

May 20, 1930

Biography of Henry Scansen
--Lilah Scansen

The names of the parents of the pioneer were Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Scansen. The name of the pioneer was Mr. Henry Scansen. He was born April 24, 1867 in the country near Laneboro, Minnesota.

He left home to take up land. He came to North Dakota instead of any other state because there was lots of free land in North Dakota. He traveled with horses reaching North Dakota in 1899. Early experiences of pioneer days: He took up land in Foster Township. His first house was frame. Trips to town were made with a lumberwagon and horses. Some of the early hardships were blizzards and prairie fires. The nearest neighbor was Helmer Bonrude. Early farm machinery and teams were a walking plow and horses. Early school and church--Pastor, Rev. Frost. The fuel was coal, gotten in town by loads.

Henry Scansen married Ida Randklev in 1901 at Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. His present place of residence is Cooperstown, North Dakota.

The names and addresses of his descendents are:

1. Mable Scansen of Bowman, North Dakota, now Mrs. Langlie
2. Clara Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
3. Clarence Scansen of Sioux City, Iowa
4. Effie Scansen of Centerville, South Dakota, Now Mrs. Rooney
5. David Scansen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota
6. Florence Scansen of Chicago, Illinois
7. Gerald Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
8. Harry Scansen, of Cooperstown, North Dakota
9. Hazel Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
10. Frances Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
11. Lilah Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
12. Wallace Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
13. Bernice Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
14. Ruth Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota
15. Robert Scansen of Cooperstown, North Dakota

H. G. Scansen, Pekin, N. Dak

H. G. Scansen has a hardware store. He was born in Fillmore Co, Minn. on Apr 24, 1866 of Norwegian ancestry. His father Guttorm Scansen was from Hallingdal and his mother Bergitte Domming was from Eidsvold. They are both dead.

He came to Carrington N.D. in 1899, moved to Bismarck, N.D. then went to Pekin in 1907, and has since lived there.

His wife, Ida Randklev, is born in America of Norse ancestry from Gulbrandsdalen. They have 10 children.

Bibl: Transl. from Hans Jervell, 1916 page 178.

Louis Schlosser

Louis Schlosser, of sec. 35 in Gilby -
He was born in Winnebago Co, Wis, Oct 28, 1852.
His parents, Albert and Catherine (Nuss) Schlosser,
natives of Germany. The father was born in
Wurtemberg, his mother in Alsace. They came
to U.S. in 1842, to Wis, then to Goodhue Co, Minn.,
in 1859 - then to Mason City, Iowa + died Aug 12, 1900.
The mother died in Rice Co. Minn.

Mr. Schlosser went to Grand Forks Co
in 1879 and filed a pre-emption claim to land
in sec. 35, Gilby trap.

Mr. Schlosser was married, in 1889, to
Annie Bratland, born in Norway.

Their children: Sherman L., Walter H. (married
Helen Baker); Arthur G., and Lloyd R.

Bibl. Condensed from Compend of Hist + Biog. 1900, ^{page} 1354

Iver J. Seim

Iver J. Seim, of Sec 30, Bergen twp, Steele Co, and son of Iver and Betsey (Lillegraven) Seim, was born Mar 7, 1857 in Ladanger, Bergen (stift) Norway, after the death of his father.

At 15 years, he, his mother, and brother, came to Minneshiek Iowa and joined two of the children who had come before. He had one years schooling in English speaking schools after he came ^{to U.S.} ~~here~~. In May 1880 he went by team to Dakota. He had about \$100⁰⁰ in cash and a team of horses and after prospecting along the river for 20 miles selected his present location and established a "squatter" claim to it. His family was soon established in a log house 14x16, built on the banks of the river. This house has been moved about 1/4 mile from the river to where the modern house stands, the main part of which was built in 1883.

Mr. Seim raises Clydesdale horses and Short Horn cattle.

Mr. Seim was married, in 1877, to Miss Jennie Spilde, born in Norway. Their children: Bessie, Paul, Jens, Adolph, Ida, deceased; Ida, deceased and Melvin.
Bi H: Condensed from Compend of Hist + Bio, 1900 - page 629-30.

IVER I. SEIM

From Compendium of N.D.

IVER I. SEIM, a resident of section 30, in Bergen township, Steele county, is the owner of twelve hundred and eighty acres of land and has acquired his fortune single-handed. He is one of the pioneers of that region and has been eminently successful in diversified farming, his land, located in the eastern part of the Sheyenne river valley, being admirably adapted to that work. His farm evidences painstaking care in its operation and modern methods and improvements make it a home of more than usual comforts.

