

Biography of Peter Idsvoog
Capt. Com. J. Johnson

Peter Idsvoog came to Casperstown, N. Dak. from Wisconsin in the year of 1886 with the intention of visiting an uncle here. However, he liked it very much in Dakota and decided to make his home here.

Mr Idsvoog's work during his first year here was chiefly painting in and around Casperstown.

The town at that time was not so advanced and as large as it is at the present time.

There was a general merchandise store where the theater is now, for at that time there were no motion picture shows here.

The Presbyterian Church was the only church here until the Methodist Church was built. The Baptist Church was at one time what the Bethlehem Church is now.

The Lutheran Church ² was built in
1897, ^{the} first minister was O. H. Kvarne.
A wooden schoolhouse took the
place of the one we have now which
was also located where the
High School is at present.

In 1887 Mr. Idsvang contested on a
homestead in Romness township.
Beginning with three axen and a
walking plow.

The grain wheat and oats were
put in an share.

An old style McCormick binder was
used to reap the grain.

Steam engines were used for
threshing, but there were many
horse power machines too.

The house and barn were built
of logs ~~but~~ and the following year
a new house was built.

It was ten miles to Cooperstown,
which was their nearest town, since
the axen and wagon were only means

transportation ^{3 1/2} took about three
miles to get to town.

There were no automobiles at that
time, if there had been they could not
have been used anyway because of
the condition of the roads which were
merely paths angling in and out
over the prairie.

In 1888 three horses were purchased
and later a second handed ^{one cylinder} car, resembling
a buggy costing six hundred dollars.

The products were cheap but products
bought was also cheap.

Butter was sold for 8 to ten cents
a lb., eggs for six to ten cents a dozen.
Coffee could be bought ten lbs for
a dollar.

Calico was five cents a yard, used
very much for dresses; lawn used for
the best dresses.

Hired help was also cheap, twenty to
twenty-five dollars a month for
eight months and dollar and a half a
day during threshing.

Wheat was sold from thirty ⁴ cents a bushel to dollar and thirty cents. Some corn was raised, but wheat was the chief crop.

Taxes are about four times as large now as they were then. Land could be bought for five dollars an acre.

In 1904, Mr Edsberg came to Cooperstown, later making his home in Binfard N.D. where he operated a store.

After a time he moved back to Cooperstown where he has made his home since.

Now he supervises his farms having fourteen hundred acres of land in Steele and Griggs County.

Mr Edsberg says there were better times years back - people were not in debt as they are now and cost of living was not so high.

Even tho there was very little
amusement, the neighbors would
get together in their log houses and
have a merry time.

The homes were not allways of
the luxurious type, but the hearts
of the people made up for that.

World History
Cora J. Johnson
Historical Biography

Mr. J. J. Johnson, later making his
home in Bismarck, N.D. where he
operated a store.

After a time he moved back to
Superior where he made his
home since.

Now he supervises his farm
of many hundred acres of
land in Steele and Briggs County.

Mr. Johnson says there were
other times years back - people
were not in debt as they are now,
and that is a sad state of life.

By
Name Edward Johnson

Subject History II

Date June 2nd 1926

Teacher Mrs Porterville

Standing _____

I
Biography of Andrew Johnson

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School

Cooperstown, N. D.

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

History of Pioneer.

The parents of the pioneer were Anna and John S. Johnson, the name of the pioneer is Andrew Johnson. He was born the 24th of December, 1862. The place of his birth was "Kullandalen" Norway. The town nearest to his home was "Vaage".

The pioneer left for United States because he had a sister there who wrote home telling of how much more you could earn and the better working conditions, also because there were many at home and not much work to do. He thought that in the United States there were greater opportunities to earn something for himself. His sister was in North Dakota so he also went there because this was the place

she had told of in the letters and it was better to be where you had one that you knew than to be among total strangers. His sister had written to him that he could get work where she was and among Scandinavian people.

