

Biography of C. P. Bolkan

--Dorcas Bolkan,

*L. of Freeman Bolkan*  
*Written 1928*

C. P. Bolkan, early settler and pioneer of Griggs County, was born in 1854 near Trondhjem, Norway. In 1866 he came with his parents to America where they settled in Rock County, Wisconsin, about 25 miles south of Madison.

For nine years they resided here, until Mr. Bolkan moved to Iowa where his folks had gone a couple of years before. He stayed here five years, until 1880 when he came to North Dakota. Besides himself, he had two companions, John Dahl and Ole Havvick. They travelled by railroad to Fargo and then took a steamboat up to Caledonia, a small town one and a half miles from the Red River. In those days, Caledonia, although only having a few families, was the county seat of Trail County. Trail County, then, included Griggs and Steele too.

As there were no branches off the main railroad running through Fargo to Bismarck, the three men were forced to walk from Caledonia to the Sheyenne Valley, which was their destination. This distance was about sixty miles.

The country was thinly settled all over and on this side of what is now Portland, there were practically no inhabitants. In one instance, the men passed the last settler's shanty about noon and were forced to sleep out on the prairies. It was the last part of April and the ground was wet and slushy for there had just been a fierce snow storm. Besides, they had no blankets or overcoats, so altogether they spent a very disagreeable night. The next morning they set out on foot again and reached the hills of the Sheyenne Valley at about the place where the Arneson home east of Finley now is. However, they did not believe that they had reached The Sheyenne River, for they had been told that the country was very hilly and also that the timber was very thick. They soon met two men, though, and they were informed that they had reached their destination and that they were only one mile and a half from Mr. Opheim's claim, he being the first settler in the Sheyenne Valley.

The next thing these men did was to take out claims. Of course, the land was not surveyed so the only way by which they could have the land was to stay and live on it. All three of the men decided to stay and Mr. Bolkan took out his claim on Section 34 in Washburn Township or on the place where Chester Piatt now has his farm. In 1881 the land was surveyed and the claims officially recorded so after a couple of years the land was proved and Mr. Bolkan went out working during the summer and fall months. As there was very little work to be obtained around here, he went to farms around Valley City and Casselton.

In 1884 Mr. Bolkan was married to Pauline Spelde, one of the first schoolteachers around here. They have had nine sons, all of whom are living except one. They are: Rudolph, Freeman, Edwin, George, Alfred, Albert, Carl, and Peter.

The Bolkan family lived in several places before moving into the city of Cooperstown where they still reside. They came in here in 1907.



Biography of C. P. Bolkan  
--Dorcas Bolkan

Mr. and Mrs. Bolkan had five sons in the service during the World War. George, Edwin and Alfred were overseas and Carl And Albert in training here in the United States.

At the present time Mr. Bolkan is 74 years of age.



## C. P. Bolkan

Christopher P. Bolkan was the son of Peter and Annie Bolkan who were born and married in Norway—at Stordalen, Northern Trondhjem. In 1866 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bolkan with four sons and a daughter ~~moved~~ <sup>came</sup> to Oxfordville Wisconsin, and in 1873 he moved to North County Iowa and bought land there. Christopher (1854-1945) with John Dahl and Ole Havik came to Washburn Township in April 1880, looking for land. He selected his land on Sec. 34-146-58, in the Sheyenne River valley, and had a house and breaking wheel the surveyors came in July 1881.

In the winter of 1881-2 he taught a term of school for some children of pioneers in the Sheyenne River valley, before any formal school was organized in Griggs County. His pay was breakingly done for him by the parents of his pupils.

In 1884 C. P. Bolkan married Pauline (Lena) Spilde (1861-1930) She was the daughter of Paul Spilde of Dakota Iowa, and a sister of Mrs. ~~Spilde~~ Iver Seim.

To them were born eight sons. Of these, Willie died at 7, six served in W.W.I., Edwin is employed in the Griggs County court house, and 7 are living (1957).

Mr. Bolkan represented the 16th Legislative District in the first Legislative Session after North Dakota became a state.



Mrs. Porterville

## INCIDENTS of early GRIGGS COUNTY

When I came here in the spring of 1880 there was only the Opheim family that had spent the river in the valley, except a pair of hunters, Mr. and Mrs. Durban, who made their home about 10 miles farther up the valley, and only stayed there 2 or 3 years before they sold out. At that time there was a strip of vacant land of about 25 miles between the most westerly Goose River settlers and the Sheyenne valley and during the summer of 1880 all the people who came across the prairie from the east came to the river (Sheyenne) at the Omund Opheim place, and from there spread up and down the valley so that by fall the valley was filled a long way up into Nelson County, because they were all after water, wood and protection from the weather so there were no settlers on either side of the prairie until the spring of 1881.

As to stores I will say that Andrew Knutson started the first store in the fall of 1880 on his claim on Section 36 in the present Romness Tp., which is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile north of the Qualey bridge on the west side of the river, which he operated about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  years until the town of Mardell was started in the spring of 1882 on Section 13 in Washburn Tp. In this town of Mardell there were three stores, a blacksmith shop, a land office and a big hotel operated through the summer but when it was decided to vote in the fall to make Cooperstown the county seat, the town of Mardell died and some of the people moved to Hope and others to Cooperstown.

As to battlegrounds the only one I know of was located on the Ben Johnson farm north of the Opheim schoolhouse, where our pioneer road meandered between the graves for some distance but the only information I have is what Omund Opheim had gotten from a half-breed by name, Pete Grant, who with others were camping at Stump Lake in 1879 when Opheim was building his log cabin and on their way to Valley City the half-breeds stopped one night there. (at Opheim's). All that I can remember is that the fight had taken place 24 years previous to that time, which would be 1855,--that it was a fight between two bands of Indians, some may have been half-breeds, and that this Pete Grant was with one of the bands, and that he was 15 years old at the time and that he helped to take care of the ponies.

Now, it may be if you could see Nels Opheim who lives just east of the Lutheran parsonage that he could tell you more. And if you see John Johnson who lived 2 blocks east of Opheims' who helped break up the battlefield, perhaps he could tell you more. I know they found some things there.

Bibliography: Christopher Bolkan

from Hannah's notes.



DATA from

C.P. Bolkan----- Jan. 20, 1938

A pair of hunters and trappers, Mr. and Mrs. Du Andrew Durham, settled in the Romness neighborhood in 1879 and lived there several years before they disposed of their place, when they moved to Valley City. They even operated what was called a P.O. for a while. They lived in the woods near the river and the place is included in the Thompson farm lately.

The desirable places in the other six miles of the valley in Griggs and up thro' Nelson County was taken up pretty well during the summer of 1880. R.C. Cooper did some building and breaking and started his ranch on Section 26, Cooperstown Tp. in 1880 and somebody spent the next winter there, but possibly not the Cooper family. In 1882 when I was over there for the first time the Cooper family was living on section 34 about three-fourths mile S.W. of the ranch where they resided for many years before moving into town. As I have been told many of his hired men proved up on pre-emptions and turned them over to Cooper Brothers, so perhaps somebody claimed residence there as early as 1880. Outside of this possibility, I feel sure there were no settlers except those in the valley.

( Additional data )

( John Hanson Engen came to Washburn Tp. in 1881. )

Sverdrup Tp. in 1880

Arne Luckason  
John Atchison  
Alex Saunders  
Alex Chalmers  
Mathew Davidson

E. G. Fitch - E. G. Fitch

John Pates

(Lars Johnson came to Sverdrup in 1881).

N.B. Does Bolkan mean sections  
or 6 miles above?

C. J.



Account of pioneer days by C. P. Bolkan  
to Mrs. Claire Jackson.

When the river valley east of Cooperstown was first settled this was a part of Traill Co. In Jan. or Feb. 1881 the territorial legislature set apart about the western half of this county and called it Griggs Co. in honor of a Red River steamboat captain but it was not organized until the summer of 1882. At that time it included the present Steele Co. Rxxfalk

By fall in 1881 there were 6 or 7 families in the neighborhood who had children they wished could have a little schooling during the winter. But as there was no school organization nor teachers available they agreed among themselves to offer me the job. Though I was not prepared for a teacher I was glad to get a chance to earn my living and a little more for a while and accepted their offer and conducted what they called a school through Jan. Feb. and Mar. of 1882. Being that John Qualey had the biggest house, a two-story log cabin I think 14x16 feet with a lean to on one side. That side building was used as a school house. As I kept no record of anything I cannot give you exact information but I think there were about 15 pupils and they came from the Opheim and Johnson families on Sec 12 Township (Washburn) 146 R. 58.; the Arneson and Monson (Steele Co.) families, Sec. 6, T. 146, R. 57; John Qualey (Pommes) Sec. 36, T. 147, R. 58; Iver Seim (Steele Co) Sec 30, T. 147, R 57. There was an Olson family a little further north but I can not remember whether or not any one from there attended.

I boarded about 2 weeks with each family and the next summer they did a little breaking for me as pay. My memory is so faulty that I cannot remember all names and many have disappeared in one way or another, but there are a few left here such as Nels Arneson and it may be that his two sisters Mrs Ella bergstrom and Mrs Anna Mc Dermot now of Cooperstown also attended. I am not sure that John Johnson was one of them, but I think his two younger brothers Bernard and Carl were. Nels Qualey, Albert Monson, Mrs. Albert Monson, a Qualey girl, and Mary Seim, now Mrs Andrew Dahlin of Binford and Nels Opheim were in the bunch.

After Griggs Co. was organized about midsummer '82 there was a school district formed in the Mardell neighborhood that fall and the following winter Ole Serungard taught school in the log cabin (now standing on the Court House grounds) after the Opheim family had built their frame house.

I think the first school house in Washburn was built in '84 on or near the old Mardell town site a few rods south of the present Nels Arneson house. This was used for church meetings and other gatherings for many years. One of the early traveling preachers I remember hearing was a Rev. Lundebj at the home of John Torfin on what is now a Ueland farm  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of the bridge school house. This man traveled up and down the river country for several years but made his permanent home in S. W. Nelson Co. where he died in the late nineties. There were one or two preachers from the Goose River settlement who visited the early Griggs settlement, but as my memory fails me so sadly, I have no name for them.

I cannot give you any information about Lars Ulven as I did not know him and only saw him when I helped take care of him 1 or 2 nights when he was sick and delirious a short time before he died. It had been decided in some way to bury him at the Opheim place and I suppose this was an agreement between his sister and the Opheims and it may be that Nels Opheim heard something about him that I didn't but I thought he would be between 30 and 40..



As the pioneer trail from the east led right to Opheims house and everybody called there I think Nels Opheim, being much younger and probably has a better memory than I, could give you a little information about those early preachers and their doings. The Opheim home is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile due north of Marshall.

There was not a great variety of amusement the first years. As horses were scarce and no roads, most of the men made skis after the first bad snowstorm in Jan 1881 and they were used a great deal for several winters. I recall one nice Sunday we gathered at the Iver Seim place and spent the afternoon at the hill where we could have long smooth slides or as steep and rough as any one dared to use them. At this time there were 11 pairs of skis and several men and boys without, and the skis were busy all the time, and when anyone wanted to rest he could just watch the others slide and fall and that was just as much fun as sliding. Some times there were dancing parties put on in the crowded cabins with always coffee, lunch, and it also was a common practice to distribute a little alcohol or other hard liquor, which was appreciated by most of the men at that time. Then when a preacher came along they would go and listen to him, so they got along just as well as they do now.

Being as Nels Opheim has lived in Washburn since 1879 until now he could probably give you a little better detailed information. I moved away from there in 1902.

C. P. Bolkan  
1312, 7th St S., Fargo

P.S. Mr Opheim now resides just east of the First Lutheran Parsonage in Cooperstown.



## GRIGGS COUNTY PIONEER RECALLS FLOOD

Christopher Bollan, 83-year-old Griggs County pioneer, remembers when the Shyenne River seemed bigger than the Atlantic Ocean.

Born in Thronhjem, Norway, in 1854, Mr. Bollan made the Atlantic voyage with his parents in an old sailing vessel on rough seas. Passengers furnished bedding and cooked their own meals. Guards watched over the boat stoves so too many cooks wouldn't start a miniature civil war and spoil their respective broths. After eight weeks of sailing the boat docked at Quebec.

A tough place, the Atlantic Ocean, but a drop in the bucket contrasted with the Shyenne River, reminisces Bollan. He remembers his first voyage on that river—an involuntary one. Andrew Knutsen, a settler, hired Mr. Bollan to watch his store for several days in 1881. Before Mr. Knutsen returned from a mule-buying trip into Wisconsin, the snow melted, flooding the Shyenne valley for half a mile in some places.

