

Frank Ressler

Frank Ressler was born August 5, 1859 in the village of Milestorf, Austria. March 29, 1868 he left with his parents for Juno county, Minn. They arrived in Juno co. May 16. Here they stayed and farmed for eight years when they went by prairie schooner to Steele county, Minn.

Mr. Ressler stayed here until 1880 when he came to Dakota territory to work. He worked for the Langer Bros. south of Cassolton in winter of 1880 and 1881 when he went back to Steele county, Minn.

May 6, 1882 he came with his father and Frank Pfeifer to hunt land in Dakota. Frank Ressler's father, John located on section 18, Tyrol township. There were only tow settlers in that township when they arrived, Frank and Charlie Hunter. Frank Ressler located on section 7, Tyrol township. John Ressler built a sod house on his place the eighth of May, and broke about twenty-five ac es. His shanty, 10' by 12' was made of sod and tarpaper.

There were many antelope roaming around the territory at this time. One day a large antelope looked in the doorway while Frank and his father were having dinner. Mr. Ressler hired out to R.C. Cooper in the fall of 1882. November 15, they started the freighting to Sanborn. There were twelve teams, four mules on each wagon. The freighters hauled grain to Sanborn and brought back lumber and other things for the building of Cooperstown. Mr. Ressler hauled the first printing press that came to Cooperstown and nearly upset it.

Some of the freighters were: Dave Wilcox, Ed Zimprich, Fred Williams, Sam Sansborn, Bill Gale, leader, Al Shue, foreman, and Andy Parks. The last load of grain that was hauled came back with a load of lumber on a sleigh, April 6, 1893.

Mr. Ressler worked for Cooper until July 4, 1883 and went back to help his father hay.

A man by the name of Durham had a claim near Valley City. He passed by Ressler's place with his wife, on hunting deer and the like. They both wore long hair and looked like Indians. Frank and his father were acquainted with Joe Stangler who stayed at Durham's. They decided to walk down there and see him and got there at twelve noon. They had just eaten dinner and invited Frank and his father to have dinner. They sat down and had, what they thought, some good chicken soup. When through, Mr. Durham was sitting outside and asked them if they liked the dinner. "Do you know what you ate?" he asked. "Chicken soup, of course," the men replied. "Come and I'll show you what you ate." Mr. Durham showed them the tail of a turtle that was still wiggling. It didn't seem to bother the two men any. They had enjoyed it so much.

At one time in 1882 Mr. Ressler and his father were caught in a snowstorm while in the barn and were unable to get out.

One day in the spring of 1885 Frank's father needed some repair for the mower. They drove to Cooperstown with horses. From Cooperstown Frank walked to Hannaford and intended to take the train to Sanborn from there. He got tired waiting for the train after dark and walked by rail to Sanborn, stumbling on the ties all the way.

Mr. Ressler's first machinery was bought in 1886 and consisted of a binder and wagon. He had purchased a team of mules in 1884. He was married to Tracy Fiebigger in Cassleton in 1886 and moved on his own farm. His shanty was 14' by 16'.

In 1887 Frank Ressler and his neighbor Ed Zlaprich went to Cooperstown. When they finally were ready to start for home it was dark and storming out. Lucy Ruggles, another neighbor wanted a ride with them. The roads weren't so bad until they got out a few miles. They let Mr. Ruggles off a short way from his home. The men were coming along all right until they got to section 19, Tyrol township where the road

angled across the section. This road was not travelled very much. Mr. Ressler got out and walked in front of the team. Pretty soon it seemed as though the wind was changing. Mr. Zimprich was sure they were going the wrong way and wanted to turn the other way (which would lead back to Cooperstown). Mr. Ressler said, "I'm not going back to Cooperstown. You never saw the wind change from the northwest in a snowstorm in North Dakota, did You?" In a short time they reached Frank's father's place safely and stayed over night.

In the early days the settlers had plowed around their buildings to protect against prairie fires. Mr. Ressler had made a fire breaking around his place. One night he and his wife were coming home from his father's place. They each had a mule. It was cold and storming out. They would have got lost if it wasn't for the breaking that led right up to their house. The mules had been used to staying in Frank's father's barn as it was much better and warmer. Frank's barn was open and cold. Mrs. Ressler's mule got away from her and ran to a neighbor's barn, their own barn not good enough for it.

Mr. and Mrs. Ressler lived on the farm until 1911 when they rented out the farm and moved to Jessie, where Mr. Ressler ran a feed mill for Robert Thorne. In 1915 they moved to Waterville, Minn. until 1934 when they moved to Jessie where they now reside.