

## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Mr. and Mrs. Lars Johnson, who now reside in Sverdrup Township, were both born in Sweden. Lars Johnson who was then known as Lars Johanson was born on the 14th of January, 1842, in Dufved, are, Jamtland, Sweden. His parents were Mr. John Larson and Mrs. Brita Nelson Larson. He was the second son in a family of three boys and one girl. Mrs. Johanson was known in her girlhood days as Ingeborg Nelson. Her parents were Nels Olauson and Gertrude LaLander Olauson. She was born on the 19th of April, 1847, in Wik, are, Jamtland, Sweden. She was the oldest child in a family of three boys and five girls. Mr. Lars Johanson and Ingeborg Nelson were married on the third of July, 1870, in Are Church near Dufved, Jamtland, Sweden.

In 1872, after the old home of Lars Johanson's parents had been sold to their oldest son, Mr. Johanson decided to sail for America. On the 9th of May, Lars Johanson and his wife and their infant daughter, Brita Elizabeth, decided to go to Minnesota to seek a new home. They came to Granite Falls, Chippewa County, Minnesota, because Mr. Johanson's youngest brother had come there two years before and had already bought a farm. The Johanson's lived there on a pre-emption for nine years but because of crop failures, due to three years of grasshoppers and drought, they were obliged to leave. On a pre-emption people were given the right to live until they could homestead the land, but since it was impossible to live there because of crop failure they were given permission by the government to leave and go elsewhere to make their living and take a homestead if they wished.

Mr. Matthew Davidson, a Civil war veteran and a neighbor of the Johanson's, had gone to what is now Griggs County a couple of years before. The Johanson's therefore decided to go to Dakota. They built a covered wagon by nailing wooden ribs to the top of the wagon box and covered these, first with unbleached sheeting, then oilcloth to make it waterproof. Into this they loaded all the household goods, consisting chiefly of bedclothes, stove, a few kitchen utensils, and their immigrant trunk filled with clothes for themselves and three children, Brita Elizabeth, Nickolaus, and Margareta. They also had provisions with them for the journey, such as, "knacke" bread, dried beef, homemade summer sausages, smoked ham, and so forth. They also had one-half dozen hens, two geese, and one rooster. They shipped their haymower and plow on the Northern Pacific to Valley City. A small seeder was shipped to Hope later. They had three cows, one heifer and one calf. Their mattresses were filled with straw and laid on top of their household goods. On their journey when the bread gave out they had to lift the stove out of the wagon while they did the baking.

They set out on their journey in company with John and Gustav Forsborg and the Grotness family. They had planned to start in May but due to Mrs. Johanson's illness they postponed

their departure still in June. At the end of the first days journey they camped near a farm. Mrs. Johanson was not feeling well, so the kind farmer's wife invited her and her girls to sleep upstairs in her house. The room was low and hot and she felt feverish. She managed to get downstairs for a drink of water from a rain barrel to quench her thirst. The next morning the lady gave her some medicine and Mrs. Johanson felt well enough so they could continue their journey.

When they reached Fergus Falls they traded their team of horses to a man who had come from the Red River Valley. In exchange for the horses they got two yoke of oxen. Then in company with the Grotnesses and the Forsbergs they continued their journey. Cattle buyers, gold seekers, land seekers, and fortune hunters with their wagons joined in the cavalcade for a longer or shorter time.

They came through Fargo which was then only a town of small shanties. Mr. Johanson wanted to stay in Fargo and go into the restaurant business, but Mrs. Johanson had the vision of a claim and home in Dakota, where she could bring up her children in God's nature and not in a noisy boarding house kitchen, dusty streets and dirty alleys.

The Grotnesses went to Crookston from Fargo but the Johansons and Forsbergs continued westward. Going by the Dalrymple Farm they had to cross a slough three miles long. The water reached over the hubs of the wheels up to the wagon box, but they came through safely because the bottom of the slough was prairie and not soft.

When passing a farm near Fargo one rooster flew out of the crate. They lost track of him, but the Grotnesses asked the farmer to pay them fifty cents. For this they bought a treat. Over one day's journey on this side of Fargo, one of the cows had the misfortune of breaking her leg. This delayed the journey for three or four days. They had to take the cow and her calf back to Fargo, where they sold them both for about forty dollars.