One night Mr. Bollan awoke to find the store cellar flooded. What to do? He began to build a boat with store shelves and counters. Using a jack-knife and a monkey wrench he completed a box-like craft by morning. Leak-age spots were plugged with shoemaker's wax. He launched the S. S. Bollan and paddled about anxiously, but the water receded, saving the store from submersion. Periodically the settlers used the boat for river crossing and capturing a bit of Venetian atmosphere.

Of earlier episodes <sup>Mr.</sup> Bollan remembered ferrying across Lake Michigan to Milwaukee on all night trip. People and baggage were crammed into every corner <sup>so</sup> young Christopher crawled into a barrel and defied insomnia.

The Bollans went to Janesville, Wisc. where they lived for nine years, and then moved to Iowa farm. In 1880 young Bollan joined a wagon team bound for the Dakotas. On arriving he filed a claim six miles east of Cooperstown and built a log cabin. He walked 50 miles to Valley City. During the winter he trekked over the snow on homemade skis.



## CHANDLER COUNTY PIONEER RECALLS FLOOD

During the winter of 1881 a two-day blizzard covered the ground with four feet of snow. A neighbor, Lars Ulven, was caught in the storm while returning to his cabin, and spent a day and a half of aimless wandering. Though neighbors thawed out his frozen feet on finding him, gangrene poisoning soon took hold. No doctors were available, and two weeks later Mr. Ulven died. He was the first pioneer to be buried in this section.

In 1884 Mr. Bolkan married Pauline Slide. Eight of their nine boys are still living. They include Rudolph of Williston, Albert of Devils Lake, Freeman of Oberon, George of Oakland, California, Carl of Fargo, Alfred of Tolna, Edwin of Cooperstown and Peter, in southern Minnesota. William died at the age of six. In 1906 Mr. Bolkan quit farming and moved to Cooperstown, serving as mail carrier before retiring.

Bibliography: Edwin Bolkan  
Cooperstown, N.D.  
  
Judge W.H. Carleton  
Cooperstown, N.D.  
  
Christopher Bolkan  
Cooperstown, N.D.



Biography of Ole Bolkan  
--Mary Brosten

It was with a sinking heart and with a slight feeling of resentment mingled with curiosity that I began my work on this pioneer story. I approached my pioneer somewhat with awe for an individual who had endured all these hardships, all the inconveniences coupled with the probability of never seeing ones own people again, surely demands the highest respect and consideration we, as a present generation, can show them. All we need to do is but to glance around our community to see what they have accomplished. It remains with us to prove what we can do to match out intellect as well as abilities with theirs to show what we can accomplish.

The contents that follow express but in a meagre way what this worthy citizen has endured, has accomplished, and has acquired during his stay in our state, North Dakota.

Mr. Ole Bolkan was born on January 18th, 1849, in Stordalen, Northern Tronhjem, Norway. His mother's name was Annie Myr, his grandmother's on the mother's side was also Annie Myr, but the grandfather's name has been forgotten. Mr. Bolkan's father's name was Peter Bolkan. His grandfather's name on the father's side was Christopher Bolkan and his grandmother's name was Mollie Bolken.

Mr. Bolkan's father hearing glowing reports of America about what had been accomplished and might be accomplished, decided that the family could better itself by taking passage for this glorious country. Hardships were endured in Norway also, therefore Mr. Bolkan together with his father, his mother, and his three brothers, Christopher, Martin, and Gustav, and his sister, Anna Petrins, sailed for the United States in 1866. The whole family settled in Orfordville, Wisconsin, and lived there for seven years. Thinking they could better themselves, the family moved to Iowa, and there they bought land in Worth County, Northwood, Iowa.

Mr. Bolkan received interesting reports about North Dakota through his brother, Christopher, who came here in April, 1880. Being enthused over this information of North Dakota he decided to come out and get land. On October 1st, 1880, Mr. Bolkan came to Fargo having driven there with horses, two colts and one older team and in a covered wagon. He had then driven from Davenport, Iowa, covering a distance of 700 miles. Finding employment he hired out at the Dalrymple ranch near Casselton for \$70.00 per month with 2 horses and himself and worked there until it froze up. On November 14th he then started out for this locality where his brother, Christopher, already was living. After some debating as to which piece of land to "squat" on he settled in Section two on the northeast quarter as his homestead, and the southwest quarter he took as his tree claim. This was in Sverdrup township 145, Range 58 west. He did no building that fall but only cut logs for a cabin. He left here for Valley City again driving with a team and wagon where on December 24th he went by rail to Iowa where he was married on New Year's Day to Mary Everts of that state. She was only 19 years old when married and certainly it took a brave heart to go out in the wilderness knowing nothing of what the future had in store, but going blindly into hardships and difficulties, but hers was an unflinching nature and she showed no hesitance in her undertaking. Mr. Bolkan came back in the spring by railroad to Valley City, Mrs. Bolkan remaining with his parents for



2

Biography of Ole Bolkan  
--Mary Brosten

two months after he had left waiting until the cabin was ready.

At this time the mail for this locality was taken from Valley City which was the nearest railroad station, by a mail carrier with team and buggy to the Lee Post Office 15 miles from Mr. Bolkan's claim, so it was not uncommon for the pioneers not to get mail for weeks and weeks at a time. Therefore Mr. Bolkan did not receive the letter from Mrs. Bolkan telling she would arrive at a certain time. Bewildered and alarmed fearing there might have been an accident, yet determined to go on, she acted on her own accord, and hired a man to take her to Mr. Bolkan's claim. Traveling then was by means of a mere trail, not a highway, so it is little wonder when they approached a fork in the road they knew not which one to take. To make matters worse the driver decided he must return home. After due deliberation, Mrs. Bolkan chose one trail which eventually took her to an acquaintance of Mr. Bolkan's who directed her accordingly. Imagine Mr. Bolkan's surprise and joy when coming in the evening from haying and finding her already established in their little log cabin.

Mr. Bolkan sold his older horses shortly after coming here, so he had only the younger team left together with one breaking plow brought from Iowa. With this equipment he broke the land for his first year's crop which he seeded by hand. He broke land for 10 acres of oats and 5 acres of wheat which when harvest came he cut with a cradle. When we realize that one able man could lay only four acres of wheat in one long day in long even swaths, we can well appreciate what this undertaking meant to cut a total of 15 acres. The grain had to be bound by hand, which he did by twisting ends of grain together making a temporary knot, sufficiently strong to hold a good amount of grain, afterwards placing it in shocks and after that it was stacked as was the custom in Norway.

Fortunately a stranger came into the vicinity with a little threshing rig, crossing at Sibley's Crossing and threshing any grain pioneers might have. Although Mr. Bolkan was not at home at this time, he having gone out for fall's work, yet his wife managed it all very ably, and as a result he was 170 bushels of oats and 70 bushels of wheat richer. None of this grain was sold for the wheat was kept both for seed and to be ground into flour, the oats had not been threshed, but was fed to the horses in the bundle form. The bundles having to be chopped out of the snow and ice with an ax. His wheat he took to Valley City to be ground into flour. Cash charges were not common then, but the millers would take every eighth bushel of wheat for payment. Surely this custom must have been brought here by our immigrants, for it is again the old country method.

There was also a mill at Portland North Dakota, where Mr. Bolkan had wheat ground, but he said it was a question as to which one managed to give him back the least, in other words, who put the most in his own bin. The winter of 1880-1881 saw a very heavy snow which remained until April 14th before any melting took place. The snow was so hard that it carried even the weight of horses. The winter of 1881-1882 saw an early snow but it left again before Christmas.



Biography of Ole Bolkan  
--Mary Brosten

Mr. Bolkan bought his supplies which were rather few from Valley City, but they always had all necessities of life.

The log cabin which he built in the spring of 1881 was 18 ft. square, boasting even an upstairs, which meant a palace for the early pioneer days. This served as their dwelling house for many years.

In 1882 he broke 20 acres on his own land and by breaking land for other people he managed to earn extra money, not otherwise to be had. In the spring of 1882 he bought a seeder. This he hauled from Hope which was merely a railroad station then, the railroad having come there in 1882.

In the summer of the same year he also bought a binder in company with a neighbor. This machinery together with a harrow gave his sufficient working tools for some time. He gradually broke more land and expanded in general so it seemed but a matter of a few years until he had his land under cultivation.

There were four children born into the family, two who are living. Gustavus, the oldest, living now on Mr. Bolkan's homestead, and Angeline, Mrs. Olaf Syverson, living in the valley near the Sheyenne River about 2 miles from the homestead.

Mr. Bolkan did not experience the thrill of seeing "wild" Indians, but he did see some who traveled back and forth digging snake root, which they sold for medicinal purposes, also he saw some who canoed down the Sheyenne, whose waters were much larger than now. They traveled between Standing Rock, South Dakota, to Devils Lake, North Dakota, which was a reservation where the government had given them land. However, he did see the results of an interesting happening. Two Indian tribes who were enemies had been out hunting. They met and immediately a battle followed. Twenty-eight graves mark the place where this happened. These graves were very evident when Mr. Bolkan first came here. He personally counted the mounds, also a half breed who used to be a trapper, not taking active part in the battle but had been stationed in a ravine tending horses while the fight was on, told him.

It is Mr. Bolkan's belief that we can find Indian graves on top of the hills all along the Sheyenne River. He has seen parts of skeletons brought to Cooperstown found on Martin Ueland's farm, also on the Aarestad farm. Indians brought remains all the way from the Red River Valley to be buried here. Their belief was that the body would come to life again. This vicinity was considered a very fine hunting ground, therefore they buried their dead here, where upon awakening they should be happily surrounded, and dear to the heart of the Indians, hunting would be possible at once.

Much to his disappointment he did not see the buffalo herds, so much spoken of, but he said that further west in the state as well as in Montana they were plentiful, so much so that people were killing them merely for their hides.



# Biography of Ole Bolkan

## --Mary Brosten

An industry in which almost every pioneer assisted, including Mr. Solkan, was picking buffalo bones, which they then sold to agents in Cooperstown and they in turn shipped them to eastern markets to be ground up for fertilizer, and to be used in sugar refining. This proved very profitable to many, as the bones were very abundant, the entire skeleton being found frequently. Mr. Bolkan did not pick a great deal but received \$8.00 per ton for what he sold. He speak of one, Mr. Johnson, making a fortune for these days by merely picking buffalo bones. Mr. Bolkan told of a happening at this particular time which as interesting and which he knew was also picking bones. Unfortunately these bones were very dry and it took many many bones to make a ton.

This particular man decided to improve upon the method. One morning as the farmers were coming into town with their loads, this man also was in line. When it came his turn to weigh his load, it was found that he had 3 tons, while the others had scarcely one. They all were very much surprised to hear this, wondering how it could be possible. However, he himself let the cat out of the bag later on and they found out he had soaked the bones in water.

Sibley's trail which we all know after studying State History showed very plainly when Mr. Bolkan came here. Hauling provisions from Breckenridge to Devils Lake for the Indians was common and this trail was used. Sibley's crossing is about 18 miles south of Bolkan's claim. When he crossed here the first time he could not imagine what the high embankment of dirt was for but it was the breast works thrown up by Sibley's army when they camped there over night while on their way to fight the Indians along the Missouri.

Of all the hardships and obstacles met with in Mr. Bolkan's pioneer days the dry years from 1883 to 1888 were the most difficult. Finally in 1888 a bumper crop seemed to be coming again, the future seemed bright, and hopes for buying more land which would eventually bring returns were experienced especially, so when he had the opportunity of buying land adjoining his own for \$10.00 per acre and pay at any time convenient, when all was so encouraging a heavy frost came killing every spear of wheat he had so he did not harvest a kernel. In those days wheat was everything. To make matters worse, one of his two horses "committed suicide" by hanging himself in his halter while he and the other horse were helping the neighbors. All the rest put together did not begin to compare with this disappointment. Then he said it seemed he just had to give up, but somehow he overcame even this, he again mastered it and from then on times were not so bad.

Mr. Bolkan's stories were all so interesting I wish I might tell them all but it would make this too lengthy.

However, gradually times adjusted themselves and slowly improvements were made in machinery. Crops were fair so eventually they could build a better home and barn. Low prices for grain, hail, rust, droughts, and killing frosts have all been obstacles.



Biography of Ole Bolkan  
--Mary Brosten

killing frosts have all been obstacles met with in Mr. Bolkan's life, but he has been brave and kept on.

Unfortunately Mrs. Bolkan passed away in 1914 and since that time Mr. Bolkan has done little farming. He is now making his home with his daughter.

Mr. Bolkan was interested in improvements and education. He was the first member of the School Board of this district.

