

A Pioneer.

Mr. & Mrs. James Bartron II were the names of my grandparents.

James Bartron II was born Oct. 30, 1834 in Potter county, Pa. near Athens.

He was married to Sarah Hulett near Winterburn.

He spent his boyhood and youth in this vicinity working on a farm and in different lumber mills. After his marriage he lived in Baltimore and also Williamsport superintending different saw mills in which fine lumber was made. Mr. & Mrs. Bartron were active in the city life of Baltimore and it was while here he ^{was} made a Knight Templar.

Hearing of obtaining land in the west by meeting certain small requirements he determined to gain some for himself and ^{his} growing sons.

So he left his wife and children in Waverly, New York and struck out for the west, going by rail to Bismarck.

at that time the railroad extended to Dickinson. He arrived in Bismarck April 1, 1882. The trip was made by team to Coal Harbor, McLean Co sixty five miles north of Bismarck.

Five miles north of Coal Harbor this pioneer erected a log shack in township 147, section 11, range 84, and lived here alone three years.

The shack was of logs and the roof of split poles & sod. All poles & logs were secured from the woods along the Missouri River which was just a few miles distant.

The family of this pioneer arrived in Bismarck in February, 1885 on a cold bleak day. The ground was covered with snow and huge ^{icicles} ice cycles hanging from the water wagons was quite a decided change from the mild climate of New York where green grass could be seen from under the snow, the pioneer's family felt this change keenly.

II

⁴ The trip to the homestead north of Coal Harbor was made by three horses hitched to a covered wagon. The family endured intense suffering from the cold though stones were heated to keep them warm. It took several days to make the trip, driving a certain distance each day.

This home to which this pioneer ^{James Baston} brought his wife, four sons, and one girl was located on the prairie where one could look miles and miles and see nothing but a rolling prairie with not a tree in sight.

⁴ In order to have groves on these prairies the government gave the homesteaders a certain number of acres if they would plant tree claims. Year after year the pioneer, wife and five children would plant small trees and the hot winds and drought would come and burn them all and not a patch of trees could be seen on any of the prairie.

For a season or two, the men worked in a small sawmill on the river, and as carpenters making lumber from cottonwood which was sold to the pioneers for shacks.

^{James Barton}
This pioneer was superintendent of Fort Stevenson for a while, having been appointed by the Indian agent at Fort Berthold to oversee the Indian school that was organized by the government at Fort Stevenson (which the soldiers had recently abandoned).

In that locality, to gain a large head of horses was the ambition of each homesteader and there were always lots of cowboys to break the bronchos. The pioneer's wife often remarked that she always had more cowboys to feed than her own family. In those days it was an unwritten law that all strangers were welcome at mealtime.

While there was an Indian school at Fort Stevenson, medicine & doctors were easily gotten which made it so

III

convenient for the settlers.
Major Gifford, Le Reaux, and C. A. Burton
were the other superintendents at the
Fort and C. A. Hall had Fort Berthold in
charge. Later the Indians - Rees & Gros
Ventre - were removed to Elbow-Woods
from Fort Berthold. Mr Hall's son is
still there.

The Indians were frequent
visitors to the homestead, always beg-
ging for something to eat. The Pioneer's
wife, though never really afraid of
them, yet had their former atrocities
in her mind & would give them
almost anything she had, such as loaves
of bread, & large pieces of pork or beef.

One night a small band of Indians
camped in the yard and they begged
to have one of ~~the~~ dogs. The boys
reluctantly gave the dog to the Indians
and the mother of the boys asked what
the Indians did with the dog. One of the
boys said, "The last I saw of the dog
a rope was put around its neck and

there was an Indian at each end of the rope pulling."

"Oh! dear!", the mother said, with horror, "Are they going to eat it tonight?"

Venison was always easily secured as living so near the woods a great many deer were killed. At one time there were seven deer hanging up all dressed. There were no buffalo to be seen at this time although they were still numerous farther west near Dickinson but their bones were found all over the prairies & Indian arrows could be found several in a day, as these were what the Indians had killed the buffalo with.

