

# Legends of Freeborn County

## My, how wedding announcements have changed!

by Bev Jackson

Fifty-first in a monthly series of Freeborn County Articles - June 2004

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Writing styles have changed so much since the turn of the century. I'd like to share with you excerpts from some of my favorite articles. Remember, all of these date from the late 19th and early 20 centuries.

"A very pretty home wedding occurred on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock when Miss Ida Flindt and Alfred A. Goetzke were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents. The rooms were beautifully decorated for the occasion; pink and white being the predominating colors. The bridal party entering the room to the strains of Lohengrin's wedding march. The ceremony was performed by Rev. H. Nedtwig."

"After congratulations the guests repaired to the dining room where a delicious five course dinner was served, about 45 being present."

"The bride wore a gown of white satin over draped with white marquisette and lace. The groom wore the conventional black."

"The bride has been a successful teacher in the public schools of Albert Lea and principal of one of our primary buildings for a number of years. The groom is well known in this vicinity and is held in high honor and esteem by his numerous friends and acquaintances."

"The guests from out of town were: Mrs. A. Jung of Buffalo Lake, Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Schuknecht and family of LaGrange, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Flindt of Spencer, Iowa."

"Mr. and Mrs. Goetzke left on the evening train for an extended trip to Chicago and other points. On their return they will reside on the groom's farm two miles southwest of this city. A host of congratulations and good wishes follow this worthy couple to their new home.

**The Times Enterprise, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1912**

"Close to the midnight hour farewells were said and the happy couple, amid showers of rice and other enlivening attentions and escorted by a few friends took carriages on a wedding trip to Colorado Springs..."

"They will go over to housekeeping in the rooms over Thornby and Olson's store..."

"The parlors were beautifully decorated, and the wedding bell of roses, under which the minister performed the ceremony, was simply immense...The young couple commenced housekeeping at once in the Larkin residence on East Clark Street..."

The bridal party was taken from the bride's home to the church in a sleigh drawn by four bay horses, finely caparisoned.(?)..."

"The ceremony was performed by Rev. P.G. Ostby, in the English language, the preliminary remarks being made in Norwegian...The bride, one of the charming young ladies of this vicinity, has won a large circle of choice friends by her many sterling traits of character and her winsome ways...The groom, an energetic and industrious young man is one of Emmon's most esteemable and upright citizens and is a general favorite with all, being one of the leaders in social circles. The Leader (newspaper) knows of no more worthy and deserving young people disposed to enjoy life and make it enjoyable for others, and it is safe to assume that their union will be a happy one..."

Another wedding description was sandwiched in between totally unrelated articles: "Henry Cookpeter, of Freeman, proposes to have a barn on his farm this year and is busy now days building the same. It is 4 by 64 with 20 ft. posts..." and "A good deal of petty thieving has been going on lately in this city, and it has right along had the earmarks of being..." and "Bert and Andrew Bertramsen, sons of Nels Bertramsen of Albert Lea township, both enlisted in the Valley City company in the North Dakota regiment and are now in San Francisco with their regiment which will go to the Philippine Islands..."

In spite of the changes in wedding articles over the years, the following wish holds true for any wedding, any time.

"Sincere best wishes of a host of friends follow the young couple, with the earnest hope that their lives may be enriched by life's choicest blessing."