

Biography of Waldemar John Klubben  
--Irvin Loge

Waldemar Johan Klubben was born near Bergen, Nordfjord, Norway, on February 26, 1847, by Soneve and Elling Klubben. His parents died when he was a young boy. He was brought up by his aunt until he was able to take care of himself. In this part of Norway fishing was the main living. He soon found out that he could not stand the sea as he would always get sick from it. He went on south of Bergen and later to Stavanger. He took up railroad work at the time the railroad was built from Stavanger to Egersund, a distance of about 50 miles. On June 9, 1878, he was married to Maria Pernilla Johanson in Stavanger. They settled down for housekeeping on Hoiland Station.

In the winter of 1880-1881 many of the neighbors became interested in America. They thought that they could get free land and be more independent in America. On April 10, he together with about 20 neighbors left Norway for Granite Falls. After sailing a few days the propellor broke and the ship had to be hauled in to St. John for repair. It took about 10 days to repair the ship. This delayed them so much that the families arrived about the same time as they did. As no land was to be found near Granite Falls the next thing was to try and gather up some machinery and a team of oxen.

They drove across from Granite Falls to Benson, Minn. They were not able to get a stock car but had to take a wheat car. This was not very handy and when they arrived at Fargo an ox had gotten his horns between some boards and managed to commit suicide. They buried him near the railroad track. Arriving at Fargo they drove across and settled in Sverdrup 145, section 26, Range 58, Swen Loge living in one room and Mr. Klubben in the other. They had built their house across the section line as they did not get settled before June 12. Someone told them that they could not break later than June 1 so they had only 5 acres the first year. The families were left at Granite Falls at Christ Aarestad's until a house was built. On July 4 the families left Granite Falls for Valley City. They were taken across the country in wagons to their new homes which consisted of sod houses. When it rained real hard an umbrella was used in the house in order to keep dry. They soon built a good sized log house. They hauled their wood from the Sheyenne river about 1 mile away. Valley City was the nearest town to get provisions. They could not go very often. It was about 35 miles. One trip will never be forgotten. The mosquitoes were awful. They spent one night on the prairie in a new house where there were no windows or doors.

The first fall all the men went to Valley City to take in the threshing in order to make some money to keep them through the long and stormy winter. One thing they had plenty of was prairie fires. They always came from the south and would always come either in the spring or fall. Mr. Klubben has been a hard worker and is yet able to be around and do quite a few things.

He is still living on the old homestead with his oldest son, Edward Klubben. Albert, the youngest son, lives about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the old place. He has the other half of the farm. The girls who are living are Mrs.