

Biography of Emil Nelson
--Gladys Nelson

Emil Nelson was born January 21, 1883 at Beaver Creek, Jackson County, Wisconsin. He came to Aneta, North Dakota for employment at a general merchandice store.

He was married at Courtney to Effie Genevieve Halverson November 6, 1907. He went into the hardware business in partnership with his brother. From there he moved to Cooperstown, his present residence. He has been here for the past nine or ten years. Address: Cooperstown, North Dakota, Box 181.



Steen Halbert Nelson

Steen Hakbert Nelson was born in Waushara county Wisconsin, Nov. 22, 1854. His parents were natives of lower Telemarken Norway, and came to America because of the hardships there, and to better themselves in a financial way. They made their first home at Heart Prairie Wisconsin. Two years later they filed on land in Waushara County. This Homestead was on what was known as the "Indian Land" and the date of entry was 1850, or there about; The family consisted of ten children, all born in Wisconsin, of which Steen was the third. Here he attended the common school more or less irregularly. When he was old enough to be of service on the farm his schooling was limited to a few months in the winter. The country teachers in those times were no better than usual and so, his lack in educational advantages he tried to make up to his children.

Why he came to Dakota.

At first wheat was the staple crop, but as the years went by the yield fell to three or four bushels per acre. These scant harvests were pieced out by work in the lumber woods in the winters or harvesting in Minnesota. His story of how and why he came to Dakota is continued in substantially his own words as follows: "In the summer of '79, while working on the north Wisconsin railroad, we read of the great prospects of the Red River Valley. So we agreed among ourselves to send Steen Gunderson to investigate. He came to Fargo, and sent back to us such glowing reports of this new western country that a number of young men, ten in all, including myself, all of us old neighbors concluded to come and look the country over ourselves, and choose from the many chances offered--homesteads, preemptions and tree claims."

About this time Mr. Nelson had found his life partner in Miss Bertha Maum, and they had been married about two weeks when the start was made. This was the spring of 1880. There were ten teams in all, and as there was free transportation to where they could all get work on the rail-road at Volga S.D. they took advantage of that offer and shipped to that place. Continuing, Mr. Nelson says, "When we arrived at Volga S.D. we found very little hotel accommodations, and no barn room, so we had to sleep out under the wagons. One night a roaring blizzard came up, which hurled the snow in drifts about the wagons and the shivering horses. In the morning there certainly was six inches of snow upon our beds." There was such a rush for work at this point, and men and teams came in such numbers that the food supply ran low, which came near causing a riot, but in due time, things were in better shape and they worked there about three months. In substance the narrative continues: "Seven of us in company, with our teams, having feed for our horses, crackers, bread and coffee for ourselves, started from Huron S.D. for Fargo, following the James river. Coming along we would milk the ranchers cows when they would stand for us, so we had crackers and milk for a change. Many towns were platted along the river, and all were called cities. These "cities" consisted usually of a shanty occupied by one or two locators who tried hard to get us to take land, but nothing would stop us from seeing the great Red River of the North.

We left the Jim River at the City of Columbia, which consisted only of a hotel and a store or so, and started northeast towards Wahpeton. We slept mostly under our wagons as only two of them were covered. During the night smudges had to be kept going all the time to drive off the swarms of mosquitoes that tormented man and beast. So we changed off, and while six were asleep the seventh was up tending the fire. Thus we passed the night, and on the morning of the third day out from Columbia, a streak of green was seen in the distance. At sight of this we all mounted our wagon seats, and standing in them sent up a glad shout. The Red River of the North was before us. The object of our dreams since leaving Wisconsin more than three months previously, was before us. Then that bride, whose honeymoon had been cut short, was to join her husband at Fargo. And on July 8th 1880, there was a happy meeting between Mr. Nelson and his young wife. After this the men went to work on a ranch east of Moorhead and worked until it froze up. While working at this place they heard of the

