

## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

### Bernt Helmer Tande

My father's parents were John Tande and Lurine Pederson. John Tande was born in Lille Hammer, Hedemarken, Norway in 1824. He died in 1892 when 63 years old. He married twice. Lurine Pederson was born in the United States in 1857 and died in 1888 when 30 years old.

Bernt Tande was 6 years when his father died and 1½ years when his mother died. He lived with Osmundson until he was 24 years old. Bernt Helmer Tande is the full name of the pioneer. He was born in October 14, 1886. He was born in Willow township, section 24. His nearest town was Cooperstown. He came to get a home and farm to live on. Bernt Tande planned on being a tailor but did not take up the work. He is now a farmer in Willow Township in section 26 and owns 240 acres of land.

He drove with oxen. He had four oxen. He drove to North Dakota with oxen. He gained experience by looking at the methods the other pioneers had used.

John Tande came to Minnesota in 1870 and in 1883 came to North Dakota. The pioneer had to gain his own experience on his farm or from his neighbors. There were few newspapers. One of the latest is the Sentinel Courier published in Cooperstown for Griggs County readers. There were few newspapers then in North Dakota.

He married June 14, 1911 to Josephine Larson who came from Egersund, Norway. Bernt Tande lives in range 60, township 148 in section 26. At first he lived in a dugout. The size of the dugout was 14 by 20 feet in 1883 where Jacob Ness's place now is. He went to town two or four times a year. His neighbors were Ole Alfson, August Anderson, Thoreson, Ole E. Olson, Paul Horvig, and Torgerson. His first machinery was a plow, a wagon, and a harrow. He sowed and cut his grain by hand. His crops were chiefly wheat. It averaged up to 20 bushels per acre. The fuel was wood. It was hauled home by oxen from the Sheyenne River. The houses were warm and cozy.

In 1893 and 1894 there was an important prairie fire and it jumped over Sheyenne River and burned up a stable and hay stacks. That year they had a very good crop.

The greatest snow storm was in 1896-1897 and it snowed three days and three nights and was 12 feet on the average.

My mother was married in West Prairie Church and Rev. Eliassen was the minister and he confirmed my father.

Joel, Esther, Conrad, and Bernhard are his children. All are at present at home.

--Joel Tande



Biography of Bernt Helmer Tande  
--Joel Tande

My father's parents were John Tande and Lurine Peterson. John Tande was born in Lille Hammer, Hedemarken, Norway in 1824. He died in 1892 when 68 years old. He married twice. Lurine Pederson was born in the United States in 1857 and died in 1888 when 30 years old. Bernt Tande was 6 years when his father died and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years when his mother died. He lived with Osmundson until he was 24 years old.

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*by Joel Tande*

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Biography of Peter J. Tang  
--Oscar Tang

Peter J. Tang was born in 1875 in Sogan, Norway not far from Bergen. He came to Minnesota with his parents when he was eleven years old and settled at Lake Kormont. Here he stayed for twelve years. He went to school, and worked for the farmers around Kormont.

When he was twenty-three years of age, he came to North Dakota and secured a homestead. In the winter he returned to Lake Kormont, and stayed there over winter. In spring of the year 1899, he started out to his homestead with his team of horses, which he had bought there, and the few belongings he had. It took him five days to come from Kormont to Cooperstown. The first night he stayed at Winnipeg Junction, a small town where his parents were then living. The second night he reached Fargo. Not a car was to be seen any place in Fargo at that time. On the third night he stayed at a farmhouse and the fourth night he reached Page. On the fifth day he reached Cooperstown. Here he stayed for about a week and after securing some provisions, he started for his homestead, which was about a mile and a half west of where McHenry is now located.

Binford and McHenry were not built yet so every time he wanted provisions, he had to come to Cooperstown for the railroad did not reach farther than to Cooperstown at that time. P. K. Moe also had a homestead which was three miles east of where McHenry is now located. My father worked for P. K. Moe much of the time, for he had a better homestead. P. K. Moe soon traded his homestead for the hotel which he is now holding in Cooperstown. Tang got a job hauling tiles for the railroad to McHenry, for they had just started it now, and he was in great need of money. Most of the time he was away from his homestead working.

One day he could not get any bread, so he determined to bake it himself, for he had seen his mother bake bread. He made the dough and put it in the stove to bake, but he found that his stove was full of mice, for he had not been home for quite a while. He got rid of the mice. He baked the bread for a long time until it was burnt on the outside and almost raw inside, but it tasted good anyhow for he was very hungry.

