

Biography of Emil Krogsgaard
--Elbjorg Krogsgaard

Emil Krogsgaard was born June 10, 1859 in Hedemark, Norway, 21 miles from Hamar. His parents were Even and Johanna Krogsgaard.

There were four boys and one girl in the family and four of them had to find anew home when of age. Mr. Krogsgaard chose America where, he had been told, it was easy to make a living.

The early pioneers of his own nationality already here was the main reason for his coming to North Dakota.

Starting from Finmore County, Minnesota where the first stop was made after coming to the United States, he went by rail to Valley City and then travelled on foot to where he is now living. He arrived here the last part of March, 1882 and took up land. In 1883 he filed on it.

This land was located in Ball Hill township, section 14. He bought a quarter of section 23 in 1888. Mr. Krogsgaard worked in Valley City during the winter of 1882 and '83.

The first house was a frame house covered on the outside with Dakota brick (sod).

Provisions were obtained from Knut Thompson as a store had just been started by him in Cooperstown. Some of the neighbors here the year before brought supplies from Valley City.

The nearest neighbors were Mathias Fjelstad, Andrew Benson, Andre Aarestad, Frithiof Greensland and Christian Lee.

The first and second years after taking up land, he hired breaking. The third year he bought two oxen, a plow and a seeder and put in the crop himself. Later he bought two more oxen.

The crop put in was all wheat except a few potatoes for eating. The crops were good, but the prices were very poor. Fuel was picked up down by the river.

The weather was fair most of the time especially the first years. However, some bad storms were experienced. In January '88 there was a big snow storm. In '96 the dugout for the oxen snowed down. Water for the oxen had to be lowered in a bucket through a hole sawed in the roof.

One year a prairie fire destroyed the whole crop when it burned the wheat stacks. The house escaped because it was on the other side of the railroad which acted as a fire break.

Mr. Krogsgaard was married February 2, 1898 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Bergine Wold. Mrs. Krogsgaard was also an immigrant from Norway.

The descendents are Edgar and Mable of Cooperstown; Mrs. Otto Therkelson of Chicago; Lulu of Chicago; Leif who died when a baby; Elbjorg and Alice of Cooperstown.

The pioneer still lives on the land he bought in 1888 which is located 5 miles south of Cooperstown.