

Nels Holsten Pioneer Here Died Sunday

Was One of Few Remaining Survivors
Who Were Here During Indian
Massacre in Belmont

HELD POSITION OF ENGINEER
AT OLD WALLACE TOW MILL

Funeral Services Held Wednesday
from West Belmont Church At-
tended by Many Friends

Pioneer residents of this locality will deeply regret to learn of the passing of another of the early settlers of Belmont township, on Sunday afternoon of Nels Holsten, death occurring at his farm home in Heron Lake township.

Mr. Holsten held the distinction of being one of the few remaining early settlers of this part of the county and as a boy of seven years of age, passed through the horrors of the Indian massacre of 1862, at which time many settlers of Belmont township, were ruthlessly murdered by the Sioux Indians under the leadership of Little Crow. Fortunate for Mr. Holsten, his family was among the number that fled to Estherville, a fact that was responsible for the saving of his life.

After the Indians had left this section of the state, the Holsten family returned to their home on the banks of the Des Moines river where young Holsten grew to manhood and old timers will readily remember him as the jolly engineer in charge of the old Gilbert mills and later an engineer at the plant of the J. I. Wallace tow mill in this city. Later he purchased a fine farm in Heron Lake township, where he has since resided, frequently visiting old friends in this vicinity.

Nels Holsten was born in the state of Illinois, June 25, 1854. He came to the wilds of Jackson county with his

father and stepmother in 1862. The Indian attack of August of that year drove them from the county, and he was brought to Estherville, Ia. The family returned to their home in Belmont in October, and spent the winter on the frontier, and then fled to Spirit Lake, Iowa, because of the threatened Indian uprising. They came back again in 1864, and located upon the homestead on the northwest quarter of Section 34, Belmont township. Mr. Holsten resided on the home farm until he was 23 years of age, when he started out for himself working at various occupations for several years. In 1891 he was married and bought his present farm, in Heron Lake township, and upon the place he has since made his home. The farm was wild prairie land and the fine improvements that now make the place a delightful home are the result of his hard labor.

July 2, 1891, Mr. Holsten was married to Miss Julia Frantsen, daughter of a prominent Belmont family and to their union two children were born, Mrs. Josie Woodke and Harry, who reside on the home farm. He is also survived by a brother, Edward, and a sister, Helen, and many admiring neighbors.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon, a prayer at the home after which the remains were taken to the West Belmont church, where a fitting tribute was paid to his memory, by Rev. A. M. Mannes of this city who conducted the services. Many old time friends were present to pay their respects to his long friendship. The floral offerings were many and beautiful.

Burial was made in the Frantsen family lot in the West Belmont cemetery.

← Helen
Halverson,
Evans Great
grandmother