

Beattie Kenneth m ——— Michaelis, d. of Herman Michaelis

" dau Susan Ann  
" Carol Jean  
" Judy Bello  
son James Woodrow

had b + d, day of birth — in July 1951

Buy:  
Pawinton

{ Beier, Minnie Emma, 21, m. Dec 27, 1905, Ory Chas. Petzloff, 23  
m. At resid. of Fred Beier, Coptn.  
Witnesses { Rudolph Petzloff  
                  Amelia M. Beier

Beier, Fred

" ch - Emma - age 14 - Coptn Sch. Census - 1898

John — age 13 — " " " 1898

Amelia — age 11 — " " " 1898

Fred — age 9 — " " " 1898

Katie — age 7 — " " " 1898

Beers, Chas. — lived at or near Wimbledon — Left 1920,

Went to Muskogee Okla,

" " dau. Lois, works for Phillips Petr. Corp. of Bartlesville, Okla.

Beck, Carl R. and Sophie — Romness

" ch. Edith Wilhelmina — b. Dec 22, 1904 — Ringsaker Ch.

" female — b. Dec 22, 1904 — Judge's Office

Beck, Carl and Martha — Pilot Mound

" ch - Mayrtle Johanne — b. Nov 21, 1907 — Coop Luth Ch.

" Nov 21, 1907 — Carl Beck, Supervisor clerk - Confinement — boy girl Prim?

" Henry Oscar — b. Apr 30, 1905 — West Prairie Ch.

" male — b. Apr 30, 1905 — Judge's Office

Becker, Frank, <sup>9<sup>th</sup> Minn</sup> worked in Gr. Co several years at threshing etc

" " <sup>Cousin of</sup> ~~Maid~~ ~~Maid~~ Joseph Bednar.



of Minn. -  
Bednar, Joseph - Worked in L. Co, N. of Jessie 1928  
" " Cousin of Frank Becker

Behm, Carl and Marie nee Todtz - West of town  
" ch. Fredricka Henrietta, b. July 17, 1903, Ev. Luth Ch of 3rd  
" female - b. July 17, 1903 - Judge's office

Beaumont, Fred <sup>died?</sup> <sup>see under Spencer,</sup>  
" " ch. Rosella m. Spencer gr. dau. of Chas Marston  
" dau

*Lenora Twp*  
Belden, Mabel C, 19, m. Nov 13, 1904, Eben Gutormson, 31, *Lenora Twp*  
m. at home of bride's parents, R. H. Belden + wife.  
Witnesses { Mr. + Mrs. R. H. Belden  
Clara Feiring  
B. Gudmundsen  
James A. Ames and wife

Bennis, Byron M. (s. of Henry A.) b. Nov 2, 1883 in Barnes Co near Rugby ND.  
" " died June 17, 1958 - Heart - Cooperstown Cem.

Bennis, Melvin H. (son of Henry A.) taught in L. Co 1902 - 4

" " b. Jan 15, 1882 in Benson, Minn.

" " m. Mae Belton June 30, 1909 - No children

" b. May 1, 1874 near St Paul -

" died Mar 22, 1954, Burial at Cojita  
m 2nd, May 25, 57 (Mrs. Bessie Cashman (Wife) 2 boys + 1 girl)

" b. Apr 25, 1889 in Minn.

cl. w. 4



Advertise in  
The Times

ISSUED ONCE A WEEK

IS IT SO?

Former Hartford Preacher, now Out  
Writes for Information.

Verily, Dak., Jan. 31, 1910.

Editor: Having read in the papers of the severity of the winter with you, the raging blizzards, the deaths from freezing, the coal famine, and scarcity of food and flour, and having many friends there, I am writing you for the real honest truth of the matter, knowing that it would be impossible for you to tell it otherwise than it is. Is it really true that the snow was so deep that your esteemed assistant could not get out to church and that Ur Amidon had to tunnel across the street or miss the services; that Dr. Rogers could not get down town before breakfast and that he and Col. Brink were actually unable to get together for forty-eight hours, and that the bunch of yarn spinners failed to congregate for two consecutive evenings at their wonted haunt, the jewelry store, while J. C. Denison was compelled to forego the lifelong habit of going down to work? Was it indeed so cold that one of Nathan Mercer's stories got frozen in mid-air, while Fred Durkee and Frank Buchanan could not get their fingers warm enough to play checkers; and is it a fact that Ma Wiley couldn't bake her apples? Did Al Schroeder have to build a fire under his cows to thaw them out before he could milk them, and did the Universalist minister have to preach a sermon on hell to keep his congregation from freezing to death? Is it true that the wind blew so hard that it took Wallie Melcher's whiskers off and made Frank Day drop a big wad; and did it blow the respective and respectable editors of The Times and Press into each other's arms so naturally that they had to apply to the divorce court for a separation?

Is it so that the howling of the blizzard sent Fred Rhodes out scantily clad, thinking he was hot on the trail of a Dakota coyote, while Dr. Benson actually went down town on a run

thinking it the dying wail of some neglected subject for humane work? Did the frosty walks crack so loudly that C. W. Sayles imagined he saw the smoke-obtained and powder-burned face of a preacher and begin to hunt for an ambulance and stretcher? Is it so that the price of coal got so high that they had to call out the hook and ladder company every time a citizen wanted any?

All of the above unconfirmed rumors naturally cause us out here in this mild climate and land of abundance of fuel for the asking to feel very solicitous for your safety. In conclusion I might add that to-day walking along Main St. I saw merchants lower their awnings to protect their stores from the beating rays of the sun, that men sat about in their shirt sleeves and fanned themselves with their overshoes, which have been useless for anything else here. Last night the wind began to blow from the east and we were fearful for the results as coming from the frozen regions to the east of us as it might damage our banana crop, but to-day a "chinook" came out, seized the east wind by the collar and the east end of its pantaloons and hurled it back to the land from which it came.