Steen Halbert Nelson

Cooper settlement in Griggs County, and leaving their teams took the train for Tower City, and went south to look for land. They went as far as Lisbon, and turning back they followed the Sheyenne River to Valley City. There were seven of them on foot, and so found it hard to get food and lodging in the country. At Valley City they met "Pioneer Nelson", who was then living on the Sheyenne, the first permanent settler of the county. He persuaded them to go and take land near him. Again starting out on foot, the company which consisted of Gunder Gunderson, John Eagan, George Ashley, Steen Nelson and his brother Ole, stopped the first night with Mother Hacket, living on Getchel Prairie, where they were kindly entertained. About three o'clock the next afternoon they had reached the the- log cabin of Christ and Ole Bolkan on the Sheyenne. It was erected by a man who had preceded the Bolkans. This is the first known human dwelling ever built in Griggs County. It was on 34-146-58. The Bolkans were living alone and Ole was cook. There were seven hungry, healthy men to feed but there was ~~enough~~ enough and to spare, and that dinner was long to be remembered. That night they reached their destination,, and were hospitably received by the "Pioneer". This was in Nov. 1880, and after looking over the land all returned to Fargo. And the next spring (1881) five of them filed on claims in what is now Greenview township Steele County. While stopping at Fargo Mr. Nelson went home for a short visit, and while there, a man had come eighteen miles to deliver a telegram stating that his brother Ole had been shot. This brought him back in haste. The shooting was an accident and not fatal.

In the spring of 1881 a log house was built and pioneer life began. There were six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, of whom four are now living (1909). They are Norris, Stephen, Arthur, and Lulu. Mrs. Nelson died April 9th 1896, leaving the father to act the part of both, in keeping together bringing up and educating the children.

During this time he has held various town offices, was one of the first elected Commissioners of Steele County. He held the office of County Treasurer for two terms. and was Representative in the State Legislature for two terms. As County Commissioner he helped to win battles against graft and the liquor interests.

He was brought up in the Lutheran faith, but claims to have been converted by a Methodist Preacher named Christian Oman in 1883. Since that time he has been an active Church and Sunday-school worker, as well as a successful farmer.

During his pioneer days he has been lost several times in blizzards, once lying for a long time wrapped in his fur coat, but never allowing himself to go to sleep. Each time he succeeded in reaching home without serious harm. He has all these years clung to his old home, improved and beautified, it is true, but at this date the old log house still stands, an eloquent witness of early struggles and achievements.

Biblog. ~~Old Settlers Association~~ Old Settlers Association records.
By H. A. Bemis in 1909

Steen H. Nelson

Steen H. Nelson of Greenville twp, Steele Co. was born on a farm in Hashara Co. Wis., Nov 22, 1854. He was the oldest son + 3rd child of 10 children, born to Nels and Anna (Anderson) Nelson. He is still living (1900) on the old home farm where Steen was reared and worked until his 20th year. He worked out for several years, then worked in the woods in Goodhue Co., then to Wisconsin until 1880. In the spring of 1880 he went to S. Dak with a team for the purpose of looking over the country with a view to locating there. But after his arrival there he worked on the Chicago + Northwestern Ry. He wished to look further before taking land, and with several companions crossed the country to Fargo by team. They were young men who had been reared in wooded country, and the trip across the prairie was not only pleasant but novel in its experiences. So-called city after city was passed, though consisting of 1 or 2 shanties and the inevitable sign in glaring letters, "land office."

Mr. Nelson selected the land of his homestead in the fall of 1880, and filed claim to the land in the spring of 1881. He then moved to his farm accompanied by his wife, and his brother, and he built a 16 x 20 foot shanty, which was

S. H. Nelson

his home until his 16 X 26 log house was built.

Mr. Nelson was married in the spring of 1880, to Miss Bertha Marum, born in Norway. She died in 1896.

Six children were born: Bertha, deceased, Bertha, deceased, Norris, Steven, Arthur and Lulu.

