

ABSTRACT

Archival and Archaeological Investigations of a Norwegian Farmstead in Bosque
County, Texas

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In 1871, a Norwegian immigrant, Ole Finstad, and his family settled near the Norse community in Bosque County, acquired 160 acres of land, and built a rock house. For 84 years, the Finstad-Bakke family farmed and raised cattle, and eventually built a larger home on the property. Today, the rock house is in ruins, but much has been learned about this family through archival research, archaeological survey and testing, and artifact analysis. This thesis presents the results of these investigations by discussing and comparing the history and culture of Norwegian-Americans, the history of the Finstad-Bakke family, and the artifacts recovered by the archaeological investigations. The sum of this research leads to conclusions about the lives of Norwegians who immigrated into the well-formed Norwegian-American community in Bosque County.

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ARCHIVAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF A NORWEGIAN
FARMSTEAD IN BOSQUE COUNTY, TEXAS

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

This thesis focuses on the homestead of Ole Finstad, a Norwegian immigrant to Bosque County, Texas, in the late-19th century. After coming to Bosque County, he began to homestead a property west of the town of Clifton where many other Norwegian immigrants had made their home. He was joined in time by his wife and two children, and through time, their farm prospered and their family grew through marriage to other Norwegian immigrants in the area. Some descendants of Ole Finstad still reside in Bosque County, although the homestead has changed hands many times now.

The original point of interest and main focus of this thesis is the original limestone rock house that the Finstads built and lived in until they were able to construct a larger wooden house (which is still in use by the current landowners). The rock house is in a very dilapidated state, and due to the possibility that rocks could fall from the structure at any time (see Figure 1), the majority of excavations were conducted a safe distance from the still standing walls of the structure. Archival research was also undertaken in order to understand how the Finstad family had developed their homestead over time.

Bosque County holds an important place in the history of Texas as the largest and most successful Norwegian settlement in the state. It is also the final home and resting place of Cleng Peerson, the “Father of Norwegian Immigration” (Figure 2). The citizens of the county take great pride in their history and have an excellent repository of information housed in the Bosque County Collection in Meridian, Texas, and extensive



FIGURE 1: Photograph of structure showing precarious wall (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

exhibits in the Bosque County Museum dedicated to the lives of the original settlers of the county. Despite this wealth of history, next to no archaeological work has been done on any of the historic properties. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the National Park Service conducted an extensive survey of the area to the west of Clifton (where the Finstad site is located). This work resulted in a 1983 National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for a total of 49 sites, 14 of which are located in one historic district. Most if not all of these sites were accepted into the National Register and make up nearly every National Register property in the county (Figure 3, Finstad site circled). Bosque County clearly has a considerable amount of archaeological potential, but this nomination form from 1983 represents the limit of the study that was officially conducted. Research and excavations were recently undertaken at the property where Peerson spent his last



FIGURE 2: Portrait of Cleng Peerson (courtesy of cpfarm.org 2015).

years (41BQ332), and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015 (see Texas Historical Commission's [THC] online Atlas). A full report is in the process of being written and published, and, along with this thesis, represents the extent of archaeological work done in Bosque County on the historic Norwegians.

This thesis is divided into five chapters including this introduction. Chapter Two describes the history of Norwegian immigration to America and to Bosque County in particular, in order to explain why Norwegians would choose the more rugged and less developed land of Texas over the more common settlements farther north. Chapter Three outlines the history of the Finstad-Bakke family, Bakke being Finstad's son-in-law who became the owner of the property after him. The chapter examines several public records in order to show how Ole Finstad and his descendants grew the homestead until the turn of the 20th century. These records were also used to compare the Finstads with their neighbors in agricultural matters. Chapter Four describes the structure itself, discusses the surveys and excavations conducted, and analyzes the recovered artifacts. The information

from history, the archival record, and archaeological work will be synthesized in Chapter Five.

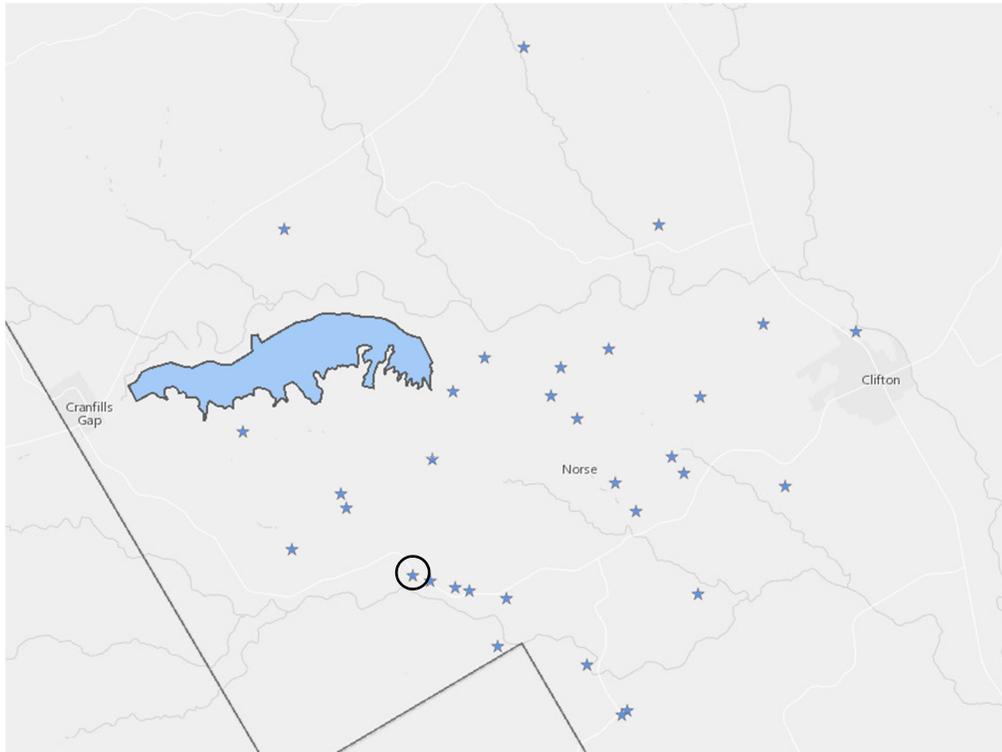


FIGURE 3: Partial map of Bosque County, stars are National Register sites and the polygonal shape represents the Upper Settlement, circled star is the Finstad site (Courtesy of Texas Historical Commission's Atlas 2017).

CHAPTER TWO

Norwegians in America

In the study of the many groups that immigrated to the United States in the 19th century, Norwegians are unlikely to come to mind in comparison to groups such as the Irish and the Germans. However, when taking into account the population of Norway and the number of people who emigrated, they actually form one of the largest immigration movements from any singular country. In his book, *Norwegian Migration to America 1825-1860*, Theodore Blegen, author of several works on Norwegians in the United States, notes that the number of immigrants between 1836 and 1915 “exceed[ed] four-fifths of the entire population of Norway at the beginning of the nineteenth century” (1931:19). Though a few solitary Norwegians may have made their home in America earlier, the first wave of immigration was not until 1825. Calling this movement a wave is also a slight exaggeration considering it was only comprised of one ship and fifty-two passengers (Blegen 1931:42). More considerable waves would later take place, peaking in the 1880s (Blegen 1931:20). Several reasons contributed to the mass exoduses from Norway; these will be discussed below. Of more importance to this thesis, however, is the background of the immigrants who came to Texas and how they eventually made their way to Bosque County, setting the stage for the arrival of families like the Finstads in the latter half of the 19th century.

Norwegian Immigration to the United States

Norway in the 19th century left much to be desired by many of its citizens. In a list of reasons compiled from accounts of American immigrants they focus on topics related to the economy, politics, religion, and social factors. Among these reasons were “[t]he gloomy prospects in Norway for the future of the rising generation, coupled with the hope of independence and happiness in America,” “[g]eneral dissatisfaction with the administration of Norwegian law,” and “[a] general feeling that the state does too little to promote agriculture and the welfare of the common people” (Blegen 1931: 166-167). While these reasons were very important to many Norwegian immigrants, the first group of immigrants was also heavily affected by the desire for religious freedom felt by a minority of Norwegians who belonged to the Society of Friends. The Norwegian Quakers originated in the mid-1810s in the cities of Stavanger and Christiania after a group of prisoners of war held in England returned as new members of the Society of Friends. Though their group would grow during the coming years, they suffered persecution under the combined state and Lutheran Church. Despite petitions from both the Norwegian group and their English brethren, they were continually fined and taken to court for activities such as burials and baptisms apart from the Lutheran Church, and, after a time, their religious practices were confined to only certain cities and areas of Norway (Blegen 1931: 27-36).

It was under this combination of economic, social, and religious tribulations that the first group of immigrants set out from Stavanger on 5 July 1825, in a sloop called the “Restoration.” Although only one official member of the Quakers was listed as a passenger, Blegen argues that as many as seventeen or eighteen could be considered

Quakers (1931: 43-47). In 1821, the members of this Stavanger group had sent Cleng Peerson to investigate the situation and prospects in America, and he returned in 1824 with a favorable report that led to the emigration of the “Restauration” group the following year. This group of fifty-two was comprised of the ship’s crew, married couples and their children, one single woman, and several single men. The immigrants arrived in New York on 9 October 1825, and were met by Peerson, who had returned to the United States earlier. They continued on into the state, and many settled in what became known as the “Kendall settlement,” while others settled in New York City and Rochester, New York (Blegen 1931: 37-54).

For ten years after the “Restauration” group, no group of Norwegian immigrants made the trip to America, though isolated persons did. The settlers in New York began to thrive, and eventually many desired to move elsewhere, which led to the development of the Fox River settlement in La Salle County, Illinois, as well as other settlements in the same state. The lack of communication between the districts in Norway led to a slower movement of information about the immigrants. However, letters from the settlers and a small number of visits by some of them spread the word (Blegen 1931: 57-66, 71). The next group of immigrants came in 1836, and settled in Rochester, Chicago, and in La Salle County, Illinois. Over the next decade, the Norwegians continued to establish settlements in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri (Blegen 1931: 77, map, 79). Cleng Peerson was influential in the creation of many of these settlements and others over the next decade (Yancy 2010).

The next few decades saw a significant increase in the number of immigrants leaving Norway for the United States. While the number of immigrants in the 1830s was

only slightly above one thousand, the 1840s brought over 17,000 immigrants to the United States. The 1850s continued this increasing trend with 36,070 immigrants leaving Norway in those ten years. Even with the Civil War taking place, more than 20,000 Norwegians emigrated before 1865, and another 74,403 followed in the second half of the decade. The total number for the 1870s was just over 85,000; the peak of Norwegian immigration came in the 1880s with over 185,000 immigrants (1882 represents the year with the largest single number). The 1890s showed a slight decline, but the next peak occurred between 1901 and 1910. The numbers declined even more in the following years, with the totals dropping to 1840s level during the years of the First World War. This was followed by another peak in 1923, but the majority of immigrants came in the later years of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th century (Blegen 1931:18-20). The immigration movement to the United States took some time to gain traction in Norway, but it developed into a movement that rivaled other European nations in percentage of population emigrating (Blegen 1931:22).

Norwegian Immigration to Texas

Although these northern states attracted many Norwegian immigrants, the same could not be said for Texas (and many other southern states). This began to change however, in 1843, thanks to Johan Reinert Reiersen. A well-educated, outspoken supporter of Norwegian immigration who published his own newspaper, Reiersen filled the same role Peerson had filled two decades earlier (Nelson 1981; Hart 2010). He was sent on behalf of some friends who paid him to travel and document possible locations for settlement throughout the United States. He visited the northern Norwegian

settlements first before heading south. While in New Orleans, he was enticed with an offer by the Texas consul and visited Sam Houston in Austin, where he was assured that the Norwegians would be welcome in Texas (Blegen 1931:177; Payne 1961:196).