Our subject was born in Hadanger, Bergen (stift), Norway, March 7, 1857, and was the youngest in a family of five children. His father, Iver Seim, died prior to the birth of our subject and the mother, whose maiden name was Betsey Lillegraven, of necessity had the care of the family after the father's death. Our subject was put to work at herding when eleven years of age and when fifteen years of age he and his mother and brother came to America and joined two of the children who had preceded them to this country. Our subject was then able to earn his own livelihood and at once engaged in farm work in Winneshiek, Iowa. He secured one winter's schooling in the English speaking schools after his arrival in this country and in May, 1880, went by team to Dakota. His objective point was the Sheyenne river, in what was then Traill county, North Dakota. He had about one hundred dollars in cash and a team of horses and after prospecting along the river for a distance of twenty miles selected his present location and established a "squatter's claim" thereto. His family was soon established in a log house 14x16 feet, built on the banks of the river and this house has since been moved about a quarter of a mile from the river, to where the more modern house stands, the main part of which was built in 1883. Our subject has devoted himself to diversified farming from the first of his labors in Dakota and has been successful in his calling and enjoys a comfortable home. He raises Clydesdale horses and Short Horn cattle and his stock raising has contributed largely to his profits and his farm is one of the best located in the country for that purpose.

Mr. Seim was married, in 1877, to Miss Jennie Spilde, a native of Norway. Seven children have been born to this union as follows: Bessie, Paul, Jens, Adolph, Ida, deceased, Ida, deceased, and Melvin. Mr. Seim is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. Politically, he is a Populist and was early identified with the movements of that party and took an active part in the organization of the same. He has attended county conventions and served on the Populist central committees and is prominent in local affairs and is deservedly popular with the people among whom he has resided since the early settlement of that region.

Biography of Kornelius Seldal
--Walter Seldal

Kornelius Seldal was born January 22, 1844 to Mr. and Mrs. Christ Seldal.

He left home because he had relatives in the United States. He came to North Dakota because his children lived there. He came on a ship to Canada and by train to North Dakota. He came to North Dakota in April, 1901.

Their first house was a frame house. They made their trips to town very seldom, usually in a buggy. There were very bad blizzards. They used horses for working and had a plow used by hand. O. H. Westley and O. Stokka were the nearest neighbors. He had no schooling here, but he belonged to the Zion Church. Their fuel was coal and wood secured from neighboring towns and woods by the river.

He was married to Ingen Oftedahl in Norway in 1874.

He now lives by the Sheyenne river.

His descendents are C. Seldal, H. Seldal, Mrs. I. Wagle.

Ole Serumgard

Ole Serumgard ^{is} registered in the United States land office at Devils Lake, N.D. He is also engaged in farm machinery business in Devils Lake in company with Mr. Prosser.

Mr. Serumgard was born in Parish of Lesje, Norway, Dec 22, 1856 and came to Watonwan Co Minn with his parents in 1868. Here he lived until 1881. He was educated in the common schools and at the State Normal at Mankato where he graduated in 1879.

In 1881 he went to N. Dak. and taught school one year in Cass Co where he took a homestead claim. He engaged in the land and loan business in Cooperstown, ^{until 1884} and went to Devils Lake following the same business for several years. He formed a partnership with Hon. F. H. Prosser in 1891, under the ^{firm} name of Prosser + Serumgard, and they have since engaged in the farm machinery business.

Mr. Serumgard was married at Mankato, Minnesota, to Miss Karen Thordahl who was also born in Norway. Their children: Pauline, Olga, Inez, and Harold. Mr. Serumgard Taught the first school in Griggs County.

Bibl. Condensed from Compend. of Hist. + Bioq, 1900, page 9734

Biography of Ole Serungard

(One of the two first teachers in Griggs County.)

Ole Serungard was born in the parish of Lesje, Norway, December 22, 1856, and came to America with his parents in 1868. They settled on a farm in Watonwan County, Minnesota, where he continued his residence until 1881. His education was received in the common schools and at the State Normal at Mankato, Minnesota, where he graduated in 1879. He was engaged in teaching and farming in Watonwan County until 1881, when he went to North Dakota and taught school one year in Cass County, afterward going to Griggs County, where he took a homestead claim. Ole Serungard was one of the two first school teachers in Griggs County after the school districts were organized. (The other teacher was S. C. Gunderson.) His first term of school was at Mardell, D. T. Later he engaged in the land and loan business at Cooperstown.

In the spring of 1884, he went to Devils Lake, where he engaged in the real estate business. In 1891 he formed a partnership in the machinery business with Hon. F. H. Prosser, under the firm name of Prosser and Serungard.

