

# A PATH TO YOUR PAST

THE LIFE OF ANNIE SCHLOSSER



Heather Alton



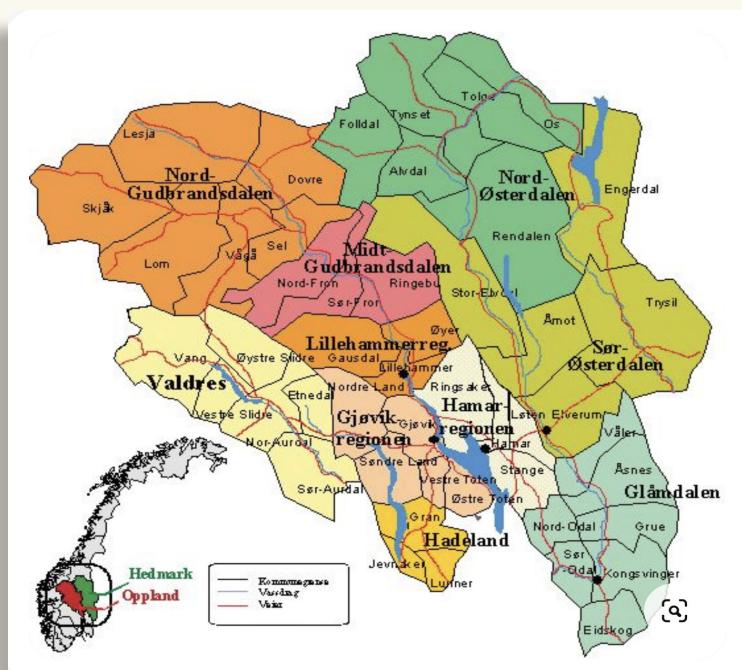
Annie Schlosser

Annie Schlosser was buried on September 27, 1957, beside her husband Lewis in the cemetery of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Honeyford, Gilby County, North Dakota.

**T**here are some things we all know of her life – she was born in Norway and came to North Dakota on her own at the age of 18. She married Grandpa Schlosser and had four sons. Widowed at a young age, she raised the boys on her own in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She passed away on September 20, 1957.

But what is her story? Where was she born, who were her parents? Did she have brothers and sisters?

*Mom, what follows is a Path to your Past. This story is the information I have found, thus far, about your grandmother. The search continues and her path will become more defined and side roads to her family clearer, as we find out more...*



**A**nne's family lived on a farm in Ringebu county, Norway. Ringebu is in Oppland province in Norway. It is north of Oslo, and about 60 km north of Lillehammer. The farm was called Bratland farm. In 1875 Bratland farm had 2 cattle, 2 sheep and had crops of barley and potatoes.

### 1875-Telling for 0520 Ringebu

| Person     |                   | sex | Fam  | S                     | Occupation       | DOB  | POB     |
|------------|-------------------|-----|------|-----------------------|------------------|------|---------|
| Guldbbrand | Tomassen          | m   | hf   | g                     | Husmand med Jord | 1837 | Ringebu |
| Mari       | Hansdatter        |     | wife | g                     |                  | 1837 | Ringebu |
| Berte      | Guldbbrandsdattar | d   |      |                       |                  | 1861 | Ringebu |
| Anne       | Guldbbrandsdattar | d   |      |                       |                  | 1865 | Ringebu |
| Marit      | Guldbbrandsdattar | d   |      |                       |                  | 1867 | Ringebu |
| Ahne       | Guldbbrandsdattar | d   |      |                       |                  | 1871 | Ringebu |
| Thomas     | Guldbrandsen      | s   |      | s                     |                  | 1862 | Ringebu |
| Hans       | Guldbrandsen      | s   |      | s                     |                  | 1874 | Ringebu |
| Beret      | Olsdattar         | k   |      | Mother e Foderaadskon |                  | 1810 | Ringebu |

She was born **Anne Guldbbrandsdatter**, on September 17, 1865. Her father was Guldbrand Tomassen, her mother was Mari Hansdatter. Guldbrand and Mari were both born in 1837.

In 1875 there were 6 children living on the Bratland farm along with Guldbrand's mother, Beret Olsdatter (born in 1810).

