

Concerning the date of organization and naming of Lammers Township

There are conflicting reports for the date of organization of Lammers Township. The booklet, "A Brief History of Beltrami County" by Charles W. Vandersluis, gives the date as October 5, 1908 (p. 27). The announcement for the recent Solway Anniversary Celebration gave 1908-2008 (100 years) as the age of the township. In the book, "Up North: Beltrami County's Townships" by Louis Marchand, it is stated that Lammers was organized in 1903 (p. 39). In the book, "Lest We Forget: Lammers and Solway" by Jo Johnson, the date of organization is given as October 5, 1898 (pages of the book are un-numbered but the date is found in a section with the heading "Beltrami County"). I would like to present a clarification of this question. The following information is from the records of Beltrami County Commissioners meetings. The records are kept in the County Administration Building in Bemidji.

On October 5, 1898, the Board of Commissioners of Beltrami County met at a Special Meeting. Among the items of business transacted was approval of a petition by the residents for organization of township 147 range 35. The minutes of the meeting state: "Resolved, that government township 147 range 35 be and the same is organized into a township under the provisions of Chapter 10 of the Statutes of the State of Minnesota relative to township organization, that it is named Solway, and the first election in said township is hereby set for Tuesday, October 18, 1898, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and the place of said election is hereby fixed at the store of Lammers Bros. in the townsite of Solway in said township." From this it is clear that the township was organized on October 5, 1898.

The special meeting of the Board of Commissioners continued the next day (October 6th) and at that time the name of the township was changed from Solway to Lammers. This change was necessary because there already was a township named Solway in the state of Minnesota. (There is a Solway township in St. Louis County.) Three other townships (Grant Valley, Nebish, and Turtle River) also were organized at the October 5th meeting.

-Roy A. Johnson, 4 Jul 2008