

Mulder Family Closely Linked With New Amsterdam's History

New Amsterdam, Wis.—(Special)—The histories of a well known home and a well known family in La Crosse county are closely tied up, the home being that of the pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. John Mulder. The pioneers headed five generations, there being 110 living descendants of whom four are great great grandchildren.

Among the descendants are Mrs. Anna Westerhouse of Onalaska, Bronno W. Mulder of Midway and Assemblyman John Mulder of La Crosse, daughter and sons of the couple.

Others are: Eldon Mulder, professor at law of Chapple Hill college, North Carolina; Henry Mulder, practicing attorney in Minneapolis; Harry Mulder, assistant manager of the Youngstown Sheet & Tube company of East Chicago, Ind.; Aaron Westerhouse, credit man, and Howard Westerhouse, assistant cashier, at the T. V. Tausche Hardware company, La Crosse; John Westerhouse, associated with the Onalaska Pickle and Canning company, and Newell Sjolander, senior student at the University of Wisconsin.

Left Holland in 1856

In 1856, John Mulder and his wife, Tryntje Brons Mulder, with their son, Byron, three years of age, and an infant daughter, Aaltje, left their native land in Leuwarden, Holland. Eager to see their fortunes in the land of promise, America, they risked the perils and hardships of an ocean voyage which consumed eight weeks and ended in tragedy with the death of the infant girl.

A story told of the trip was that drinking water was stored in barrels, and due to the limited quantity on board, was dealt out in small amounts daily. Two overly ambitious youths on board, not satisfied with their portions, hid behind the barrels and dropped a cup tied to a string into the barrels and drew out water to quench their thirsts.

Arriving in La Crosse the latter part of July, 1856, the family was conveyed to its new location in New Amsterdam by Alfred Swarthout and his ox-driven wagon. The latter then resided on what is known as the Paul McHugh farm.

Built Wagon Shop

In 1861, Mr. Mulder built the combined wagon shop and dwelling house where the couple reared a family of three sons and three daughters. A wagon maker by trade, and with only crude tools to work with, Mr. Mulder made wagons, coffins and furniture from raw materials, fashioning and shaping the boards by means of chisel and saw, and steamed them by pouring hot

water on the wood to shape it for wagon uses.

Mrs. Mulder, reared in an orphan home in the fatherland, and taught the fine arts of handiwork, made mens' suits by hand, made and laundered mens' shirts when the stiff bosom was in vogue, knit stockings and socks from heavy cotton yarn, and from wool yarn for winter use.

"Mooka," as she was called by friend and family, had a cookie for all who came her way, and the blue sugar bowl always contained a goodly supply of pink and white peppermint candies for the grandchildren who visited her of a Sunday.

Wed Ten Days Apart

As there was no means of heating the children's sleeping quarters in winter, an older member spread papers between the covers on the beds of the younger children to keep them warm on the coldest night.

Upon the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Mulder, on Jan. 25 and 15, respectively, in 1899, their property was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Van Dyke. The wagonshop has been removed, but the dwelling proper remains practically the same as it was in 1861.

KILLED IN CRASH

Darien, Wis.—(P)—Elmer Bredeson, 35, Chicago, was killed Saturday when O. F. Anderson of Madison, drove into his automobile, parked on U. S. highway 14 three miles north of here.

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