### Anne's siblings were:

|                          |              |      |
|--------------------------|--------------|------|
| Berthe Guldbbrandsdatter | born in 1861 | (14) |
| Thomas Guldbrandsen      | born in 1862 | (13) |
| Marit Guldbbrandsdatter  | born in 1867 | (8)  |
| Ahne Guldbbrandsdatter   | born in 1871 | (4)  |
| Hans Guldbrandsen        | born in 1874 | (1)  |

I have not yet found any records about the family between 1875 and 1886. There are no digital archives for a census from 1885.

**T**here was a mention of the family being in Bergen, Norway – Uncle John had once asked Vytus to look for the family in Bergen when Vytus was travelling there. He was unable to locate anyone.

I found several Bratlands in the 1875 census of Bergen but none of the name Annie or Guldbrand. It is possible the family left the farm and went to Bergen. However, they probably would have boarded a ship in Stavanger instead of Christiania, if they had lived in Bergen.

So, in 1886 there is a record of an Anna G. Bratland, age 20, leaving Ringebu for the United States. It was common for people departing from Norway to change their name to the name of their home farm.

| <b>Year</b>      | <b>Contract date</b> |          | <b>Depart date</b> |         |            |      |  |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|------------|------|--|
| 1886             | 09/06/1886           |          | 10/06/1886         |         |            |      |  |
| Name             | Age                  | Domicile | Destination        | Line    | Ship       | Paid |  |
| Anna G. Bratland | 20                   | Ringebu  | Grand Forks DT     | Fr. Lie | Thingvalla | Ppd  |  |



The trunk Annie used to bring her belongings to America.



The type of ticket Annie would have had.

**O**n the 9th of June Anna paid for a ticket to Grand Forks, North Dakota on the Thingvalla, of the Thingvalla Line.

The official name of the Thingvalla Line was Dampsksibs Selskabet Thingvalla. Founded in Copenhagen in 1880, the company commenced Copenhagen - Newcastle - New York sailings and later instituted calls at Christiania (Oslo) and Christiansand.

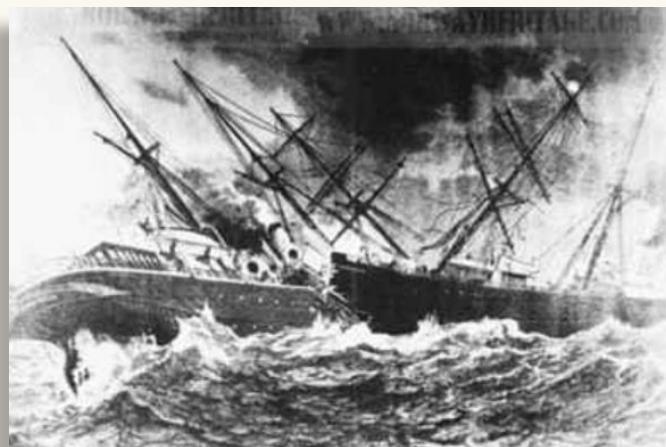


A Thingvalla Line Brochure 1887

The Thingvalla departed on June 10th from Christiania. It stopped at Christiansand and then continued across the Atlantic to New York. There were 408 Norwegians on board.