When seeing and talking with Mr. Bolkan one can very easily see the grim determination which must have been his, but which has now left him and instead he is enjoying life and nature in a quiet contented way for which he found little time while pioneering.



PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Ole Bolkan by Mary Brosten

It was with a sinking heart and with a slight feeling of resentment mingled with curiosity that I began my work on this pioneer story. I approached my pioneer somewhat with awe for an individual who had endured all these hardships, all the inconveniences coupled with the probability of never seeing ones own people again, surely demands the highest respect and consideration we, as a present generation, can show them. All we need to do is but to glance around our community to see what they have accomplished. It remains with us to prove what we can do to match out intellect as well as abilities with theirs to show what we can accomplish.

The contents that follow express but in a meagre way what this worthy citizen has endured, has accomplished, and has acquired during his stay in our state, North Dakota.

Mr. Ole Bolkan was born on January 18th, 1849, in Stordalen, Northern Trondhjem, Norway. His mother's name was Annie Myr, his grandmother's on the mother's side was also Annie Myr, but the grandfather's name has been forgotten. Mr. Bolkan's father's name was Peter Bolkan. His grandfather's name on the father's side was Christopher Bolkan and his grandmother's name was Mollie Bolkan.

Mr. Bolkan's father hearing glowing reports of America about what had been accomplished and might be accomplished, decided that the family could better itself by taking passage for this glorious country. Hardships were endured in Norway also, therefore Mr. Bolkan together with his father, his mother, and his three brothers, Christopher, Martin, and Gustav, and his sister, Anna Petrine, sailed for the United States in 1866. The whole family settled in Orfordville, Wisconsin, and lived there for seven years. Thinking they could better themselves, the family moved to Iowa, and there they bought land in Worth County, Northwood, Iowa.

Mr. Bolkan received interesting reports about North Dakota through his brother, Christopher, who came here in April 1880. Being enthused over this information of North Dakota he decided to come out and get land. On October 1st, 1880, Mr. Bolkan came to Fargo having driven there with horses, two colts and one older team and in a covered wagon. He had then driven from Davenport, Iowa, covering a distance of 700 miles. Finding employment he hired out at the Dalrymple ranch near Casselton for \$70.00 per month with 2 horses and himself and worked there until it froze up. On November 14th he then started out for this locality where his brother, Christopher, already was living. After some debating as to which piece of land to "squat" on he settled in Section two on the northeast quarter as his homestead, and the southwest quarter he took as his tree claim. This was in Everdrup township 145, Range 58 west. He did no building that fall but only cut logs for a cabin. He left here for Valley City again driving with a team and wagon where on December 24th he went by rail to Iowa where he was married on New Year's Day to Mary Everts of that state. She was only 19 years old when married and certainly it took a brave heart to go out in the wilderness knowing nothing of what the future had in store, but going blindly into hardships and difficulties, but here was an unflinching nature and she showed no hesitance in her undertaking. Mr. Bolkan came back in the spring by railroad to Valley City, Mrs. Bolkan remaining with his parents for two months after he had left waiting until the cabin was ready.

At this time the mail for this locality was taken from Valley City which



was the nearest railroad station, by a mail carrier with team and buggy to the Lee Post Office 15 miles from Mr. Bolkan's claim, so it was not uncommon for the pioneers not to get mail for weeks and weeks at a time. Therefore Mr. Bolkan did not receive the letter from Mrs. Bolkan telling she would arrive at a certain time. Bewildered and alarmed fearing there might have been an accident, yet determined to go on, she acted on her own accord, and hired a man to take her to Mr. Bolkan's claim. Traveling then was by means of a mere trail, not a highway, so it is little wonder when they approached a fork in the road they knew not which one to take. To make matters worse the driver decided he must return home. After due deliberation, Mrs. Bolkan chose one trail which eventually took her to an acquaintance of Mr. Bolkan's who directed her accordingly. Imagine Mr. Bolkan's surprise and joy when coming in the evening from haying and finding her already established in their little log cabin.

Mr. Bolkan sold his older horses shortly after coming here, so he had only the younger team left together with one breaking plow brought from Iowa. With this equipment he broke the land for his first year's crop which he seeded by hand. He broke land for 10 acres of oats and 5 acres of wheat which when harvest came he cut with a cradle. When we realize that one able man could lay only four acres of wheat in one land day in long even swaths, we can well appreciate what this undertaking meant to cut a total of 15 acres. The grain had to be bound by hand, which he did by twisting ends of grain together making a temporary knot, sufficiently strong to hold a good amount of grain, afterwards placing it in shocks and after that it was stacked as was the custom in Norway.

Fortunately a stranger came into the vicinity with a little threshing rig, crossing at Sibley's Crossing and threshing any grain pioneers might have. Although Mr. Bolkan was not at home at this time, he having gone out for fall's work, yet his wife managed it all very ably, and as a result he was 170 bushels of oats and 70 bushels of wheat richer. None of this grain was sold for the wheat was kept both for seed and to be ground into flour, the oats had not been threshed, but was fed to the horses in the bundle form. The bundles having to be chopped out of the snow and ice with an ax. His wheat he took to Valley City to be ground into flour. Cash charges were not common then, but the millers would take every eighth bushel of wheat for payment. Surely this custom must have been brought here by our immigrants, for it is again the old country method.

There was also a mill at Portlan, North Dakota, where Mr. Bolkan had wheat ground, but he said it was a question as to which one managed to give him back the least, in other words, who put the most in his own bin. The winter of 1880-1881 saw a very heavy snow which remained until April 14th before any melting took place. The snow was so hard that it carried even the weight of horses. The winter of 1881-1882 saw an early snow but it left again before Christmas.

Mr. Bolkan bought his supplies which were rather few from Valley City, but they always had all necessities of life.

The log cabin which he built in the spring of 1881 was 13 ft. square, boasting even an upstairs, which meant a palace for the early pioneer days. This served as their dwelling house for many years.

In 1882 he broke 20 acres on his own land and by breaking land for other people he managed to earn extra money, not otherwise to be had. In the spring of 1882 he bought a seeder. This he hauled from Hope which was merely a railroad station then, the railroad having come there in 1882.



### Ole Bolkan (continued) #3

In the summer of the same year he also bought a binder in company with a neighbor. This machinery together with a harrow gave him sufficient working tools for some time. He gradually broke more land and expanded in general so it seemed but a matter of a few years until he had his land under cultivation.

There were four children born into the family, two who are living. Gustavus, the oldest, living now on Mr. Bolkan's homestead, and Angeline, Mrs. Olaf Syverson, living in the valley near the Sheyenne River about 2 miles from the homestead.

Mr. Bolkan did not experience the thrill of seeing "wild" Indians, but he did see some who traveled back and forth digging snake root, which they sold for medicinal purposes, also he saw some who canoed down the Sheyenne, whose waters were much larger than now. They traveled between Standing Rock, South Dakota, to Devils Lake, North Dakota, which was a reservation where the government had given them land. However, he did see the results of an interesting happening. Two Indian tribes who were enemies had been out hunting. They met and immediately a battle followed. Twenty-eight graves mark the place where this happened. These graves were very evident when Mr. Bolkan first came here. He personally counted the mounds, also a half breed who used to be a trapper, not taking active part in the battle but had been stationed in a ravine tending horses while the fight was on, told him.

It is Mr. Bolkan's belief that we can find Indian graves on top of the hills all along the Sheyenne River. He has seen parts of skeletons brought to Cooperstown found on Martin Deland's farm, also on the Aarestad farm. Indians brought remains all the way from the Red River Valley to be buried here. Their belief was that the body would come to life again. This vicinity was considered a very fine hunting ground, therefore they buried their dead here, where upon awakening they should be happily surrounded, and dear to the heart of the Indians, hunting would be possible at once.

Much to his disappointment he did not see the buffalo herds, so much spoken of, but he said that further west in the state as well as in Montana they were plentiful, so much so that people were killing them merely for their hides.

An industry in which almost every pioneer assisted, including Mr. Bolkan, was picking buffalo bones, which they then sold to agents in Cooperstown and they in turn shipped them to eastern markets to be ground up for fertilizer, and to be used in sugar refining. This proved very profitable to many, as the bones were very abundant, the entire skeleton being found frequently. Mr. Bolkan did not pick a great deal but received \$8.00 per ton for what he sold. He spoke of one, Mr. Johnson, making a fortune for these days by merely picking buffalo bones. Mr. Bolkan told of a happening at this particular time which as interesting and which he knew was also picking bones. Unfortunately these bones were very dry and it took many many bones to make a ton.

This particular man decided to improve upon the method. One morning as the farmers were coming into town with their loads, this man also was in line. When it came his turn to weigh his load, it was found that he had 3 tons, while the others had scarcely one. They all were very much surprised to hear this, wondering how it could be possible. However, he himself let the cat out of the bag later on and they found out he had soaked the bones in water.

Sibley's trail which we all know after studying State History showed very plainly when Mr. Bolkan came here. Hauling provisions from Breckenridge to Devils Lake for the Indians was common and this trail was used.



#### Ole Bolkan (continued) #4

Sibley's crossing is about 18 miles south of Bolkan's claim. When he crossed here the first time he could not imagine what the high embankment of dirt was for but it was the breast works thrown up by Sibley's army when they camped there over night while on their way to fight the Indians along the Missouri.

Of all the hardships and obstacles met with in Mr. Bolkan's pioneer days the dry years from 1823 to 1833 were the most difficult. Finally in 1838 a bumper crop seemed to be coming again, the future seemed bright, and hopes for buying more land which would eventually bring returns were experienced especially, so when he had the opportunity of buying land adjoining his own for \$10.00 per acre and pay at any time convenient, when all was so encouraging a heavy frost came killing every spear of wheat he had so he did not harvest a kernel. In those days wheat was everything. To make matters worse, one of his two horses "committed suicide" by hanging himself in his halter while he and the other horse were helping the neighbors. All the rest put together did not begin to compare with this disappointment. Then he said it seemed he just had to give up, but somehow he overcame even this, he again mastered it and from then on times were not so bad.

Mr. Bolkan's stories were all so interesting I wish I might tell them all but it would make this too lengthy.

However, gradually times adjusted themselves and slowly improvements were made in machinery. Crops were fair so eventually they could build a better home and barn.

Low prices for grain, hail, rust, droughts, and killing frosts have all been obstacles met with in Mr. Bolkan's life, but he has been brave and kept on.

Unfortunately Mrs. Bolkan passed away in 1914 and since that time Mr. Bolkan has done little farming. He is now making his home with his daughter.

Mr. Bolkan was interested in improvements and education. He was the first member of the School Board of this district.

When seeing and talking with Mr. Bolkan one can very easily see the grim determination which must have been his, but which has now left him and instead he is enjoying life and nature in a quiet contented way for which he found little time while pioneering.

--Mary Brosten



PIONEER BIOGRAPHY  
Ole Bolkan

It was with a sinking heart and with a slight feeling of resentment mingled with curiosity that I began my work on this pioneer story. I approached my pioneer somewhat with awe for an individual who had endured all these hardships, all the inconveniences coupled with the probability of never seeing ones own people again, surely demands the highest respect and consideration we, as a present generation, can show them. All we need to do is but to glance around our community to see what they have accomplished. It remains with us to prove what we can do to match out intellect as well as abilities with theirs to show what we can accomplish.

The contents that follow express but in a meagre way what this worthy citizen has endured, has accomplished, and has acquired during his stay in our state, North Dakota.

Mr. Ole Bolkan was born on January 18, 1849, in Stordalen, Norway, Northern Tronhjem. His mother's name was Annie Myr, his grandmother's name on the mother's side was also Annie Myr, but the grandfather's name has been forgotten. Mr. Bolkan's father's name was Peter Bolkan. His grandfather's name on the father's side was Christopher Bolkan and his grandmother's name was Mollie Bolkan.

Mr. Bolkan's father hearing glowing reports of America about what had been accomplished and might be accomplished, decided that the family could better itself by taking passage for this glorious country. Hardships were endured in Norway also, therefore Mr. Bolkan together with his father, his mother, and his three brothers, Christopher, Martin, and Gustav, and his sister, Anna Petrine, sailed for the United States in 1866. The whole family settled in Orfordville, Wisconsin, and lived there for seven years. Thinking they could better themselves, the family moved to Iowa, and there they bought land in Worth County, Northwood, Iowa.