It took about one month from the time he left his old home until he arrived in North Dakota. He had to wait in Oslo because the ship was four days late. It took about nine days and ten hours from the time he left Oslo until he arrived in New York. The weather was fairly nice except for one day when there was a storm. All the people were ordered off the deck because the waves washed over the deck. The greater portion of the

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people became sick. Most of the poor-
singers being new-comers. They were taken
to a large building where they were kept
until the train arrived which were going
to take them west.

The pioneer arrived at Wabegaton, Ireland

County, West Dakota on June 30th 1883.

He worked in the vicinity of Wabegaton

doing farm work and also carpenter work.

In the fall of 1885 he came up

to Steele and Big Horn County. He worked

at the S. B. Nelson farm, banking road

from the Big Horn River when the

thermometer registered 40° below zero and

the snow piled up over the top of

the low stables so that they could

not enter through the door but had

to make a hole in the roof through

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In the summer of 1886 the pioneer worked at the R. C. Cooper's Ranch. In the haying^{about}, twenty men were employed. Eight men were in the stack and the others mowing and hauling hay. In the harvest they had twenty binders and twenty shockers. R. C. Cooper had three threshing machines threshing on his own land. The pioneer worked on the ranch from haying through threshing. When he received his pay, he got his money in twenty dollar gold pieces.

In the spring of 1888 the pioneer bought the homestead right on one quarter of land. It was the northeast quarter of section six in Riverside township.

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He bought it for \$25.00. He lived in a small shanty. The first spring he was on the land, it was so good that the bird froze so hard he had to chop it with an axe before he thawed it up for breakfast. One day when the prairie was out plowing with the oxen, coming in to lunch, the oxen followed him and went through the stable and tore down the whole stable. The stable was made of poles and sticks taken from the Abeyama valley. It was covered with straw to keep it warm and tight. He did not have a stable then for 2 or 3 months. He took the oxen out in the prairie. He then built a good stable which he had for 2 or 3 years. The way was made of rough hay covered with sod.

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The Pioneer went to Hope and Coopers town for his provisions. He went mostly to Hope because Coopers town was not very large and did not always have all he wanted. Hope was eighteen miles away from his home, and not always could he come home the same day. He started out with a team of oxen and a load of oats about 4 O'clock in the morning and returned about dark.

Some of the near neighbors were:
Henry Bernis, C. C. Butler, S. H. Nelson,
Gunderson Bros, Ole Halvorson, Ole Bolken,
Knute Hagen, Mrs Anna Halvorson and
C. C. Piatt.

The first crop froze so he got only a few bushels of oats. The Pioneer and his brother-in-law bought a binder which

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They were together and also a number of people.
They brought the first birds that I have
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The price of the wheat ranged from 40¢
up to 50 cents per bushel and also from
18¢ up to 23 cents.

The fact that the prices were so

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He brought it from the people living along
the river. He sawed down the trees and

hailed them home in the winter when
there wasn't much else to do, and then
burned it up during the summer.

Many times the circumstances were so
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In the fall of 1891 the pioneer had the best crop he ever raised. Due to the rain and shortage of threshing machines he could not get threshed. In the late fall he stacked the grain with snow on it and also wet. The next spring before seeding, the grain was threshed but due to the grain being wet and rotted, he did not

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The pioneer was married the same spring to Miss Mary Brosten. They were married in Griggs County at the home of Andrew Brosten.

The pioneer has three sons now living. They are Rudolph, Arthur and Edward. They are all at home on the farm in Steele County. The Pioneer is still living on the farm ^{for} which he bought the homestead right in 1888. This farm is in Riverside Township, Steele County. It is $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of Coopers town, North Dakota.

By
Name Edward Johnson
Subject History II
Date June 2nd 1926
Teacher Mrs Porterville
Standing _____

I
Biography of Andrew Johnson

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School
Cooperstown, N. D.

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

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because he had a sister there who wrote home telling of how much more you could earn and the better working conditions, also because there were many at home and not much work to do. He thought that in the

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The pioneer arrived at Wagon, Ireland
County, West Dakota on June 30th 1883.
He worked in the vicinity of Wagon.
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In the fall of 1885 he came up
to Steele and Biggs county. He worked
at the S. A. Nelson farm, breaking wood
from the ^{as before} ~~Steele~~ Steele River when the
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Name Edward Johnson

Subject History - II

Date June 2nd 1926

Teacher Mrs. Porterville

Standing _____

-II-

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School

Cooperstown, N. D.

