

Biography of Elling Johnson
--Ovidia Froiland

His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Froiland. Mr. Johnson was born on December 26, 1850 in Stavanger, Norway.

He came to America in 1882 to seek his future or to find better opportunities for the future. He came to North Dakota because other of his friends from Norway had settled here.

He first came to Yellow Medicine, Minnesota and worked there for one year. Then he came to North Dakota in 1883 bringing his family with him. He came in a covered wagon drawn by oxen.

He took up his land in Section 10, Township 145, Range 59. He first had a sod house, then later he had a frame house. They got to town by foot or using oxen. They had to drive 40 miles to Valley City to grind their flour. There were many large prairie fires and fierce blizzards.

His nearest neighbors were T. T. Fuglistad, Jens Bull, and Fred Williams.

His farm machinery was owned by another neighbor and himself. They were: broadcast seeder, 6 feet wide; peg toothed harrow, and a walking plow. The harvesting was hired by a neighbor.

They did not have any church but they gathered in the homes and schoolhouses. Their pastor was Rev. Nasheim. The school they had is the one called Soma School at the present time.

They got the wood from down by the Sheyenne River. They did not have any coal.

He was married to Dorothy Ashland in Norway in 1875. He makes his home at his farm.

His descendents are:

Mrs. Jasper Taxdal, Hannaford, North Dakota
Mrs. Christ Sildal, Cooperstown, North Dakota
Mrs. Inga Anderson, Cooperstown, North Dakota
Mr. Hans Froiland, Cooperstown, North Dakota