Kindly let us know the real conditions there and if relief work is needed we shall hasten to do our part. Until then, I am,

Yours from the land of sunshine,  
Benj. Babcock.

Yea, verily, Rev. Brother, all this and more, for the worst is yet to come that you have not heard. One of our Methodist sisters had intended to write but her tongue has been so dry all winter from the absence of ozone in the house that she couldn't lick a stamp or her young hopeful of a tender age, and Dr. Wright stayed at home one whole day when he saw his shadow froze in the walk going to his barn. Geo. Harter had an immense snow bank in the rear of his house, but being an expert in over coming difficulties erected a derrick by which he drew himself over the bank rather than go to the trouble of shoveling it away. The drivers of testing machines, of the Kissel Motor Car Co. have had much enjoyment lately in racing on the mill pond, but the snow is so deep that only the head of the drivers can be seen while the snow flies in silvery clouds, but it serves as a great advertisement for the company as their notors are the only ones in existence that are able to bear such a strain.

Hartford is a wonderful place this winter, and thrilling narratives could be told of the doings here did space permit, but as it is you had better make a trip down and see for yourself.



# TELLS OF HIS WESTERN HOME

Rev. Babcock Gives Another Interesting Description of North Dakota Life.

## MUCH WORK AND HARDSHIPS

The following extract from a letter written by Rev. Benj. Babcock, formerly pastor of the M. E. Church in this city, to Editor A. J. Benjamin, of the Wisconsin Christian Advocate, was published in the September number of that paper, and as a letter written by him last February. to THE TIMES was received with much favor, we feel assured that further news from the same source will be equally interesting to our readers:

DEAR BROTHER BENJAMIN:

As you know, we came here to accomplish the double purpose of serving the Lord and proving up on a claim; the latter by way of assuring ourselves that old age would not find us entirely dependant. I had expected to be able to do both at once and so took a charge at Bowbells, twenty-five miles from our homestead on the same railroad as our own station, Ambrose. But the road to prosperity was not to be so easy. To begin with, as often happens when the railroad is completed, the town was located three miles east of the place where the people guessed that it would be and started a town, so the whole town moved, leaving us thirteen miles in the country. Then instead of a through train there was an all day effort to make 60 miles on an accommodation (?) train, and this left us ten miles from Bowbells to wait for another train at midnight, so it would take three or four days out of every week to go and come; and then to cap the climax, the winter was so severe that for weeks no train came thro' on the Flaxton branch of the Soo, so we camped in Bowbells all winter, and got onto the claim only last May. This means that we must stay fourteen months instead of eight, as if one does not establish his residence on the land during the first six months he does not get the benefit of that period as "constructive residence." When finally we saw the snowbanks melting we packed up a few of our things, stored away the rest and came out to our prairie home, a shack 14x16 feet, with tar roof. Concerning claim life it can be summoned up about this way: You pay dearly for your quarter section of land before you have your patent. Many of my experiences while hauling out our carload of stuff from the town are humorous enough now that they are past, but at the time they did not excite me to much mirth. With a four horse team I have been stuck in an alkali slough and had the "leads" break loose, so that the only thing to do was

24, 1907.

to pull off my footgear, roll up my trousers and wade into the ice covered water to hitch them on again. One night in the same slough I spent between two and three hours trying to get my load out. Finally, after carrying out on my back nearly the entire cargo of my prairie schooner, we got the rest to shore. I have been lost on the prairie, missing the trail by only a few rods. Have slept in hay stacks, vacant shacks and barns. Have worked eighteen hours per day many times, tired my horse out so that we had to stop for the night. Have had the wind strip all the tar paper from the roof so that the rain would pour down and soak our beds, and in fact have undergone almost everything. The same night while I was trying to get thro' the slough of despond the wind carried off our tar paper. It was Saturday night and at midnight just as I had eaten my supper and turned in, it began to rain. We put up a waterproof robe for a canopy to our bed and slept for a spell, but soon the water found its way down to us. It was a scramble to find a dry spot and finally at four o'clock Sunday morning, with no sign of abating floods, I crawled out on the roof and laid a new coat of paper so the rest could sleep. It was a clear case of extricating something from the well. The winds, which seldom rest or seldom stay in the same quarter for two successive days, are nerve wrecking if one has any fear of storms at all. The shacks will shake and tremble, the roof teeter, dishes rattle and destruction seem imminent, but few accidents do occur.

We live on the main trail from Ambrose, the nearest railway station from which settlers can reach the newly opened lands in northeastern Montana and southern Canada, and every day sees heavily loaded teams hauling across with their loads of immigrant goods. The ox team is much in evidence and the patient animals have made the west greatly their debtors. The mule plays his part too, and horses with heads hanging low and feet wearily dragging, tell the story of the hardship to man and beast in the seeking out of a new home. Many of these go out as far as seventy miles from the railroad. These frontiersmen of today may not endure as great hardships as did our forefathers in Wisconsin but these prairie shacks know many a secret of great suffering and privation. During the winter when the blizzard howls and seeks out the crevices in the well-sodded shack, there are no logs to roll to a fireplace and no nearby trees to replenish the

wood pile, but we burn lignite coal, wondering how soon we can get more from the mines forty miles away. This coal is a blessing to the settlers, as it is cheap and very plentiful in many places, but it burns rapidly. Last winter we burned a ton every ten days in two stoves, but here it was as high as \$15 per ton, \$2 for coal and the rest for hauling. Country stores are quite plentiful, so actual want of food is not so prevalent as might be imagined, but the money is not so plentiful as most of the people are poor and the country being so new affords no chances of employment. Money loans regularly at 12% and then the banks generally demand a bonus of from 10 to 25%, which, though illegal, is yet forced from the poor settlers who must give a preliminary mortgage on their claims, another illegal proceeding. Young men keeping "bachelors' hall" and young women braving the wilds are the most common of the citizens of this land and married men with families are quite scarce. This means, of course, that there are few here who actually intend to make a permanent home, but we will prove up and "go back home again." We have plenty of neighbors here but they are thinning out some now. We have several permanent families however. I have found a family here which was formerly on my charge at Florence, Wis., and regular attendants at the services. Another Lawrence schoolmate is not far from here on a claim, Frank Rau, of Seymour.