In July 1898, he was appointed Register of the U. S. Land Office at Devils Lake by President McKinley and held that position for nine years. He also served two terms as treasurer of Ramsey County in the late '90's. He was a member of the city council of Devils Lake for several years.

Mr. Serungard was married at Mankato, Minnesota to Miss Karen Throdahl, who was also a native of Norway. Four children were born to this union, namely: Pauline, Olga, Inez, and Harold.

From 1914 until his death in 1930, he was manager of the Farmers' Grain Company of Devils Lake. He served on the board of managers of the State Mill and Elevator at Grand Forks, being appointed to that position by former Governor Nestoss. He also served as a director of the Northwest Grain Association, a farm board co-operative organization.

Siver Serungard, a brother of Ole Serungard, was a teacher in Griggs County in the early '80s.

Ole Serungard died in 1930 at Devils Lake at the age of 74 years.

OLE SERUMGARD

From Compendium of N. D.

OLE SERUMGARD, register in the United States land office at Devils Lake, North Dakota, is one of the public spirited and enterprising citizens of his locality, and enjoys the highest esteem and confidence of his fellowmen. He is engaged in the farm machinery business in Devils Lake in company with Mr. Prosser, and has met with success in his business and is one of the substantial men of Ramsey county.

Our subject was born in the Parish of Lesje Norway, December 22, 1856, and came to America with his parents in 1868. They settled on a farm in Watonwan county, Minnesota, where our subject grew to manhood and continued his residence there until 1881. His education was received in the common schools and at the State Normal at Mankato, where he graduated in 1879. He was engaged in teaching and farming in Wantonwan county until 1881, when he went to North Dakota and taught school one year in Cass county, after ward going to Griggs county, where he took a homestead claim. He engaged in the land and loan business at Cooperstown and remained there till the spring of 1884, when he went to Devils Lake, following the same business there several years. He formed a partnership with Hon. F. H. Prosser in 1891, under the firm name of Prosser & Serumgard, and they have since engaged in the farm machinery business and have made a success of that line.

Mr. Serumgard was married at Mankato, Minnesota, to Miss Karen Throdahl, who was a native of Norway also. Mr. and Mrs. Serumgard are the parents of four children, named as follows: Pauline, Olga, Inez, and Harold. Mr. Serumgard taught the first school in Griggs county, and is a gentleman of excellent mind and systematic nature. He was elected treasurer of Ramsey county in 1886, and served two terms. He was appointed a trustee of the State Normal School by Governor Andrew H. Burke, and resigned after serving one year. He has been a member of the city council of Devils Lake for several years, and in July, 1898, was appointed by President McKinley as register of the United States land office at Devils Lake, assuming the duties of that office in September of that year. At the time of his appointment he was serving as mayor of Devils Lake, to which office he was elected in the spring of 1898.

OLE SERUNGARD
(the first teacher in Griggs County)
---additional data---

Ole Serungard was born in the parish of Lesje, Norway, December 22, 1856 and came to America with his parents in 1868. They settled on a farm Watonwan Co. Minn. His education was received in the common schools and State Normal at Mankato, Minnesota, where he graduated in 1879. He was engaged in teaching and farming in Watonwan County until in 1881 when he went to Dakota and taught school in Cass County afterward going to Griggs County where he took a homestead claim and taught the first school in Griggs County. He later engaged in the Land and Loan business in Cooperstown and remained there until the spring of 1894 when he went to Devils Lake, following the same business there.

Ole Serungard was married at Mankato, Minn. to Karin Throdahl, a native of Norway. Mr. and Mrs. O. Serungard are parents of four children, namely Pauline, Olga, Inez and Harold.

Siver Serungard, a brother of Ole Serungard was a teacher in Griggs County in the early days.

Ole Serungard died at Devils Lake in 1930.

Bibliography:

Mrs. Mathilda Overby, Ex-Co. Supt.
Cooperstown, N.D.

Judge W.H. Carleton
Cooperstown, N.D.

John Hogenson, pioneer in Remness Tp.
Cooperstown, N.D.

Lounsberry's Compendium of History and Biography
Published at Fargo, N.D.
Page 973.

Siver Serumgard

Siver Serumgard, an attorney of Devils Lake, is the senior partner of the real-estate firm of Serumgard and Moen. He was born in Lesje parish, Norway, Dec 11, 1859.

He came to a farm in Watonwan Co. Minn., in 1868, where he lived until 1882. He went to Mankato High School and State University at Minneapolis and graduated in the literary class of 1890 and the law department the same year. He was admitted to the bar at Devils Lake in July 1890, and began the practice of law at Cooperstown where he stayed 1 year and then located at Devils Lake in the spring of 1891.