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

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Name _____

Subject Bew Johnson. (Biography)

Date _____

Teacher _____

Standing _____

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School

Cooperstown, N. D.

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

I

Pioneer Life of Ben Johnson

The parents of Ben Johnson were Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson. He was born Dec. 1, 1867. Allamakee, Iowa near Decorah.

His parents left Iowa because of the cinch bug destroyed the grain for many years. They came to North Dakota because of the free homesteads to get.

Ben Johnson was only thirteen years when they came up here, his father ^{wife} and children came from Iowa to Fargo by train from there they drove by team, and it took about from 3 to 6 days. They came here about the 6th of June, 1881.

When they got here the land they took was ready for the plow, but it was harder to get fodder for the horses and cattle.

II

It was situated near the Shesyanne river.

Their first home was made of logs plastered between crevices, size about 14 x 14 and 6 feet high.

The roof was made of bark peeled off from elm trees which made a good tight roof the bark was laid right.

The farm was made of sod 40 x 24.

The neighbors they had were Armand O.heim, John O.aley, and Over Seiam.

The nearest town was valley city where they went twice a year for provisions the trip took from 3 to 6 days 6 days with oxen and 3 days with horses.

The early farm machinery consisted a home made drag at first they were seeded by hand but at last they got a self Raker Reaper

The prices ^{of crops} were good for the first two or three years, but then the people had so little land in condition to be cultivated that there was not much crops to be sold but the later years the wheat went down to about \$0.10 a bushel. The crops were also good at first, but it became so dry and the gophers were so bad that it destroyed the crops.

The Pioneer's fuel consisted mostly of wood which was found in great amount along the river which could be purchased cheap.

Some of the hardships were diseases in great amount, one of the worst ones was diphtheria which at that time had no cure and the unsanitary conditions made it worst. Mrs. Johnson had two children that died in this and no doctor to ever

IV

take the pain away because the closest doctor was clear to Valley City.

Another hardship were storm at times so people couldn't get out for two days.

Ben Johnson married Gurina ^(Midotaka) Jan. 3, 1900 at Sharon N. Dak he had 4 children whose names are Cora Johnson Inga Johnson Gladys Johnson, and Alf Johnson who died at age of 4 in 1919

The pioneer's present home is 9 miles north east of Coon Estown, N. Dak, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Shepaine river in section 12, Washburn Township

Lora Johnson
Pioneer Life

Name Martin Johnson

Subject History II

Date _____

Teacher _____

Standing _____

✓
Biography of Johnson
Mrs. Bertha Mathilda Johnson

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School
Cooperstown, N. D.

of. History - II -

Diary of Mrs. Martha (née) Johnson
the name of the parents of the
known are: Mr. Marking & answer
Mrs. Anna & answer. James & answer
Mrs. Martha & answer, John,
July 9, 1883; Near the town of George
It came down in a name which

means situated in the country
of Norway.
The answer left it
James & answer became
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Mother &. Had a from back
to Mother. It and an idea
that one could have a
better time in America
was not satisfied at home
came to North Dakota
because of ~~the~~ relatives there, was

asked by them to come.
Found this state to be
just as good as any other in
the union.

The trip was as follows:
I started from Bergen June
11, 1901, crossed the North Sea in
a boat named Stavanger Ford,
to Hull, England. From Hull
England crossed England by
train to Liverpool, England.
While going through England,
saw very beautiful scenery
and many herds of fine
cattle, the best that the
pioneer ever saw. It took
eight hours of steady riding
to reach Liverpool, England.
at Liverpool stayed
for 3 days, was the dirtiest

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place the printer had ever
been in, the town and the
people were all alike. On
the street day boarded the
traveller which went around
by London. At London a group
of Indians boarded the ship,
the first Indians the printer
had ever seen. From London
went around by Ireland (couldn't
remember the town) where about eight
boarded passengers came on
didn't make another stop, the
the ship reached America.
The officers were very particular
who they had on board, all
had to be examined when they
got on the ship, when they were
in New York, three were held
back at that time.

