

June 2, 1926

Biography of Mrs. Mary Brosten Johnson
--Rudolph Johnson

The parents of the pioneer were Rachel and Rasmus Brosten. The name of the pioneer is Mary Brosten. She was born June 16, 1870. The place where she was born is Stavanger, Norway. The nearest town was Sandneas.

The pioneer left for the United States because her two brothers were going there, and she thought that there was more work to get there. One of her brothers had been in the United States for ten years. He came home and told about the United States, and the pioneer thought that it would be better to go when the others left and also for the high wages for the work in the United States. The pioneer left for North Dakota because her brother had land there.

There were not many storms on the ocean because they were on deck every day. There was sickness on the boat so all that had not been vaccinated, had to be when they went on the boat. Some had smallpox on the boat and one died of it.

The pioneer left Stavanger, Norway, March 25th and came to Coopers-town, North Dakota April 12th. The first summer the pioneer kept house for her brother.

One summer the pioneer worked on a large farm. She had to get up at 4 A. M. and work until 10 in the evening. She worked for three dollars a week, and when she was through, she did not get her pay. She had to go and collect the money. In the winter she worked for one dollar and fifty cents a week. One place she had to work for two dollars a week and milk cows besides doing the house work.

They went to meetings and Ladies Aid in a lumber wagon pulled by oxen. There was full house at the meetings and Ladies Aid's. They were always on time. One time the pioneer went to a meeting with a horse and cart. It began snowing, so they wanted her to stay. She wanted to go back again. It was a hard snow storm, so it was all she could do to see the road. They were surprised to see her coming back because they thought she would not go out in a storm like that.

The pioneer was married to Andrew Johnson, March 25, 1905. Her husband owned a half section of land in Steele County, North Dakota. They were married at the home of the pioneer's brother in Griggs County, North Dakota.

The pioneer has three sons now living. They are Rudolph, Arthur, and Edward. They are all living at home on the farm. The pioneer is still living on the same farm.