

Tollef Tweed

From interview by Hannah Lende

Tollef Tweed was born in Swen Holland, Norway, March 25, 1859. Here Tollef grew up and helped his father on the farm until he was twenty-one, when he was married to Dorathea Idsvog by Reverend Wilhelm Corn.

In 1884 with his wife and two children, Mr. Tweed left Norway for America. They went by way of the Kungälv line and in nine days landed at Boston, Mass. From Boston they went by rail to Stotten, Wisconsin.

In Stotten, Mr. Tweed worked during harvest, tying bundles by hand and cutting with a reaper ^(a) and planting tobacco. Three months later he moved to Candyohi county, Wisconsin where he rented land and farmed for three years.

In October, 1886 Mr. Tweed came alone by rail to look for land in Dakota. Mrs. Tweed's brother had located land around Cooperstown, and Mr. Tweed had brought a few belongings along for him, such as quilts, etc. In Sanborn the train stopped over night. Mr. Tweed had placed his belongings in the depot. During the night the depot burned and destroyed every bit of them.

From Sanborn to Cooperstown there were only three men on the train. When they arrived at Cooperstown there was a severe snowstorm. No one was at the depot and the passengers didn't know which way to go to reach the town. The conductor asked them to wait until he had finished with the engine etc., and he would go along. When the crew started to hit for town, some wanted to go one way and some the other way. They soon decided

who? Erick Watne
no office
close to Lake
Shurt
who?
Jackson

to attempt going east. They walked until they saw a light ahead and knew it to be the courthouse. If they hadn't reached the courthouse, they would have gotten lost entirely as there weren't many living quarters around. Mr. Tweed got a free room and his bed was in the cell. In the morning he went up town to look around. There was so much snow the clerks in the store didn't dare go home and had stayed over night in their places of business.

The next day Erick Watne came after him with horse team. Mr. Tweed stayed with Mr. Watne a few months, in the meantime locating land for himself.

In April, 1887 Mr. Tweed went back to Minnesota to get his wife and four children. They arrived in Cooperstown April 13. The same year Mr. Tweed built his shanty 14' by 14', the family staying at Watne's until the shanty was finished. *frame wood?*

Some of the pioneer's neighbors were: Ole Thorne, Will McCullough, Gilbert Olson, Cooperstown, Ole K. Olson, Griggs county, John ^{Pederson} Bratu, Ole Rorvig, Mr. ^{retreat} Natrast, Tron Rogne, and others.

Their wood was hauled from the Sheyenne river eight miles east from their homestead.

In 1888 Wels P. Nelson and Mr. Tweed went after a load of wood. Four horses pulled the heavy load. The wagon tipped three times. A snowstorm came up and they lost the road and had to unload the wood. They continued on, digging in the snow trying to find the road. They thought sure the wind was from the south and their homestead was south, so they went against the wind and soon reached Mr. Tweed's new breaking. It was entirely dark, but

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luckily they found their home.

The same year 1888 Mr. Tweed broke up twenty-five acres and seeded it into wheat. It was a fair crop and yielded twenty-five bushels to the acre. He also rented a piece of land from Mrs. Thoreson, which he seeded in. A heavy frost came and froze it all.

Each year Mr. Tweed broke up more land and the crops were fair with the exception of a few years. In 1889 he bought a quarter of railroad land. He had one hundred acres seeded and for those one hundred acres he received sixty bushels. John Oie was the agent for this land and it was agreed that half of the crop's return was to go to pay for the land. That winter Mr. Tweed had thirty bushels of wheat to live on.

In 1891 Mr. Tweed planned to move away. Four neighbors, with a team of horses and a wagon, went together to Minn. to look for land: Gilbert Olson, Erik Watne, Gilbert Gilbertson, and Mr. Tweed. On the other side of Red Reaver, Minn. the land was low and very swampy. Their team sunk down and the wagon box had to be taken off before they could get the wagon out. They continued on their journey asking for land and the price of land. Farther east in the woods near Thirteen Town, Minn., there were so many mosquitos and flies, the men could hardly open their mouths for fear of getting full of them.

They headed for Jens Anderson, a neighbor of their's who used to live around Griggs county. Here also the land was swampy and wet. After filling the tracks with brush etc. they arrived at his place and stayed there over night.

Passing through Fertile, Minn. they found out that most of

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the people had moved away. Here was nothing but mosquitos and swamps. They decided Dakota was the best place to live and turned back to live in Dakota for good.

Around 1900 a cyclone visited the territory and destroyed many buildings. Mr. Tweed, his son, and a hired man were in the barn at the time it came. The hired man had just peeked out the door when it took the door and roof of the barn, the man along with it. It landed about twenty rods from the barn. Mr. Tweed and his son went upstairs of the barn and noticed the roof gone. It was like a hailstorm, the rain was coming down so heavy. The hired man came back soaked and cold. The outside stairway of the house had been taken and was flying around ⁱⁿ the air.

Teal children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Tweed. In 1933 they moved from the farm to B'nford where Mr. Tweed now resides.