Had fine wether on the
ocean for four days, with
one day which was very
stormy, no one was aloud on
deck during the storm.

Reached New York on
the fifth day. After being
examined before any person
could enter the United States,
left New York for Chicago
by train. From Chicago by
train left for Hanaford,
North Dakota. Reached
Hanaford. June 23, 1902.

Stayed with and worked
with relatives part of the time.
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met Mr. Gilbert Johnson.
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Miss Bertha Myranda Hanson
Taken at age of 18,

and married November
1901, 1904 at Bertha Minnesota
then came to Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Dakota, bought a home, where
the Pioneer is now living

Name Ruth Dyson
Subject History II Essay
Date May 1927
Teacher Mrs. Porterwill
Standing _____

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School
Cooperstown, N. D.

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

by the county officials to lay
out the first road from the Willow
Springs to Carpinteria. They followed
the ridges and higher ground
all the way necessarily paying
very little attention to sections
lines. There were several ~~points~~
and creeks which had to be
forded.
When Mr Johnson came to
Orange County there were no
townships. The land was laid
out into sections but the sections
were undivided. He was one of
the leaders in the movement to
organize the region around Willow
Springs into a township. It was
organized on March 15, 1887, one of
the first in the county.

the authorities refused him because of his youth. However disappointed but undaunted he put on his fathers big overcoat and tried again. This time he was admitted. He served faithfully until the end of the war and was honorably discharged in August 1865.

After the war he served as apprentice to his uncle in order to learn the carpenter's trade.

In September 1871 he married Esther L. Smith at Brownville Me. About this time many people were migrating west. He got the western fever as many others had. In the spring of 1876 he came west with two other men one of whom was part owner of a large tract of Red

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River valley land in the Dakota

territory. They got off the train

at Fargo and purchased some provisions. With

these supplies they drove overland
forty miles to Fossil county. They
built a small house with the

lumber they had brought. The

arrived as their home while they
broke the land.

Their nearest neighbors were

several miles away. They were twelve

miles from a Hudson Bay trading

post called Caledonia. The trading

post included one store, a blacksmith

shop, a flour mill, a sawmill and a

hotel. The Black Hills to Winnipeg was

(station)

1876 was the year of the big

Custer Massacre on the Little
Bighorn in Montana. Rumors
of the dreaded Sioux were spreading
all over the northwest.

One day when Justin Safford,
one of the men with Mr Johnson, was
out plowing he turned around to find
an Indian, carrying a gun, following
him in the furrow. He dropped
the plow handles and ran to the
house where he found the yard
and a neighboring grove of trees
filled with Indians. That nite the
Indians had a pow wow around
their camp fire. The young men
supposed it was a war dance
and that their doom was close
at hand. In order to keep the Indians
in a good humor they gave them

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all of their provisions and went
to the trading post for more.

The next day one of the Indians
stepped up to the men, shook hands
with them and said goodbye.

He went away chuckling to himself
because the young men had been
so frightened. Later it was
discovered that these were

friendly Chipewyan Indians from
the reservation in Minnesota.

They were on their way to Devils
Lake to visit the Sioux.

When the trading contact

was completed Mr. Johnson returned
to Maine and in 1879 he brought
his wife and two small daughters
with him to La Motte. He bought
a lot on 13th Street in Fargo and built

a small home. Targo was growing rapidly and as a contractor and builder he was very busy. In 1882 his home was broken up by the death of his wife. The following spring he sold his Targo property and leaving his children with his brother's family he started for Gugg County. He and two other men made the trip with a team of horses and a wagon. There was no bridge across the Shyense river and the water was high. The men drove up the river until they came to a place where there was a small boat. With the boat and a long rope they were able to get the horses across

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one at a time. Then they pulled
the wagon over. When the wagon
was only about halfway across
it suddenly died forward and
disappeared under the water.
However the men managed to
pull it out right side up.
They went up near Willow Lake
and took up quarters right on
unswamped government land.
In 1884 the land was surveyed
and Mr Johnson's claim was
found to be in Section 2, Township
14 S north of range 60 west. Immediately
after locating his claim he built
a log store and home combined.
The logs for the building were
hauled from Willow Lake. He
lived some breaking down on his

Name J. RuthSubject History

Date _____

Teacher Mr.