Bibl. Condensed from Compend of Hist. + Biog¹⁹⁰⁰ pp 516-7

S. H. Nelson

S. H. Nelson, farmer, Sec. 20-146-57, P. O. Mandell
Griggs Co. is the son of Nelson Nelson, who settled in
Haushara County Wisc., many years ago, and
is now a good farmer and respected citizen of
the same county and state. Both parents and a
brother are living there. S. H. Nelson was born
in Haushara County, Wisc. in 1854 and his brother
O. C. Nelson who resides on the adjoining farm
in Dakota was born in 1857, in the same county
and state. The brothers received their education
in the county common schools of their native state,
and learned the business of farming. They came
to Dakota, to that portion of Griggs County, now
included in Steele County, in the fall of 1881, and
located on government land, two and $\frac{1}{2}$ miles
east of the Sheyenne River, where they now have
one section of excellent land with neat and
commodious buildings, good stock of cattle and
horses, farm implements, and the best well water
in all the country. The younger brother O. C. is
unmarried. The elder, S. H., was married to Bertha
daughter of H. O. Marum, a farmer of Winchester, Wisc.
They have had two children, both deceased. The brothers
have had excellent crops. In 1883, they raised 2300
bushels of wheat, an average of 23 bushels per acre.

From, Atlas of Dakota, 1884. p 242

Upon leaving Tower City there was not a hut to be seen. The only things was the stakes set by surveyors that could be seen till the Sheyenne River was in sight. Once in a while they would come to a settler that had homesteaded in 1878 or 1879.

In those early days the first thing the settlers looked for was a place for shelter, and fuel. There was no person that had not heard of the dreaded snow storms or blizzards. No one could imagine what they are like unless he has witnessed one. A person could not face it for more than a few minutes and then had to turn his back to the wind to get his breath. It was always extremely cold.

One instance is: An unmarried woman lived in a small house. She had some goods, furniture, shipped up from Minnesota. This came to the nearest station, Valley City. She proceeded to look for someone to take her down and get the goods. This was in February. The trip to Valley City was successful, but on the way back they were overtaken by a blizzard. The woman sat in the box and the driver in the spring seat. A short while after the storm had commenced he heard her talk. He turned around and saw her holding a bottle of whiskey. They said the whiskey saved their lives that day.

The pioneer built the sod stable and hay stack close together so that he could get at his hay easier without getting lost in the blizzards. The only way to get the hay into the stable was to carry the hay in the arms. It was almost impossible to get water during these blizzards. Sometimes the livestock had to go without water for two or three days.

The houses built were mostly sod houses, but some would dig into the side of a hill and put a rough board floor and a roof on.

Along the Sheyenne River the houses were built mostly of logs

with roofs of bark and sod.

During the early eighties the farmer or pioneer had to get his supplies for winter early. They would go sometime in November to Valley City and Tower City, the closest cities to purchase their goods.

The worst enemy of the pioneer was the frequent prairie fires in the fall. They had to carry matches at all times so they could start a backfire. The fire could be heard for miles.

These fires were of great damage because the grass was burned off and then the snow would not stay. This was the cause of the several dry years that followed. The only place the snow would stop was by the farm buildings. Many times they would almost be covered. All the machinery would be snowed down.

During the pioneer days, the pioneer was never into a restaurant to eat. He would take his lunches along and go behind the buildings and eat. Women did this as well as the men. They also would take hay and feed for their horses or oxen. People also had to do their own doctoring and nursing.

Knute O. Nesheim

Knute O. Nesheim of Sec 8, Norway trap Nelson Co claims to be the oldest settler on the Sheyenne River Valley within the limits of Nelson Co.

He was born in Bergenstift, Norway, near Vaassestraden on the farm of Nesheim, Mar 8, 1859. He was the oldest of 11 children born to Ole and Betsey (Nesheim) Nesheim, the parents still living in Iowa. The father came first to Allamakee County, Iowa, and his family followed in 1873. When he was 17, Knute O. began work on a farm in Worth Co., Iowa. From there, in company with T. Mickelson, he started for the Sheyenne River in Dakota. They drove overland with ox-teams, and reached the Sheyenne River at Valley City. They followed up the stream and chose lands near each other in Nelson County. They were the first settlers in the Sheyenne river valley within the limits of Nelson Co., locating June 26, 1880. Mr. Mickelson sold out and removed from the county, thus leaving Mr. Nesheim the original first settler in the valley in the county. He was at that time the owner of 2 yoke of oxen and 2 cows.

