

# \*Reference

Adam & Agatha Forster  
Adam Forster Sr  
Bill Forster  
Ferdinand Forster  
Francis Forster  
Fred L. Forster  
Jacob Forster  
John A. Forster

John C. Forster  
Joseph Forster  
Lawrence Forster  
Nick Forster  
Raymond Forster  
Richard Forster  
Anthony & Veronica Forster Rixen



## RICHARDTON HERITAGE

A HISTORY OF RICHARDTON, NORTH DAKOTA



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Published for the Richardton Centennial celebration which was held on July 8-10, 1983, commemorating the 100th birthday of the city. Contests were held to select a logo and a name for this publication. Mrs. Dale Hauck designed the winning logo above, and Mrs. Paul Aman submitted the name of the book.

The cost of this book was paid for by individual purchases, contributions of advertisers and special donations.

*Printed by Assumption Abbey Press  
Richardton, North Dakota*





Area settlers worked hard on their homesteads and farming was a good business in the early 1900s. Above left is the large stone house on the Aquilinus Gress farm that was reminiscent of the large farm houses the Germans built when they settled in Russia. At right is Nick Schuld on his farm south of Richardton with his brand new 1923 Ford truck, purchased at Joseph Kilzer Ford in Richardton. Note the large, sturdy stone barn in the rear.

of the ad appearing in German newspapers attempting to entice settlers to Richardton:

“Richardton in Dakota Territory has land available. A family will need about \$750 (3,000 Reichmarck) to get started on a homestead; this would cover a dwelling, and a stable and the purchase of a team and a cow, some implements and seed for potatoes and vegetables for the first year. One hundred sixty acres can be taken with an additional amount under the Timber Culture Act. The town is attractive with its olive green painted homes and red rooftops.”

#### SECOND GROUP OF GERMANS ARRIVE

During the late 1880s and throughout the next twenty years or so, the other two groups of German immigrants settled in the Richardton vicinity. Those were the German-Russians and the German-Hungarians. In the late 1700s and during the early 1800s thousands of German farmers accepted the invitations extended by Russia and by the Empire of Austria-Hungary to settle and farm in their nations. About 100 years later those farmers found their way to the United States, again accepting large expanses of free farmland. In every instance, those settlers succeeded in turning those lands into some of the most productive farms in the world.

These two distinctly different groups of Germans came to Richardton. The

majority settling here were Roman Catholic, and the largest group were the Germans from Russia. The German-Hungarian settlement was mainly south of Richardton, while their counterparts from Russia settled throughout the area. This latter group were principally farmers, while the German-Hungarians, in many cases, joined some of the original German settlers in various business ventures in the community. This characteristic might be attributed to the two women rulers who had extended the original invitations to these German farmers, Catherine the Great of Russia and Maria Theresa of Austria-Hungary. Catherine encouraged her fellow Germans (she was a German princess initially) to specialize in farming, while history shows that the Hapsburg Empress Maria Theresa asked her German colonists to acquire trades and learn the business world in her nation. Farmland was not as readily available in that nation as it was in the vast steppes of South Russia.

#### CHURCHES START EARLY

The original Richardton Church had been the Richard Company's little prefabricated 24 foot by 40 foot wood frame structure to be used by all faiths in the town. However, by 1890 Catholics so predominated in Richardton that the city founders donated the building to them. The few Lutherans made use of homes until their church eventually got built.

There was no resident priest nor minister

in Richardton for the first few years, but a young Catholic missionary had taken an interest in the German immigrants and their spiritual needs. Father Vincent Wehrle, OSB, a Swiss Benedictine who later founded St. Mary's Abbey, made his first visit to the town in 1893 and seemed to think that this area would be best for his new monastery, which he had originally founded as St. Gall's Priory at Devils Lake, ND. But that story comes later. Likewise the Protestant clergymen in the early years were the missionary types, providing “traveling” services to their scattered followers.

As the settlers continued to come, so did business. August Koesel, son of a German family which had settled near Hebron in 1882, started Koesel's Store in 1894, a landmark business that exists today as Richardton's only grocery store, purchased in part from relatives of the Koesel's in the 1970s. The Koesel family is still involved in community affairs and local businesses.

Although the C.B. Richard Company had provided a small building for a school in 1883, the local Catholics founded their own parish school in 1897 and the Richard building became the public school. One of the earliest organizations in the community was founded in 1896 when the Catholic women formed St. Ann's Altar Society. That group affiliated themselves with the Christian Mothers Society in 1913 and today those Christian Mothers are





The John Flink Family. Back, l-r: John, George, Frank, Sebastian, Casper, Mary, sister-in-law Mrs. Sebastian Flink, and Rose, wife of Casper. Front, l-r: Father John Flink holding daughter Rosie, Ray, Lee, Mother Rosie, Ann and Julius.