He came to Dakota in 1882 and taught school for some time in Fargo and also taught in Cooperstown until he was admitted to the bar. In Aug, 1892, in company with Mr. L. D. McGowan, he established the paper published in Devils Lake known as the "Free Press".

Mr. Serumgard was married in Covington Kentucky Feb 12, 1894, to Miss Grace E. Kiker a native of Manchester Ohio.

His children: Arthur H., Grace B., and Dorothy D.

He formed a partnership with Egild T Moen in Oct, 1898.
Bibl: Condensed from Compend of Hist + Bio, 1900, page 1022.

SIVER SERUMGARD

From Compendium of N.D. ✓

SIVER SERUMGARD, a prominent attorney of Devils Lake, is the senior partner of the well-known real estate firm of Serumgard & Moen, of Devils Lake. He was born in Lesje parish, Norway, December 11, 1859.

Mr. Serumgard came to America with his parents in 1868 and settled on a farm in Watonwan county, Minnesota, where he was reared to manhood and where he lived until 1882. He was educated in the high school in Mankato and at the State University at Minneapolis, where he graduated in the literary class of 1890 and from the law department the same year. He was admitted to the bar at Devils Lake in July, 1890 and began the practice of his profession at Cooperstown, North Dakota, where he remained one year and then located at Devils Lake in the spring of 1891. He has since followed practice there and is largely interested in real estate in Ramsey county. He came to North Dakota in 1882 and taught school for some time in Fargo and also taught in Cooperstown until he was admitted to the bar. In August, 1892, in company with Mr. L. D. McGohen, he established the paper published in Devils Lake known as "The Free Press." This was a Democratic paper and had a wide circulation.

Our subject was married, in Covington, Kentucky, February 12, 1894, to Miss Grace E. Kirker, a native of Manchester, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Serumgard are the parents of three children, named as follows: Arthur K., Grace B. and Dorothy D. Our subject was appointed by Governor Shortridge, in 1893, as regent of the North Dakota State University for four years. He has been city attorney for Devils Lake three terms and has also been alderman in the city and is one of the public-spirited men of that locality. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and in political sentiment is Democratic, with which party he has been identified since 1888. Mr. Serumgard formed a partnership with Egild T. Moen, October 1, 1898, and this well-known firm conducts an extensive real estate, loan and collection business.

Siver Serungard.

Siver Serungard was born in Lesje Norway, Dec 11, 1859. His parents were Sever and Anne O. Hage. He attended the public schools of Norway, and of Brown and Watonwan counties Minn. Later he graduated, from Mankato High School in 1883 and in 1890 graduated from U. of Minn, and in 1981 as LL.B. His first residence in the U.S. was at Riverdall Minn. In 1883 he moved to Cooperstown and lived there for about eight years. He was admitted to the bar in N.D. in 1890, and in 1891 began practicing law at Devil's Lake N. Dak, and made it his home until his death. He was married Feb. 12, 1894 to Miss Estelle Kirker of Covington Kentucky.

May 22, 1929

Biography of O. P. Shelstad
--Clarence Shelstad

Mr. O. P. Shelstad was born in 1874, five miles west of Zumbrota, Minnesota, on a small farm. In his twenties he farmed for himself, and later on moved to Clarissa, Minnesota. There he bought a farm, which he farmed for a few years. He got sick and went to southern Minnesota where he took treatments. When well again, he went back.

He got to be mail carrier and moved to town. Mr. Shelstad carried mail for about four years, when he was elected manager of the Eagle Valley Cooperative Creamery.

When he moved to town, he bought a home consisting of five acres. The creamery was improving and he was re-elected. After a couple of years in the creamery, he bought half share in a hardware store. The business was sold six months later because he could not take care of the creamery and hardware store both.

He stayed in the creamery ten years and then resigned and moved to Cooperstown to take care of the creamery there. The other partner wanted to move back to Minnesota and someone had to take care of the business.

Mr. Shelstad has lived in Cooperstown since ~~coming~~ leaving Minnesota, and he expects to stay quite a while longer.

Before he moved to Clarissa, or when in his teen's, he went to a business college at Red Wing, Minnesota. This college gave him much bookkeeping which helped him to take care of books in almost any business.

SENTINAL COURIER
Apr. 23, 1914/

SEALAR SIMPKINS

On Friday P.M. at one o'clock there passed away the oldest citizen of Mountain Home, Sealar Simpkins, born Feb. 4th 1827, and died April 3, 1914.