Large herds of beautiful, fleet antelope could be seen but were very seldom killed as they roamed on the prairies and were very hard to get near enough to shoot them. For several summers picking up buffalo bones gave the pioneers a little money, as big and little would take a wagon and roam

IV.

over the prairies picking up these white bleached bones, then the men would take the load to Minot and sell it.

Great stacks of the bones could be seen near the depot to be shipped to eastern points to be used in refining sugar.

At one time the buffalo were so numerous that a very large herd of them crossed the Missouri while a steam boat was passing and stopped the steamboat.

A few otter, mink and muskrats could be found in the near by creeks. Coyotes and wolves could be heard every winter night. Coyotes did not do very much damage though the dogs would be killed and eaten if they would chase the coyotes and get in a fight with them. Often young calves or colts would be taken by the wolves.

The Garter and Blow snakes were often seen in the grass but were harmless.

Lack of school was felt by this

family. The school term was usually held three or four months during the winter in Coal Harbor. The children usually managed to attend, sometimes driving and other times staying in town and attending.

Year after year crops would be planted and the hot winds would burn them up.

Besides the drought they had the prairie fires to contend with. Great huge masses of flames would sweep over the prairie burning everything before it. ^{As} Soon as the grass began to dry, which was in very early summer. The first thought of every pioneer was to plough fire breaks around the entire farm. At first one wide strip of ploughing was made, but this was found insufficient as the fires would leap over creeks, roads or these strips; so two strips of ploughing were made several rods apart, and the grass burned between the two strips.

V.

When a fire was seen approaching by great leaps and bounds, all hands would rush for sacks and pails of water, dousing the sacks into the water, then whipping the fire until not a spark was left.

Once a great fire was rushing toward the house, flames eight to ten feet high. Everything was carried out and placed near a spring.

The little girl came out hugging her dolly thinking all would be well if her dolly was saved. The fire reached the fire breaks and died out.

The winters were intensely cold and long, and ^{with} quantities of snow. Blizzards after blizzard. — One instance ~~was~~ when the stock in the barn had no water for four days with the exception of some snow which was given them. After during a blizzard they were not watered until the third day. Sometimes a rope would be attached to a persons waist or attached to the

intensely

house and barn and in that way they could go to the suffering horses or cattle. though this was not entirely safe as the snow was so suffocating and blinding it was not wise to venture out into it.

* The Fall that the pioneer and his family left Coal Harbor, the winter came on ^{unexpectedly} unexpectedly early.

Just before Thanksgiving a young boy about fifteen started across the prairie with a flock of sheep to Suttle Lake. A blizzard came up and the boy was frozen to death and most of the sheep were lost. Several different parties searched for his body, but it could not be found.

The next spring the pioneer's eldest son found parts of the body - parts that the wolves had left. Stories had to be put in the coffin so the mother would not notice the lightness of weight at the funeral.

VI.

x The trading in the winter time was done by horseback. Spring was anxiously waited for so as to get to town for some of the necessities.

x Coal and wood was easily secured from the Missouri River as there are great veins of lignite coal all along the eastern banks of the river. There is also a burning coal mine from which smoke can be seen issuing. The whole top is honeycombed where the coal has been burned. Further to the east a distance from the river, Buffalo chips were used. Although people would haul wood from the river, going a distance of twenty miles and more.

Patrick O'Connor, the nearest neighbor, was about two and a half miles away. They were of Irish descent of the lower class but proved to be kind neighbors. Peter Longbelle located a year or so later about a mile northwest of the homestead.

8 The farm machinery was very limited as everything had either to be brought by steamboat from Bismarck or carted by team a distance of sixty five miles to Coal Harbor from Bismarck.