Lee and Katherine (Hauck) Flink on their 50th Wedding Anniversary with their children.

seven years before the parents could get their American citizenship papers and could own their homestead.

Eleven children joined the two older children, Beata and Casper, who were born in Germany. The eleven children were: Sebastian, Kate, George, John, Mary, Anna, Frank, Lee, Ray, Julius and Rose.

The parents moved to the town of Richardton in 1924, leaving the farming to their sons. Following a great drought, they were forced off the farm and journeyed to the west coast of the United States to find a new home.

Several family members are still living: Kate, Mrs. S. Braunbeck, Miles City, MT; John, Portland, OR; Anna, Mrs. J. Scheeler, Seattle, WA; Lee, Tacoma, WA; Ray, Renton, WA; and Rose, Mrs. F. Volk, Tacoma, WA.

The following is part of the memories of a grandson, William, son of Casper Flink: "We lived on a farm which adjoined my grandfather's land. (My grandfather farmed a section and a half.) I remember the old sod house. It had three windows and seemed pretty big. At the time it was used as a coal shed—coal being mined from nearby places, Jake Forster's and Herman Breum's.

"One summer Mr. Wall's barn burned. It was in 1925 or 1926 and we were threshing at the time. The men rushed to help but could not get near because of

the great heat. Two or three horses were lost.

"I remember when Joe Braulick bought his big Avery tractor. It was a monster and could pull a 13-bottom plow. You could scarcely see it move. What a great day!"

John Flink's house still stands north of town. It is owned now by Mr. Renner.

## Lee L. Flink

Lee L. Flink, born 1906 in Richardton, married Katherine Hauck, who was born in Bodo, Alberta, Canada, and died in 1981. Their children were:

Richard, born in 1931, married Doris Chamberlain, born in 1933. Their children were a daughter Virginia and sons Larry and John.

Frank, born in 1932, married Frances Parson, born in 1936. Their children were a son Michael, a daughter Mona, and a son Peter.

Kenneth Lee, born in 1939, married Lois Remington, born in 1939. They have a daughter Janet and a son Gregory.

Kathleen Joy, born in 1945, married Jim Leach, born in 1942. They have three sons: James, Dauen and David.

There are four great-grandchildren.

The Lee L. Flink family moved from North Dakota wheat farming country to Tacoma, WA, where Lee became an operator hoisting engineer. In 1954 they

purchased a dairy farm in Buckley, WA, where Lee also worked in city maintenance until 1972 when he retired. They bought a home in Buckley where Lee is presently residing.

## Adam & Agatha Forster

Adam Forster was born in Richardton in May, 1896, and Agatha (Schaaf) Forster was born in Glen Ullin, ND, in May of 1901. They were married in October, 1919, at Glen Ullin. After settling in Richardton, Adam worked in Born's Meat Market and had a vulcanizing shop for a few years. Then the Forsters farmed for about five years on what is now James Forster's farm. In about 1929 they moved back to Richardton, where Adam operated the Texaco service station for nearly 13 years.

With the war, the family split up and Adam and Agatha moved to Mandan, ND, where he started a career with the Northern Pacific Railroad. After two years, they moved to settle in Spokane, WA, where he continued with the Northern Pacific Railroad until retiring in 1962.

Their six children were born in Richardton. Barney (1921) and wife Marie have seven children; Merwyn (1924) and wife Jean have three children; Joyce (1936) and husband Barrie Baird have eight children; and Dorine (1931) and husband Mike Micholson reside in Spokane. Alban





The Adam and Agatha Forster Family, l-r: Dorine, Alban, Agatha, Barney, Joyce, Adam, Ione and Merwyn, taken in 1946.



Adam and Anna Forster in their garden in 1940. They are parents of Raymond Forster and Veronica Rixen who both still live in Richardton.

(1926) and wife Iris have one son and reside in Los Angeles, CA. Ione (1929) and husband Ray Montgomery have seven children and reside in LaLuz, NM.

Adam passed away in August of 1975. Agatha is 82 years old, has 26 grand children and 24 great-grandchildren. The "Traveling Grandma" still resides in Spokane, WA.

## Adam Forster Sr.

Adam Forster Sr. came to America in 1890 with his parents Jacob Forster and Eva Friesz and family. Adam was born in the village of Sulz, Beresan Colony, Russia, on January 15, 1869. This was a farming area and top soil was said to be about three feet deep. They came directly to Richardton.

Anna Hellman came to America in the spring of 1891 with her parents John Hellman and Magdalena Geiger and family. Anna was born in the village of Karlsruhe, Russia, July 16, 1873.

Adam's forefathers emigrated from Herxheim Germersheim/Rheinpflaz, Germany, to Russia. Adam's great-grandfather, also named Adam, was a pioneer settler.

Anna's forefathers emigrated from Morlheim Germersheim/Rheinpflaz, Germany; they arrived in Russia on August 15, 1809.