Yours truly,

B. BABCOCK.



Rev. James H. Baldwin

James H. Baldwin was born in Spencertown, New York, in 1814. Receiving his preliminary training for college at Stockbridge, Mass., he came west for his collegiate and theological courses at Oberlin, Ohio, and still farther west to begin his ministry. He commenced preaching as a licentiate in the Virginia settlement in McHenry county, Illinois, and after a year, became the minister of what is now the Presbyterian church of Ridgefield, Illinois. There he was ordained by the Ottawa Presbytery February 10, 1847. He remained here seven years, when failing health compelled him to give up preaching for a time. On regaining health he went to Wisconsin, where he worked at Baldwin, Black River Falls, Prescott and other places.

In the winter of 1878-1879, after correspondence with Rev. Mr. Stevens, pastor of the Presbyterian church of Fargo, Mr. Baldwin came to North Dakota as an exploring and organizing missionary between Fargo and Jamestown. With one exception Mr. Baldwin was the only English speaking preacher there. At that time Mapleton, Casselton, Wheatland, Valley City and Jamestown were small villages. Jamestown was then a little old dilapidated shanty town, formerly a temporary terminus of the railroad, and which had received supplies for Fort Totten. He began preaching at Mapleton, Wheatland and Jamestown on Sunday and at Valley City during the week. The railroad furnished him a free pass, which continued for several years.

On Mr. Baldwin's first visit to Jamestown he secured the use of a small tarpaper covered shanty belonging to a young man who was teaching a subscription school for his first service, on condition of his furnishing his own fuel and light. He hired a boy to draw some wood and borrowed some lamps of neighbors. In the morning he had eight hearers, in the evening thirteen. The second service was held in the depot, and afterwards in a small room vacant for the winter. In the spring a small building just sheeted up, with not even the cracks battened, was used. Here the first Sunday school was organized. Mr. Baldwin organized Presbyterian churches at Jamestown, Wheatland (which contained a settlement of Scotch and Scotch-Irish from Canada), Tower City, Mapleton, Casselton and Buffalo. Sunday schools were organized at all these places. No organization was made at Valley City. The Congregationalists contested every Presbyterian organization.

After state supplies and pastors were secured for the towns on the main line, Mr. Baldwin established Presbyterian churches at Ayr, Page, Volgate, Broadlawn, Galesburg and Erie. In his work in Dakota Mr. Baldwin traveled over 50,000 miles, mostly on wheels and runners. In his travels he had several experiences in getting lost on the trackless prairies in winter.

During the last few years of his life he organized a church at Hannaford and at Baldwin, a place named in his honor. He preached at Mardell, and also at Riverside, but in neither of these places did he make a church organization. Mr. Baldwin died in Cooperstown May 7, 1902, in his eighty-eighth year.



## George H. Barnard

George H. Barnard, is a son of Deacon S. S. Barnard, a native of Oneida County N. Y., who in 1829 married Miss Mary E. Andrus, of Adams, Jefferson Co. N. Y. and moved to Michigan in 1837, where he became widely known as a prominent lumber manufacturer and dealer. He was treasurer of the National Aid Committee, which was formed to aid the "Free State" citizens of Kansas during their struggle to prevent slavery from being planted in their state and gave largely himself for the cause.

G. H. Barnard was born in Adams, Jefferson Co. N. Y. in 1832, and moved with his father's family to Michigan. He was educated in Detroit and resided there until 1852 when he went to California and engaged in ~~farm~~ mining for a number of years. In 1856 he returned to Detroit, establishing himself in mercantile and was married the same year to Miss Anna H. Rice, daughter of Dr. Justin Rice who built and owned the first steam saw mill in Michigan. In 1867 Mrs. Barnard died, leaving three children, daughters, the eldest of whom Miss Lina P. is now deputy Postmistress at Sanborn <sup>Ind.</sup> N. D.; the next eldest Mary C. is Postmistress of Cooperstown. In 1872

over



- 2 - Geo. H. Barnard

Mr Barnard married Miss Ada E. Brindle, of Detroit, an accomplished and most estimable lady, who lived only six months after their marriage. Miss Brindle was a niece of Capt. E. B. Hard, who founded the great North Chicago Rolling Mills Co., and the largest owner of steamboat and vessel property on the great lakes. In 1875, Mr. Barnard married Mrs. Nellie E. Rice, a widow of a brother of his first wife, and sister of the Cooper Brothers, who own the great Griggs County farm. He has two children by his present wife, a son born in Michigan, and a daughter born in Dakota.

Mr. Barnard came to Dakota in August 1880 for the benefit of his health, and to see the much talked of great wheat ~~areas~~ <sup>fields</sup> areas. He remained in north Dakota about four weeks, and returned to Michigan to close out his business there, and in April following settled on the land he now cultivates, about two miles east of the present site of Cooperstown. There were at that time four or five families in the county, while now less than three years later, the population is estimated to be 5,000, and a great many thousands of acres of land are under cultivation.



