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Biography of Pioneer J. B. Armstrong
Hannaford Gregg Co. N.D.

John B. Armstrong was born Jan. 29th 1861 in Ontario, Canada Perth Co., Near Stratford city.

He was 21 years old and believed that the West offered opportunities greater than the East.

At the time he started west, the Prairie States were being boomed and were offering inducements to settlers in way of cheap rates and land grants for homeseekers.

Here is what he said about his experiences from home. When I left Perth Co. Ontario, the snow being some $3\frac{1}{2}$ + 4 feet deep with no sign of coming spring. Through Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota it was continuous mud, slush, and water. For many miles in places the railroad was covered and the train traveled very slow. The most interesting part of the trip was where we rode along the Mississippi, with the river on one side and the great sand stone cliffs on the other, towering higher than we could see from the car windows. And more than anything else the feeling that soon I would be in the great west country, the great "American Desert" of my early school boy days.

On April 3, 1885 a beautiful sunny day, with soft warm wind blowing from the west. The Prairie grass, dry and brown blowing in the wind and the Prairie chickens booming but did not know

What the sound was. There was no sign of snow anywhere.

When I arrived in Hannaford Ct. Dk., I jumped from the train steps into the grass. The Baggage car door slid open and a voice called "Here, boy, grab your trunk," which this done the train pulled on leaving me sitting on the trunk alone, and "Monarch of all I surveyed, my right - there was none to dispute." there was know other man, no house or building in sight.

In May, 1889 filed on a claim (present home) in Bartley Township. I bought the Homestead from a man who had filed in it some seven years before, giving him for his right, one cart and single harness, and a note for \$15.00

The location of the land is N. $\frac{1}{2}$ of N. $\frac{1}{2}$ section 10 - Township 144 - Range 60.

My first house was a frame. When I moved to my claim, I found the shanty had blown away. So gathered up scraps and with some other lumber built a lean to my barn using that till the following summer when I built another.

I had horses and drove to Copperstown 15 miles or Dazey 13 miles

Some of my early neighbors were Ole L. Fogdared, Andrew Sonju, Joseph Hoggarth, John Francis and Donald Campbell.

For machinery I had a walking plough 16 in. breaking and stubbles spring tooth harrow, and broadcast seeders.

Wheat was the principle crop and yielded from 20 to 40 bushels per acre. Number 1 hard wheat. I grew my first corn in 1891.

For fuel I used wood and good it from Sheyenne Valley. It was drawn by team in winter time leaving before daylight and getting home after dark.

In the year of 1889-90 I worked hard on Sec. 2- township 144 range 60. That winter I got wood from Sheyenne river, and hay for stock from Statesman Co., and got my bread from Cooperstown - not a good combination. One stormy spell I got out of grab. Having some flour, soda and milk though, I could make some biscuits in mixing I got along fine. When I started to roll it my troubles began. It would not stay rolled out till I got them cut out. When the weight was taken off, it would spring together; but finally by putting my knee on one side and holding it and pressing roller on for side, I held it till they (the biscuits) were cut out. They made very good eating and lasted well.

My next ^{was} in 1891-2 when living on claim, it stormed for three weeks, and I never saw or talked to any person. and the last three nights I had no kerosene for lights. I tried to read from ^{the} light of the ~~fire~~ stove door but it was too hot for my face. I finished the night by whistling and talking to the dog.

I was married to Annie Campbell Nov. 14, 1894 at home of Mr. D. Sinclair, Bald Hill Township

The descendants of Pioneer are: Mervin J. Armstrong died July 29, 1918, Erma Gladys and Mary Ellen, High School Teachers, Cooperstown N.D.

Thelma Bell, Jamestown College; Donelda Ruberta at Home
 Hannaford N. D.; Morris Campbell Armstrong died Nov. 27, 1920.

The present home of pioneer is on the old Homestead N¹/₂ of N¹/₂
 Sec. 10 - Township 144 - range 60. Hannaford Griggs Co. N. Dak.

Hannaford N. Dak. Apr. 7, 1927
 Mr. E. Iain Loberg

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