Much of the time he did not have any coal to burn in his stove so he burned manure. At night in winter, it was so cold that he only took off his shoes. He slept with his mittens on and his earlaps down. When he woke up in the morning, he would find a big snow pile on his bed. He lived on his homestead for about three years. Then he went into partnership with P. K. Moe in the Pool Hall. Later he bought P. K. Moe's share in it, and owned it alone. This was in the year of 1902. Here he works yet.



Mr. K. Thompson

Mr. K. Thompson of the firm of Odegard & Thompson, dealers in general merchandise, farming implements, flour, feed and provisions, was born in 1850 in Dane Co. Wis. and there educated. He commenced business first in St James Minn. in 1871. In 1876, he married Miss Anna Odegard, a sister of his partner. He has three children - Theo G., T. A., and Grace, the first child born in Cooperstown. Mr. Thompson was formerly engaged in the sale of agricultural implements, at Brookings, where he went in 1879. He was a pioneer in that town, and was also the first to start in business in Cooperstown; beginning there January 5, 1883. They have a large and fine assortment of goods; carry a stock of \$20,000, and are one of the most enterprising firms of Biggs County.

Bibliog: Atlas of Dakota 1884 p 242



# Knud Thompson

Knud Thompson was born Feb 2, 1850 at Christiania, Dane County, Wisconsin. He was the son of Toster Olson who was born in Norway and came to Wisconsin in 1844.

In 1866 Knud left home and went to Fillmore County, Minnesota, then in 1872 to Vermillion South Dakota. He returned to Minnesota where in Dec. 1876 he ~~married~~ married Anna Odegard\*, the twin sister of Mrs. John Sjaerson. These ladies were sisters of John T. Odegard\*. Mr. Thompson with Mr. Odegard as his partner started the first store in Coopers town.

In the late fall of 1882 Knud Thompson came to the newly platted Coopers town with his wife and two sons Theodore and "Ade". They were the first women and the first children of Coopers town. His daughter Grace, born in May 1883, was the first girl born there. Both she and Odegard, were born in the living quarters built into the back end of the store.

The following advertisement of Feb. 26, 1886 Courier, written by Mr. Thompson, is said by H. H. Carliton to be genuinely typical of his store, his personality, and his business methods:-

## Knud Thompson's "Yankee Doodle"

The Christmas frolics now are o'er

And '85 has fled, sir;

Now Coopers town has no saloons,

And Vanderbilt is dead, sir

And still the bums and dudes in town

Feel good — it makes them snicker,  
To loaf around and hear the fun —

When Thompson makes a dicker.

Chorus

\* These spellings are both correct. Mr. Odegard changed the spelling of his name after he came to the United States.



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Knud Thompson was born Feb. 2, 1850 at Christiania, Dane County Wisconsin. He was the son of Tosten Olson, who was born in Norway and came to Wisconsin in 1844. In 1866 Knud went to Filmore Co., Minnesota, in 1872 to Vermillion S. Dak., then returned to Minnesota where in Dec 1876 he married Anna Odegaard the twin sister of Mrs. John Synerson. These ladies were sisters of John T. Odegaard, who with Mr. Thompson started the first store in Cooperstown.

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Mr. Thompson had an interest in several of the early business ventures of the 1880's.

The following advertisement <sup>of Feb. 26, 1886</sup> written by Mr. Thompson for his store, is said by Mr. W.H. Carleton to be genuinely typical of his store, his personality, and his business methods;

"Knud Thompson's" Yankee Doodle"  
-1-

The Christmas frolics now are o'er,  
And '85 has fled, sir;  
Now-Cooperstown has no saloons,  
And Vanderbilt is dead, sir

Chorus,

~~Yankee Doodle is the tune  
Which Thompson thinks so handy  
He makes his trade, and takes his notes  
With "Yankee Doodle -- dandy!"~~



# Knud Thompson

## Chorus

Yankee Doodle is the tune  
Which Thompson thinks so handy  
He makes his trades, and takes his notes  
With "Yankee Doodle — dandy!"

— 2 —

And what has Knud to sell you ask;  
Why, simpleton, I answer:  
What has he not, that cuts and grinds,  
Or walks upon the land sir?  
He's sure to have a specimen  
Of each and every class, sir,  
From J. J. C. Eclipse machines  
To Balaam's speaking ass, sir.