Adam and Anna met here in Richardton and were married in a school house, now known as the Leo Mischel farm home

south of Richardton on November 18, 1891, by Father Joseph Perrault of Mandan. They lived with Adam's parents for seven years on the present Susie Gartner farm. They then bought land about ten miles northwest of Richardton, the Ole Olson place, near the Paul Hoff and Peter Hoerner farms. Here they lived in a sod house with four children. They dug several wells by hand but found very little water. They hauled drinking water with a stone boat from the John Simonsen farm. The nearby creek furnished water for the stock. Dan Ehlis, father of Sebastian Ehlis, worked for Adam on the farm.

In 1906 they sold the farm and bought the George Bauer house in Richardton, located south of Tom's Body Shop. They also bought one-half interest in the livery barn from Valentine Bleth, and in 1907 they bought the other half interest from Jacob Reiter. The livery barn was located where the present Hardware Hank store now stands.

Sons Ferd, John and Adam along with Mike Eheresman, helped Adam in caring for horses for farmers who brought produce from the north and south before the branch railroads came in. Many farmers slept in the hay loft overnight but they were forewarned that there was no smoking allowed. The livery service consisted of transporting passengers by horse and buggy or sleigh to neighboring towns. Livery stables were doing a brisk business before the coming of the Model-T and the Red

Trail, predecessor of U.S. 10 and I-94.

South of the livery barn was a cafe operated by a bachelor Charlie Young. Mother Anna baked bread and did the laundry for the cafe. South of the cafe, where the City Hall stands today, was a saloon operated by Bleth and Reiter, and later by Reiter and Forster. They dissolved the partnership when Reiter took the saloon and Forster the livery barn. In 1914 Adam traded the barn to Adam Zentner for Zentner's farm where Jim Forster now lives. Adam then operated the farm with his sons and daughters until he sold the farm to his son Nick (Jim's father) in 1952.

Adam and Anna had a family of 11 children: Ferd, John, Adam, Veronica Rixen, Nick, Eva Dixon, Valentine, Marie Woehle, Anton (who died of diphtheria in 1918), Hilda Brower and Raymond.

Still living are all the daughters and Raymond.

Adam and Anna lived in Richardton until their deaths, Adam on September 28, 1955, at age 86, and Anna on February 5, 1972, at 98.

## Bill Forster

Bill and Della Forster attended schools at Richardton and Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army for 18 months. After his discharge he had the Richardton Dray Line for a short time. He drove truck for the Kuhn Truck Line and later was





Ferd and Emilia Forster



Ferd Forster Family in 1958. Back, l-r: Alice, Floyd, Ferd Jr., Larry, Elmer, Richard, Agnes; center, Norma and Patricia; seated, l-r: Erhardt (Bud), Mother Emilia, Margaret, Sr. Olivia.

employed by Johnny's Appliance. He took over the Texaco station in 1956 and has been in the service station business since then.

Della (Melchior) Forster was employed with Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. in Dickinson until her marriage to Bill on September 29, 1952. They lived above the K.C. club for one year, then above Chuck's Bar for one year before buying the I.E. Giedt home. They built their present home in 1970. Della has been employed by London Pantry Foods, Inc. since 1981.

Bill and Della have four sons and one daughter. Terry graduated from UND with a degree in accounting and is employed by the Martin Marietta Corp. at the Vandenberg Air Force Base as a lease and capital planner, living in Santa Maria, CA.

Julian graduated from NDSU and also received an associate degree in nursing from DSC. He recently completed his studies toward his Masters degree in Business Administration at NDSU. He and his wife Geri (Filipi) Forster, also a registered nurse, live in Colorado Springs, CO.

Mike, upon completion of high school, enlisted in the U.S. Army and is stationed at Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC, where he is employed as a registered Nuclear Medicine Technician at the Montcrief Army Hospital. He and his wife Bonnie (Schatz) Forster have two daughters and one son.

Kyle is currently attending UND studying computer science and business.

Eileen, valedictorian of her 1983 graduating class at Richardton High School, has enrolled at UND for the 1983-1984 term. She plans to study accounting and computer science.

## Ferdinand Forster

Ferdinand Forster, eldest son of Adam and Anna (Hellman) Forster, German-Russian pioneers who came to America from southern Russia in 1891, married Florentine Mischel of Richardton on November 17, 1914. One daughter Agnes was born to them on December 27, 1916. The well-known influenza epidemic claimed Florentine as one of its numerous victims on November 8, 1918.

Ferdinand then married Emilia Renner, also a German-Russian pioneer daughter, on March 3, 1919; she had come to this country with her parents at the age of 16 in late June, 1911, and to Richardton on July 2, 1911.

