

GENEALOGY OF THE RICHARDSON FAMILY

Written by Mrs. Mary Woodward
Leonard, Shelby County, Missouri
June 22, 1902

To be handed down when I am gone

"Tis good to think the Christian religion followed them and was their guide and comfort."

Re-written by Dorathea Carroll
From the original biography and information gathered from other
descendants.

February 5, 1967, Quincy, Illinois

A biography of our ancestors, as I remember them, being told to me by my father, Ole Richardson, who was the only child of Richard Olson, born 1743. His native country was Norway, and was the youngest of seven brothers.

After he reached his manhood, he weighed 400 lbs. He was a shoemaker by trade and lived to be 96 years old. One brother lived to be 110. They lived in the mountains of the cold regions of Norway. They knew not what sickness was, "Just went down as a child grows up." He belonged to a standing army in Norway, and was also a member of the fire department of Stavanger, Norway. He once received a silver cup for being the first to arrive at the fire.

Richard Olson married and they lived together for many years. She died leaving no children. His age was 73 at her death.

He then married a girl 20 years old. To them a child was born. At the birth of their child she received an injury from which she never recovered. She died when their son was three years old.

It was the custom to take the fathers name and add son to it, meaning the son of Richard, thus making his name Ole Richardson.

Richard Olson died the youngest of the seven children, his age being 96.

Ole Richardson was born October 21, 1804, in the city of Stravanger, Norway.

On October 14, 1830, at the age of 26, he married Annie Samuelson, who was born May 19, 1806.

She was one of eleven children, 9 girls and two boys. The boys names were Sam and Sween. One was a sailor on "The ship that never returned." Two of the nine girls (Isabel and Laura) came to Missouri from Norway around 1845.

Laura Johnson had six children, all born in Norway. They were named Hannah, Cornelia, Sophia, Laura, Gus and John Johnson.

They were Lutheran in belief. The church they worshipped in was built by the Catholics and used by them for 900 years, until the Reformation in the time of Martin Luther, who was a reformed Catholic. The church fell into the Protestant hands after the Catholics were overpowered and driven from Norway, not being allowed to stay over 24 hours on Norway soil. Twas something over 400 years ago.

The church was so large that when one went in the front door, the Minister looked like a small boy in the pulpit. The music was played on harps in the pulpit. Marriage ceremonies had to be performed in the church and announced three Sundays in succession before the appointed day. When the time came, the church was crowded. The musicians were ready to sound their harps with joyous melody at the approach of the bride and groom. It made them happy marching up the long isle to the pulpit. Then the music ceased until the ceremony was over, then the march was played while they were leaving, to the delight of all who heard it. It was thus that Ole Richardson and Annie Samuelson was married on October 14, 1830.

When there was a funeral the scene was changed. The corpse was carried into the church and up the isle amidst weeping people as the death march was played.

The church walls were several feet in thickness, built of stone and wood, that had petrified in the course of time. Ole was called with some other workmen to do some repairing on the inside. He said that their planes could not penetrate the wood.

In the basement were bodies of noted men and priests, who were embalmed centuries ago. Some were standing in glass coffins, thers were in sitting position, and others lying down. The history of everything notable was kept in large desks with the records of those who were dead. Once in Ole's time the Queen of England came over to Norway on a visit. They made a grand display, spreading the carpets on the walks and decorated with flowers for her entrance into the church. They then sounded all the harps, but it broke so many of the thick window lights that they never dared to sound them all at once again. As time went on and this great America was so much talked of, with its millions of acres of idle land, that would furnish homes for all who came, Ole and Annie Richardson decided to come to America. Their family was small, having but three children, so Ole made arrangements with Annie's sister Mariah to take care of his father, knowing she would take good care of him. He lived 2 years longer.

