

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Rollefson, Carl Gustave Alvin
1885 WI – 1941 WI

SH 251,158

GRANITE MARKER

APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE

(PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE)

CHECK TYPE HEADSTONE DESIRED

☐ UPRIGHT MARKER

☒ **FLAT MARKER** *Granite*

Enlistment dates *September 1 1917*

Discharge dates *May 29 1919* *How*

Pension number _____

ORIGINAL

Name	Rank	Company	U. S. Regiment, State Organization, or Vessel	Date of Death
<i>Gustave A. Rollefson</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Co "D"</i>	<i>107th Supply Train</i>	<i>June 29 1941</i>

Name of Cemetery	Located in or near—		If World War Veteran—		
	City	State	Division	State	Emblem
<i>Pine Grove Cemetery</i>	<i>Wausau</i>	<i>Wis</i>	<i>32nd</i>	<i>Wis</i>	<i>Christian</i>

To be shipped to *Mrs. Arthur Grimstad* at *Wausau (Marathon County) Wis*
(Name of consignee) (Give R. R. station, county, and State)

Whose post-office address is *Mrs. Arthur Grimstad* *Wittenberg Wis*

DO NOT WRITE HERE

To A. G. O. *AUG 1 1941*

Ordered *SEP 13 1941 WEST CHELMSFORD*

B/L *3747691*

Shipped *11/7/41*

WAR DEPARTMENT O. Q. M. G. Form No. 623 Approved Aug. 12, 1913 Revised May 18, 1931 Revised Feb. 15, 1937

This application is for the UNMARKED grave of a veteran. It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid. I hereby agree to accept promptly the headstone at destination, remove it, and properly place same at decedent's grave at my expense. NO FEE SHOULD BE PAID IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION.

Major General
The Adjutant General
By: *7/16/41* *8/4/41*

Address *Wittenberg, Wis.* Date _____

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/152066:2375>

HOSP

7/18/41

ROLLEFSON GUSTAVE ALVIN *XC* **2265325**

Pvt Co D 107 Sup Tn **K**

Merrill Wisc **A 1 809 058**

Ssn 251 158 **Died 6/29/41** **T 147 722**

Born 12/20/85 **R**

Enl 9/1/17 **Dis 5/29/19** **CL 423 774**

I

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1935

INDEX CARD

3-13500

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:W3YY-F66Z>

DECADE HAS PASSED SINCE THE TUSCANIA SANK NEAR IRELAND

New London Survivors Give Disaster Details on Tenth Anniversary

[article continues]

Survivors of the tragedy from this city or community are: Com. Henry J. Pettigrew, Jacob Schneider, Leland T. Meany, Arthur J. Hanschel, Ralph A. Mayo, Francis Barlow, Laurel J. Conate, Charles P. Foley, Elmer Hebbe, Arthur Otto, John Allen, Archibald Beaudoin, Martin D. Bongers, Byron E. Christian, Harry B. Collar, Frank J. Davis, George Doman, Leonard T. Meshke, George Schoenrock, Arthur L. Steffen, Harvey J. Travers, Martin Winter, Gustave Rollefson, Arthur Gantwell and George Grawvunder.

"Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent" Monday 6 Feb 1928 p 13

STATE DEATHS
Ashland—F. O. Johanas, 81.
Fond du Lac—Mrs. Anna Steen, 64.
La Crosse—Ella Kersey, 48; Adolph Kohlhaus, 74.
Manitowoc — Sister Mary Francis Borgia; Mrs. Anna Buehler, 77; Christian Meyer, 83.
Racine—Mrs. Viola Sorensen, 71.
Wausau — Gustave Rollefson, 55; Geronimo Orlandi, 64.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Saturday 5 Jul 1941 p 4

Father:

An Obituary.