Reiersen returned to Norway and published his writings on America; they spread well, partially due to him being able to publish them in his newspaper (Blegen 1931: 182). To him, Texas was the preferred destination, though he still had some reservations (Blegen 1931: 181-182). In 1845, he set out for the United States with a small group; and, rather than heading to New York, they traveled to New Orleans. When they learned that Texas was going to enter the United States, they made the decision to settle there (Blegen 1931: 182). The group settled in Henderson County, and named the settlement Normandy (present day Brownsboro). Very few immigrants came during the next two years, and in 1848, many of the settlers created a new settlement called Four Mile Prairie on the line of Van Zandt and Kaufman Counties. This settlement was more successful than Normandy, and by 1850, the two settlements had a combined population of 105 (Payne 1961: 196-198). The settlers worked their farms and began to enjoy their new lives in the United States. Reiersen wrote that he “[felt] free and independent among a free people, who are not chained down by any old class of caste systems” (quoted in Payne 1961: 200).

Despite the relative success of the East Texas settlements, after twenty years, they still found the location lacking. One of the main complaints throughout the years concerned the soil, which they found poorer than other places and extremely hard to break in the summer (Payne 1961: 198, 200-201). Cleng Peerson came to East Texas in 1849 and “reprimanded” them for having settled so near one another and for not seeking out other options (Payne 1961: 201). They did not migrate, however, until 1854, when

Bosque County was formed by the Texas legislature and offerings of free land were made (Pierson 1947: 14-15). Encouragement by Pierson also prompted them to make the move (Yancy 2010). Throughout 1854, 16 adults from the East Texas settlements made their way into Bosque County (Figure 4 is a painting of the original settlers). The honor of first Norwegian to settle there, however, belongs to Ole Canuteson, who had moved from the Fox River settlement in Illinois to the Dallas area in 1850 and on to Bosque County in



FIGURE 4: Painting of original settlers of Bosque County (Courtesy of the Jacob Olson Annex of the Bosque County Museum 2016).

1854 (Pierson 1947: 15-20). He brought Cleng Pierson, who was quite elderly at this point, along with him (Pierson 1947: 15). Pierson settled on a property and petitioned for ownership of it in 1855, receiving 320 acres. He gave half of this property to a man named Ovee Colwick, and lived with the Colwick family until his death in 1865 at the age of 83 (Yancy 2010).

Most of the settlers in Bosque County were involved in agriculture as a livelihood (Figure 5), which is evidenced by the fact that in 1870, 90% of the population were enumerated as farmers (Pierson 1947: 30-31). To service some of this agriculture – the



FIGURE 5: Group of farmers working in Bosque County (Courtesy of the Jacob Olson Annex of the Bosque County Museum).

production of wheat in particular – a mill was constructed several miles southeast of the where the Finstad house now sits. Norway Mill operated between 1870 and 1890 and “represents the only industrial site” in the collection nominated in 1983 (Pierson 1947:31; THC 1983b:14). The community established their first church congregation in 1867, and the first church building was constructed in 1878; in between these times they held worship in a school building (Pierson 1947:33-34). More and more immigrants came to Bosque County over time (except for a near standstill during the Civil War), so by 1870 the population of Norwegians in the county was recorded at 716 persons (Payne 1961:

203). It was into this well-established Norwegian settlement that Ole Finstad and his family would immigrate in 1871.

CHAPTER THREE

History of the Finstad-Bakke Family

The information gleaned from archival research comprises the first half of this report. This information obtained about the Finstad family can then be compared with the archaeological evidence gained through excavations. Archival documents include three federal population censuses, the 1880 Agricultural Census of Bosque County, the Bosque County property tax rolls for most years between 1877 and 1900, the property deed transactions for the property, land grant records from the Texas General Land Office database, and family historical records. Both census records originated from an online database accessible through Baylor University, the tax records were housed on microfilm in the Texas Collection at Baylor University, the property deed records were located in the Bosque County courthouse, and the family records were housed in the Bosque County Collection, where much of their information had been included in the book *Bosque County: Land and People*. A small portion of the information was gathered before the first excavation of the site, but much of it was done between the first and second excavations. The rest of this chapter is subdivided into seven sections: the history of the property and how the Finstads came to live there, the 1870s, the 1880s, the 1890s, 1900 and later, a comparison between the Finstad farm and their neighbors, and a conclusion. Each sections uses the records to recreate the history of the Finstad family and the property where the rock house is located.

The Property

Finstad's acquisition of the property on which the rock house is situated is an interesting tale in the history of how land was granted in 19th century Texas. In 1873, Finstad filed with the Bosque County Clerk, John James, and made it known that he was settling on 160 acres to improve over the next three years. A survey was also done for him in 1876 on 132 ⁵⁷/₁₀₀ acres, and it was confirmed by Deputy Surveyor Evan Spencer. In November 1876, Finstad applied for the title to the property (132 acres); a "Proof of Settlement under Homestead Act" form gave proof through witness signatures that Finstad had improved the property over a period of three years. This would normally have been the end of the procedure, but a protest was filed in December of that same year by Meridian based S.H. Lumpkin, Attorney at Law and Land Agent, on behalf of Peter Pearson. Pearson claimed to be the owner of the property, which was a part of a 320-acre survey granted to a man named William Haddin in 1849 as a reward for his three-year service in the Republic of Texas Army. There are no records showing that Haddin ever occupied the property and it seems to have been transferred to A.C. Horton in 1858. From there it is not known how it came to belong to Pearson, but he claimed in his protest that the surveyor Evan Spencer moved one of the corners of the Haddin survey, so Finstad would actually be taking some of his property away from him. The protest was directed to the commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, J.J. Groos, and asked that he "not issue a patent on an old survey." It is not clear how this matter was dealt with, but another "Proof of Settlement under Homestead Act" (Figure 6) was filed for Finstad in 1878 for 160 acres after another survey was conducted (Texas General Land Office [TGLO] 2016, 2017b).

(11-2) E. & T. A. Ennis, Printers, Stationers and Book-Binders, 113 and 115 O'Connell, St. Louis.

Proof of Settlement under Homestead Act.

The State of Texas, }
County of Sequoy. }

Before Me, the undersigned County Clerk in and for the County aforesaid, this day came and personally appeared Ole Finstad, a resident citizen of said County, who being by me duly sworn, declares that he is a bona fide settler upon 160 acres of vacant public land, situated in said County, and surveyed for Ole Finstad on the 20 day of July 1876, by J. D. Dillard a Surveyor of said County; that he has occupied and improved the same as a Homestead for a period of three consecutive years, beginning on the 21 day of December 1877 that he is Armed Haw and that he makes this affidavit for the purpose of obtaining a title to the same for a Homestead, under an Act supplementary to "An Act for the Benefit of Actual Occupants of the Public Lands," approved May 29th, 1875, and Acts prior thereto; and that he has not a Homestead other than the above.

AND, also, at the same time came and personally appeared Ole Hoff and John Homestead, two credible resident citizens of said County, to me well known, who being duly sworn, depose and say that O. Finstad the person first above named in this affidavit, has actually settled upon and cultivated as a Homestead, the land surveyed for him on the 20 day of July 1876, by the Surveyor aforesaid, for the period of three years, and they, nor either of them, have any interest in the said land.

Ole Finstad
Ole Hoff
John Homestead

Sworn to and subscribed before me, and I hereby certify that Ole Hoff and John Homestead are credible and trustworthy citizens of said County.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said County, at office, this 11 day of September 1878.

Wm. G. Elliot
Clerk of County Court Sequoy Co.



FIGURE 6: Final Homestead Form for Finstad, granting him ownership of 160 acres (Texas General Land Office 2017)

This complicated story reveals that the property where the Finstad family made their home had several owners even before they arrived. Originally gifted to a Texas veteran, half of it eventually passed into the hands of a Norwegian immigrant. Knowledge of this set of transactions also helps clear up some confusion within the tax records. In his first appearance in the Bosque County tax records, in the column for the "Original Grantee," instead of a name, there is the word "Preemption." This follows the fact that Finstad had applied for a title after homesteading (another term for preemption) in late 1876. The following year (1878), instead of preemption, Finstad's own name is

listed as the “Original Grantee,” and this is the only year he is recorded as owning 132 acres. Lastly, in 1879, the William Haddin survey is listed. All of these records together indicate that Finstad did homestead on the Haddin survey and continued to live there, but how exactly he acquired the property from Pearson is a mystery (Bosque County Ad Valorem Tax Records [BCAVTR] 1877-1879; Lang and Long 2010).

The 1870s

According to family records, Ole Anderson Finstad immigrated to the United States in 1871 at the age of 50. He came by himself, being followed in 1872 by two of his children, Ole O. Finstad Jr. and Agnetta Finstad, and by his wife Elizabeth in 1877 (Bosque County Collection [BCC] 1985). In 1876 Agnetta married Carl Magnus Bakke, who had emigrated from Norway in 1849 and worked as a bartender in Waco and later for the railroad. The couple lived in the rock house during the first few years of marriage; this is the first mention of anyone living in the house, though it can be assumed that Ole and Elizabeth and their children lived in it until they built their second home on the property (BCC 1985). Some discrepancies exist between the family records and the tax records; the information at the Bosque County Collection states that Agnetta and Bakke settled on land that he had purchased before their marriage (1985). However, as will be mentioned below, Bakke did not own any property at the time of his marriage, but instead acquired it later (BCAVTR 1880).

Due to the vast amount of information included in the tax records, only a condensed table is shown here for a select few of the years studied (Table 1). Complete tables are available in Appendix A. The property tax record for 1877 shows that Finstad

owned 160 acres of land, two horses, three head of cattle, and one hog. The total value of his property was \$341 and the total taxes amounted to \$7.25 (BCAVTR 1877). As mentioned above, the following year he is only listed as owning 132 acres, but, interestingly, he is listed with one carriage or buggy and no livestock (BCAVTR 1878).

TABLE 1: Overview of Property Taxes for Ole Finstad, Magnus Bakke, and Ole Finstad Jr. (BCAVTR 1877-1900).

Year	Name	Acreage	Land Value	Total Value	Total Taxes
1877	Ole Finstad	160	\$300.00	\$341.00	\$7.25
	Magnus Bakke	-	-	\$25.00	\$3.32
1878	Ole Finstad	132	\$300.00	\$320.00	\$6.02
	Magnus Bakke	-	-	\$59.00	\$3.16
1879	Ole Finstad	160	\$320.00	\$416.00	\$6.87
	Magnus Bakke	-	-	\$79.00	\$3.34
1880	Ole Finstad	74	\$148.00	\$245.00	\$4.94
	Magnus Bakke	86	\$172.00	\$209.00	\$4.60
1883	Ole Finstad	74	\$178.00	\$592.00	\$3.26
	Magnus Bakke	86	\$250.00	\$582.00	\$4.95
	Ole Finstad Jr.	-	-	-	\$1.75
1885	Ole Finstad	74	\$250.00	\$700.00	\$4.73
	Magnus Bakke	86	\$300.00	\$780.00	\$7.02
	Ole Finstad Jr.	-	-	-	\$1.75
1888	Ole Finstad	74	\$300.00	\$668.00	\$7.09
	Magnus Bakke	86	\$400.00	\$682.00	\$7.20
	Ole Finstad Jr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1889	Magnus Bakke	246	\$590.00	\$833.00	\$9.17
	Ole Finstad Jr.	234	\$530.00	\$871.00	\$9.59
1890	Magnus Bakke	160	\$900.00	\$1,195.00	\$12.50
	Ole Finstad Jr.	320	\$640.00	\$1,000.00	\$10.75
1895	Magnus Bakke	160	\$800.00	\$1,115.00	\$13.46
	Ole Finstad Jr.	320	\$1,600.00	\$1,930.00	\$22.02
1900	Magnus Bakke	160	\$1,200.00	\$1,785.00	\$17.81
	Ole Finstad Jr.	320	\$1,600.00	\$2,185.00	\$21.41

In 1879, he once again is listed with livestock: one horse, eight cattle, and two hogs (BCAVTR 1879). Bakke is also listed in the 1877 tax record for the first time, but he is not recorded as owning any real estate until 1880 when he is taxed for 86 acres. He does,

however, own cattle, horses, and hogs during this time (BCAVTR 1877-1880). Bakke's lack of property combined with the record of his marriage to Agnetta Finstad in this decade makes it likely that he lived with and worked for his father-in-law until he was either given or sold 86 acres of the property sometime between 1879 and 1880.

