18 Jan 76

Dear Bud

I finally got around to try to research Anna Lovisa Eriksson for you with no success — yet. I looked for names in the 1880 census (including her brother) and in the partial of the 1885 census but they weren't there. The 1885 census records are not complete here — they said that the State Historical Society in Bismarck may be able to help you in that respect. I also looked at the 1900 record just in case, but anyone listed as Anna, Lovisa, Carl, Karl, Charles, or anything close was always either too old or too young, or from Norway — anyway, the data didn't jive.

Regarding homestead records, they can't do anything unless you know exactly where the homestead was located. They said that the county courthouse could possibly find that.

The problem with that is that you don't know what county they settled in. I checked names in 9 counties close to Bismarck when I went through the records. They also said that it's very doubtful that they would have allowed a single woman to homestead by herself — a widow could but not an unmarried woman.

Anyway, since you have more data on that branch of the family than I do, it's better that you communicate with the Historical Society and the appropriate court houses for more information — give them as much data as possible — and then I can try again with homestead records at the Archives. As I mentioned before, you might have some luck with the Mormons (perish the thought!) — seriously, they have researched all of the courthouse records already and may have your information already — I think I'd try that first — find your

local mormon (I won't capitalize it this time) church and tell them the problem.

Hope you all had a happy holiday season. Greet the rest of the clan for me. There's a good chance that I'll go to Germany on business next month. If so, I might have an opportunity to get to Amsterdam and look up Len. Won't know for sure even if I'm going until a few days before I actually leave.

Regards

John Swenson

Eleanor's son