Rollef Rollefson, who was killed at his home in the town of Scandinavia, Waupaca county, November 16, was buried on the 20th from the Lutheran church at Scandinavia, Rev. Nelson, the pastor, officiating and the remains were interred in the little cemetery near by. It will be remembered that Mr. Rollefson, with a number of other men, were engaged in slaughtering some beeves, and were in the act of raising one of the carcasses with the aid of a windlass, when one of the handles broke and let the windlass go. The windlass unwound with terrific force and another handle struck Rollefson on the back of the head as he was bending over. His death was instantaneous, his skull being crushed in.

The deceased leaves a wife and two children, a boy aged 11 and a girl of 6. He was born in Scandinavia 41 years ago, his birthday having been celebrated the day before his tragic death. His father died last April and his mother some years ago. He also had a sister, Mrs. John Christanson of Sheridan, and a brother, H. Rollefson of Scandianvia. A foster sister, Mrs. Wm. Cooper, lives in this city. The funeral is said to have been the largest held from the little church in many years and bore testimony to his great popularity among his townsmen. The pall bearers were Nels Oleson, E. Nelson, Louis Murat, Louis Jacobson, Louis Brakke and Rasmus Bestul.

Obituary of father Rollef Rollefson - "Stevens Point (WI) Journal" Wednesday 2 Dec 1896 p

1

Mother:

V. S. No. 2 TM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Original Record for State Registrar
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH G.F. 9264
STATE OF MONTANA Bureau of Vital Statistics

Registrar's No. 380

1. PLACE OF DEATH:
(a) County Cascade
(b) City or town Great Falls
(If outside city or town limits write Rural)
(c) Name of hospital or institution: Columbus
(If not in hospital or institution write street number or location)
(d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution 18 Months (Specify whether years, months or days)
In this community 18 Months

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
(a) State Mont. (b) County Cascade
(c) City or town Great Falls
(If outside city or town limits write Rural)
(d) Street No. 212-33rd. St. No.
(If rural give location)
(e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A. ? _____ years

3 (a) FULL NAME Mrs. Dora Lystul
(b) If veteran, name war _____ (c) Social Security No. _____
4. Sex F 5. Color or race W 6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced Widowed
(b) Name of husband or wife _____ (c) Age of husband or wife _____ years
7. Birth date of deceased March 27 1865 (Month) (Day) (Year)
8. AGE: Years 78 Months 6 Days 3 If less than one day hr. _____ min. _____
9. Birthplace Wisconsin (City, town or county) (State or foreign country)
10. Usual occupation Housewife
11. Industry or business _____
12. Name Nels Bestul
13. Birthplace Norway (City, town or county) (State or foreign country)
14. Maiden name Gurire Brekke
15. Birthplace Norway (City, town or county) (State or foreign country)
16 (a) Informant's own signature Mrs. Dora Lystul
(b) Address 212-33rd. St. No.
17 (a) Removal (b) Date thereof Oct. 12, 1943 (Month) (Day) (Year)
(Burial, cremation, or removal)
(c) Place: burial or cremation Merrill, Wisc.
18 (a) Signature of funeral director W. H. George Co.
(b) Address Great Falls, Mont.
19 (a) Oct 12, 1943 (b) Thos. Walker (Date rec'd local registrar) (Registrar's signature)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
20. Date of death: Month Oct. day 10 year 1943 hour 7 minute 30 AM
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from July 3 1942 to Oct 10 1943
that I last saw him alive on Oct 10 1943 and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.
Immediate cause of death Cerebral Hemorrhage
Hypertension
Due to Hypertension
Due to Stimulity
Other conditions (include pregnancy within 3 months of death) _____
Major findings: Of operations ✓
Of autopsy ✓
22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:
(a) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) ✓
(b) Date of occurrence _____
(c) Where did injury occur? (City or town) (County) (State)
(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? ✓ (Specify type of place)
While at work _____ (e) Means of injury _____
23. Signature Thos. Walker M. D. or other _____
Address GREAT FALLS, MONT. Date signed 10-11-43

THIS MATERIAL IS RESERVED FOR ENDURING
WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK

MT death record of mother - <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/828863:5437>

Mrs. Dora Lystul Dies at Hospital

Mrs. Dora Lystul, 78, 212 Thirty-third street north, died at a local hospital Sunday morning. The body is at the W. H. George chapel and will be forwarded Tuesday evening to Merrill, Wis., for services and burial.

