

Mrs. Selma Palm

Mrs. Selma Palm, nee Miss Selma Olson, was born in Nerke, Sweden on October 18, 1857. Her parents were John Gustav Olson and Clara Sofia Swenson. Mrs. Palm's childhood days as well as the days of her girlhood were spent in Sweden with her parents.

It was in 1881 that she came to America and eventually to Chicago where she stayed until November of the following year, when she came to Mayville. On May 22, 1884 she became the bride of Mr. August Palm. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Ohman in Hillsboro. Two weeks later the newly-weds came to Bartley Township to live on the farm where Mr. Palm had erected a sod house the previous year. This sod house was quite different from many sod houses at this time as it was boarded on the inside, while others had no frame work excepting the window frames and door cases. This was to be their home until in 1887, when they moved into a small frame house, the lumber for which was hauled from Valley City. Ten more years rolled on, when C.L. Peterson was hired to build an addition to the house, which made it as it stands today.

One of the very first jobs to tackle on a farm, whether in pioneer days or at the present time, is to locate a water supply. Mr. Palm and his able wife set to work; himself doing the digging, while Mrs. Palm hauled dirt to the top in buckets. As a reward for this she was promised a clock, which she got.

During their first years in Bartley they had no oxen nor horses. The spring's work was hired and the town trips were made in company with their neighbor Carl Berg Sr. who had the oxen. Mrs. Palm recalls instances when she did not go to town for three years. On one occasion when supplies had been brought home from town, Mr. and Mrs. Palm were away from home, an intruder entered their home and stole the supplies,

besides half of a homemade cheese. Also taken was silverware Mrs. Palm had brought with her from Sweden.

Pioneering would no doubt seem to be a rather dull life to this generation; yet we find that these good pioneer folks always have some stories of interest to relate concerning the early days. Upon one occasion an Indian came to the Palm home. Upon entering the house, he stood with his back to the occupants of the house, while apparently searching for something in his pockets. This naturally startled the members of the family. However, at length he produced a piece of paper on which was written: "Give him something to eat and a bed." Her anxiety over, Mrs. Palm promptly set forth food, which the self-invited guest devoured with evident famishedness. Soon after finishing his meal, the Indian made signs of being tired. A bed was soon made on the floor for him. Instead of placing his head on the pillow, he placed his feet there and was soon fast asleep. While he slept, Mrs. Palm set about to patch his trousers, as they were in very bad shape. When he awoke and found his trousers patched he placed his hands on his knees and uttered the only words he spoke while there: "That's good." After eating his breakfast, he left for Devils Lake and was not heard from since.

As a busy housewife, can you imagine anything more disheartening than to have a quilt all ready for tying and then to come and find your yarn twisted this way and that about the stove and table legs? Such was the case with Mrs. Palm, when she set about to complete the first quilt made on the farm. Her cat and dog were resting peacefully beside their finished work.

Besides rearing a family of nine children, this pioneer mother laundered clothes for neighboring hired help. This included patching also and netted her \$3 a week. Rearing a family was different in the

days, as all the clothes worn by the family were sewed by hand until in 1894, she became the owner of a sewing machine, which proved to be a big help. All the mittens and socks also were made by the Mother, and for these she spun the yarn. Another way in which Mrs. Palm earned extra money was to board the school teacher, which was her job as long as the one-room schools were in use.

During the haying season, Mr. Palm would cut the hay before going out to work and it was Mrs. Palm's duty to rake and bunch the hay with a hand rake. The children were along to do what they could, which consisted usually in emptying the water jug.

As years rolled by, more land was acquired until at one time eight quarters were owned and operated by Mr. Palm and all the work was done by horse power. Threshing time came with even more work for the housewife, as that meant an added task of cooking for twenty-four men without additional help.

Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Palm of whom all except two are living. They are: Charley, Marcus and Arthur of Hannaford, Henry and Fritz of Fargo, Gustav of Wenatchee, Washington, David of Anaconda, Montana, Oscar of Knox and Mrs. Oscar Torkelson of Dazey. There are 27 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

In times of sickness when the husband was away to work, it was necessary for the mother to walk approximately three and one-half miles to a kindly neighbor lady, Mrs. V. Hanson, for assistance. One of these times it was Henry who took sick. With him in her arms and Charley, about two years old, toddling behind, the little party set out for Mrs. Hanson, who often times took the place of a doctor in the pioneer days. Both these boys are still living and show every evidence of having thrived very well during those days.

On October 30, 1915 Mr. Palm passed away leaving Mrs. Palm alone

with her family. The boys took over the farming at that time. Mrs. Palm lived on the farm until recently; since then she has made her home with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Torkelson in Barnes county. Barring rheumatism which has bothered her more or less during the past thirty-five years, she has been blessed with exceptionally good health and now at the age of 81 years is still mentally alert and does crocheting as her hobby.

Many changes have taken place since Mrs. Palm first came here. The biggest change to her is the mode of travel as compared with that of pioneer days. She used to drive twenty miles in a lumber wagon to church on Sunday mornings, but now it is merely a few minutes drive in a comfortable car.

When asked if she ever regretted coming to North Dakota, she replied emphatically, "No, I always liked North Dakota, and still do."

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Andrew Park, Sr.

Andrew Park, Sr., was born February 8, 1827, at Leonard, township of Dalhousie, Ontario. His parents, together with the Morgan, the Stewart and the Christie families, had emigrated from Scotland to Dalhousie in 1826. The land there was hilly and rocky, interspersed with cedar swamps. The farms were scarcely more than garden patches. Here Mr. Park spent his boyhood days. He worked on the farm with his father until he was about nineteen, when he left home and worked in the lumber camps for four years. For this work he received from \$10 to \$12.50 per month. In 1849, however, Mr. Park went west about four hundred miles along the Huron Tract to the township of Hibbert, county of Perth, near Lake Huron. The Morgan, Stewart and Christie families moved west at about this time, and also took up land in the township of Hibbert. At this place there was a heavy timber of maple, beech, elm and birch. The land was good when cleared, but, as Mr. Park remarked, "It was a laborious job clearing it." In 1856 he married Mary McDougall, of Lanark county and the township of Sherbrooke. They lived in Hibbert until 1881; by that time the land became valuable, selling at from \$50 to \$75 an acre. Mr. Park had signed a note with another man, and the hard times just then caused him to fail in business, and so brought on the loss of all of Mr. Park's property. The only thing left for Mr. Park was to start again. As Dakota was the nearest place he could take land he came here. At about this time others left Canada. There was Andrew Morgan, who wanted to start out for himself, and so came where land was free, and Angus Stewart, who was a carpenter, who wanted land and a settled home.

In July, 1881, Mr. Park came by way of the Grand Trunk railway to Chicago, then by way of St. Paul to Buffalo, N. D., where he worked that summer at \$2.50 per day. After filing on his land that fall he went to the woods near Gull River, Minnesota, where he received \$26.00 per month as sawyer. He chose his land where he did because he was told at Valley City that other Scotch people had settled near there.

Mr. Park's family came to Valley City in 1882. From there they followed a trail until near Willow lake. Then they came over the prairie to Andrew Morgan's, and arrived at their farm May 22, 1882. That summer they lived in a shanty built of lumber that had been hauled from Tower City. This shanty was not water tight. Mrs. Park said that "When it rained out it rained in."

Mr. Park hired Andrew Morgan to break five acres for him. He raised a few potatoes under the sod. Being on the prairie they hauled wood from the river for fuel. That winter he and his sons, Alexander and Andrew, worked on the Cooper farm at \$26.00 a month. His sons were of great assistance to Mr. Park in starting anew, and their pioneer experiences are practically the same as their father's. At first the buffalo bones were so numerous in some places as to hinder the breaking plow. Mr. Park took several loads to Hope after the market opened there and used the money for needed clothing and provisions.

Mr. Park was the first treasurer of Riverside township and was school treasurer until his hand became too stiff to write. He died July 25, 1908.