The 1880s

The records for the year 1880 provide the most comprehensive amount of information about the life of the Finstad family and their farm. Not only are the tax and census records available for this year, but the 1880 Agricultural Census is available as well. This census documents the land usage, number of livestock, and crop yields for the farm and can be used to compare the Finstads with their close neighbors and see what kind of discrepancies may exist between the information reported for the tax rolls and the agricultural census. This comparison will be addressed in another section below, but the information provided in the agricultural census will be discussed briefly in this section.

The 1880 population census records Ole Finstad living with his wife Elizabeth and their son, Ole, on their farm while Agnetta and Bakke were living nearby (United States Bureau of the Census [USBC] 1880c). It can be assumed that the Finstad family was living in the rock house at this time; and family records indicate that between 1885 and 1887, the younger Finstad and his newlywed wife, Julia, lived there and their first son, Alfred, was born there. Like her husband, Julia Marie Pederson was born in Norway and immigrated with her family to the United States at a young age (BCC 1985). The younger Finstad makes his first appearance in the 1883 tax records, and is absent the following year before returning in 1885 and staying in the record (BCAVTR 1883-1900).

Another discrepancy between the family records and the tax records can be found here. Family records state that the younger Finstad purchased 320 acres near the town of Cransfills Gap in 1887 and resided thereafter with his family (BCC 1985). However, the tax records do not have property recorded for the younger Finstad until 1889 when he is in possession of both his father's 74 acres and an additional 160 acres from a different tract. He later expands this same tract to 320 acres, so it is likely that this is the land that is referred to in the family records; the date is simply incorrect (BCAVTR 1889-1890).

Throughout the 1880s, Finstad and Bakke's generally acquired more livestock. In cattle, Finstad's increased from eight head at the end of the 1870s to 40 head in 1888 (his last year in the tax records) while Bakke's increased from seven head to 20 head. The number of horses for Finstad increased up to six after staying rather constant around two. Bakke, on the other hand, owned mainly between one and four horses. Lastly, the number of hogs for both of them varied little (between two and five) and would only change by one or two each year, if at all (BCAVTR 1879-1889).

Much like the tax records, the agricultural census contains an extensive amount of information, so only a fraction of the information concerning Finstad and Bakke is included in this chapter (Table 2). A complete table is available in Appendix B; this includes the information used in a later section of this chapter. The 1880 Agricultural Census shows that 30 acres of Finstad's property was tilled and he used 28 acres of this to cultivate wheat, Indian corn, and cotton. His livestock count is recorded at five horses, two working oxen, five milch (milk) cows, five other cattle, three hogs, and 12 poultry. There is no record of hired labor, but from the census and family records it is known that his son Ole was living and working on the farm as well. Family records indicate that

TABLE 2: Condensed Agricultural Census (USBC 1880a).

<i>Ole Finstad</i>					
<i>Improved land</i>	<i>Unimproved land</i>	<i>Value of farm</i>	<i>Value of livestock</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Mules</i>
30 acres	44 acres	\$600	\$40	5	-
<i>Working oxen</i>	<i>Milch cows</i>	<i>Other cattle</i>	<i>Butter made</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Barnyard poultry</i>
2	5	5	100 pounds	3	12
<i>Eggs produced</i>	<i>Indian corn</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Cotton</i>	<i>Sorghum molasses</i>	<i>Wood cut</i>
50 dozen	7 acres/140 bushels	5 acres/34 bushels	16 acres/2 bales	10 gallons	(11 cords)
<i>Magnus Bakke</i>					
<i>Improved land</i>	<i>Unimproved land</i>	<i>Value of farm</i>	<i>Value of livestock</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Mules</i>
28 acres	52 acres	\$500	\$70	3	-
<i>Working oxen</i>	<i>Milch cows</i>	<i>Other cattle</i>	<i>Butter made</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Barnyard poultry</i>
Illegible	3	4	100 pounds	2	11
<i>Eggs produced</i>	<i>Indian corn</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Cotton</i>	<i>Sorghum molasses</i>	<i>Wood cut</i>
(90 dozen)	7 acres/150 bushels	-	15 acres/2 bales	10 gallons	10 cords

Parentheses denote entries that were difficult to read.

Bakke and Finstad were involved in cattle farming, and this is corroborated by the record of 12 total cattle for Finstad and seven or more cattle for Bakke (BCC 1985). This can also be seen in the tax records where at one point Finstad had 40 cattle and Bakke had 25 cattle (BCAVTR 1886-1900). As far as farm production, Finstad's farm produced 100 pounds of butter, 50 dozen eggs, 140 bushels of Indian corn, 34 bushels of wheat, two bales of cotton, 10 gallons of sorghum molasses, and 11 cords of cut wood (all of these refer to yields in 1879). Twenty-eight of Bakke's property was tilled with 22 acres used to grow Indian corn and cotton. Strangely, the census only records a total of 80 acres for Bakke rather than the 86 acres that he was taxed for in 1880, but this could be a clerical

error (BCAVTR 1880). Bakke owned three horses, and indeterminate amount of working oxen, three milch (milk) cows, four other cattle, two hogs, and 11 poultry. He spent \$25 on four weeks of hired labor and also purchased two sheep. His farm produced 100 pounds of butter, 90 dozen eggs, 150 bushels of Indian corn, two bales of cotton, 10 gallons of sorghum molasses, and 10 cords of cut wood (USBC 1880a). It is interesting to compare the differences that exist between the tax records for 1880 and the agricultural census; some information does not match up between the two. However, this could be attributed to either the timing of each of the records (much of the data in the agricultural census refers to 1879) or Finstad may have lied on his taxes.

In 1889, a strange transaction took place with the Finstad property. Magnus Bakke and the younger Finstad jointly purchased a 320-acre tract (each being taxed for 160 acres in the 1889 tax record). Later that same year, Bakke sold his 160 acres to the younger Finstad, who in turn sold him the original property's 74 acres. In this way the original 160 acres were reunited under one owner (Bosque County Deed Records [BCDR] 1889, BCAVTR 1889). No record has been found of a transaction concerning the 74 acres being sold to the younger Finstad; it is likely that Finstad gifted his son the property as he grew older. The tax records for 1889 mark the first year that Finstad is no longer present and is the first year that the younger Finstad has property. After this year, Magnus Bakke is listed in the tax records with 160 acres while the younger Finstad has 320 acres (BCAVTR 1890). The reasoning behind this transaction is unknown, however, it is possible that Magnus Bakke preferred the property that he and his father-in-law had been working for the past decade and wished to stay there. On the other hand, the

younger Finstad was more recently married and may have been ready to acquire and move onto his own property to raise his family.

Comparison of the Agricultural Census

An analysis of the 1880 Agricultural Census helps to reveal how the Finstad and Bakke families were living in comparison to their close neighbors, most if not all of who were farmers as well. The complete table for the agricultural census showing all ten individuals is available in Appendix B. While both Finstad and Bakke had less acreage than the other eight landowners listed alongside them, this did not stop them from utilizing their property to the same extent as, if not more than, their neighbors. Finstad had the second highest number of horses (five compared to nine) and the third highest number of cattle (12 compared to 14 and 40). The butter production for Finstad and Bakke (both 100 pounds) was greater than several (who produced 50 pounds) but was also equal to several others. Similarly, their Indian corn acreage is close in number to several other properties but are greatly outnumbered by two other properties. Eight out of the ten landowners grew cotton, and all were very similar in acreage and bale yields. Interestingly, Finstad is one of only two landowners to grow any wheat, and he and Bakke are the only ones to produce any sorghum molasses (USBC 1880a). This is the only point where Finstad and Bakke stand out greatly. Overall, it seems that both were working their farms in ways very similar to their close neighbors and producing similar amounts of crops.

The 1890s

After acquiring the property in 1889, Bakke continued to work the land. The younger Finstad also continued farming, but on his own 320-acre farm. Only three tax records in the 1890s were studied for this thesis, but they show that by 1900 Bakke had 25 cattle, eight horses, and four hogs; he had continued to raise cattle as before. The younger Finstad (with double the property) is listed with 37 cattle, seven horses, and five hogs. They both also owned tools and machinery valued at \$50 and \$25, respectively (BCAVTR 1890-1900). Unfortunately, the records for the Federal Census of 1890 no longer exist, so there is a gap in the timeline. However, considering that the elder Finstad was no longer listed in the property tax records beginning in 1899, and was living with his daughter and son-in-law on their property in 1900, it is likely that he was also living with them in 1890 as well (BCAVTR 1889, USBC 1900).

1900 and Later

Ole Finstad lived with Agnetta and Magnus Bakke until his death in 1903; he was buried in Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery in Norse, Texas, alongside his wife, who had died in 1891 (BCC 1985). Bakke retained the property where the rock house sits until 1926 when he sold it to his son Alfred (Figure 7 is a photograph of the Bakke couple in their old age). The Bakke family eventually sold their property in 1961 to Oscar and Etta Barker. It was subsequently sold in 1963, 1981, and 1995, when it was purchased by its current owners Richard and Sally Douglas. The size of the property also changed throughout the years; growing from the original 160 acres to as much as 406 acres until it was sold to the Douglas's as part of a 307-acre tract (BCDR 1926-1995).

The rock house has sat quietly through all of these years on the property. At some point the roof was removed and placed on a newly built springhouse, and the well near the house was used as recently as the 1950s during a drought (BCC 1985). As discussed in the introduction chapter, between 1979 and 1983, the National Park Service conducted an historical survey of the property and surrounding properties. The first archaeological work was not conducted until 2016; the results of that survey and the excavations will be discussed in the following chapter.