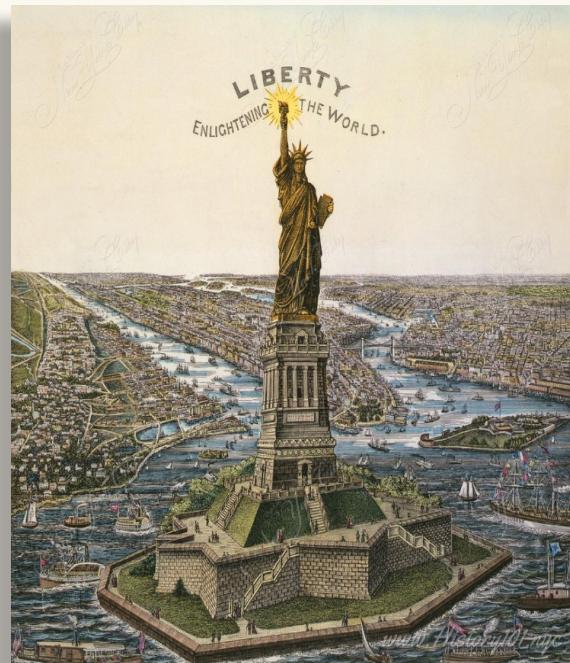
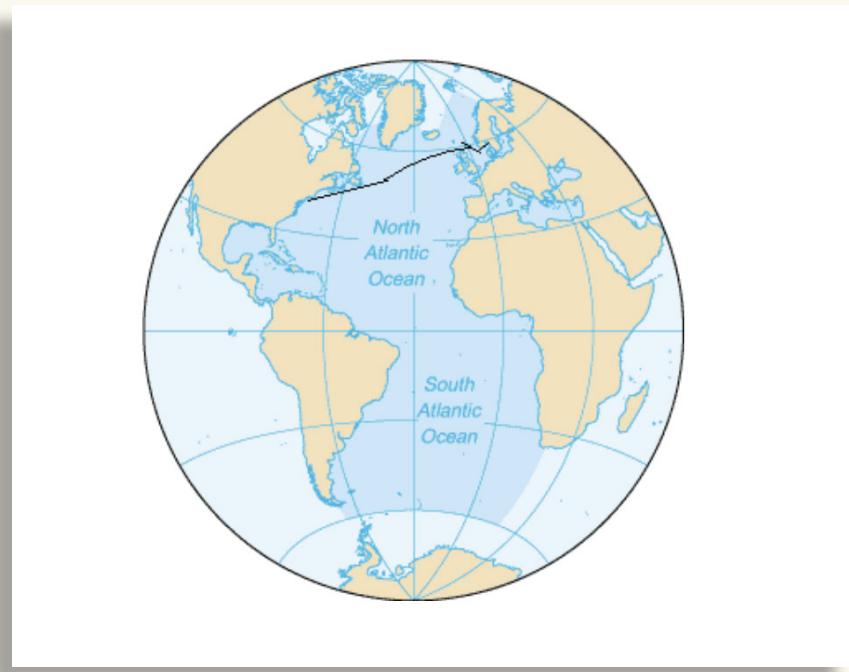


The Thingvalla was built in 1873 and sank in a collision off Sable Island Nova Scotia, just a year after Anna crossed the Atlantic.



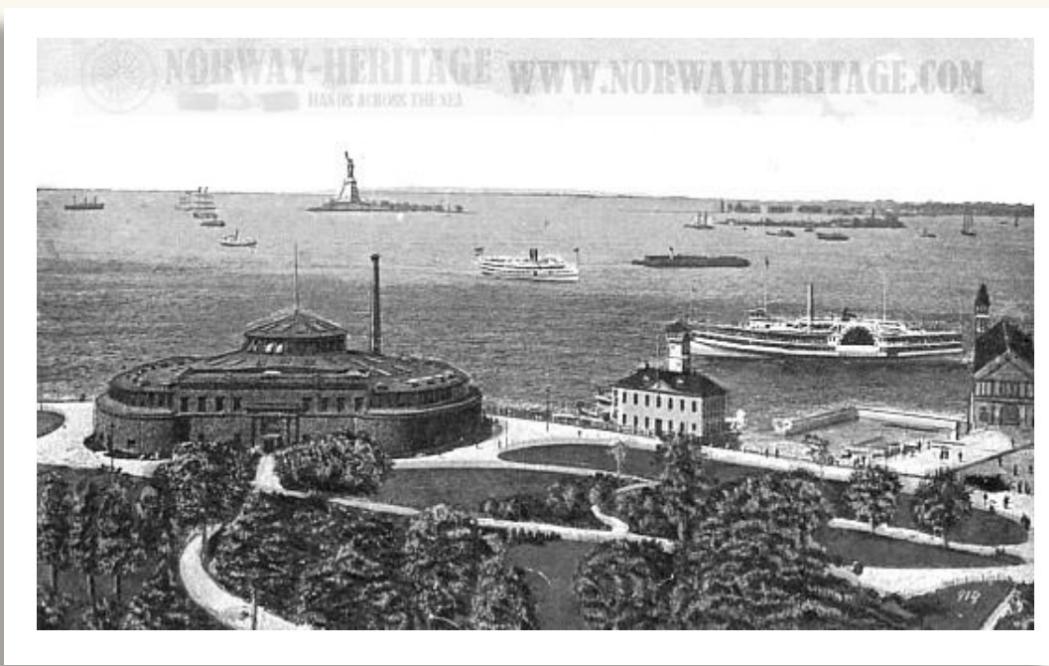
The sinking of the Thingvalla, 1888

The trip took 15 days. Anna arrived in New York on June 25, 1886.