In ill health for the past several years, Mrs. Lystul had come to Great Falls about a year ago to make her home with her daughter, Mrs. Francis Baker. She is survived by one other daughter, Mrs. Arthur Grimstead, Wittenberg, Wis. Mrs. Lystul was born in Waupaca county, Wisconsin, March 26, 1865.

Obituary of mother – “Great Falls (MT) Tribune” Monday 11 Oct 1943 p 5

B7515

DEC 19 1933

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

PLACE OF MARRIAGE, County of Clark Town of Vancouver

GROOM	Personal and Statistic Particulars	BRIDE
Full Name <u>John D. Lystul</u>	Full Name <u>Oritha Nordahl</u>	
Residence <u>Grant Pass. Oregon</u>	Residence <u>Merrill, Wis.</u>	
Age at last Birthday <u>Legal</u> Years	Age at last Birthday <u>Legal</u> Years	
Color or Race <u>White</u>	Color or Race <u>White</u>	
Single, Widowed or Divorced <u>Widowed</u>	Single, Widowed or Divorced <u>Widowed</u>	
Number of Marriages <u>One</u>	Number of Marriages <u>Two</u>	
Birthplace <u>Grant Pass. State or County Wis.</u>	Birthplace <u>Waupaca State or County Wis.</u>	
Occupation <u>Farmer</u>	Occupation <u>—</u>	
Name of Father <u>Ole Lystul</u>	Name of Father <u>Nels Bustel</u>	
Birthplace of Father <u>State or County Norway.</u>	Birthplace of Father <u>State or County Norway.</u>	
Maiden Name of Mother <u>Johanna Loberg</u>	Maiden Name of Mother <u>Gerina Brekke</u>	
Birthplace of Mother <u>State or County Norway.</u>	Birthplace of Mother <u>State or County Norway.</u>	
Maiden Name of Bride, if She Was Previously Married		
We, the groom and bride named in this certificate, hereby certify that the information given herein is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.		
<u>John D. Lystul</u> Groom	<u>Oritha Nordahl</u> Bride	
CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY		
I HEREBY CERTIFY That <u>John D. Lystul</u> and <u>Oritha Nordahl</u> were joined in Marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington, at <u>Vancouver</u> this <u>15</u> day of <u>Dec</u> 19 <u>33</u>		
Signatures of the person performing the ceremony. <u>J. R. Johnson</u> Res. <u>824 1/2</u> St. No. <u>—</u> <u>Portland Ore.</u> Res. <u>—</u> St. No. <u>—</u>		Signature of the person performing the ceremony. <u>Joseph T. Keating</u> Official Station <u>Minister</u> Residence <u>Vancouver, Wn.</u>

led in by the Minister, Priest or official performing the marriage ceremony and returned to the Auditor of the county in which the marriage took place, within ten days from the date of the marriage. This is a permanent record. See that EVERY BLANK is PLAINLY with unfading ink. License issued at Vancouver, Washington.

marriage. Written is properly fill

Signatures of Witnesses

Marriage of mother to 3rd husband, John D. Lystul on 15 Dec 1933 in Vancouver, Clark WA -
https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/906138939:2378?tid=&pid=&queryId=3ca34942c07488aa5897696e0c3fabc5&_phsrc=hFB51023&_phstart=successSource

Sister:

MARRIAGE RECORD

No. 4545

Marriage License

STATE OF MONTANA, }
County of Custer, }

To Any Person Authorized to Solemnize Marriages, Greeting:

YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED To join in lawful wedlock and celebrate within this County the rites and ceremonies of Marriage between Francis B. Baker, a man whose color is white whose residence is Idamay, Mont.; whose age is 32 years; born at S. Dak. and who has NOT been previously married His father's Christian and Surname is J. M. Baker His mother's Christian and Maiden name was Emma L. Benedict and Della May Rollefson a woman, whose color is white; whose residence is Merrill, Wisc.; whose age is 26 years, born at Wisc. and who has NOT been previously married Her father's Christian and Surname is Ralph Rollefson Her mother's Christian and Maiden name was Dortha Bestul both parties being legally competent to enter into such contract of marriage. And this shall be your good and sufficient warrant therefor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 27th day of Nov. A. D. 1922

(SEAL)

C. A. Lindeberg

Clerk District Court.