For a little while the family lived on what is now the James Forster farm northeast of Richardton, on the Kaufman farm a bit further northeast, and on a homestead north of Richardton, at each place for a short time; in February 1927, they bought the Thomas Seitz farm ten miles northeast of Richardton. They retired to Richardton in October 1951; Elmer, the oldest son, bought the farm in 1960. Ferdinand died on January 13, 1958;

Emilia lives in Richardton to the present day.

The family is as follows:

Agnes, born on December 27, 1916, married Joseph Abraham on December 6, 1962, lives in Madison, SD.

Alice, born on December 26, 1919, married Joachim Schantz on February 28, 1946, lives in Glen Ullin, ND.

Elsie, born on December 23, 1920, died on March 8, 1921.

Elmer, born on February 2, 1922, married Margaret Gormas on February 2, 1981, lives on the home farm northeast of Richardton.

Loretta, born on May 10, 1924, is now Sister Olivia at St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, MN.

Ferd R., born on June 3, 1925, married Isabelle Erhardt on June 4, 1951, lives near Halliday.

Floyd, born on August 21, 1926, married Retta Reynolds on March 19, 1946, lives in Puyallup, WA.

Richard, born on July 12, 1929, married Joy Keller on April 4, 1956, lives in Richardton.

Patrick, born on March 16, 1928, died on March 24, 1928.

Lawrence, born on March 4, 1931, married Sally Doll on September 12, 1955, lives near New Salem, ND.

Norma, born on September 8, 1932,





Fran Forster Family: Lavina and Fran standing; l-r: Perry, Pam, Patrice and Patrick.

married Allen Chadwick on February 19, 1955, lives in Delano, MN.

Patricia, born on January 13, 1934, married Raymond Holupchinski on October 20, 1956, lives in St. Paul, MN.

Erhardt (Bud), born on January 8, 1936, married Judith Moore on July 15, 1961, lives in Coon Rapids, MN.

Margaret, born on February 2, 1938, married Gerald Colbert on September 17, 1960, lives in Tempe, AZ.

## Francis Forster

Francis Forster and Lavina Braun were married on July 30, 1957, at St. Mary's Church in Richardton. Lavina is the daughter of Martin and Frances (Helfrich) Braun and Francis the son of John and Elizabeth (Brittner) Forster.

Francis started his banking career at the Farmers State Bank of Richardton in 1954 and was elected president of the bank in 1973. Before joining the bank, he served four years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict. After completing one year of radio and electronics school in San Diego, CA, his tour of duty as a communications technician was served in Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan and Naha, Okinawa.

The Forsters have two sons and two daughters. When their first child Patrick was born, the family spent an unexpected Christmas vacation in the Richardton Hospital. Francis was the first to arrive



The Frank Fisher and John Stading families having a picnic at the Heart River south of Antelope in 1921.

at the hospital on a Sunday morning with an appendix attack. Lavina, the expectant mother, entered the hospital that night and their first child was born the next morning.

Patrick, a 1982 graduate of Dickinson State College with a computer science and accounting major, is now working in Bismarck, ND, as a computer programmer. Pamela, a 1983 graduate of Dickinson State College, has a music major and German language minor and is looking forward to her first teaching assignment. Perry will be a junior and Patrice a sophomore at Richardton High School.

The Forsters at one time or another were involved in most all civic and school organizations in Richardton. An enthusiastic backer of recreational activities in the community, Francis is in his tenth year on the Park Board and served many years on the swimming pool committee prior to the pool being managed by the park district.

## Fred L. Forster

Fred L. Forster was born in 1931 to Bill and Eleanor (Hoerner) Forster. He lived in the Richardton area while he was growing up. Later, he joined the National Guard. After serving in the Guard, he came back home and in 1954 he married Gladys Gillenberg, daughter of Henry and Caroline Gillenberg of Taylor, ND.

Fred and Gladys lived on a farm north

of Richardton and in 1972 bought the Adam Forster house in Richardton. They had six children: Nancy (Mrs. Richard Anderson) of Priest River, ID; Curtis, Dickinson; Charlotte, Richardton; Donald, Jeffrey and Sydney, all of Dickinson.

Fred passed away in 1977. In 1979 Gladys married Jake Haider and now lives south of Belfield, ND.

## Jacob Forster

Jacob Forster (1842-1911), his wife Eva Friesz (1845-1921) and their eight children came to Richardton in 1890 from Sulz, South Russia.

They bought a farm from Hellman south of Richardton, the farm where Susie Gartner now lives. At first they lived in a small shack and later built a house and other buildings of stone.

In 1903 they moved into Richardton and built a brick house south of St. Mary's Church. Jacob was a close friend of Bishop Vincent Wehrle and in 1909 he built the chapel still standing in St. Mary's Cemetery. Jacob, Eva and four of their children with their spouses are buried in the chapel.