1886 was the same year France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States. I wonder if it was in place when she sailed in to the harbor.

Anna's ship would have arrived at Castle Garden, America's first official immigration center, located at the tip of Manhattan. The Castle received 10 million immigrants from 1830 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened.



An arrival room at the Castle Garden Center

As a first or second class passenger, Anna would have been processed on the ship and not in an arrival room.

I also found records of Anna's family leaving Norway April 25, 1888:

| Year | Depart date | Name          | Sex | Age | Domicile | Destination | Ship  | Nationality |
|------|-------------|---------------|-----|-----|----------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| 1888 | 27/04/1888  | Hans Bratland | m   | 10  | Ringebu  | New York    | Rollo |             |
| 1888 | 27/04/1888  | Gud. T.       | m   | 50  | Ringebu  | Grand Forks | Rollo |             |
| 1888 | 27/04/1888  | Marie         | k   | 20  | Ringebu  | Grand Forks | Rollo |             |
| 1888 | 27/04/1888  | Annie         | k   | 18  | Ringebu  | Grand Forks | Rollo |             |
| 1888 | 27/04/1888  | Marie         | k   | 4   | Ringebu  | Grand Forks | Rollo |             |
| 1888 | 27/04/1888  | Thomas G.     | m   | 25  | Amerika  | Grand Forks | Rollo | Americaner  |

The migration of Norwegians to North America was second only in size to the migration of Irish. People left for economic and religious reasons. Since they belonged to the Lutheran church and it was the dominant religion, it is unlikely they left for religious reasons.

The entire family had changed their name to Bratland. The family members listed were her father (50), sisters Marie (20), Marie (4), Annie (18) and brothers Tomas (25) and Hans (10). Her brother Tomas is listed as being American and having his residence in America while everyone else lived in Ringebu.

Could it be that Tomas had already been to America and returned to bring the rest of the family back to North Dakota? If so, he was probably the person who greeted Anne on her arrival in America.