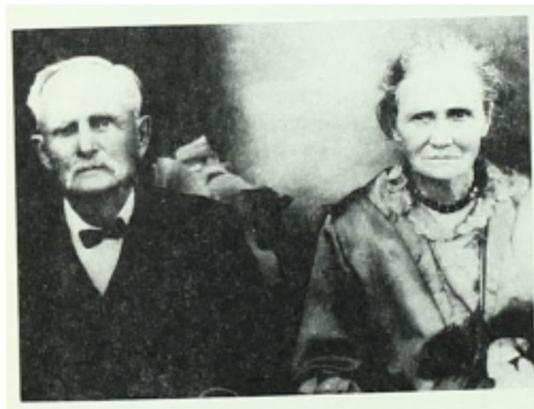


FIGURE 7: Photograph of Magnus and Agnetta Bakke (*Bosque County Land and People* 1985:F51)

Conclusion

After conducting research into all of these archives, the lives of the Finstad and Bakke families come to light. In terms of the agriculture and farm production, they do not stand out as far better or worse off than any of their neighbors. They are depicted as farmers involved in growing several different kinds of crops, and they seem to have fared well in the production of butter and eggs. The tax records indicate that the families were successful and grew wealthier over time. In 1877, Finstad's property was valued at \$341, and Bakke paid taxes on \$25 worth of property (mainly cattle). Finstad's property

value steadily grew, though it decreased considerably (to \$245) when over half of the property became Bakke's. However, within five years his total property value was up to \$700, and on his last year in the tax roll his total property was valued at \$668. This is almost double his worth eleven years earlier. As for Bakke, after acquiring more property in 1889 his worth continued to mainly increase. The younger Finstad essentially inherited the property from his father and acquired more of his own as well, increasing his worth. In 1900, Bakke (living on the 160 acres Finstad owned in the 1870s) paid taxes on a total property value of \$1,785 while Finstad (living on 320 acres) paid on a value of \$2,185. For Bakke, his worth had increased more than 70 times what it was 23 years earlier. The younger Finstad had increased his father's original worth just over 6 times what it was in 1877. A minor point that can be taken from this is the importance of land. Although this does not take into account inflation or deflation, the most important thing to note is that the value of their property constantly increases (for the most part) through the years.

Despite a somewhat rocky start with acquiring the title to the property, the Finstads prevailed, made their home, and were successful in their farming endeavors. Their simple one-room rock house was replaced by a larger and nicer wood-frame house (still in use today), and Finstad and Bakke still have descendants living in Bosque County. Ole Finstad and Magnus Bakke may have immigrated with little to nothing, but their hard work led to their success in the United States.

CHAPTER FOUR

Archaeological Investigations of the Site

Based on the archival records, it is believed that the house was occupied in the 1870s and 1880s before being abandoned sometime before the 1890s as the younger Finstad acquired his own property and the Bakke family constructed a new home out of lumber, which became more common after 1880 (Breisch 1994:112). Taking all records into account, the archaeological data found at the site should not include a large number or majority of fine, expensive items, especially since the family moved from the rock house into a nicer wood frame house. They would not have left anything behind except already broken, discarded, or lost belongings. This chapter is divided into four broad sections: a description and discussion of the rock house itself; an overview of the archaeological work done at the site; artifact analysis; and a conclusion. Within the artifact analysis section are four sub-sections each dedicated to a different category of artifact.

The Structure

Since the 1880s and 1890s, the elements have worn the structure into a highly dilapidated state. For comparison, Figure 8 is a photograph that was taken in 1979 during the National Park Service survey, and Figure 9 is a photograph taken in 2017. Three major differences stand out: the northern wall has deteriorated much more than the southern wall; at some point the rocks on all sides of the structure were pushed



FIGURE 8: 1979 National Park Service Photograph of structure (Photograph by Kenneth Breisch).



FIGURE 9: 2017 Photograph of structure (Photograph by Bryan Jameson).

together into the rock pile in the foreground; and the window in the northern wall is no longer intact. One difference not visible in these photographs is how much more brush grew up within the structure; in 2016 the fireplace was completely covered.

The rock house is 29 feet long and 17 feet wide and built of hand-cut limestone rock. Interestingly, rather than being aligned in the traditional north-south manner, its long walls are oriented northeast-southwest. A well with a 7 foot diameter is located approximately 40 feet north 20° from the northwest corner of the structure. A modern fence lies approximately 18 feet to the southeast of the structure, and two live oak trees stand on the other side. A fireplace and associated chimney sit in the middle of the northeast wall. The fireplace mantle was uncovered in 2017 from behind overgrown brush and revealed a slight arch with some limestone mortared in a vertical position (see Figure C.2). The small rectangular window along the southeastern side of the chimney (noted above) was mentioned in the 1979 survey and can be seen in the photograph (THC 1983a). Today, the remains of one side of the window can still be seen in the way that the other stones are arranged (see Figure C.3 for a better perspective), for much of that side of the wall has deteriorated in the last 38 years. According to Breisch, small windows on the sides of the chimneys were common (1994:111).

The Finstad house is quite similar to another rock house located in Bosque County. The A.O. and Olia Alfei farm is a part of the Upper Settlement Rural District nominated and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 after the National Park Service survey. It lies a few miles northeast of the Finstad site (Figure 10). According to the report, this rock house was built around 1880 by Alfei, who acquired the patent for the land in 1877. Figure 11 is a photograph of the Alfei house to compare

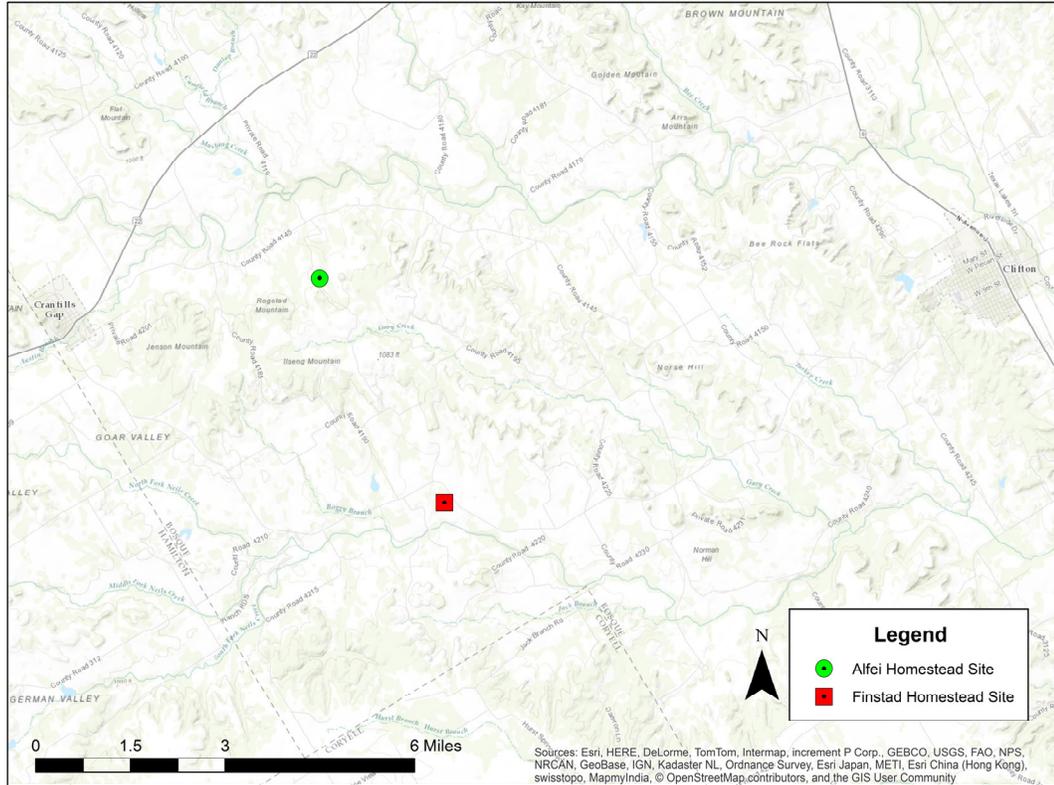


FIGURE 10: Map showing location and distance between Finstad and Alfei homesteads (By Carol Macaulay 2017).

to that of the Finstads. The most notable similarities are between the fireplace and the existence of the singular window beside the chimney. Notable differences include the existence of two doors in the Alfei structure, the remains of the plastered interior visible around the fireplace, and an additional room built at a later time. The house is also oriented in an east-west direction so that its fireplace is toward the west and one of the doors faces east. The report also notes the presence of an outbuilding (visible in Figure 11) and a cistern nearby (THC 1983c). A “Proof of Settlement under the Homestead Act” form for A.O. Alfei (also spelled Alfie) was filed in 1876 for 160 acres and states that he had been improving the property since 1870 (TGLO 2017a). The Alfei family is present only in the 1880 census; there is no record of an Alfei in 1900. The 1880 census records



FIGURE 11: Remains of Andreas and Olia Alfei's house, a structure very similar in construction to the Finstad's (Photograph by Kenneth Breisch 1983)

Andrias Alfei (47) living with his wife Ollie (42), their daughter Marthe (17), and a stepdaughter named Helen Lindmark (3), who does not appear to have actually been the stepdaughter of either adult (USBC 1880b). It appears that both the Finstads and the Alfeis were homesteading around the same time and built nearly the same type of structure. There is no way to know if they were built with the help of neighbors or by a stonemason. Breisch mentions this briefly for some of the larger and more impressive structures (1994:107); however, these two structures are simple one-room buildings, so this is an unlikely possibility. Nevertheless, this similarity shows some of the common trends that the Norwegian settlers followed when building their homes, and shows that the Finstads followed these trends.

Archaeological Work at the Site

Field work was conducted at the site on four separate occasions over a period of a year: a walking survey in April 2016, a day of excavation in June 2016, a day for preparing the site and cleaning around the structure in March 2017, followed by another day of excavation a week later. The survey in 2016 yielded a few artifacts and served to bring the existence of the site to light for further investigation. Along with the excavations in June 2016, a metal detector survey was conducted all around the structure and produced many metal artifacts that included a few diagnostic artifacts. More artifacts were also recovered from surface finds and from a 2x2 meter unit located on the northwest side of the structure (Unit 1). The following spring, cleanup work uncovered the foundation of the structure and the structure of the fireplace, and more artifacts were recovered from a small area along the west wall (Wall Excavation). During excavations the following weekend, three 1x1 meter units were excavated along with one half unit (50x50 cm). One of the 1x1 meter units (Unit 2) and the half unit (Unit 3) were placed along the west wall where a significant number of artifacts had been recovered the previous weekend (Figures 12-14 are photographs of work in progress at the site). Another unit was placed on the western edge of the well to the north of the structure in an attempt to find any cultural material that may have been dropped there (Unit 4). One more unit (Unit 5) was placed on the eastern side of the house ruins, the supposed front yard, in order to find any evidence of a porch. Figure 15 includes a broad map of the site showing the metal detection areas (15a) and a more detailed map showing the units excavated (15b).



FIGURE 12: THC Steward Art Tawater conducts the metal detector survey (Photograph by Carol Macaulay 2016).



FIGURE 13: Baylor students excavate the site (Photograph by Carol Macaulay 2016).



FIGURE 14: Baylor Anthropology Society members excavate the site (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

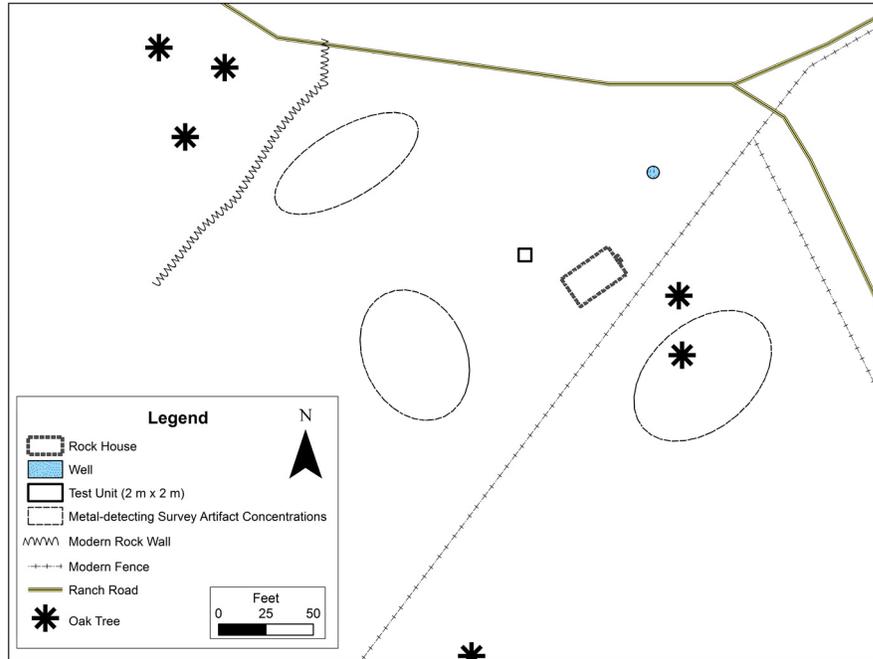


FIGURE 15a: Broad Site Map (By Carol Macaulay 2016).

