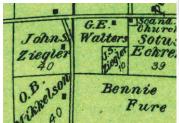
## ENGLISH REMITTANCE MEN

## **History** (including Freeborn Lutheran Church's original pastor's cabin)

1880 immunizations meant European families of 11 no longer lost 8 children to illness; families of 10 were not uncommon. By tradition, the  $1^{st}$  son inherited the farm, the  $2^{nd}$  went into the Military, the  $3^{rd}$  the Church and the  $4^{th}$ ,  $5^{th}$ ,  $6^{th}$  sons were "problems." Families sent these sons to "the colonies" and paid them to stay away. Currency restrictions ahead of the U.S. entering WW I ended (as many thought America would side with Germany) these English remittances in 1915. The year before, English sons had already left, feeling obliged to serve their country.

"On the morning they rode to war, each left his cabin without looking back. Instead he rode to the cabin of his nearest neighbour, just as another remittance man rode toward his cabin. At his neighbour's cabin he dismounted, took his rifle, and shot the animals. As the last shots echoed back from the surrounding hills he spilled kerosene across the cabin's cracked floorboards and then set the building ablaze. Throughout the valley this scene was repeated until all the remittance men's shacks were burned, all their animals killed." None of these Englishmen returned.





In 2019 PLC purchased this old cabin that from 1914-1930 served as the parsonage for the Dano-Norwegian speaking pastor for both Milltown & Freeborn Churches.



## **Ethnobotanical Gardens**

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

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## **Legends & Lessons**

"Red" was one of this area's remittancemen. No one knew his real name; a traveling team of craftsmen had built his cabin under contract from England, just as a traveling team of carpenters built the Freeborn Chapel across the road with help of Milltown. Red, who never bathed, was found sick one day and taken by buggy to Stanwood's new hospital, only recently opened by Dr. Allen and his wife. Given a bath, he promptly died.

In 1898, Dr. Orville Reid Allen, who served on the 1st Stanwood City Council in 1903, established a medical practice. In 1905 he opened the first Hospital with the help of his wife Mary Gertrude Stockbridge (Allen). His buggy sits on the next platform. Orville and Mary raised a family here. In 1911, their college-aged son died while swimming in the Stillaguamish. In memory, she painted an altar piece for Freeborn Church. Unsigned, as it was a copy of Heinrich Hofmann's 1890 "Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane," the piece sits across the road in the altar given to Freeborn by the Milltown Church (Hoffman's original is at New York's Riverside Church).







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