Jacob and Eva had these eight children: Dominick (1866-1895): In 1890 he married Matilda Emmil; they had three sons. Adam (1869-1955): In 1891 he married Anna Hellman (1873-1972); they had eleven children. Susanna (1871-1954): In 1890 she married





John A. and Elizabeth Forster

Ferdinand Mischel (1871-1944); they had nine children. Marian (1873-1901): She married Anton Armbrust (1876-1956); they had five children. Jacob (1876-1949): In 1899 he married Marian Klug (1880-1942); they had twelve children. Anton (1878-1901): He was kicked by a horse and died of the injuries. Margaret (1881-1949): In 1898 she married Joseph Renner; they had eight children. Joseph (1885-1943): In 1907 he married Ottilia Baer (1886-1955); they had eight children.

## John A. Forster

John A. Forster was born in Richardton on April 20, 1894. He opened a bicycle shop in Richardton in his teens, then owned and operated Forster Motor Company until his retirement. He was married to Elizabeth Brittner on July 5, 1915. Elizabeth was born October 5, 1894.

Nine children were born to them.

Ervin married Dorothy Fischer (deceased) and has two children. Irene married Adolph Walth (deceased) and has five children. Lorraine married M.C. Porter and has two sons. Phyllis married Geo. Rinker (deceased) and has two sons. Grace married Norman Kearns and has one son. John married Maggie Amann and has four children. Billy married Della Melchior and has five children. Francis married Lavina Braun and has four children. Florence married John Campagna and has three

children.

There are 28 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. John Forster died August 10, 1967, and Elizabeth died June 23, 1976.

## John C. Forster

John C. and Magdalen (Maggie) Forster, both natives of Richardton, were married on May 31, 1948.

Prior to that time, after attending school at St. Mary's and Assumption Abbey, John had joined the Navy in 1944 and served in the Pacific theater, on the USS Kensington as a ship fitter. After his discharge, he worked with his father John A. at Forster Motor Co., and also as part time clerk at the Richardton Post Office. In 1952 he started car body work, and Forster Motor Company became Forster Body Shop. When his father retired in 1962 he purchased the shop and maintained his job at the Post Office. The shop was sold to Tom Voegele in 1976, and in 1978 John was appointed as Postmaster, serving in that capacity at this time.

Maggie was raised on a farm north of Richardton and graduated from St. Mary's Grade and High School. She worked as a clerk at the post office until after her marriage when she retired to raise their family.

They have four children: Gerald, living in Colorado Springs, CO, and father of their two grandchildren; Vicki Lizius,



John C. Forster Family. Standing, l-r: Jerry, John, Maggie. Seated, l-r: Colleen, Vicki, Jeff.

living in Casa Grande, AZ; Colleen Pfeifer, living in Savage, MT; and Jeffrey, attending State School of Science at Wahpeton, ND.

Both John and Maggie have been involved in religious and civic programs for the betterment of the community. John served on the original school board of Richardton Public School, and also was a member of the original Swimming Pool Committee, and played a large part in the endeavor to make both of them a success. He also served on the Richardton Park District.

## Joseph Forster

Joseph Forster (1885-1943) came to Richardton with his parents Jacob Forster and Eva (Friesz) Forster from South Russia in 1890. They lived on a farm south of Richardton.

In 1907 he married Ottilia Baer (1886-1955). She had come to the Richardton area with her parents Stanislaus Baer (1857-1935) and Katherine Ruff Baer (1863-1933). Joseph and Ottilia lived on a farm northwest of Richardton.

They had eight children as follows: Elizabeth (born 1908): In 1929 she married Marcus Zimmerman; they have six children and live in Richardton. Frank (born 1909): In 1935 he married Teresa Kappel; they have seven children and live in Gladstone, ND. Julius (born 1912): He lives in Spokane, WA. Kathleen (born 1914): In 1938 she





The Lawrence and Sally (Doll) Forster family.

married Herbert Lindell; they have two children and live in Wichita, KS. Edward was born in 1916 and died in 1944. Lyla (born 1920): In 1942 she married Burnell Schulz; they had nine children and she lives in Dickinson, ND. Thomas (born 1922): In 1952 he married Marcella Millam; they have four children and live in Wichita, KS. Virgil (born 1927): In 1962 he married Gloria Graf; they have one child and live in Anaconda, MT.

## Lawrence Forster

Lawrence was born March 4, 1931, to Ferdinand and Emelia (Renner) Forster and lived nine miles northeast of Richardton. He has 11 brothers and sisters and he is the seventh oldest in the family. He attended school there and served in the Army during the Korean War. He married Celestine (Sally) Doll daughter of John and Margaret (Dinius) Doll at Richardton on September 12, 1955. She was born December 23, 1935, 18 miles northwest of New Salem. She was delivered by her grandma Doll who was a midwife for all the relatives and neighbors. She is the second youngest of ten children. In 1945 she moved to Richardton with her parents and her three sisters. She attended grade school and graduated from St. Mary's High School in Richardton.