Standing _____

land and plowed a furrow around it. After farming the land for a year or two himself he rented it for a share of the crop and devoted his time entirely to the store. The wood they used for fuel was hauled from along the Shuyenne river. The railroad came to Coopers town in 1883 so he was able to get supplies for his store there. Serious trouble was often experienced in hauling provisions. When the water was unusually high it sometimes took as many as ten or twelve horses to pull an ordinary wagon through the fords of the sloughs and streams.

Ezra Hagerty, C. S. Hamilton and Mr. Johnson were appointed

Examination Booklet
Cooperstown High School
Cooperstown, N. D.

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

Name	<u>Edith Bryan</u>
Subject	<u>Algebra II</u>
Date	<u>May 1918</u>
Teacher	<u>Mrs. G. C. Smith</u>
Standing	<u>_____</u>

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by the county officials to lay
out the first road from the Willow
Springs to Carpinteria. They followed
the ridges and higher ground
all the way necessarily paying
very little attention to sections
lines. There were several ~~points~~
and creeks which had to be
forded.

When Mr Johnson came to
Orange County there were no
townships, the land was laid
out into sections but the sections
were undivided. He was one of
the leaders in the movement to
organize the region around Willow
Springs into a township. It was
organized on March 15, 1887, one of
the first in the county.

The small log store was replaced in a few years by a larger frame structure and soon after Mr Johnson built a frame house also. At one time the Lawrence Brothers were Mr. Johnson's store. They sold their share to Charles Miller of Larp. E. S. Hamilton who had a nearby claim worked in the store when he was not busy on his claim.

Mr Johnson built a small frame schoolhouse so that his own and the other settlers children might go to school. School was only held during the warm months.

Through the efforts of Mr Johnson and LeForest Conant a cheese factory was started on Mr Johnson's farm.

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* To this the farmers brought
their milk and cream instead
of bringing it to the railroad
at Coopers town. The choice
factory was a success until
the people started to leave the
country because of the repeated
crop failures.

There were several men who
used Mr Johnson's home as
their headquarters when they
were it working in their claims
and many people traveling
through the country stopped
at his claims rest site.

Mr Johnson hired a man to
have his grain to Coopers town for
him. This man would start in
the morning driving a spoke of grain.

He would drive all night and in the morning arrive in town with his grain. At nite he would start back again. Mr Johnson used to buy the settlers grain or take it in exchange for groceries. He also kept some of it in his warehouse and sold it in the spring for seed.

In October 1895 he married Cora E. Hagerty the daughter of one of the other new settlers in Willow Township. He brought his two daughters and they lived at Willow until 1898.

Joseph Buckleit was their nearest neighbor. Ben Kuhns, Herbert Safford, Ezra Hagerty, Andrew Hutson, E. S. Hamilton, George Pratt, Mr. Ellis,

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Lytle, Dick, Paul, Dick, Mrs. Root
and Mrs. Ruth were some of the
people who lived near them
and traded at their store.

Around 1897 there were

several crop failures in allusion.

Many people left Willow Township
Many people who were unable
to pay their debt in the store
as Mr. Johnson was forced to
discontinue his business and
go to Cooperstown. In Cooperstown
he took up his contracting work
again. He also did some work
in Mayville a town which at
that time was growing very
rapidly.

Finally he and Earl Buckner
started a store in Cooperstown.

After a time they took Berg Brothers into their firm and built the building which is now occupied by Albert Larson and Co. Then Charles Johnson sold his share to Albert Larson and ran a small furniture store. At this time he was also county judge.

On October 25, 1899 his life was brought to a sudden end by pneumonia. He left five small children besides his wife and one married daughter.