By D. M. Ferguson

Deputy.

Marriage Certificate

STATE OF MONTANA, } ss.
County of Custer, }

This is to Certify. That the undersigned, a Clergyman of the Presbyterian Church,
did, on the Twenty-Eighth day of November A. D. 1925 at
Ismay in the said County of Custer and State of Montana,
join in lawful wedlock Francis B. Baker of Ismay
and Della May Rollefson, Merrill Wisc. with their mutual consent.

In the Presence of
MRS. A. C. Tracy
A. C. Tracy } Witnesses

Witness my hand this Twenty Eighth day of November 1925
Edward Hall
(Signature only) Officiating.

Filed for Record this 2nd day of December 1925
C. A. Lindeberg Clerk District Court.
COMPARED by D. H. Lindeberg Deputy.

Marriage of Della May Rollefson to Francis B. Baker on 28 Nov 1925 in Ismay, Custer MT -
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/90366008:61578>

Name:	Della Rollepson Baker [Della R Baker] [Della Rollepson Rollefson]
Gender:	Female
Race:	White
Birth Date:	27 Aug 1891
Birth Place:	Scandinavia, Wisconsin
Death Date:	15 Sep 1991
Father:	Rollef Rollefson
Mother:	Maren D Bestul
SSN:	516823421
Death Certificate Number:	25850
Notes:	14 Jun 1972: Name listed as DELLA ROLLEPSON BAKER; 22 May 1998: Name listed as DELLA R BAKER

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/28000258:60901>

Half-sister:

Leona M. Grimsted

Leona M. Grimsted, 83, Homme Home for the Aging, Wittenberg, died Saturday, May 16, 1987, in the nursing home.

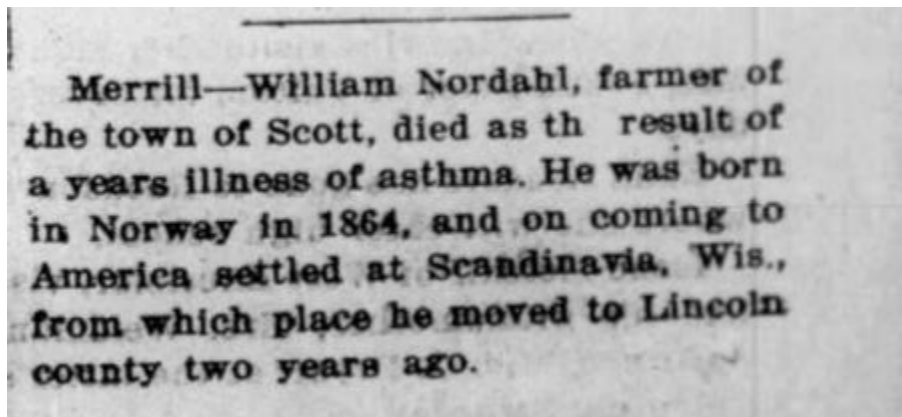
The former Leona Nordahl was born Sept. 23, 1903, in Scandinavia, daughter of Wilber and Dorthea Nordahl. She married Arthur Grimsted, June 21, 1923, in Merrill. He died Nov. 29, 1978.

Survivors include a daughter, Betty Anderson, Anchorage, Alaska; and a sister, Della Baker, Spokane, Wash. A brother died earlier.

Services will be at 7 p.m. today at Schmidt-Schulta Funeral Home, Wittenberg. The Rev. Peter Gundersen of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wittenberg, will officiate. Burial will be in the parish cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home from 4 p.m. today until time of services.

