

Biography of Ole Martain Otteson
--Orville Otteson

June 1, 1926

In the year of 1880 Ole Martain Otteson had heard from pilgrims that the people would have a good future if they came to America to live. This opportunity was taken by Mr. Otteson, and he sailed at the age of 19 to America in 1890 in a small steamboat which took 24 days. He was born February 22, 1861 in Helgeland, Norway.

On reaching America, he followed a large group of immigrants crossing the country and which stopped around Minnesota and North Dakota.

Ole Martain Otteson bought a homestead right in Minnesota which is 4 miles northwest of Ashby.

In the year 1883 Ole Martain Otteson was married to Sofie Peterson Haarstad in Minnesota. They had 11 children, four girls and seven boys of which 10 are living.

The first log house built was very rude with unshaven logs and a sod roof and was twelve feet square.

Their means of travel was mostly by walking in trails and occasionally with a yoke of oxen. Their machinery was very little. They had the cradle, header and reel. The source of power was by the use of oxen.

The crops of this time were good but were very small and the prices were very low, ranging from 35¢ to 70¢ per bushel.

The nearest neighbors were August Anderson and Edward Evenson.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Martain Otteson are now dead. Ole Otteson died ten years ago while his wife died a year ago. Their estate is left to the children of the family.