Thank you to the Homestead families who volunteered to participate in this tribute to Centennial Farms. The stories inside represent just a small segment of original families from Halliday to the west, and Center to the east. This tribute honors not only the families inside, but also all the Homestead families who settled the land that surrounds us. These brave pioneers, many who came from foreign lands, left all they knew behind as they traveled west to this area to make a new life on the prairies. They came with a dream, not knowing what they would find. The opportunity to follow those dreams was made possible when the United States Congress approved the Homestead Act on May 20, 1862, "To secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain." Through this act, Congress hoped to fill the vast lands of the west by allowing settlers to "lay claim" to a homestead of 160 acres. After living on the land for five years, the land became theirs. North Dakota was one of the last territories in the late 1800s that still had homestead land available and so they came. Did this strange new land fulfill the homesteaders’ hopes and dreams? The stories shared here may answer that question. Look around at the local people, your friends and neighbors. Many are descendents of those early settlers. You will see the answers there as well. Enjoy this tribute.