Obituary of half-sister Leona Marie Nordahl Grimstad (1903-1987) – "Wausau (WI) Daily Herald" Monday 18 May 1987 p 20

Stepfather:



"Baraboo (WI) Republic" Thursday 21 Oct 1920 p 6

Name: Carl Gustave Alvin Rollefson

Name variations: Gust – Gustave - Karl

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. D - corporal

Serial number: 251,158

Entered service from: Merrill, Lincoln WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Gustave A. Rollefson

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Mrs. Mary Nordahl, Merrill WI

Returned from war on: "Virginian" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Gustave A. Rollefson

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: mother Mrs. Dora Nordahl, Merrill WI (pvt, Co. D, 107th Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917):

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): RR No. 5, Merrill WI

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 1 Sep 1917

Discharged: 29 May 1919

Address: Merrill WI

Rank/unit: private, Co. D, 107th Supply Train

Birth & death:

Born: 20 Dec 1885 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI

Died: 29 Jun 1941 Scott, Lincoln WI

Find A Grave record: 195627431 – presence on Tuscania indicated in flower

Burial location: Wausau, Marathon WI

Cemetery: Pine Grove

Tombstone: tombstone application: veteran flat - Pvt Co D 107th Supply Train

Father: Rollef Rollefson, 15 Nov 1855 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI – 16 Nov 1896 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI. Son of Ole Rollefson (F: 95662881) & Margit Halversdatter (F: 95662877). Killed when hit in the head by a windlass 1 day after his 41st birthday, while slaughtering beef cattle. Buried in Scandinavia Lutheran Cemetery, Scandinavia, Waupaca WI.

Find A Grave: 76841385

Mother: Maren Dorthea Bestul Rollefson Nordahl Lystul, 26 or 27 Mar 1865 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI – 10 Oct 1943 Great Falls, Cascade MT (in Columbus Hospital, living with daughter Della Rollefson Baker. Daughter of Nels Rasmussen Bestul (F: 57011582) & Anna Gurine Anundsdatter Brekke (F: 57011649).

After being widowed in 1896, she married Wilmar Nordahl (Carl Wilmar Olsen Nordahl), 1864 Norway – 1920) in Scandinavia township, Waupaca Co. WI on 23 Dec 1902.

Widowed again, Maren Nordahl married John (Johan) Olsen, also a widow, on 15 Dec 1933 in Vancouver, Clark WA.

John & “Dorothy” Lystul are buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Wausau, Marathon WI.

Find A Grave record 95661057 - The death date of 16 Nov 1921 on her alleged grave in the Scandinavia Lutheran Cemetery, Scandinavia, Waupaca WI is incorrect and belongs to a different woman.

Find A Grave: 125579117 (in Pine Grove) & 95661057 (in Scandinavia)

Parents' marriage: 1883

See her family tree at: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/55287062/person/26084875038/facts>

Stepfather: Wilmar Nordahl (Carl Wilmar Olsen Nordahl), 2 Nov 1864 Norway – 13 Oct 1920. Buried in Scandinavia Lutheran Cemetery, Scandinavia, Waupaca WI.

Stepfather's Find A Grave: 76899169

Stepfather's marriage: 23 Dec 1902 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI

Stepfather: John (Johan) Olsen Lystul, 7 Oct 1864 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI – 28 Dec 1939 Scott, Lincoln WI. Son of Ole Torkildsen Lystul & Johanne Nilsdatter. His 1st wife was Ingeborg Marie Isaacson (1863-1932 OR) whom he married 29 Dec 1885 in Scandinavia, Waupaca WI.

John is buried with Maren in Pine Grove Cemetery, Wausau, Marathon WI.

Stepfather's Find A Grave: 125569553

Stepfather's marriage: 15 Dec 1933 in Vancouver, Clark WA. John D. Lystul, widowed, 1 previous marriage, son of Ole Lystul & Johanna Loberg, both parents b. Norway. Farmer, born Waupaca WI, resident of Grants Pass OR. Dorthea Nordah, widowed, 2 previous marriages, daughter of Nels Bustul & Gurine Brekke, born Waupaca WI, resident of Merrill [sic/Merrill] WI.

