

Nels C. Rukke

Nels C. Rukke settled in Sec 1, Pilot Mound
township - Griggs Co., on the banks of the Sheyenne River
- the first settler of that township.

Mr Rukke was born in Norway Dec 4, 1840,
He was the 7th in a family of 12 - 6 boys, 6 girls -
His parents were Christian and Ture (Sverson) Rukke
both of whom died in Minnesota. His brother
Sverre, a member of the 6th Minn. Vol. Inf. during
the Civil War, died in camp at Helena Arkansas.

Mr. Rukke came to a farm in Rock Co.
Wis. in 1843 and the family moved in 1857
to Brown Co Minn. At out break of Civil War
he enlisted in Co E, 2nd Minn. Vol. Inf., at St Peter,
Minn in Apr, 1861 and the regiment was consigned
to the 14th Army Corps under command of Gen.
George Thomas. Mr. Rukke served 4 years,
and was wounded at the storming of
Missionary Ridge, Nov 24, 1863 and was in a
hospital at Evansville Indiana for 6 months. He
participated in battles of Mill Spring, Ky; Corinth,
Miss.; Shiloh; Perryville, Ky; Chickamauga,
Chattanooga and others, and marched 3 months
with Sherman from Dalton to Atlanta.

After his return from the Civil War he bought
½ section of railroad land near his father's farm
in Minn., and farmed there several years.

N. C. Rukke

He was elected Co. Treas. of Brown Co Minn. in 1870, and was ~~was~~ ^{elected} treasurer three times. He then moved to St Paul and became a traveling salesman for Walter A. Woods Harvesting Machine Co under Fuller + Johnson, general agents for the northwest, for about 6 yrs. He then went to N Dak with a position with Bay + Boyam + Hoiland of Mayville. He was in their employ one year, and in 1884, in company with Mr. Hoiland, engaged in the machine business at Cooperstown. The following year he sold his interest to Knut Thompson + Tidley, and he removed to his farm where his family had lived since locating in N. Dak. He now owns 5 quarter sections of well-improved land in Gigg Co.

Mr. Rukke was married in 1868 to Miss Guro Odegard, born in Norway May 9, 1850. She is a daughter of Thor and Guro Odegard. Mrs. Rukke's father now lives in Cooperstown, ND, and the mother died there in 1896, aged 76 years.

Mr + Mrs. Rukke had 8 children: Christian W. who died at 5 years; Agnes T; Christian W. Elme, died at 12 yrs; Guy W. Stewart, died at 3 yrs; Nellie G.; and Elma S.

Mr. Rukke served on 1st board of Co. Comm. and Chairman of Supervisors for 6 yrs. - Memb. of Rockwell Nat. Bill: Condensed from Compend of Hist + Bio, 1900, p 221-2.

Nels C. Rubke belongs to that class of enterprising and intelligent farmers whose places of social and mental comfort, and whose work as developers of the country is a credit alike to themselves and the community. His estate is in Pilot Mound Township, and his pleasant residence is situated in a picturesque spot on the banks of the Sheyenne River in Sec 4. He was the first settler of that township, and is widely known and highly esteemed.

Our subject was born in Norway, Dec 4 1840 and was the seventh in a family of twelve children, six sons and six daughters born to Christian and Ture (Syverson) Rubke, both of whom died in Minnesota. A brother of our subject, Sever, was a member of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War, and died in camp at Helena, Arkansas.

Mr. Rubke came to America with his parents when three years of age, and the family located on a farm in Rock County, Wisconsin, where he received his first educational training, and in 1857 removed with his parents to Brown County, Minn. and there grew to manhood and assisted his father on the farm until the breaking out of the Civil War. He enlisted in Company E, Second Minnesota

Volunteer Infantry, at St. Peter, Minn. in 2
April 1861, and the regiment was consigned
to the Fourteenth Army Corps, under command
of General George Thomas. Mr. Rubke served
four years, and was wounded at the Storming
of Missionary Ridge, Nov. 24, 1863 and in
consequence was confined in the hospital at
Evansville, Indiana, six months. He participated
in the battles of Mill Springs, Kentucky;
Corinth, Mississippi; Shiloh; Perryville, Kentucky;
Chickamauga, Chattanooga and others, and
marched three months with Sherman from
Dalton ~~and~~ to Atlanta.

