

Martin Lunde

From interview by Hannah Lunde

Martin Lunde was born near Stavanger, Norway, Sept. 14, 1858. He was married in Norway to Karen Herigstad in 1880, and lived there three and one-half years, there learning the shoemaker trade.

Mr. Lunde left Stavanger March 28, 1882. He came to America by boat on the "Hekla". A little girl was born on the ship and they named her after the boat and the Atlantic ocean— Hekla Atlanta. The ship went under the fall after Mr. Lunde came across from Norway.

When Mr. Lunde came to Dakota, buffalo bones were all over the territory. The first years they hauled carloads of these bones away, and received \$5 a ton for them.

The first place Mr. Lunde and his wife came to was what is now Valley City, April 17, 1882 and there they stayed at a private home for about a week. From there they moved south of Cooperstown in Sverdrup township, Sec. 34, 145-58. Before Cooperstown got settled they had to use the cart and oxen and sometimes walk to Valley City to get their groceries.

Mr. Lunde's first home was a sod shanty. There were three small rooms and very lightly furnished, consisting of one small cook stove used for both heating and cooking, one large box for table, two beds made from boards sawed from logs, two boughten chairs, an enclosed cupboard. A kerosene lamp was used for light. They had plenty of wood to use for heat and cooking. There was no cellar in the shanty where they could put their food to keep from spoiling so they used their enclosed cupboard. ~~made~~

There were numerous hardships but the main difficulty was the trouble in securing food and flour. Many times Mr. Lunde didn't know how they were going to get their groceries and flour. In those early

days it didn't do any good to ask for credit; it so happened that Mr. Lunde had some money coming from a certain person. He told his wife he was going over there to see if he could get some of it. Happily he came home with part of the money he had coming.

There wasn't much leisure time for the older folks; they worked day and night. The younger folks for amusement skated, swam, and coasted.

An evening school was held for adults to learn the English language. The ladies aid was organized and from there the women began to do homework, made quilts etc., selling them at auction, the money going to the missionaries.

Martin Lunde made two trips back to Norway in 1901 and 1913. In 1901 he went to see his father and mother. In 1913 his mother was along. They traveled and visited their relatives and friends. In 1927 Mr. Lunde retired from farming and moved to the city of Cooperstown where he has lived ever since.