Maynard

Selmer and Gilman Gordon
Two of Henry’s brothers. Their sister, Gurina, also stayed in the district at 24.

Leonard and Stella (Julson) Johnsrud
Kenneth

Leonard and Thea Margaret (Runden) Johnson
Delores, Ruby, Ruth, Carlton, DuWayne

Burnell and LeVina (Butteris) Daley
Darlene, Dean

Everett and Hazel (Gordon) Burreson
Hazel was born and raised at 19. Two of her brothers, Henry and Virgil, also stayed in the district. Henry took over the home farm. Everett and Hazel also lived across the road at 24.
Carol, Rochelle, JoAnn, Geanyce, Greg

Virgil and Eleanor (Swingen) Gordon
Donovan, Dennis, Ronald

Jack and Elaine Smith

Pastor Richard and Diane (Clark) Halom
Cynthia, Martin

John and Lisa (Brattlie) Carmody
Lisa is a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District, having been born and raised at 13.
Anthony, Melissa

Olaf and Lydia (Kleppe) Ankaltrud

Carl and Alma (Ankaltrud) Midthun
Chester, Tenny, Maynard, Carlton, Arlene

Benhard and Gurina (Gordon) Brusveen
Gurnia was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District. Her parents lived at 19, which her brother, Henry, took over after them. Two of her other brothers, Selmer and Gilman, farmed across the road from here, at 23.
Bernice, Helen, Halvor

Benhard and Rachel (Ragnhild Kristianson) Brusveen
Raymond, Mae, Shirley, Clinton, Marvin

Edwin and Gena (Nygard) Oimoen
Ed was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District, from farm 4. His brother, Joe, took that place over after their parents. Another brother, Oscar, also stayed in the district for a while at 1.
Robert, Grant, Ruth, Marvin, Frederick

Martin and Ruth Peterson
They also lived at 14.

Everett and Hazel (Gordon) Burreson
See farm 23.
Carol, Rochelle, JoAnn, Geanyce, Greg

Lawrence and Helen Bakke
James, Debra

25. The Big Hill
The Clay Hill Road used to run southeast from the bridge. It went up a very steep hill called the Big Hill. Model T Fords would have to turn around and back up the hill so gas could flow down hill from the gas tank to the engine. Other cars would not have enough power to carry a whole family up, so everyone jumped out and walked up. There were wild lupines and Johnny-Jump-Ups growing on the side of the road.

Came to America in 1850. Knute is traditionally credited with being one of the leaders, along with Hans Johnson Dale of what became the village of Daleyville and Ole A. Ruste of what became the Ruste School District, behind the 1851-2 construction of the first church in the Town of Perry (9 in the Daleyville School District). When that congregation organized in November 1852, Knute was one of the first trustees. When the congregation of that log church split in 1854, Knute affiliated his family with the new State Church. He
was Kirkesanger (leader of the liturgy in the absence of the pastor) for that congregation in 1855-6, a Trustee from 1859-61, and Deacon from 1872-7. In 1865, he represented Perry Lutheran at the national "Synodemode" convention.

Kjersti, Ole, John, Birgit, Torge, Adelene (born in Norway); Carl and Aslak (born in America)

Ole helped haul the wood for O.B. Dahle's first store in what became the village of Daleyville.

**Aslak K. and Julia (Gunhild Swenson) Grimbstad** of Grimstvedt-Grimstad
William, Eva, Nellie, Ruth, David, Alice, Joseph, the names of the other 6 children are unknown.

**David and Clara (Theobald) Grimstad**
Marjorie, Mary (adopted twins); Debbie Donstad, Joseph and Russell Jones (foster children)

The property remained in the Grimstvedt/Grimstad family for 110 years.

**Lester and Kathleen (Sterner) Paulson**
Daniel, Sheryl, Barbara, Thomas

27. **Arnold and Ruth (Miller-Garfoot) Kirschbaum**
William, Heidi, Flora (Garfoot), Diane, Steve, Lisa (Kirschbaum)

**Michael and Susan Murphy**
David and Krisann Karl
Antone

28. **Tarje and Ragnhild (Aamland) Hastvedt**
Arrived from Norway in 1845.
Bergit, Anne, Tarje, Nick, Nere

**Jacob and Torbjorg (Olsdtr) Halvorson**
Henry, Ole, John, Hannah

**John Halvorson**

**Christ Ness**
Martha, Erling

**Reuben and Helen (Westby) Valstad**
They also lived at 14, 15, and 1. Both were natives of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District. Reuben's parents lived at 29. His sister, Marie, also stayed in the district at 31. Helen's parents lived at 1.
June, Roger

**Anne Larme and Maggie Kachinsky**

**Dale and Ruth (Miller) Garfoot**
William, Flora, Heidi

29. **Nicholai Arneson and Anne (Tellefsdt-Omland)**
Aamland
They lived in a cave until they could build a log house.

Sigri, Guro

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**Evan and Kari Halvorson**

**Evan and Kari (Olesdtr-Berge) Halvorson**
Ingeborg, Lena, Annie, Halvor, Marie, Annie

Ingeborg (Halvorson) Sidwell was instrumental in getting a pension system created for state employees in Wisconsin. In 1943, when Ingeborg was 79 and still working as a cleaning lady in the State Capitol Building, Governor Walter S. Goodland vetoed a bill which would have provided pensions for state employees. Determined to convince him of the error of his ways, Ingeborg
arranged a meeting with the Governor. She told him how her husband had died within two years of their marriage, leaving her with a young baby to support. How she worked at various jobs until she secured a position cleaning for the state in 1920. She told the Governor how, after all of this, she lost her life savings in the bank failures of the Great Depression and now had to continue working because there was no pension plan for her. Following this meeting, and citing it as his reason, Governor Goodland made national news by asking the legislature to override his veto and pass the pension bill. The legislature did just this.