Mr. Barnard was the first Treasurer of Briggs County, the first Director of Schools for Cooperstown District, and the first Postmaster of Cooperstown. An experience of Mrs. Barnard's in January 1883, attracted much attention throughout the country. She started to return to her home from her neighbor's house, a distance of one mile, in a cutter, was overtaken by a blizzard and became lost on the prairie. When she knew that she was lost, with remarkable presence of mind, and almost without fear, though she knew that she must pass the night on the open prairie, she prepared to fight for her life. It was bitterly cold, mercury standing twenty below zero, and her only companion was her faithful horse. Spreading a blanket in a hole made in the deep snow by the floundering of her horse, she lay down upon it, and drew over her another blanket and robe, and very soon was buried by the drifting snow, so that she did not suffer greatly by the cold. When day dawned she found herself only a few minutes walk from her home, escaping with no greater injury than having the ends of two fingers slightly frosted.



G. W. Barnard

None of her friends were aware of her terrible exposure; had they been, quite probably some of them might have perished for her during that fearful night.

From, Atlas of Dakota, 1884 p 242



Oct. 23, 1913.

DAVID BARTLETT.

David Bartlett died on Oct 16 1913 at Newton Mass. where he had been taken to receive treatment. A year ago he was stricken with paralysis and confined to his home for several weeks. He was then removed to North Mass where he and Mrs. Bartlett took up their abode. Since that time Mr. Bartlett's condition gradually became worse.

Mr. Bartlett was one of Cooperstown's most promising business men, and a leader in matters ~~in~~ political.

Mr. B-- was born ~~at~~ &c. (Here follows this biography. You sent me two.) He was a man of deep convictions and was always a staunch supporter of the prohibition law, and will go down in the history of this community as a man of great influence for good.

Besides his wife Mr. Bartlett is survived by two brothers and other relatives, all of whom reside in the east. The funeral was held Oct 19, 1913 at Newton Mass.



David Bartlett

Filler for  
C.P. Dahl  
Page

David Bartlett was born at Lemorna, Maine on Oct. 23, 1855. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1876 and of the Law School there. He was admitted to practice in 1897, went to Colorado in 1880 and came to Cooperstown in 1883. Here he entered a partnership with Julius Stevens in law and real estate. He returned to Colorado for a time, but came back to Cooperstown in 1887, and here made his home.

Mr. Bartlett was president of the first baseball club in 1883, and a member of the first commercial club in 1888.

In state affairs Mr. Bartlett was a member of the North Dakota Constitutional Convention in 1889. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1900, 1902, and 1904. He was a member of the North Dakota Commission of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901, and of the Exposition at St. Louis in 1903.

Mr. Bartlett married Ella Trundy of Searsport, Maine on Feb. 5, 1994. She was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music.

Mr. Bartlett died Oct. 16, 1913 at Newton, Mass. following a stroke in 1912.

Mrs. Bartlett died in 1935 in Massachusetts. There were no children.



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*Mrs. Porterville*

DAVID BARTLETT  
\*\*\*\*\*

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He was survived by Mrs. Bartlett.



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Besides his wife, Mr. Bartlett was survived by two brothers and other relatives, all of whom reside in the east. The funeral was held Oct. 19, 1913 at Newton, Mass.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Griggs County Sentinel Courier, October 23, 1913

Cooperstown, North Dakota



## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

### James Bartron II

Mr. and Mrs. James Bartron II were the names of my grandparents. James Bartron II was born October 30, 1834 in Potter County, Pa., near Athens. He was married to Sarah Hulett near Winterburn.

He spent his boyhood and youth in this vicinity working on a farm and in different lumber mills. After his marriage he lived in Baltimore and also Williamsport superintending different saw mills in which fine lumber was made. Mr. and Mrs. Bartron were active in the city life of Baltimore and it was while here he was made a Knight Templar.

Hearing of obtaining land in the west by meeting certain small requirements he determined to gain some for himself and growing sons. So he left his wife and children in Waverly, New York and struck out for the west, going by rail to Bismarck. At that time the railroad extended to Dickinson. He arrived in Bismarck April 1, 1882. The trip was made by team to Coal Harbor, McLean County, sixty five miles north of Bismarck.

Five miles north of Coal Harbor this pioneer erected a log shack in township 147, section 11, range 84, and lived there alone three years. The shack was of logs and the roof of split poles and sod. All poles and logs were secured from the woods along the Missouri River which was just a few miles distant.

The family of this pioneer arrived in Bismarck in February 1885 on a cold bleak day. The ground was covered with snow and huge icicles hanging from the water wagons was quite a decided change from the mild climate of New York where green grass could be seen from under the snow, and the pioneer's family felt this change keenly.

The trip to the homestead north of Coal Harbor was made by three horses hitched to a covered wagon. The family endured intense suffering from the cold though stones were heated to keep them warm. It took several days to make the trip, driving a certain distance each day. This home to which the pioneer brought his wife, four sons and one daughter was located on the prairie where one could look miles and miles and see nothing but a rolling prairie with not a tree in sight. In order to have groves on these prairies the government gave the homesteaders a certain number of acres if they would plant tree claims. Year after year the pioneer, wife, and five children would plant small trees and the hot winds and drought would come and burn them all and not a patch of trees could be seen on any of the prairie.

For a season or two the men worked in a small sawmill on the river and as carpenters making lumber from cottonwood which was sold to the pioneers for shacks.

This pioneer was superintendent of Fort Stevenson for a while having been appointed by the Indian Agent at Fort Berthold to oversee the Indian School that was organized by the government at Fort Stevenson which the soldiers had recently abandoned.

