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.

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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.

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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 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.

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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.

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.

--Jean Bartron

Biography of James Bartron II

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The winters were intensely cold and long and quantities of snow. Blizzard after blizzard. One instance was when the stock in the barn had no water for four days with the exception of some snow which was given them. Often during a blizzard they were not watered until the third day. Sometimes a rope would be attached to a person's waist or attached to the house and barn and in that way they would go to the suffering horses or cattle though this was not entirely safe as the snow was so suffocating and blinding it was not wise to venture out into it.

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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 ones 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.

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After eight years' residence in Coal Harbor, the family moved to Bismarck to secure an education for the three youngest children.

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"The trip to the bomestead north of Coal Harbor was made by three horses hitched to a covered wagon. The feasily endured intense suffering from the cold though stones were heated to keep them warm. It teck several days to make the trip, driving a certain distance each day. This home to which the pioneer brought his wife, four some and one daughter was located on the prairie where one could look miles and ailes and see nothing out a rolling prairie with not a tree in sight. In order to have groved on these Graifles the government gave the howestenders a certain number of zores if they would plant tree claims. Year after year the pioneer, wife, and five children would plant email, irees and the hot sinds and drought would come and burn thes 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 cawaili on the river and as carpanters making lumber from cottonwood which was sold to the pioneers for shacks.

This pioneer was superintendent of Fort Stovenson for a while having been appointed by the Indian Agent at Fort Berthold to overage 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 sach homesteader and there ware always lots of comboys to break the bronchos. The bioneer's wife often remarked that are always had more comboys to feed than her own family. In these days it was an upwritten law that all strangers were velocme at remitime.

"While there was an Indian school at Fort Risvanson medicine and doctors were easily gotton which made it so convenient for the settlers. Major difford, LeResur, and C. A. Surton were the other superintendents at the Fort and C. A. Hell had Fort Berthold in charge. Later the Indians-Ress and Gros Ventres-mere resoved to Bloom-Woods from Fort Berthold. Mr. Hall's son is still there.

The indians were frequent visitors to the homestead, siways begging for something to eat. The pioneer's wife, though never really aftaid of them, yet had their former strocities in her mind and would give them simost anything the had, such as loaves of bread and large picces of pork or beef. One alght a small band of indians camped in the yerd and they begged to have one of the dogs. The boys relectantly gave the dog to the indians and the mother of the boys taked what the indiens did with the dog. One of the boys esid, "The last I say of the dog a rose was put around its neck and there was an indian at each end of the rope pulling." "Oh, dear," the mother said with horror. "Are they going to est 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 buffelo to be seen at this time though they were still duserous farther west near Dickinson, but their bones ware found all over the preiries and Indian arrows could be found, several in a day, as these were what the Indiana had killed the buffelo with. Large hards of beautiful fleet entelope could be seen but were very seldem killed as they no ased on the prairies and were very hard to get near enough to shoot them. For several summers picking up buffelo bonce gave the ploneers 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 kinot and sell it. Great stacks of the bones could be seen near the depot to be shipped to eastera points to be used in refining sugar. At one time the Buffalo were so numerous that a very large herd of them croased the Missouri waile a steam boat pas passing and stopped the steamboat. A few otter, sink and muskrats could be found in the near by creeks. Coyotee and wolves could be heard every winter night. Coyetes did not do very such damage though the dogs would be killed and eaten if they would chase the ooy-otes and get in a fight with them. Often young calves or colts would be taken by the volves. The gerter and blow anakes 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 Ooal Harbor. The shildrem usually samaged to attend cometimes driving and other times staying in town and attending. Year after year crops would be planted and the het winds would burn

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

The winters were intensely cold and long and quantities of snow. Bligaard after bliasard. One instance was when the stock in the barn had no water for four days with the exception of some snow which was given them. Often during a blizzard they were not wetered until the third day. Sometimes a rope would be attached to a person's waist or attached

to the house and tern and in that way they could go to the suffering horses or cattle though this was not entirely safe as the snow was so sufforming and blinding it was not wise to venture out into it.