Mr. Bolkan received interesting reports about North Dakota through his brother, Christopher, who came here in April 1880. Being enthused over this information of North Dakota he decided to come out and get land. On October 1, 1880, Mr. Bolkan came to Fargo having driven there with horses, two colts and one older team and in a covered wagon. He had then driven from Davenport, Iowa, covering a distance of 700 miles. Finding employment he hired out at the Dalrymple ranch near Casselton for \$70.00 per month with 2 horses and himself and worked there until it froze up. On November 14 he then started out for this locality where his brother, Christopher, already was living. After some debating as to which piece of land to "squat" on he settled in Section two on the northeast quarter as his homestead, and the southwest quarter he took as his tree claim. This was in Sverdrup township 145, Range 58 west. He did no building that fall but only cut logs for a cabin. He left here for Valley City again driving with a team and wagon where on December 24 he went by rail to Iowa where he was married on New Year's Day to Mary Everts of that state. She was only 19 years old when married and certainly it took a brave heart to go out in the wilderness knowing nothing of what the future had in store, but going blindly into hardships and difficulties, but hers was an unflinching nature and she showed no hesitance in her undertaking. Mr. Bolkan came back in the spring by railroad to Valley City, Mrs. Bolkan remaining with his parents for two months after he had left waiting



Ole Bolkan (continued)

until the cabin was ready.

At this time the mail for this locality was taken from Valley City which was the nearest railroad station by a mail carrier with team and buggy to the Lee Post Office 15 miles from Mr. Bolkan's claim, so it was not uncommon for the pioneers not to get mail for weeks and weeks at a time. Therefore Mr. Bolkan did not receive the letter from Mrs. Bolkan telling she would arrive at a certain time. Bewildered and alarmed fearing there might have been an accident, yet determined to go on, she acted on her own accord, and hired a man to take her up to Mr. Bolkan's claim. Traveling then was by means of a mere trail, not a highway, so it is little wonder when they approached a fork in the road they knew not which one to take. To make matters worse the driver decided he must return home. After due deliberation Mrs. Bolkan chose one trail which eventually took her to an acquaintance of Mr. Bolkan's who directed her accordingly. Imagine Mr. Bolkan's surprise and joy when coming in the evening from haying and finding her already established in their little log cabin.

Mr. Bolkan sold his older horses shortly after coming here, so he had only the younger team left together with one breaking plow brought from Iowa. With this equipment he broke the land for his first year's crop which he seeded by hand. He broke land for 10 acres of oats and 5 acres of wheat which when harvest came he cut with a cradle. When we realize that one able man could lay only four acres of wheat in one land day in long even swaths, we can well appreciate what this undertaking meant to cut a total of 15 acres. The grain had to be bound by hand, which he did by twisting ends of grain together making a temporary knot, sufficiently strong to hold a good amount of grain, afterwards placing it in shocks and after that it was stacked as was the custom in Norway. Fortunately a stranger came into the vicinity with a little threshing rig, crossing at Sibley's crossing and threshing any grain pioneers might have. Although Mr. Bolkan was not at home at this time, he having gone out for fall's work, yet his wife managed it all very ably, and as a result he was 170 bushels of oats and 70 bushels of wheat richer. None of this grain was sold for the wheat was kept both for seed and to be ground into flour, the oats had not been threshed, but was fed to the horses in the bundle form. The bundles having to be chopped out of the snow and ice with an ax. His wheat he took to Valley City to be ground into flour. Cash charges were not common then, but the millers would take every eighth bushel of wheat for payment. Surely this custom must have been brought here by our immigrants, for it is again the old country method.

There was also a mill at Portland, North Dakota, where Mr. Bolkan had wheat ground, but he said it was a question as to which one managed to give him back the least, in other words, who put the most in his own bin. The winter of 1880-1881 saw a very heavy snow which remained until April 14 before any melting took place. The snow was so hard that it carried even the weight of horses. The winter of 1881-1882 saw an early snow but it left again before Christmas.

Mr. Bolkan bought his supplies which were rather few from Valley City, but they always had all necessities of life.

The log cabin which he built in the spring of 1881 was 18 feet square, boasting even an upstairs, which meant a palace for the early pioneer days. This served as their dwelling house for many years.

In 1882 he broke 20 acres of his own land and by breaking land for other people he managed to earn extra money, not otherwise to be



Ole Bolkan (continued)

had. In the spring of 1882 he bought a seeder. This he hauled from Hope which was merely a railroad station then, the railroad having come here in 1882.

In the summer of the same year he also bought a binder in company with a neighbor. This machinery together with a harrow gave him sufficient working tools for some time. He gradually broke more land and expanded in general so it seemed but a matter of a few years until he had his land under cultivation.

There were four children born into the family, two who are living. Gustavus, the oldest, living now on Mr. Bolkan's homestead, and Angeline, Mrs. Olaf Syverson, living in the valley near the Sheyenne River about 2 miles from the homestead.

Mr. Bolkan did not experience the thrill of seeing "wild" Indians, but he did see some who traveled back and forth digging snake roots, which they sold for medicinal purposes, also he saw some who canoed down the Sheyenne, whose waters were much larger than now. They traveled between Standing Rock, South Dakota, to Devils Lake, North Dakota, which was a reservation where the government had given them land. However, he did see the results of an interesting happening. Two Indian tribes who were enemies had been out hunting. They met and immediately a battle followed. Twenty eight graves mark the place where this happened. These graves were very evident when Mr. Bolkan first came here. He personally counted the mounds, also a half breed who used to be a trapper, not taking active part in the battle but had been stationed in a ravine tending horses while the fight was on, told him.

It is Mr. Bolkan's belief that we can find Indian graves on top of the hills all along the Sheyenne River. He has seen parts of skeletons brought to Cooperstown found on Martin Ueland's farm, also on the Aarestad farm. Indians brought remains all the way from the Red River Valley to be buried here. Their belief was that the body would come to life again. This vicinity was considered a very fine hunting ground, therefore they buried their dead here, where upon awakening they should be happily surrounded, and dear to the heart of the Indians, hunting would be possible at once.

Much to his disappointment he did not see the buffalo herds, so much spoken of, but he said that further west in the state as well as in Montana they were plentiful, so much so that people were killing them merely for their hides.

An industry in which almost every pioneer assisted, including Mr. Bolkan, was picking buffalo bones, which they then sold to agents in Cooperstown and they in turn shipped them to eastern markets to be ground up for fertilizer, and to be used in sugar refining. This proved very profitable to many, as the bones were very abundant, the entire skeleton being found frequently. Mr. Bolkan did not pick a great deal but received \$8.00 per ton for what he sold. He spoke of one, Mr. Johnson, making a fortune for these days by merely picking buffalo bones. Mr. Bolkan told of a happening at this particular time which is interesting and which he knew was also picking bones. Unfortunately these bones were very dry and it took many many bones to make a ton.

This particular man decided to improve upon the method. One morning as the farmers were coming into town with their loads, this man also was in line. When it came his turn to weigh his load, it was found that he had 3 tons, while the others had scarcely one. They all were very much surprised to hear this, wondering how it could be possible.



## Ole Bolkan (continued)

However, he himself let the cat out of the bag later on and they found out he had soaked the bones in water.

Sibley's trail which we all know after studying State History showed very plainly when Mr. Bolkan came here. Hauling provisions from Breckenridge to Devils Lake for the Indians were common and this trail was used. Sibley's crossing is about 18 miles south of Bolkan's claim. When he crossed here the first time he could not imagine what the high embankment of dirt was for but it was the breast works thrown up by Sibley's army when they camped there over night while on their way to fight the Indians along the Missouri.

Of all the hardships and obstacles met with in Mr. Bolkan's pioneer days the dry years from 1883 to 1888 were the most difficult. Finally in 1888 a bumper crop seemed to be coming again, the future seemed bright, and hopes for buying more land which would eventually bring returns were experienced especially, so when he had the opportunity of buying land adjoining his own for \$10.00 per acre and pay at any time convenient, when all was so encouraging a heavy frost came killing every spear of wheat he had so he did not harvest a kernel. In those days wheat was everything. To make matters worse, one of his two horses "committed suicide" by hanging himself in his halter while he and the other horse were helping the neighbors. All the rest put together did not being to compare with this disappointment. Then he said it seemed he just had to give up, but somehow he overcame even this, he again mastered it and from then on times were not so bad.

Mr. Bolkan's stories were all so interesting I wish I might tell them all but it would make this too lengthy.

However, gradually times adjusted themselves and slowly improvements were made in machinery. Crops were fair so eventually they could build a better home and barn.

Low prices for grain, hail, rust, droughts, and killing frosts have all been obstacles met with in Mr. Bolkan's life, but he has been brave and kept on.

Unfortunately Mrs. Bolkan passed away in 1914 and since that time Mr. Bolkan has done little farming. He is now making his home with his daughter.

Mr. Bolkan was interested in improvements and education. He was the first member of the School Board of his district.

When seeing and talking with Mr. Bolkan one can very easily see the grim determination which must have been his, but which has now left him and instead he is enjoying life and nature in a quiet contented way for which he found little time while pioneering.

--Mary Brosten



June 5, 1926

Biography of Mr. Boltz  
--Marjorie Boltz

In 1876 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Julius Boltz came across from Germany with a family of four, one of which died on the way over and was buried in the ocean. It took them one month to come across.

Mr. Boltz was a Lutheran minister, and he came over to the United States for a bigger field to work in. When they had arrived in this country, they settled in Muskegon, Michigan. Two boys were born to them--one of which was my father born in 1880. They had bad luck in Muskegon because Mrs. Boltz died, and the children had to be scattered into different homes as orphans; Mr. Boltz went back to Germany. When father was of age, he wanted to get away from Michigan because he thought that he would do better in the west, and also he did not like the damp climate of Michigan.

He was on his way to the state of Washington, but as he was going through North Dakota, he noticed the Golden wheat fields and he liked the looks of the country, so he thought he would try this country. In 1901 he settled near Aneta, North Dakota about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Aneta, so he did not have such a hard time to get provisions as some of the pioneers.

He batched for about seven years. Then he moved to the Herb Chamblin homestead in Griggs County. He had lived there one year when Mother came West. That was in 1908 and they were married at the Talmadge home in Cooperstown where Mrs. Charlie Cooper now lives. They lived on Chamblin's homestead for about four years, and in 1909, I was born. Afterwards Mother was taken to the hospital where she stayed for four months. That with poor crops was a hard pull on father, but he kept right on. In 1910 my sister, Florence, was born, and in that year there were no crops at all which was very hard on him.

In 1914 we moved over to Charlie Hall's place still in Griggs County, and we lived there ten years. In 1915 my other sister, Marian, was born, but in 1919 our poor little Marian died which was very hard on Mother and Father.

While we were there we had some very good crops, and some very poor crops. In 1924 he moved down south of town in Griggs County where he is still living. With dairying and raising police dogs, they have kept their head above the level. He would not leave North Dakota with the great opportunity for education, etc. He thinks there is no more healthful climate than there is in North Dakota and has made fairly well since he has been here. Of course, he has had drawbacks, but he says you can always have a living and someday he will reach the goal by the clang of the Dakota reaper.

The clang of the Dakota reaper,  
On the Dakota plain!  
A music sweeter--deeper--  
Than many a nobler strain.

Across that North Dakota prairie  
I tramped, one summer day:  
The breeze was free and merry--  
White lamb-clouds were at play;



With golden wheat was teeming  
The farmer's paddock fold;  
And ripened grain stood gleaming  
Like lakes of melted gold;

When richer, sweeter, deeper  
Than a distant music strain,  
Came the clang of the Dakota reaper  
On this Dakota plain!

As when the heart is weeping  
'Neath slowly crushing hours,  
The fragrance soft came creeping  
Of memory wild rose flowers.



## Henry Bond

Henry Bond, a wealthy and enterprising farmer of Foster county, lives in 146-62, where he has a comfortable home and valuable estate.

Mr. Bond was born in Virginia, Oct 28, 1842. His father was John ~~Bond~~<sup>Bond</sup>, born in Virginia in 1792, and the great-grandfather William ~~Bond~~<sup>Bond</sup>, was born near Richmond, Virginia, in 1762. The great-great grandfather, Charles ~~Bond~~<sup>Bond</sup>, was born in London England in 1722 and died at the age of 40 years.

Mr. Bond's grand mother on the father's side was named Margaret Davis before her marriage and her father, Benj. Davis, was a native of Wales, but came to America and became a Captain in the American Army of the Revolution.

Mr. Bond's mother was Rebecca Hensley, ~~born~~ daughter of James Hensley. She was born in Pike Co Kentucky in 1802. Jas. Hensley was a farmer and hunter and an early settler of Kentucky. He and several brothers - James, William, Goodwin, Daniel and Robert took part in the Indian Wars. Goodwin was killed by the Indians, and Daniel was taken prisoner when a boy, and lived among the Indians many years. He married a squaw who bore him twins. He later married a white woman. His mother's family can be traced to Wales. Henry Bond's grand mother's name was Mary Likins, whose father



## Henry Bond -

was born in Wales.

