

TWEDT, Hans Johnson 1825–1901 and Abella Olsdatter 1827–1859 were married in 1853 and emigrated from the Tveit farm, Kvinnherad, Hordaland, to the Lisbon Settlement southwest of Chicago in 1854. They left the Kvinnherad parish April 19, 1854, and may have been passengers on the brig, *Odin*, that sailed from Bergen April 24 and arrived in Quebec, Canada, July 2, 1854, along with other families from the nearby parishes of Skånevik, Etne, Fjelberg, and Kvinnherad. Abella's youngest brother had already emigrated in 1852 (see Abel Olson), but Hans was the first member of his family to emigrate. Later in 1854, Hans and Abella's first child, Ole H. 1854–1907, was born. When the 1855 Illinois Census was taken, Hans and Abella were living southwest of Lisbon in Nettle Creek Township, Grundy County, where they owned livestock valued at \$75. That same year, 1855, when they learned a scouting party was being sent to central Iowa to investigate land opportunities, Hans and Abella sent money with the party to purchase land for them. On June 14, 1855, the party purchased 160 acres of government land at the Federal Land Office in Ft. Des Moines for Hans and Abella in Howard Township, Story County, Iowa, for \$1.25 per acre. The scouting party also purchased a 10-acre timber lot for them in southwest Howard Township for \$10 per acre. In May of the following year, Hans, Abella, and Ole H. were members of a caravan of Lisbon area immigrants who moved to central Iowa to begin the settlement east of Story City. "On the trip to Iowa they were blessed with beautiful weather. Having reached Cedar River where they camped over Sunday, a beautiful baby girl was born to the Hans Tvedts (Havneros, 1907)." Hans and Abella named their daughter Herborg Jonette aka Hattie (Twedt) Harlow 1856–1917. The 1856 Iowa Census was enumerated soon after the Lisbon immigrants arrived in Howard Township, and the enumerator found three and four families grouped together living in their covered wagons. On January 29, 1857, the editor of the *Story County Ægis* newspaper published a history of the young county which had been organized in 1853. It contained the following account of the new settlement: "A colony of Norwegians in the northwestern part of the county is in a very thriving condition, being composed of industrious settlers. They expect a considerable addition to their numbers in the coming spring (Payne, 1911, 1:51)." The following year, Pastor P. A. Rasmussen from Lisbon made his first trip to the settlement and baptized Herborg (Pastor Rasmussen's record of Story County christenings in June 1857). Before Hans and Abella left Illinois, they had sold one-third of their land and one-third of their timber lot on April 5 for \$100, perhaps to finance the trip and their first year in Iowa. Ten months later, on January 24, 1857, they sold the balance of their real estate for \$300 to Abella's brother, Abel, who was in Story County at the time of the sale and who settled on the land in 1859. Whether Hans had built a home or broken any prairie on this land is unknown. Based upon the number of acres Hans reported owning for the 1860 Census and county land records, however, it is clear that Hans and Abella had purchased other land one mile east of the future town of Roland in 1857 from Shur Britson, a friend and baptismal sponsor for Herborg (see Shur Britson). This land in Section 14 of Howard Township became their permanent settlement location. On May 10, 1859, Abella gave birth to twins, and according to family oral history, Abella died during or shortly after childbirth. Betsey Malende (Twedt/Olson) Meland 1859–1936 was baptized on June 2, 1859, and Abel 1859–ca.1860 was baptized on September 15, 1859, the baptismal dates indicating they were cared for by different mothers after Abella's death. Betsey became a foster child of Hans and Abella's friends, Knudt and Engebor Helvig, who immigrated with them to Illinois in 1854 and followed them to Howard Township in 1857 (see Knudt Helvig). Although Betsey consistently reported an Illinois birth on census records and according to oral history within her family was born near Ottawa, Illinois, her birth clearly occurred in Iowa because her five baptismal sponsors were members of the St. Petri congregation near Story City (St. Petri church records). Hans likely hired Gjore Sjursdatter Erslund 1837–1926 to care for his older children, Ole and Hattie, after Abella's death, and on March 9, 1860, he married Gjore. Gjore emigrated from the Erslund farm, Skånevik, Hordaland, to Lisbon in 1856, with her sister, Enger, and her husband (see Halvor Opstvedt). They were passengers on one of seven emigrant ships that sailed from Bergen that year all destined for Quebec, Canada. Her obituary states, "... after spending a year in Illinois, [she] came to Iowa with the covered wagon train in 1857 ..." which suggests she traveled to Iowa with the Opstvedt family, too. For the 1860 Census, Hans and Gjore reported owning real estate worth \$400 and a personal estate worth \$150. They also reported owning 2 working oxen and implements worth \$50 to farm 26 improved acres and 66 unimproved acres, 2 milk cows that produced 200 pounds of butter, and 6 swine, and harvesting 150 bushels of corn, 50 bushels of wheat, 20 tons of hay (prairie grass), and 40 bushels of potatoes. Hans and Gjore had 11 children. Their first child was named Abel in honor of Hans' son who died. Following the death of a child, naming the next child the same name was an old Norwegian custom. In 1858, one of Hans' brothers settled near him (see Knudt Johnson), and by 1870, another brother and two sisters were living close to them. Abella and her brother, Abel, also had two sisters who settled near them and a brother who settled in Ruthven, Iowa. Abella and her son, Abel, are presumably buried in unmarked graves #6 and #7 in Lot 102 in the Roland Cemetery, Roland, Iowa, where, Hans, Gjore, and Ole H. are also buried. Hattie is buried in Spokane Memorial Gardens, Spokane, Washington, and Betsey Malende is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Cando, North Dakota.