In that locality to gain a large head of horses was the ambition of each homesteader and there were always lots of cowboys to break the bronchos. The pioneer's wife often remarked that she always had more cowboys to feed than her own family. In those days it was an unwritten law that all strangers were welcome at mealtime.

While there was an Indian school at Fort Stevenson medicine and doctors were easily gotten which made it so convenient for the settlers. Major Gifford, LeReaux, and C. A. Burton were the other superintendents at the Fort and C. A. Hall had Fort Berthold in charge. Later the Indians--Rees and Gros Ventres--were removed to Elbow Woods from Fort



James Bartron II (continued)

Berthold. Mr. Hall's son is still there.

The Indians were frequent visitors to the homestead, always begging for something to eat. The pioneer's wife, though never really afraid of them, yet had their former atrocities in her mind and would give them almost anything she had, such as loaves of bread and large pieces of pork or beef. One night a small band of Indians camped in the yard and they begged to have one of the dogs. The boys reluctantly gave the dog to the Indians and the mother of the boys asked what the Indians did with the dog. One of the boys said, "The last I saw of the dog a rope was put around its neck and there was an Indian at each end of the rope pulling it." "Oh, dear," the mother said with horror. "Are they going to eat it tonight?"

Venison was always easily secured as living so near the woods a great many deer were killed. At one time there were seven deer hanging up all dressed. There were no buffalo to be seen at this time though they were still numerous farther west near Dickinson, but their bones were found all over the prairies and Indian arrows could be found, several in a day, as these were what the Indians had killed the buffalo with. Large herds of beautiful fleet antelope could be seen but were very seldom killed as they roamed on the prairies and were very hard to get near enough to shoot them. For several summers picking up buffalo bones gave the pioneers a little money, as big and little would take a wagon and roam over the prairies picking up these white bleached bones. Then the men would take the load to Minot and sell it. Great stacks of the bones could be seen near the depot to be shipped to eastern points to be used in refining sugar. At one time the buffalo were so numerous that a very large herd of them crossed the Missouri while a steam boat was passing and stopped the steamboat. A few otter, mink and muskrats could be found in the near by creeks. Coyotes and wolves could be heard every winter night. Coyotes did not do very much damage though the dogs would be killed and eaten if they would chase the coyotes and get in a fight with them. Often young calves or colts would be taken by the wolves. The garter and blow snakes were often seen in the grass but were harmless.

Lack of school was felt by this family. The school term was usually held three or four months during the winter in Coal Harbor. The children usually managed to attend sometimes driving and other times staying in town and attending.

Year after year crops would be planted and the hot winds would burn them up. Besides the drought they had the prairie fires to contend with. Great huge masses of flames would sweep over the prairie burning everything before it, as soon as the grass began to dry which was in very early summer. The first thought of every pioneer was to plough fire breaks around the entire farm. At first one wide strip of ploughing was made but this was found insufficient as the fires would leap over creeks, roads or these strips so two strips of ploughing were made several rods apart and the grass burned between the two strips. When a fire was seen approaching by great leaps and bounds all hands would rush for sacks and pails of water, dousing the sacks into the water then whipping the fire until not a spark was left. Once a great fire was rushing toward the house, flames eight to ten feet high. Everything was carried out and placed near a spring. The little girl came out hugging her dolly thinking all would be well if



James Bartron II (continued)

became. Finally the little girl ran over to the neighbors but before anyone returned the Indian quietly put them away and left.

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This pioneer passed away February 1916 at Leeds and is now resting in the Cooperstown cemetery.

This is written by the pioneer's grand-daughter.

Homestead certificate No. 1597, application no. 1615. Northwest quarter of section 11 in township 147 north of range 84 west of the 5th principle meridian in North Dakota containing sixty acres. Recorded 21st day of October 1890. Signed by President Benjamin Harrison, Ellen Macfarland, Asst. Sec., J. R. Conewell, Recorder.

Mrs. James Bartron died April 17, 1918, in Seattle, Washington. She was born at Athens, Pennsylvania, September 22, 1842, and married January 18, 1866.

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## Biography of James Bartron II

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Hearing of obtaining land in the west by meeting certain small requirements he determined to gain some for himself and growing sons. So he left his wife and children in Waverly, New York and struck out for the west, going by rail to Bismarck. At that time the railroad extended to Dickinson. He arrived in Bismarck April 1, 1882. The trip was made by team to Coal Harbor, McLean County, sixty five miles north of Bismarck.

Five miles north of Coal Harbor this pioneer erected a log shack in township 147, section 11, range 84, and lived there alone three years. The shack was of logs and the roof of split poles and sod. All poles and logs were secured from the woods along the Missouri River. which was just a few miles distant.

The family of this pioneer arrived in Bismarck in February, 1885, on a cold bleak day. The ground was covered with snow and huge icicles hanging from the water wagons was quite a decided change from the mild climate of New York where green grass could be seen from under the snow, and the pioneer's family felt this change keenly.

The trip to the homestead north of Coal Harbor was made by three horses hitched to a covered wagon. The family endured intense suffering from the cold though stones were heated to keep them warm. It took several days to make the trip, driving a certain distance each day. This home to which the pioneer brought his wife, four sons and one daughter was located on the prairie where one could look miles and miles and see nothing but a rolling prairie with not a tree in sight. In order to have groves on these prairies the government gave the homesteaders a certain number of acres if they would plant tree claims. Year after year the pioneer, wife, and five children would plant small trees and the hot winds and drought would come and burn them all and not a patch of trees could be seen on any of the prairie.