Finally they reached the Sheyenne River after about four weeks journey. They camped on the east side of the valley for a couple of days while Mr. Johanson and other men in the company went out to look for a good peice of land on which to settle. They located on Section 28, Range 58 W., Tounnship 145 N. on the morning of the Fourth of July, 1881, where they are still living.

After they settled on their land, they lifted the cover off the wagon and set it down and lived in that the first summer. When it rained or stormed Mr. and Mrs. Johanson had to get up in the night and hold down the tent. They also had extra oilcloths to put over the children. Mrs. Johanson can

tell many interesting incidents of trying to cook in the open. Mr Johanson has also delighted in telling stories of the early days.

With his team of oxen and a crude plow, Mr. Johanson set to work at once to break the sod. He broke ten acres of land on which he raised wheat the next spring. He also cut hay with the help of his wife and children. Mr. Johanson put up hay for the neighbors to make money for food and clothing. They also put up a thirty ton stack of hay that he sold for two dollars a ton to Mr. Andrew Benson.

The tools and machinery were of the crudest make. Mr. Johanson made his own hay rake and Mrs. Johanson had to lead the oxen while Mr. Johanson managed the rake, but the Johansons were not afraid of work and as they had very little money they were willing to work hard for necessary provisions. They had only forty dollars in cash but with what they earned they were able to send fifty dollars to his brother in Granite Falls. For this he bought a cow and sent with Andrew Benson who came from Granite Falls to this community later in the fall.

In the fall of the year Mr. Johanson went to Valley City and traded off some cattle for lumber to build a shanty. After the shanty was completed Mrs. Johanson said, "I don't believe any king in all his glory is as happy in his palace as I am in my little shanty." After having lived three months in the improvised tent, Mrs. Johanson appreciated living in a house that was stationary. They lived in this little shack till in November, when Mr. Johanson and little son, Nic, had cut the logs and built the one-roomed log cabin. They lived in this one-roomed cabin until in 1885 when they built a large barn. They put a floor in one end of that and lived in it for a few weeks while they moved the log house, added another room, and raised the building making a low room of second floor. This building with the two rooms is still standing on the homestead. The large wood framed building was built about 1904.

Mr. and Mrs Johanson each with a yoke of oxen went to Valley City in the fall to buy provisions for themselves and their neighbors. This was a three days trip. Their own winter provisions consisted of two gallons of kerosene, syrup, fifty cents worth of brown and fifty cents worth of white sugar, five pounds of coffee, some flour, and a few minor articles. They were not in the habit of drinking coffee every day. They made a coffee substitute by baking a kind of course bread, cut it in strips, dried it and browned it, and ground it together with some coffee beans. Sometimes they used the wild prairie tea for a drink.

The next spring Mr. Johanson bought seed for his ground from a farmer near Bald Hill Creek. The grain was large and full, but was mixed with with wild buckwheat seed. As they had no mill Mrs. Johanson and the children had to pick out the buckwheat seed. They did this by spreading the wheat over sheets.

They also bought five bushels of potatoes in Valley City. When they were cutting and sorting the potatoes for seed they cut out some potatoes for a meal. This was a treat as they had not tasted potatoes since they came to Dakota. The potatoes were planted in the ground that had been the fire break, for in those days prairie fires were common and wide fire breaks were necessary. Many times the whole family had to get out and fight the fire.

They had to borrow a reaper to cut their first years crop. This they borrowed from Simon Ouren.

There was one thing these pioneers did not lack and that was fuel. This could be gotten at the Sheyenne River. There were plenty of dry trees and also woods on which no one had monesteaded. After a few years Mr. Johanson bought three acres of land along the Sheyenne River which is known as lot three and section sixteen. From this he has been able to our many a load of wood throughout his forty-five years of residence here. He paid sixteen dollars an acre for this wood land.

Rev. Lundeby was one of the first ministers to visit the community. Though the Johanson's house was small yet it was larger than many of their neighbor's houses. Therefore, Mrs. Johanson was obliged to house the minister. The neighbors brought milk, bread and other provisions for him. Rev. Lundeby was such a tall man that Mrs. Johanson had to piece her short old-country sheets and put a chair at the foot of the bed so that the bed would be long enough for him. This minister told the Johanson children many interesting stories about his travels over the prairie. He dressed in furs and carried a tent with him so that when caught in a storm he could cover his horses, cutter and himself, and camp on the prairie until he was able to get to some settlers home. He would hold services once or twice a year. At one of his services held in 1883 twelve children were baptized at one time. Among these twelve was Mr. and Mrs. Johanson's infant daughter, Kristina Wilhelmina.

