

Biography of Mrs. Bertha Mathelda Hanson Johnson  
--Martin Johnson

The name of the pioneer is Mrs. Bertha Mathelda (Tillie) Johnson. The name of the parents of the pioneer are, Mr. Martinus Hanson and Mrs. Anna Hanson. Bertha Mathelda Hanson was born July 9, 1883 near the town of Bergen.

She left her home in Norway and came to America because she desired a change and a chance to better herself. She came to North Dakota because she had relatives there and was asked by them to come. She found this state to be just as good as any other in the union.

The trip was as follows:

She started from Bergen, June 11, 1901 and crossed the North Sea in a boat named Stavangerfjord to Hull, England. From Hull, England they crossed England by train to Liverpool, England. While going through England, she saw very beautiful scenery and many herds of fine cattle, the best that she ever saw. It took eight hours of steady riding to reach Liverpool, England.

At Liverpool she stayed for three days. It was the dirtiest place the pioneer had ever been in, the town and the people were all alike. On the third day she boarded the Magestic which went around by London. At London a group of Indians boarded the ship, the first Indians the pioneer had ever seen. From London they went around by Ireland (couldn't remember the town) where about eight hundred passengers came on. They didn't make another stop till the ship reached America. The officers were very particular who they had on board. All had to be examined when they got on the ship and when they were in New York. Three were held back at that time.

They had fine weather on the ocean for four days, with one day very stormy. No one was allowed on deck during the storm. They reached New York on the fifth day. Before any person could enter the United States he had to be examined. She left New York for Chicago by train. From Chicago she left by train for Hannaford, North Dakota. She reached Hannaford, June 23, 1902. She stayed and worked with relatives part of the time. She worked out for others until she met Mr. Gilbert Johnson. She married him on November 20, 1907 at Bertha, Minnesota. They then came to Cooperstown, North Dakota and bought a home where the pioneer is now living.