8 The family lived on the homestead five years and then moved to Coal Harbor. Here the older boys engaged in driving mail routes. One from Washburn to Fort Berthold and the other from Coal Harbor by the way of Hancock to Washburn. Each took two days to make the trip. The pioneer ^{had} a blacksmith shop and also engaged in farming. Coal Harbor was a small place boasting of one store and hotel combined, owned by George S. Robinson (he and his wife both English) a school and five dwelling houses. Also a log building built by Mr Robinson for the accommodation of Indians, especially during wet weather.

VII.

also here the Indians were one's greatest friends.

¶ Once when there was quite a large encampment of them in town some of the older ones invited all the town to one of their dances in this log building. after everyone was in two of the large husky Indians stationed themselves in the small doorway with tomahawks in their hands. and after the Indian dance they made each one pay ten cents before they could leave.

¶ One quiet afternoon when only the pioneers wife and daughter were in the house, an old Indian by the name of Texas Joe walked into the house ~~by~~ making himself perfectly at home. Soon he began to sharpen a butcher knife and a razor. The more he sharpened them the more nervous the pioneer's wife became. finally the little girl ran over to the neighbors but before anyone

returned the Indian quietly put them away and left.

* While in Coal Harbor, many were the various duties the pioneer and his wife had to perform. George S. Robinson's lost their third child, a tiny baby. The pioneer made a little coffin out of rough lumber, planning as best he could. His wife lined it with cotton and white material and the baby was laid in it and buried a short distance from town. The father pronouncing a few words of benediction over the grave.

The doctor lived twenty-five miles away at Washburn and once when the pioneer's wife was very sick, one of her sons rode horseback all one night to go to Washburn and back to obtain medicine.

After eight years residence in Coal Harbor the family moved to Bismarck to secure an education for the three youngest children.

VIII

The descendants of the pioneer are
Herbert Bartron, Bowdoin Mont.

James Bartron, Neche, No. Dak,
Merton Bartron, Douglas, No. Dak,
Artley Bartron, Seattle, Wash.,
and Mrs Walter J. Houghton, Cooperstown
No. Dak.

This pioneer passed away Feb. 1916, at Leeds
and is now resting in the Cooperstown
Cemetery.

Insert from back of page.

This is written by the pioneer's
granddaughter.

Homestead certificate no 1597, application
no 1615. Northwest quarter of section 11 in
township 147 north of range 84, west of the
5th principle meridian in North Dakota
containing sixty acres. Recorded 21st
day of October 1890.

Signed by President Benjamin Harrison

Ellen Macfarland. asst. Sec.

J. R. Conwell Recorder.

Written By Jean Bartron.
Cooperstown.
N. Dak.

1
Mrs James Bartron died April 17, 1918 in
Seattle, Washington

She was born at Athens, Pennsylvania,
Sept 22, 1842 and married Jan 18, 1866

Biography of C. P. Bolkan. ✓

by Dorcas Bolkan

C. P. Bolkan, early settler and pioneer of Griggs county, was born in 1854 near Thronhaugen, Norway. In 1866 he came with his parents to America where they settled in Rock county, Wisconsin, about 25 miles south of Madison.

For nine years they resided here, until Mr. Bolkan moved to Iowa, where his folks had gone a couple of years before. He stayed here five years, until 1880 when he came to North Dakota. Besides himself he had two companions, John Dohl and Ole Harwick. They travelled by railroad to Fargo and then took a steamboat up to Caledonia, a small town one and a half miles from the R. D. River. In those days, Caledonia, although only having a few families, was the county seat of Traill county. Traill county, then, included Griggs and Steele too.

As there were no branches off the main railroad running through Fargo to Bismarck the three men were forced to walk from Caledonia to the Sheyenne valley, which was ^{their} destination. This distance was about sixty miles.

The country was thinly settled all over and on this side of what is now Portland, there were practically no inhabitants. In one instance, the men passed the last settler's shanty about noon and were forced to sleep out on the prairie. It was the last part of April and the ground was wet and slushy for there had just been a fierce snow storm. Besides, they had no

blankets or overcoats so altogether they spent a very disagreeable night. The next morning they set out on foot again and reached the hills of the Shyenne valley at about the place where the Arneson home east of Trail now is. However, they did not believe that they had reached the Shyenne River, for they had been told that the country was very hilly and also that the timber was very thick. They soon met two men, though, and they were informed that they had reached their destination and that they were only one mile and a half from Mr. Ephraim's claim, he being the first settler in the Shyenne valley.