— Chorus —

— 3 —

We'll sell you farmers what you want —  
A mower, plow, or rake, sir,  
A mule, a horse, a cow, an ox,  
And binders that won't break, sir,  
And best of all he sells them cheap  
And never minds the cash, sirs.  
We'll take your notes, and give you time,  
Till next year's crop you thresh, sirs,

— Chorus —

— 4 —

He never cares to make a cent,  
He dickens for his health, sirs,  
For trading seems to make him fit  
Then come and make your wealth, sirs,  
He's the innocentest man in town  
You're to "take him in" sirs.  
Just trade your old truck\* for his new  
To "stick him" is no sin, sirs.

\* Meant anything that a farmer had to sell, at that time.



# Knud Thompson

3

Knud Thompson liked people, and was ready with a story, especially when he could "kid" a new "greenhorn" in town.

This is one of his stories he told Dr. Rose when first he came to Cooperstown as a young dentist =

Why Pioneers grew whiskers - They let whiskers grow every winter for protection when working outside doing chores, or hauling wood from the river. Of course they chewed tobacco and spit while they worked, then spring weather got warm they cut off their whiskers, and had smoking tobacco all summer.



KNUTE THOMPSON

*From Compendium of N.D.*

Of the sons of Norway or those of Norwegian ancestry who have come to North Dakota and taken a prominent part in its substantial development and upbuilding none is more worthy of mention than Knute Thompson, who has won success through honorable effort and who bears few of the marks and scars of the battle, for he has maintained a genial disposition and kindly spirit through all, and so honorably has his prosperity been won that the most envious cannot grudge him his success. He lives in Cooperstown but still has important farming interests in Griggs County. Mr. Thompson was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, February 2, 1850, his father, Toston Olson, a native of Norway, having settled in that state six years before, at which time he took up his abode in the town of Christiania, Dane county, where he secured land and followed farming. He lived to the advanced age of ninety years, while his wife reached the age of eighty-six. One of their sons, Ole, was born in Norway and enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of the Sixteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, having been in business in Decorah, Iowa, at the time of the outbreak of the Civil war. He participated in many important engagements, taking part for five days in the battle of Vicksburg, and because of the hardships and privations which he experienced while at the front his death occurred soon after the close of the war. The family numbered altogether seven children, of whom Knute was the third.

When his school days were over Knute Thompson left home, being then a youth of sixteen years. The plan was that he should attend school in Madison, Wisconsin, to supplement the knowledge that he had gained in the public schools and in Albion College, but he changed his plans and went instead to Minnesota, residing for a time in Fillmore county, after which he removed to the western part of the state. In 1872 he became a resident of Vermillion, South Dakota, and for a year engaged in clerking in a clothing store, at the end of which time he removed to Minnesota.

It was in December, 1876, that Mr. Thompson was united in marriage to Miss Anna Odegard, a native of Norway, and to them were born four children: Theodore, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Thor Adolph, who is now a district judge in Montana; Grace May, the wife of Ernest Seikens, a stock dealer in South St. Paul, Minnesota; and Oscar J., a lawyer at Circle, Montana, who pursued his education in the State University of North Dakota and in the University of Washington, since which time he has successfully practiced his profession.

The work of development and progress had scarcely been started when Knute Thompson became a resident of Griggs county, making his way to the present site of Cooperstown. His was the first family to locate in the town and he opened a store at the place where the firm of John Syverson & Sons is now conducting business. He successfully managed his commercial interests for a period and then sold out to Mr. Syverson. He handled various mercantile lines, including machinery, but during the later part of his residence in Griggs county he has concentrated his energies upon agricultural pursuits and is now the owner of about eighteen hundred acres of land, of which nine hundred and twenty acres is in the home place, four hundred and twenty acres in another tract and three hundred and twenty acres in a third tract.



KNUTE THOMPSON

His land is largely devoted to wheat raising.. He has been a great trader and in all of his business transactions has manifested keen insight and discriminating judgement. Four four years Mr. Thompson filled the office of county treasurer but has never been ambitious to occupy positions of political preferment. He enjoys the game of business and at all times his dealings have measured up to high standards. He has been successful and he is a popular citizen, for he possesses a pleasing personality and looks upon the happy side of life, enjoying the companionship of his friends and taking into little account those things which too many people allow to block progress or mar happiness.