Henry Bond was raised on a Virginia farm and received a common school education.

At 18 years he enlisted in the Union Army, while some of his brothers joined the southern army. He served 3 yrs 7 mo, with the 39th Kentucky Regiment. He was in 33 general engagements, was captured at Prestonburg, Kentucky, held prisoner 4 months, and was then exchanged and soon afterward mustered out with Sherman's Army, Sept 16, 1865. In the fall of the same year he came to Minnesota and filed on a homestead claim near Long Prairie, being the first claim filed in Reynolds township, Todd County.

He farmed in Minnesota 20 years, and in 1889 came to Foster Co, N.D. took up land, and became one of the pioneers of Foster Co. He now owns a valuable property, well improved, with good buildings, modern machinery, and plenty of stock. He is a Republican. He is a member of the Baptist Church.

Bibliog: Compend. of Hist + Bio - 1900 - page 1317



May 21-29, 1929

Biography of Gottfried Borchert, Jr.  
--Lester R. Nierenberg

Gottfried Borchert, Jr. was born on September 13, 1856 in a rural community in Germany.

From the many relatives already across the Atlantic Ocean in the great and rich country of the United States, he received many letters telling him of the easy living.

He went through eight grades of school. After a few years of working, he married. After making a go of it, they decided to go to America.

He came to the United States for two reasons: (1) he had relatives in the new country and (2) he thought living would be easier here than in the part of Germany where he resided.

Gottfried Borchert crossed the Atlantic Ocean by steamboat and landed at Ellis Island, New York City, New York without any mishaps of any sort.

He, with his wife and three children, immediately boarded the train for North Dakota. He reached North Dakota on October 3, 1887.

He worked for R. C. Cooper on the old Cooper ranch, and after a year or two took up land on the southeast quarter of Section 32, Range 59, Township 146.

He built a sod barn and a frame house on the homestead. The first winters were the coldest for his family and the stock because of lack of shelter.

The first trips to town were made in a lumber wagon drawn by a huge team of oxen. They got their flour ground at the Sheyenne river flour mill located about twenty miles north of the home place.

Gottfried Borchert had made enough money to buy a spring wagon in which they went to church and other meetings.

While going to William Arndts, the team of oxen stopped in the middle of the slough and would go no farther, so they had to turn around and go home again.

Later on he purchased a couple of horses and with the aid of the small ox plowed the land.

The first school teacher that my mother had was August Retzlaff.

The pioneers of North Dakota did not need to worry about floods, but the prairie fires and snowstorms were rather hard to live through.

In the "nineties" there was a hard snowstorm that covered the barn, and almost covered the house. It was difficult to get out to feed the stock; therefore, they went without feed for a couple of days. After the storm had let up, Gottfried, with the aid of the children, dug an underground passageway to the barn, making it easier to get there. They had to dig steps down to the pump which was hidden in the snow. About in May the snow was just beginning to thaw away from the buildings.



A prairie fire, the worst one they could remember, burned everything for miles around except the haystacks which were plowed around before the fire got that far. The barn and house were of course saved because even if it did happen at night, a wide enough furrow was made with the plow so as to partially check its advance.

Their nearest neighbors were the Trosts, Wm. Arndts, and A. Retzlaffs.

Church was held in the nearest school-house which was three miles away. A student usually preached, and after a few years, Reverend Bohnhoff was asked to come up from Valley City. He has been doing so ever since.

Their fuel was obtained from the river and from Cooperstown's Lumber Company.

After a few years more people moved in. After the death of his wife, he went back to Germany and married again. He returned to live on the old homestead where he has been ever since until his death on December 18, 1926.

Of his descendants there are: Frank Borchert and family, Carl Borchert, Max Borchert and family, Mrs. Fred Nierenberg and family, and Mrs. Mark Sullivan and family.

All but the latter have the address of Cooperstown, North Dakota. Mrs. Sullivan's address is: 816 Algona Avenue, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada.

His second wife lives in Cooperstown, North Dakota.



## Allen Breed

Allen Breed, farmer, Sec 34-145-56, T.O. Hope, is descendant of Allen Breed, a soldier of 1812, who was born and lived all his life in southern New York. His grand father on his mother's side was John Wild, one of the earliest pioneers in western New York, who went to Orleans County about 1812 when the wolves were his only neighbors, and their howling was heard around the door. He was a Bostonian, and was descended from a family of physicians, lawyers, and farmers. Our subject was born in Orleans County where his father, Albert Breed, also was born, on January 9, 1852, and was educated at the Boston high school, and at the Worcester technical school, Mass. He was afterward a civil engineer in Somerville, the same State. In 1878 he went into the wholesale and retail grocery business. In January 1880, he was married to Miss Ida Stewart, the daughter of Herman Stewart, a pioneer of De Kalb Co., Ill. and a prominent citizen of that section. Mrs. Breed was born Jan. 1853. She was the second lady graduate in the classical course, class of 1878 at the Northwestern University. Mr. Breed came to Dakota in the spring of 1881, and located a claim two miles northwest of Hope and purchased two sections of land from the Red River Land Company. He has been unusually successful  
and



in Dakota, raising twenty and a half bushels to the acre. His crop for 1883 netted 16% on the valuation of his lands and buildings, \$5,000. He was Commissioner of the county of Griggs from June 16, 1882 to January 1884.

Bibliog: Atlas of Dakota, 1884 page 241



Anders A. Brekke - Finley N.D.

Anders A. Brekke is a farmer, born in Fitjar, Feb. 18, 18<sup>46</sup>~~45~~ and came to America ~~to~~ in 1873 to Allamakee Co, moved to Winnebago Co, Iowa, and from there to Cresco Co Iowa, lived there 3½ years as a worker on the railroad, moved to Yellow Medicine Co, Minn, bought land at Clarkfield Minn, was there 3½ years, then came to Steele Co. N. Dak in 1882. He took a homestead in Franklin township and lived as a farmer in the district until in 1906 he sold his farm to his two sons, Albert and Malius, who live upon the old homestead farm.

His wife, Andrine Storebo, is from Osterdold. They have 8 living children. Four daughters are married to farmers of the district:

Kari married Baard Dronen, lives 1 mile from Sharon <sup>N.D.</sup>  
Jetti married Millie Olson & has a farm 2½ miles from Finley.  
Julia married Zakarias O. Dronen, farmer near Finley N.D.  
Betzie married Earl O. Dronen " " " "  
Elisabeth " N.O. Berkeland, a " " Plaza N.D.  
Earl - is a farmer at Ray N. Dak.

Bibl. Transl. from Hans Jervell, 1916 - page 77



Thomas A. Brekke, Aneta N.D.

Thomas A. Brekke, is a farmer, born in Fitian on Stordten, on Mar 6, 1850, came to America in 1873 to Allamakee Co. Iowa, moved to Adams, Mower County Iowa, was there 8 years, came to Steele Co N.D. and took homestead in Franklin Township in 1884. He lives in Aneta where he has a fine home.

His wife Johanne Dahl is from Aitedalen. They have 7 children - 2 sons and 5 daughters: Anton, oldest son, is in Nebraska, Helmer, Helmer, graduate from Aneta High School - Clara, married Nils A. Kloster, farmer, Martine, married David Miller, farmer (Gr. Co pioneer) Hilda, married Arne Luskaisen, store keeper of Aneta N.D. Laurine married Oscar F. Anderson, Reg. of Deeds, lives at Devils Lake, Julia is employed in 1st Nat'l Bank in Hatton N.D.

Thomas A. Brekke was chairman for 13 years of the Township board of Sharon twp, is a Director of Augsburg Seminary - Photo in book.

Bibl, Transl. from Hans Jervell, 1916, p 77-8-



Hans Brosten

From interview by Hannah Lende

I was born March 24, 1858 on the farm, Holland, south of Stavanger, Norway. My parents are Lars Rierson Brosten and Malena. When I was two years old my parents moved to Brosten and here I lived til I was twenty-four years old, when I got the notion to come to America. I bought a ticket to go on the Danish line, Tingvalla. The name of the ship was Geiser; it went direct from Norway to New York. I left Norway the first part of March, 1882. There was a terrible storm on the sea during the whole trip. The journey took nineteen days. The ship rocked so much, I was afraid we were going to sink, and I made up my mind if I ever got to New York alive, I would never cross the ocean again. That thought was soon forgotten. Since then I have crossed the ocean twelve times.

I arrived in Valley City the last part of March. I had an uncle living thirty-five miles north of Valley City. I was lucky for I met someone in town who was going north. Snow having thawed quite a bit, water stood all over. My uncle, Swen Lunde had come to Dakota the year previous and had taken a homestead near the Sheyenne river. He wanted me to take a homestead also, so I settled down one mile from his place on the side of a little hill. The walls were made of sod, and twigs and bark for roof. I lived in this sod house for two years when I built a house. I proved up the homestead and got the title.

I borrowed \$400 with 8% interest, taking me twenty years to pay it back. In 1898 I rented out my farm to a neighbor. I then rented a half section a few miles from there. I had this for five years. In 1904 I bought a quarter of land in the same



#3

section my homestead was on. I got good crops for many years and paid all my debts and owed no one.

In 1909 I rented my farm out. I have had and still have my home at Sven Erickson. Mr. Erickson is married to daughter of my uncle, Swen Lunde.



## Harry E. Brown.

Harry E. Brown, <sup>Sec 6</sup> of Melrose twp, Steele Co.  
was the 2nd of 6 children born to John G. and  
Martha A. (Gibson) Brown. Mr. John G. Brown  
was born in Ohio, July 10, 1844. He farmed for  
33 years in Illinois. In May 1883, he sold out  
there and moved to Steele Co. He died Jan. 21, 1898.

Harry E. was 15 when the family came  
to Dakota.



Was in its prime with  
 Fred Stone the owner &  
 operator. Pete Mee's Hotel was  
 quite a place, and another  
 Hotel Co. of Syverson's store.  
 Many of the farmers in Tupper  
 County got their start working  
 for Cooper, and in 1902  
 when Cooper was farming  
 16000 acres and had acquired  
 the largest grain elevator in  
 town with two legs (for elevating  
 the grain to the top of grain  
 bins) 2 scales for weighing  
 the 125 Bu. grain trucks in  
 which most of the farmers hauled  
 in their grain.

Fred Beier was the operator  
 of this Elevator, but in



The fall when threshing was in full swing, Fred Beir could not take care of the Elevator alone, so Mr. Cooper took charge of one of the scales, and they both worked early & late to take care of all of the farmers that brought in grain to this Elevator.

This is when I started to work for Mr. Cooper. He had just recently built his office just No. of 1st Nat. Bank, and because he felt that he was needed in the Elevator, he hired me to take care of his office. They were too busy to pay the farmers for



Their grain at the Elevator so the farmers got a scale ticket, showing the grade & weight of the load they brought in & then they were sent to the office to get their pay.

John Houghton was foreman on Section Seven Ranch N.E. of Casper town, and he too would write a time ticket for the men for their services and they too would call at the office for their pay.

There were 4 other elevators in town, and soon after threshing started, they were all filled up and all were scrambling for cars to empty out their bins.



5  
Mr. Cooper soon tired of asking W. J. Payne, the N.P. agent in Coopers town, for empty cars in which to load & ship out grain. All the other Elevators were filled up & Railroad was unable to furnish cars fast enough.

So Mr. Cooper tried a new stunt. He called up the Supt. of N.P. Ry. at Dulworth Minn, and told him that he wanted a train load of empty grain cars, to load with grain out of his own Elevator. Mr. Coopers promised the Supt. that he could load out 5500 bu. of grain in 48 hours if he had the cars



And so a day later here  
 came a train up the line  
 with 26 cars, and the  
 train crew stayed right  
 in town & did the switching  
 as needed for loading all  
 these cars, and they were  
 on their way out down the  
 line headed for, Furl & Co  
 grain dealers in Minneapolis  
 & Duluth. None of the other  
 Elevators in town got any  
 cars out of this train load.  
 & you still hear some of  
 them passing the Railroad.

Many other interesting tales I  
 could tell, but perhaps this  
 is enough for now.

