Peter Holst Westergard was born 5 Sep. 1874 at Plain City, Utah. His parents were James Christian and Mary Holst Westergard. There were 6 children in the family—4 boys and 2 girls.

Pete’s father was a blacksmith and a farmer. Pete grew up in the area and he had only 3 years of schooling.

Pete and his friend Cal Zitting, rode their horses to Idaho to find work in 1897. It took them about 10 days to reach Idaho Falls. Pete found a job doing farm work for Eli McIntire who lived in Grant. He work for him for about 3 years while Mr. McIntire went on a mission. At the end of the mission Pete returned to Utah and worked in a brick yard. He returned to Idaho early in the spring of 1904. Pete worked for the Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. Planting sugar beets for many beet growers of this area. After the beets were planted he then did the cultivating during the summer.

Sarah Adell Denning was born 28 July 1884 to James Henry Denning, Sr. And Rosanna Williams Denning in Malad, Idaho.

Sarah’s father and uncles hauled freight from Corine, Utah to places in Idaho and Montana. It was while traveling through the Snake River Valley that her father became interested in the valley’s potential, and in 1884 took up a homestead. It was located 2 ½ miles south of Iona. He had a new log house nearly finished when he moved his family permanently from Malad in July, 1887. Sarah was 3 years old at the time.

One of the first Sunday Schools Sarah attended was in the home of Cadwallader Owens. The room was crowded and the younger children had to sit on the bed. Church services were held in Ole Olsen’s log house. Many of the families came in wagons with spring seats. Later, the old rock church was built and used for a school as well as for church. She attended school in the church, in top of the store building and finally in the new brick school house.

Sarah was interested in following her mother’s footsteps and becoming a nurse but she met Peter Holst Westergard. After a short courtship they were married on 21 Dec. 1904 in the Logan LDS Temple.

In 1906 Pete and Sarah bought a 40 acre farm 2 miles south of Iona from Sarah’s father. Mr. Denning had homesteaded 160 acres of land in 1884. As some of his children got married he sold 4 of them each a 40 acre farm. As of this time (1984) 3 of the parcels (120 acres) still belong in the family.

Pete and Sarah were always active in church and community affairs and were good neighbors to all. Pete died 7 Oct. 1952. In later years Sarah was called on a Stake Mission. She was a member of the DUP and was the first captain of the James E. Steele Camp. She was also a member of the Iona Widows Book of Mormon Group. Sarah died 13 April 1972. Pete and Sarah are both buried in the Iona Cemetery.

Pete and Sarah have 6 children. 2 of the children, LaVerl and Gilbert, died. LaVerl, the oldest, was sickly for a long time (heart trouble) and he died at the age of 6. Gilbert was operated on for appendicitis. He recovered and was soon back to school. One evening after school some larger boys and Gilbert scuffled over his baseball bat. The bat hit him in the side where his
incision was. This hit ruptured his side and he got blood poisoning and died. LaVerl was born 3 March 1906. Gilbert was born 23 April 1909.

Riley was born 26 March 1913, married Iris Oswald. Eldon born 29 August 1915, married Bernice Judd. He was a school teacher and is a Farm Home Loan Manager. They live in Pocatello. Wanda born 27 Oct. 1917 married Daniel J. Letham. She attended BYU and they live in Driggs. Glen born 10 May 1922 married Thelda Hansen. He later married Ruby Willardson. He attended ISU and is a building contractor.

All the children have their mother’s maiden name of Denning for their middle name.

Typed into the computer 16 Dec. 2002 by Kathleen Jardine Woolf
Information taken from the Iona Centennial Book