

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 Saubon where they requested a place to park their wagon over night and get a much needed night's sleep. They slept underneath 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, Syneva, 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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Lars Pederson

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 ^{road} 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 Bartles township.

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On May 17, 1882 Mr. and 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 underneath the wagon with quilts and blankets on the wheels for walls. The next morning they found snow on their comforters. 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 four years, Syneva, two years, and Sever, the baby.

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The services of Rev. P. A. Thoreson came to the aid of this small congregation (Bidford) which grew steadily. He was pastor for close to twenty-five years.

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