Very truly, Otho H. Brown



JOSEPH BUCHHEIT *From Compendium of N.D.*

The business interests of Binford have a worthy representative in Joseph Buchheit, who is at the head of one of the leading mercantile establishments of Griggs county and is also vice president of the First National Bank of Binford. He was born in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, May 2, 1854, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Buchheit) Buchheit, who were natives of Bavaria, Germany, and although of the same name were not related. It was about 1831 that the father crossed the Atlantic and settled in Ontario, Canada, becoming one of the pioneers of Waterloo, where in the midst of the wilderness he developed and improved a farm. About 1862 he removed to St. Joseph county, Indiana, and purchased a farm near South Bend, which had been partially improved and to its further development and cultivation he devoted his energies for many years. He cleared away the timber and converted the land into productive fields. He was over eighty-four years of age at the time of his death, and his wife died at the age of sixty-eight years.

In the family of this worthy couple were thirteen children, eight of whom reached maturity, and Joseph Buchheit of this review is the eighth in order of birth. He was about eight years of age when taken by his parents to Indiana, where he attended the district schools. In 1870 he began clerking in a store at Mishawaka, Indiana, and continued to follow that occupation for six years, at the end of which time he located upon a farm which his father had purchased in addition to the original tract.

In 1880 Mr. Buchheit came to North Dakota and after spending a short time in Cass County, located in Griggs county in the fall of 1882. He went to that county with R. C. Cooper and preempted a quarter section of land, but the following winter returned home on account of the death of his mother. In the spring of 1883 he located on his claim in Griggs county, becoming one of its earliest settlers, and he continued to follow farming until 1902, when he removed to Binford. He became the owner of sixteen hundred acres of valuable land and is still interested in farming to some extent although he does not actively engage in that occupation at the present time. He is a member of the Buchheit, Bakken Company, conducting a large general store at Binford and as previously stated is also serving as vice president of the First National Bank.

On the 9th of July, 1887, Mr. Buchheit was united in marriage to Miss Bella M. Minnick, of South Bend, Indiana, of which state her father, Jacob Minnick, was an early settler. Mr. and Mrs. Buchheit have spent much time in travel over this country, have visited the West Indies and now spend their winters either in California or Florida. Mr. Buchheit has taken a prominent part in local politics and at an early day was elected county commissioner in Griggs county, in which capacity he served so acceptably that he was retained in office for a quarter of a century. He was a well informed man, a student of men and affairs and has that broad general knowledge which only travel can bring.



## Joseph Buchheit

Joseph Buchheit of Sec 10, Willow trap, was born on a farm in Waterloo Co. Ontario, Canada, on May 2, 1854. He was 7th in a family of 13 children (6 boys - 7 girls) born to Jacob and Mary (Buchheit) Buchheit. His parents were born in Germany, later emigrated to America, and died at an advanced age in Indiana.

At 8 years of age Joseph Buchheit moved with his parents to St Joseph Co Indiana, on a farm near South Bend. At 16 years he took work with Clark, Whitson & Co of Mishawaka, Indiana for 5 years. In 1880 he went to Griggs Co. N.D. After looking over the county he returned to Mishawaka, clerked there about 1 year, and in the spring of 1882 returned to Griggs Co. N. Dak. Here he filed claim to NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  10 - Willow trap, as a pre-emption. It has been his home since.

Mr. Buchheit was married at Fargo N.D., 1887, to Miss Ella M. Minnick, a native of Indiana, and daughter of Jacob and Mary Minnick - farmers.

Condensed from Campend of Hist & Bio, 1900, page 489



Biography of John W. Bruns

--Lewis Savre - *grandson*.

John W. Bruns was born in Bremer County, Iowa on December 6, 1855. He was the son of Frederick (Fridrick) Bruns and Wilhelmina Molhling.

He came to North Dakota in March, 1902, leaving his former home to get rich as the speculation was big in North Dakota. He settled in Section Cooper's township. The house was made of frame. The machinery was mower, binder, drill, plow which was operated by horses.

His early neighbors were Glaspells and Borchert. The nearest school was the Frigaard school. Church services were held at the Arndt school house. He used river wood and coal for fuel.

In October, 1879 he married Sophia Buezing at Bremer County, Iowa. He now lives at Cooperstown, North Dakota.

The descendants are:

O. H. Bruns  
Binford, North Dakota

Alma Krogfoss  
Binford, North Dakota

Lydia Baeckman  
New Rockford, North Dakota

Martha Bougatz  
Jordon, Montana

Melinda Savre  
Cooperstown, North Dakota

Walter Bruns (Dead)



# Obituary

## By Brynhild Bue

Funeral services for Carl Bue, 72, of Valley City, formerly of and near Cooperstown N. Dak., were held at Guam Funeral Home at Cooperstown and Remness Methodist Church, north east of Cooperstown, Nov 10th at 1:00 P.M. and 2:30 P.M. respectively.

Rev. W<sup>m</sup> Samuel, of Hope conducted the services at Chapel and Church, while Rev. C. F. Miller, of Carrington, delivered the main sermon at the Church services. A sermonette in Norwegian language was delivered at Chapel by Rev. Krag Hufthustad of Cooperstown. Remarks and solos by Rev. M. E. Helland, of Benford, Pastor Joel Lunde, of Cooperstown and Rev. Carl Helin of Aneta, also solo by Mrs. E. L. Dues of Sharon. Organists - Mrs. S. J. Guam and Mrs. E. L. Dues of Sharon. Burial was in the Church cemetery.

Pallbearers were Edward Johnson, of Finley, Theodore Egeland and Oscar Idsvoog of Coeytin, Oscar Gundersen, Arthur Torgerson and Mauley Torgerson<sup>all</sup> of Aneta.

Carl W. Bue was born Mar 1, 1879 at Bua in Sven, Søndhordland, Norway. His parents were Wilhelm Andrew Andersen Bua and Brynhilde Sophia Jorgenson of Norway.



## Carl Buer

He was baptized Apr 13, 1879, at Sven Lutheran Church, located in Søndhordland, Norway, Confirmed Sept 24, 1893 at Valestrand Lutheran Church, located in Søndhordland. He was one of the charter members of the Romness Methodist Church.

When he was 21 years of age, he came to America, in March 1900, with Peter Idsooy, who had been in Norway visiting friends and relatives. He stayed with the Idsooy until 1904 when he started to operate the Rinde farm in Romness Top. In the fall of 1908 he moved to his present farm, where he has resided ever since, except from 1919 to 1930, when he lived in Coe's, and for several months this in Valley City this past year.

He was married to Josephine Hogenson, on Nov 27, 1907, in the Romness Methodist Church.

He started to fail in health again this spring, confined to Mercy Hospital at Valley City, for a total period of two months. He died on Wednesday, Nov 7, at 2:10 AM. at his home in Valley City at the age of 72 years, 8 months, and 6 days.

His son John Calmer preceeded him in death, on Oct 12, 1932 and his wife



Carl Bue

on Oct 5, 1948, also his parents and his  
two half-brothers Gabriel and Jorgen -

Surviving him are: one daughter,  
Borghild Constance Bue, at 133-3rd St N.W.  
Valley City, one sister Mrs. Alvide Solha of  
Cooperstown, one half-brother Ben Bue of  
Jenner Alberta Canada, and two half-sisters  
Mrs Anna Helgeson and Katrine Gramshaug,  
of Norway, and two nephews and 6 nieces



## Lars O. Bue

Lars O. Bue is postmaster and general merchant at Bue post office, Nelson Co. He was born in Bergenstift, Norway, Apr 8, 1861, the youngest of 5 children born to Ole and Christe (Davidson) Bue. The father still lives on the farm in Winnebago County Iowa where he first located on coming to U.S. in 1866.

At 19, Lars O. Bue began clerking in a store. In the spring of 1881, he landed at Valley City and then started on foot for the "Big Bend" of the Sheyenne River. About 60 miles north he located the land he now owns and built a 6x6 log house and held the land as a squatter. During the fall of 1881 he worked in the Red River valley, and in 1882 in Goose River valley. By the spring of 1883 he had a yoke of oxen and filed on his land and began farming.

In May 1882 a post office was established and named Bue in his honor and he became the first post master. In 1890 he started his store.

Mr. Bue married in 1883, Miss Olina Mikkelsen. Their children: Clara, Oscar Gilbert, Albert, Nels, Clarence, Oliver and Ludvig, twins, and Oliver. Clara, Clarence and Oliver (one of the twins) are now deceased.

Bibl. Condensed from, Compend. of Hist & Bio, 1900, page 1035



Edward Clarence Butler

By Oscar D. Purinton, Clerk and Historian of the Old Settlers' Association.

Edward Clarence Butler, Son of Henry and Alice P. Butler, was born at Bartlett New ~~XXXXXX~~ Hampshire on Oct. 24th 1845. Though quite young at the time of the Civil War he was thoroughly patriotic and served some time as a private soldier in Co. G 23rd Reg't Maine infantry volunteers. After the war he followed the advice of Horace Greely and went west to grow up with the ~~XX~~ country, but went too far and settled for a time in the mining regions of Nevada.

He came from Austin Nevada to Steele County on May 20, 1882 and settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of 32-146-57, where he has resided continuously to the present time. (Jan. 1915) In the early years of the settlement of this community he endured his full share of the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, and in some ways even more than his share.

In 1882 the town of Mardell was located about six miles from the present site of Cooperstown, and near fifty miles from Tower City in Cass County. The government established a mail route from Tower City to Mardell by way of Hope. But when the post offices and the route were established the question arose as to the carrying of the mail over this long and perilous route. Very few could be found hardy enough to venture upon the task of traversing ~~XXXXXX~~ this distance over unsettled prairies, almost trackless in summer and wholly so in winter. This tiring and hazardous task Mr. Butler undertook, and through raging blizzards and intense cold, he or his partner Mr. Ben Upton faithfully performed that desperate task until conditions were so improved that others could be found to take their places.

In developing his homestead Mr. Butler met about the same successes and reverses, as experienced by all early settlers, sometimes reaping abundant harvests, at others, meagre or even none, but generally successful. By sturdy industry and intelligent management he has added to his holdings of land until he has twelve hundred acres, farming about half and renting the balance.

For several years Mr. Butler has engaged in the breeding of pure bred stock, and while he has done well for himself he has greatly benefited the community by his persistent endeavor to improve the quantity and quality of stock grown.

On Jan. 28th 1895 Mr. Butler was united in marriage to Mary T. Hagen, and they with their son Clarence are now living on the Homestead. A son by a former marriage, William H. Butler is living in Cooperstown N. Dak.



E. C. Butler and B. A. Upton

Edward C. Butler was born October 24, 1844, at Bartlett, New Hampshire, and went with his parents to New Glouster, Cumberland county, Maine, when he was a child. During his sixteenth year he went to Indiana, and saw his seventeenth birthday in United States service. He served for two years in the Twenty-third Maine, 2d division of the Third army corps, Army of the Potomac. After the war he tired of Maine and went to Nevada, where he worked in a mining camp for six years. When the work failed him there he came to Dakota. He arrived in May, 1882, filed on a homestead in Greenview township, and has lived there ever since.

Benjamin A. Upton was born in September, 1857, in Norway, Maine. He entered into a partnership with Mr. Butler, which lasted until his death, April 2, 1904. During the summer of 1882 and the following winter, Butler and Upton lived in Mardell, where they kept a meat market. For a few years Mr. Upton carried the mail from Tower City to Mardell. The first caucus in the western part of Steele county was held at his home in the fall of 1884. Delegates were then elected to the first county convention held in Steele county.

Butler and Upton had large landed interests in both Griggs and Steele counties. They were also taxpayers of Riverside. At present Mr. Butler has a large herd of registered shorthorns. Cattle from the "Greenview Stock Farm" are now being shipped to various places in North Dakota.



Biography of John S. Byington  
--Helton Ulstad

Parents--Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Byington

Pioneer--John S. Byington

Birth--March 14, 1861, in Cairo, Greene County, New York State.

Pioneer left former home to make a home for himself for he had always had the desire to take Horace Greeley's advice and go west. He came to N. Dak. because there happened to be some neighbors of his that were coming here, and being so anxious to go west he embraced the first opportunity.

We had no experiences worthy of being mentioned until the morning I arrived in Fargo where I saw a shower of small toads, the streets and sidewalks being literally covered with them. I came to N. Dak. April 17, 1882.