They moved to Seattle, WA, right after they were married. Here Lawrence worked as a carpenter and Sally as a secretary. The oldest daughter Melinda

was born on October 22, 1956. They moved back to the home place in Richardton in August of 1957 where Cynthia was born on August 7, 1958, and Pamela was born on February 26, 1960. When Pamela was six weeks old the family moved to New Salem on a farm nine miles northeast of New Salem where they operate a Grade A dairy farm and raise registered Red Angus. Here four more children were born to Lawrence and Sally and they were Kenneth, Daniel, Wade and Lori Jo. They were all born at Bismarck, ND.

Melinda graduated from New Salem High School in 1974 and from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor Degree in Home Economics. She is now a drapery consultant at Herbergers Department Store in Bismarck. She currently is engaged to Joe Flath and plans to get married April 22, 1983. He resides on his farm north of Garrison and is a mechanic at Coal Creek Generating Plant.

Cynthia graduated from New Salem High School in 1977 and from Trinity School of Nursing in Minot. She married Paul Brandt and lives two miles east of New Salem where they own and operate a dairy farm. Cynthia works at the Bismarck Hospital.

Pamela graduated from New Salem High School in 1978 and attended Valley City State College for one year and Minot State College where she earned a Secretarial Degree. She married Lyle



Nick and Johanna Forster on their 25th Wedding Anniversary in 1950.

Boehm and they reside six miles west of Mandan. They are employed by BECO of New Salem.

Kenneth was born November 1, 1961, and graduated from New Salem High School in 1980. He attended BJC and earned a Farm & Ranch Management Degree. He owns and operates his father's home place in Richardton and is also in the dairy operation with his father.

Daniel was born January 4, 1963, and graduated from New Salem High School in 1981. The family was saddened by his sudden death on June 15, 1981, from an apparent heart attack on the family farm.

Wade was born July 23, 1964, and graduated from New Salem High School in 1982. He plans to attend BJC and get a degree in Farm & Ranch Management. He also is in the dairy operation with his father.

Lori Jo was born March 4, 1968, and is attending New Salem High School.

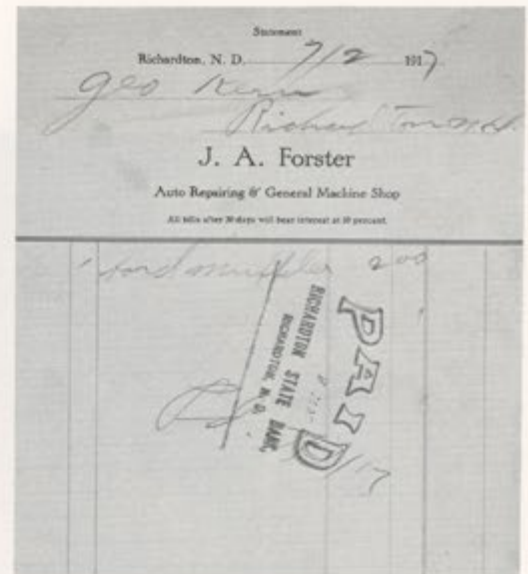
## Nick Forster

Nick Forster (1900-1953), son of Adam and Anna Forster, married Johanna Schantz, daughter of Joachim and Eugeneia (Gustin) Schantz, in 1925. After marriage they bought his Dad's farm located nine miles northeast of Richardton. Nick's farm was diversified; he raised sheep, corn, wheat and feed grain. He also drove the school bus.





Raymond Forster Family in 1980.



A bill from John A. Forster Auto Repair in 1917 for a Ford muffler—for \$2!!!

After Nick passed away Johanna and James, their oldest son, kept the farm going.

Nick and Johanna had ten children; Rose (Mrs. Arnold Hueske); James; Lucille (Mrs. Albin Beggar); Germaine, (Mrs. Randy Cole); Rita (Mrs. Robert Gress); Anita (Mrs. Larry Kunda); Glenn; Joan (Mrs. Roger Zimmerman); Charles; Lillian (Mrs. Robert Hunke).

Nick passed away in 1953 at a young age of 53. Johanna passed away 20 years later.

## Raymond Forster

Raymond Forster, son of Adam Forster and Anna Hellmann, was born in Richardton July 26, 1915. His baptismal sponsors were Peter Patkowski and Mary Turk. He received his education at St. Mary's Grade School and Assumption Abbey School. He worked for his brother Adam A. Forster's Texaco service station and also for his father on the farm. After high school in 1934 he worked at Born's Meat Market about eight years at different intervals. In 1938 he drove the Texaco gas delivery truck for Pete Burger.

On February 3, 1941, Raymond and Ellen Olafson were married at St. Mary's Church by Father Peter Fehrenbach.