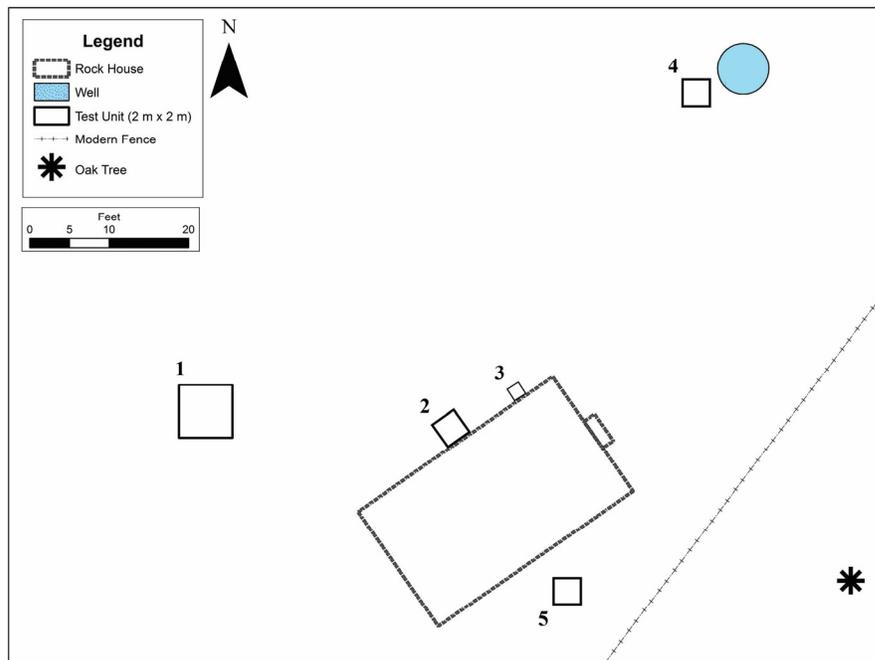


FIGURE 15b: Close-Up Map showing Excavated Units (By Carol Macaulay and Alex Smith 2017).

Artifact Analysis

Artifacts came from eight provenance groups: Units 1 through 5, the Wall Excavation, the Metal Detector survey from all sides of the structure, and Surface Finds for a total of 570 artifacts. For analysis, artifacts were divided into five categories: architectural artifacts (window glass and nails), bottle glass, ceramics, personal items, and metal objects (Table 3). Each of these will be discussed separately below. In general, the metal artifacts category was made up of can lids, wire, small pieces of agricultural equipment, and rusted iron flakes and bands. Due to the lack of diagnostic artifacts from this category, it will not be included below. The artifacts discussed here are the result of only partial excavations of the site, and as such, few definitive conclusions can be drawn based upon them. However, they do contribute to the knowledge of the site and several hypotheses will be put forth during analysis.

TABLE 3: Total number and percentage of each artifact category.

	N	Percentage
Architectural	366	64
Bottle Glass	82	15
Ceramics	30	5
Personal Items	13	2
Metal	79	14
Total	570	100

Architectural Artifacts

Together, window glass and nails make up 64% of all artifacts, and individually they represent the two largest singular categories (n=263 and n=103, respectively).

Window glass can be dated according to its width, which increased through time, so a collection of thinner glass would reflect an older site (Weiland 2009:29). For this analysis, Moir's dating results were used (Weiland 2009:31). Since window glass fragments are easily breakable, a higher frequency in a certain category may not correctly reflect the original frequency of that width of glass. To combat this, the window glass shards were sorted according to weight rather than number for analysis (Table 4). Surprisingly, window glass dating to after 1900 was most common; fragments within the proposed occupation dates (1870-1890) only comprise 14% of the total fragments, and the weighted average date for all of the fragments came out to 1891.2. Many of the post-1900 fragments were also much larger than those in the other categories. However, a majority of the post-1900 fragments came out of Unit 2, which yielded more than 60% of all window glass (by weight), and the Wall Excavation unit (approximately 27% of total). Due to the high concentration of these thicker fragments along the west wall, it is possible that there was some type of midden area behind the house that may have been used after the house was no longer occupied. Another 14% of the window glass could be dated to before 1870, before Finstad immigrated to the United States. It is possible that older windows or glass were used by the Finstads; they may even have bought or been gifted glass from an older structure. The date of construction for the structure is sometime in the early 1870s; there is no doubt of this, even if the window glass may not seem to corroborate it. What comes into question are the exact dates of occupation; the window glass data seems to suggest that the structure was occupied and even renovated up into the 20th century. However, the overall broad range of dates and lack of more thorough

excavations on all sides of the structure inhibits the dating of the site’s occupation on the basis of window glass data alone.

TABLE 4: Total weight of window glass and corresponding percentages of date range.

Date Range	Weight (g)	Percentage
pre-1850	26.27	9
1850-1860	12.54	4
1860-1870	4.29	1
1870-1880	17.93	6
1880-1890	23.75	8
1890-1900	19.3	7
post-1900	185.8	64
Total	289.88	100

Nearly all of the nails (n=103) recovered at the site are cut/square nails (76%); only seven wire nails were recovered (7%), and 18 nails (17%) were unidentifiable due to corrosion (Figure 16). Wire nails only started to become popular in the United States in the 1880s and 1890s, so the nail assemblage serves as a *terminus ante quem* for the site and reflects the proposed dates of construction and occupation (Horn 2005:5). Nails were further analyzed based on their size in order to determine their pennyweight, and, in turn, their purpose.

For analyzing the uses of the nails, it is advantageous to look back at what Reiersen wrote concerning sun-dried adobe houses (which he had suggested the settlers build). He described them as very inexpensive; the only materials that had to be purchased were those “for doors, floors, windows, and roof,” which would include nails, glass, and lumber (quoted in Breisch 1994:107). The pennyweight size associated with doors and windows is 10d; finishing and flooring are associated with 6d, 8d, and 9d as



FIGURE 16: Photograph of selected cut (top) and wire (bottom) nails (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

well as 10d; and roofing is associated with the larger pennyweight sizes – 16d and 20d (Armine 2010:24 table 2). This data can be compared with the nails recovered from the site. However, these categories are not exclusive; nails of different sizes could serve many different functions, especially if there was a limited supply of nails (Armine 2010:24-25). Figure 17 shows the percentage breakdown of each pennyweight category. The most common pennyweight at 33% is 6d, followed by 8d (22%), 4d (10%), 10d (7%), 12d (4%), 5d (13%), 2d (2%), and 3d and >20d both at 1%. Nails with pennyweight sizes 10d and larger make up 12% of the assemblage, and those associated with roofing seem to be lacking from the assemblage. However, the roof of the structure was removed and used as the roof for another structure, so this lack of evidence actually provides evidence for the removal of the roof. Smaller nails make up the majority of the assemblage (especially 6d and 8d at a combined 55%) and were likely used in all areas. They may have been used in the construction of the door, but not as a part of its framing in the structure. Other household objects such as the bed, cabinets, and any storage

containers (possibly barrels – several metal bands were recovered at the site) would have had nails as a part of their construction. No evidence was found of a wooden floor, so flooring can be ruled out as one usage. Besides the direct use of nails in the construction of the structure, there is the possibility that nails were used to build and upkeep other structures on the property. Although no other early structures exist in the vicinity of the house, the Finstads definitely had places to store their crops and keep their animals. Further corroborating this argument is the fact that not all of the nails were directly adjacent to the structure.

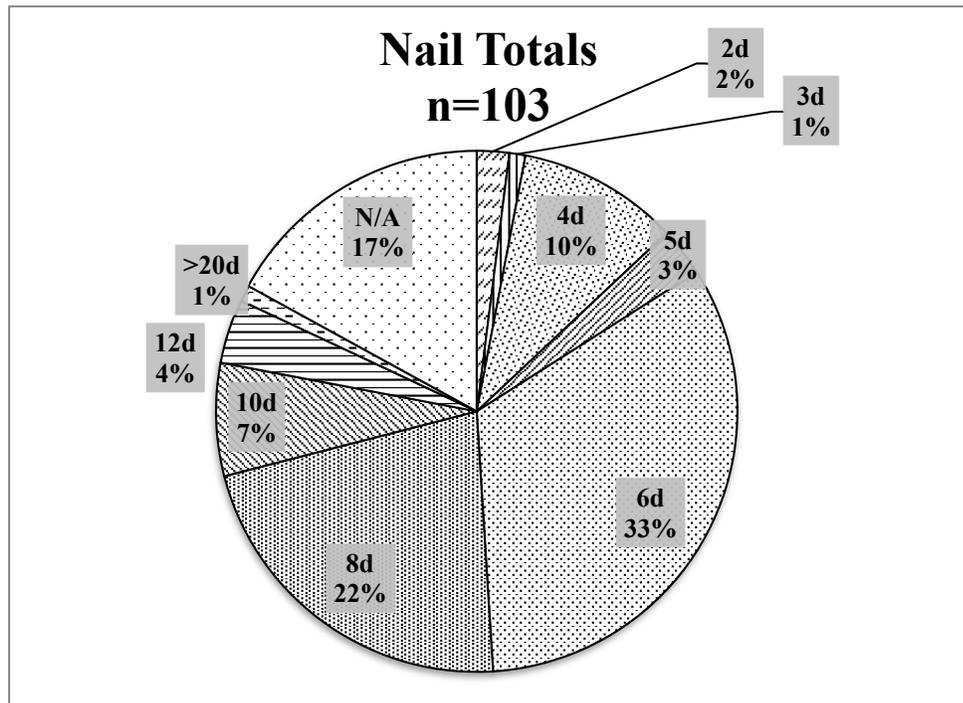


FIGURE 17: Nail totals showing percentage of each pennyweight size. N/A refers to nails too corroded to properly identify (by Alex Smith 2017).

Bottle Glass

Figure 18 shows the distribution of bottle glass shards by color and bottle part. Bottle glass colors included aqua (32%), amber (27%), clear (23%), solarized (11%),

green (5%), and blue (2%). Most of these shards were small body fragments without any diagnostic features. Most of these colors have broad date ranges and were common long before the occupation dates of the site. One exception is the blue glass, specifically one shard of cobalt blue glass, which dates from the 1890s to present; this is later than the supposed occupation dates. Another exception is the solarized (purple) glass category; this type of glass was manufacture from 1885 to the beginning of World War I, so it appears near the end of the occupation range (Horn 2005:1). The final exception is the clear glass, which dates to the 20th century (Lindsey 2010). Types of bottles likely included medicinal (clear and aqua) and alcohol (amber).