We left Valley City on the morning of the 22nd of April, 1882, for Griggs Co. with a load of machinery and feed. At dark that night we arrived at a couple of shacks a little ways north of the Al Booth farm, the buildings of which still stand just north of Rogers. We slept in one shack and put our horses in the other. In the morning when we got up the ground was white with snow and it was still snowing quite hard. We had about 30 miles further to go with not another shanty in sight till we came to our destination. We were fortunate in having a man with us by the name of Wm. McDonald, who had traveled through this country with a bunch of surveyors at the time it was surveyed. This man had a compass with him and with its help we made our way on north through the snowstorm till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we arrived at what we were to call home for the time being at least. We were wet through, tired out, and somewhat hungry. We had nothing but a few biscuits, crackers, cheese, and some sardines. Since we left Valley City the previous day I was about as sick as I ever have been in my life, about 1700 miles from mother, 50 miles from a doctor with a bunch of 5 other men without any medicine whatever except a bottle of-----henesey, which was the first I had ever taken but I must confess that since then there has been a warm place in my heart for it (for medicinal purposes, of course). We used to follow the harrow or seeder on foot all the week, and on Sunday we were in the habit of hiking over the prairies looking for a place to squat on as this land was not surveyed north of Twp. 144. On the 20th day of May we just finished seeding our first crop of wheat and two days later we had a real North Dakota blizzard. We lived in a shack without tarpaper and were it not for the lath over the cracks you could have stuck your fingers right out-doors. Outside of the one woman that belonged to our crowd (the wife of Mr. J. W. Fiero) we didn't see the face of a woman till fall.

We finally got our land located but had to wait for it to be surveyed and put on the market before we could file on it. I signed the petition to get this township surveyed in January, 1883, and the following summer it was surveyed and in March, 1884, was placed on the market. My homestead is the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 24, Township 145, Range 61. My first shack was built of shiplap with sod on the outside. I used to get my provisions from town through my neighbors. During the summer of 1882 a few settlers came and settled around there among them was Chas.



Biography of John S. Byington  
--Helton Ulstad

Mosely (now dead), also Edward and Richard Sellwood, all coming from Union City, Michigan. That year was the first year the twine binder was brought into this country. Previous to that the old goose neck wire binder was used with an occasional Marsh harvester which had two men standing on a platform binding the grain as it came through the binder. A great many of the teams were oxen with a few mules and the balance were horses with an occasional cow used to fill in and make a full team. The only crops raised here at that time were wheat, oats, and barley with an occasional piece of rye or flax. Yields varied in those days the same as now. In 1882 wheat went about 25, in 1883 about 12 or 13, in 1884, a little better and in 1885 about 25. After that they were only fair till 1888 when we had prospects for a good crop but it was a little late on account of a late spring, but on the night of the 16th of August it froze ice  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick and it made our wheat look like some of the rust smitten wheat we see now adays. I took two loads of it to Cooperstown, 18 miles away, and received the enormous sum of \$10.00 for each load.

We went to the Sheyenne River and Lake Jessie a few times after fuel gathering up down timber and if we thought we would not get caught at it cut down a real good tree. But we came to the conclusion that it wasn't worth the price so we bought our fuel after that which consisted of hard and soft coal but at a price much lower than it is today (1927).

Pardon me if I leave out the hardship endured during the early days for I often hear the young people of today speak of the hardships they have to endure. (Self made the most of them). It might be hard for most people to believe that we had any hardships worthy of mention, in fact I have heard people say that the N. Dak. people of the early days were the biggest liars on earth. The only time that I enjoy talking about those days is when I'm in conversation with someone who had a few experiences like my own. I have seen many bad storms and fires but was fortunate in never getting either burned or hurt in any of them.

I was married to Miss Nora Sullivan on November 25, 1891, at Jamestown, N. Dak., who died on the 29th day of July, 1892, and was married again to Miss Ida Erlandson on April 5, 1894, to whom five children were born. Edna Ione, who is Mrs. Albert Nelson of Palermo, N. Dak.; L. Kenneth who is at home in Sutton, N. Dak.; Chester V. 809--11th St. South, Fargo, N. Dak.; Nina May, Mrs. H. K. Sorvik of Kathryn, N. Dak.; and Lillian V. who is in training at St. Luke's hospital, Fargo, N. Dak. I am now living in Sutton, N. Dak., having left the farm and moved to town just a little over a year ago.



## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Parents--Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Byington

Pioneer--John S. Byington

Birth--March 14, 1861 in Cairo, Greene County, New York State.

Pioneer left former home to make a home for himself for he had always had the desire to take Horace Greeley's advice and go west. He came to N. Dak. because there happened to be some neighbors of his that were coming here, and being so anxious to go west he embraced the first opportunity.

We had no experiences worthy of being mentioned until one morning I arrived in Fargo where I saw a shower of small toads, the streets and sidewalks being literally covered with them. I came to N. Dak. April 17, 1882.

We left Valley City on the morning of the 22nd of April 1882, for Griggs County, with a load of machinery and feed. At dark that night we arrived at a couple of shacks a little ways north of the Al Booth farm, the buildings of which still stand just north of Rogers. We slept in one shack and put our horses in the other. In the morning when we got up the ground was white with snow and it was still snowing quite hard. We had about 30 miles further to go with not another shanty in sight till we came to our destination. We were fortunate in having a man with us by the name of Wm. McDonald, who had traveled through this country with a bunch of surveyors at the time it was surveyed. This man had a compass with him and with its help we made our way on north through the snowstorm till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we arrived at what we were to call home for the time being at least. We were wet through, tired out, and somewhat hungry. We had nothing but a few biscuits, crackers, cheese and some sardines. Since we left Valley City the previous day I was about as sick as I ever have been in my life, about 1700 miles from mother, 50 miles from a doctor with a bunch of 5 other men without any medicine whatever except a bottle of-----henesey, which was the first I had ever taken but I must confess that since then there has been a warm place in my heart for it (for medicinal purposes, of course). We used to follow the harrow or seeder on foot all the week, and on Sunday we were in the habit of hiking over the prairies looking for a place to squat on as this land was not surveyed north of Twp. 144. On the 20th day of May we just finished seeding our first crop of wheat and two days later we had a real North Dakota blizzard. We lived in a shack without tarpaper and were it not for the lath over the cracks you could have stuck your fingers right outdoors. Outside of the one woman that belonged to our crowd (the wife of Mr. J. W. Fiero) we didn't see the face of a woman till fall.

We finally got our land located but had to wait for it to be surveyed and put on the market before we could file on it. I signed the petition to get this township surveyed in January 1883 and the following summer it was surveyed and in March 1884 was placed on the market. My homestead is the northeast  $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 24, Township 145, Range 61. My first shack was built of shiplap with sod on the outside. I used to get my provisions from town through my neighbors. During the summer of 1882 a few settlers came and settled around there among them was Chas. Mosely (now dead), also Edward and Richard Sellwood, all coming from Union City, Michigan. That year was the first year the twine binder was brought into this country. Previous to that the



John S. Byington (continued)

old goose neck wire binder was used with an occasional Marsh harvester which had two men standing on a platform binding the grain as it came through the binder. A great many of the teams were oxen with a few mules and the balance were horses with an occasional cow used to fill in and make a full team. The only crops raised here at that time were wheat, oats, and barley with an occasional piece of rye or flax. Yields varied in those days the same as now. In 1882 wheat went about 25, in 1883 about 12 or 13, in 1884 a little better and in 1885 about 25. After that they were only fair till 1888 when we had prospects for a good crop but it was a little late on account of a late spring, but on the night of the 16 of August it froze ice  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick and it made our wheat look like some of the rust smitten wheat we see now adays. I took two loads of it to Cooperstown, 18 miles away, and received the enormous sum of \$10.00 for each load.

We went to the Sheyenne River and Lake Jessie a few times after fuel gathering up timber and if we thought we would not get caught at it cut down a real good tree. But we came to the conclusion that it wasn't worth the price so we bought our fuel after that which consisted of hard and soft coal but at a price much lower than it is today (1927).

Pardon me if I leave out the hardships endured during the early days for I often hear the young people of today speak of the hardships they have to endure. (Self made the most of them) It might be hard for most people to believe that we had any hardships worthy of mention, in fact I have heard people say that the N. Dak. people of the early days were the biggest liars on earth. The only time that I enjoy talking about those days is when I'm in conversation with someone who had a few experiences like my own. I have seen many bad storms and fires but was fortunate in never getting either burned or hurt in any of them.

I was married to Miss Nora Sullivan on November 25, 1891 at Jamestown, N. Dak., who died on the 29th day of July 1892, and was married again to Miss Ida Erlandson on April 5, 1894, to whom five children were born. Edna Ione, who is Mrs. Albert Nelson of Palermo, N. Dak; L. Kenneth who is at home in Sutton, N. Dak; Chester V. 809--11th St. South, Fargo, N. Dak; Nina May, Mrs. H. K. Sorvik of Kathryn, N. Dak; and Lillian V. who is in training at St. Luke's Hospital, Fargo, N. Dak. I am now living in Sutton, N. Dak; having left the farm and moved to town just a little over a year ago.

---Helton Ulstad



## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Parents--Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Byington

Pioneer--John S. Byington

Birth--March 14, 1861 in Cairo, Greene County, New York State.

Pioneer left former home to make a home for himself for he had always had the desire to take Horace Greeley's advice and go west. He came to N. Dak. because there happened to be some neighbors of his that were coming here, and being so anxious to go west he embraced the first opportunity.

We had no experiences worthy of being mentioned until the morning I arrived in Fargo where I saw a shower of small toads, the streets and sidewalks being literally covered with them. I came to N. Dak. April 17, 1882.

We left Valley City on the morning of the 22nd of April, 1882, for Griggs Co. with a load of machinery and feed. At dark that night we arrived at a couple of shacks a little ways north of the Al Booth farm, the buildings of which still stand just north of Rogers. We slept in one shack and put our horses in the other. In the morning when we got up the ground was white with snow and it was still snowing quite hard. We had about 30 miles further to go with not another shanty in sight till we came to our destination. We were fortunate in having a man with us by the name of Wm. McDonald, who had traveled through this country with a bunch of surveyors at the time it was surveyed. This man had a compass with him and with its help we made our way on north through the snowstorm till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we arrived at what we were to call home for the time being at least. We were wet through, tired out, and somewhat hungry. We had nothing but a few biscuits, crackers, cheese and some sardines. Since we left Valley City the previous day I was about as sick as I ever have been in my life, about 1700 miles from mother, 50 miles from a doctor with a bunch of 5 other men without any medicine whatever except a bottle of -----hennessy, which was the first I had ever taken but I must confess that since then there has been a warm place in my heart for it (for medicinal purposes, of course). We used to follow the harrow or seeder on foot all the week, and on Sunday we were in the habit of hiking over the prairies looking for a place to squat on as this land was not surveyed north of Twp. 144. On the 20th day of May we just finished seeding our first crop of wheat and two days later we had a real North Dakota blizzard. We lived in a shack without tarpaper and were it not for the lath over the cracks you could have stuck your fingers right outdoors. Outside of the one woman that belonged to our crowd (the wife of Mr. J. W. Piero) we didn't see the face of a woman till fall.

We finally got our land located but had to wait for it to be surveyed and put on the market before we could file on it. I signed the petition to get this township surveyed in January 1883 and the following summer it was surveyed and in March 1884 was placed on the market. My homestead is the northeast 1/4, section 24, Township 145, Range 61. My first shack was built of shiplap with sod on the outside. I used to get my provisions from town through my neighbors. During the summer of 1882 a few settlers came and settled around there among them was Chas. Mosely (now dead), also Edward and Richard Sellwood, all coming from Union City, Michigan. That year was the first year the twine binder was brought into this country. Previous to that the old goose neck wire binder was used with an occasional Marsh harvester which had two men standing on a platform binding the grain as it



J. S. Byington (continued)

came through the binder. A great many of the teams were oxen with a few mules and the balance were horses with an occasional cow used to fill in and make a full team. The only crops raised here at that time were wheat, oats, and barley with an occasional piece of rye or flax. Yields varied in those days the same as now. In 1882 wheat went about 25, in 1883 about 12 or 13, in 1884 a little better and in 1885 about 25. After that they were only fair till 1888 when we had prospects for a good crop but it was a little late on account of a late spring, but on the night of the 16th of August it froze ice  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick and it made our wheat look like some of the rust smitten wheat we see now adays. I took two loads of it to Coopers-town, 18 miles away, and received the enormous sum of \$10.00 for each load.

We went to the Sheyenne River and Lake Jessie a few times after fuel gathering up down timber and if we thought we would not get caught at it cut down a real good tree. But we came to the conclusion that it wasn't worth the price so we bought our fuel after that which consisted of hard and soft coal but at a price much lower than it is today (1927).

Pardon me if I leave out the hardships endured during the early days for I often hear the young people of today speak of the hardships they have to endure. (Self made the most of them). It might be hard for most people to believe that we had any hardships worthy of mention, in fact I have heard people say that the N. Dak. people of the early days were the biggest liars on earth. The only time that I enjoy talking about those days is when I'm in conversation with someone who had a few experiences like my own. I have seen many bad storms and fires but was fortunate in never getting either burned or hurt in any of them.