In 1886 Lars Johanson and Hans Sundeen went back to Granite Falls and each bought a team of horses. Each team cost in the neighborhood of three hundred dollars. These were bought on the installment plan.

After filing his tree claim, Mr. Johanson set about planting trees. The first year he planted seed and they came up nicely and seemed to thrive but in July a hot rain killed them. He then had to prepare the soil again, buy trees and replant. In 1885 he planted nine thousand trees. Many of these are now sturdy trees. With trees planted in later years they make an excellent windbreak and a cozy looking home.

The first schoolhouse built in the fall of 1884 is what is now known as the Gallatin School. Gallatin was then the Postoffice. The Gallatin Schoolhouse was organized May 29, 1883. Mr. Johanson served on the board as clerk at that time

and later as president of the board. This school grew to be quite large. In 1889, forty-five children of school age, lived in the district. This schoolhouse cost approximately one thousand dollars.

Mr. Johanson received his citizenship papers in June, 1887. George Gullickson and Matthew Davidson were his witnesses. John A. Jorgenson was clerk of court for Griggs County. (See copy of Naturalization Record) Some of the men who became citizens at the same term of court were: Hans Sundeen, Samuel Langford, John Duncan, John J. Lee, Thor Hagen, Ferdinand Fenner, Knut Stromme, and Christ Aarestad. There were fifty-seven applicants for citizenship at this term of court.

Some of the people who were neighbors of the Johanson's in the pioneer days were: Swen Loge, Swen Lunde, Waldemar Klubben, Betuel Herigstad, Ole Westley, Andrew Benson, Christian Aarestad, and Helge Larson.

The descendents of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are Brita Elizabeth (Mrs. Olof Johnson of Hannaford), Nickolaus (Nic Johnston of Aneta, deceased), Christine Wilhelmina (Mrs. O. W. Sandin of Cooperstown), Mathilda LaLander (Mrs. Mathilda Johnson of Cooperstown), and Ida Louise (Mrs. Albert Johnson of Hannaford). Besides these there are sixteen grandchildren. The writer of this paper is one of the grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are still living on the homestead with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Sandin, and are still active but their years of hard labor are beginning to tell their tale.

Though many of these early experiences are forgotten, yet on cold winter evenings when sitting around the fire in their cozy farm home their talk often drifts to reminiscent tales of pioneer days.

Copied from page 44 of Naturalization Record of Second Papers.  
Griggs County

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA  
County of Griggs

DISTRICT COURT  
June Term, June 15th, 1887

In the matter of the application of Lars Johanson to become a citizen of the United States George Gullickson and Matthew Davidson being severally sworn, do depose and say, each for himself, that he is well acquainted with the above named Lars Johanson that he has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past, and for one year last past within the Territory of Dakota; and that during the same period he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and sworn to  
in open Court, this 15 day  
of June 1887.

Signed JOHN A. JORGENSEN  
clerk

Signed GEORGE GULLICKSON

Signed MATTHEW DAVIDSON

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA  
County of Griggs

DISTRICT COURT

I, Lars Johanson, do swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I do absolutely and entirely Renounce and Abjure forever all Allegiance and Fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly to the King of Sweden and Norway whose subject I was. And further, that I never have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the degrees of Nobility of the country whereof I have been a subject, and that I have resided with n the United States for five years last past, and in this Territory for one year last past.

Subscribed and sworn to  
in open Court, this 15th  
day of June, 1887.

Signed JOHN A. JORGENSEN  
CLERK

Signed Lars Johanson

Transalation of letter written by Lars Johnson to his brother, Jonas, living in Minnesota.

Gallatin, the 20 of September, 1885

Dear Brother, Jonas,

I must, in brief, send you a few words so you may hear we are alive and gifted with health up to this time. Only two year old daughter, Kristine, has poor eyes. I have tried two of the doctors we have here but without any permanent help. If she is not helped we will have to go to Minneapolis.