He did part time breaking for others at \$4 or \$5 per acre - He also raised crops each year. He spent some time in hunting and trapping.

Rutile Nesheim

and shot many deer and some antelope. He trapped beaver and other wild animals. Fishing was good. He was one of the organizers of Norway trap.

Mr. Nesheim was married 1884, to Miss Minnie Arden. His children: Annie S., Oscar, Bennard, Bella, Matilda, Lena, Edwin, Melvin, and Theodor, deceased.

Mr. Nesheim still lives in a log house built in 1895.

Bibli: Condensed from Compend of Hist & Bio, 1900, page ¹⁰²⁸⁻⁹ A

Gabriel Ness, Hannaford N.D.

Gabriel Ness is from Vigedal, Ryfylke. He came to America in 1903 to Bristol S. Dak, went to Concordia College 1911-13. He worked on "Hannaford Enterprise" as printer. He is a fine cabinet maker.

Bibl: Transl. from Hans Jervell, 1916 - p 104.

Nestvold, Carl Johan
Ord. 1910 - Free church - 1910 -

Born in Kortingep, Stavanger, Kristiansand
on Dec 30, 1880, son of Ole Smedsen N. and
Marie (born Beerningen) Emigrated 1896.

Attended Augsburg Sem. 1903-1907 (A.B.) '07-'10 (C.T.)
Pastor Greenville S.D. 1910-'13; Aneta, McKille
and Finley N.D. 1914 -

Married Marie Thovik in 1910.

Translated by M. T. from

Norsk Luth. Prest i Amer. 1914, pp. 506

G. S. Newberry

G. S. Newberry, cashier of 1st. Natl Bank of Carrington, was born in Ontario, Canada, Oct. 2, 1876, a son of George and Martha (Gumblitt) Newberry. His father was born on the Isle of Wight, England, and at 16 yrs came to Canada. His ~~father~~ mother was born in Ontario, Canada. In 1883 they came to the ~~U.S.~~ ^{Coopers town}, traveling by ox-team the last 20 miles. G. S. attended Coopers town schools, and in 1898 he became book keeper in the Carrington State Bank.

In Jan 1901 Mr. Newberry married Miss Mary G. Shuey of Postville, Iowa. His children: James Hurvey and George Stevenson.

Bibl. Condensed by Lounsberry Vol III, 1917, page 371

April 1883
Mrs. Geo Newberry's Story

Mrs. Porterville

It was in early spring when we arrived in North Dakota. Born in Ontario, Canada, and accustomed to the wooded areas; transplanted within a week to the prairie vastness of Dakota Territory.

We came as far as Sanborn by rail but the branch not being completed to Cooperstown we took the stage from Sanborn to Dazey in a dreary, drizzling rain, there to be lodged in the home of a Scandinavian family who knew only their native language which was strangely unfamiliar to us and seemed a compound of threats and derision. Bewildered and weary and unable to comprehend a word they said, we were almost immediately to find how more than kind our hosts could be for it was their team which carried our little group over the miles from Dazey to Cooperstown, our destination. Near the present town of Hamaford we were obliged to ford Bald Hill Creek whose swollen waters crept up into the box of our wagon and over the backs of our faithful horses.

At Sanborn we had discovered that, through an oversight, our clothing and household goods were being held in Chicago until they should be re-checked and it was six weeks before they finally arrived. This complicated matters for the mother of the family for we had brought with us just the clothing we thought needed for the journey and were unprepared for this contingency.

Arriving at Cooperstown we found reserved for our use, two claim shanties on opposite sides of a road. One served as living rooms; the other for sleeping quarters and in the latter we awakened one morning to find ourselves blanketed in snow which had blown in through the cracks in the wall during the night. Everything in the new environment, even that experience, was of interest. One morning I remember seeing twenty-one four-mule breaking outfits start out together to turn over the prairie land owned by Mr. R. C. Cooper for whom our town was named. To me, accustomed to a one man team in the fields, that was an amazing sight.