I was married to Miss Nora Sullivan on November 25, 1891 at Jamestown, N. Dak., who died on the 29th day of July 1892, and was married again to Miss Ida Erlandson on April 5, 1894, to whom five children were born. Edna Ione, who is Mrs. Albert Nelson of Palermo, N. Dak.; L. Kenneth who is at home in Sutton, N. Dak.; Chester V. 809--11th St. South, Fargo, N. Dak.; Nina May, Mrs. H. K. Sorvik of Kathryn, N. Dak.; and Lillian V. who is in training at St. Luke's Hospital, Fargo, N. Dak. I am now living in Sutton, N. Dak., having left the farm and moved to town just a little over a year ago.

*Helton Mestad*



Parents--Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Byington

Pioneer--John S. Byington

Birth--March 14, 1861 in Cairo, Greene County, New York State.

Pioneer left former home to make a home for himself for he had always had the desire to take Horace Greeley's advice and go west. He came to N. Dak. because there happened to be some neighbors of his that were coming here, and being so anxious to go west he embraced the first opportunity.

We had no experiences worthy of being mentioned until the morning I arrived in Fargo where I saw a shower of small toads, the streets and sidewalks being literally covered with them. I came to N. Dak. April 17, 1882.

We left Valley City on the morning of the 22nd of April, 1882, for Griggs Co. with a load of machinery and feed. At dark that night we arrived at a couple of shacks a little ways north of the Al Booth farm, the buildings of which still stand just north of Rogers. We slept in one shack and put our horses in the other. In the morning when we got up the ground was white with snow and it was still snowing quite hard. We had about 30 miles further to go with not another shanty in sight till we came to our destination. We were fortunate in having a man with us by the name of Wm. McDonald, who had traveled through this country with a bunch of surveyors at the time it was surveyed. This man had a compass with him and with its help we made our way on north through the snowstorm till about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when we arrived at what we were to call home for the time being at least. We were wet through, tired out, and somewhat hungry. We had nothing but a few biscuits, crackers, cheese and some sardines. Since we left Valley City the previous day I was about as sick as I ever have been in my life, about 1700 miles from mother, 50 miles from a doctor with a bunch of 5 other men without any medicine whatever except a bottle of -----hennessy, which was the first I had ever taken but I must confess that since then there has been a warm place in my heart for it (for medicinal purposes, of course). We used to follow the harrow or seeder on foot all the week, and on Sunday we were in the habit of hiking over the prairies looking for a place to squat on as this land was not surveyed north of Twp. 144. On the 20th day of May we just finished seeding our first crop of wheat and two days later we had a real North Dakota blizzard. We lived in a shack without tarpaper and were it not for the lath over the cracks you could have stuck your fingers right outdoors. Outside of the one woman that belonged to our crowd (the wife of Mr. J. W. Fiero) we didn't see the face of a woman till fall.

We finally got our land located but had to wait for it to be surveyed and put on the market before we could file on it. I signed the petition to get this township surveyed in January 1883 and the following summer it was surveyed and in March 1884 was placed on the market. My homestead is the northeast 1/4, section 24, Township 145, Range 61. My first shack was built of shiplap with sod on the outside. I used to get my provisions from town through my neighbors. During the summer of 1882 a few settlers came and settled around there among them was Chas. Mosely (now dead), also Edward and Richard Sellwood, all coming from Union City, Michigan. That year was the first year the twine binder was brought into this country. Previous to that the old goose neck wire binder was used with an occasional Marsh harvester which had two men standing on a platform binding the grain as it



J. S. Byington (continued)

came through the binder. A great many of the teams were oxen with a few mules and the balance were horses with an occasional cow used to fill in and make a full team. The only crops raised here at that time were wheat, oats, and barley with an occasional piece of rye or flax. Yields varied in those days the same as now. In 1882 wheat went about 25, in 1883 about 12 or 13, in 1884 a little better and in 1885 about 25. After that they were only fair till 1888 when we had prospects for a good crop but it was a little late on account of a late spring, but on the night of the 18th of August it froze ice  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick and it made our wheat look like some of the rust smitten wheat we see now adays. I took two loads of it to Coopers-town, 18 miles away, and received the enormous sum of \$10.00 for each load.

We went to the Sheyenne River and Lake Jessie a few times after fuel gathering up down timber and if we thought we would not get caught at it cut down a real good tree. But we came to the conclusion that it wasn't worth the price so we bought our fuel after that which consisted of hard and soft coal but at a price much lower than it is today (1927).

Pardon me if I leave out the hardships endured during the early days for I often hear the young people of today speak of the hardships they have to endure. (Self made the most of them). It might be hard for most people to believe that we had any hardships worthy of mention, in fact I have heard people say that the N. Dak. people of the early days were the biggest liars on earth. The only time that I enjoy talking about those days is when I'm in conversation with someone who had a few experiences like my own. I have seen many bad storms and fires but was fortunate in never getting either burned or hurt in any of them.

I was married to Miss Nora Sullivan on November 25, 1891 at Jamestown, N. Dak., who died on the 29th day of July 1892, and was married again to Miss Ida Erlandson on April 5, 1894, to whom five children were born. Edna Ione, who is Mrs. Albert Nelson of Palermo, N. Dak.; L. Kenneth who is at home in Sutton, N. Dak.; Chester V. 809--11th St. South, Fargo, N. Dak.; Nina May, Mrs. H. K. Sorvik of Kathryn, N. Dak.; and Lillian V. who is in training at St. Luke's Hospital, Fargo, N. Dak. I am now living in Sutton, N. Dak., having left the farm and moved to town just a little over a year ago.

*Helton Utstad*



EARLY SUTTON VICINITY  
as related by John S. Byington, of Sutton, early pioneer.

As near as I can remember the first schoolhouse built in these parts was on the N.E. corner of Sec. 36 in Dover Tp. on the homestead of D.R. Swarthout in the year of 1883, at a cost of \$4000.00 the lumber being hauled from Sanborn. Mr. Swarthout was a veteran of the Civil War and after the Soo Railroad was built he moved to Wimbledon, where his son and daughter now reside. The next school aside from the one in Cooperstown, that I remember, was built in Helena Tp. on Sec. 33 in the year 1886 and the first teacher was Miss Nora Sullivan who taught in the summer of 1887. Her home was in Illinois and after teaching in Griggs County for several years she changed her name to Mrs. J.S. Byington, in November, '91. She died in July 1892. Some of the early settlers of this section was C.H. Mosely, Spencer Leigh of Michigan, J.G. White (a cousin of Ex-Gov. White of N.D.), J.W. Fiero, Peter Fiero, A.G. Lindsey, C.S. Roe, J.S. Byington from New York, August Palm, Carl Berg, Chris Sonju, Jack Stewart, William Stewart, Peter Eimon, A.J. Anderson, Hans Osien, Claus Jackson, Chris Jackson, and C.C. Frydenberg, all of whom lived in the south half of Helena Tp. and Mabel Tp. or just over the border. Other early settlers were Nicolai Swenson who was at one time our county Treasurer, John Michaelis, M.L. Michaelis, who became sheriff of Griggs County in 1886; Barney Berlin, who came in 1883 from Larimore with his family and moved to the Gifford and White farm in the southwestern part of Dover Tp.; Wm. Sandy and Howard Wilson, residents of Bartley and Dover Tp. Both Sandy and Mr. Wilson have been county commissioners of the 4th Commissioners' District. Howard Wilson and Barney Berlin now live in Barnes County, Mr. Wilson at Leal and Mr. Berlin at Valley City, with his daughters, Mrs. Florence Hewson and Mrs. Charles Flowell.

Other early settlers in this vicinity were John Ebentier, Joseph Ebentier, A.L. Rhodes, Wm. Kingsley, John Nicoll with father, and three



brothers, Sandy, Dave and Charles; William Howden and two brothers,<sup>2.</sup>  
James and Ben, Robert Bailey, George Hartman, Scott Van de Bogart,  
Robert Starr, Jacob Westerhauser, Willie Wilson and Lyman Lewis, resident  
of the north part of Mabel Tp. or the southern part of Kingsley or  
Pearfield Tp(s.)

Charles Gartman, Andrew Fenner, August Fesko, John Francis, Ed Guest  
and W.S. Hyde, of Helena Tp.

Helena Tp. was named after the wife of Peter Fiero, as Helena was  
her given name. A petition was signed by the residents of Helena Tp.  
for that purpose. Bartley Tp. was named after a young man by that  
name--one of the early settlers in Bartley tp. Kingsley Tp. was  
named after Wm. Kingsley who I believe was the first settler in that  
township. Mabel Tp. was named after Mabel Boeckman (Mabel Nicoll) who  
was a daughter of John Nicoll and was the first child born in that  
township.

The first house built in Helena Township was on the farm that  
Jens Nelson now lives--1½ story 16 by 24 with an L 16 by 16-- 1 story.  
This was located just half a mile south of Revere. At the same time  
a granary was built on the same farm by Hiram Schoonmaker of New  
York. The granary was 20 by 80 ft. The contractor was a Mr. Bowers of  
Sanborn and all but two loads of the lumber was brought by team by  
the writer of this article. The distance was over forty miles one way.  
One little incident that happened to me at that time was my introduc-  
tion to the flying ants. I was riding home one hot afternoon on a load  
of lumber when I felt something bite me on the neck and after brushing  
them off for about a half an hour I thought I better investigate as the  
misery was almost unbearable so I stopped my team, got down on the  
ground, took off my shirt and what I found took me a good half hour to  
get out of the inside of my flannel shirt. Having never seen anything  
of the kind before, I related the incident to the carpenters when I got



from that time on.

The first postoffice was established in the above mentioned house with Peter Fiero for postmaster, and the only time we ever got the mail was when some member of the family or one of the nearest neighbors went to Sanborn and returned with the mail. That is the way things were 'till there was a postoffice established at Montclair, at the section house, one mile north of Hannaford. Archie Sinclair was awarded the Star Route job to carry the mail two or three times a week to Helena P.O. From there our postoffice was changed to a settler's home named Dick Sellwood. After a while the postoffice was moved to the Eimon Ranch where Harry Kolpin now lives.. A short time later A.J. Anderson built a store on his farm and the post-office was moved there, and there it stayed until the Great Northern Railroad built the Fargo-Surrey line thro' this part of the country, e----when the postoffice was moved to Revere---- within half a mile of where it was originally.

Another incident I remember that might be of interest to some who are howling about the hard winters we have had to endure these past few years. In the winter of 1895-1896 Martin Thompson who was foreman of the Eimon Ranch at the time, went to Hannaford with a load of wheat and was to bring back a load of groceries and coal for the farm. He was overtaken by a blizzard and when he was just west of the Mosely farm, as it was called at that time, he got lost and strayed about half a mile north and got into a big hollow place on the prairie, where he got stuck and being dark and not knowing which way to go, he had to unhitch his team and start out to find a place of shelter. After walking about two miles northwest of where he had left the sleigh, he was fortunate in reaching what is now the Fred Councilman farm, where he stayed till after the storm, which was a terrible one and lasted three days. After reaching the Eimon Ranch, he with others looked for many days for his sleigh but it was entirely covered up and was not found until spring.



Another time ,in the winter of 1887-when M.S.Michaels was sheriff, he was ordered to go out to Oscar Kjelson's place and get a team of horses which were owned by Ole Johnson and someone had a mortgage against them so he takes Chris Jackson with him for company. On the way out there it came up one of those storms you read about but seldom see. I think it was about the 9th of January .They got along alright till towards night ,when the storm got worse and just about where Sutton is located now,they got lost. After dark they decided to take shelter in a haystack,and here the horses could eat a little,too.After staying there for a while, Mr. Jackson was so cold, he wanted to give up. The sheriff, being a strong man,thought differently and he shook Mr.Jackson out of his lethargy and told him things were not as bad as they looked and just at that time,there was a lull in the storm and in looking around the corner of the stack ,they saw a light just a short distance ahead . They shouted for help ,when Lo and behold, they were only a few rods from Kjelson's home,where they received a generous welcome and where they stayed until after the storm.The next clear day ,several teams with officials,left Cooperstown (and also business men) looking for the ones they supposed were lost and perhaps frozen.

Before I quit, there are Chris Kjelson,Oscar Kjelson,and Adolph Kjelson among the early settlers which I failed to mention,also Ben Thorsgard and Otto Thorsgard,all good men of early Mabel Tp.

Bibliography: Quoted word for word,as John S.Byington, the earliest pioneer in Mabel Tp. -- who is still living there.

John S.Byington  
Sutton,N.D.