Ellen Olafson was born at Halliday, ND, October 27, 1915. Her parents were Alf Olafson and Wilhelmina Bing,

pioneers who had come from Norway. Ellen graduated from Halliday High School in 1934. She then entered nurses training at Bismarck, worked for a short time in Duluth, MN and also for a time in a hospital in Wolf Point, MT. She came to Richardton in 1937 and worked as a nurse at St. Christopher's Hospital (the former John Klein Sr. house), owned and operated by Dr. Christ Dukart. Dr. Chris was an old time family practitioner who still made house calls and delivered some babies at their homes. (It was indeed a pleasure to work with Dr. Chris and his staff, and to see him coming down the road with his Model-A Ford coupe.)

After marriage they operated the Rixen rooming house (where Farmers State Bank is located). Rooms were going from \$.50 to \$2, the bathroom was unique with its three doors, for while in use the traffic to the rooms stopped—you were either locked in, or were locked out.

The year 1942 was eventful for the Forsters when son Dale was born March 16. They also bought the Frank Freer house where they still live.

In August, 1942, Raymond was drafted, but instead enlisted in the Navy. After four weeks in boot training he was assigned to the battleship Nevada B.B. 36 on the west coast. He also served on the heavy cruiser Canberra C.A. 70, serving about a year on each during World War II. He sailed both the Atlantic and Pacific in task forces to

Europe, the Pacific Islands and the Aleutians. While Raymond was in the service, Ellen and Dale lived in Tacoma, WA, where Ellen had a sister and brother. During this time Ellen lost her sight due to detachment of the retina; this could not be remedied at that time. After Raymond was discharged they returned to Richardton in 1944 to make their home.

In March, 1946, Raymond was appointed as a rural mail carrier; he carried mail south of Richardton and Antelope for 28½ years. He retired from the route June, 1974.

Ellen and Raymond also have three daughters: Nancy Handelman, born August 18, 1945; Jeanne Black, born August 16, 1947; and Susan Rova, born August 1, 1952.

The children all received their basic education at St. Mary's and the Abbey, then went on to further their education and received their various degrees. None of the children settled in Richardton.

In raising their family of four, due to Ellen's handicap, they improvised in many ways. Raymond sometimes took two of the children on the route. Ellen's nurse's training helped in taking care of the babies. Old neighbors and the kids in the block will remember Ellen's three blasts on the basketball whistle, which meant for the Forster kids to come home. They still seem to hear the whistle and come home at least once a year.





Richard Forster Family, l-r: Joy, Lisa, Karla, Kurt, Mardell, Jayme, LouAnn, Mark and Richard.



Doreen and Robert Frankenhauser pictured above, with son Allan at upper right and daughter Lisa at the lower right.



## Richard Forster

Richard is the son of Ferdinand and Emilia (Renner) Forster, the grandson of Adam and Anna (Hellman) Forster, and the great-grandson of Jacob and Eva (Friesz) Forster.

Richard was born to Emilia on July 12, 1929, on the farm. The doctor came out from town to deliver. He attended rural school and graduated from Assumption Abbey in 1947. While still in high school he started working at Born's Market. After graduation he served his time in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. When he returned he again went to work at Born's Market where he remained until he and his wife Joy purchased Chuck's Bar in November, 1981.

Richard has been active in civic affairs: he held a school board office for 12 years, served as a city board member for 12 years, and was an ambulance driver and bookkeeper for 25 years.

Richard was employed at Born's during the time of the "explosion" in August, 1961. There was a gas leak into the basement and it was ignited by a spark from the cooler motor. After spending six weeks in St. Joseph's Hospital in Dickinson, he returned home with casts on both legs. After a brief period of recuperation the men from town would come to get him and drive him downtown so he would not lose touch with local activities. He was in a wheelchair that the Legion had loaned to him.

He married Joy Ann Keller on April 4, 1956. Joy arrived in Richardton in September, 1955, to be employed at the Richardton Hospital. She graduated from high school at New Salem in 1952 and graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital as a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1955. Joy has been employed by the hospital as a part time worker since she came to Richardton.

She has been an active member of the St. Mary's Choir, American Legion Auxiliary and an ambulance attendant and driver.

Richard and Joy are the parents of seven children: Mark, born January 21, 1957; Kurt, born September 23, 1958; Karla, born September 20, 1959; Mardell, born November 25, 1960; Jayme and Lisa, born December 11, 1963; LouAnn, born November 4, 1967.

Mark is married to Crystal Flagel; they are the parents of two children, Shana and Ried, and currently live in Mandan. Mark attended BJC in 1976-1977. He is a member of the National Guard MPs in Mandan.

Kurt served four years in the United States Coast Guard and is now attending Wahpeton State School of Science.

Karla is a graduate of DSC with a major in elementary education and a minor in physical education.