He was born at Troy Pa. and later moved to Elmira New York, where he married Nancy Stillwell. To this union four children were born--three of whom are living. They are Mrs. Clark A. Grant of Ithaca N.Y.; George E. of Chicago; and David of Va.

After the death of his wife he moved to St Clair Mich. where in 1868 he married Tammah Robertson. To this union two children were born: Ralph W. well known to newspaper men of Mountain Home, and Mrs Mabel Simpkins Stengale of Cooperstown N.Yak.

In 1883 Mr. Simpkins moved to N. Dak. where he lived until 1908. He then moved to Mountain Home/He served in the Civil War. He is buried at Mountain Home.

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JAMES H. SINCLAIR--Son of Griggs county pioneers, was born in St. Marys, Ont., Canada, October 9, 1871, and came with his parents to this county in 1883. He served as school teacher, as register of deeds and later entered the banking business which he conducted with farming enterprises. In 1918 he was elected a member of the U. S. House of Representatives being re-elected in 1920, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1930 and 1932. Congressman Sinclair is the ^{first} ~~only~~ North Dakota representative ~~ever~~ to hold membership on the important agricultural committee of the houses and was co-sponsor of the first farm relief bill which would have made an attempt to right Agriculture's apparent wrongs, The Norris-

Biography of Mrs. Sevardt Skagen

--Gladys Simpson

May 31, 1926

The parents of the pioneer were Ole Olson and Givie Thorsen. The pioneer's maiden name was Margarite Olson.

She was born in the year 1845, in Gal, Helingdal, Norway. Her father was a farmer. There were five children in the family, four girls and one boy.

When Margarite Olson came to America, she was twenty-four years of age. This was in the year 1881. Minnesota is where she spent the first three years that she was in the United States. She was then married to Sevardt Skagen, and they moved to North Dakota to take up land.

When they first came here, they bought one quarter of land which was situated in Washburn Township, Griggs County.

The first house that they lived in was built of sod, and it was ten by twelve feet in size. Later they built a log house twelve feet square.

All traveling was done with oxen, and they did not have the farm machinery that people do now. They hauled fuel from the valley, as there was no railroad running through here to bring coal.

Their only neighbor was S. O. Homme. He lived one-fourth of a mile east of where Skagens lived. At that time there was no trace of Cooperstown. The only town there was for them to go to was a place called Mardell, situated on the land now owned by Nels Arneson. This town consisted of a store and a postoffice.

They lived in the log house for eight years, and they then built a larger house of lumber in the year 1892. A large grove of trees was planted on the place by Mr. Skagen, though he never lived to see them fully grown.

They raised a family of five girls, Bertha (Mrs. G. Simpson), Gena, Lena (Mrs. J..Auren), Julia and Gunhild. All of these are now dead except Mrs. Auren and Mrs. Skagen, who is also living.

Mrs. Skagen is now seventy-one years of age and she still lives on the same farm, four miles east of Cooperstown.

Biography of Cora Skanse
--Milo C. Watne

Miss Cora Skanse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonas P. Skanse was born in the year 1877 on September 29 at Herjedalen, Sweden.

They came to this country because they heard of the free land available and also because a brother and sister had taken up a homestead here.

Miss Skanse, Mr. and Mrs. Skanse, Jonas Jr. and Olaf took the British ship "British-Princess" across the ocean and came to Dakota by train, June 29, 1888.

They filed on section 18, Cooperstown township, built a cabin of lumber but of sod foundation. When going to Cooperstown for lumber or other articles, they traveled by oxen team and a cart.

Quite often prairie fires, the curse of the prairie, and blizzards would rage, but it never demolished Skanse's cabin.

The Houghton School was the nearest, being about 3 miles distant; Bertha Langford was teaching. No church was built then, but the people met in different places and took turns preaching.

Cora Skanse married Gerhald Watne, November 23, 1901 in Cooperstown. Gerhald is now dead. Sons and daughters, Wm. Watne, Constance Watne (now married) Myrtle, Gerald, Milo and Corinne are now residing in Cooperstown.

PIONEER BIOGRAPHY
Carl Skare

Martha and John Skare are the names of the pioneer's parents. Pioneer's name is Carl Skare. He was born in November 18, 1881. He was born near Bergen, Norway.

He, just like so many others, left the old country because there were so many hard times. He had heard of the vast opportunities that this country offered, easier to earn money and much better lands!

He came to North Dakota instead of some other state because he had friends here in N. Dak.

The trip from pioneer's home to N. Dak. was beset with obstacles and hardships. One thing was he couldn't speak English. Of course over the ocean wasn't so hard, but it was discouraging after he came to New York.