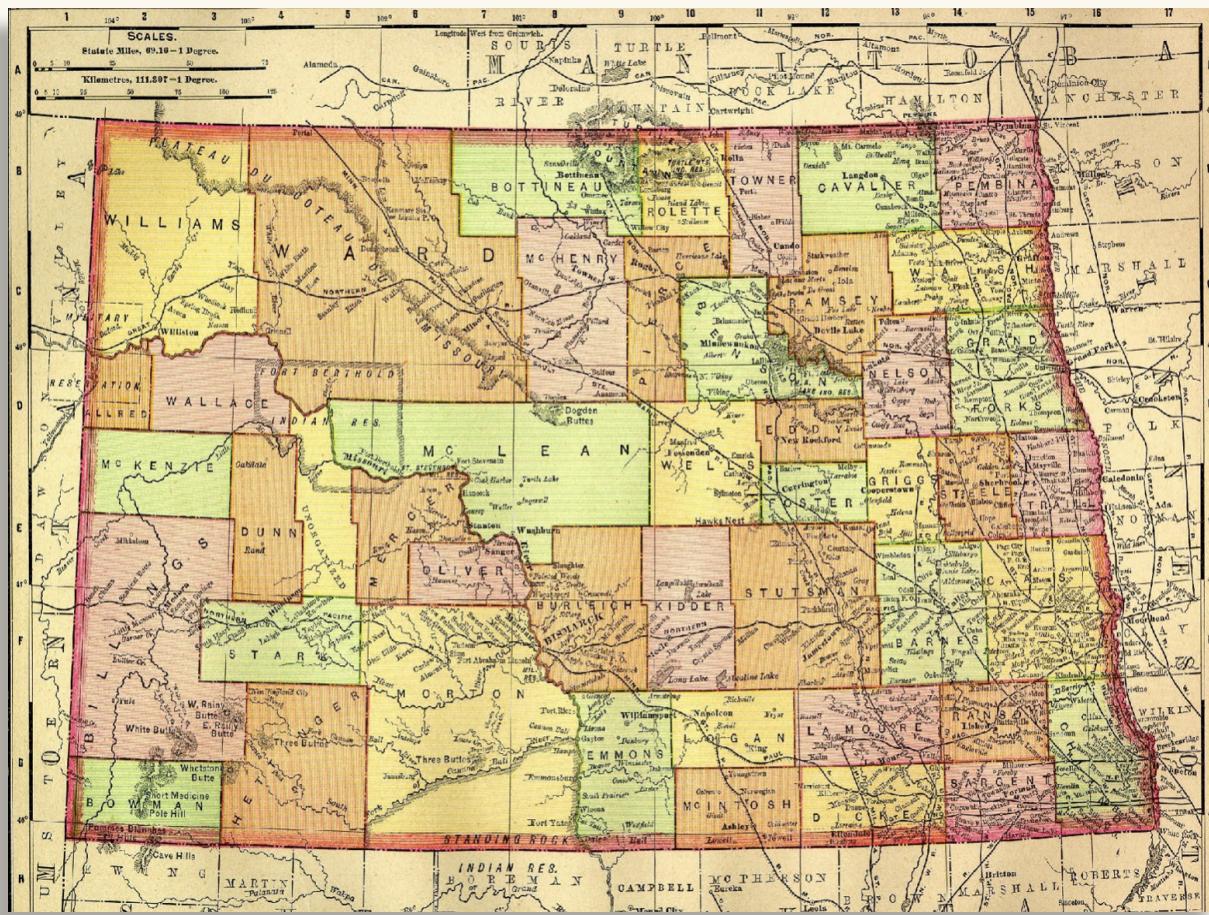
This information tells that Anne had another sister Marie, born in the early 1880's and that her mother was not with the family in 1888. It is possible that 20 year old Marie is Marit (listed in the 1875 census) and that the 18 year old Annie here is actually Ahne. It is often suggested that names and ages are not wholly accurate in the immigration records, so maybe we won't ever know.

According to the name on Anna's trunk she was destined for Arvilla, which is a town east of Grand Forks in North Dakota. She probably got there by train as the railway line had made it to Minot ND by 1886.



|                    |         |          |        |      |      |              |        |        |          |              |        |    |   |   |
|--------------------|---------|----------|--------|------|------|--------------|--------|--------|----------|--------------|--------|----|---|---|
| Bratland, Henry B. | Brother | W. H. Ed | 143.37 | 16.5 | 1    | Norway       | Norway | Norway | 16.16 ha | Honeyman, O. | 300.00 | 0  | 0 | 3 |
|                    |         |          | 1875   | 1875 | 1875 | Minneapolis  | Norway | Norway |          |              | 300.00 | 0  | 0 | 3 |
|                    |         |          |        |      |      | North Dakota | Norway | Norway |          |              |        |    |   |   |
|                    |         |          |        |      |      | South Dakota | Norway | Norway |          |              |        |    |   |   |
|                    |         |          |        |      |      |              |        |        |          |              |        |    |   |   |
| Bratland, Henry B. | Brother | W. H. Ed | 143.37 | 16.5 | 1    | Norway       | Norway | Norway | 16.16 ha | Farnabur, O. | 300.00 | 50 | 0 | 3 |
|                    |         |          |        |      |      |              |        |        |          |              |        |    |   |   |

The North Dakota census of 1900 lists Anna's brothers, Thomas and Hans, on a farm in Mekinoc county, North Dakota. Meckinoc is just south of Honeyford. Thomas was married to Ella (born in 1875 in Wisconsin) and they had two sons Carl and Clifford. Since Mekinoc and Arvilla are so close it is likely that Anna went to North Dakota to be with her brother.



