



## 2021 In-Person Benrud Reunion Changes

Hello Benrud Family Members,

The Benrud Board met Saturday, February 27 and decided, due to the continued issues with the pandemic, to cancel the in-person reunion scheduled for July 30, 31, and August 1, 2021.

But there are some exciting options:

1. A virtual Benrud Reunion is being planned for 2021 -- more information to follow!
2. A Benrud reunion in Canada is being planned for 2023, 30 years after the last one held in Canada in 1993. Additional information will be coming at a later date. Many of you may not be aware that we mail over 110 newsletters to Canadian addresses representing well over 300 Benrud relatives.
3. Our next US Benrud Reunion will be again in the La Crosse, Wisconsin area, tentatively scheduled at the Best Western Conference and Hotel Center across the Mississippi in La Crescent, Minnesota on August 1, 2, and 3rd, 2025.

If you are not a member of the Benrud Family Facebook, check it out and join -- we will be providing more information on Facebook about upcoming events in the coming weeks and months.

If you made hotel reservations for the 2021 reunion, remember to cancel them!

### UPDATES AND NEWS:

Family updates (births, deaths, marriages, address) should still be sent to Julie Backus, 891 N Roadrunner Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 or [jewelsdi@yahoo.com](mailto:jewelsdi@yahoo.com).

Family updates can also be made on the website pages.

All submissions can be sent to [benrudreader@gmail.com](mailto:benrudreader@gmail.com).

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### **Benrud Vision Statement**

The members of the Benrud Family foster traditions of family, heritage, and culture.

### **Check out the Benrud Family**

### **Web Site**

Go to [www.benrudfamily.org](http://www.benrudfamily.org) to find your family history, past Benrud Readers, photos and more.

### **Benrud Mission Statement**

The Benrud Family will provide opportunities for members to maintain contact with one another, to learn about the culture common to all of them, and to gather in celebration of their family heritage.

Dear Cousins,

I invite you to look at the Benrud Family website, under the News Column, to read the 2020 Farm and Church Tour information. You may drive the tour anytime you wish; please respect the families who live on the farms that our ancestors called home. As you begin, let your imagination bring alive the final part of the journey of 1875; perhaps imagine the horse and wagon ride from Sparta, 15 miles away. Not the smooth highway of today, but of dirt roads with ruts and bumps, mud puddles or dust. And finally, arriving at the home of your loved ones? The families must have been filled with joy and gratitude for the long, safe journey completed!

I hope you enjoy the tour of the farms and churches whenever you make the drive. Spend some time at the cemeteries and look for the markers for your family. Be thankful for your heritage.

"Takk for alt". Thanks for everything!

Your cousin, Marie Peterson Marin

### YOU MAY HAVE A BENRUD "Cousin" ANYWHERE!!

As a side note, I (Mike Spille) have a funny small world story for you (as sent to Julie Backus, Family Tree Editor). "A few years back, I was working at Charter Communications and one of our vendors was Cisco Systems. The Cisco engineer that was assigned to work with us on our optical network gear was a gentleman named Randy Haugestuen. Randy and I got to become friends over the months and one day we started talking about where we were from. He said that his family was from western Wisconsin and I mentioned that mine was from Red Wing MN. Well, we kept talking about things that we had in common and somehow, he mentioned that he got a "Benrud Reader" in the mail. I was stunned. I told him I had just gotten mine in the mail a few days earlier and he couldn't believe it. From that day forward we have always just called each other, "Cuz". "NOTE: this encounter began in Denver, Colorado. Mike is a "Carl Branch" member and Randy is from the "Anton Branch".

"The Nieces and Nephews of Chris (& Nora) Olson held a Canadian Cousin Reunion on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Calgary, Alberta. We had 14 of the 21 cousins in attendance plus FaceTimed in 2 more from North Dakota and Australia. We had just under 40 attendees in total including the extended family members for a great weekend at Rita (Gerrish) Urban's acreage just outside Calgary. A lot of stories were shared about visiting Grampa Chris Olson's family farm south of Broderick, Saskatchewan for summer holidays and special occasions."

Submitted by Doug Olson of Calgary, Alberta  
(son of Harvey Olson formally of Outlook, Saskatchewan)



## **IN MEMORY OF (2020-2021):**

**Sophie Marie Groenwoldt Benrud**, age 87, died March 17, 2020 in Galesville, Wisconsin. She is survived by her son Allen (Amy Gilliland), Peggy (Bob) McMahon, 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband James (Anton Branch), sons Curt Benrud and Bruce Benrud.

**Carol Lee Moore**, of rural Westby, died October 15, 2020. Carol was preceded in death by her husband Allen (of the Anton branch). She is survived by three children, Kristi Pennel, Mark (Mari) Moore, and Jamey (Laura) Moore and 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. She was a farmer with her husband, Allen, milking cows until she was 60 years old.

**Marlin and Reenie (Oreyen) Peterson Benrud** (of the Carl Branch) were married over 57 years when Marlin died on October 30, 2020 at the age of 90 and Reenie on November 3, 2020, age 91. Marlin and Reenie lived in Kenyon, Minnesota. They are survived by son David (Nancy) Benrud and daughter Jan (Paul) Strand and five grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Jan is the secretary for the Benrud Board. Marlin and Reenie farmed in Belvidere Township and operated the Bellechester Supply feed store together. Reenie taught music at Stillwater HS from 1953-1963 when she married Marlin.

