

Easton Olson

From interview by Hannah Lende

Easton Olson was born in Flaa, Norway, July 18, 1865. In the fall of 1888 he and his brother, Thor Hetager, and Mrs. Haugen left Norway on the steamship Hekla, bound for America. In about ten days they arrived in New York. From New York they came by train direct to Cooperstown, Dakota territory where Thor Hagen met them.

Mr. Olson hired out to different farmers the first few years here. He first worked for Ole Hagen and then for a Mr. Larson. In 1889 he worked for Ole Halvorson three years. In the summer of 1892 he worked for Mr. Newell on the farm.

January 2, 1891 he was married to Lesa Olson, in Cooperstown by Rev. O. K. Quamme. In 1893 Mr. Olson took his homestead on section 23, Tyrol township. He purchased a shanty from Peter W. Nelson and moved this on his homestead. He put in twenty-five acres this year and all he got out of it was a little feed. This year was a dry year and everything dried out.

Some of Mr. Olson's neighbors were Cha. Hall, Griggs county, William Arndt, Cooperstown, Gust Clemens, Jessie, and Cha. Arndt, Griggs county.

Mr. Olson bought his first machinery in 1894 which consisted of a mower, binder and plow.

Four children were born to this marriage, Thoralf, Agnes, (Mrs. Selmer Jacke~~son~~), Edwin, and Mrs. Norman Evers.

All Mr. Olson can account for in the early years was lot of hard work.

Gilbert Olson

From interview by Hannah Lende

Gilbert Olson was born in Bloyt, Wisconsin, March 27, 1861. He stayed in Bloyt until thirteen years of age when his parents moved to Big Stone County, Minnesota. Mr. Olson roamed around here until twenty-one. May 17, 1882 with a company of men, he started for Dakota territory in a covered wagon. There were <sup>seven</sup> about four covered wagons in the company and each had some stock and belongings along. When about eight miles from home, the company camped over night by the woods near a lake. The next morning the ground was covered with snow. They stayed there three days before they could start out again. They paddled along as best they could and stopped down by Fort Ransom, Dakota territory where four of the families st tioned themselves. Those who continued on were Gilbert Olson, John Paulson, Anton Stromme, Erick Jacobson, Peter Pedersson, and Joseph Hope. They arrived near Lake Jessie the seventh of June. Mr. Olson roamed around and came to Red Willow lake where he met a Mr. Gilbertson. Mr. Gilbertson was to show him where to find some land and timber by a lake. They got lost in some hills and couldn't find the lake. They came back to Mr. Halverson's place and Mr. Olson stayed there over night. Mr. Olson had intended to go to Devils Lake. When he got to Lake Jessie he ran out of money and had to stay around there. He had provisions to last about three weeks.

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township and decided to settle there. Mr. Olson then south to Cooper's ranch and tried to get work. There were three foremen- Al Shue, John Houghton, and West Brown. He was refused a job. The second time he came back and Ole K. Olson, a neighbor was along. Again they were turned down. The third time, Mr. Olson remembers it was the 17th of August and the men were just ready to start in the field with the binder. Mr. Olson asked for a job. He was informed they had more men than they had use for. In the meantime Mr. Olson spoke to the cook, Mr. Haskel. For something to eat, Mr. Olson split some wood. Getting no success with the cook, Mr. Olson went down by the warehouse and laid in the shade. Mr. Olson made up his mind he was staying until morning when he would start east towards Mayville and Portland. About four o'clock in the afternoon one of the hired men came and asked them what they were doing. He figured they were tramps going through the country. He told them if they wanted to work they should start shocking.

The two men went to work right away and in just a few minutes the foreman came back to see how they were getting along. He told them to carry the shocks away from the edge of the field so he could plough around for fire breaking.

When through with the work, West Brown, the foreman, told them to go into the office and register. They were given a blanket and were told to hunt for a bed. If they quit they were to return the blankets or would be charged \$3.50 apiece for them. Mr. Olson worked at Cooper's during harvest and the eighteen days of threshing there were. After threshing Mr. Olson had no more orders to work. He was in the waiting room and was about to leave when he and Ole K. Olson were <sup>to</sup> pick

rudabegas over as some others were doing.

In the fall of 1883 Cooper's men, including Gilbert Olson hauled grain to Sanborn and lumber back for buildings. Each trip took about three days. There was a midway house by Dazey where they stayed over nite. There were about twenty wagons hauling grain. The first lumber was hauled for Knut Thompson.

Mr. Olson quit work at Cooper just before Christmas. He was afraid someone would take his land. That winter he stayed with John Paulson, his neighbor. In the spring of 1883 he purchased a yoke of oxen from Knut Thompson and broke up his land. He put in seven acres of crop this year and received one hundred-five bushels from it. His first machinery was a Buckeye seeder and Sulkey plow.

Early in the winter of 1883 with his oxen hitched onto a wagon, he went to Portland for provisions for the winter. Later he went to Hope for provisions and when Cooperstown started, 1883 he purchased them there.

In the fall of 1883 Mr. Olson went back to Cooper's ranch and was put to work in the elevator unloading grain.

One winter day in 1885 Mr. Olson and a neighbor, Ed. Gunderson went to visit two bachelors a few miles from their homestead. On their way home it was very cold out. It was dark and the men lost their way. For a long time they went in a circle and arrived home five o'clock in the morning. The next day W. T. McCullough had gone by and asked them what in the world they had been doing the night before. The land looked like a race track.

Mr. Olson was married in 1889 to Eli Wallum by Rev. Lundeby. In 1891 Mr. Olson had his first house built.

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Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Olson. In 1896  
Mrs. Olson died. Mr. Olson was married again in (0) to  
He still lives on section 10, Addie township.