Ole Paulson

Ole Paulson of Sec 35, Primrose twp, Steele Co. was born in Stange Haldemarker, Norway, on Apr 11, 1859. He was son of Christian P. and Oline (Olson) Arstad. He was 2nd child & oldest son of 9 children. At 8 years his family came to Goodhue Co from Norway, and after a short time settled near Northfield Minn.

Ole went to Cass Co Dak. in 1881 & worked at farm work and odd jobs in Fargo, and led an unsettled life until 1888, working summers in Dakota and winters in Minnesota or Wisc.

In Jan 1888 he bought 160 Acres of land.

In 1889 Mr Paulson married Sella Eide. She died in 1898 and was the mother of 4 children: Oscar, Clara, Selmer C. & Albert, deceased. Mr Paulson married 2nd Bertha R. Anderson on Dec 19, 1898. She was born in Norway, came to U.S. in 1883, to her sister in Walsh Co. She started teaching at 20, and taught in Walsh, Steele & Traill Counties until her marriage. They have had twins born Albert C. and Alvin M. (Supt. Sch. Supt, 1929-

Bibliog: Condensed from Compend of Hist & Bio, 1900, page 611.

Mr. & Mrs. Lars Pederson.
from Mrs. C. L. Michaelson's scrap book

Mr. & Mrs. Lars Pederson were among those from Wisconsin who got the "Homestead Fever". They came to Wisconsin from Norway about 1879. Three years later they came to North Dakota, where they spent the rest of their lives.

On May 17, 1882 Mr. & Mrs. Pederson arrived on a farm near Sanborn where they requested a place to park their wagon over night and get a much needed night's sleep. They slept under neath the wagon with quilts and blankets on the wheels for walls. The next morning they found snow on their campstoves. This was their initiation into North Dakota life, and for which the owner of the farm charged them three dollars. They had three small children: Peder, about 4 years, Synerva, two years, and Sever, the baby.

On May 18th they set out for their homestead, which was seven miles west from what now is Walum. They continued sleeping under their wagon until their sod house was ready. There were no neighbors to go to as they were the first settlers in this area. Except for Mrs. Pederson's determination to stay and make the best

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of it, Mr. Pederson would have gone right back to Wisconsin.

During their first summer here Mrs. Pederson remained on the homestead with their three children while Mr. Pederson went out working. He was gone for weeks at a time. Mrs. Pederson told of how ~~she~~ night after night she stationed herself outside the ^{wood} house as guard. She most feared "prairie fires" and "Indians". She did not want to be surprised by either one during the night.

While alone with her children during the summer, she was the one who cut with a scythe, raked by hand, and stacked by hand, hay for their cow's winter supply.

The following year others came, and it wasn't long until they had neighbors.

In a few years the Pedersons were able to build a house and a barn, and Mr. Pederson began farming for himself.

Many gatherings were held in this home. Mrs. Pederson often undertook the conducting of services in this home until they were able to get the services of a pastor. The demand for a church became more and more

urgent. By the help of the Ladies' Aid, which had been organized a church was built in 1900.

This year a tragedy occurred in the Pederson family. Lars Pederson died, leaving Mrs. Sigrid Pederson with a family of nine children to care for.

The services of Rev. T. A. Thorsen came to the aid of this small congregation (Edgjord) which grew steadily. He was pastor for close to 25 years.

In 1905 Mrs. Sigrid Pederson was married to Mr. Erik Rud. He served as deacon in the church and as the Parochial school teacher for several terms.

Many were the times that Rev. Thorsen met with the confirmants in this home. Travelers going through as well as friends and neighbors were always welcome in this home — the first in Dover township.

Mrs. Erik Rud died in 1932 and Mr. Rud in 1938. All except four of the children have passed on. Of those living, Peder, the eldest, lives at New Town; Siver resides with his daughter on the old farm; Bessie (Mrs. John Miklithun) lives in Minneapolis, Minn.; while the youngest, Esther, Mrs. C. W. Michaelson lives in Barabes township.

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Biography of Jonas Person

The names of the pioneer's parents were Per Honson and his wife Colin.

The pioneer's name was Honas Person. In this country a person would take his father's first name and add "son" to it for his last name which accounts for Pioneer's name being different from his father's.