In that first year we were anxious to make the most of our land rights and so my husband filed on a claim. Leaving the older children with friends in town he and my brother loaded up a small stove and other necessary household effects and with the two smaller children and me set out by ox team for our claim. Scarcely had we arrived when a band of men rode up and with hootings and much shooting of firearms dashed round and round our claim shanty. I was terrified. My husband and brother went out to ascertain the cause of this visitation and were told the claim had previously been filed on by one of the men in the party. All our efforts to arrive at an amicable settlement failed and their disturbance continued until, thoroughly worn out and discouraged, we repacked our goods, took down the little stove which had just been set up, and wended our weary way back to town. That was the extent of our attempt to farm in North Dakota. Schools were not yet established on the prairie; work was to be had in town where our children could have the privilege of attending a good school under the instruction of those who proved to be friends and advisors for many years, and this seemed the only way in which we could assure them these contacts.

In the fall of that first year we moved from the shanties into a granary belonging to Mr. Cooper. About that time the question of a site for the County Court House arose and he agreed if they would build it where he wished it (on the present site) he would tear down the old granary which was located nearby. His offer was accepted. The granary had been painted, papered and divided by partitions into rooms making a cozy little home but with the prospect of its being torn down we decided it was best for us to build a little home for ourselves, and so it happened that before this home was completed the granary was being torn down and one day the children and I sat out on the grass by our new home, with our furniture beside us, waiting until the roof was put on so we might move in. That was our home for thirty-seven years.

I was never homesick after coming to North Dakota, but the longing

for the trees and flowers never ceased. This hunger was not confined to me alone, as was later proved by the number of trees planted and the care expended to keep them alive. One day our son, G. S. Newberry, then a boy, found a little cottonwood twig which he brought home and planted in our back yard. With the quick response of that variety it rooted and in a few years developed into a good sized tree. So far as I know, that was the first tree ever planted in Cooperstown.

Lacking, too, were the church spires of the settled communities; quite in evidence were the saloons which followed with the opening of the new country. But worship we must - so it happened that one Sunday, for lack of a better place, we held our service in a saloon, the bottles and kegs being mute witnesses of the character of the place. However we lived to see the saloons go and the churches come in -- Baptist, Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist and Mission.

Over the prairie which had been the home of the roving herds of buffalo were piles of their bleaching bones and horns. The bones had commercial value for fertilizing purposes and were hauled into town in loads to be shipped out. Many homes were decorated with the horns of the animal, scraped and polished until they shone like ebony.

And always there was the surprise of the quick change of season. One August the farmers worked frenziedly building bonfires to keep away the frost which threatened the ripening grain. In winter the blizzards exacted their toll but the advent of spring always brought renewed hope and courage and when the fields were again carrying their golden sea of grain we thrilled to their beauty.

And so the new land became - and still is - HOME.

On Armistice Day, Nov. 11th, 1920, my husband and I - by this time alone in the home in Cooperstown - moved to Jamestown that we might be closer to our children, some of whom were living in that city and others nearby. On March 13th, 1923 we celebrated our golden wedding anniversary, and this was our last family reunion for two weeks later our daughter Minnie (Mrs. G. E. Macconnell) passed away. On October 13th, 1926 my husband found release from a long illness. Of the eight children born to us six are living; Nell, (Mrs. R. C. Hazard) in Bismarck; Mabel, (Mrs. A. L. Bowden) in Seattle, Washington; Fan, (Mrs. J. E. Christensen) in Jamestown; Ethel, making her home with me; George S., our eldest son, married and living in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Frank W., our second son, married and living in Jamestown. I have living 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Sometimes when the automobiles are rolling over the splendid highways and the airplanes are zooming overhead, in retrospect I go back to the days of the ox-team, the spread of the unbroken prairie - the priceless friendships made in those early days, many retained until the present time - and am proud to feel that even in so small a sense we have been Dakota pioneers.

Pioneer Story of Mrs. George S. Newberry
Jamestown, N. Dak.

Mrs. Barleville

PIONEER STORY OF MRS. GEORGE NEWBERRY

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Bibliography: Mrs. George S. Newberry
Jamestown, N.D.

