

N. Dakota Pioneers.

North Dakota is known for its hard winters - has been known for them and will be known for them. Yet there is something alluring about North Dakota prairies.

Early in the fall of 1885 a covered wagon pulled by oxen moved from Minnesota crossed the North Dakota borders and settled as "squatters" on territory that is now in the vicinity of Cooperstown. There were small children, hardy and healthy - yet nevertheless troublesome. This was the John Arneson family. They settled near Sheyene River.

The boys and girls as well were set to work and in several days a rough log house was built. The family moved in and made themselves as comfortable as possible. Logs were split for wood for the next coming

winter. The cracks were filled with mud or perhaps a crude cement. Even now some of this house still stands.

The winter months were very hard. The children were small and growing - needing food. The nearest towns were Valley City and Mayville. The weather was severe, a trip with oxen would take a week but it must be undertaken. The neighbors would gather together and one or two farmers would go - buying flour, clothes, shoes, and other necessary articles for all the neighborhood. Enough to last them for perhaps a month.

Thus the winter passed. Spring came and crops were planted & cultivated which thrived very well - thus making the next winter less severe because they had more food and more money to buy food with.

The sacrifices made by these farmers were great. They gave everything, happiness, health and comfort that they might better fit this land for the coming generation. Now we saw see what their hardships have done

in the fall of 1885 a covered wagon pulled by oxen moved from Minnesota crossed the North Dakota borders and settled as "squatters" on territory that is now in the vicinity of Cooperstown. There were small children, hardy and healthy - yet nevertheless troublesome. This was the Johnson family. They settled near Shyone River.

The boys and girls as well were set to work and in several days a rough log house was built. The family moved in and made themselves as comfortable as possible. Logs were split for fuel and fed to the cows.

Esther Arneson
W. History.