

May 19, 1929

Biography of Ole P. Feiring
--William O. Feiring

Ole P. Feiring was born January 6, 1846 near Beere, Norway. His father's name was Peder Feiring; his mother's name was Kaare Feiring. He came to America in 1863.

He left Norway because of the severe conditions there and also he was looking for better success. In Norway at that time they were having some very hard times, and they could not make any headway.

He headed for Wisconsin and he stayed with H. A. Emerson of Hardick Creek in Trempeau County near Whittehall, Wisconsin.

He came to North Dakota in 1884. His reason for coming to North Dakota was that he had heard of the big land booms in the west, and therefore he came here. He first settled ~~four~~^{two} miles northwest of Hannaford.

He traveled from Wisconsin to North Dakota by wagon and horses. He had three horses, a cow, and some machinery with him.

He moved to a farm in Mabel Township. In 1893 he moved and settled on a farm two miles northeast of Cooperstown on Section 22.

The experiences in the early days: At that time they did not have machinery to do things with like they now have. They plowed all their land with a walking plow. They lived in a little tar paper shack with one room, just enough room so they could get about.

Their nearest neighbors were Charley Freedenberg and Jack Nicholis. They held church services in the schoolhouse. The name of the schoolhouse was Washburn. Their minister was P. A. Thoreson. Their first school teacher was Miss Clara Posie.

The fuel in early days was soft coal and wood which they hauled from the river.

He married Beatta Melby in Trempeau County, Wisconsin in 1873.

He died December 20, 1916 and was buried December 23 in the Cooperstown Cemetery.

Descendants are: Oliver Feiring and Olga Feiring who died in Wisconsin at the age of four and six, Mrs. Julia Hoff who died at Sutton, North Dakota, Melvin Feiring of Cooperstown, Oscar Feiring of Havelock, North Dakota, Mrs. Clara Tufte of Cooperstown, North Dakota, and Mrs. Ida Hoff of Leeds, North Dakota.

Biography of Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Feiring
and family
--Warren Bruns

Ole P. Feiring was born at Biristranden, Norway, January 6, 1846. He came to America at the age of twenty years. Passed some years in and around Pigeon Falls, Wisconsin before removing to North Dakota. Mrs. Feiring was Beata Melby before marriage. She was born in Hurdalen, Norway but was only a few weeks old when her people came to Coon Prairie, Wisconsin to enter upon Pioneer life there. Mrs. Feiring was born March 13, 1855. They were married October 9, 1873, at Trempealeau City, Wis.

Seven children were born to this family, two of which died in infancy. Three girls were born at Pigeon Falls, Wisconsin--Clara, Julie, and Ida. Oscar was born at the old Eimoen farm and Melven at the tree claim home near Sutton, North Dakota. This claim was years later sold to A. J. Anderson who removed the buildings. But the trees planted by the original owners are still there, a monument to an old pioneer now passed into the great beyond.

We came to North Dakota because of our hard times in Wisconsin. The cinch bug was an enemy to be reckoned with in those days. Mrs. Feiring's parents had already settled in Valley City on a farm one mile out of the city. Through them came rumors of the great opportunities for settlers out in North Dakota. Mr. Feiring came to this state in April, 1884. He and Mr. Hans O. Lien took a railroad car together and so brought the few things they possessed with them for their start. The rest of the Feiring family came out May 10, 1884, staying at Valley City for a time in order to recover from mumps and measles which the children got on the train. The house on the tree claim was a frame one of three rooms. It was later built into the large house on the A. J. Anderson farm south of Sutton. Three horses, one cow and some rickety machinery had been brought from Wisconsin. Later some oxen were acquired, but everything came hard.

It was with the utmost sacrifice that a living was obtained. Dry winds, prairie fires, inadequate protection on the long trips to town, blizzards, etc. were some of the things to contend with. The distance to either Cooperstown or Dazey was eighteen miles. Hannaford was only a name on the map then. In winter time the family put in some anxious hours wondering whether father would come home safe and sound. Often his return was prevented for several days on account of a blizzard. Those at home struggled with the chores, with the old bucket well almost inaccessible from the piled drifts, and the storm raging for three days perhaps.

The fuel was wood from trees brought from the Sheyenne River. These could be bought if the purchaser would cut his own. Also soft coal was burned and some of the bachelors even used twisted hay for fuel.

