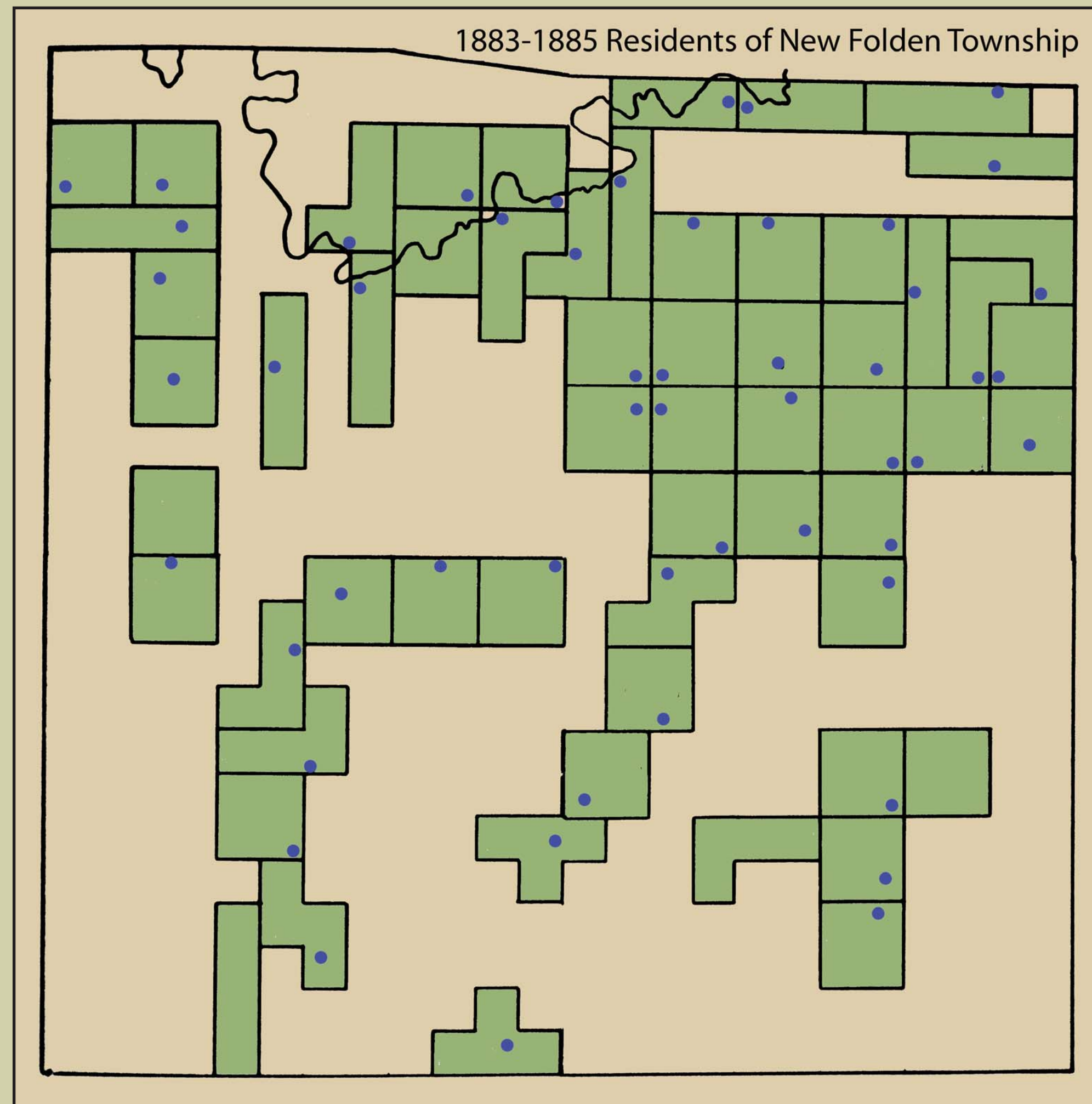


New Folden Township

Most of the early settlers made land claims on the dry sand ridges.
Cellars were dry and the wells provided good tasting water.



a barn and house) and cultivating a portion of it a claimant could secure title to the land. Naturalization (citizenship) was required before they could secure title. During these first five years the claimant was not required to pay real estate taxes. A settler could also acquire government land under the Pre-Emption Law by living on a tract for fourteen months, making improvements and paying the government \$1.25 an acre.