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Venison was always easily secured as living so near the woods a great many deer were killed. At one time there were seven deer hanging up all dressed. There were no buffalo to be seen at this time though they were still numerous farther west near Dickinson, but their bones were found all over the prairies and Indian arrows could be found, several in a day, as these were what the Indians had killed the buffalo with. Large herds of beautiful fleet antelope could be seen but here very seldom killed as they roamed on the prairies and were very hard to get near enough to shoot them. For several summers picking up buffalo bones gave the pioneers a little money, as big and little would take a wagon and roam over the prairies picking up these white bleached bones. Then the men would take the load to Minot and sell it. Great stacks of the bones could be seen near the depot to be shipped to eastern points to be used in refining sugar. At one time the buffalo were so numerous that a very large herd of them crossed the Missouri while a steam boat was passing and stopped the steamboat. A few otter, mink and muskrats could be found in the near by creeks. Coyotes and wolves could be heard every winter night. Coyotes did not do very much damage though the dogs would be killed and eaten if they would chase the coyotes and get in a fight with them. Often young calves or colts would be taken by the wolves. The garter and blow snakes were often seen in the grass but were harmless.

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Homestead certificate No. 1597, application No. 1615. Northwest



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## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

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Patrick O'Connor the nearest neighbor was about two and a half miles away. They were of Irish descent of the lower class but proved to be kind neighbors. Peter Longbelle located a year or so later about a mile northwest of the homestead.

The farm machinery was very limited as everything had either to be brought by steamboat from Bismarck or carted by team a distance of sixty five miles to Coal Harbor from Bismarck.

The family lived on the homestead five years and then moved to Coal Harbor. Here the older boys engaged in driving mail routes. One from Washburn to Fort Berthold and the other from Coal Harbor by the way of Hancock to Washburn. Each took two days to make the trip. The pioneer had a blacksmith shop and was also engaged in farming. Coal Harbor was a small place boasting of one store and hotel combined, owned by George S. Robinson, he and his wife both English, a school, and five dwelling houses, also a log building built by Mr. Robinson for the accommodation of Indians, especially during wet weather. Also here the Indians were once greatest friends. Once when there was quite a large encampment of them in town some of the older ones invited all the town to one of their dances in this log building. After everyone was in two of the large husky Indians stationed themselves in the small doorway with tomahawks in their hands and after the Indian dance they made each one pay ten cents before they could leave. One quiet afternoon when only the pioneer's wife and daughter were in the house an old Indian by the name of Texas Joe walked into the house making himself perfectly at home. Soon he began to sharpen a butcher knife and a razor, the more he sharpened them the more nervous the pioneer's wife became. Finally the little girl ran over to the neighbors but before anyone returned the Indian quietly put them away and left.

While in Coal Harbor many were the various duties the pioneer and his wife had to perform. George S. Robinson lost their third child, a tiny baby. The pioneer made a little coffin out of rough lumber planing them as best he could. His wife lined it with cotton and white material and the baby was laid in it and buried a short distance from town. The father pronouncing a few words of benediction over the grave. The doctor lived twenty five miles away at Washburn and once when the pioneer's wife was very sick one of her sons rode horseback all one



James Bartron II (continued) 74

- night to go to Washburn and back to obtain medicine.
- After eight years residence in Coal Harbor the family moved to Bismarck to assure an education to the three younger children.
- The descendants of the pioneer are Herbert Bartron, Bowdoin, Mont., James Bartron, Neche, N. Dak., Verton Bartron, Douglas, N. Dak., Artley Bartron, Seattle, Washington, and Mrs. Walter J. Boughton, Cooperstown, N. Dak.
- This pioneer passed away February 1918 at Leeds and is now resting in the Cooperstown cemetery.
- This is written by the pioneer's grand-daughter.
- Homestead certificate No. 1527, application No. 1615. Northwest quarter of section 11 in township 147 north of range 84 west of the 5th principle meridian in North Dakota containing sixty acres. Recorded 21st day of October 1893. Signed by President Benjamin Harrison, Ellen Macfarland, Asst. Sec., J. F. Conewell, Recorder.
- Mrs. James Bartron died April 17, 1918 in Seattle Washington. She was born at Athens, Pennsylvania, September 23, 1842, and married January 13, 1863.

--Jean Bartron



## Amelia Becherl

Amelia Becherl was born in Germany in 1880. She came to the United States in 1882 in the fall with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Arndt. She had one sister and five brothers. They all settled at Casselton, N. Dak., but didn't stay too long. Then they came to a farm about 2½ miles south-west of Jessie and homesteaded at once.

They lived in a sod shanty and had a sod barn. In 1895 they built a new barn and in 1896 a new house, and in 1897 their new granary.

Amelia went to school at the McCulloch and Tweed schools. In 1909 she married John Becherl. They moved to Superior, Wis. There they had a confectionary store. In 1911 their first child (Myrtle) was born. She married ~~Mr.~~ Ben Kenninger.

From there they moved to a farm north of Jessie, and started to farm. They had two sons, Roy and Harry, and another daughter, Lillian, married Julius Sness.

Mr. & Mrs. Becherl farmed until he died in 1938. She then made her (over)



Emilia Beckel

home with her son Harry for four years.  
She now lives with her daughter,  
Mrs. Ben Kenninger.

From Tyrol School No. 1., scrap book (J.C.L.)



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From Tyrol School No. 1., Scrapbook (Y.C.L.)



Feb. 1928

How My Wife Saved My Life  
At Myrtle's Wedding.

The morning of the 15th of June dawned clear and bright. The year was 1909, a date long to be remembered. The birds were caroling their morning songs and the scent of the wild flowers was in the air. It promised to be a very happy <sup>day</sup> for all of us, for my daughter was to be married in the evening to Charles A. Porterville.