Neighbors were few at first. Some single men came out on their claims for the summer but left after their work was completed in the fall. Neighbors at that time were Hans O. Liens, the Kjelson brothers, Emeon brothers, C. J. Erlandson, Christ Jackson, C. C. Frydenberg, and near or about four miles north were the Rhodes and Lewis families.

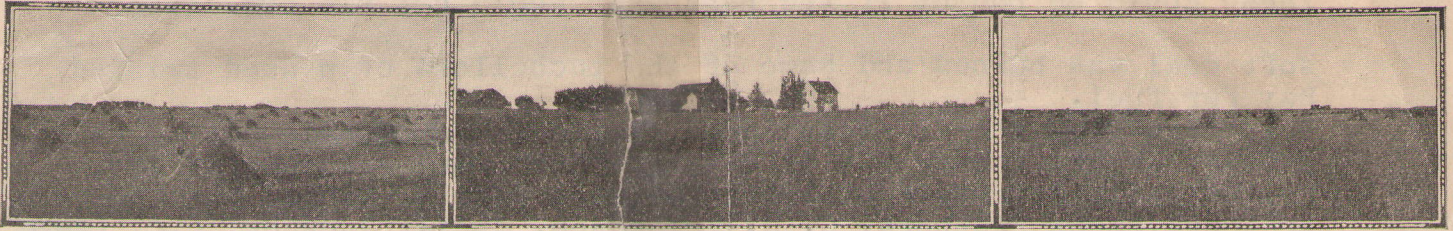
The grain raised was of a good quality but the highest yield raised at this time was thirty-one bushels to the acre and the price about 58¢ a bushel. With walking plows, the old-fashioned seeder and machinery without any seats, slow oxen, with a few poor horses, the farm work went on. Wheat, oats, potatoes, and other vegetables were raised. in 1891 because wheat had been touched by frost it sold for 37¢ a bushel. Butter prices ranged from ten to fifteen cents. Hogs enough for home consumption were raised. The diet of these pioneers was mostly pork and grain foods.

Prairie fires often made people fight for their homes. Fire brakes had to be made around the buildings. If the wind was high and the fire jumped the fire break, it had to be fought with wet gunny sacks and anything at hand. Eye-lashes were singed and faces blackened because of close proximity to the enemy.

The first school in this vicinity was held in one of the two rooms of the Frydenberg house, the parents paying the rent and the district paying the teacher, Miss Clara Posey. There was a school in Helena Township known as the White School--a designation given because of a man by that name living near it. The eldest one of the Feiring family attended school here a few months, staying with the Fogderud sisters and going with them to this school. Miss Sheely and Miss Sullivan were teachers in this school.

Divine services were held at the different homes until a school came to be built. Rev. P. A. Thoreson was the first pastor, coming from his ordination to take charge of church work in the community. He preached his first sermon at the Feiring home near Sutton, and remained in his charge for over thirty-three years. He and Mrs. Thoreson worked so well among the people there that they will ever be remembered by all.

In the fall of 1893 the Feiring family moved to a new home two miles northeast of Cooperstown, North Dakota where they have resided most of the time since except for a few years spent in Cooperstown for a change. Melvin still lives there. Mr. Feiring died December 20, 1916. Julie died February 11, 1920 at Sutton, North Dakota. (Mrs. O. F. Hoff) Ida (Mrs. O. B. Hoff) resides with her family at Leeds, North Dakota. Oscar lives at Havelock, Hettinger County, North Dakota. and Clara, (Mrs. Benjamin Tufte) at Cooperstown. Mrs. Feiring lives with her.



FARMS LOCATED MIDWAY BETWEEN SUTTON, ON GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY, AND BINFORD, ON NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY. WE SHIP FROM EITHER POINT

Story obtained by Warren Bruns.

EXCELSIOR FARMS

OTTO H. BRUNS, Owner

Growers of Pure, Certified Grains and Field Seeds. Samples sent on request. Also Pure Bred Poultry, Hogs, Sheep and Cattle

Binford, North Dakota

A Pioneer Sketch.

(Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Feiring and family.)

1. Ole P. Feiring was born at Biri-stranden, Norway, Jan. 6, 1846. Came to America at the age of twenty years. Passed some years in and around Pigeon Falls Wisconsin, before removing to NO. DAK; Mrs. Feiring Beata Melby before marriage. She was born in Hurdalen, Norway, but was only a few weeks old when her people came to Coon Prairie, Wis. to enter upon pioneer life there. Mrs. Feiring was born March, 13, 1855. They were married Oct. 9, 1873. at Trempealeau City, Wis.

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