

Biography of Fritheof Greenland  
--Viola Greenland

Oliva and Christian Greenland were the parents of Fritheof Greenland. Fritheof Greenland was born near Toten, Norway, May 14, 1850.

Mr. Greenland married Nathalia Avenrud in 1874. After their marriage they left for America. It took them six weeks to cross the Atlantic. Their experience in crossing the ocean was about the same as that which most people had at that time.

They came to this country because of love of adventure. They also thought they could better their financial condition.

In May, 1881, they emigrated to North Dakota. They came to North Dakota instead of another state because of the great land boom that was taking place in North Dakota at that time. Land in North Dakota was fertile and crops were raised that yielded a large amount of grain.

Wheat was the grain that was raised most, and barley and oats came next in rank. Grain was sold for about thirty-six (36%) cents a bushel.

If a person plowed a few furrows or left some lumber on a piece of land, it was an indication that he intended to claim it. Mr. Greenland decided that he wanted to claim Section 12 of Ball Hill Township, Griggs County, North Dakota. He went to Valley City for lumber and when he got back, he found that someone else had plowed a couple of furrows on it. Mr. Greenland then claimed Section 24, Ball Hill Township, Griggs County, North Dakota.

Greenland's first house was made of sod and had a shingled roof. Only one room had a floor in it and the other had a sod floor.

Some of the first neighbors were Mathias Johnson, Mathias Fjelstad, Christian Lee, Han Stai, and Edward Stai.

Their first machinery consisted of a reaper and a walking plow. The teams were sometimes only oxen, or only an ox and a horse, and at other times two oxen and a horse.

Logs which had been obtained from the Sheyenne river were used for fuel.

Once when they were coming back from Valley City, the Ball Hill Creek was so swollen that they had to wait a couple of days for the water to go down before they could go across.

Fritheof Greenland died at Binford June 1, 1922 and was buried at the Cooperstown Cemetery, Cooperstown, North Dakota.

The living children of Mr. Greenland are Oscar of Binford, Magnus of Aneta, Ingvald of Cooperstown, and Norah who is on the western coast at the present time.

The children of Oscar Greenland are: Mrs. Clifford Eliers, Florence, Blanche, Thelma, Bernice, Beatrice, Dorothy and Helen Marie.

The children of Magnus Greenland are: Phyllis, Elaine, and Maxwell.

The children of Ingvald Greenland are: Truman, Forrest, and Viola.

This completes the life history of Fritheof Greenland and gives the names of his descendants.