

Biography of Sanders Sanderson
--Clarence Stone

June 1, 1927

Because of hard times in Norway, Ole Sanderson left for America in a sail boat that was once used for slave traffic.

After much hard labor, Mr. Sanderson was able to save enough to bring his wife and youngest child to America. Sanders Sanderson came to America at the age of twelve years.

Sanders first trade was working in factories, and then later he learned the Cooper trade which was of a great benefit.

On account of hard times in Chicago, Sanders Sanderson started to find a better place. About this time people were beginning to homestead in North Dakota, so Sanders Sanderson and a friend came to North Dakota to homestead.

About 1881 Mr. Sanderson and his friend landed in Mayville by train. They walked to the Sheyenne River with some men that were after some provisions. When they reached the river, they were all tired out and did not have any place to sleep except on the ground.

Mr. Sanderson was so disgusted by the long walk that he and his friend were going to return to Mayville the next day, but they got a place to stay so they settled down to make their claim. At first they made their house in the side of a river bank, similar to a dugout. The river in the spring, however, chased them out of their house.

Mr. Sanderson had a little trouble to get settled on account of a neighbor who wanted Sanders' land, and also because the land was not yet surveyed. However, at last Mr. Sanderson settled on what is now section 24 range 58 southeast of Cooperstown. Cooperstown was not built at that time, so the closest place to get supplies was at Valley City. It took about three or four days to get the supplies by oxen so we of today can see what those of the earlier years had to go through. However, the neighbors went together and would send just one team after the supplies. Mr. Sanderson also told of a person that walked to Valley City with a wheelbarrow to get a sack of flour.

The first house Mr. Sanderson built was made out of logs that had been chopped down with an ax.

When Sanders had settled down fairly well, he sent for his parents at Chicago to come and stay with him. Ole Sanderson then took care of the homestead while Mr. Sanders Sanderson went out working to get money to make a better homestead.

Soon Sanderson got a breaking plow, a small harrow and some other small farm implements, and started to raise crops. The chief crops were wheat and oats. Wheat at that time was worth about 40 or 50 cents.

They plowed the land with a team of oxen, dragged with oxen but sowed and harvested the grain by hand. They way they threshed their grain was by pounding the straw with a long stick. They then put the grain in sacks and stored it away for next year or took it to town and sold it.

Mr. Sanderson's closest neighbors were Allie Saunders and John Atchison.

During the time Sanders Sanderson worked in Chicago, he became acquainted with Jennie Johnson. He married her in the year of 1889.

In 1890 he came back to North Dakota and his old homestead where he still resides.

Mr. And Mrs. Sanderson have four children, all of whom are living. They are Herman, Sylvanius, Tory and Alford Sanderson.

Biography of Sander Sanderson

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The names of the parents of the pioneer I am writing about are: Mr. Ole Sanderson and Mrs. Bertha Sanderson (nee) Miss Bertha Neilstotter. The name of the pioneer is Sander Sanderson. Mr. Sander Sanderson was one of the early pioneers of Griggs County, North Dakota. He was born May 17, 1859 at Christiania, Norway. (Now called Oslo).

Mr. Sanderson left his former home and came to North Dakota thinking that he might become more prosperous here. Mr. Sanderson preferred to come to North Dakota instead of some other state as this part of the country was then open for settlers to take up homesteads. Mr. Sanderson came to Mayville, Traill County. He had to walk across the country in slush and mud, without hardly seeing a living soul, as there were not many inhabitants settled in the country in those early pioneer days when he first came. However, he finally reached the Sheyenne River and walked along its banks. The first man he met who had settled along the Sheyenne River was John Atchison. They had a talk together and he stayed at John Atchison's place over night. The next day he went on down the river not very far from John Atchison's place and found a suitable place for a homestead. Mr. Sander Sanderson came to North Dakota in 1881 on the 5th of April.

Early experiences of pioneer days: He took up a homestead. He had to live on the land for five years before he could obtain a deed from the government, showing that the land was his. This was called the Homestead Act. He lives six miles south and five miles east of Cooperstown, which was later started. Township 145, Range 58, Section 24.

The first kind of dwelling that served as a home for Mr. Sanderson was a log house. It was made of logs, the roof was made of poles, covered with slough grass and sod on top. The furniture of the pioneer home was scanty and poor. What little he did have was home made. Newspapers often served for wall paper. Luxuries were unknown and pleasures were few and short in the early or pioneer days.

The pioneer had to go to Valley City for provisions and supplies before the city of Cooperstown had begun to be built. They took the horses and wagons. The journey took about three days for the return trip. Several of his nearest neighbors were: John H. Atchison, Alex Saunders, and Luellan Laudberry.

Mr. Sanderson had a yoke of oxen, others had horses. He had a few small farm implements. The sod had first to be broken up and then the seed planted. As this was hard work, he did not get many acres broken up at a time. He raised a few acres of wheat and oats. He generally had an average of 25 to 35 bushels to the acre.

The fuel used by Mr. Sanderson in the early days was wood. As he lived beside the Sheyenne River, he had sufficient amount of wood. The trees had to be sawed as they were so huge and hauled up to the house and split. They sometimes had prairie fires. Also severe snow storms which lasted for three or four days at a time.

Sander Sanderson

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Mr. Sanderson was married to Miss Jennie Johnson at Chicago in 1890.

Mr. Sanderson had seven children. Three of them are dead and the other four are living as follows:

Mr. Herman Sanderson-----Cooperstown, North Dakota
Mr. Silvnus Sanderson-----Chicago, Illinois
Mr. Torry Sanderson-----Cooperstown, North Dakota
Alfred Sanderson-----Cooperstown, North Dakota

Mr. Sanderson is still living on the homestead he took up in the early pioneer days. He has all the modern improvements that any other farm of today has.

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