The wedding was to take place under a large spreading tree just in front of the house - a box elder my wife had brought from the river when it was but a tiny seedling. One hundred and fifty guests had been invited. A happy, but very busy



day was drawing to a close. The guests from a distance had begun to arrive. Melvin, my elder son with his bride whom we had never before seen had just come. The tables were set under the trees for the wedding supper and were to be lighted with Chinese lanterns. Place cards had been painted by a life long friend of the family.

While every one was enjoying himself with conversation and laughter as befitting a wedding, my younger son Byron with his lady drove up and offered to take me for a short ride. The car was well filled so I stood on the running board.

The lady who had my son for an escort was running the car and had not yet learned to



run it steadily. We were gliding along merrily in the cool of the evening and had gone half a mile when all at once without warning, just like going to sleep, I fell to the ground —

A blood vessel had bursted in my brain, paralyzing my right side. The young lady who had been driving the auto thought she was to blame for her wobbly driving and pillowing my head in her lap they drove to the house. All this time I was unconscious and can only imagine a dark cloud that over shadowed the wedding party as I was carried in and laid on the lounge.

My wife had always wanted to be a trained nurse — to follow the footsteps of



Eleza Ann Hadlock, her mother who had saved many a life and comforted many a home while pioneering in Minnesota and North Dakota when no doctor was to be had; but I prevented that laudable ambition by up and marrying her. What was she to do? There was a case that would tax the mind of the best of trained nurses. Just falling to the ground from an auto in motion could not produce results like this. He must have had a "stroke." In that case she must have ice. We were nine miles from Casperstown. None of the neighbors had put



57  
up any ice. Must Henry, once her beloved die at  
Myrtles wedding. God forbid! Hastening to the  
cellar she quickly returned with hands filled  
with ice dripping with salty water. This  
she packed around the base of his brain and  
phoned for the doctor. We had ordered a can  
of ice cream for the wedding feast - hence  
the ice.

Then came days of struggling back to life -  
days of intense suffering and anguish; when  
I could move my right side; when I could make  
my wants known by mumbled words; when  
I knew for the first time I had been paralyzed  
by struggling to my feet and came near knock-  
ing my wife through the window by falling



## Wallace H. Bemis -

Wallace H. Bemis lives on 145-62. He was born on a farm in Franklin Co, New York, in 1861. His father C. A. Bemis, was born at Malone, Franklin Co, N. Y. of English descent, who came to America in Colonial days. His father was a farmer throughout his life, and an early settler of Wisc, settling in Vernon Co, in 1864. His mother, nee Hulda Green, was born in Upper Canada, of Irish-German descent. Mr + Mrs. C. A. Bemis were married in New York, and had 12 children of which Wallace was the 11th.

Mr. Wallace Bemis was reared on the farm, and assisted with the work there and on account of the ill-health of the father most of the work of the farm was thrown upon the sons. At 21 he started farming for himself and rented the same farm his father conducted previously, and after the father's death in 1881, the support of the family devolved upon him. He operated the farm about 4 years and in 1887 went to Foster Co, North Dakota, and built a claim shanty, and with a team of horses, two colts, a wagon and a plow settled on his land, and lived there alone during the summer of that year, and was joined by his wife and family in the fall of 1887. He raised his first crop in 1888 and in 1889 raised wheat and oats, and in 1899 raised 11,000 bushels of grain. He lost his barn by prairie fire in 1894, and in 1895 his house and contents were destroyed by fire.



## W. W. Bemis

caused by a kerosene stove, the loss being about ~~600~~ ~~acres~~ dollars. He now has a farm of about 800 acres with 690 acres under cultivation and the rest of the land in grass and pasture. He has a complete set a good farm buildings (but is lacking a good stable) and all machinery for operating the farm, including a steam threshing outfit, nineteen horse power compound engine, and began operating the same in 1899. During the first years he hauled grain 22 miles to market, and fuel and supplies about the same distance, and Cooperstown was the nearest town, and many times he has experienced severe storms and fought prairie fires.

He was married in 1883 to Miss Ella Patterson, born in Vernon Co. Wisc., the daughter of E. O. Patterson, of Irish descent, and was a farmer. She taught school for many years in Wisc. They had 8 children: Charlie, Roy, Pearl, Allie, Hazel, Hilda, Russell & Lee all living. ~~But~~ but 2 oldest born in N. Dak.

Bibliog. Compend of Hist & Biog. - 1900 - p 1220 -  
Condensed.



George Olai Benson, Finley ND 1916

George Olai Benson is a photographer. He was born in Sulew, ytre Sogn on Sept 7, 1879. He came to America to 1900 to Sharon N. Dak. He lived there 4 years, has been a photographer in Finley N. Dak and in Sharon for 6 years. He is a very careful photographer.

Bibl - Transl. from Hans Jervell, 1916 - page 78.



## O.E. Bergstrom

O.E. Bergstrom, is assistant cashier in Bank of  
Pekin N.D. was born in Nelson Co. June 12, 1890. His father,  
Ole Bergstrom is from Vermeland, Sweden (He is bro. of  
Dr. Bergstrom of Co. 1st) His mother, Ella Hagen is from  
Trondelagen. They live in Pekin N.D. ~~He has been~~

He has been assistant cashier in the bank  
since 1910.

Bibl. Hans Jervell, 1916. p 17



## Ole C. Bjingstad

Ole C. Bjingstad, of Sec 32 Bergen, Twp, Steele Co, was born in Vardal, Kristian(stift) Norway, June 16, 1835. He was the only son born to Peter A. and Anne M. (Bjingstad) Bjingstad. His maternal grand father was part owner of the Bjingstad farm. The family, came to Trempealeau County Wisc, in 1866, where the father took a homestead. <sup>Ole C.</sup> He went to Dakota in the spring of 1881, with a party of homeseekers, and selected his homestead, which he took as a "squatter's claim" and the following fall filed thereon, and in the spring of 1882 took his parents to Dakota and they were established in a sod shanty 12X16 feet which with a small board shanty attached provided them shelter for 5 or 6 years.