Jonas Person was born in Sweden, June 11, 1831. His closest town was Ostersund. In 1862 he was married to Karin Mattson.

In 1888 Jonas Person decided to come to America because of hard times in Sweden and because he already had three children in America. As his children had settled in North Dakota he came to this state.

The voyage to this country was quite peaceful except for kind of stormy weather on the North Sea. The trip over took sixteen days.

Jonas Person and his family landed in Philadelphia the 29th of June 1888 from where they traveled by train to Cooperstown which was at that time the end of the train line. Here they were met by some relatives in a wagon hooked behind a pair of oxen. They were first taken in a sod shanty where they stayed for a while.

Jonas Person first found employment at the Cooper ranch after which he worked on the railroad for a while.

He bought a homestead for \$25.00, a half section which had been filed but not proved up. It was located about eight miles from Cooperstown.

On this place there was a shanty whose lumber had been hauled from Mayville being built before Cooperstown.

The provisions were gotten by an ox team from Cooperstown.

The names of some of the nearest neighbors were, Dalbones, Persons, and Dahlin.

At that time horses were not much in use and Honas Person had mostly oxen. The farm machinery was not so very much different. In place of a drill, a seeder was used and for hay racks only one horse was used instead of two.

The crops mostly used were wheat, flax, and potatoes, and these were put on braking, so there was quite a yield.

One of the enemies which had to be watched in the fall was prairie fires. One year a fire came which burned up many places. Jonas Person saved his place by plowing around it in a hurry. The fire, however, jumped the plowing and had to be put out by beating it with sacks.

The children of Jonas Person were, Jonas Skanse, Olaf Skanse, Pete Skanse, Mat Skanse, Mrs. Colin Ringval, and Mrs. Watne. Of these Mat Skanse is dead. The name Person was changed to Skanse because there were

any persons that the mail was mixed up, so it was changed.
At the age of eighty-seven Mr. Person's health began to fail. He
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Biography of Frank J. Pfeifer
--Reynold Hovel

Frank J. Pfeifer was born at Michaelisdorf, Bohemia, Austria on July 10, 1858. In 1871 he came to the United States with his parents in order to improve their opportunities. They embarked on the ship Baltimore and landed at Baltimore after a trip of eighteen days on the ocean. From Baltimore they came by rail to Waterville, Minnesota where Mr. Pfeifer lived for ten years.

He came to Casselton, North Dakota for an adventure, with the intention of returning in a short time but he stayed one year. While he was in Casselton, he was persuaded by Joe Bartos, an acquaintance, to go with him to Cooperstown, North Dakota. From Casselton they shipped to Buffalo, North Dakota, and from there they drove to Valley City with oxen. In Valley City they loaded up with lumber and kitchen utensils and continued on their journey.

Near Valley City the roads were being worked on, and they got stuck three times. That night they camped along the south side of the Ball Hill Creek. After another day's journey, they reached the place where they finally settled. Another family came up at the same time, so they built a shack fourteen by sixteen with a roof of lumber and walls of sod. After it was completed, it rained for three days straight. They had no other shelter for the two horses, so they had to keep them in the shack, and they also had to eat and sleep in the shack themselves. They had two teams of oxen and during the rain they grazed off, and they were not able to find them for a week.

The government survey did not include the land on which they wanted to settle. They started to measure by tape line from the land that had been surveyed, and marked off the land they wanted to file on by stakes. Then they squatted on the land until it was surveyed by the government.

In those days people filed on land and did not have to make improvements for six weeks. Therefore, if they settled on some land that had been taken by somebody else, they would have to move.

Mr. Pfeifer filed a preemption. To file on a preemption you had to put two hundred and fifty dollars of improvements and pay one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre and in six months the deed would be signed to you. The same year he filed on a homestead in the same section which he proved up in five years. In 1884 he took a tree claim near McHenry which he later traded for a team of horses.