He came over to N. Dak. in 1902. He took up his land in Williams County. The nearest town was Ambros. Hans Kvamme was his nearest neighbor. The house he lived in was a little shanty. It was made of boards and was 12 by 14 feet. The team he had was two oxen. The machinery was a walking plow. He borrowed the other necessary machinery.

The crops raised were wheat, oats, barley and flax. That year the crops all dried out.

The fuel of early days was lignite. They got it from the mines. They had to drive it home in wagons with oxen.

The hardships they had were pretty hard. They had snowstorms, hail storms, dirt storms and prairie fires.

The pioneer is a single man. Present home of pioneer is in Alberta, Canada in the southern part. The nearest town is Loyalist. He was here nine years. Then he sold his homestead here in N. Dak. and went to Alberta, Canada where he took homestead. He left here because the land was so stony. He went to Canada to see how it was there and it being satisfactory he located on a homestead there. He started out with four oxen. The machinery that he had did not amount to much. The four first years were discouraging being hailed out and dried out every year.

He had eighty miles to town. It took him from 8 to 10 days to make the trip forth and back, but after there was more settled he came nearer and nearer to market. Now he was only four and a half miles to town.

When he first came there he had a shanty just as in N. Dak. It was built out of boards. The shanty was 12 by 14 feet. Now he has a big house and barn. He has a half section of land. Last year he bought his first automobile. He is now well fixed.

---Martha Sjökvist

Biography of Carl Skare
--Martha Sjekrist

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He, just like so many others, left the old country because there were so many hard times. He had heard of the vast opportunities that this country offered, easier to earn money and much better lands.

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The crops raised were wheat, oats, barley, and flax. That year the crops all dried out.

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PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Carl Skare

by Martha Sjökvist

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- The hardships they had were pretty hard. They had snowstorms, hail storms, dirt storms and prairie fires.
- The pioneer is a single man. Present home of pioneer is in Alberta, Canada in the southern part. The nearest town is Loyalist.
- He was here nine years. Then he sold his homestead here in N. Dak. and went to Alberta, Canada where he took homestead. He left here because the land was so stony. He went to Canada to see how it was there and it being satisfactory he located on a homestead there. He started out with four oxen. The machinery that he had did not amount to much. The four first years were discouraging being hailed out and dried out every year.
- He had eighty miles to town. It took him from 8 to 10 days to make the trip forth and back, but after there was more settled he came nearer and nearer to market. Now he has only four and a half miles to town.
- When he first came there he had a shanty just as in N. Dak. It was built out of boards. The shanty was 12 by 14 feet. Now he has a big house and barn. He has a half section of land. Last year he bought his first automobile. He is now well fixed.

--Martha Sjökvist

2/23/12

Skjvi, Thomas Johnsen (Schei)
Ord., 1884, Hanges synode, 1884-'04

United Church '04-'09.

Born in Lower Stjørdalen, S. Indherred,
Trondhjem, on Mar 18, 1854, son of John Johnsen
and Berit (born Johnsen), Emigrated 1874,
Attended Red Wing Sem. '79-'84 (C.T.) Pastor
Horace, Fron congregation, Cass Co. N.D. '84-'90,
near Northwood and Aneta (3-2 congregations)
N.D., '90 - Married Elisabet Larsen, '84.

Transl. from. Nouv. Luth. Pastors of Amer, 1914, p 208 -

Biography of Ole Skrain
--Arthur Larson

June 2, 1930

Mr. and Mrs. John Olson are the names of the parents of the pioneer. The name of the pioneer is Ole G. Skrain. He was born in 1844 in Norway, Valley of Hallingdahl, city of Ness.

He left here because of hard times and came here to homestead. He came to North Dakota with a wagon and a team of oxen on June 15, 1880.

He homesteaded on Section 26. His first house was part dug-out and part log house. He went to Valley City twice a year for provisions. Prairie fires and blizzards were some of the hardships he had to endure. John Torphin and Otto Flutto were his nearest neighbors. His machinery and teams were a breaking plow and one team of oxen. Bolkan School was the name of the school. He used wood for fuel.

Ole Skrain was married to Carry A. Sindan at War County, Iowa in the year of 1878. Both are now living in Ulen, Minnesota. They had three children.

Torphin and Flutto both came to Section 26 about six months before Ole Skrain.

The family left Griggs County in 1890. Two children of Skrain's family went to the Bolkan School.

M.H. Skramstad

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

M.H. Skramstad was born in Osterdahlen Norway, May 24, 1847, where his youth and early manhood was passed. On June 21st 1872 he was married to Miss Annie Hogenson of that place and continued to reside in Norway until June 1884 when he removed with his family to the United States.

