

Anna Mathilda Torfin - Sloulin
(1st child born in Biggs Co)

Mrs. Anna Sloulin (nee Anna Mathilda Torfin now of Auster, N.D. was born Sept. 11, 1880 on a homestead where the Nelson Dam on the Sheyenne River (F.O. Cooper) is now located. The Nelson Dam, an FERA project. No 20 B13-3-16 is located on N. 1/2 Sec. 7 26, Tp. 146 N. and Range 58 W. on N.D. 7. The township in which Mrs. Sloulin was born is now called Washburn. John and Hannah Torfin, her parents, came from Iowa to Biggs County.

~~Mr. & Mrs.~~ The parents, John Torfin and Hannah Torfin (nee Hannah Elson Bjornstad) were married in Iowa. In the Spring of 1880 Mrs. Torfin's parents with others, started from Iowa in a covered wagon for Dakota Territory. In July they arrived in the Mayville vicinity. From there they drove on to the Sheyenne River stopping at Amund Nelson Opheim (first settler in Biggs Co.) who had been a neighbor in Iowa and had settled in the Sheyenne valley in 1879. The John Torfins took a homestead in the Sheyenne valley on the banks of the Sheyenne River and here Sept 11, 1880, a daughter, baptized

Anna Mathilda, Nov 11, 1880 by ^{Rev.} Lundby
 was born to them. Anna Mathilda Torfin
 was the first child born in Griggs
 Co. Here, at this homestead, they lived
 for a number of years. Later, Anna
 Mathilda, with her parents, moved
 to Roseau, Minn. and still later
 moved to what is now Romness Tp.
 in Griggs Co. N.D. to live with Mrs.
 Torfin's father, Ole Olson Bjornstad.
 After Mr. Bjornstad's death, the
 Torfins moved to Aucta.

Mrs. Sloulin had 2 brothers &
 2 sisters Mrs. Ole Olson Bjornstad
 the (grandmother Bjornstad) was
 both doctor & nurse at the
 birth of Anna Mathilda ^{Sloulin} Torfin.

Early Griggs Co. Children

1. Anna Mathilda Torfin Sloulin, B. Sept. 11, 1880.
2. Katherine Opheim (Mrs. Gilbert Anderson) B. Oct. 4, 1880
3. Anton Olson of Romness Tp. - Jan 31, 1881
4. Elmer Mathieson - May 17, 1881.

The first child born in Biggs Co.
(Anna Mathilda Torfin)

Mrs. Anna Sloulin (nee Anna Mathilda Torfin) ^{now} of Aneta, N.D. was born Sept. 11, 1880 on a homestead where the Heland Dam on the Sheyenne River is now located. The Dam, an FERA project, no. 20 B 13-3-16 is located in $n \frac{1}{2}$ Sec of 26, Tp. 146 N and Range 58 W. 10th N.D. 7. The township is now called Washburn Tp. Her parents, John and Hannah Torfin came from Iowa.

Her parents, John Torfin and Hannah Torfin (nee Hannah Olson Bjornstad) were married in Iowa. In the spring of 1880, Mr. & Mrs. John Torfin together with Mrs. Torfin's parents started in a covered wagon for Dakota Territory. In July they arrived in the Mayville vicinity. From there they drove on towards the Sheyenne River, stopping at Olmund Aphaism who had been a neighbor in Iowa and had settled in the Sheyenne valley in 1879. The John Torfins took a homestead in the ^{Sheyenne} valley on the banks of the Sheyenne River and here Sept. 11, 1880 a daughter, (baptized Anna Mathilda), was born to them. Anna Mathilda Torfin is the first ^{white} child born in Biggs Co. At this homestead they lived for a number of years.

Later, Anna Mathilda with her parents moved
to Roseau, Minn. and still later moved
to what is now Romness Tp. in Griggs Co.
N. Dak. to live with Mrs. Torfin, father,
Ole Olson Bjornstad, after his death
the Torfins moved to Aneta.
John & Hannah Torfin had 2 boys & 3
girls.

