

Biography of Steen Cornelius Gunderson  
--Myrtle Porterville

Steen Cornelius Gunderson was born in Mt. Morris, Wisconsin on January 3, 1856, the seventh of a family of nine children born to Peter and Taren Gunderson.

He attended the grade school in Mt. Morris, and, after a Normal course, he taught in the vicinity for a short while. At the age of 23 Mr. Gunderson went to North Dakota, and later took a homestead near Cooperstown, where he also established a store. While here he met and married Miss Lena Evenstad in 1894. On June 24, 1895, a daughter, Helma, was born. She lived only 14 months. A second daughter, Lena, was born January 13, 1897. The mother passed away five months later.

Except for a period of 2 years spent in Puyallup, Washington, Mr. Gunderson remained in North Dakota until 1909, at which time he returned to Waushara County, Wisconsin. On December 30, 1909, he married a childhood schoolmate, Mrs. Emmaline Hanson, of Mt. Morris. They, with their children, Gerald, Grace, and Lena, established their home near Wautoma. In 1914 a new home was built where Mr. and Mrs. Gunderson have since resided and been actively associated with the Lutheran Church and the life of the community.

Mr. Gunderson had enjoyed comparatively good health until May, 1933, at which time he suffered a light paralytic stroke. He soon recovered, but since that time his health has gradually failed. On Tuesday, March 17, 1936, he suffered a second stroke, from which he failed to regain consciousness, and passed away peacefully at noon, Thursday, March 19th at the age of 80 years, 2 months, and 17 days.

Besides his widow, Mr. Gunderson is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Loran Jones, his stepdaughter, Mrs. Stephen Sullivan, his stepson, Mr. Gerald Hanson, and 3 grandchildren. His immediate family was at his bedside at his passing.

The funeral services were held from the home at Wautoma, then to the Wautoma Lutheran Church (of which he was a member) Rev. C. M. Voole officiating. The burial was at the Mt. Morris cemetery, near where his father, mother, and an older sister are buried.

His daughter's address is:

Mrs. L. R. Jones  
1243 Thorndale Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois

Steen Cornelius Gunderson.

Steen Cornelius Gunderson was born in Mt. Morris Wis. on Jan. 2, 1856, the seventh son of a family of nine children born to Peter and Taren Gunderson.

He attended the grade school in Mt. Morris, and, after a Normal course, he taught in the vicinity for a short while. At the age of 23 Mr. Gunderson went to N. D., and later took a homestead near Cooperstown, where he also established a store. While here he met and married Miss Lena Evenstad in 1894. On June 24, 1895, a daughter, Helma, was born. She lived only 14 months. A second daughter, Lena, was born Jan. 13, 1897. The mother passed away five months later.

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Mr. Gunderson had enjoyed comparatively good health until May, 1923, at which time he suffered a light paralytic stroke. He soon recovered, but since that time his health has gradually failed. On Tuesday, Mar. 17, 1926, he suffered a second stroke, from which he failed to regain consciousness, and passed away peacefully at noon, Thursday, Mar. 19th at the age of 80 years, 2 months, and 17 days.

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1243 Thorndale Ave., Chicago, Ill.

S.C. Gunderson

S.C. Gunderson, farmer Sec 30-146-57-P.O. Mardell, Briggs Co., was born in Waushara Co. Wis. in 1860. His father died in 1879, and his mother and her family are all living together in Dakota, to which place they came in 1880, having first gone, however, to Southern Dakota. A. brother N. Gunderson, also born in Wisconsin in the year 1856, is associated with him in the management of the farm. They have two sections of first class land, two hundred acres under cultivation, and had, in 1883, twenty bushels of wheat to the acre. Besides these two brothers there are, Maggie, Annie, Esther, and Charles in the family. The aggregate number of acres owned by the brothers and sisters in Dakota is 1,280, all first class land, mostly near the Sheyenne River in Steele Co. Their crop of wheat in 1883 averaged nineteen bushels to the acre.

From "Atlas of Dakota", 1884. p 242

1243 Thorndale Ave.,  
Chicago, Ill.  
Jan 6, 1938

Dear Mrs Porterwick:

Mother sent me the letter  
you had written to her, request-  
ing Dad's obituary.

I have wondered since how  
I might be able to secure a  
copy of the pioneer records  
that is being compiled.

The book would mean a  
great deal to me as I have  
a very vivid memory of those  
first years of my life.

Dad talked often of those  
"early days" - that must have  
been very difficult days for  
him and those other pioneers  
and he would have been  
very happy and honored  
indeed to know that he  
was to become a recognized  
part of the history of Griggs

County.

I feel that we owe you  
a great deal for your personal  
interest and the honor  
you have shown my Dad.

Your mother was my  
first teacher and I  
remember her very well.

Our very best wishes  
and many thanks.

Percy Gunderson Jones