After his return to the war Mr. Rubke
purchased a half-section of railroad land
near his father's farm in Minnesota, and
there engaged in farming for some years.
He was elected county treasurer of Brown
County, Minn. in 1870, and was elevated in the
same capacity three times and after
leaving that office he removed to St. Paul
where he became traveling representative for
the Walter A. Woods Harvesting Machine
Company. After six years he went to N.D.
and secured a position with Bayam and
Hoiland at Mayville. In 1884 in company
with Mr. Hoiland engaged in the
machine business at Cooperstown

The following year our subject disposed of his interests to Knute Thompson & Finley and he removed to his farm, where his family had resided since locating in the state. He has continued farming since, and is now the owner of five quarter sections of well improved land, all of which is located in Briggs Co.

Our subject was married in 1868 to Mrs. Odegard, a native of Norway, who was born May 9, 1858 and was a daughter of those + Mrs. Odegard. Mrs. Rubke's father now resides in Cooper, and ^{the mother} died in that city in 1896, aged 77 years.

Eight children have been born to Mr. & Mrs. Rubke: Christian W. died at age of five; Agnes T. Christian W. Elma died at age of twelve; Guy V. Seward died at age of 3; Nellie G. and Elma S. Mr. Rubke is prominent in affairs of his tp; served on the first board of Co. Com. after the county was org. and has been chairman Bd of sup of his tp. for just 6 years.

He is a member of Rockwell Post Y. A. R. at Cooper and Politically he is a Rep.

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Nils C. Rukke came to us in Fargo in Mar 1881 from St Paul Minn, where he had for some years been in the employ of Fuller & Johnson. His ancestors ^{had} ~~were~~ immigrated from Hallingdal to Linden in Brown Co. Minn. before in the time of the Indian wars - He enlisted in a Minn. Co., was wounded but came home, In 1868 he married my oldest sister Guro. He came to Fullerton & Johnson upon my suggestion and recommendation, and as mentioned went to Fargo in 1881.

Rukke's father Christian, was born in Rukkealen, which lies between Nes in Hallingdal and the present Norefald in Nummedal. The mother Tiri was a native, I know, of Nes in Hallingdal. These two with their children (3 sons and one daughter) ^{went} to Minn. in the '50's and were known among the older first pioneers in the new large Now. settlement in Linden, Brown Co. - They secured some excellent land near some wood lakes - where the Indians were not unfriendly and the young red skins played with the white children and they learned to understand and talk to each other - The older Indians, women included, could be never begging, while their men could be seen lurking in the brush with bow & arrow, and to that end many of them had already stolen rifles from the white men.

The elder Christian & Tiri Rukke's roomy log cabin became a hospitable house, and in the early ^{times} ~~years~~ became a place of refuge for many new comers. He him self had in his younger days been a ^{sportsman} ~~hunter~~ (hunter) in the old home in Hallingdal and Nummedal neighborhoods. It was therefore likely that the oldest son to ^{take} some hunting and trapping trips in such times as could be taken from ^{and farm work} with his ~~father~~ parents until the civil war broke out and

and he went with some ^{of} 83 - Rukke -
Volunteers to fight for the ^{North} side
and the freedom of the Colored Blacks. So the
Indians under propaganda of Southern state agitators
were urged and informed that they could drive the
white newcomers out and thereby get back their
former hunting grounds.

Young Nils Rukke also went with an expedition
to quell the uprising under Gen Sibley - White
soldiers and Men were slain but many newcomers
most women and children were being brutally
and pitilessly massacred.

Nils was good looking and popular, was instrumental
in the organizing of Town and County ~~and~~ and was many
times Justice of the Peace. ~~He became~~ ^{He stayed in the} ~~of his parents~~
own home, an excellent farm not far from the ~~old~~ home until
^{many} emigrated for adventure and improvement in the first difficult time -

Nils is dead. His widow lived until 1924 in Seattle Wash.
moved then to N. Dak again - A son, Guy, has been officer
in U.S. army since 1906, has been at the Philippines,
in Calif, Mexico and on Governor's Island in N.Y. Then he
went to San Antonio Tex as Chief of Sanitation for a large
Camp there, later to Station Hospital Presidio of Monterey Cal.
from which (1925) he was stationed in China, Philippines
and Hawaii. He served with Amer. forces in W. War and
afterward stationed in the Orient.

