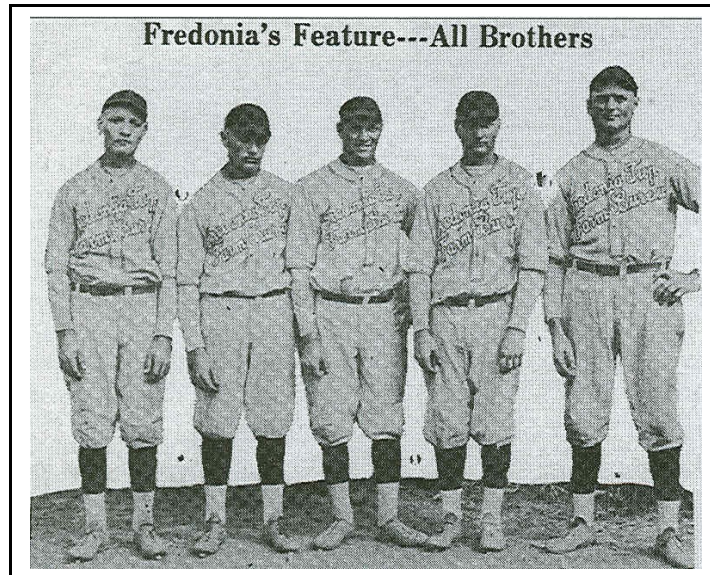


Across Oceans, Across Time® ...

Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center ...



In the early decades of the 20th century amateur baseball teams could be found in many parts of the country. Pictured here are the five Larson brothers who played on the Fredonia Township team in Plymouth County, Iowa, sponsored by the Farm Bureau, which was part of the American League. Spanning nearly two decades in age, from left to right are seen Martin, Henry, Herbert, Nels and Nis Larson. They were five of 13 children born to Danish immigrants Jens P. and Ingeborg (Nielsen) Larson, who met, married, and lived long lives in this rural northwestern Iowa locality. According to an article accompanying this photograph in the "LeMars Sentinel," amateur baseball was a popular sport among Farm Bureau members and games drew a large number of spectators. While Farm Bureau records about the games are scanty, accounts of the teams' fortunes were regularly reported in local newspapers. Most games were played during daylight hours in a pasture, with a school baseball diamond or the Le Mars baseball park occasionally serving as venue. Neither players nor managers received any payment for their efforts, but this did not hinder "a firebrand" type of ball reportedly being played. - This photograph was a fortunate find hidden within the pages of *The Kloster Family of Denmark*, a history of neighbors of the Larson family in Fredonia Township, a recent addition to the FHGC collection. We would very much like to hear of additional accounts of amateur sporting events involving Danish Americans.