

Robert Jacob Jamsa

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## **Robert Jamsa: Aged to Perfection**

Success comes from hard work. My great grandfather has always been a great inspiration to so many people. Many people grow up having everything handed to them, my grandfather worked for everything he had. He was a very admirable man.

Robert Jamsa was his name, he was born Oct 23, 1925 in Grand Forks, North Dakota. He died May 15, 2019 in the Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He was a farmer, a blacksmith, an auctioneer, miner, father, brother, son and husband and loved by so many.

Robert Jamsa had many memories of his youth. One great one was of The Sardis Elevator he and his brother Bernie would go to Devils Lake on the train from Sardis Elevator. The elevator man would wave his arms and the train would stop to pick up passengers if there were any. It was a freight train with one passenger car. A train also ran from Lakota to Bocket where he lived. There were no toilets on the train, so if you had to use the bathroom they had a hole you'd have to go in. My great grandfather remembers taking the train from Lakota to Blackberry to stay with his Uncle Bill.

Travel was difficult on land, there were not very many well built roads. My great grandfather had to go through traveling on horse a lot. Going anywhere, took time. My Great Grandpa would ride his horse to Bocket to play pool at Vibrals Pool

Hall. His horse's name was Molly and she was like a rocking horse, very smooth riding. It was about 5 miles long.

My Great Grandpa remembers a Native American came riding across the field and wanted to sell his horse to his Grandpa Henry. My great Grandpa paid less than \$10 for the horse and the Native American walked off. They don't even know where he came from, there was nothing close by.

His GrandFather built his own homestead in 1892, and lost the land during The Great Depression and Robert (my great grandpa) bought it back in 1970. He worked on redeveloping the land and owned it up to his death in 2019.

Waino Jamsa (Great Grandpa's dad) bought a team horse for him when he was 15 or 16 years old he paid \$250 for the bundle hauling team. One of the hired hands went into the barn and wanted to take Bob's team for hauling bundles. My great grandpa knew those were Bob's horses but he would not say anything to the hired hand. Bob later went to his mother and then told her so she talked with Grandpa and Bob that they got to drive his horses.

My great grandfather's family went to the Lutheran Church. Church was held only when the minister came around. Great Grandpa Henry Jamsa was a lay minister. If the regular minister couldn't make it, Grandpa would give a sermon. Bob says he remembers that Henry was a very boring speaker.

“Sauna” is the word used to describe the Finnish practice of bathing through heat, sweat, and steam, and the building in which this bathing takes place. Sauna was a time to get together and visit. Family and neighbors would usually gather every Saturday evening for a sauna and coffee. Sauna has been practiced for centuries in Finland, and Finnish immigrants.

Robert had finished 10th grade and then worked on the family farm with his dad for two years before he joined the army. Robert Jacob Jamsa enlisted in the army during World War II on August 11, 1944. He and his brother Bernie enlisted together. He first went to “Camp Robinson” for 17 weeks. He was then shipped overseas on the “Queen Elizabeth Ship” at the time of the “Battle of Bulge”. It took five days to get to Glasgow, Scotland, where they first landed. They then went by train to Southampton, England. For two days they traveled the English Channel by ship and landed in Le Havre, France. He served in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaign during World War II. They met the Russian Army on the Elbe River about 30 miles from Berlin.

Family is important to all of us. The relationship with grandparents is really important. I’m very grateful I got to learn about my Great Grandfather and some of his great memories. I look forward to seeing him again someday.