He then built a sod shack on his homestead, and a little while later he built a house of lumber (12x 16) which is still a part of the house on that farm. He had to get his supplies and haul his grain to Cooperstown, a distance of thirteen miles. He sold some wheat for 80¢ a bushel, but prices went down as low as 38¢ for number one hard wheat. Oats sold for as low as seven cents a bushel, although if they wanted to buy any, they had to pay about 25¢ a bushel. Barley sold for twenty to thirty-five cents a bushel. They had to pay as high as \$2.25 a bushel for seed flax and sell it for 68¢ a bushel.

Pfeifer

Threshing machines were scarce, so two of his neighbors, John and Frank Ressler, and he bought a horse power machine and threshed for themselves.

The storms were much worse those days because there were no trees to stop the wind. The buildings were small and many times covered up in a snow storm. In order to feed the stock, they had to shovel out a place to get into the barn, and that would cause the snow to drift up so much.

Every fall several of the neighbors would go together and haul enough wood from the river to burn during the winter.

He was married March 8, 1886 to Marie Kuntz at Janesville, Minnesota. They reared a family of five girls and five boys.

He lived on the homestead for 24 years and then sold out. After this he made three trips through Oregon, Washington, Canada, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska with the intention of buying land. He then came back to Cooperstown and bought one section and one quarter of land with one corner of the section joining the city limits on the east side of Cooperstown.

He lived there until in the fall of 1925 when he moved to Coopers-town where he is now living.

George W. Posey

George W. Posey of Corinne twp - Sec 2-144-62
was born in Wayne Co, Ill., June 29, 1843.
His father, James Posey, native of Tenn. & a farmer
who in turn was a son of William Posey, who was
a farmer and slave holder of Tenn, had settled
in Wayne Co, Ill many years before the Civil War.

Geo. W. Posey's maternal grand father came
to America from England & settled in Wayne Co, Ill.
in the early days of the state. The grand parents
on both sides were wealthy and influential men
in Ill. Geo. W.'s mother - nee Julia Farris
~~was~~ born & raised in Virginia, ^{was daughter of} J. W. Farris
a farmer and a slave holder. The parents of Geo. W.
were married in Illinois, and of their 9 children
Geo. W. was the 4th. The family moved to
Jo Davis Co, Ill, when 2 yrs of age where the father
worked in the lead mines. In 1854 the family
moved to Crawford Co, Miss, where the father
spent the rest of his life.

At 19 Geo. W. enlisted in Co A, 20th Miss
Inf Vol. Inf. He was in battles of Prairie Grove
Arkansas, Vicksburg, and on the Red River
expedition, then to the Rio Grande, then the capture
of Mobile, then to Galveston until he was mustered out.

Returning from service he bought a farm
in Crawford Co, Miss & lived there from 1867 to 1883.

Geo. W. Posey

Sec 2 - 144 - 62 on a pre-emption

In 1882 he located in Stutsman Co., and in 1883 was joined by his family.

He built a 12x12 shanty in which he lived 1 summer. He lost hay and his barn by a prairie fire in 1883, and in 1884, one of the most extensive prairie fires of his county and destroyed \$1400⁰⁰ to \$1800⁰⁰ worth of his wheat near Jamestown. He and his brother, David Posey were the first settlers of Corinne township.

Geo. W. Posey was married at 23 years to Miss Abra Kielley, born in Muskingum Co Ohio on Feb 18, 1845. Mrs. Posey's father was a lawyer and a school teacher & owns farms in Wisc. He located in Dane Co Wisc. in 1854. He was born in New Hampt, of Irish descent. Mrs. Posey taught in schools of Crawford Co Wisc, several years.

Children: George W., deceased; Sarah J., Clara M., Mary E., Thomas E., Isaac W. deceased; Virgil D., James E., deceased; Nellie J.; Forrest B., Pearl, and Bessie.

Biblog. Condensed from Compend of Hist + Bio, 1900 - pages 87-5

Stephen Minor Posey

Stephen Minor Posey of 145-62 of Foster County, was born in Jo Davis Co Ill., in 1851. His parents, K. H. and Eliza (McBarkin) Posey, lived on a farm there until Stephen was 5 or 6, when they moved to Wisc. At 23 he began working away from home at lumber camps for 15 seasons, and also farmed in Crawford Co. At 21 he ^{had} saved \$130⁰⁰ and with this he had intended to go to school and had started when he had an attack of lung fever which kept him in bed for 6 weeks, and exhausted a good share of his earnings.

