

Mrs. M. Torfin

FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN in GRIGGS COUNTY

In the spring of 1880 Mr. And Mrs. John Torfin of Osage, Iowa, in company with Mrs. Torfin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Olson Bjornson, started from Winnesheik County, Iowa, for Dakota Territory, bringing their few possessions in a covered wagon. I

In July they arrived ~~at Mayville~~ in the Mayville vicinity. From there they drove on towards the Sheyenne Valley, where they stopped at the home of Omund Nelson Opheims', (Pioneer Nelson), who had been one of their neighbors in Iowa, and had settled in present Griggs County in 1798.

The Torfins "squatted" on land on the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 26, Tp. 146, R. 58 W. in present Washburn Township and built a log cabin, 9 by 14 ft. It was in this cabin on September 11, 1880, that a daughter was born to John and Hannah Torfin. As there were no doctors or nurses in those days, the child's grandmother, Mrs. Ole Olson Bjornstad, officiated as both doctor and nurse on this occasion. The child was baptized "Anna Mathilda" by Rev. I. Lundebj, a traveling Norwegian preacher.

The John Torfin family lived on the homestead in Washburn Township for a number of years. Later, they moved to Rosseau, Minnesota; again, after a few years, they removed to present Romness Township in Griggs County, where they lived with Mrs. Torfin's parents. After the death of Anna Mathilda's grandfather, the family moved to Aneta, North Dakota.

Anna Mathilda Torfin had two sisters, ~~Clara~~ Clara and Belle, and two brothers, Edwin and Albert. Edwin resides at McVillage, North Dakota, and Albert at New Rockford, N. Dakota. Her sisters are dead.

Anna Mathilda Torfin was married May 6, 1900 to Olaf M. Sloulin, a pharmacist by Rev. Thayer at Aneta, N. Dakota. To this union were born Effie (Sloulin) Volkman, Fessenden, N. Dakota; Hazel (Sloulin) Otterson, Cooperstown, N. Dakota; Mildred (Sloulin) Syvertson, Rochester, Minnesota; and Milton Sloulin, Aneta, N. Dakota.

The parents and grandparents of Mrs. Anna Mathilda Torfin-Sloulin are Norwegian.

Anna Mathilda Torfin-Sloulin's husband died in 1930; her father in 1932 and her mother in 1935.

Mrs. O. M. Sloulin (Anna Mathilda Torfin) is living at Aneta, North Dakota.

EARLY GRIGGS COUNTY CHILDREN

The first child born in Griggs County is Anna Mathilda (Torfin) Sloulin, Aneta, N. Dakota. She was born September 11, 1880. The second child born in Griggs County (October 4, 1880) is Katherine Opheim (Mrs. Gilbert Anderson, Minneapolis, Minn. The third child, Anton Olson was born January 31, 1881, and the fourth child, Elmer Mathieson, was born May 17, 1881. The two girls were born in present Washburn Township and the two boys in present Romness Township.

Mrs. Porterville

FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN IN GRIGGS COUNTY

In the spring of 1880, Mr. and Mrs. John Torfin of Osage, Iowa, in company with Mrs. Torfin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Oleson Bjornstad, started from Winnesheik County, Iowa, for Dakota Territory, driving a team of oxen and their few possessions. In July they arrived in the Mayville vicinity. From there they drove on towards the Sheyenne Valley, where they stopped at the home of Omund Nelson-Opheim ("Pioneer Nelson") who had been a neighbor of theirs in Iowa and had settled in what is now Griggs County in 1879.

Mr. John Torfin "squatted" on land near Mardell, on N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of section 26, township 146N. range 58 W. which is now Washburn Township. This homestead is near the Ueland Dam (FERA project No. 20B13-3-16) on the Sheyenne River. John Torfin built a log house 9 by 14 feet.

A daughter was born to ~~Mr. John Torfin~~ and Hannah Torfin (Hannah Oleson Bjornstad) September 11, 1880. She was baptized November 11, 1880 by Rev. I. L. Lundebj, and given the name, Anna Mathilda. She is the first white child born in Griggs County. As there were no doctors or nurses in those early days in this vicinity, Mrs. Ole Oleson Bjornstad, the grandmother, officiated at Anna Mathilda's birth, as both doctor and nurse.

The John Torfin family lived at the homestead in Washburn Township for a number of years. Later, they moved to Rosseau, Minnesota. After a few years they moved to what is now Ronness Township, in Griggs County, to live with Mrs. Torfin's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Oleson Bjornstad. After the death of Anna Mathilda's grandfather, the John Torfin family moved to Anota, North Dakota.

Anna Mathilda Torfin had two sisters, Clara, and Belle, and two brothers, Edwin and Albert. Her sisters are dead. Edwin resides at McVillo, N. Dakota and Albert, in New Rockford, N. D.

Anna Mathild Torfin was married ,May 6,1900 ,to Olaf M.Sloulin, a pharmacist, by Rev.Thayer at Aneta. Children born to Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Sloulin are Effie (Sloulin) Volkman, Fessenden, N.Dakota; Hazel (Sloulin) Otterson, Cooperstown, N.Dakota; Mildred (Sloulin) Syverton, Rochester, New York; and Milton Sloulin, Aneta, North Dakota.

Mrs. Anna Mathilda Torfin -Sloulin's parents and grandparents were Norwegian.

Mrs. Sloulin's father died April 3, 1932. Her mother died May 22, 1935. Her husband died July 1, 1930.

Mrs. O.M.Sloulin (Anna Mathilda Torfin) is living at Aneta, N. D.

- Bibliography: Biographies of pioneers
 Courthouse at Cooperstown, N.D.
- Letters in possession of Mrs. Myrtle Porterville
 Cooperstown, N.D.
- Government Surveyor's Records
 Office of county auditor, Cooperstown, N.D.
- Mrs. Anna Mathilda (Torfin) Sloulin
 Aneta, N.D.
- Gilbert Olson, pioneer, and neighbor of John Torfin
 Cooperstown, N.D.
- John Hogenson, relative of John Torfin
 Ronness Township, Griggs County, N.D.
- Mrs. Hazel Otterson, daughter of Mrs. Sloulin
 Cooperstown, N.D.
- Judge W.H. Carleton, pioneer since 1832
 Cooperstown, N.D.

Early Griggs County children

The first child born in Griggs County is Anna Mathilda (Torfin) Sloulin . She was born September 11, 1880. The second child born in Griggs County is Katherine Opheim (Mrs. Gilbert Anderson) now residing in Minneapolis. She was born October 4, 1880. The third child born in Griggs County is Anton Olson . He was born January 31, 1881, and the fourth child is Elmer Mathieson , born May 17, 1881. The two girls were born in Washburn Township and the two boys, in Romness Township.

Bibliography: Old Settlers Historical Association Records
Office of county judge, Cooperstown, N.D.

Biographies of old settlers
Office of county judge, Cooperstown, N.D.

John Hogenson, pioneer since 1880
Cooperstown, N.D.

List of pioneers compiled in 1932 for Griggs County's
Golden Anniversary Celebration

Biography of Grund Nelson-Opheim, pioneer since 1789
Cashed from various positions of schools

Files of "Cooperstown Courier" and "Griggs County Sentinel"
Courier, Cooperstown, N.D.
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