Dr. George F. Newell

Dr. George F. Newell was born in 1816 in Vermont. He was educated at the University of Vermont, and the Casselton medical college. He moved to Waterford, Racine, Wisconsin where ^{he} was a doctor for nearly forty years, with the exception of two years when he served as surgeon of the 15th Wisconsin regiment of Volunteers. He was mustered out in June 1864. In May 1883 the doctor came to Cooperstown where he started the first drug store. He ~~has~~ ~~gave~~ up practice except in surgical cases. The active country practice was attended to by Dr. Theo. F. Kerr. In 1888 he sold his drug store to S. Almklov, ^{and} ~~that~~ it has been in that family ever since.

Dr. Newell had a stroke in 1890 and returned to Rochester, Wisconsin where he died in 1898.

Dr. Newell was not related to the Dubois Newell family of Dr. Andrew Newell, dentist.

Mrs. Synerson built a hotel ^{in 1899} ~~in 1957~~ The Rebecca Home — and named it the Newell House in honor of Dr. Geo. F. Newell.

The following letter to his old home town paper, the Waterford Post gives an idea of Dr. Newell and pioneer Cooperstown:

Cooperstown D. T.
Oct. 2, 1883.

Dear Post:

I have heard that the people of Waterford and vicinity are reporting that I am going back to Wisconsin. Well, that may be if my friends send me back in a box. While living I am pleased with Dakota and its future prospects. Our crops are good, climate so far pleasant and agreeable.

My health and the health of my wife are perfectly good, and I see ^{good} no reason why I should go back. I have never seen a day

Dr. George F. Newell

2

when I ever thought of such a thing, and have yet to hear the first person say they have any desire to leave here and return to the States. To be sure, we have a new country and it necessarily has some of the disadvantages of a new country, but I have found them very few in comparison to Racine county when I first came there. We have a railroad running directly to us and bringing us all the facilities necessary to the pursuit of any business. It was not so when I first came to Racine county. Here, all of God's broad acres are ready for the plow, and there has never been a failure of a fair crop. Wheat, the great staple of Dakota, is a sure crop and always abundant. The inhabitants are intelligent and industrious, and strictly mind their own business. Most of them are Americans. There is, however, a large class of Norwegians, but they are of the very best. Three of our four principal merchant firms are Norwegians, also the Clerk of the Court, sheriff, county treasurer, and several of the lawyers, and more noble and industrious men never lived. There is once in a while one seen just over from the old country with their little short jackets — but they are an "honest and industrious" people. There are a few Germans and as far as I have seen, a good class of people. And what I never saw or heard of on God's green earth — not a Jew.

Now, surrounded by as I am by good, honest god fearing people, and in a country as glorious as the bright sun of heaven ever shown upon, why in thunder should I go back to a country of cyclones and frost bitten corn?

I shall be glad to visit my children and old friends at a future and proper time but until then "Dakota is my home" Very Respectfully,
G. F. Newell.

Oscar Nierenberg

By Hannah Lunde

Oscar Nierenberg was born in Ashpan, Wisconsin, Mar 18, 1863. When he was eight years old when he went with his folks to Sibley Co., Minn. Oscar's father died there in 1876. Here they farmed for about ten years when they moved to Ottertail Co., Minn. Oscar at times worked out at different jobs in the summer at Casselton N. Dak. and surrounding places.

In 1884, with his two brothers, Ed. and Theodore, Oscar came by train to Cooperstown, N. Dak. All he could see on his way up was prairie except here and there a sod house and barn. Things picked up rapidly and the settlers worked for R.C. Cooper. He worked for Cooper seven years. During that time Oscar remembers a little incident which happened while on the ranch. Horace Houghton was going to butcher a "critter". He took the gun to shoot the critter and shot one ear off. His brother John says, "You can't shoot, give it to me." John shot the other ear off.

At one time in 1884 a dance was held in the courthouse at Cooperstown. In those days there were very few women around the territory. Thirty men and three women attended the dance. The first band was organized in 1884, comprised of P. A. Melgard, Mr. Stevens, and Pete Nelson.

From 1884 to 1892 the country was full of wild geese, they covered a stretch of fifteen and twenty acres, and the land looked like a huge snowbank. At night it was impossible for people to sleep, they would make so much noise.

