The following is to commemorate certain events in the early history of Frog Point and later the comming of the old setlers around Frog Point.

The part of the following that includes the years 1860 to the year 1875 is taken from an old clipping of a news paper in my scrap-book, and I can not remember what paper it was now. First weed want to learn what gave this little neck-of-the-woods the name of Frog Point as far back as the year 1860 a unit of 600 soldiers while in route to Walla Walla Washington made camp at this location after crossing the Red River into what at that time was Dakota Territory. When the soldiers took their horses down to the river that evening to water them, they found the shore so covered with frogs that they could scarcely take a step without treading on them. The next morning before leaving they put two stakes in the ground and nailed a bord to them bearing the words "Frog Point."

Later thru the rise and fall of time the name of Frog Point stuck, But things changed later, In 1889 the territory became a state, and the name Frog Point later became Belmont.

From 1860 on Frog Point was at the head of navigation on the Red River of the north, It was the gathering place of teamsters, hunters, Flatboatmen, Trappers, Indian traders, travelers and Reppresentatives of eastern buisness firms, It was a sort of wilderness metropolis Whose Inhabitents were chiefly trancients.

There was a Hudson Bay Hotel there, otherwise they lived in shacks or tents, yet the Reputation of the crossroads of the backwoods spread to other parts of the american continent and even Europe.

Brittons that of Frog Point as a thriving city with broad avenues, tall spires and humming industries outranked only by Liverpool there. To speak of Frog Point in the cities along the atlantic seaboards or abroad, summoned before the imagination pictures of marching armies, bourdering police and all the goings and comings of a great commercial mart, This reputation ~~reputation~~ made it a mecca for foreign travelers, But their disilutionment failed to dim its reputation while its importance Continued.

In contrast to the Spectacular "boom towns" in mining towns or districts, Frog Point owed its bursts of affluence to a low water perriod which made navigation above it impossible. Freight hailed overland made connections here with the Hudsen Bay Co. boats, The International and the Selkirk, James Hill the Empire builder was part owner. A Hudson Bay trading post was established at Frog Point in 1871 with A. H. Morgan as agent. He remained

in charge until 1875 when the Post was leased to Robert Ray. Hill was one of the famous figures frequently seen at Frog Point. On one occation while traveling from Duluth to Georgetown he broke thru the ice not far from the Point and came near drowning. Finely navigation condi=tions changed.

The newspapers in the States were full of news about the Red River valley in particular, And new setlers from the States began to come into the valley It seemed to them like the promised land. There were a few setlers In, pre=vious to 1876 and they were all located close to the river,

Those located close to Frog Point were Ole Thompsen, Carl Larsen, Christian Larsen, Halvor Bentrud, Jorger (Big) Thompsen, Aleck Anderson, Ole Docken, Ole Rust, also Robert Ray,

New Settlers began to arrive in 1876 In that time the praries contained nothing but a few buffalo=bones and a telegraf-post or two in od places. Proveing it had been a telegraph line runing thru the valley in earlier years. Here I shall name a few of the settlers that moved into the Frog Point neighborhood from Iowa in 1876 and 1874 Knudt O Rauk, Bendick O. Rauk,

Hans Ereckson, Ole Bredesen, Bernt Johnsen, Carelius Johnsen, John Odegard, Christ Odegard, Christian Hanson, John Lerum, Halvor Grogard, Christopher Thompsen and others.
At this time Robert Ray was ruining what had once been the Hudsen Bay Hotel until March 1898 when it burnt down. At this time there was a warehouse, a blacksmith shop, two stores and Post Office in one of the stores, a Dr's office, a saloon and a few dwelling-houses. Now the name had been changed to Belmont. Robert Ray had sold out and moved away, and S. K. Knutsen & had one of the stores there when a fire broke out and and the then little town of Belmont was wiped off the map.
The phantom city, once Frog Point was now dissipated into a mist of memmories, Tho it may not be much in a name, yet it was once reared on the site by the immagination of distant people. By this time the incoming Pioneers had been busy getting established for the future, Some were abll to have a comfortable loghouse built, but most of them had shanties covered with sod to give warmth in the cold winter months, others who had claims near or along Cooley's

would live in dugouts, The writer of these lines roamed among them in these days and I must say it was surprising to see how snug and comfortable the inside of these shacks were arranged.

Many families had only what they beat along in their prarie schooners with maybe a few head of cattle traveling behind their wagons. There were no cars in those days. Besides their homes they began to think of schools for there children There had been school in an old shack two miles north of Frog Point. And the teacher they had there was teaching on permit. Another school south of Frog Point was in an attic of an small log house that belonged to a sailor, and And he had put up an outside stairway for the accomodation of the school. But the new pioneers were not satisfied with those things, so they arranged to build schoolhouses.

Ofcourse they all missed the churches they had been used to in their native states but they could not efford to build a church for a while, so those pioneers who had a roomy house would offer their house for services. Knudt Rauk was one of them, Valvor Bentrud was another, He accomodated those who lived farther north

Sven Quamen was another so They got along for a number of years with that.
I can not recall the name of the first Preacher who served us as he did not reside in this community but Rev. Saugstad served later
It seemed to be a day of gladness and rejoysing when those norwegian Pioneers got together for worship. Someone may quietly wonder, "Why review all those happenings from olden days"? Why make so much of the pioneers? They had neither wealth nor distinction in the eyes of the world. They are long since dead. Few people around here even know their names. Many people now are so much occupied with materiel things, making a living or gathering wealth or seeking injoyment that they have very little interest in events or happenings in the bygone days. But the spirits of the old pioneers are not to be spurned. It seems that the Lord had distined these sturdy men and women to occupy this beautiful Red River valley.
The old Pioneers did not only establish attractive homes and well equipped farms. but they have won the reputation of being loyal and lawabiding citizence. Blessed be their memory.

Marget Rauk Cooper