North Dakota 1885

| TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.   |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      | SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.   |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |
|--|------|----------|----------------------|-----|-----|------|----------|----------------------|-----|-----|------|---|----------------------|-----|-----|------|----------|----------------------|-----|-----|------|----------|----------------------|-----|
|  |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      | B   |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |
|  |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      | Supervisor's District No. 192<br>Enumeration District No. 66<br>Sheet No. 1 |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |
| State—North Dakota<br>County—Grand Forks<br>Township or other division of county—Malligan<br>Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division—<br>Enumerated by me on the 1st day of June, 1900. |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      | Name of Institution,<br>East O' Sturck, Enumerator<br>Ward of city, 6900    |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |     |      |          |                      |     |
| LOCATION   | NAME | RELATION | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | AGE | SEX | NAME | RELATION | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | AGE | SEX | NAME | RELATION  | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | AGE | SEX | NAME | RELATION | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | AGE | SEX | NAME | RELATION | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION | AGE |
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| 1  | 2    | 3        | 4                    | 5   | 6   | 7    | 8        | 9                    | 10  | 11  | 12   | 13  | 14                   | 15  | 16  | 17   | 18       | 19                   | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23       | 24                   |     |
| 1  | 2    | 3        | 4                    | 5   | 6   | 7    | 8        | 9                    | 10  | 11  | 12   | 13  | 14                   | 15  | 16  | 17   | 18       | 19                   | 20  | 21  | 22   | 23       | 24                   |     |
| 1  | 2    | 3        | 4                    | 5   | 6   | 7    | 8        | 9                    | 10  | 11  | 12   | 13  | 14                   | 15  | 16  | 17   | 18       | 19</                 |     |     |      |          |                      |     |

The next thing we know is that in 1889 Anna is married to Lewis Schlosser. Lewis had 160 acres of land in Gilby county, Honeyford, in North Dakota. He bought it on October 15, 1884.

See the Bureau of Land Management in North Dakota record at <ftp://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/nd/grandforks/land/graf-s.txt>

Given the proximity of Honeyford and Meckinoc, it is likely Anna met Lewis through Thomas.



Anna and Lewis Schlosser

The North Dakota census of 1900 has Anne and Lewis listed in Gilby county. The census was taken in June and lists the parents, their 4 boys and Anne's father Guldbrand living on the farm. Guldbrand had become Gilbert in this document. Lewis was born in Wisconsin and his parents are listed as coming from Germany although in later census documents they are listed as coming from Prussia. This document confirms that Anna (now Annie) came from Norway in 1886 and is not the Annie listed in the 1888 immigrant record.

The family had two farm hands from Norway living with them – Ole Tregan and Olaf Rudd. They had a servant named Vanessa Visness who came from North Dakota.

|                     |          |        |      |          |      |           |         |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
|---------------------|----------|--------|------|----------|------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|---|-------------|---|---|-----|
| McMurry, Lewis      | 1861     | Apr 26 | 1854 | Apr 26   | 1861 | Wisconsin | Germany | Germany | Farmer | 0 | yes yes yes | 0 | F | 168 |
| Annie               | Brita    | 19     | F    | Sept     | 1886 | 33        | 18      | 10      | 4      | 4 | yes yes yes |   |   |     |
| Sherman             | Don      | 20     | M    | Apr      | 1891 | 9         | 8       |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
| Walter, H.          | Don      | 27     | M    | Dec      | 1892 | 7         | 5       |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
| Arthur, C.          | Don      | 9      | M    | May      | 1895 | 5         | 8       |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
| Lloyd, N.           | Don      | 8      | M    | Feb      | 1896 | 4         | 8       |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
| Brottland, Gilbert  | Fin-Land | 30     | M    | Nov      | 1854 | 42        | 32      |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
| Visness, Melania V. | Servant  | 27     | F    | Oct      | 1882 | 7         | 5       |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
| Tregan, Ole O.      | Boarder  | 27     | M    | Oct      | 1874 | 25        | 8       |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |
| Rudd, Olaf          | Boarder  | 27     | M    | ... 1870 | 25   | 5         |         |         |        |   |             |   |   |     |

from 1900 Census

It must have been a busy household with the four boys and quite close in age, especially Arthur and Lloyd!  
(I wonder why Sherman was born in Washington?!)