At this time, Dakota was noted for prairie fires. In 1885 a fire swept through the territory at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and burned up Sanborn completely.

In 1885 Oscar Nierenberg worked a short time for Sam Langford Sr. Mr. Langford and he hauled the stones for the foundation for the first drug store in Cooperstown belonging to Dr. Newell. The same year, with a span of horses and a plow he broke a place for a tree claim on the north half of section 26, Cooperstown township. He also hauled stones and dug a cellar for a Mr. Adams in 1885, for living quarters, where the State Bank building now stands.

In 1887, while working for Cooper, Oscar and the men were going to butcher a "critter." John Houghton shot at it with his revolver, the critter broke loose, and mad and ugly ran in the pasture. It was noon when six men started after it, and it was sundown when they got it.

In 1889, Charlie, Wilmet, and Horace Houghton, Ed and Oscar Nierenberg, with horses and two spring wagons, went antelope hunting out west.

They went towards the Jim River. Many places they could see flocks of them, but were unable to catch one. The men's jackets were lined with red and by turning these jackets inside out the antelope would get scared. They were within a half mile of a flock of ten. Ed's shooter was a double barreled shotgun. He shot at them and Horace Houghton says, "You are doing well, I can hear them squeak. The whole flock disappeared. The next morning they went out and saw many antelope, shot at them, and got none. That night they stayed at a place where Mr Henry now is and slept in a school house. The men hated to go home without any antelope, and thought of butchering a dog and pretend it was an antelope, but decided it was best not to do so. If the guns had been better in those days, they may have brought home a few antelope.

In 1891, Oscar Nierenberg was married to Miss Lattie Mielke, in Ottertail Co., Minn. They were married by Rev Albrecht. The first year of his married life he worked out thrashing^{etc}. In 1892 he took his homestead and built a lumber shanty on Sec 8, Coopers town Township. From 1891 until six years ago the crops were good.

Many of the people who came to N. Dak in

the early eighties had gone back to where they came from about 1888, and now have nothing. Those who stayed and endured the hardship are now well to do.

In 1912 Oscar Nierenberg retired from farming and moved into the city of Cooperstown.

Oscar Nierenberg

By Hannah Londe

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Theodore Nierenberg
from Scrap book of Mrs. C. W. Michaelson

Theodore Nierenberg came to this community in 1883, and has numerous interesting stories to tell of his pioneer days in Griggs County.

----- It was a common sight to see men and children out picking and piling buffalo bones to sell as a means of earning some money.

Very few people had horses. Mr. Nierenberg drove mules and oxen. Since

Since the closest place to buy coal was at Sanborn, about 40 miles away Mr. Nierenberg and others hauled wood for fuel from the river.

--- Work was scarce, but the Cooper Ranch offered work for quite a few men, and that is where Theodore obtained work.

One of the incidents he well remembers is during the winter while he was doing the chores on the Cooper Ranch. After finishing the morning chores he started for home with a load of wood and a cow tied behind. When he was half way home a blinding blizzard struck, which caused him to lose his way. His only hope was to turn the cow loose, she had a calf at home, and would probably strike for home. This she did, and Theodore followed, with the oxen after unhooking from the sleigh. After what seemed a long time

Theodor Nierenberg - 2

they were home. He could not return to the Cooper Ranch until the next day, and then not until he had located the sleigh he had left.

The wages were low - only \$15⁰⁰ a month in the winter time and from \$18⁰⁰ to \$20⁰⁰ in the summer. Of course the clothing was also low in price. A buffalo cap could be bought for 75 cents and a coat for \$8⁰⁰ or \$9⁰⁰.

Mr. Nierenberg also relates an incident which shows that people made their own laws as there were no sheriffs. One of the workers on the Ranch had made plans to escort his lady friend to a dance. The men at the Ranch decided that he was to treat them with a box of cigars before leaving. This he refused to do, which landed him in a root cellar to spend the night.

(Note - by Mrs. Porterville. There was a sheriff in Cooperstown but Cooper's men ruled themselves, by themselves, with a sort of "Kangaroo" court.)