Mr. Posey was married in Wisc., to Miss Gerusha Gardener, ^{a native of Wisc.} daughter of Stephen Gardener, a farmer of Wisc.

Their children: Hattie, Charles, Minnie, Elizabeth, Josie, John, Harry, and Alice.

Mr. Posey owned a farm of 40 acres in Wisc., a portion of which was timber land, but in 1882, he made a trip to Montana, Idaho, and Utah. The next year he shipped his goods to Aberdeen, Dakota Territory and from that point drove over what is now South Dakota and parts of Nebraska in search of a suitable location and finally, in July, 1883, he located in 145-62. He put up a 12x12 shanty and a sod barn and broke 30 acres of land. After a trip to Wisc in the winter, he returned to Foster Co in the spring

Stephen M. Pasay

and raised a crop from 130 acres — 100 acres of which are rented. Altho the crop was good, the prices were so low he hardly made expenses. In the fall of 1885, he lost by fire his buildings and household goods, clothing etc, his children being left without shoes or stockings.

At one time he owned 2240 acres of land. 320 acres of this he gave to his eldest son, and sold 160 acres. He is today the largest individual land owner of Foster Co. (1900) He has a barn 60 X 100 feet, 9 granaries, machine shed and other buildings. He employs 3 to 6 men the year around, and uses 20 to 24 horses. He threshes each season and since 1888 has practically worn out 2 threshing rigs.

Bill: Condensed from Compend of Hist. + Bioq. p 1900, p 642.

GEORGE WILLIAM PRATT

George W. Pratt son of George and Rebecca Pratt was born June 8, 1838, in Tipperary, Queen's County, Ireland.

His parents came from Ireland to Ontario Canada, where they settled and took up a small farm.

Upon hearing what a wonderful country North Dakota was he took his family and came here, where he expected to make a better home for them. George came with his family to North Dakota on March 25, 1881.

Of this trip and the impression of the country his daughter relates:

"There was much excitement disposing of those things which they did not wish to take along. Having completed everything, a neighbor came along with his team and took them to Clinton Ontario where they were to take the train for North Dakota.

There were hundreds on that excursion train, many of them old neighbors. Of course families took provisions along, and comforts such as pillows etc. to try and make their families comfortable. Nevertheless a jolly time seemed to be had by everyone.

One thing happened which was not very pleasant and caused great excitement for a few minutes. The youngest son, then about three years old, knowing his sister had climbed up to get the comb to comb her curls, when she got down the lad was nowhere to be seen, no one could find him. His mother was about to pull the rope to stop the train, fearing he had gotten through the door and fallen off, when his sister noticed him crawl out from under a seat with a broad grin on his face.

Finally we reached the city of Fargo, which was quite small then. Some of the husbands who came to meet their families seemed to be

trip to town thirty-two miles round trip, to get what was wanted, although there was a chance to get a few of the necessities of life at two farmers homes about five miles distance.

The near neighbors were Ole Alfson, Jens Tinglestad, Ole Anderson, Charles Johnson, Hans Miller and Ezra W. Haggerty.

The early farm teams were the oxen and horses. The machinery were the walking plows, seeders, harrow, and binders. The principal crops grown were wheat, oats, and barley. They usually went from thirty-five to forty bushels to the acre. The price being from thirty to fifty cents per bushel.

The early fuel was gotten along the banks of the Sheyenne river. The trees were bought cut down, the limbs taken off them and hauled home, six miles, split and sawed them about March and piled so to dry and make satisfactory for burning.

The greatest hardships seemed to be in the long trips to town, as they had to leave about daylight in order to make the trip in in good time, to get horses stabled, and fed. This means with a load one way as horses had to walk most all the time, up hill and down. Then again in these winter trips, sometimes it would come on a storm and they would be three days making the trip, as it was only a trail across country, and the temperature forty degrees below zero. The women folks quite often doing chores the best they could and worrying lest the men would be frozen on the wild prairies. Although we never went hungry, and still had some good times nevertheless.