The next thing these men did was to take out claims. Of course, the land was not surveyed so the only way by which they could have the land was to stay and live on it. All three of the men decided to stay and Mr. Balkan took out his claim on section 34 in Washburn Township or on the place where Chester Piatt now has his farm. In 1881 the land was surveyed and the claims officially recorded so after a couple of years the land was proved and Mr. Balkan went out working during the summer and fall months. As there was very little work to be obtained around here he went to farms around Valley City and Casselton.

(3)

In 1884 Mr. Bolkan was married to Pauline Spilde, one of the first schoolteachers around here. They have had nine sons, all of whom are living except one. They are: Rudolph, Freeman, Edwin, George, Alfred, Albert, Carl, & Peter.

The Bolkan family lived in several places before moving into the city of Couperstown where they still reside. They came in here in 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolkan had five sons in the service during the World War. George, Edwin and Alfred were overseas and Carl and Albert in training here in the United States.

At the present time Mr. Bolkan is 74 years of age.

CH

Dorcas Bolkan.

World History.

Name Marjorie Boltz
Subject History II
Date June 5, 1926.
Teacher Mrs Porterville
Standing _____

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School
Cooperstown, N. D.

W. M. WELCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 1516 ORLEANS STREET, CHICAGO

Pioneer Sketch of my father.

In 1876 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Gulian

Boltz came across from Germany with a family of four, one which died on the way over and was

buried in the ocean. It took them one month to come across.

Mr. Boltz was a Lutheran

minister and he came over to the

United States for a bridge field

to work in. When they had

arrived in this country they with

in Oregon Michigan and then two

days was from which ^{my} father

in 1880. They had had luck in

Oregon he came Mrs. Boltz died

and then the children had to be

scattered into different homes as

orphans & Mr. Boltz went back to

Germany. When father was of age

he wanted to get away from Michigan because he thought that he would do better in the west, and also he did not like the damp climate of Michigan. He was on his way to the state of Washington, but as he was going thru North Dakota, he noticed the Golden wheat fields and he liked the looks of the country so he thought he would try this country. In 1901 he settled near Aneta, North Dakota about 1/2 mile from Aneta, so he did not have such a hard time to get provisions as some of the pioneers. He stayed for about seven years. Then he moved to the Herb Chamblin Homestead, in Griggs County lived

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at the
Chamblin
lived
and
after
hospital
and
hard
right
was
was
very
I
Chamblin
County
In 19
But I

there one year when mother came
west that was in 1908 ^{in cooperation} was married
at the lalmay home where was
Charlie Cooper now lived. They
lived on Chamblin for about twenty
and in 1909, 5 was born and then
Alma's mother was taken to the
hospital and stay there for four months
and that with poor crops was a
hard pull on father, but he kept
right on. In 1910 my sister Florence
was born and in that year there
was no crops at all which was
very hard on him.
In 1914 we moved over to
Charlie's place still in (Hippo)
County and we lived there twenty
In 1915 my other sister, Marion was born
But in 1919 our poor little Marian died

from milk
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the west,
like the
He was
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working the
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County
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settled
about 1/2
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to get
the pioneer
years. Her
Chamblin
my little

which was ~~very~~ hard on mother and father.

While we were there we had some very Good crops, and some very poor crops. In 1924 we moved down South of town in Griggs County where he is still living. With dairying and Raising Police dogs, They have kept there head above the level. He would not leave North Dakota with the great opportunity for education etc. He thinks there is no healthful climate than there is in North Dakota and has made fairly well since he has been here. and of course he has had drawbacks, but he says you can always have a living & someday he will reach the Goal by the clong of the Dakota Reapers.

The Clang of the Dakota reapers
on the Dakota plain!