I planted last spring about 9000 trees. All have grown this summer. Besides I have built a good log stable 42 feet long and 16 feet wide. I have even moved my living house and laid shingle on the roof.

I have both reaped and threshed. I got 1560 bushels wheat on 72 acres, 500 bushels oats on 10 acres and 85 of barley. We have had a dry fall and nice weather.

Let me hear what the prices of horses down there are now and if you know of a good team for sale also if it can be sold on time until spring. I am looking for wheat to go up in price. I still have my oxen. My large team of oxen weighed, after I was through reaping, 5786 pounds. The largest of them is the one I raised down there.

I will also mention that a daughter was born to us last June. Her name is Mathilda.

and so a loving greeting to you all. In haste of your brother.

Lars Johanson

Translation of letter written by Lars Johnson to his brother,  
Jonas, in Minnesota.

Griggs the 27 July, 1883

Loved Brother,

Thanks for your letter of the 28 instant. I see by your letter that you are gifted with life and health as usual. Must also mention that we have also the same good news to tell you, only our infant daughter, Kristina Wilhelmina, who was born the 14 of April has been poorly of late, but just now she is somewhat improved. During the first of the summer the weather was so dry that the grass on the prairies began to wither and dry. The last days of June the weather has been up to 115°, so that the crops in many places look poorly. The fields that were put in early are in the best condition. I sowed about 10 acres before the other neighbors got theirs in. This looks like No. 1. The rest of my crop was sowed soon after so it looks as if that will be good too. Last Saturday we had such a heavy rain I have never seen the like. I had a tub standing outside on the flat prairie. This filled in a foot high. But the ground was so dry that the water soaked into the ground in a short time. The 26 we had another heavy shower. This filled the sloughs and it is now difficult to make hay. I have just started haying. Yesterday we hauled 10 loads. I have a hired man so things are going fast. Yesterday Nic loaded all the hay and "mama" stood in the stack. I unpitched the load and Jacob helped load. We had two teams.

Daniel Erickson came up last spring. He took land near the river. It has 12 acres of wood. Another man had pre-empted that land but had left. He has built a house and is living there with his wife.

My seeder arrived in Hope last March in good condition. I have broken 45 acres--half for myself and half for others.

I must close my letter with dear greetings to you all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

P. S. I will show you how tall wheat grows in the west.



Translation of letter written by Lars Johnson to his brother, Jonas, living in Minnesota.

Gallatin the 13 of February, 1885

Dear Brother Jonas,

Your writing of the 12 of last month, even the named of last summer, I have heartily received. I started an answer to the one from last summer before Christmas, but it was never finished. We are all well according to circumstances and are all gifted with health to the present time. We must say we have had a good summer and a dry fall, and a nice winter even though it is cold off and on. There is so much snow that we must use sleds. We had wagon roads until Christmas time.

We have now already gotten a school house and school a going. Brita and Nickolas have gone to school all winter. We have  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the schoolhouse which is situated in the valley. It is now two years since I took the steps necessary to have a school district organized. This did not materialize because when the meeting was held there was a disagreement about where the school should be placed. Those in the Valley wanted it there and those of us on the prairie wanted it in the center which was near my land. But then in the meanwhile the new school laws come into effect and we had then no school house and so nothing came out so what we had done.

I have never mentioned to you that I had some trouble with 40 acres of the land that I took as a tree claim. A Norman that lived in this same section made known to me and others how he intended to take his land after I had secured my paper and had all things right, so he went and swore to the effect that he had dug a well on this named forty, and so got his papers. This named well was only a hole that he had made in taking out some plaster sand in hill and that there would be a hole was clear. I then had to get two men to go with me to Valley City to witness to that effect. I had an attorney. This witness proof had to be sent to Washington before I got a satisfactory answer and that took a long time, but when it came it was in my favor and he was the loser. During this time he had moved onto this named forty, built a house, and stable, and broken 16 acres. In order that I did not have to go to further law and get him to go I paid him 93 dollars for the house and breaking. He then sold his forty acres and left this community. I now thus have two farms. I intend to move this named house unto my homestead. I bought 7000 cotton wood trees last fall that I intend to plant on my tree claim

#2

I must say I had a rich harvest last fall. We got 1560 bushels wheat, 25 on the acre. Oats were about 400, but the prices as you know are low. But luckily I got hauled out 380 bushels when it was 60 cents and so I have about 400 left to sell. Wheat cost me at home here 52 cents and I got a chance to sell for 48 and 50 cents.