The fall that the pioneer and family left Coal Sarbor the sinter came on unexpectedly early. Just before Thankegiving a young boy about fifteen started scross the preirie with a flock of sheep to furthe Lake. A bliggerd came up and the boy was frozen to death and sost of the sheep were lost. Several different parties scarobes for his body but it could not be found. The next spring the pioneer's eldest con found parts of the body, parts that the volves had left. Stones had to be put in the coffin so the mother would not notice the lightness of weight at the funeral.

The trading in the winter time was done by harseback. Spring was anxiously waited for so as to get to town for same of the necessities. Coal and wood was easily secured from the Missouri Piver as there are great verues of lightse coal all along the eastern banks of the river. There is also a burning coal mine from which sucke can be seen issuing. The whole top is honeycombed where the coal has been burned. Further to the east, a distance from the river, buffelo chips were used for fuel though people would have yood from the river going a distance of iwenty siles and more. "Patrick O'Connor the nearest neighbor was about two and a balf ailes

"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 sile northwest of the hopestead.

The fars machinery was very limited as everything had either to be brought by steampost from Signarck or carted by team h distance of sizty five siles to Goal Harbor from Signarck.

"The family lived on the nonestead five years and then moved to Goal Harbor. Here the older boys engaged in driving mail routes. One from Mashburn to Fort Berthold and the other from Coal Marbor by the way of Hancock to Hashburn. Each took two days to make the trip. The pioneer had a blockswith shop and was also engaged in farming. Goal Marbor was a small place boasting of one store and hotel compined, owned by Seorge 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 Indiane, especially during wet weather. Also here the Indiana were once greatest friends. Once when there was quite a large encampoent of them in town come of the older once invited all the town to one of their dances in this log building. After everyone was in two of the large husky Indiana stationed themselves in the small Moorway with tomenewis in their bands and after the Indian dance they hads each one pay ten cents before they could leave. One quiet afternoon when only the pioneer's sife and daughter were in the house an old Indian by the name of Texas Jos walked into the house making nimeeif perfectly at Rome. Soon he began to sharpen a butcher knife and a razor, the more he sharpened them the more mervous the pioneer's sife became. Finally the little girl ran over to the neighbors but before enyone returned the Indian quistly put them away and left.

"while in Goal Harbor many were the various duties the plonger and dis wife had to perform. George 3. Nobinson lost their third child, s tiny baby. The plonger and a little coffin out of rough lugber planing them as best be could. His wife lined it with cotton and white material and the baby was laid in it and onried a short distance from town. The father pronouncing a featwords of benediction over the grave. The douter lived twenty five siles away at Washburn and once when the plonger's wife was very sick one of her some rode horseback all one

might to go to Weshburn and back to obtain medicine. After cight years residence in Ocal Harbor the family moved to Bissarck to because on education to the three younger children.

"The descendants of the pioneer are Herbert Bartron, Bowdoin, Sont., Jases Bartron, Noche, H. Dak., Werton Bartron, Bouglas, M. Dak., Artley Bartron, Seattle, Meshington, and Mrs. Malter J. Moughton, Cooperstown, N. Dak.

"This ploaser passed away February 1918 at Leeds and is now resting in the Cooperstawn cemetery.

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

"Monestead dertificate No. 1597, application No. 1615. Nerthwest guarter of section 11 in township 147 north of range 84 west of the 5th prin-ciple seridian in North Dakots containing sixty screes. Recorded 21st day of October 1886. Signed by President Senjamin Marrison, Filen Macfarland, Asst. Sec., J. F. Conewell, Recorder. "Mrs. James Bartron died April 17, 1918 in Scattle Washington. She was

born at Athens, Pennsylvania, September 38, 1842, and married Jacuary 18, 1966.

-Jean Bartron