Mrs. Ole Olson Bjornstad, the grandmother
was doctor & nurse at the birth of Anna
Mathilda Torfin.

The First White Child Born in Biggs County.

Mrs. Anna Mathilda Torfin (nee Anna Mathilda Torfin), now of ~~Aneta, N.D.~~ was born Sept. 11, 1880 on a homestead ^{near the Shesenne} ~~near the Shesenne~~ the ~~Weland~~ ^{Dam} ~~Dam~~ ^{FERA} project No. 20 B 13-3-16) is located. This ~~dam~~ ^{John} is on the Shesenne River. ~~The~~ ~~to~~ ~~The~~ ~~Torfin~~ homestead was located in $n\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. ~~26~~ ²⁶, Tp. 146 N. and Range 58 W and the township is now called Washburn Township.

Her parents, John Torfin and Hannah Torfin (nee Hannah Olson Bjornstad) were married in Iowa ^{in 1879.} ~~in the spring of 1880~~

In the spring of 1880, Mr. and Mrs. John Torfin (Anna's parents) together with Mrs. Torfin's parents (Anna's grandparents) started in a covered wagon for Dakota Territory, driving a team of oxen with their cattle and belongings.

In July they arrived in the
vicinity. From there they drove on towards
the Shyenne valley, stopping at Omond Nelson
Opheim's ("Pioneer Nelson") who had been a
neighbor of theirs in Iowa and had settled
in ~~Iowa~~ what is now Briggs County, in 1879.
They took a homestead ^{near} where the Deland Dam
(FERA project No 20 B13-3-16) ^{on the Shyenne River,} is now built.

~~On this homestead they lived for a number~~
~~of years.~~ A daughter was born to them
Sept. 11, 1880. This daughter was baptized
"Anna Mathilda" and is the first white
child born in Briggs County.

The John Torfin family lived on this
homestead for a number of years. Later they
moved to Roseau, Minn. and later moved to
what is now Romness ^{Township} to live
with Mrs. Torfin's father; ^{after the death of}
Anna Mathilda's grandfather, the Torfins
moved to Aneta.
Anna Mathilda Torfin was married to
Olaf M. Sloulin, a pharmacist, at Aneta ^{by Rev. The}

at Aneta, May 6, 1900.

Children born to Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Sloulin
are Effie (Sloulin) Volkman, Fessenden, N.D.
Hazel (Sloulin) Peterson, Cooperstown
Mildred (") Syvertson, Rochester, N. York.
Milton Sloulin, Aneta N.D.

Mrs. Sloulin's parents and grandparents
were Norwegian.

Mrs. Sloulin had 2 sisters, Clara and Belle,
and two brothers, Edwin and Albert. Her sisters
are dead; Edwin resides in McVille, N.D. Albert
lives in New Rockford, N.D.

~~Mrs. Sloulin's mother died May 22,~~

~~her father died April 3, 1932.~~

Mrs. Sloulin's mother died May 22, 1935.

Mrs. Ole Olason Bjorstad, the ^{Anna Mathilda's} grandmother,
was doctor and nurse at the birth of

Anna Mathilda Torfin - Sloulin.

N.B. Anna Mathilda's ^{sur}name ^{name} was

Torfin but her grandpa
was Olson - Bjornstad. This was a
common ^{Norwegian} custom to change their
surnames at any time without
any formality or legal sanction.

The second ^{white} child born in Triggs County was
Katherine Ophem ^{Washburn Tp.} Mrs. Gilbert Anderson (Born
Oct. 4, 1880; the third, Anton Olson of Romness
Tp. (born Jan. 31, 1881 and the fourth, Elmer
Mathison, formerly of Romness Tp. (born
May 17, 1881.

Bibliography: Biographies of pioneers.
Letters in possession of pioneers.
~~Swiss~~ Govt Surveyor Records
W. H. Carleton
John Hogenson
Mrs. Anna Mathilda Sloulin-Torfin
Mrs. Hazel Otterson
Gilbert Olson