THEODORE G. THOMPSON

*From Compendium of N.D.*

Theodore G. Thompson, of Cooperstown, operating extensively in the field of real estate and senior partner in the Thompson-McDermot Company, which is engaged in merchandising, was born at Herring Lake, Jackson county, Minnesota, in October, 1877, a son of Knute Thompson. He was the eldest of four children and was but five years of age when brought to Cooperstown, where he pursued his education in the public schools, afterward continuing his studies in the University of North Dakota. In 1897 he opened a general store in Finley, where he remained until 1903, when he disposed of his interest in that place and entered business circles in Cooperstown in partnership with his brother, T. A. Thompson, who later took up the profession of law and is now district judge at Kalispell, Montana. The brothers conducted their mercantile interests under the firm style of Thompson Brothers and the partnership was maintained until 1906, when T. A. Thompson was succeeded by J. H. McDermot and George K. Houghton under the firm style of the Thompson-McDermot Company. Their store, which would be a credit to a city of much larger size than Cooperstown, is at the corner of Burrel and Ninth streets, in the center of the business district. Their building is fifty by one hundred feet. They carry a complete and well selected line of general merchandise, for which they find a ready sale. They are most careful in the personnel of the house, in the line of goods carried and in the treatment accorded patrons and their stock displays many of the most attractive features offered by domestic and foreign markets. In January, 1915, Mr. Thompson joined H.S. Halverson, H.P. Hammer, and G.H. Condy in organizing the Thompson-Halverson Land Company and to the conduct of their real estate business Mr. Thompson is now largely devoting his time and energies, handling an extensive amount of land belonging to the company and to its individual members. This company has been instrumental in bringing in many new settlers and locating them under favorable conditions. Personally Mr. Thompson has valuable farm holdings which are operated by renters. He is also the vice president of the Sutton Mercantile Company of Sutton, North Dakota.

On the 6th of June, 1906, Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Helga M. Hammer, a daughter of H. P. Hammer, a leading business man of Cooperstown, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Their children are Kenneth Howard, Mary Helen, and Eleanor.

Mr. Thompson is a prominent Mason, belonging to the blue lodge, the Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine, and he is a trustee of the Northern Light Masonic Temple Association which is erecting in Cooperstown a thirty-five thousand dollar building for Masonic uses exclusively. He is also a member of the Sons of Norway and he possesses many of the sterling traits for which the citizens who have come from the land of the midnight sun are justly famous. Diligence and determination are accounted among his salient characteristics and have enabled him to accomplish his purposes, which have ever had their root in laudable ambition that has been a spur to honorable endeavor.



Rev. P. A. Thoreson, pioneer pastor

Philip A. Thoreson was born in Trondhjem, Norway, April 28, 1861. At the age of 18, he went to Orebro, Sweden where he studied theology for three years. In 1882 he came to America to complete his course at St. Olaf's College, Northfield, Minn.

Mr. Thoreson was married to Julia Sletten, Kenyon, Minn. Sept. 8, 1888 and with her went to Dazey, N.D. to accept his first call as pastor. For 32 years after a few years he organized the Lutheran congregations at Hannaford & at Mabel (near Sutton). He also took over the churches at Osterfold, near Fivley and Beaver Creek, near Halton, N. Dak. & served at these two places for ten years.

Rev. & Mrs. P. A. Thoreson lived in Dazey for three years, and then took up a homestead. In 1902 they moved to Hannaford where they made their home for eleven years. In 1920 when it became necessary for Rev. Thoreson to give up his health, they moved to Fargo. At Fargo he made it his home. He was the First Lutheran pastor in Fargo.



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Church and acted as ~~minister~~ pastor

when there was need. He assisted

in the work of the Lutheran Children

Home. He was chaplain at St. Luke

hospital for many years.



children were born to Mr. & Mrs. Thoreson  
namely: Esther (Mrs. of Los Angeles Cal.)  
Marcus ~~Philip~~ of Los Angeles; Philip (deceased)  
Harold of Wash. D.C. Edna (Mrs. Jake Nickleson)  
of Harwood; Walter of Butte, Mont. ~~Oliver~~  
Jack of Bismarck; Lydia (Mrs. ) of  
Hillsboro; Dorcas (Mrs. Sverre Oftedal) of  
~~Hollywood, Cal.~~  
Glendale

Rev. Thoreson passed away March 12,  
1926 at Fargo.