**Dr. Joseph Adams Bodensteiner** of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, died November 25, 2020 at the age of 78. Joe practiced as a general and vascular surgeon in Rhinelander, Wisconsin for nearly 40 years. He is survived by his wife Emily (Homstad) Bodensteiner (a member of the Olava branch), his three children Karin (Mark Emerson), Kirsten (Marco Baverl), and Ingrid (Craig Dumar and 7 of 8 grandchildren).

**Dr. Warren Thomas Doerfler** of Lancaster, California died on November 29, 2020 at the age of 94. He is survived by his wife, Candace Halverson Doerfler (a member of the Lena Branch) whom he married in 1999, his son Timothy (Beverly) and two granddaughters. He was in Korea in the Navy and went to Korea as a medic with the Marines. In 1956, he began his solo family medicine practice treating thousands of patients and delivering 2400 babies.

**Joyce Mae (Olson) Schetter** of Waukesha, Wisconsin died December 26, 2020 at the age of 82. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Richard Schetter. She is also survived by her five children: Richard, Kenneth, Kathleen (Troy Hithe), Robert (Karl) and Barbara (Nick Kerhin) and four grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She loved to cook and read and also enjoyed music and travel. She was a member of the Maren branch and was remarkable in her ability to bring together her immediate family at many Benrud reunions.

**Nathlye Luebke Benrud**, age 89, died February 10, 2021 in Red Wing, Minnesota. Nathlye was preceded in death by her husband Donald (a member of the Carl Branch). They farmed and raised their children, Wanda (William) Carlstrom, Jerry (Vicki) Benrud, Cindy, (Greg) Ryan, and Roger (Michelle) Benrud in rural Goodhue, MN. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

**Joslyn Nicole Poquette Benrud**, age 36, died March 6, 2021 in Stoughton, Wisconsin, after a difficult battle with colon cancer. She is survived by her husband, David Benrud (a member of the Anton Branch). They were married in 2014. David sadly shared "that (her) big amazing smile, pure positive attitude and energy would light up any room she walked into". Joslyn leaves a daughter, Annalise, age 4. David is the son of Paul and Martha Benrud. Paul is the Benrud Board treasurer



## "Benruds in Canada"

Over 100 years ago, some of our Benrud Family members decided to head north to set up farms in Canada. Between approximately 1908 and 1916, one daughter and two sons of Maren and Carl established farms around the Outlook (Broderick) area in Saskatchewan; Annie and Albert (Settled around 1908. They returned to the US in 1927 and settled in the state of Washington), Peter and Jessamine (settled in 1916. They returned to the US around 1930 with Peter settling in Chicago and the state of Ohio), and Christian and Nora (Christian moved up in 1911, married Nora in 1915 and they lived out their lives in Saskatchewan).

A few years later, from 1916 to 1919 one daughter and five sons of Anton and Maria, along with their spouses, left for Saskatchewan to establish farms around the Broderick, Strongfield and Hawarden area. Adolph and Elvina, John and Laura, Ella and Cyrus, Christian and Clara, Elmer and Julia, Henry and Florence all said goodbye to their parents and headed north. Can you imagine all the conversations around the kitchen tables?

With all the news coming back about the wide-open prairies and developing communities, Maren and Carl made the trip to Saskatchewan in 1918 or 1919 for a short stay before returning to Cashton. Along with the good times, there were some very difficult years, particularly through the 1930's when farming was hard. Some folks came back to the Cashton area, some moved to Washington and California. But many stayed. In 1967, the Canadian families organized a Reunion in the Outlook area; and many American cousins made the trip to Outlook to see the farms in the Broderick and Hawarden areas. Almost thirty years later, in 1993, a second Canadian Reunion took place in Outlook. Those of us who were able to attend had a wonderful experience and enjoyed seeing all the sights as well as our families!

Our Canadian branches have continued to spread (300+) over the years and as we approach another 30-year milestone, we are looking to plan another **Canadian reunion in 2023!** Please watch for further updates and make your plans to attend!



1967 Reunion—Outlook



1993 Reunion - Ole  
Benrud families



1993 Reunion - Ole Olson  
& Christian Olson families



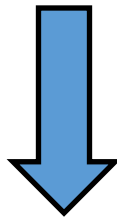
Christian Olson Family  
Farm, built in 1918

## Benrud entry on Ellis Island wall

Thank you to Erik Benrud for working on getting our family added to the Wall of Honor | Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island. The entry was just made so we do not currently have photos of the entry. Erik has shared photos of his 2019 trip and a copy of the certificate.



**This information will go on outside in open  
space under address (Below fold)**



### **Status of Benrud Family Incorporation**

By Iris Othrow

Over the past few years, I with the assistance of others, have written By-Laws for the Benrud Family with the goal of becoming Incorporated in Wisconsin, and eventually getting a Not-for-Profit organizational status. The By-Laws provide a succinct definition of our Mission, Vision and Values, membership, donations, roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, funds, and distribution plus other necessary legal explanations. The By-Laws have been approved by the board.

At this time, we are looking for a family member who is more qualified than I to take on the revisions if needed, file the necessary forms in Wisconsin for Incorporation and helping us with possible tax documentation and filing. We also need this person to investigate possible Not for Profit avenues. If you are, or know an attorney or CPA with this expertise and would like to help with this process, please contact me or any member of the Bemud Family Board of Directors. Compensation for this work has been approved by the Board. Thank you for considering this and sharing your skills and talents with your extended family.

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