We paid \$2.00 a day from the time harvest started until threshing was over. I had this year a norwegian boy from Wesconsin who worked for me and earned \$80.00 from me until threshing began. Usually the crew follows the threshing machine. C. Aarestad got between 8 or 900 bushels wheat, and H. Larson 600, if I remember correctly.

There is a lot of complaint about hard times and it is perhaps hard for many. I for my part have not known of any hard times since we came up here. It seems to be quite common that people have had too much hope for the future so they have invested too much. I perhaps have done so too, but I have worked my land carefully.

I have again bought a new sulky plow, so I now have two. Also a new wagon which is paid for. I have to pay second installment next coming June on my binder.

I must ask you to send me 2 or 3000 cuttings of the kinds of trees that are best growers. Cut them so they are ready for planting. They would have to be packed in a box. You may not have time to do it but you can get some one to do it. Perhaps Pher Nilson who lives in 12 could undertake to do it. I would pay what it was worth.

You must greet Pher Nilson's from us. Also other friends from us, and you are greeted from us all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

Should mention that incase trees be sent they must be sent to Cooperstown, Griggs Co., Dakota. I have heard that the roads (rr) have been united but I know not if it is true.

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA  
County of Griggs

DISTRICT COURT

And now, to-wit: At a Term of said Court now being held at Cooperstown in and for the County of Griggs in said Territory, upon the foregoing oath and affidavits, and upon further proof having made by the production of certificate that the said Lars Johanson did before the Clerk of the District Court of Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, the same being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, make the requisite declaration of his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce all other allegiance as required by the laws of the United States.

IT IS ORDERED BY THE COURT, That the said Lars Johanson be, and he is hereby admitted to be, A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

By the Court,

Signed WILLIAM H. FRANCIS  
judge.

A true Record. Attest:

Signed JOHN A. JORGENSEN  
clerk

TRANSLATION OF LETTER WRITTEN BY LARS JOHNSON TO HIS BROTHER.

Jonas, in Minnesota.

Griggs the 27 July 1883

Loved Brother,

Thanks for the letter of the 28th instant. I see by your letter that you are gifted with health as usual. Must also mention that we have also the same good news to tell you, only our infant daughter Kristina Wilhelmsa, who was born the 14 of April has been poorly of late, but just now she is somewhat improved. During the first of the summer the weather was so dry that the grass on the prairies began to wither and dry. The last days of June the weather has been up to 115 degrees, so that the crops in many places look poorly. The fields that were put in early are in the best condition. I sowed about 10 acres before the other neighbors got theirs in. This looks like No. 1. The rest of my crop was sown soon after so it looks as if will be good too. Last Saturday we had such a rain I have never seen the like. I had a tub standing outside on the flat prairie. This filled in a foot high, but the ground was so dry that this water soaked into the ground in a short time. The 26 we had another heavy shower. This filled the sloughs and it is now difficult to make hay. I have just started haying. Yesterday we hauled ten loads. I have a hired man so things are going fast. Yesterday Nic loaded all the hay and "mana" stood in the stack. I unpitched the load and Jacob helped load. We had two teams. Daniel Erickson came up last spring. He took land near the river. It has twelve acres of wood. Another man preempted that land but had left. He has built a house and is living there with his wife. My scuder arrived in Hope last March in good condition. I have broken 45 acres---half for myself and half for others. I must close my letter with dear greetings to you all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

P.S. I will show you how tall wheat grows here in the west.

Callatin, the 20th of September, 1885

Dear Brother, Jonas,

I must, in brief, send you a few words so you may hear we are alive and gifted with health up to this time. Only two year old daughter, Kristine, has poor eyes. I have tried two of the doctors we have here but without any permanent help. If she is not helped we will have to go to Minneapolis.

I planted last spring about 9000 trees. All have grown this summer. Besides I have built a good log stable 42 feet long and 16 feet wide. I have even moved my living house and laid shingle on the roof. I have both reaped and threshed. I got 1560 bushels wheat on 78 acres, 500 bushels oats on 10 acres and 85 of barley. We have had a dry fall and nice weather.

