



## ***Bernard and Alice Falkenstein***

Tree dedication

May 15, 2016

Tribute by Sonna Anderson

On June 17, 2016, Bernard and Alice Falkenstein will have been married for 65 years. They both grew up in the Wilton/Regan and are descendants of early Burleigh County pioneers. We are double cousins, as Bernard's grandmother Mathilda Anderson was my grandpa Victor's sister and Alice's grandfather Albert Vollan was my grandmother's brother. My grandfather, Victor Anderson, had to vouch for the bride and groom to the judge on their wedding day. It got to be quite confusing, as Victor was uncle to both Bernard and Alice but they were able to convince the judge that they were not related, so it was legal to get married.

When they were first married, Alice taught school in a one room schoolhouse until their first child, Daniel was born. Another son, Roger soon followed and their daughter Maretta was born a few years after Roger. Bernard and Alice bought Bernard's grandfather's farm in 1955 and moved into the house which was built in 1906. Bernard planted many trees and won a soil conservation award for his plantings. The Falkenstein farm was in the same family for over 100 years, becoming a centennial heritage farmstead in 2006. I remember being at the celebration and having a picnic in the shade of the grove of trees Bernard and Alice had planted.

Daniel and Roger both received engineering degrees from NDSU. Dan moved to Illinois and Roger to Minneapolis. Maretta attended NDSU and then married Mark Franklund from Wilton. Maretta and Mark ranched near Amidon. Maretta and Mark are in the process of moving back to the area and Bernard and Alice are looking forward to having them here.

When Maretta left for college, Bernard and Alice were invited to take square dancing lessons on Sunday evenings and that was the beginning of their busy social life. Alice and Bernard love to dance. (Bernard taught me to two step in his garage when I was 12.)

In 2007, after the farm became a centennial farmstead, Alice and Bernard moved to Bismarck. Alice reports that when they were at a friends' anniversary party the Olson's found out they were moving to Bismarck and they invited us to be their guest at the Sons of Norway social in 2007. Bernard and Alice have been active Sons of Norway members ever since.

Bernard was a director for the Central Power Electric Cooperative Inc. for 30 years and both Bernard and Alice and the kids were active in 4-H clubs. They have been lifelong members of Sunne Lutheran Church. Bernard serves on the Burleigh County Council on Aging, and continues to volunteer at the Wilton Senior Citizen center. In addition to dancing, they enjoy playing cards and visiting with friends and family. Alice is an accomplished gardener, canner, baker and quilter. They have made a home filled with laughter, joy and stories. They have a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren - and I should be able to tell you how many, but I can't.

I am sorry that Alice can't be here today to accept the award. She fell and broke her leg yesterday and had surgery. But given her optimistic view on life, she will view this setback with humor and good spirits. To Alice, her glass is always more than half full.

To Bernard and Alice - congratulations on having this tree dedicated in your honor.