

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  
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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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