

Biography of Evan Monson
--Melfred Monson

Evan and Ingeborg Monson came from Norway with two of their children. The other seven were born in Alamakee County near Decorah, Iowa. Six boys and three girls, all of whom are still living except Muns, the oldest, who died in March 1926. He left a wife and three children, the oldest of which is ten years old.

Evan Monson emigrated to North Dakota in 1881. He left Iowa on account of the chinch bug and grasshoppers eating up all the crops and also because of the free land in Dakota. He came up in the summer of 1881 and staked out his land and built a dugout with logs for a roof. His claim is seven miles west of where Finley now is. He brought his family up here in the fall. He came as far as Minnesota with horses and then traded his horses for a yoke of oxen. They came from there in a prairie schooner. The four older boys walked all the way with their father, while the youngest boys and the girls and their mother rode most of the way. Albert I monson was then fourteen years old. He was born in 1867. There were many of the old pioneers already here. Omand Opheim came in 1879. Qualey and Ivar Seim came in 1880 and John Hanson Bjudstad and Arneson came in 1881.

The first year they raised wheat and other grains, and the first year they needed all the grains for food and feed. They got all their fuel in the woods on the Sheyenne River about two miles west of their place. Wheat was then about 60¢ a bushel and the other grains were much lower. They used a cradle to cut the grains and they sowed by hand. The first reaper they used, they had to tie the bundles by hand. They cost close to \$300. They had to have two men to run them. They had to go to Valley City for provisions, and it took three and a half days to make the trip. They got their mail from Portland. They got it once a week. A man would go on skis in winter and bring back all the mail for the neighbors. The first winter was a hard one. They had many blizzards and some narrowly escaped getting lost.

Albert Monson married Mathilda Qualey in 1891 and to their union was born, six children, four of which are still living—three girls and one boy, as follows:

Mrs. Edwin Bolkan, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Myrtle Monson, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Melfred Monson, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Mrs. Henery Hanson, Melstone, Montana.

The names of his brothers and sisters are:

Henry Monson, Fowler, Montana.
Hans Monson, Lacrosse, Wisconsin.
Evan Monson, Finley, North Dakota.
Knut Monson, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Mrs. Harnes Hegge, DeSant, North Dakota
Mrs. J. W. Knoxen, Luverne, North Dakota
Mrs. Johanna Sermgard, Devils Lake, North Dakota

Biography of Evan Monson
--Esther Kruschwitz

Mr. Evan Monson's parents' names are Mr. and Mrs. Monse Nordides. Evan Monson was born in Norway in 1828 on the 28th day of March, near Bergen County, Norway and near the city of Bergen. The people of Mr. Monson's community got the American fever. In 1862 he came to America. He was the first one from that part of Norway to come to America. He came to Iowa first; he then left Iowa to come to North Dakota because he had friends here. He started to North Dakota with a team of horses and a covered wagon, with his wife and ten children. They had bad weather and roads on the way. He came to Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota in the year of 1880 about harvest time. They stayed there until August of the next year. They then started out for North Dakota. There were three families in all--Mr. John Arneson and family and Thor Halverson and family. They came as far as Tower City where they changed their horses for oxen. They drove the balance of the way to Griggs County with oxen. They arrived here on the 25th day of September.

Experiences of the pioneer's days.----Mr. Monson took up a homestead in 1881. He built a shack in what was Griggs County in those days. His homestead was in Greenview Township (Steele County now) 146, Section 6 and Range 57. He lived in a dug out and a log cabin. He went to Valley City and Mayville for provisions, as they were the closest towns. His closest neighbor was John Arneson. Other neighbors were John Qualey, John Johnson, and Amon Opheim.

Some of the early farm machinery and horses were, oxen team, scythe, and walking plow. The early crops were five acres of wheat and a few acres of oats raised on sod. The price of the grain was from 50¢ to 60¢ per bushel.

At that time they burned wood. Mr. Monson got it from Mr. Opheim as an inducement to come to North Dakota.

They carried flour for three miles on their backs from Mardale. They had such hard times that they didn't know from one meal to the next what they would have to eat.

They worked wherever they could get work. One place in particular where they could get work was the Cooper ranch.

The preacher was Mr. Lundebj. The teacher was Lena Spilde. They had church at farm houses and places they could sit down. The school house was near John Qualey's; it was later used as a church.

Mr. Monson was married in Norway on the second day of pentecost in 1858 to Miss Ingaborg Starbo.

Mr. Evan Monson passed away at his home the 23rd day of January, 1911. He was buried in the Sheyenne Valley Cemetery.

Mr. Monson's children and their families:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Monson, Fowler, Montana

Lawrence Monson

Selma Monson

Helen Monson

Mr. and Mrs. Monse Monson (Deceased)

Arthur Monson

Kenneth Monson

Lloyd Monson

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Monson, Cooperstown, N. D.

Myrtle Monson

Lillian Monson (Mrs. Edwin Bolkan)

Gladys Monson (Mrs. Henry Hanson)

Melfred Monson

Mr. and Mrs. Knut J. Monson, Cooperstown, N. D.

Theodore Monson

Hazel Monson

Kenneth Monson

Edna Monson

Raymond Monson

Mrs. Ole Sermgard, Devils Lake, N. D.

Sigrid Sermgard

Ida Sermgard

Anna Sermgard

Eva Sergard

Mr. and Mrs. Hegge, New England, N. D.

Agnes Hegge

Eleanor Hegge

Selma Hegge

Selda Hegge

Ida Hegge

Susan Monson (Deceased)

Evan Monson, Finley, N. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Monson, LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Knoxen, Luverne, N. D.