

Niels Thoresen Brastad (Nels) Thompson 1804-1863

Aanen Thoresen Brastad (Oyen) Thompson 1796-1826

In Rochester, in the spring of 1827 Aanen Brastad's widow, Berta Karine, married her deceased husband's brother, Nils Toresen Brastad. The marriage entry on the records of the St. Pauls Episcopal Church is interesting because it shows the Americanization of Norwegian names. It reads "Nels Thompson and Berta Crane (Norwegians), May 2, 1827". The following year they moved to Murray (later Kendall) with the other Sloopers.

Sara Olmstead, oldest daughter of Aanen Thorsen (Oyen Thompson), living as a widow in Ottawa with her two sons, Benson Coleman and Charles Byron. On December 26, 1854 she married William Welch Richey, who had been left a widower by her sister Anna's death in 1842.

W. W. Richey meanwhile had married early in 1843, Eliza Horton, a niece of George Olmstead, but she had died on June 26, 1854. Sara and her new husband moved to his home in Marseilles, where on different occasions he kept a store and operated a grain elevator. At this time the family probably consisted of five children: Sara's three: Benson, Marian, and Charles; Anna's son, Henry C. Richey; and Albert, son of W. W. and Eliza Richey. Now four more Richey children were born: Amanda Cora, a boy who died young, Amy Estrella, and William Fremont. After living in Marseilles for 18 years the family moved to a farm south of town in Brookfield Township for 9 years. About 1882 Sara moved to Guthrie Center, Iowa, with her son, William Fremont. In 1886 she secured a divorce from W. W. Richey, who married Emma Morrison and returned to Emma's home in Ohio. However he died in Oregon, Dec. 10, 1897.

The year 1850 saw Niels Thoresen Brastad (Nels Thompson) living as a widower, probably on the 35 acres he still retained of the 200 originally purchased. He had three grown children: Serena, 22; Abraham B., 19; and Caroline, nearly 17. But Serena died on July 6 of that year and Caroline died in Marseilles eight years later, aged 25, both demonstrating the unusually high mortality rate prevailing for young women of their time. Nels died in July of 1863.



Sara T. Richey



Charles N. Thompson