Ole C. Bjingstad was married, 1888, to Miss Carrie L. Hillstad. Their children; Paul M., Laura M., Maria deceased Anna M., and Mabel C.

Bibl: Condensed from Compend of Hist & Bio, 1900, p 672.



Paul M. Bjungstad, Finley, N.D.

Paul M. Bjungstad is a farmer, born in Steele County N.D. of Norwegian ancestry. His father Ole C. Bjungstad was from Tøten and his mother was Karen Hilstad from Ringsaker. He is an officer in the Sons of Norway Lodge "Norman" in Finley N.D.

Bibl: Transl. from Hans Jervell, 1916, p. 140.



## C. E. Blackwell

C. E. Blackwell of the firm of Edward and Blackwell lumber dealers, was born in Waukesha County, Wis. in 1849 where he was brought up and received his early training in the common schools. At manhood he followed the lumber business, buying lumber at different places and shipping into Kansas, where he was connected with the Kansas Lumber Company for some time. In February, 1885, he came to Dakota and settled in Valley City. Mr. W. C. Edwards, of St Paul is the other member of the firm.

Bibl: Atlas of Dakota, 1884, p 234.



## Charles E. Blackwell -

Charles E. Blackwell, a lumber dealer at Copperstown, was born in Waukesha, Wisc. in Nov. 1849.

His father, Charles Blackwell, born in New York moved to Wisc. in early '40's and there married Jane Moon. Charles, Sr., followed the wheelwright's trade until May 1, 1864 when he enlisted in Co B, 39th Wisc. Vol. Inf. He went south with his company and died on active duty the following August.

Charles E. Blackwell, also enlisted, on May 1, 1864, when less than 15 years, as a drummer in the same regiment to which his father belonged. He was mustered in at Milwaukee and was sent to Memphis, Tenn., where the regiment under command of Col. Butterick, remained until fall, when the troops were returned to Wisc. and Mr. Blackwell was honorably discharged on Sept. 1.

In Nov. 1873 Mr. Blackwell was married to Miss Carolyn Ross, a native of Wisc. and daughter of H. J. Ross. Their children<sup>2</sup> Charles H., Ada married Alexander S. Anderson, of Chicago; Hiram M. a lumber merchant of Broadville, Mont.

Bibl: Condensed from Counsberry Vol. III <sup>(1917)</sup> p 209



CHARLES E. BLACKWELL.

*From Compendium of N.D.*

Charles E. Blackwell, a lumber dealer of Cooperstown, was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, in November, 1849. His father, Charles Blackwell, a native of New York, removed to Wisconsin in the early '40s and there married Miss Jane Moon. He followed the wheelwright's trade until the 1st of May, 1864, when he enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming first lieutenant of Company B, Thirty-ninth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. With his command he went south and died while engaged in active duty in the following August.

Charles E. Blackwell, the eldest in a family of four children, acquired his early education in the public schools of Waukon, Wisconsin, and on the 1st of May, 1864, when a youth of less than fifteen years, he, too, offered his services to his country, joining the same regiment to which his father belonged, as a drummer. He was mustered in at Milwaukee and was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, where the regiment under command of Colonel Butterick remained until the fall, when the troops were returned to Wisconsin and Mr. Blackwell was honorably discharged at Milwaukee on the 1st of September. His father had been one of the organizers of the regiment and Mr. Blackwell was anxious to become a soldier, having played the drum at war meetings where recruiting was going on. He established a boys' band of four drums and one of his companions enlisted at the same time as Mr. Blackwell, who at that date was a youth of but fourteen years and five months.

In November, 1873, Mr. Blackwell was married to Miss Carolyn Ross, a native of Wisconsin and a daughter of H.J. Ross. Their children are: Charles H., now a resident of Seattle, Washington; Ada, the wife of Alexander S. Anderson, of Chicago; and Hiram M., a lumber merchant of Broadville, Montana.

Mr. Blackwell is identified with the Grand Army of the Republic and there are few men of his years who have the right to wear the little bronze button that proclaims service in defense of the Union. He is both a York and Scottish Rite Mason, having been identified with the order for forty-three years, while for forty-two years he has been a Knight Templar. He has always been much interested in the cause of Masonry, exemplifying in his life the beneficent spirit and purpose of the craft.



## Edward Blackwell -

Edward Blackwell, manager of the Gull River Lumber Co. of Coopersstown, was born in Waukesha, Wisc, Aug. 25, 1863. His father, Chas Blackwell was born in New York and was a pioneer of southern Wisc. He was a soldier of the Civil War, and died in a hospital at Memphis, Tenn. Mrs. Chas Blackwell was Miss Jane Moon.

Edward Blackwell was youngest of 4 children - 2 boys, two girls - He was reared and educated at Waukesha Wisc. At 16 he went to Topeka, Kansas and worked for the Kansas Lumber Co. for 3 years, then returned to Wisc, then to Fergus Falls, Minn, where he worked for the John McCullough Lumber Co. about a year, then to Sanborn Dak, then to La Moure. He soon afterward traveled as lumber salesman through Nebraska, and in the spring of 1885 located at Coopersstown, accepting the position of manager for the Gull River Lumber Co. until present time.

Mr. Blackwell was married in St Clair Co. Michigan in 1887, to Miss Mary Davis, a daughter of William H. Davis, a farmer of that county.

They have two children Lillian and Ruth. He is a Mason, and A. O. U. H.

Bibliog: Condensed from Compend of Hist. + Biog<sup>1900</sup> p 276