John and Lena (Stensby) Valstad
John grew up on farm 8 -- which his brother, Ludvig, took over after their parents. Their sister, Hilda, also stayed in the district, at 18.
Harold, Reuben, Marie

Lloyd and Leona (Paulson) Johnson
Alton, Sylvan, Larry, Audrey, Dale

Leo Gilbertson family

30. Lars and Gunhild (Thorhaug)
Brinager-Anderson
Gunhild had a dressmaker’s shop in Daleyville (35 in chapter 2) before she married.

Karl and Karina Kristianson
John, Olaf, Karolina, Rachel, Amalia
Buildings razed.

31. Ole and Ragnild Sundom

Sophia, Alfred, Johnny, Alice, and Syver Johnson

Johnny and Marie (Valstad) Johnson
Marie’s parents lived at 29.

Ed and Minnie (Rolstad) Christopher
Raymond and Lulu (Lee) Peterson
See farm 9.
Evelyn, Richard, Lucille, Donna, Robert (Bobber), Donald, Sandra, Joette

Robert and Julie (Gilbertson) Miller
Tony Mackler

32. Nils and Marit (Komplin) Espeseth
Theodore, Oscar, Gena, Betsy
Nils’ parents also lived on this farm, in a log house.

Teddy Espeseth

Henry Hendrickson

Grant Homme
House burned down.

33. Tallak and Anna (Halvorseth-Almelen) Vik
Halvor, Taarand, Gunder (George), Halvor, Christian, Birgit (all of the children were born in Norway)
Taarand was a woman ahead of her time. In 1922, she became a salesperson for Augsburg Publishing House. She was also a salesperson for woolen products, a teacher, and an insurance salesperson for Lutheran Brotherhood.
District, having been born and raised at 10, which his brother, Delbert, still farms. Their brothers, Ray and Percy, married sisters, Lulu and Thora Lee, and stayed in the district, too. Maynard's sister, Alta, had also lived at 14 and 15. Maynard and Grace moved to a new house, 2, when their son, Roland, took over the main house on this farm.

Roland, Trudy, Janean, Randall, Tracy, Carissa

Roland and Virginia (Williams) Peterson
Mary Lu, Weston, Roland Lee

35. Site of Espeset School (Later moved and renamed Clay Hill School)

36. Michael and Sue (Bomkamp) Nechkash
Mike is a native of this school district. His parents lived at 38. Mike and Sue built this new home after they left 14.

Pamela, Christopher, Becca

37. Osmund Chestelson and Margreth (Vik) Chestelson
Mother and son. Margreth was a widow when she immigrated from Norway.

Farm sold, buildings razed.

34. Knudt and Amanda (Swenson) Stenseth
Knudt's brother, Ole, farmed just up the hill at 16. Prior to moving here, Knudt was a blacksmith shop in Daleville (see Chapter 2).

Bernadine, Naomi, Russell, Lloyd, Helen, Florence, Marcella

Lloyd and Bernice (Homme) Stenseth
LaVern, Carol, Bonnie

Maynard and Grace (Ihus) Peterson
Maynard is a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek


38. Sigurd (Sever) and Anne (Hastvedt) Chestelson
A Civil War volunteer, Sigurd was with Sherman's march to the sea. He received 60 acres from the government for serving in Civil War. Anne was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District. Her parents lived at 28.

Marie (Mollie), Sarah, Amanda, Randine, Carl, Sophia, Curtis
The Chestelson Farmstead

Anne (Hastvedt) Chestelson and Carl
Chestelson
Mother and son. Operated the farm after Sigurd's death.

Andrew and Tillie Eskar

Christian and Karine (Peterson) Weck (Vik)
Christian was a native of the Clay Hill-Spring Creek District, having been born and raised at 33. His sister, Birgit, also stayed in the district at 8. Christ and Karine moved from here to farm 3.
Vernell, Arvin

Thomas and Sophia (Chestelson) Thompson
This was Sophia’s home place. Her parents, Sigurd and Anne, had established this farm right after the Civil War. Her brother, Carl, had operated this place with their mother after their father's death. Sophia's sister, Randine, both lived at 18 for a while. Her sister, Mollie, had lived most of her married life at 16, then retired to 18.
Sylvia, Atalia, Lenore, Arne, Verna

Wedding picture of Thomas and Sophia Thompson

Fred and Tammy (Tollefson) Nechkash
Jerome, Robert, John, Cheryl, Michael, Cindy, Leanne and Lori Kay (twins), Penelope and Patricia (twins), Frederick

The Clay Hill "Rug Club" was a group of neighborhood homemakers who made rugs and quilts and did other crafts.
Arne and Siri Ruste's 1851 log home may be seen today on Myrtle (Espeseth) Anderson's farm, 6. Originally the cabin stood down the hill, closer to what is now Country Z and water. Around the turn of the century Oliver and Mattie Espeseth built a new house and outbuildings, located in the fashion of the day up on top of the hill. They moved the old cabin to its current location near the farm’s main barn. The Espeseth’s daughter, Myrtle, restored it during the 1980s.