Let me hear what the prices of horses down there are now and if you know of a good team for sale also if it can be sold on time till spring.

I am looking for wheat to go up in price. I still have my oxen. My large team of oxen weighed, after I was through reaping, 5786 pounds. The largest of them is the one I raised down there.

I will also mention that a daughter was born to us last June. Her name is Mathilda.

And so a loving greeting to you all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

Gallatin the 13 of February, 1885

Dear Brother Jonas,

Your writing of the 12 of last month, even the named of last summer I have heartily received. I started an answer to the one from last summer before Christmas, but it was never finished. We are all well according to circumstances and are all gifted with health to the present time. We must say we have had a good summer, and a dry fall and a nice winter even though it is cold off and on. There is so much snow that we must use sleds. We had wagon roads until Christmas time. We have now already got a schoolhouse and school a going. Brita and Nickolas have gone to school all winter. We have 1 1/2 miles to the schoolhouse which is situated in the valley. It is now two years since I took the steps necessary to have a school district organized. This did not materialize because when the meeting was held there was a disagreement about where the school should be placed. Those in the valley wanted it there and those of us on the prairie wanted it in the center which was near my land. But then in the meanwhile new school laws came into effect and we then had no schoolhouse and so nothing came out of what we had done.

I have never mentioned to you that I had some trouble with the 40 acres of land that I took as a tree claim. A Norman that lives in this same section made known to me and others how he had intended to take this land after I had secured my paper and had all things right, so he went and swore to the effect that he had dug a well on this named forty, and so got his papers. This named well was only a hole that he had made in taking out some plaster sand in a hill and that there would be a hole was clear. I then had to get two men to go with me to Valley City to witness to that effect.

I had an attorney. This witness proof had to be sent to Washington before I got a satisfactory answer and that took a long time but when it came it was in my favor and he was the loser. During this time he had moved onto this named forty, built a house, and stable, and broken 16 acres. In order that I did not have to go to further law and get him to go I paid him 95 dollars for the house and breaking. He then sold his forty acres and left this community. I now thus have two farms. I intend to move this named house unto my homestead. I bought 7,000 cotton wood trees last fall that I intend to plant on my tree claim. I must say that I had a rich harvest last fall. We got 1500 bushels wheat, 25 on the acre. Oats were about 400, but the prices as you know are low. But luckily I got hauled out 380 bushels when it was 60 cents and so I have about 400 left to sell. Wheat cost me at home here 52¢ and I got a chance to sell for 48 and 50¢.

We paid \$2.00 a day from the time harvest started until threshing was over. I had this year a Norwegian boy from Wisconsin who worked for me and earned \$80.00 from me until threshing began. Usually the crew follows the threshing machine. C. Aarsted got between 8 or 900 bushels of wheat and H. Larson 600, if I remember correctly. There is a lot of complaint about hard times and it is perhaps hard for many. I for my part have not known of any hard times since we came up here. It seems to be quite common that people have had too much hope for the future so they have invested too much. I perhaps have done so too, but I have worked my land carefully. I have again bought a new sulky plow, so I have now two.

Also a new wagon which is paid for. I have to pay a second installment next coming June on my binder.

I must ask you to send me 2 or 3,000 cuttings of the kinds of trees that are best growers. Cut them so they are ready for planting. They would have to be packed in a box. You may not have time to do it. Perhaps Pher Nelson who lives in 12 could undertake to do it. I would pay what it was worth.

You must greet Pher Nelson's from us. Also other friends from us, and you are greeted from us all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

Should mention that in case trees be sent they must be sent to Coopers-  
town, Griggs County, Dakota. I have heard that the roads (rr) have  
been united but I know not if it is true.

Jonas, in Minnesota.

