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Otto Anderson

By Otto Anderson in 1911.

By oxteam 29 years ago. May 27 wee was prepared to leave oure Old Home in Township 115 Range 37, then Town of Hawk Creek Renville County Minn, where we first settled in 1869.

We arrived at then Village of Mardell, Griggs County, Territory of Dakota on or about June 5th 1882. About one mile futther to the S.E. on Sec 18 Town 146 Range 57, now Greenview Township Steele County, where a brother, Carl, had already taken up a claim, and then we was at the end of oure Jerney. Oldest brother ,Gustav had already taken up a claim~~on~~ on Sec 32 same township fall in the fakk before.

By Ox team! Yeas, by four young unbrokenOxens hitched to a canvass covered wagonin wheach was loded a breaking plow, a set of mason tools, a stove and some stovepipes, some kitchen utencils, some waring aperils and bed clothing, not over 1500 pounds in weight ,including the driver and his wife and three children. They caled us Home-seekers, but it seemed to me that then that wee was weeking away from a home instead. If aneyone in the company had aney-money aney money I do not know, but to all appearance they did not. I know I did not have aney. For it was then as now, money was for some people to, wish wish for and talk about, but not to have and kip.

I being at this time 21 an a half years old, Mother says to me, Otto you is now old enough to take up a claim on Government land. You can now go along if you like. Well! well, should I go along. My conclushon was to go along. If I did not like I had the promise to come back. But I did not come

bake to mother ,she had to come to me first. My duty on the trip was to chase cattles belonging to the parties in the company. And as I was walking all the way my booths(boots) by time of (end) was began to eat grass, but as booths has no digestion organs it did not do them aney good.

After wee got started wee did not stop mor then one night in aney one place. At night I was sleeping on the ground under the wagon. Getting oure meals three times a day, which was prepared by the womens of the company. And as peopla are the only animal that takes its food kooked, the stove was to be lifted from the wagon, and sat on the ground three times a day, and heated with fuel wee picked along the road as wee went on. Moving on about 20 or 25 miles a day, following the Fort Totten trail which then being a fairly good read