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K. S. Norgaard

K. S. Norgaard, County Supt. of Schools, (Traill Co) was born in Dane County Wis. in 1860, was educated in Decorah Iowa, and afterwards in the State University of Minnesota. He removed to Yellow Medicine Minn. in the year 1869. His parents now live in Cooperstown, Griggs Co. Dak. Mr. Norgaard came to Dakota in the spring of 1881, and in the November of the same year was appointed Co. Supt. by the County Commissioner to fill a vacancy, and in the election which followed he was chosen to the same position. Mr. Norgaard was married Dec 14, 1883 to Miss Isabella Benson.

Bibliog: Atlas of Dakota, 1884, p. 252

May, 1930

Biography of Leif Som Norgaard
--Orville Olson

Leif Som Norgaard is the son of Swen Norgaard. He was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 16, 1862. He came to North Dakota with his parents in 1874. The reason they came to North Dakota was because of the good homesteads that could be taken up here. They came in a covered wagon.

He took up a homestead on section 22, township 146, range 58. Their first home was a dugout. They had oxen at first to go to town with. Some of their early hardships were blizzards and prairie fires. His nearest neighbor was S. K. Skagen. Their farm machinery was a walking plow and a broadcaster.

One of the early churches was in a school house in Mardell and there was a traveling minister called Lundebj.

The fuel they used was wood which they cut for themselves from along the river.

He was married to Carrie Gilbertson December 24, 1881 in Mardell. He is now living in Washburn township, section 23.

His descendents are:

Mrs. Olaf Olson, Cooperstown, North Dakota
Melvin Norgaard, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Edward Norgaard, Living at home
Conrad Norgaard, Comstock, Wisconsin
Leonard Norgaard, Finley, North Dakota

NATIONALLY KNOWN MEN FROM GRIGGS COUNTY

GERALD P. NYE--Editor of the Griggs County Sentinel-Courier from September, 1919, to November 13, 1925, was born at Nortonville, Wisc., where his father was engaged in the newspaper business. Taking a great interest in the political welfare of the organized farmer, Mr. Nye devoted his paper largely to that cause. Following the death of U. S. Senator Edwin F. Ladd in 1925, Governor A. G. Sorlie appointed the Cooperstown editor to fill out his unexpired term. In the elections of 1926, he was regularly elected for the unexpired term and also for the regular term of six years. In 1932, he was again elected to another six year term. In the U. S. Senate he has been aggressively interested in farm legislation and won great fame for his elections investigations in 1927-28 and for his sensational disclosures in the investigation of the munitions industry in this country.

N. P. Nye

Considerable attention was focused on Cooperstown when in 1925 Gerald P. Nye, then editor of Griggs County Sentinel-Courier was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of the late Dr. Edward S. Ladd.

Nye, a son of Edwin Irvin R. Nye, a prominent newspaper man in Wisconsin came to Cooperstown in 1919 when the local newspaper was purchased by the farmers' organization.

Senator Nye was born in Hortonville Wisconsin and completed graduation from high school at Whittenberg Wisconsin. He launched into newspaper work on his own with papers at Hortonville, later at Creston, Iowa, and also Des Moines Iowa.

He purchased the Triberg Billings Pioneer in North Dakota in 1915 and published it until he came to Cooperstown in 1919.

An appointee of Governor Lorlee, Nye distinguished himself in his work in Congress when he headed a committee inquiring into the manufacturing and traffic in arms of manufacturers during World War I. As chairman of the senate munitions investigating committee he exposed concerns who had made big profits ^{out} of World War I and sought to show, although without conclusive evidence that the U. S. entry into World War I was due to the

Covert pressures exerted by
~~munitions~~
~~minerals~~ manufacturers.

The activities of the Nye committee which continued until 1936 strengthened isolationists sentiment and set the domestic background for the neutrality legislation of 1935, 1936 and 1937.

Nye was defeated for the senatorship in 1942 by former Governor John Moses. He now heads a concern whose headquarters are in Washington, D. C.

As a resident of Coopers-town during the twenties Nye was particularly active in all community projects and a leader in civic development.