Sherman – April 1891, born in Washington

Walter – December 1892 born in North Dakota

Arthur – May 1895, born in North Dakota

Lloyd – February 1896, born in North Dakota



*A. P. Holand*

*GRAND FORKS,  
N. DAK.*

Walter, Arthur and Sherman Schlosser, about 1895

Lewis died later in 1900. He was only 48. By 1910 Annie and the boys had moved into Grand Forks and were living at 601 Chestnut Street. The 1910 census documents Guldbrand living with Annie and the boys in Grand Forks.

|          |           |          |      |   |    |    |    |           |           |           |           |           |           |         |        |
|----------|-----------|----------|------|---|----|----|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| 51 45 50 | Adler     | Conrad   | 1    | W | 15 | 6  | 44 | Swedes    | Swedes    | Swedes    | Swedes    | Swedes    | Swedes    | Swedes  | Swedes |
|          | Walter    | John     | 1    | W | 19 | 5  |    | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | English | Swedes |
|          | Wally     | John     | 2    | W | 17 | 5  |    | North Dak | Wisconsin | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | English | None   |
|          | Arthur    | John     | 3    | W | 19 | 5  |    | North Dak | Wisconsin | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | English | None   |
|          | Lloyd     | John     | 4    | W | 18 | 5  |    | North Dak | Wisconsin | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | English | None   |
| 52 46 51 | Gulbrand  | Gulbrand | 5    | W | 22 | 10 |    | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | Norwegian | English | None   |
|          | Brattland | Gilbert  | 6    | W | 22 | 10 |    |           |           |           |           |           |           |         |        |
|          | Hansen    | John b.  | 1488 | W | 25 | 10 |    |           |           |           |           |           |           |         |        |

from 1910

In 1910, Gilbert is also listed as living with his son Hans, Annie's younger brother, in Gilby county. Hans is now married to Peggie(?) and has two young daughters, Thelma and Gladys.

I wonder if they are living on the farm where Annie used to live?

|            |          |    |   |    |    |  |              |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|------------|----------|----|---|----|----|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| — Gladys 8 | daughter | 7  | W | 3  | 7  |  | North Dakota | Norwegian |
| — Gladys 7 | daughter | 7  | W | 3  | 7  |  | North Dakota | Norwegian |
| Gilbert    | daughter | 10 | W | 73 | 10 |  | Norway       | Norway    | Norway    | Norway    | Norway    | Norway    | Norway    | Norway    |

from 1910

In 1920 Annie was still living at 601 Chestnut Street. The boys were still listed on the census with her.

|            |   |    |    |   |  |  |  |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|------------|---|----|----|---|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Swedes Son | W | 11 | 22 | 5 |  |  |  | Norwegian |
| Swedes Son | W | 11 | 22 | 5 |  |  |  | Norwegian |
| Swedes Son | W | 11 | 22 | 5 |  |  |  | Norwegian |
| Swedes Son | W | 11 | 22 | 5 |  |  |  | Norwegian |
| Swedes Son | W | 11 | 22 | 5 |  |  |  | Norwegian |

from 1920

## US Census 1910

## US Census 1920

In the census of 1930, Annie was not listed at 601 Chestnut Street. However, Judy remembers visiting her at 601 Chestnut Street where she lived on the top floor of the house. Annie died in 1957, the year after her son Walter died.



The House at 601 Chestnut, Grand Forks ND, ca 2023



Annie Schlosser

Annie was buried beside Lewis in St. Paul's Lutheran church in Honeyford North Dakota.



Guldbrand is buried in the church yard as well. It is likely that two of his other daughters are also buried there, as a Marie Bratland and Anna Bratland are listed in the graveyard. Are these Annie's younger sisters – Marie (born in the early 1880 or possibly Marit born in 1867) and Anna (Ahne born in 1871)? I'd like to think so...



Annie with her four boys, Arthur, Lloyd, Walter and Sherman.

I'm sure there are other stories about Annie that will come to light and can be added to this tale - helping us to see more of this amazing and resourceful woman -

Annie (Guldbrandatter) Schlosser.