Biography of O. E. Thorn  
--Irving Thorn

June 2, 1926

Mr. O. E. Thorn was born July 31, 1853, on a farm in Wisconsin close to Amherst. He lived there until 1879 when he married Martha Tronson. They decided to make their home in North Dakota because they had heard how easy it was to get land and get started farming in North Dakota. So he and his brother, Alex Thorn, and baby started for North Dakota in a covered wagon. They had a team of horses and a few supplies. After a few weeks of hardships they arrived in Barnes County and settled on a farm six miles north of Valley City. There were already so many people there that he could not get more than a quarter section of land, and he wasn't satisfied with that so he sold out after he had stayed there two years.

He had heard about the railroad line that was coming up this way, so he moved on the farm one mile west of Jessie where he is now. He got the homestead and bought 1280 acres of land paying from \$1.50 to \$30 an acre for it. A little after the railroad was completed, the land was worth very much more. Before the railroad was completed, he had to haul his grain to Valley City and also get his supplies there. These trips took up very much of their time because they took three or four days a trip. They had little grain and what they did have wasn't worth very much.

Some of his neighbors were--Wm. McCulloh, Frank Pheifer, Mae Nertröst, Trond Rognéy, Eldef Olson, James Bothwell, and Detwiller, but their farms were very far apart so they had little to do with each other.

He had two horses, six oxen, but they seldom used the oxen because they were so slow. They had very little machinery and their binder was one that would not tie automatically, so one man had to stand on the side and wind wire around the grain as it was cut.

Mr. O. E. Thorn is still living but his wife died last summer.



Robert Irving Thorne

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

Robert Irving Thorne, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Ole E. Thorne . was born in 1881 in Barnes Co. N. Dak and came to Griggs County in 1882.

He was married Dec. 28, 1904 to Miss Annie Groven

Thomas Edwin Thorne

Thomas Edwin Thorne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole E. Thorne, was born in Amhurst Wisconsin May 3rd 1879. He came to Griggs County with his parents in 1882 and lived there with his parents on the homestead until manhood.

~~-He--was-married~~

He was married March 13 1901 to Miss Nellie Laatvedt.

His home is in Pilot Mound township.



Biography of Ole Knute Thune  
--George Hagberg

The name of the pioneer's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Knute Thune. The pioneer's full name was Ole knute Thune. He was born November, 1845. He was born in Norway.

He came to this country because he wished to see America and thought he could make a better living. He came to N. Dak. because he could get a free homestead. He came on a ship across the Atlantic ocean to New York, then by train and east by oxen to his home. He came to N. Dak. April 19, 1874.

N. Dak. was then a wild country. He filed on a homestead on section 14, township 147, range 61. His first building was a frame house. His provisions were hauled from Sanborn by oxen.

His nearest neighbor was A. B. Nass right across the road, another was Thorvel Dahl about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest. His early machinery consisted of a walking plow and drill and oxen for farm power. He raised wheat and oats but the gophers got most of it. It only averaged about 1 bushel to the acre.

For fuel he hauled logs from Lake Jessie. They had many severe blizzards and prairie fires.

He was married to Carry Schotable at Sanborn on October 12, 1887. The descendants of the pioneer are Knute Thune, Mrs. Ole Knutson, Mrs. Louis Trelstad all of Binford, and Mrs. Melby of Minot.

Mr. Thune died March 17, 1904 at his home 3 miles southwest of Binford. He is buried in the Lutheran cemetery  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of Binford, N. Dak.



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- \* His nearest neighbor was A. B. Nasa right across the road, another was Thorvel Dahl about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest. His early machinery consisted of a walking plow and drill and oxen for farm power. He raised wheat and oats but the gophers got most of it. It only averaged about 1 bushel to the acre.
- \* For fuel he hauled logs from Lake Jessie.
- \* They had many severe blizzards and prairie fires.
- \* He was married to Carry Schotable at Sanborn on October 12, 1887. The descendants of the pioneer are Knute Thune, Mrs. Ole Knutson, Mrs. Louis Trelstad all of Binford, and Mrs. Melby of Minot.
- \* Mr. Thune died March 17, 1904 at his home 3 miles southwest of Binford. He is buried in the Lutheran cemetery  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of Binford, N. Dak.

--George Hagberg