Credits

This book would not have been possible without the feedback I received from nearly 60 Martinson relatives. Once again, I thank them all. However, there are a few additional tasks that relatives and friends have assisted with in the process.

Without the diligent work of many proofreaders, this book would not have received the polish it deserved. For that I thank relatives who had a role in proofreading their chapters. Some took on the additional task of proofing the entire book — my uncle Harland Martinson, my sisters-in-law Barbara and Carol Schwarz, my brother Don Schwarz, my husband Brian and his brother Dean Bliskey, my friend Katie Buechel and my step-sister Audrey Dietrich.

With deep appreciation I also thank Mike Mentzer, managing editor of the Fond du Lac Reporter, for taking the time to meet with me and lend his expert advice. As a seasoned editor, fellow writer and friend, Mike’s input was invaluable. He examined the manuscript and gave me feedback on the content, writing style, and layout.

Kevin Tvedt, a second cousin on the Anderson side of our family, also helped proofread the first chapter from his home in Los Angeles, California. He has been working on the Anderson family tree for years. Therefore, his assistance has helped ensure accuracy of genealogical information from Grandma Clara (Anderson) Martinson’s side of the family. Kevin traveled to the original Anderson farmstead in Norway in recent years, and he may be interested in planning a family group trip there sometime in the future. These words depicting the Anderson farm in Norway arrived within Kevin’s email message: “It is a beautiful farm located on the north side of a peninsula that juts out into the North Atlantic,” Kevin said, as he described the farm of Grandma Martinson’s ancestors. “The farm itself goes down to the shore and out to the ocean. The air was beautiful and the setting so peaceful.” What a wonderful place it would be for a family reunion!

My brother Don Schwarz and his wife Carol have also been crucial assistants in checking the accuracy of genealogical information, as they just completed the detailed Martinson Family Tree project in 2005. They plan to visit Kevin Tvedt in the near future, with hope of gaining additional information on the Anderson side of the Martinson family.

Interesting photographs depicting the family in the 1960s and 1970s were taken by my cousin Joy (Martinson) Green as a child growing up in those decades. Joy is now a professional sled dog photographer. Her pictures are primarily in Chapter 6, which follows the lives of her parents Gaylord and Shirley Martinson, her brother and three sisters. I am grateful to Joy for these expressive images, including the cover photo she took as a young girl.

I would also like to thank Vergeane Martin for contributing information she obtained while researching Mt. Horeb newspapers dating back to the 1800s. Vergeane voluntarily submitted the information when she heard the book was in progress. The Martins, who lived on the original Torkel Martinson property, have always been very interested in our family history. Their son, Guy Martin and his wife Martha, currently reside on the property with their two small daughters. In fact, at the 2005 Martinson reunion, the Martins opened up their home to family tours. Many relatives walked the property our
ancestors once farmed. Great Grandfather Torkel Martinson's tobacco shed still stands. The summer kitchen remains, but the old log cabin that was home to Torkel and Barbro is no longer there. It was torn down within the past five years. Guy and Martha graciously welcomed our family members to their home, educating us on the Norwegian Fjord horses they raise. As members of the Sons of Norway, Guy and Martha dress in full costume and show off their horses at Mt. Horeb area festivals and events and are known to host winter sleigh rides with their rare horses. Perhaps some of us who missed their tour can return to the Martins for a future visit of our ancestor’s farm.

To Scott and Charla, Renee and others at Scott’s Discount Printing in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, I owe a huge thank you. Their patience, kindness, and assistance throughout the writing, editing, and printing process helped produce a high quality product. It’s been a year-long process working with this great team to get the book printed.

There are countless others to thank, who, in many ways, helped make this book a reality. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all!

I hope you enjoyed the ride back in time as much as I did!

- Dorothy Bliskey, author
The Martinson Homestead Today

The original Torkel Martinson homestead on Sharpes Corner Road overflows with Norwegian flair even today, thanks to the current owners Martha and Guy Martin. With the help of Guy’s parents, Russ and Verveine Martin who bought the farm in 1970, the Martins continue to preserve and enjoy the barn and outbuildings, some of which are log-built structures. Photos below depict the buildings and property as they appear today. Torkel would be proud!

The log stable Torkel used for his horses.  
Barn used by Torkel 100+ years ago

Cutter and bobsled rides by Guy and Martha Martin and their Norwegian Fjord horses

At left:  
Summer kitchen  
Barbro used

At right:  
Torkel’s old carriage house