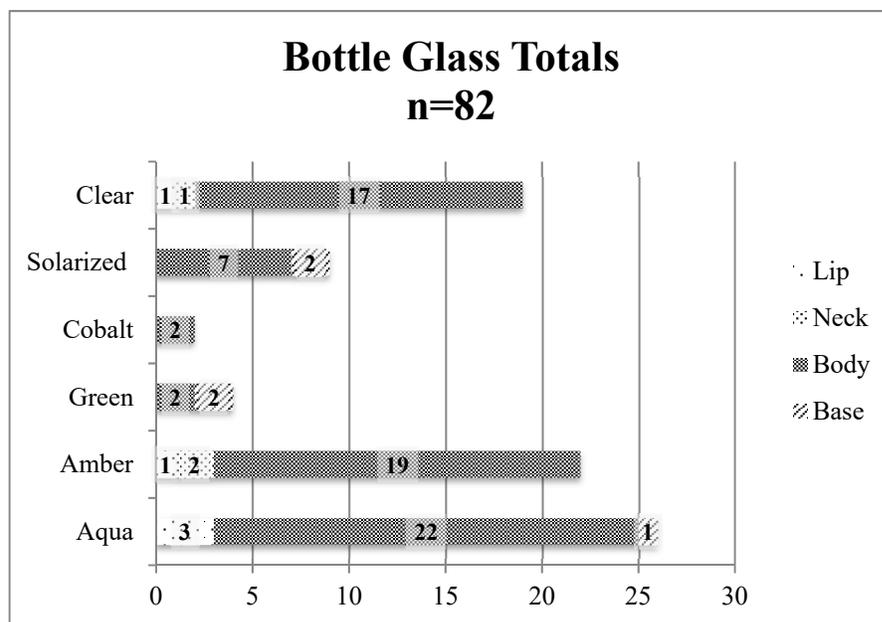


FIGURE 18: Bottle glass totals showing range of color and bottle part (by Alex Smith 2017).

Among the five bases, the two green bases yield the most information (Figure 19). The first is dark green and heavily covered with white patina (Figure 19e). It has a slight push-up toward the center of the base, and no mold seams are visible, but the shard

represents only part of a base. It may represent a free blown bottle; these types of bottles were in production for a wide range of time, but its green color could limit its dating to before the 20th century. The other base fragment was found broken into two shards (Figure 19*d, f*); it also has no mold seams and a slight concave base. Due to the lack of mold seams and the way it narrows toward the base, it may represent a dip mold bottle. Dip mold bottles were mouth blown into a simple mold that helped the glassblowers shape them; their manufacture declined significantly by the 1870s (Lindsey 2010).



FIGURE 19: Photograph of selected bottle glass lips and bases (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

Out of the three neck fragments that lack a complete finish, the clear glass neck (broken diagonally into two shards) is the most complete; it has no mold seams and the finish is also missing (Figure 20*d, e*). It may have been a medicinal bottle, and the clear glass shows that it was manufactured in the 20th century. There are a total of five lip

fragments, and one is actually completely intact. This aqua shard (Figure 19a) is a classic example of an applied lip. This type of finish was implemented during most of the 19th century, more specifically between 1830 and 1885 (Lindsey 2010). The fragment itself is quite wide; the complete bottle was likely large. The two other aqua lip fragments (Figure 19b, 20a) have stacked ring lips and may have also been medicinal bottles (Horn 2005:14). The lack of diagnostic features leaves the dating to the color of the shards, which gives a much broader range than other characteristics, but the majority of the assemblage fits well within the occupation dates of the site.



FIGURE 20: Photograph of selected bottle glass shards showing variety of colors (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

Ceramics

The ceramic assemblage (n=30, Figure 21) included stoneware (50%), whiteware (36%), semi-porcelain and porcelain (7%), and two small Rockingham ware sherds (7%). Body fragments comprise the largest percentage overall (60%), but within the whiteware category, 45% of the sherds were rim fragments (possibly from plates or saucers). Both the porcelain and Rockingham ware sherds were rim fragments as well. The two Rockingham ware sherds and one whiteware sherd are the only ones to show any type of decoration.

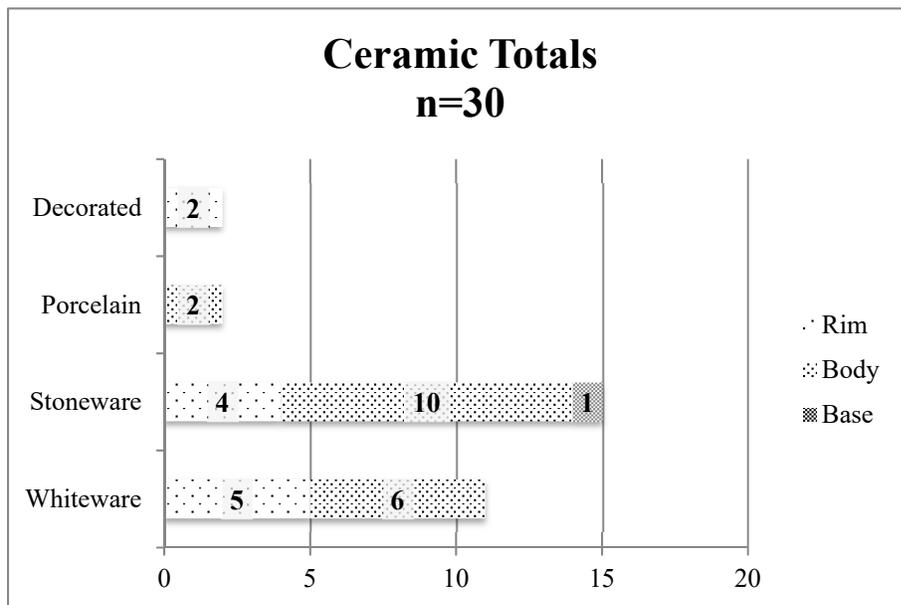


FIGURE 21: Ceramic totals by ware type and part type (by Alex Smith 2017).

Stoneware. Stoneware pottery takes its name from its “stone-like” appearance that comes as a result of its high firing temperatures; the unglazed wares could be anywhere from white to a tan or gray color. Because of its non-porous nature, stoneware does not need a slip; however, it is common for them to have slips or glazes (Maryland

Archaeological Conservation Laboratory [MACL] 2002b). Stoneware vessels mainly had utilitarian purposes, such as preparing and storing (but not cooking) food. As such, they commonly took the form of jugs, pitchers, bowls, crocks, and more (Greer 2010; MACL 2002c). The stoneware sherds in this assemblage are evidence of this type of activity. There are two types of glazes for stoneware that need to be discussed first, however. Albany slip glaze originated in New York in the early 19th century and is characterized typically by a brownish colored slip, although it could vary to reddish-brown or black. Over time, Albany became the catchall term for “dark brown or black” slips and can be found on the interior and exterior of vessels (MACL 2002c). Bristol slip was first manufactured in England and became more common in the United States in the 20th century, and it can be found along with Albany on the same vessel in some locations before 1920. Bristol glaze is characterized by a surface that ranged “from a creamy white to bluish white” (MACL 2002c).

Ten of the fifteen stoneware sherds have an Albany slip on their interior and nine of these also have a cream-colored exterior that might be a Bristol glaze or some type of clay slip (Figure 22). The one other sherd’s exterior has nearly corroded away but may have been a salt glaze. For dating purposes, a clay slip would fit better within the occupation dates of the site. At least six of these nine sherds appear to be from the same vessel, most likely a cylindrical crockery jug, a type of stoneware form that dates after 1870 (Greer 1981:263). Of the remaining five sherds, four of them (Figure 23) have a black slip interior and a brown (possibly Albany) exterior. They were all recovered in the back yard area during the metal detector survey and have the crudest appearance out of all of the stoneware sherds. The final stoneware sherd (not pictured) is much smaller and



FIGURE 22: Photograph of Albany (interior) and Bristol (exterior) slip stoneware sherds (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).



FIGURE 23: Photograph of cruder stoneware sherds (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

has a highly polished darker Albany interior. The slip extends over the rim for about 2 centimeters before ending and the rest of the exterior has no slip at all. This sherd was

likely from a smaller stoneware vessel like a bowl.

Refined Earthenware. Whiteware is a type of earthenware, which was fired at a much lower temperature than stoneware and so necessitated glazing (MACL 2002a). Undecorated whiteware, which comprises nearly all of the whiteware, does not provide any substantial dates because it was so common throughout the 19th and 20th century (Goover 2003:298, table 4). The whiteware sherds vary in width with some being quite thick while others are much thinner (Figure 24). Those with more curvature are likely from cups or bowls. The decoration on the whiteware rim sherd (Figure 25) consists of a single brown band along the edge. It lacks significant curvature, so it was likely a part of a dinner plate. The two Rockingham ware sherds fit together and have a twisted rope molded into their exterior and no decoration on their interior (Figure 25). The thickness, curvature, and quality of the sherds suggest that they were originally part of a bowl or



FIGURE 24: Photograph of selected whiteware sherds (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

jug. Rockingham ware was produced beginning in the 1830s and remained in use for the next century (Claney 2000:13). It “was mass produced in America and other countries...and was to be found all over America in houses, restaurants and taverns, offices, and all kinds of public places” (Claney 2000:13). The dates for banded whiteware range between 1830 and 1900, so no discrepancy stands out between these sherds and the occupation dates of the house; however, as mentioned above, use of undecorated whiteware extends far into the 20th century, making definite dating impossible (Groover 2003: 298, table 4).



FIGURE 25: Photograph of Rockingham sherds and decorated whiteware sherd (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

Porcelain. Porcelain was created first by the Chinese, and it was not until the 18th century that Europeans learned the secret to making this fine ware. Porcelain is “highly vitrified and translucent,” and when a vessel is broken, the paste is much finer and whiter than that of whiteware (MACL 2002d). Unfortunately, the two porcelain

sherds in this assemblage do not provide much information beyond the fact that they are porcelain. Both are body sherds; one is more curved and may belong to a cup or bowl, but the other sherd is too small for any conclusions to be made about it.

For the most part, the ceramic assemblage aligns with the supposed dates of occupation. Although stoneware sherds comprise half of the assemblage, this does not necessarily indicate that the Finstads used more utilitarian ware because, as noted above, many of the stoneware sherds are likely from two vessels. Using this manner of thinking, the whiteware sherds may actually be more indicative of the types of wares commonly used by the Finstads. The family would have used both whitewares and the more utilitarian stonewares in their everyday lives. The lack of decorated ceramics does seem to indicate that while the Finstad were doing fine on their farm, they were not in the position to afford many decorated pieces. However, this could also be a choice that the family made concerning the types of ceramics they preferred. Rockingham ware may appear distinct, but it was actually quite common. That leaves the banded whiteware sherd as the only truly decorated ceramic piece.

Personal Items

Several different kinds of artifacts have been grouped together here into the final category of personal items, due to them all having a close relationship with the persons living at the site, and not the site itself.

