Nearly 150 Wolf family members gathered the weekend of July 23rd in Napoleon to celebrate the semi-annual Wolf family reunion. Friday evening many early arrivals gathered at the Downtowner backroom and then later the party continued at the home of Randy and Coleen Piatz, complete with redeye and sister Annie entertaining everyone with her yodeling skills. The main day of the reunion was held at the Golden Age Hall on Saturday with a meal of Napoleon sausage, Annie’s homemade noodles, other numerous food items and birthday cake for uncle Matt. After the meal, a Mathias Wolf family skit written by Sharon Wolf was performed by the nieces and nephews. Later a silent auction was held to help defray expenses.

Mathias Wolf was born December 11, 1901 near Odessa, Russia to Michael and Christine Senger Wolf. After his family left Russia they arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1903 and lived in Balgonie, Saskatchewan, Canada for 3 years before crossing the border at Portal, North Dakota in 1906 and immigrated to the St. Michael’s area. Mathias’s father, Michael, in 1915 donated the land on which St. Michael’s Church and cemetery are located. He met Kenegunda Vetter at a baseball game and they were married 3 weeks later on November 20, 1923 at St. Joseph’s Church east of Linton.

After their marriage, the couple farmed in Emmons County where they rented a farm 1 mile south of the Vetter farm. In 1927 Mathias, Kenegunda’s father and her brother, Joseph bought a small farm ½ mile west of her Vetter family farm, but there was not enough land there so her father and brother bought Mathias another 60 acres to farm. In 1945 they moved to a farm northwest of Napoleon which was 28 miles from the Vetter farm. He was a foreman for the WPA and also a clerk for his school district. They moved to Bismarck in 1949 and returned to the farm in 1953. In 1959 their eldest son, Joe bought the farm. They moved to Bismarck in 1959 and in 1961 Mathias started working as an orderly at St. Vincent’s Nursing Home for the next 12 years. He also was active in the senior citizens band, playing the harmonica. Later they resided at Marillac Manor. He died at the age of 82 on October 16, 1984 in Bismarck.

Kenegunda was born to Johannes and Anna Schmaltz Vetter in Emmons County on October 17, 1905 and was raised there. She cooked and baked for St. Vincent’s Nursing Home for 20 years until she retired in 1978. She made the best bread in town. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 23, 1990 at the age of 84 years. Both are buried at St. Michael’s Cemetery.

Mathias and Kenegunda had 12 children. Magdalena Wolf Bachmeier (Michael) residents in Renton, WA; Anna Mary “Annie” Wolf Wald (Kasimer) resides in Weshke; Christina Wolf Mathern (John J.) deceased – 200- resided in Edgeley; Julia Wolf Herrick Solfjen (LilRoy, Virgil) resides in Fargo; Johanna Wolf, Oster Holm (Gene, Philip) deceased – 1983, resided in Concord, CA; Frances Wolf Glatt Leingang (Leo, Chris) resides in Fargo; Carolina Wolf Glatt (Lambert) resides in Bismarck; Joseph (Ruth Foster) deceased 1983, resided in Napoleon; Kenegunda Wolf Foster (Donald) resides in Mesa, AZ; Mathias “Matt” (Sharon Lepine) resides in Fargo; John (Karen Morse) deceased 2010, resided in Dallas, OR; Michael (Darlene Pavlish), resides in Mesa, AZ.

There are 74 grandchildren, approximately 187 great grandchildren, 230 great great grandchildren and 18 great great great grandchildren with a total of approximately 521 direct descendants.