

Booklet By
Name Ruth Foughton

Subject History

Date Pioneer Biography

Teacher Mrs. Posterville

Standing _____

Houghton Family

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School

Cooperstown, N. D.

Biography

In 1856 Miranda and Joshua Houghton with their family of four children Rebecca, Maria, John and George, moved from Coleberg Canada, in the Province of Ontario and took up their new homes seven miles west of St. Clair in the county and township of St. Clair.

There they worked a small farm carrying on diversified farming.

During the time of their stay on this farm three sons ^{were born} Benjamin Luther in 1858, Wilmot Peter in 1861

and Charles Walter, September
15, 1863.

A few years later they
moved to the township of
Columbus in the county
of St. Clair and here worked
another farm.

On this farm three
sons and one daughter
were born to the family of
seven.

The children were
employed in taking care
of cattle, gathering the
ripened fruits, for there
were large orchards of peaches,
apples and apples.

The children played on
the rivers and creeks

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near by. catching fish or swimming. As the family was large, a few of the boys helped the neighbors in spring and fall.

At the age of fourteen Charles Walter went into a lumber camp in Northern Michigan. There they prepared great logs to be sent down the river in the spring.

He spent four years here. Thrilling letters came from the brothers in North Dakota telling of the opportunities there and of the beautiful ^{prairie} pasture land. Thus in 1886 he set out.

Taking the train from St.
Clair he came to Cooperstown,
North Dakota March 18, 1886.

He was met at the
station by his brother. They
were drawn by a team of
mules, the usual means
of transportation, to the
brother's home a few miles
west of Cooperstown.

Staying a short time
with his brother, Charles
decided to take work on
Cooper's ranch. He ^{herded} herded
cattle in the hills north
of Cooperstown, rode a bronco
all day and slept in a
shanty at night.

After a year of ^{herding} herding

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Charles took the position
of foreman on Cooper's
ranch.

He had the superintending
of twenty-two thousand
acres of land. The men had
to be taught the art of
riding and driving. Many
funny incidents took
place at the time a
"new hand" came to the
ranch. As the mule was
the chief animal of
burden he was usually
ridden but frequently the
mules refused to move
or even moved too quickly
and dislodged their
riders.

In the spring a crew
of nearly one hundred
men was taken on. Wood
was brought from the river
and sawed for winter use.

Around the early
part of April the men were
set to work preparing the
fields for ^{sowing} sowing. When
this started the men had
to rise earlier as each had
his team to feed, water,
and harness.

First twenty-four
plows were taken out.
Then the harrows and
later the drills. If at
any time the men needed
help that was the super-

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visors job to help him.

During the summer
they put up hay for feed
and summer followed
large tracts of land.

When the crops
ripened, the binders were
taken out. The golden
grain was cut and
shocked by an army of
men. If a man stopped
working for a few hours
and took a nap behind
a shock he was sent to
get his time and pay,
and was dismissed.

The threshing on the
ranch was done by
large machines. There were

several on the Cooper ranch alone. The supervisors had to be on duty during threshing time to see about the grain. As there was such a large amount of grain to be marketed, they drew it to town and loaded it in cars instead of taking it to the elevator.

Once when the mule of a supervisor refused to move the engine hit it with a hot poker. The mule didn't seem to enjoy the contact and immediately dislodged his rider.

One spring the Haughton

Book II
Name Paul Houghton

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Cooperstown, N. D.

and Nierenberg boys decided to take an Antelope hunt up near the James River.

They gathered provisions and blankets and set out. The first night was spent in an oat bin, the second in a school house, and the third in an old log barn. On the fourth night they had reached the Jim River. That night they camped beneath the trees.

The following morning they were up early, preparing for the hunt.

They set out on their

Broncos and about
 nine o'clock they spied
 the Antelope in a little
 Coulee. They crept around
 the hill and just as
 they came out on the
 plain the animals spied
 them and were soon out
 of sight.

In the afternoon
 they saw the Antelope
 again. They came up to
 some old buildings and
 dismounted. Just then
 a dog bounded out of a
 remote corner and with
 his shrill barking and
 fierce growls frightened
 the Antelope away.

After that they never
got within a mile or two
of the animals. Thus the
trip was a failure as
far as game was con-
cerned but a great
success as to pleasure.

The evenings on the
ranch were spent in
telling stories of the
earlier days. One of the
favorites was the affair
of the county records.

It seemed that
Cooperstown and Hope
both wanted the county
seat. They had an election
to decide. As there was
a railroad crew were up

at that time they all
voted for Cooperstown.
Some of the men changed
suits and voted twice.
The conditions were the
same in Hope only their
railroad crew wasn't
as large as ours and
their population a little
less so Cooperstown won by
a large majority.

However Hope was
not satisfied so four
armed men, Allen Pinkerton,
Eck Glass, William Gass,
and John Houghton were
stationed to guard the
records.

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Pinkerton,
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records with their guns
at their sides. However
in the middle of the
night the Representatives
of Fox came in and
held the men at the
point of the gun while
others took the records.
Of course this was a
great disappointment to
the inhabitants of
Cooperstown but they
were undaunted. So a
few days later they
went after and secured
the precious records.
There was great
rejoicing in Cooperstown
and great anger in Fox.

Thus it was decided
best to extend Steele
county to take in Hope
and take a few tiers off
of Trail to extend Gigg.

In 1887 Charles Haughton
filed on a homestead,
Four miles east and
one mile south of Cooper-
stown. In Cooperstown
township he took up a fourth
of section thirty-two and
range 156. 49 and in
Bald Hill township he
took up a fourth of section
five. He had to swear in
an affidavit before the
Notary of Republic. They were
allowed three quarters

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of land.

At the time you claimed up your land you had to have lived on it a few months a year for five years and have a shanty, a barn and a well on the land.

On March 3, 1892 Charles was married to Alberta Langford at her home. Cora, Milton, Kenneth and Ruth were born to them. Kenneth dying at the age of two years.

In 1907 Charles Houghton with his family moved to Cooperstown

where he has served on
the Board of Education and
Alderman.

Cora Haughton - Mrs James Hazard
Cooperstown
No. 1104.

Milton J. Haughton
San Francisco
Ruth A. Haughton
Cooperstown
No. 1104.