A total of five buttons, two belt buckles, and three fabric flowers (that may be a type of button) were recovered from the site, both on the surface and during excavation (Figure 26). Three of these buttons are made of a white glass material and have four

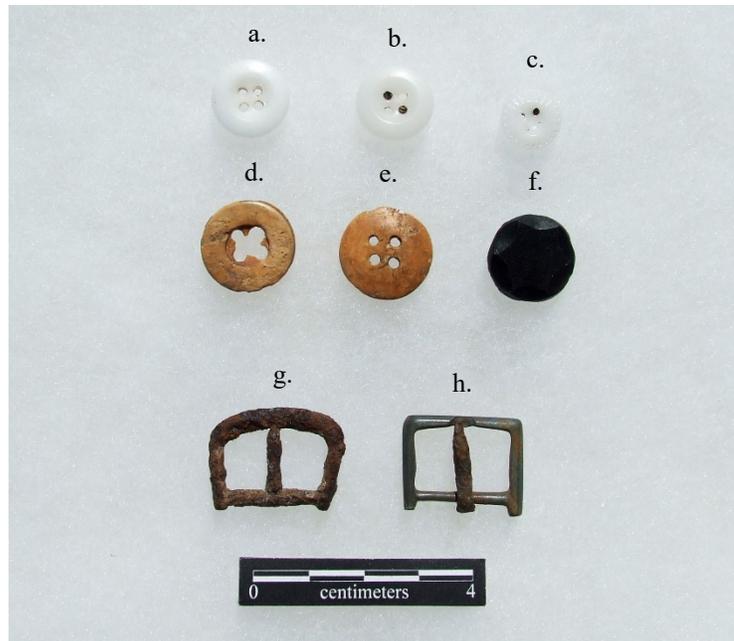


FIGURE 26: Photograph of recovered buttons and belt buckles (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

thread holes (Figure 26a,b,c). Two of these buttons are nearly identical to one another and were both found on the surface (Figure 26a, b). It is possible that these white buttons were originally part of a more formal shirt owned by a member of the family. A four-hole threaded wooden button was also excavated; unfortunately, it broke into two fragments after being excavated (Figure 26d, e). This cruder button was likely a part of everyday clothing that the family members wore while working the farm. The final button is black and circular in shape with a beveled six-sided slanted star shape on its interior (Figure 26f). Unlike the others, it is a shank button as opposed to sew-through – a small loop sticks out of its reverse side, so it was not sewn onto the fabric in the same way as the sew-through buttons (Lindbergh 1999:51; Horn 2005; Buren and Gensmer 2017:231). Black buttons very similar to this one became common in the late 19th century as mourning jewelry – heavily influenced by Queen Victoria’s mourning after the death of

her husband. While she wore ornaments made of jet (a fossilized wood), other less expensive options were available. This button may be made of vulcanite, a vulcanized rubber developed in the mid-19th century (van Ranst 2017; Segal 2017). If this button is indicative of the mourning jewelry trend, then it most likely was worn by one of the female family members as part of a more formal outfit. Whether the possession of this button indicates that there was mourning in the family cannot be determined; however, if this button was purchased due to its popularity during the time then it shows that members of the Finstad family were following common trends.

One belt buckle was recovered in the metal detector survey while the other was excavated from Unit 3. The former appears to be made mainly of steel except for its prong (note the lack of rust in Figure 26*h*) while the latter is rusted into one solid piece (Figure 26*g*). Both are very small and may have been part of the straps on a bag or on a child's belt rather than that of an adult. The three fabric flowers (not pictured) are the most interesting of the group. Excavated from Unit 2, they may have been a type of decorative button or possibly a decoration on a dress or hat.

A ceramic marble (Figure 27) was recovered on the surface during the first survey of the property. It has a diameter of approximately three centimeters, and rather than being smooth and polished or colored, it has a few flat spots along its surface and shows no indication of ever having been colored. Marbles such as this one would have been a common children's toy.

The metal detection survey of the back yard area yielded what at first appeared to be two highly rusted can lids stuck together (Figure 28). Closer inspection, however, led to the realization that some type of lettering and label was present on the lid. After some



FIGURE 27: Photograph of ceramic marble (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

cleaning, a human figure and text were slightly visible against the corroded surface. The lid appeared to be from a company called “Bixby,” and an Internet search yielded some information about this company. S.M. Bixby and Company was organized in the 1860s in New York City by Samuel Merrill Bixby and specialized in shoe blackening polishes. The company had financial troubles in the 1870s and into the 1890s, and eventually was incorporated into another company in 1920, but their products were still sold for a brief time period after that. The most famous product from the Bixby Company is a shoe blackening polish bottle originally patented in 1883; it appears that their main products came in glass bottles, so this tin proved difficult to identify (Bottlebooks 2016; Whitten 2016). Eventually, the right combination of search terms yielded one photograph of the tin in pristine condition (Figure 29). Originating from a bottle collectors’ website, the owner of this tin describes it as “probably the rarest, shoe polish tin that Bixby had,” and states that it “is the only blackening tin of any brand...that was embossed” in this way (Bixby Bill 2013).



FIGURE 28: Photograph of recovered tin of Bixby's Shoe Polish (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).



FIGURE 29: Photograph of original Bixby's Shoe Polish tin (Courtesy of antique-bottles.net)

The final personal item is a brass saloon token found during the metal detector survey in the front yard area; it was located beneath the oak trees about 15 to 20 feet from the structure (Figure 30). Only showing some signs of corrosion, the obverse side reads

“HAWKINS” while the reverse is engraved with “12½.” This was a common marking on saloon tokens of the 19th century, which could be traded for a drink or other product in the place of official currency. The location of this saloon is unknown, but it was common for immigrant shopkeepers to utilize tokens, so it may have not been a saloon (Fowler 2010). Nevertheless, this token is a unique artifact whose definite identification would shed more light on (or elicit more questions about) why it ended up at the Finstad farm.



FIGURE 30: Composite photograph showing both sides of the brass saloon token (Photograph by Bryan Jameson 2017).

Conclusions

The artifact assemblage manages to showcase most aspects of the Finstads’ lives: agricultural, domestic, personal adornment, entertainment, and some of their connection with the world outside of the homestead. The Finstad homestead fits well within the context of the Norwegian settlements of Bosque County, and the recovered artifacts

support the expectations mentioned at the beginning of this chapter. The Finstad family occupied the rock house in different forms throughout the 1870s, 1880s, and possibly even into the 1890s and 20th century.

Window glass and nails are evidence of the windows, doors, and roof that were once part of the structure. The fact that the majority of the window glass assemblage dates into the 20th century puts the supposed occupation dates into question. The bottle glass artifacts generally fit within the correct time period, but due to the fragmentary nature of most of the shards, only suppositions about the purposes of the can be made. The ceramic assemblage indicates that the Finstads did not own an abundance of fine wares, but used undecorated whiteware and stoneware for the majority of their cooking, eating, and storing needs.

Personal items reveal a bit more about the lives of the Finstad family. A vulcanite button shows some possible Americanization through following fashion trends. The other buttons seem to show that the family wore more than just work clothes. The ceramic marble may have belonged to either the Bakke children or the younger Finstad's children. The shoe polish tin is somewhat of a rare find and shows that the Finstads put effort and resources into making their clothes (in this case shoes) look nice and last longer. Lastly, the saloon token is possible evidence of trips away from the homestead.

CHAPTER FIVE

Synthesis and Conclusions

The story of Ole Finstad and his family is one of an immigrant family making a life for themselves in the United States. From the archival records alone, the Finstads (and Bakke) appear to have been successful in their agricultural endeavors, or at least as successful as their neighbors. Their overall property value continually increased as they acquired more livestock and eventually more land. The family structure also underwent changes through time. Finstad's son-in-law eventually became the owner of the original property, and Finstad lived his last years in the home of his daughter and son-in-law while the younger Finstad established a family and farm of his own. However, for a time, the Finstads and the Bakke couple lived in close proximity, if not in the same rock house that is studied here. Based on the joint purchase of land and subsequent trading in 1889 between Bakke and the younger Finstad and Bakke's ownership of more than half of Finstad's original property, the members of the family seem to have gotten along well. This could definitely have contributed to their success; they were able to focus on farming and livestock rather than any internal strife between a son and brother-in-law.

Comparisons between the Finstad family and the other Norwegian settlers in the county were made twice in this thesis. The first involved the 1880 Agricultural Census where it was concluded that the Finstad and Bakke farms were operating and producing in ways very similar to their neighbors. The second comparison showed the similarities between the Finstad and the Alfei houses, which showed that the Finstads followed the common trend of building rock houses in this (and other similar) style. These examples

only scratch the surface, however, of what one could learn by comparing the settlers with one another. For example, studying the earlier settlers of Bosque County and those that came later and comparing how they developed (their property, farm, houses, etc.) could be used to show how a well-established community develops and benefits those who arrive later (like the Finstads). However, this is difficult to do without a larger body of information about the settlers' development, especially in terms of archaeological data.

In this thesis, the history and life of a Norwegian immigrant family living in Bosque County was brought to light through archival and archaeological means. The contributions of this study to the body of knowledge surrounding Norwegians in Bosque County will hopefully help spark new interest in their history and development through time. As discussed in the introduction, there are dozens of National Register sites in Bosque County, and many have structures associated with them. The majority of these are likely in the same state of decay as the Finstad rock house (though in varying degrees), and they will only continue to degrade over time. While it is impossible to ask that every structure be conserved or reconstructed, thorough surveys and excavations of the structures and their associated area can help preserve the memory of the site even if it ceases to be visible. Norwegian immigrants represent a historical minority in Texas, but, as can be seen from the history and legacy of just one family, they are no less important to the state's history as their contemporaries.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Collection of Property Tax Records 1877-1900

TABLE A.1: Complete 1870s Bosque County Property Tax Records (Bosque County Ad Valorem Tax Records, Texas Collection).

1877	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke
Original Grantee	Preemption	-
Acres	160	-
Land Value	\$300.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	-	-
Horses/Mules	2	-
Cattle	3	4
Hogs	1	-
Misc. Property	\$5.00	\$5.00
Total Value	\$341.00	\$25.00
Total Taxes	\$7.25	\$3.32
1878	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke
Original Grantee	Ole Finstad	-
Acres	132	-
Land Value	\$300.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	-
Horses/Mules	-	2
Cattle	-	4
Hogs	-	-
Misc. Property	\$5.00	\$19.00
Total Value	\$320.00	\$59.00
Total Taxes	\$6.02	\$3.16
1879	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	-
Acres	160	-
Land Value	\$320.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	-
Horses/Mules	1	3
Cattle	8	7
Hogs	2	2
Misc. Property	\$19.00	\$12.00
Total Value	\$416.00	\$79.00
Total Taxes	\$6.87	\$3.34

For all tables: *Italics* = entry was hard to read. I = illegible entry.

TABLE A.2: Complete 1880s Bosque County
Property Tax Records (Bosque County Ad
Valorem Tax Records, Texas Collection).