Griggs the 27 July 1883

Loved Brecher

Loved Brother,

Thanks for the letter of the 28th instant. I see by your letter that ~~you~~ you are gifted with health as usual. Must also mention that we have also the same good news to tell you, only our infant daughter Christina Wilhelmena, who was born the 14 of April has been poorly of late, but ~~ja~~ just now she is somewhat improved. During the first of the summer the weather was so dry that the grass on the praries began to wither and dry. The last days of June the weather has been up to 115 degrees, so that the crops in many places look poorly. The fields that have been ~~pu~~ put in early are in the best of condition. I sowed about 10 acres before the other neighbors got theirs in. This looks like No 1. The rest of my crop was sown soon after so it looks as if it will be good too. Last Saturday we had such a rain I have never seen the like. I had a tub ~~stan~~ standing out on the flat prairie. This filled in a foot high. But the ~~gr~~ ground was so dry that this water soaked into the ground in a short ~~to~~ time. The 26 we had another heavy shower. This filled the sloughs and it was difficult to make hay. I have just started haying. Yesterday we hauled ten loads. I have a hired man so things are going fast. Yesterday Nic loaded all the hay and mama stood in the stack. I unpitched the load and Jacob helped load. We had two teams.

Daniel Erickson came up last spring. He took land near the river. It has twelve acres of wood. Another man preempted this land but has left. He has built a house and is living there with his wife.

My seeder arrived in Hope last March in good condition. I have broken 45 acres--half for myself and half for others.

I must close my letter with dear greetings to you all. In haste of



2  
your brother,

Lars Johanson

I will show you how tall wheat grows here in the west.

Gallatin, the 20th of September, 1885

Dear Brother Jonas,

I must, in grief, send you a few words so you may hear we are alive and gifted with health up to this time. Only two year <sup>old</sup> daughter, Kristine has poor eyes. I have tried <sup>two</sup> of the doctors we have here but without any permanent help. If she is not helped we will have to go to Minne<sup>s</sup>olis.

I planted last spring about 9000 trees. All have grown this summer. Besides I have built a good log stable 42 feet long and 16 feet wide. I have even moved my living house and laid shingle on the roof. I have both reaped and threshed. I got 1560 bushels wheat on 72 acres 500 bushels oats on 10 acres and 85 of barley. We have had a dry fall and nice weather.

Let me hear what the prices of horses down there are now and if you know of a good team for sale also if it can be sold on time till spring. I am looking for wheat to go up in price. I still have my oxen. My large team of oxen weighed, after I was through reaping, 5736 pounds. The largest of them is the one I raised down there.

I will also mention that a daughter was born to us last June. Her name is Mathilde,

And so a loving greeting to you all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

I had an attorney. This witness proof had to be sent to Washington before I would get a satisfactory answer and that took a long time but when it came it was in my favor and he was the loser. During this time he had moved onto the named forty, built a house, and a stable, and broken 16 acres. In order that I did not have to go to farther law and get him to go I paid him 93 dollars for the house and breaking. He then sold his forty acres and left this community. I now have thus two farms. I intend to move this named house unto my homestead. I bought 7,000 cotton wood trees last fall that I intend to plant on my claim.

I must say that I had a rich harvest last fall. We got 1500 bushels wheat, 25 on the acre. Oats were about 400, but the prices as you know are low. But luckily I got hauled out about 360 when it was 60¢ and so I have about 400 left to sell. Wheat cost me at home here 52¢ and I got a chance to sell for 48 or 50¢.

We paid 2.00 a day from the time harvest started until threshing was over. I had this year a Norwegian boy from Wisconsin who worked for me and earned 80 dollars from me until threshing began. Usually the crew follows the threshing machine. C. Aarstad got between 8 or 900 bushels of wheat and H. Larson 600, if I remember correctly.

There is a lot of complaint about hard times and it is hard perhaps hard for many. I for my part have not known of any hard times since we came up here. It seems to be quite common that people have had too much hope for the future so they have invested too much. I perhaps have done so too, but I have worked my land carefully. I have again bought a new sulky plow, so I have <sup>one</sup> now too. Also a new wagon which is paid for. I have to pay a second installment next coming June on my binder.

I must ask you to send me 2 or 3,000 cuttings of the kinds of trees that are the best growers. Cut them so they are ready for planting. They would have to be packed in a box. You may not have time to do

5.  
it. Perhaps Pher Nelson who lives in I2 could undertake to do it.  
I would pay what it was worth.

You must greet Pher Nelson's from us. Also other friends from us,  
and you are greeted from us all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

Should mention that in case trees be sent they must be sent to Coopers-  
town, Griggs County, Dakota. I have heard that the roads (rr) have  
been united but I know not if it is true.