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Preface

In writing *'Twas Home On The Range* I have attempted to record some pertinent family history as well as a brief record of our family life during the years we were growing up. It is also the story of a way of life that no longer exists, except in memory, for many of us who grew up on farms in the Midwest during the first half of this century. I feel certain that many of you will recall incidents that you would have liked to see included and that should be included. However, I was limited in my research because of the distance of my home from Kansas, the scene of the action. I was also limited in time in order to complete this narrative account for Mom and Dad's sixtieth wedding anniversary.

I want to express my special gratitude to Mom and Dad for the hours they spent recalling past events and dates in order to help me record our heritage. I see our heritage as something special that I do not wish to forget. I also want to thank my sisters and brothers for the encouragement and enthusiasm which helped me complete this project. The five days in Kansas in March that Mom, Dad, Margaret, Esther and I spent together recalled a lot of the material for this book. Some information was obtained from the *Mennonite Encyclopedia*, *Mennonite Life* and the Loewen genealogy study done by Solomon Loewen.

A very special thank you goes to Ed and Denise who so patiently put up with my clutter and the urgency I felt to bring this project to completion. Without Ed's willing editing assistance and his choice of title for this book, this project would have been more difficult.

I would encourage each of you to record the facts you recall that might make this book more complete. Perhaps someday a more detailed account can be compiled that will help preserve the fond memories of our family life on the Kansas prairies.

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