A music sweeter - deeper -
than many a reaper strain.

across that North Dakota prairie
9 tramped one summer day.
The breeze was free and merry -
white lent - clouds were at play

with golden wheat was turning
the former paddock lots;
and ripened grain stood gleaming
like lakes of molten gold;

when, richer, sweeter, deeper
than a distant music strain,
came the clang of the reaper
on this Dakota plain!

rather and

the last

and arise

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thirty county

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the last

say you

things

the

about reaper

As when the heart is weeping
Neath slowly crushing hours,
The fragrance soft came creeping
Of memory wild rose flowers.

written By:
Marjorie Melba Bantz,
Cooperstown,
No. Dak.

Name *Lester R. Biermberg*

Subject *World History*

Date *5-20-29-5/29/29*

Teacher *Mr. Borterville*

Standing *A.*

Gottfried Borchert Jr.

Cooperstown High School

Examination Booklet

NO. 8 EIGHT PAGE

W. M. WELCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 1516 ORLEANS STREET, CHICAGO

Biography of Homer

Walter D. Borchert was born
on September 13, 1856, in Germany
in a rural community.

Of the many relatives already
across the Atlantic Ocean in
the great and rich country of
United States many letters
were received by him telling
of the easy living.

He went to school to the
grade and after a few years
of working made and after
making a good deal of money
to America. He came to the
mainly because of the
reasons; he had relatives
in the new country and he thought
that living would be easier
than in the part of Germany
where he resided.

While going to William ~~Land~~
the team of Ben & topped
in the middle of the slough
and would go no farther
so they had to turn around
and go home again.

Later on he purchased a
couple horses and with
the aid of the small ox
plowed the land.

The first school teacher
that my mother had was
August Retzlaff.

The pioneers of North
Dakota did not need to
worry about food but
the prairie fires and snow-
storms were rather
hard to live through
the way it seemed.

In the "nineties" there
was a hard snow storm

the haytacks, which
were ~~so~~ low down and
before the fire got that
far. The barn and house
were of course saved because
even if it did happen
at night a wild enough
furrow was made with
the plow as to check
it all in a moment.

Their nearest neighbors
were ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~trout~~ ^{trout}, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~to~~ ^{to}, and
A. B. ~~trout~~ ^{trout}.

Church was held in
the nearest schoolhouse
which was three miles

A student usually preached
and then after a few years
Reverend Bohnhoff
was asked to come up
from Valley City and

has been doing so ever since
I have been in the cotton
from the time I got from
goose & town
company;

After a few years
there were to move &
in a new place the
length of the wife
he went to the many
miserable again and
lived on the old homestead
ever since until his
death in November 18
1926.

His descendant
are James B. Borchert
family (Borchert)
Marj Borchert and family
Mrs. Fred Borchert
and family and Mrs. Clark
Borchert & family.

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by beach
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hoff
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About the latter have
the names of Casson town,
North Dakota which has
8160 sq. miles of land,
Farrarcheuan, Canada.

Rigalcont wife lives
in Casson town, North
Dakota

End

By Lewis Savre

World History

John W. Bruno was born in Bremer County, Iowa on December 6, 1855. He was the son of Friedrich Bruno and Wilhelmina Molkling. He came to North Dakota in March 1902, leaving his former home to get rich as the speculation was big in North Dakota. He settled in Sec. 1, Coopers township, the house was frame and machinery was, the mower, binder, drill, plow which was operated by horses. His early neighbors were Gossells & Eorchert and the nearest school was the Trigaard school. Church services were held at the Arnett school house. He used river mud & coal for fuel. In Oct. 1879 he married Sophia Buezing at Bremer Co. Iowa. He now lives at Coopers township, N. D.

(no information on 12, 13, 14)
The descendants are

O. H. Burns

Birford

Alma McGraw

Birford

Lydia Backman

New Rockford

North Banglaty

Jordan, Mont.

Malinda Soure

Cooperstown

Walter Burns (dead)

Lewis
Soure