

EARLY DAYS IN SVERDRUP TOWNSHIP

SVEN LUNDE

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He built a log house about 24' by 14' with a bark roof and sod on top. They had no floor and just one room. The stove was set up outside a big oak tree where cooking was done.

When they went to town for provisions they had to go to Valley City which was about forty miles and it took them two days each way.

The first winter the supply gave out towards spring and the family was on the verge of starvation. Shotts and bran were procured from the Cooper farm. This was cooked into mush which kept the family alive until they could reach market for supplies. One of the boys which was big enough to understand the situation made this remark one day "This mush is fitting for the occasion being that it takes little to satisfy our need."

On this occasion when Mr. Lunde went to Valley City for provisions the river was flooded and it had to be crossed two times before you could reach the city. He hired a boat to take him across the Sibley crossing. He also had to hire a team and leave his own on this side of the river. Before he returned the children came to their mother and begged for food but she heartbroken had to tell them the sad fact that the pantry was empty and there was nothing to be had. But he returned the same day with provisions.

Some of their neighbors were Christian Aarestad, John ^{Pates} Paige, Davidson and Alexander Chalmers.

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The only fuel they used was wood, it was gotten from the timber along the Sheyenne River. Often the Indians would come in their canoes down the Sheyenne; on the other occasions they would come by horse and wagons, and pitch their tents under the trees in the neighborhood. They often came around the farmyard asking for supplies for their families and hay for the horses.

Any gun report heard in the distance would scare the settlers thinking it was the Indians coming upon them.

Mr. Lunde dug a hole in the ground which was used as a furnace to burn limestone into lime, and this fire had to be kept burning day and night. One of Mr. Lunde's boys was tending the fire one night and he heard a bang and something splashed into the water. Frightened, he picked up his lantern and ran to the house. After a while he plucked up courage and hearing nothing more he returned to the lime-kiln. In the morning the family agreed that it must have been the cracking of the burning limestone and a muskrat playing in the river. For years it was an annual event to see a prairie fire come over the bluff. One year we had not made a fire break on the bluff. The fire was on the bluffs, so one of the boys set fire to the nearby prairie as a back-fire. We managed to put out the fire which had caught in the rubbish under the granary, and thereby saved the granary.

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Biography of Sven Lunde
(Early Days in Sverdrup Township)
--Alice Erikson

Sven Lunde was born in Gjesdal, Norway, near the city of Stavanger, August 26, 1838.

He left Norway because the prospect to make a living at that time was rather perplexing, and he came to try his luck in this country. He settled in North Dakota because of the government offer of free homestead.

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The first winter the supply gave out towards spring and the family was on the verge of starvation. Shorts and bran were procured from the Cooper farm. This was cooked into mush which kept the family alive until they could reach market for supplies. One of the boys who was big enough to understand the situation made the remark one day, "This mush is very fitting for the occasion being that it takes so little to satisfy our need."

On this occasion when Mr. Lunde went to Valley City for provisions, the river was flooded and it had to be crossed two times to get to the city. He hired a boat to take him across Sibley Crossing. He also had to hire a team and leave his own on this side of the river. Before he returned, the children came to their mother and begged for food but she, heartbroken, had to tell them the sad fact that the pantry was empty and there was nothing to be had. But he returned that same day with provisions.

Some of their neighbors were Kristian Aarestad, John ^{Pater}Paige, Davidson, and Alexander Chalmers.

Three or four neighbors had a yoke of oxen together and a wagon, and they bought a breaking plow. The rest of the machinery was borrowed to put in the first crop of four acres. The drought cut down the yield of the grain to about 10 bushels to the acre on small grain, their only crop.

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For years it was an annual occurrence either fall or spring to see the heavens ablaze on top of the bluffs from the prairie fire. On one occasion the family was too late to make a fire break on top of the bluffs. The granary was in the wake of the fire. One of the boys set fire to the prairie near by. This left a burnt space where he could lie down as the fire passed by, after which he ran to the granary and put out the fire which had already caught in the rubbish underneath the granary.

Mr. Lunde was married in Norway to Justina Westley the 21st of May, 1868. Born to this union were eight children of which five were born in Norway and three in North Dakota. Three of these eight children are still living. They are Rier Lunde, Ludvig Lunde and the third is a daughter married to Sven Erikson, their children being Ernest, Junet, Alice, Sidney and Algot. All these are living in Griggs County, North Dakota. (Rier, the oldest, lives in Cooperstown, has three children of which Esther, the oldest, is married to E. T. Thompson; to this union two children are born--Marvin and Quinton. Two of the children at home, namely, Alpha and Lorentz.)

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PIONEER BIOGRAPHY
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Often the Indians would come in their canoes from down the Sheyenne River. On other occasions they would come by horses and wagons, and pitch their tents under the trees in the neighborhood. They often came around the farmyard asking for supplies for their families and the hay for the horses. Any gun report heard in the distance would scare the folks to think it was the Indians coming upon them.

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For years it was an annual occurrence either fall or spring to see heaven ablaze on top of the bluffs from the prairie fire headed for the home. One one occasion the household were too late, on top of the bluffs to make a fire break. The granary was in the wake of the fire and sure to catch. One of the boys set fire to the prairie near by. This left a burned space where he could lie down as the fire passed by, after which he beat it for the granary and put out the fire which had already caught in the rubbish laying around and underneath and the granary was saved.

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16 Lime Kiln ---

Ludvig Lunde's father, Sven Lunde, operated a lime kiln. He started in 1882 and excavated a round place in the ground and built it up, protecting it by stones. He piled lime stones in this, leaving a place for fire underneath. The fire was kept going night and day for three weeks, and when the lime cooled off, it was ready for market.

One night, Hans Brosten was taking care of the kiln when he heard a loud crack from the stone. He didn't notice it came from the kiln, and thinking someone was trying to shoot him, he grabbed the lantern and started for home. He began to think it was his imagination and would feel foolish to go home, so he turned back to watch the kiln.