I forgive me for wandering so far from my subject.
It was our employment in Fargo which should be considered.
But this digression was taken, in part, to clarify the
background of N.C. Rukke as my assistant - He was himself
a ^{practical} "dirt farmer". He had, besides, travelled a great deal
and had experiences in frontier living, complaints and ^{was}
unusual salesman ~~without~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{as a} large

wholesale dealer, who ^{many dozens} sells many, yes ~~large numbers of~~ machines at a time. To such a Bonanza farmer we once delivered 75 John Deere's gang plows at a time - he usually traveled with an ~~team of~~ ^{team of driving} horses and was in his employment enthusiastic, energetic and as a rule especially successful -

During his employment he went west to Gr. Co. where he met Bonanza farmer P.C. Cooper, and there on the ~~the~~ South side of the Sheyenne River and in the lee of the timber he located himself a homestead where he determined to build and live - Then we broke up our ~~partnership~~ ^{business} in Fargo, moved there with his family for good and opened up a large farm and had his home there until his death - The most of the time there after he was Co. Comm. - and 2 of his children and many grand children, settled near the neighborhood of some ^{more} business men, others with large land holdings, and ~~many~~ of our kind "Lagt" settled down in the later founded Cooperstown or other towns in the neighborhood - All who did that to my knowledge, prospered, some unusually so -

~~This~~ result ~~was~~ also ^{came to} my messenger Nils A. Pukke from our employment in Fargo, the first pioneering,

Petition of Nels C. Rukke, for the right to erect and maintain a mill-dam on Sec. 1. Township 148 Range 59. Griggs County D. T.

To the Honorable William H. Francis,
Judge of the District Court,
Sixth Judicial District, Dakota.

Petition of Nels C. Rukke of the County of Griggs, Territory of Dakota.

The undersigned respectfully petitions that he be granted the right to erect and maintain a mill-dam across a stream of water known as the Sheyenne River, the same not being a navigable river, the said dam to be erected on N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section one (1) township one hundred forty eight (148) Range 59. Griggs County Dakota, and to be not to exceed eleven feet in height.

The land on which it is desired to erect said dam is owned by this petitioner Nels C. Rukke. And the water power so obtained is to be applied to the running and maintaining of a custom saw flour and feed mill. That the demand for such a mill is urgent, there being no mill for making flour or grinding feed, within the county of Griggs, or within a radius of forty miles of the proposed mill and dam.

Therefore your petitioner prays that three disinterested residents of Griggs county Dakota be appointed as commissioners, to enquire touching the matters contained in this petition as provided by Sec. 3. Chapter 39. page 154 Dakota code.

(Signed) Nels C. Rukke
petitioner

In the matter of the petition of Nels C. Rukke for the right to erect and maintain a mill-dam on Sec. 1. Town 148. Range 59, Griggs County Dakota.

On reading the petition of Nels C. Rukke this day presented to me, and in accordance with Chap. 39 of the code,

It is here ordered that George W. Pratt, Henry Pinkerton, and Stewart McRoberts, three disinterested residents of the county of Griggs, in the territory of Dakota be, and the same are hereby appointed commissioners to enquire into all matters touching the foregoing and attached petition.

And said commissioners are hereby directed to meet at the place of the proposed erection of said dam on Wednesday the 26th of March 1888 at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon of said day and to proceed to examine the point at which said dam is proposed to be erected, and the land above and below, which will probably be injured by the erection of said dam; to hear the allegations and testimony of all parties interested: and proceed to make a separate assessment of damages which will result to any person by the erection of said dam and its maintenance forever.

And said commissioners are hereby directed to make said examination on said above mentioned day and to fully comply with this order, and to file their report, together with this order, the petition and their oaths as commissioners, with the clerk of the District Court of Griggs County, Dakota, within thirty days after the completion of said examination.

Before entering upon their duties said commissioners shall take and subscribe the proper oath, and their fees are hereby fixed at the sum of three dollars each for every day necessarily and properly taken by them in the discharge of their said duties.

Done at Bismarck D. T. this 25th day of February 1888

William H Francis
Judge, District Court
Sixth Judicial District
Dakota Territory.

Petition of Nels C. Rukke, for the right to erect and maintain a mill-dam on Sec. 1. Township 148 Range 59. Griggs County D. T.

To the Honorable William H. Francis,
Judge of the District Court,
Sixth Judicial District, Dakota.