They came directly to Griggs County where they settled on the Homestead in the township of Pomness which has been their continuous residence. There Mr. Skramstad passed away on Sept. 5th 1913, leaving his wife and seven children. Mr. Skramstad was a man highly respected by all who knew him, a man of sterling worth whose passing was a decided loss to the community and this Association.

Mathilda Torfin Sloulin

Hannah and John Torfin's daughter, Mathilda, was the first white child born in Griggs County.

Mrs Torfin, the daughter of Ole Olson Bjornstad, together with her husband, her parents, her brothers and sisters, and neighbors from near Osage Iowa, first came to Griggs County in about April 1880. They stopped first at Omund Nelson Opheim's; then located land and built log houses for themselves.

Mr. Torfin's choice of land was SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 26-146-58 in the Sheyenne River valley. The site of his log house was almost at the present location of Alf Ueland's farm buildings, East of the Ueland Dam. There on Sept 11 1880, with Mrs. Torfin attended only by her mother, Mrs. Bjornstad, Mathilda was born, the first child of the County, the first child of her parents. Two of her brothers--Edwin in 1882, and Albert in 1884-- were born in this log house.

Mathilda Torfin together with Kate Olson Opheim, the second child born in Griggs County, was baptized in the late fall by Rev I. Lundebj, a Lutheran missionary who visited the settlers of the Sheyenne Valley.

Mr. Torfin took final proof on his land in 1883. The family moved to Rousseau Minn. in 1887. After the death of Mrs. Torfin's mother, Mrs. Bjornstad, the family returned to the home of Mr. Bjornstad in Romness township, to take care of him. After the death of Mr. Bjornstad, the family remained in N.D. but moved to Aneta N.D. where they spent the rest of their lives. Mr. Torfin died in Apr. 1932, and Mrs. Torfin in May 1935.

Mathilda was married to Olaf M. Sloulin on May 6, 1900 at Aneta, by Rev. Thayer.

Mr. Sloulin, Of Norwegian ancestry was born in Wisconsin, May 3, 1875. He was a pharmacist by trade. He died July 1 1930.

The house in which Mrs. Sloulin was born in was built in the spring of 1880 by her father, John Torfin. He built it of logs cut from the trees on his own homestead. It was 9 by 14, had two windows and one door. The household furnishings were simple, mostly home made. They had their own candle mold.

Mrs Sloulin died in
She left four children: Effie Sloulin Volkman, Hazelle Sloulin Otterson Walters, Mildred Sloulin Syvertson, and Milton Sloulin.

Bibliography: Questionnaire, by Mrs. Sloulin for Hannah Lende
Interview of Albert Torfin, by
Myrtle Porterville

Ole O. Sloulin.

Ole O. Sloulin, of Sec 4, Lee Co. Nelson Co. was the first settler of Field township, Nelson Co.

Mr. Sloulin was born Church precinct of Lom, Gulbrandsdalen, Christiania Stift, Norway, on May 2, 1851. He was the oldest of 4 children of Ole O and Marit (Aukrust bakken) Sloulin. At 13 his father died. Went to Fish Creek, Wisc and in 1874 to Green Co. Wisc and to Brooklyn Wisc then to Vernon Co in 1876 and in 1879 got a team and drove to Kansas, passed the winter of 1880-1881 in the Wisc woods, and in Sept 1881, went to Dak. He was 1 year in Traill Co + in spring of 1882 to Nelson Co, + was 1st settler in Field township.

Ole O. Sloulin was married in 1874, to Miss Anne Kroke. Their children: Olaf, in drug business (married Tilda Torgin) at Aneta, Mary, married N. O. Haugen, Charles, a merchant of Sogn, N.D. Overt, a blacksmith of Sogn, Thea, Gilbert, Henry, deceased; Clara, + Emma, Mary + Charles are twins.

Bibl. Condensed from Compend of Hist. + Bio., 1900, ^{page 1354} ^

Biography of Ole Jorgen Omundson Soma
--William Sharpe

Ole Jorgen Omundson Soma was born in Norway near the city of Sandnes on the 28th day of October, 1853. His parents were Omund and Agnethe Omundson. He left his home in Norway in 1882 because he believed North Dakota would prove a more profitable place to farm.

So many immigrants were coming to America at the time that no immigrant boats were available at the date of his sailing, so that he had to take an Oslo boat to Amsterdam. Here he remained for five days. Then to London where they were delayed five days. A cattle boat on the Crown Line was slightly remodeled to accommodate immigrants. The rooms in this boat were very filthy. For fourteen days they sailed the Atlantic Ocean. The journey ended in a panic as there was a shortage of coal and food.