1880	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin
Acres	74	86
Land Value	\$148.00	\$172.00
Carriage/Buggie	1	-
Horses/Mules	3	3
Cattle	11	-
Hogs	4	2
Misc. Property	\$5.00	\$5.00
Total Value	\$245.00	\$209.00
Total Taxes	\$4.94	\$4.60
1881	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin
Acres	74	86
Land Value	\$178.00	\$172.00
Carriage/Buggie	2	1
Horses/Mules	2	2
Cattle	19	11
Hogs	3	3
Misc. Property	\$33.00	\$12.00
Total Value	\$386.00	\$342.00
Total Taxes	\$3.08	\$5.24
1882	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin
Acres	74	86
Land Value	\$178.00	\$200.00
Carriage/Buggie	1	1
Horses/Mules	2	2
Cattle	19	11
Hogs	3	2
Misc. Property	\$10.00	\$12.00
Total Value	\$394.00	\$370.00
Total Taxes	\$2.76	\$4.59

1883	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin	-
Acres	74	86	-
Land Value	\$178.00	\$250.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	1	-
Horses/Mules	2	2	-
Cattle	22	13	-
Sheep	-	2	-
Hogs	2	2	-
Misc. Property	\$20.00	\$18.00	-
Total Value	\$592.00	\$582.00	-
Total Taxes	\$3.26	\$4.95	\$1.75
1884	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke	N/A
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin	-
Acres	74	86	-
Land Value	\$230.00	\$277.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	1	-
Tools/Machinery	-	\$150.00	-
Horses/Mules	1	2	-
Cattle	32	12	-
Sheep	-	2	-
Hogs	2	3	-
Misc. Property	\$18.00	\$27.00	-
Total Value	\$742.00	\$754.00	-
Total Taxes	\$4.07	\$5.89	-
1885	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin	-
Acres	74	86	-
Land Value	\$250.00	\$300.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	1	-
Horses/Mules	2	2	-
Cattle	32	16	-
Sheep	-	4	-
Hogs	3	5	-
Misc. Property	\$4.00	\$174.00	-
Total Value	\$700.00	\$780.00	-
Total Taxes	\$4.73	\$7.02	\$1.75

1886	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin	-
Acres	74	86	-
Land Value	\$350.00	\$400.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	1	-
Horses/Mules	3	2	-
Cattle	40	15	-
Sheep	-	4	-
Hogs	2	4	-
Misc. Property	\$54.00	\$20.00	-
Total Value	\$868.00	\$660.00	-
Total Taxes	\$6.93	\$7.00	\$1.75
1887	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin	-
Acres	74	86	-
Land Value	\$300.00	\$400.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	1	-
Horses/Mules	4	2	-
Cattle	35	13	-
Sheep	-	3	-
Hogs	2	2	-
Misc. Property	\$7.00	\$22.00	-
Total Value	\$652.00	\$606.00	-
Total Taxes	\$5.37	\$6.46	\$1.75
1888	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke	N/A
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	Wm Haddin	-
Acres	74	86	-
Land Value	\$300.00	\$400.00	-
Carriage/Buggie	1	1	-
Horses/Mules	6	3	-
Cattle	40	20	-
Sheep	-	3	-
Hogs	3	2	-
Misc. Property	\$22.00	\$62.00	-
Total Value	\$668.00	\$682.00	-
Total Taxes	\$7.09	\$7.20	-

1889	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
	Wm Haddin/JW	Wm Haddin/JW
Original Grantee	Schrimpff	Schrimpff
Acres	86/160	74/160
Land Value	\$590.00	\$530.00
Carriage/Buggie	1	1
Horses/Mules	3	6
Cattle	20	25
Sheep	-	-
Hogs	3	4
Misc. Property	\$42.00	\$43.00
Total Value	\$833.00	\$871.00
Total Taxes	\$9.17	\$9.59

TABLE A.3: Complete 1890s and 1900 Bosque County Property Tax Records (Bosque County Ad Valorem Tax Records, Texas Collection).

1890	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	JW Schrimppff
Acres	160	320
Land Value	\$900.00	\$640.00
Carriage/Buggie	1	1
Horses/Mules	3	6
Cattle	20	40
Hogs	6	4
Misc. Property	\$30.00	\$27.00
Total Value	\$1,195.00	\$1,000.00
Total Taxes	\$12.50	\$10.75
1895	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	JW Schrimppff
Acres	160	320
Land Value	\$800.00	\$1,600.00
Carriage/Buggie	2	2
Tools/Machinery	\$50.00	\$20.00
Horses/Mules	5	9
Cattle	19	30
Hogs	4	3
Misc. Property	\$15.00	\$5.00
Total Value	\$1,115.00	\$1,930.00
Total Taxes	\$13.46	\$22.02
1900	Magnus Bakke	Ole Finstad Jr.
Original Grantee	Wm Haddin	JW Schrimppff
Acres	160	320
Land Value	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00
Carriage/Buggie	2	2
Tools/Machinery	\$50.00	\$25.00
Horses/Mules	8	7
Cattle	25	37
Hogs	4	5
Misc. Property	\$25.00	\$5.00
Total Value	\$1,785.00	\$2,185.00
Total Taxes	\$17.81	\$21.41

APPENDIX B

Complete 1880 Agricultural Census

TABLE B.1: Table showing complete data for Finstad, Bakke, and neighbors (USBC 1880a).

	Ole Finstad	Magnus Bakke	Moseus Sarle
Improved land	30 acres	28 acres	35 acres
Unimproved land	44 acres	52 acres	115 acres
Value of farm	\$600	\$500	\$600
Value of farm implements and machinery	\$12	\$5	\$8
Value of livestock	\$40	\$70	\$50
Labor	-	\$25	-
Est. value of all farm productions	\$100	<i>\$157</i>	\$300
Grasslands	-	-	-
Horses	5	3	-
Mules	-	-	-
Working oxen	2	1	2
Milch cows	5	3	-
Other cattle	5	4	-
Calves dropped	1	3	-
Sold living	1	1	-
Died, strayed, or stolen	2	-	-
Butter made	100 lbs.	100 lbs.	-
Sheep purchased	-	2	-
Swine on hand June 1, 1880	3	2	2
Barnyard poultry	12	11	7
Eggs produced in 1879	50 dz	<i>90 dz</i>	-
Barley 1879	-	-	-
Indian corn 1879	7 acres	7 acres	<i>7 acres</i>
	140 bushels	150 bushels	<i>100 bushels</i>
Oats	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Rye	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Wheat	5 acres	-	-
	34 bushels	-	-
Cotton	16 acres	15 acres	26 acres
	2 bales	2 bales	5 bales
Sorghum molasses	10 gallons	10 gallons	-

	Ole Reising	Christon Westly	Janne Hoff
Improved land	40 acres	26 acres	65 acres
Unimproved land	135 acres	105 acres	140 acres
Value of farm	\$1,300	\$700	\$1,500
Value of farm implements and machinery	\$69	\$10	\$250
Value of livestock	\$200	\$100	\$330
Labor	-	\$8	\$125
Est. value of all farm productions	\$120	\$100	\$400
Grasslands	-	-	I
Horses	2	-	9
Mules	-	3	-
Working oxen	-	-	-
Milch cows	3	5	6
Other cattle	-	3	8
Calves dropped	4	2	5
Sold living	-	5	7
Died, strayed, or stolen	1	-	-
Butter made	100 lbs.	50 lbs.	50 lbs.
Sheep purchased	-	-	-
Swine on hand June 1, 1880	2	2	4
Barnyard poultry	10	4	15
Eggs produced in 1879	50 dz	10 dz	75 dz
Barley 1879	-	-	4 acres
	-	-	37 bushels
Indian corn 1879	4 acres	I	8 acres
	<i>20 bushels</i>	I	100 bushels
Oats	-	-	3 acres
	-	-	30 bushels
Rye	-	-	<i>5 acres</i>
	-	-	<i>33 bushels</i>
Wheat	-	-	<i>33 acres</i>
	-	-	100 bushels
Cotton	25 acres	16 acres	12 acres
	2 bales	2 bales	1 bushel
Sorghum molasses	-	-	-

	Christopher Lund	James Dale	Coleman Heathley
Improved land	50 acres	30 acres	75 acres
Unimproved land	<i>100 acres</i>	<i>130 acres</i>	85 acres
Value of farm	\$600	\$500	\$1,000
Value of farm implements and machinery	\$75	\$60	\$25
Value of livestock	\$150	\$75	-
Labor	\$50	-	-
Est. value of all farm productions	I	\$80	<i>\$200</i>
Grasslands	-	-	-
Horses	1	3	1
Mules	2	-	2
Working oxen	2	-	-
Milch cows	-	3	-
Other cattle	-	6	-
Calves dropped	-	1	-
Sold living	-	-	-
Died, strayed, or stolen	-	1	-
Butter made	-	50 lbs.	-
Sheep purchased	-	-	-
Swine on hand June 1, 1880	-	-	6
Barnyard poultry	-	12	12
Eggs produced in 1879	-	10 dz	100 dz
Barley 1879	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Indian corn 1879	-	<i>8 acres</i>	<i>85 acres</i>
	-	40 bushels	400 bushels
Oats	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Rye	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Wheat	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Cotton	-	10 acres	-
	-	1 bale	-
Sorghum molasses	-	-	-

	Sopha Lang
Improved land	125 acres
Unimproved land	800 acres
Value of farm	\$2,500
Value of farm implements and machinery	\$30
Value of livestock	\$625
Labor	\$100
Est. value of all farm productions	\$200
Grasslands	-
Horses	3
Mules	4
Working oxen	-
Milch cows	13
Other cattle	27
Calves dropped	12
Sold living	-
Died, strayed, or stolen	2
Butter made	100 lbs.
Sheep purchased	-
Swine on hand June 1, 1880	7
Barnyard poultry	30
Eggs produced in 1879	150 dz
Barley 1879	-
	-
Indian corn 1879	30 acres
	300 bushels
Oats	4 acres
	100 bushels
Rye	-
	-
Wheat	-
	-
Cotton	30 acres
	2 bales
Sorghum molasses	-

APPENDIX C

Additional Site Information

NPS Form 10-900-a
(2-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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SITE NO. 13

NAME Ole and Elizabeth Finstad homesite

LOCATION FM 219, ~~9 1/2~~ ⁹ miles southwest of Clifton, Bosque County, Texas, on W. Haddin survey *on FM 219*

OWNER Edgar and Yolanda Davis
P.O. Box 4457
Waco, Texas 76705

PRESENT USE Ruins, agriculture

CATEGORY Building, site

STATUS Unoccupied

QUADRANGLE NAME Hurst Springs, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE 14/620640/3511200

ACREAGE less than 1 acre

PHOTO REFERENCE NO. 23

DESCRIPTION

Easily visible from FM 219, the Ole and Elizabeth Finstad homesite stands in ruins in the Neils Creek valley. Little of the original configuration remains, as several of the walls have collapsed. The house is built of limestone blocks with mud mortar and rubble-stone pointing. The original fenestration is difficult to discern. The only visible opening is a small window which pierces the east wall at attic level. An exterior stone chimney extends from this same wall, and the hearth, which has a fine segmental arch, remains intact. No structures associated with this house have been located, but examination of the immediate vicinity of the site has uncovered pot shards probably connected with the early period of occupation. The house has been abandoned for about 75 years, and its archeological potential appears to be high.

SIGNIFICANCE

According to Tilden Pederson, this one-room stone house was constructed by Ole and Elizabeth Finstad sometime in the mid to late 19th century. Although it is presently in ruins, the historic artifacts observed on the surface of the site bespeaks the archeological significance of the site.

FIGURE C.1: Copy of National Register Nomination Form showing notes on property made by surveyors (THC 1983).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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AREA TO BE NOMINATED

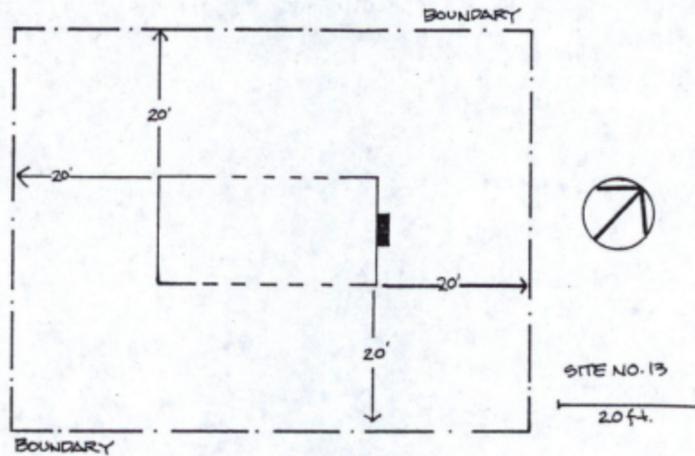


FIGURE C.1 (cont.): Copy of National Register Nomination Form showing notes on property made by surveyors (THC 1983).



FIGURE C.2: Close up of structure's fireplace (Photograph by Alex Smith 2017).



FIGURE C.3: View of structure facing north with evidence of window circled (Photograph by Alex Smith 2017).

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