Ole had a good trade as a house joiner and cabinet maker. He received his diploma in a three year apprentice course, when still a young man and could make a good living as long as he could work many hours in a day, but should he live to be old, it would be with him, as with others, he would be layed off and new hands employed. So in 1837 they bid farewell to friends and relations, and their native land and started across the Atlantic Ocean with 90 other families on board the old time sail ship. They were eleven weeks and four days crossing the mighty deep, with storms and breakers rolling mountain high. The ship almost turned on its side, till the sleepers went tumbling out of their bunks onto the floor. The three children crossing the ocean with their parents were Samuel, Ahrlet and Rachel. A funny story tells of Ahrlet falling through a scuttle hole of the ship and landing straddle of a man's neck while eating a plate of soup or mush. She was not hurt.

They landed in New York Harbor in 1837 with nothing but Ole's tools to speak for him. He opened the chest and when they saw its contents they motioned to them to go with them to where they wanted skilled workmen.

They lived in Rochester two years, then came to Knox County in Missouri in 1839, where he purchased land from the government for \$1.25 per acre, one hundred and sixty acres in all. They endured many hardships as it was a comparatively wild country, with timber and prairie grass growing higher than a man's head. They had to clear off the brush by oxen in order to plant their crops. The meat they ate consisted of deer, wild turkey and quail, which was plentiful. They gradually worked their way up financially and the clouds began to pass.

To Ole and Annie Richardson were born three children:

1. Samuel, born October 21, 1831. He died June 22, 1854 of Typhoid fever.
2. Ahrlet, born July 22, 1834. She married Jacob Bright, September 13, 1855. To them was born six children; Sammie, Olie, Ann, Pyrena, Jenny, Jimmy and Mary Lida. Ahrlet died September 23, 1860.
3. Rachel, born July 31, 1836. She married Abraham Wilson Lewis December 16, 1858. They had ten children; Minos Noble, Erminia Clothilda, Annie Fay, John Henry, Maxie Elizabeth, Nancy Canon, Stella Glendora, Isaac Wesley, Abraham Richardson, Leona Rachel

At the sale of her parents' home, after their death, Rachel and her husband bought the home place. Her mother had traded a silver cup for six silver table spoons. At the sale Rachel bought five of the spoons. One had been lost. Before Rachel's death she gave one to each of her sons, that they might give to their sons, thus keeping them in the Lewis family.

Annie, wife of Ole Richardson, died April 18, 1857. She was born May 19, 1806.

Ole married his second wife Hattie Fox, January 23, 1860. She was born May 24, 1804.

They had three children

1. Peter was born May 14, 1840 and was killed April 9, 1864. in the Civil War of 1861 to 1865 at Mt. Pleasant, Louisiana.
2. Elizabeth, born November 2, 1842, and married John Patterson March 27, 1861
They had four children, Jenevia, Glad C., Inez and Henry. Elizabeth died May 12, 1884 of Spinal Meningitis
3. Mary was born June 21, 1847 and married David Hannah April 30, 1868. He was born February 14, 1838.

They had four children: Thomas, Samuel, Annie Willnot, Lizzie Virginia and Sterling Winfield. Her husband died August 15, 1884. On February 1887 Mary married John H. Woodward, who died in 1891. Mary died January 24, 1928 of paralysis.

Mattie, second wife of Ole Richardson, died July 1, 1864

Ole then married his third wife Sallie Christian, August 24, 1865. She was born November 7, 1835.

They had three children:

1. Fannie May was born June 7, 1866 and died April 6, 1886 of consumption
2. Ole Bascum was born July 6, 1863, and died April 2, 1869 of Bronchitis
3. Dora Bell was born March 11, 1870 and died of pneumonia August 11, 1938

She married Richard H. Gilson March 11, 1888

Her second marriage was to George Wennier on December 29, 1915.

Sallie Richardson died September 26, 1885.

Ole Richardson died August 9, 1886. Not sick, just wore out.

So ends the sketch of our generation, that this may be handed down to my generation when I am gone. Almost 300 years back and up to the present time.