Mardell attended Wahpeton SSS and is currently employed at St. Joseph's Hospital in Dickinson as a secretary for

the CARES Project.

Jayme is currently working at Jos. Kilzer and Sons of Richardton.

Lisa is attending Minot State College.

LouAnn is at home and is a sophomore at Richardton High School.

Together Joy and Richard own and operate the Elk Horn Bar, formerly Chuck's Bar. They purchased the bar from Chuck and Louise Schmidt, who had owned and operated it for 45 years, on November 1, 1981.

## Robert Frankenhauser

Robert was born and raised in Richardton. After graduating from high school he spent a short time in Spokane, WA. He returned to Richardton and was employed by the North Dakota State Highway Department. He served two years in the U.S. Army Paratroopers during the Korean Conflict and after his discharge returned to Richardton. On May 17, 1957, he married Doreen Karlin at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Hebron. They made their home in Richardton with Robert continuing his job with the highway department and Doreen with the Hebron Herald. Two children were born to them: a son Allan and a daughter Lisa.

Allan was born on July 11, 1958, during Richardton's 75th Jubilee celebration.





William Renner Family. Back, l-r: Pat, Rose, Bill, Pam, Eugene. Front, l-r: Joan, Doug, Mike, Wendy, Mary. (Eugene and Mary are the parents of Doug and Wendy.)



Anthony and Veronica (Forster) Rixen, seated, with sons LeRoy and Anthony (Bud).

Manufacturing Co.

John is originally from Crary, ND, and Margaret (nee Burdick) from Devils Lake. On February 14, 1978, Crissy was born into the family.

John is past treasurer in the Richardton Lions and past president of Richardton Jaycees. Margaret is a member of the MOD Homemakers and the family attends St. Mary's Church.

## Anthony Rixen

Anthony Rixen and Veronica Forster were married in St. Mary's Church in Richardton on February 11, 1918. They farmed six miles southeast of Richardton. Two sons were born, Leroy and Anthony Jr. "Bud." The family moved into Richardton in 1942.

Leroy and his wife Louise moved onto the farm. Anthony Sr. died August 7, 1949.

Anthony Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942. In World War II he served for almost four years, was overseas over a year, was in four invasions, and returned home in 1946. In 1956 he moved to Richardton and operated Bud's Cafe until 1959. He sold the cafe and moved to Portland, OR, and worked for Smitzers Steel Corporation. In 1972 he moved to Mt. Calvary, WI, where he and his wife Virginia worked and still are working for the Villa Nursing Home.

Leroy and his wife Louise moved to

Dickinson in 1957. Louise taught in St. Joseph's School in Dickinson for 20 years. Leroy worked for the City of Dickinson in the water department from 1957 to 1968. From 1968 he worked for the Ivanhoe Inn until 1971. At the present time he is managing the St. Anthony Club of Dickinson.

Veronica still lives in Richardton. She has been a member of the Christian Mothers Society for 56 years, the American Legion Auxiliary for 37 years, the Royal Neighbors of America for 57 years and the Senior Citizens Club for 10 years.

## Thomas F. Roll

Thomas F. Roll is the son of Frank and Anna (Meier) Roll of Dickinson. Tom comes from a family of four girls and two boys. Tom was born January 25, 1955, in Mott and lived on a farm until about the age of three, when they moved to Dickinson. Tom went to St. Wenceslaus Grade School and attended Trinity High School.

Judy (Binstock) Roll is the daughter of Paul and Ethel (Roeder) Binstock. Judy comes from a family of six girls and four boys. Judy was born January 17, 1954, in Dickinson. Judy grew up on a farm in the Scheffield area which is 18 miles southwest of Dickinson. She attended St. Pius Grade School. Judy attended her first year of High School at St. Mary's Academy of Richardton as a boarder. The end of that year St. Mary's High School closed so she continued the

remaining years at St. Mary's High School of New England, where she graduated in 1973. After graduating she waitressed for about a year.

After Tom graduated in 1973 he started working for Burlington Northern Railroad and Husky Briquetting Plant. Tom worked full time for B.N. since 1974. He is presently working in Dickinson.

Tom and Judy got married at Queen of Peace Church on June 8, 1974.

They have three children: Stephanie, born August 19, 1974; Theresa, born July 25, 1976; and Audrey, born May 8, 1978.

The Roll family lived in Dickinson about a year and one-half before they moved to Richardton in February of 1977.

Two of the children attend St. Mary's Grade School. Judy is a member of St. Mary's Church Choir. She also does babysitting in their home since they only have one of their own at home.

## Frank Rummel Jr.

The late Frank Rummel Jr., the son of Frank Rummel Sr. and Rosa Frankenhauser, married Margaret Gallagher, the daughter of the late Charles Gallagher and Charlotte Traumann.

They farmed five miles south of Richardton until retiring into Richardton in the 1950s.