George William Pratt was married to Mary Jane Hamilton in 1859 near Goderich Ontario. The descendants of the pioneer were Ann Jane Pratt, her married name Mrs. Alex Nical, whose home was at Grandin, North Dakota, but is now deceased, Rebecca Alma later Mrs. Thomas Elliott now living at Grandin, N. Dak. Robert Hamilton living at Cooperstown, North Dakota, Margaret Ida Pratt living at 1101 4th

Ave. South, Fargo, North Dakota, George Albert of Cooperstown, N. Dak. now deceased, Aphra Frances later Mrs. Fred Cannon of McHenry, N. Dak. and William James Leslie deceased.

George W. Pratt died January 25, 1912, near Quincy, North Dakota and was buried in the quincey cemetery.

George Albert Pratt

By O.D.Purinton, Clerk and Historian of Old Settlers Association.

George A. Pratt, son of George and Mary Jane Pratt, was born in
G
Goodridge Township, Ontario Canada, Jan. 2 1869. He came to Griggs County
with his parents in April 1884, and with them lived for some years in
Pilot Mound Township. Of his trip to Griggs County he says, " We came across
country by team. I had a pair of cattle, We also had five teams of horses
with loads. It was a hard pull. I would walk a while, then ride a while.
We got caught in a sleet storm about 25 miles west of Portland, between the
Goose and Sheyenne Rivers. But there was a farmer good enough to turn out
his cattle and let us put our horses in his stable. In the morning the cattle
were covered with ice". " We settled in the northern part of Griggs County
We had a small shanty, a sod stable. There Brother Rob. and I farmed for
two or three years. I was cook."

In 1889 Mr Pratt started farming on his own on rented land. In 1890
he bought a quarter section at \$7.00 per acre on crop payments. To this
he added until by 1913 he had a farm of 532 acres well stocked, with
14 head of short horn cattle, 21 horses, 45 Chester White hogs,
15 White Holland turkeys, and 42 White Rock chickens.

He was married August 22 1899 to Miss Elizabeth J. McCulloch, who
with their two children Floyd and Bernice now live with him on
Sec. 25 in Tyrol Township

Oscar D. Purinton.

Oscar D. Purinton, son of Orphius and Maria Call Purinton, was born in Cortland County New York, on July 5th 1843. At the age of nine years, he with his parents removed to Preston County Virginia(Now West Virginia). In March 1863 he enlisted as a private soldier in Company K. of the Sixth Regiment, West Virginia, Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the Civil War, being discharged in June 1865.

Upon his discharge from the army he returned to Courtland N.Y. and resumed his studies in the Courtland Academy, at the completion of which he engaged for a time as salesman in the store of James S. Squires.

~~ON MAY 13TH 1868~~

On May 13th 1868, he was married to Miss Sara Ann Russell, and soon after engaged in business on his own account, in Courtland, where he and his wife continued to reside until March 1882, when they, with their two children, removed to Dakota Territory, and settled at Tower City, Cass County

Mr. Purinton was ordained to the ministry in the Baptist Church at Courtland New York, on March 6th 1882, and while living at Tower City, preached as opportunity offered until Nov. 1883, when he was called to, and accepted, the pastorate of the newly organized Baptist Church in Page in Cass County. After serving that church for two and one half years, he accepted the pastorate of the Baptist Church in Cooperstown in March 1886, where he has continuously to reside, although not continuously pastor of the church.

During his work in the Ministry, he organized the Baptist Church at Aneta., Nelson County, and the Baptist Church at Bald Hill in Griggs County. In the year 1889 he was elected to the office of Clerk of the District Court for Griggs County which he held for seventeen successive years. He became a member of the Old Settlers Association at the time of its organization in 1906, and was appointed Secretary in 1909

He has also served several years as Clerk of the Board of Education, and held other positions of trust.

Biblog.: Old Settlers Association records.

Mr. Purinton died March 28, 1918 at Cooperstown N.D.