Spouse: apparently never married

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Sibling:

- Odella May (which became Della) Rollefson Baker, 27 Aug 1891 Waupaca Co. WI [WI birth index] – 15 Sep 1991 Spokane Co. WA. SSN 516-82-3421. The “Stevens Point (WI) Journal” of Wednesday 9 Sep 1908 p 4 notes that Odella Rollefson of Scandinavia WI is a student at the Normal School [teachers’ school.] In the 1920 census, Della Rollefson, age 23, parents b. WI, single, was a schoolteacher in Havelock, Hettinger ND, a boarder with Hans S. & Lavina E. Petrson & their 8 children. Della May Rollefson married 28 Nov 1925 in Ismay, Custer MT to Francis B. Baker (1893-1978, F: 35721553). Buried in Woodland Cemetery, Deer Park, Spokane WA. F: 35720351

Half-sibling: by his mother Maren’s 2nd marriage, to Wilmar Nordahl

- Leona Marie Nordahl Grimstad, 23 Sep 1903 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI – 16 May 1987 Wittenberg, Shawano WI. Birth name was Marie Leone Nordahl on WI records. Married 1 Jun 1923 in Merrill, Lincoln WI to Arthur Norman Grimstad (1897 WI – 1978 WI, F: 131634998), son of Andrew Armundson Grimstad & Olia Torgerson. Her obituary notes her surviving sister, Della Baker, of Spokane WA & that a brother preceded her in death. Buried in Redeemer Lutheran Cemetery, Wittenberg, Shawano WI. F: 131635001

Notes:

Pre-war:

Baptized at Scandinavia Lutheran Church, Scandinavia, Waupaca WI on 2 Jun 1901.

Wartime:

“Kenosha (WI) News” Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 1

Gustav A. Rollefson, Merrill WI was 1 of those saved from Tuscania

Post-war:

Obituary:

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1900 Scandinavia, Waupaca WI

Dartha ROLEFSON, 35 WI, Mar 1865, parents b. Norway, married 12 years [but her husband is dead], gave birth to 2 children, 2 are living

Gustav, 14 WI, Dec 1883, parents b. WI, at school

Odella, 8 WI, Aug 1891, parents b. WI, at school

1905 WI state census – Scandinavia, Waupaca WI

Wilmar Nordahl, 40 Norway, parents b. Norway, painter

Maren D. Nordahl, 40 WI, parents b. Norway [wife]

Maria S. Nordahl, 1 WI, father b. Norway, mother b. WI [daughter]

Gustav A. ROLLIFSON, 19 WI, parents b. WI, day laborer [son]

May O. ROLLIFSON, 13 WI, parents b. WI, student [daughter]

1910 Alban, Portage WI

James Bestul, 26 WI, parents b. WI, in 1st marriage, married 3 years, farmer, general farming

Clara Bestul, 28 WI, parents b. Norway, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 2 children, 1 is living [wife]

Norma Bestul, 1 WI, parents b. WI [daughter]

Vernon Thorson, 10 WI [adopted son]

& servant Gustave ROLLELSON, 24 WI, parents b. WI, single, farm laborer, general farm

1920 Scott, Lincoln WI

Wilmar Nordahl, 55 Norway, parents b. Norway, emigrated 1885, naturalized 1897 (?), farmer, general

Dorthea Nordahl, 54 WI, parents b. Norway [wife]

Gustav Rollefson, 33 WI, parents b. WI, laborer, farm [very faint, believe this is what is written] [stepson]

1930 Scott, Lincoln WI

Dorothy Nordahl, 65 WI, parents b. Norway, widow, farming, own farm

Gust ROLLOFISON, 44 WI, parents b. WI, single, laborer, on farm, not a veteran [son]

1940 Scott, Lincoln WI – same place in 1935

Gust Rollefson [misread & misindexed as Bottolfson], 54 WI, single, farmer, farm

Dora Lystul [misread & misindexed as Lystad], 75 WI, widow [mother]

1950 deceased