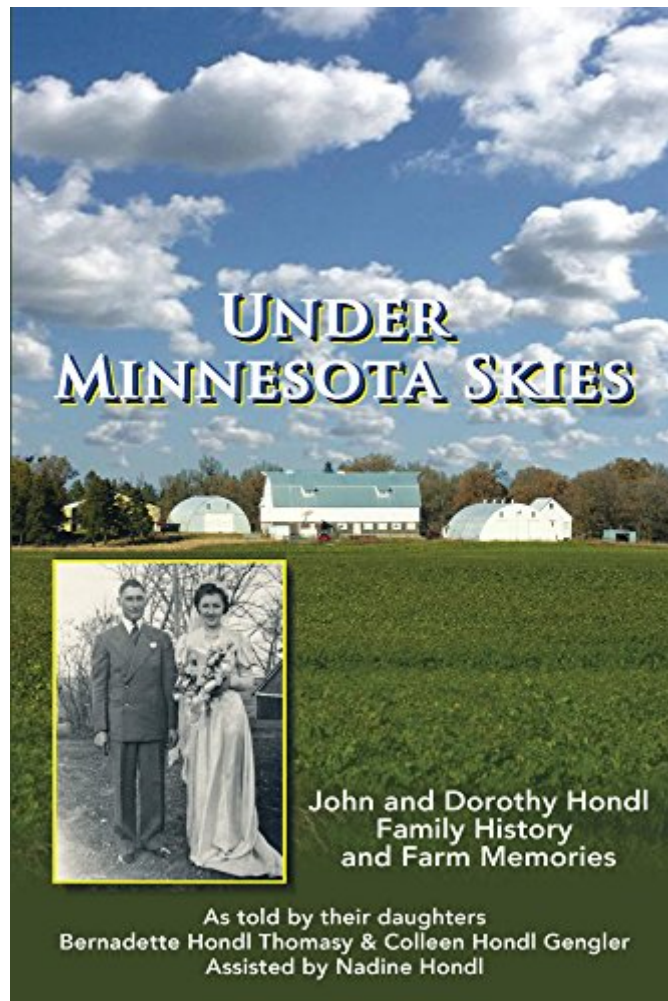


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Under Minnesota Skies: John And Dorothy Hondl Family History And Farm Memories



Synopsis

Under Minnesota Skies is a lively telling of stories from several generations and a memoir of three daughters growing up on a farm near Owatonna, Minnesota in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Inspired by their father's love for the 394-acre farm that has been in the family for more than a century, the authors search for their immigrant ancestors to gain greater understanding of their own family traditions, foods and work ethic. Are they Czech or German? Who influenced the family to change from dairy to beef cattle? Does their father really need boys to help run the farm? Answers emerge as the family goes from farming with horses to using tractor power and new laborsaving machinery. The determined daughters tackle jobs mostly reserved for boys: loading hay and straw bales, feeding cattle and pigs and side-raking hay. As they build fences, pull weeds, paste Green Stamps and take Sunday drives, the daughters reveal the dust and sweat endured along with the lessons learned and deep bonds achieved in a close-knit family working together to make a living from the land. Even if you don't have farm roots, this book's easy-to-read and thoughtful approach could be the spark that motivates you to write your own family stories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was my second purchase of Under Minnesota Skies as it is a book I wanted to share. It is the

kind of story that many people will enjoy reading. The best part is how well it is written. It is interesting, inspirational, entertaining and very pleasing to read. It will bring back childhood memories. You will also learn the unique and special Hondl family, multi-general story. It's history written in a most pleasing reading style. When I get one of the copies back it will go in a "Little Library". Who knows how many readers will enjoy it!

This could be the history of most Americans whose ancestors bravely found their way to America. We can all relate and be inspired to discover our own familial history. It also gives us great insight into the lives of the American farmer and respect for the lives they live to provide us with the basic necessities. They truly are the backbone of our country.

Every midwesterner has a family story. Most of them begin in the mid or late 1800's and involve an ethnic european resettlement to a small piece of farmland in Minnesota or the Dakotas. From there, some farms are lost or abandoned, but some survive and even flourish. All required incredible hard work and courage. This book is a wonderful telling of that story by the daughters of a successful family farmer, and includes their active participation in the farming process back when girls and women often did the work if there were no men, but were rarely recognized or written about. One of the authors is a retired journalist, and has trimmed a family saga down to a short and readable book that includes just enough historic pictures to give life to this farm family and the techniques used through the life of the land. Reading this book brought back long forgotten memories of the simplicity of small town life as a child in Minnesota. A great gift for any former or current small farming town inhabitant. Excellent bibliography.

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