Arriving in New York the immigrant train carried them to Chicago at a break neck speed, the train neared a large bridge, at the moment they reached the bridge the train jumped the rails, slid several rods along the ties. Mr. Soma relates that for a few moments he feared this to be his last ride. Nothing serious happened but a delay of a few hours until a new engine could come to relieve. At Chicago they left on a smaller train for the Dakotas. Entering the Red River Valley it seemed as if the train were entering the ocean. As far ahead as one could see, the valley was flooded, covering the rail by several inches.

In the latter part of March, 1882, Mr. Soma reached Valley City to look for land. He looked for land south of Cooperstown where he took a homestead. He erected a frame shanty where the Shepard Farmer's Elevator now stands. His land is located in range 159 and township 145. He dug his barn four feet deep into the ground, 24x40 feet and proved very efficient. When going to town for provisions he drove with one ox and one horse. Cooperstown was then a village of a few abodes. His neighbors were Elling Johnson, T. T. Fuglestad, Andrew Benson, Mr. Montgomery, and Mr. Zimmerman. For five years he plowed with oxen, using five; two for seeder and three for drag. Using all at once he managed to cover much space in short time. He used a binder drawn by oxen for harvesting and Swen Aalgaard threshed for the entire community. Very dry years followed but Mr. Soma's land was low which insured good crops each year. Wheat and oats were the general crops he raised. For fuel, buckwheat and grass seed screenings from the elevator were burned. Fuel seemed unattainable but he hauled oak wood from the Sheyenne River.

One year a large prairie fire swept down from the northwest with heavy wind. The corner of the fire was aimed directly for the school house. With wet sacks Mr. Soma and help managed to keep the fire from the school house and buildings. One March, after comparatively fine weather, a fierce blizzard raging three days froze many cattle grazing in sloughs and vicinity. The storm was so fierce that windows were blown in some shacks. Indians sometimes passed thru vicinity on way to Devils Lake.

In 1885 Mr. Soma was married to Miss Gurina Froiland. She died and

Biography of Ole Jorgen Omundson Soma
--William Sharpe

he married Miss Lina Lee. After half a year of married life she died and in 1902 he married Gina Kydland. To his first wife were born Omund, Oscar, and Jonas Soma, all of Cooperstown and Mrs. Frank H. Pickett living at Truman, Minn. Children from the last union are Lise, Torger, Ingvald, Gurina, Mildred, and Judith. Five grandchildren, Joyce and Aella, Soma, Howard and Irene Soma and Erle Pickett.

Mr. Soma is now residing on his farm five miles south of Cooperstown, his original farm being managed by his son, Omund.

Biography of Ole Jorgen Omundson Soma
--Mildred Soma

Ole Jorgen Omundson Soma was born October 28, 1853 in Stavanger, a locality near Sandnes, Norway. His mother and father are Omund Soma and Agnette Soma.

Jorgen left Norway because he had read that there were good chances of getting land in America. The best chances were supposed to be in North Dakota and so he went there. He traveled on a cattle boat, which stunk worse than a pig pen, to New York. From there he traveled by train to Valley City. It was in the time of the Red River Valley flood and so it felt like going across the Atlantic Ocean again, only this time on a train. He walked from Valley City to what is now Shepard.

Arriving in April, 1882, he immediately got possession of the homestead in Section 12, range 57, and Ball Hill Township. A small shanty served as his first house. The nearest town was Valley City, to which he made his trips by foot. Benson, Elling Johnson, Montgomery, and Zimmerman were his closest neighbors.

All the machinery he had was one plow, one drag and one wagon. He also had five oxen. For fuel he used cow dung and grass-seed, the former was gotten in pastures. There were no schools nor churches when he came to this locality.

Jorgen's hardships were many! He lived through many blizzards. In one of these the oxen froze to death in the middle of a slough. In order for the men to get to their barns they usually tied twine to the house and then wandered towards the barn, but in this particular case they were not able to get to the barn in any way.

Once a building caught fire. The wind was furious! Jorgen and the neighboring people came to its rescue. They used wet gunny sacks to kill the fire. They suffered the loss of one straw stack and part of the building.

In winter he had to drive his oxen one and one-half miles every day to a certain slough where he watered them. There was no water closer than that!

In 1885 he married Gurina Froiland at an old shanty near here.

At present he is residing five miles south of Cooperstown.

PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

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Ole Jorgen Omundson Soma (continued)

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