Petition of Nels C. Rukke of the County of Griggs, Territory of Dakota.

The undersigned respectfully petitions that he be granted the right to erect and maintain a mill-dam across a stream of water known as the Sheyenne River, the same not being a navigable river, the said dam to be erected on N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section one (1) township one hundred forty eight (148) Range 59. Griggs County Dakota, and to be not to exceed eleven feet in height.

The land on which it is desired to erect said dam is owned by this petitioner Nels C. Rukke. And the water power so obtained is to be applied to the running and maintaining of a custom ~~and~~ flour and feed mill. That ~~the~~ demand for such a mill is urgent, there being no mill for making flour or grinding feed, within the county of Griggs, or within a radius of forty miles of the proposed mill and dam.

Therefore your petitioner prays that three disinterested residents of Griggs county Dakota be appointed as commissioners, to enquire touching the matters contained in this petition as provided by Sec. 3. Chapter 39. page 194 Dakota code.

(Signed) Nels C. Rukke
Petitioner.

In the matter of the petition of Nels C. Rukke for the right to erect and maintain a mill-dam on Sec. 1. Town 148. Range 59, Griggs County Dakota.

On reading the petition of Nels C. Rukke this day presented to me, and in accordance with Chap. 39 of the code,

It is here ordered that George W. Pratt, Henry Pinkerton, and Stewart McRoberts, three disinterested residents of the county of Griggs, in the territory of Dakota be, and the same are hereby appointed commissioners to enquire into all matters touching the foregoing and attached petition.

And said commissioners are hereby directed to meet at the place of the proposed erection of said dam on Wednesday the 28th of March 1888 at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon of said day and to proceed to examine the point at which said dam is proposed to be erected, and the land above and below, which will probably be injured by the erection of said dam; to hear the allegations and testimony of all parties interested: and proceed to make a separate assessment of damages which will result to any person by the erection of said dam and its maintainance forever.

And said commissioners are hereby directed to make said examination on said above mentioned day and to fully comply with this order, and to file their report, together with this order, the petition and their oaths as commissioners, with the clerk of the District Court of Griggs County, Dakota, within thirty days after the completion of said examination.

Before entering upon their duties said commissioners shall take and subscribe the proper oath, and their fees are hereby fixed at the sum of three dollars each for every day necessarily and properly taken by them in the discharge of this their said duties.

Done at Bismarck D. T. this 25th day of February 1888

William H Francis
Judge, District Court
Sixth Judicial District
Dakota Territory.

In the matter of the petition of Nels C. Bukkefor the right to erect and maintain a mill dam on Sec. 1. Township 148, Range 59 Griggs county Dakota.

We the undersigned commissioners appointed by the Hon. William H. Francis Judge of the District Court of the 6th Judicial District under Chapter 39 of the code of civil procedure to enquire into the damages which may be sustained by any party or parties from the erection and maintainance of the above named mill dam ,report as follows:

We have this day examined the real estate above and below the point at which the said dam is proposed to be erected and find that the following persons are entitled to damages as follows :

Via:

Aslak Nelson-----	\$2.00
Nels Nelson -----	\$1.50
Ben Nelson -----	\$0.50
Ole C. Olson -----	\$3.00

Commissioners: George W. Pratt
 Stewart McRoberts
 Henry Pinkerton

Signed this 26th day of March A. D. 1888.

Bibliography : Original records in the office of Clerk of Court, Cooperstown, N.D.

In the matter of the petition of Nels C. Fukkefor the right to erect and maintain a mill dam on Sec. 1. Township 148, Range 59 Griggs county Dakota.

We the undersigned commissioners appointed by the Hon. William H. Francis Judge of the District Court of the 6th Judicial District under Chapter 39 of the code of civil procedure to enquire into the damages which may be sustained by any party or parties from the erection and maintainance of the above named mill dam ,report as follows:

We have this day examined the real estate above and below the point at which the said dam is proposed to be erected and find that the following persons are entitled to damages as follows :

Viz:

Aslak Nelson-----	\$2.00
Nels Nelson -----	\$1.50
Ben Nelson -----	\$0.50
Ole C. Olson -----	\$3.00

Commissioners: George W. Pratt
 Stewart McRoberts
 Henry Pinkerton

Signed this 28th day of March A. D. 1888.

Bibliography : Original records in the office of Clerk of Court, Cooperstown, N.D.