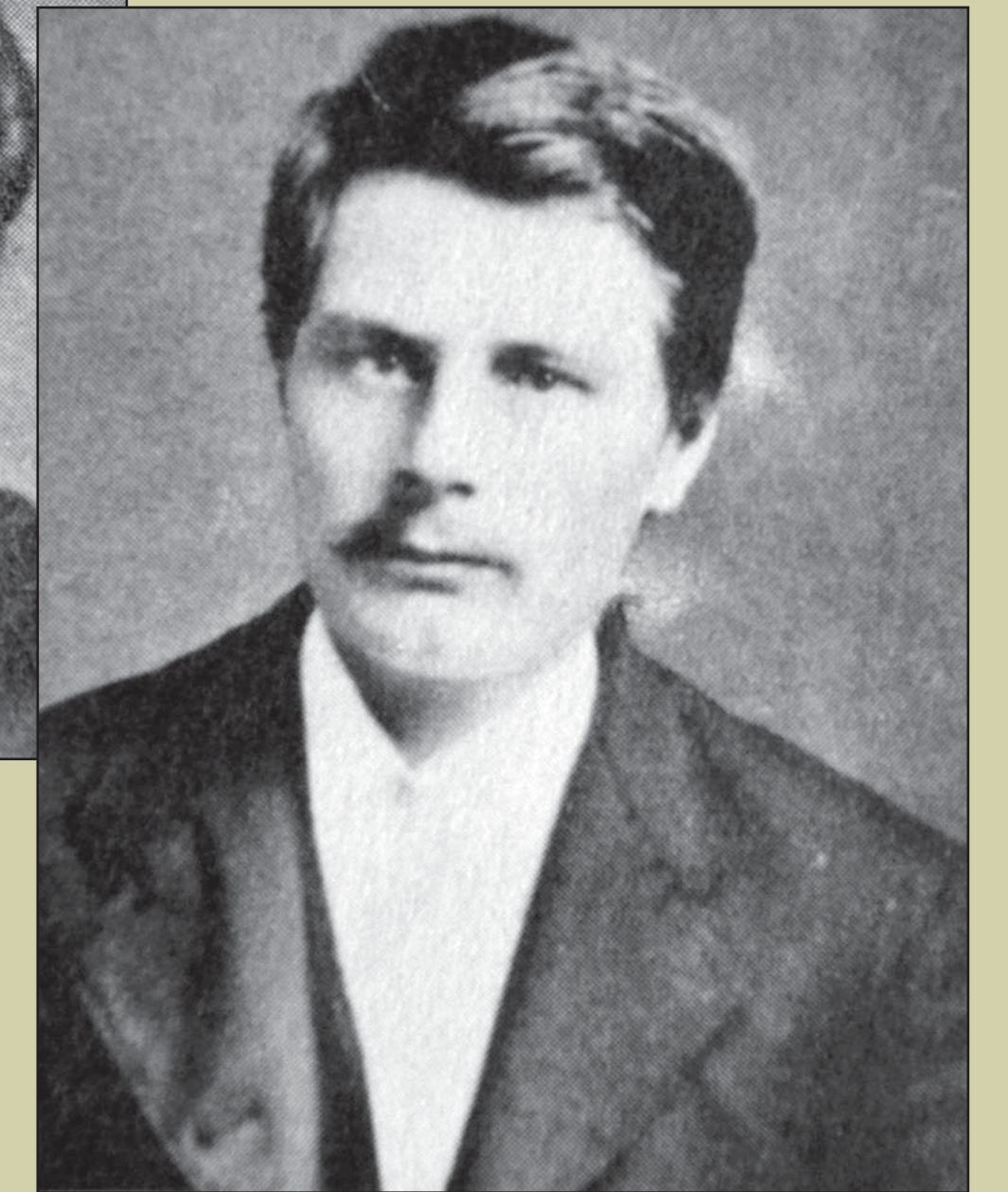
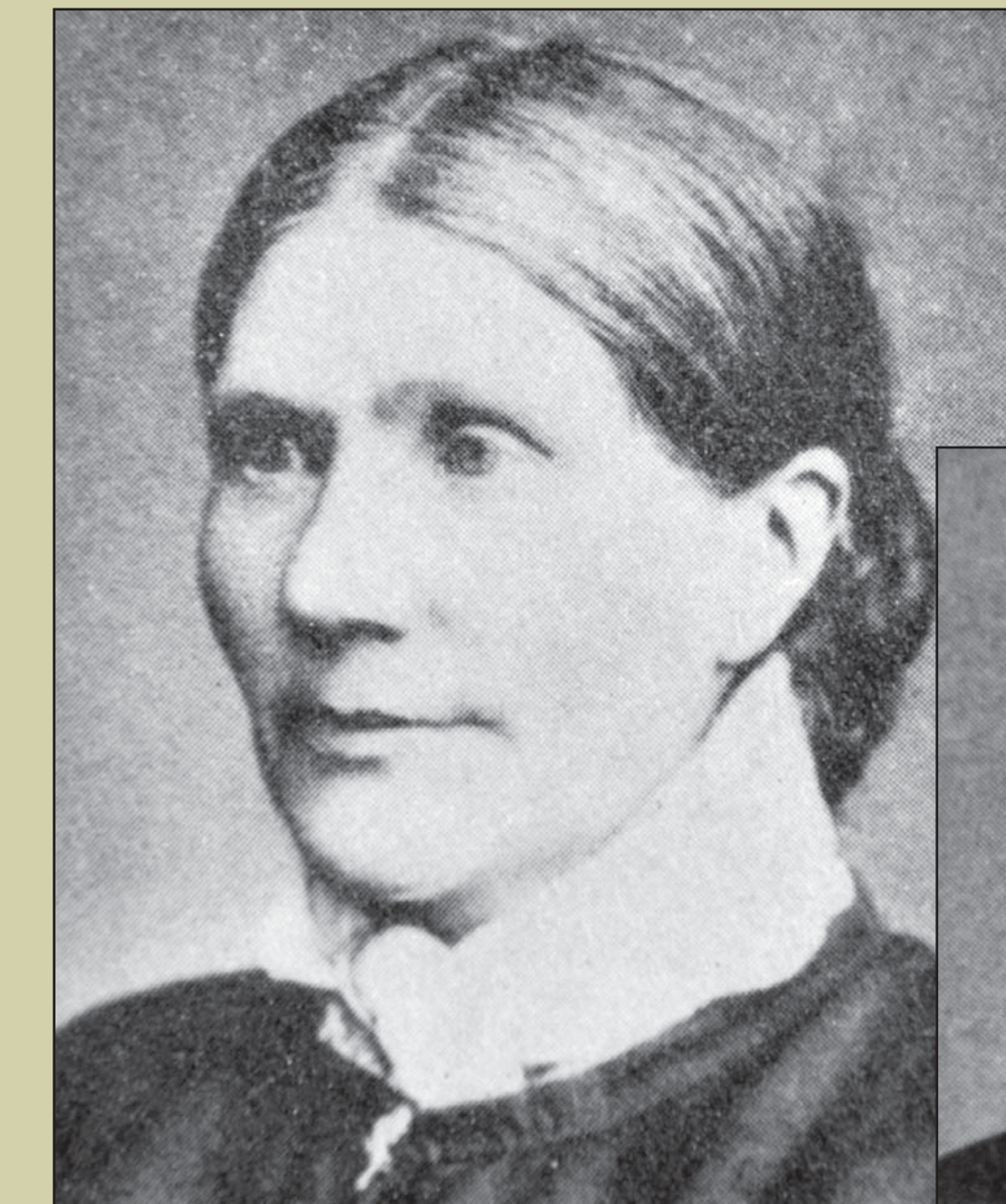
The first homesteader to satisfy the requirements for 'proving up' was Olaus Larson who settled on much of the land where the village of Newfolden is now located. He appeared before the judge on July 12, 1888. Section 11 became the first section of land in the township to be owned by a homesteader.

Filing a Land Claim

Homesteaders could obtain land by purchase, preemption, or homesteading. Under the Homesteading Act, a citizen or an alien intending to become a citizen over the age of twenty-one, or the head of a family was permitted to file a claim on one hundred sixty acres of the public domain. The claimant had to swear that the land was for personal settlement and cultivation. The only cost was a small filing fee. After residing on the tract for five years, making improvements (like

Folden Township

- The township was named for an area in northern Norway. Several of the early settlers in the township were natives of the Folden area including Ole Folden and his son Hans. Folden Township was the twentieth township in Marshall county to be formally organized and one of eleven townships established in 1884. It was later renamed New Folden to indicate that it was named for its beloved Norwegian location.



Above left: Kari Kaasen Folden (Ole J. Folden's wife). Right: Hans Folden (Kari Kaasen Folden's son).

Surnames

Surnames were not used in rural Scandinavia in the 1800s. In America families were required to acquire consistent family names. Beyond his given name the only second name used in Scandinavia was derived from the name of the individual's father. For example, in the same family Hans' son Ole would be Ole Hanson. Subsequently, Ole's son Lars would then be called Lars Oleson. If Ole had a daughter, Karen, she would be known as Karne Olesdatter. If further identification was needed the place of residence was used.