By
Name Hazel Ross

Subject _____

Date Pinner Biography

Teacher _____

Standing _____

Cooperstown High School

1927

Examination Booklet

NO. 8 EIGHT PAGE P. O. 63387

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

Former Biography

Ernest Michel Johnson was born on November 28, 1874 to Ole Lars Johnson and Caroline Thompson Johnson. He was born near Sammamish, Minnesota which is in Canada. Township in Dakota county in 1894 his father and other farmers shipped horses to North Dakota and Ernest was given the chance to take them. He has been much about North Dakota and desires greatly to see it. He did not intend to remain here however. But when he got his name because he liked it much and saw how things he decided to settle there Minnesota. Johnson arrived in North Dakota in the early part of March in 1894. He succeeded in getting work at the establishment of Johnson and

Cordy. His work was to buy and herd the cattle. In the winter there were many storms, and he endured many hardships. He was often forced to let the horses have the rein, and they were usually able to find the way home. In 1896 and 1897, which is called the snow winter, he hauled the mail from Sanborn as the trains were snow bound. The only road he had to follow was the railroad track, this often being very difficult to find. He made six trips during this winter. He bought a living barn which he had for fifteen years. There he broke many broncos and wild horses.

Once he was forced to go to Valley City for supplies. The storm was so bad he was forced to walk twelve miles in front of the horses, and by the aid of a shoal, keeping the road. In 1896 on the 22 of November he was married to Natalia Rood. On this

make he has been out to get a

hand of cards. As usual it was plain

pretty but he has a nap for

the storm in a small house. He wanted

three days for the storm to clear up.

On the third morning, he remembered

it was his birthday and the date set

for his wedding. Rather than disappoint

his future wife before even married,

he started out. The work was slow,

but finally he succeeded in getting

them down to Alamogordo and carrying

them there. Their eight miles from town

he knew he knew the following

eight miles and finally reached town.

With a few hearty preparations he

was ready for the wedding. The time

for the wedding was soon thirty. The

bride waited long knowing the groom

would arrive at some time during the

night. At ten o'clock he appeared and

and she

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at they were

home. Or

the owner

on her own

and she only

the witness

thrust to find

mounts.

it he has

made many

to Valley City

for he was

front of the

about keeping

2 of November

and she the

they were married.

after his marriage he settled down to real bronco busting. These afforded him many runaways. on one trip the team ran away, the pole went into the ground hurling the wagon far into the air.

Mr. Johnson fell out hitting the pole. He was unconscious for several hours. When he fell, he injured his ear badly which caused the blood to flow. As the day was very cold which caused the blood to freeze. This cold ice again made him conscious. This trip cost him much as his face became paralyzed on one side, and he cracked his ear drum. Johnson jokes much about how his face looked then for every time he laughed you could only notice it on one side. He mended his face is now alright, but he is quite deaf in one ear.

at another time he ran straddle of a

work which drove him out of the

region. He was successful because he

got better than out when he returned

to town, he went to look for his horse

and found them five miles from

town in a large grass field.

In 1906 he went and took up a

claim near New England. He went to

Dickinson by train and to New England

by stage. He took horses and set out

to look for land. He found some that

proved satisfactory for miles from New

England in St. Lawrence county, New York

ship between the Rocky Mountains and the

Sevier. There were a few sheep

and some furniture by sections but not

and outside. They had forty miles to

the nearest railroad town, Dickinson, and

did not go there but frequently. He moved

his household furniture from there and

it took many long going across a large

that down

through him

the team

to the ground

the air.

the park.

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Stomach his

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at the top

crack where he almost had a tip-over.
He lived here ten months. In the fall
his brother joined him, taking up a claim
near Earnest's land. That winter Diphtheria
became very bad. Two of his brother's children
got the disease and died. Earnest started
across the snow-laden hills to Dickinson
to purchase coffins. It was slow and tedious
later. His children also got the disease and
he lost his oldest son, Willie. The winter
was cold, but they succeeded in getting
sufficient fuel from the coal mine in the
Bad Lands. In 1917 he moved back
to Coopersburg. He sold his living barn
and purchased the West Prairie Stock Farm
which is sixteen miles west and two miles
north of Coopersburg. Here he spent eighteen
years leading a happy and prosperous life.
In the year 1926 in the election he was
made sheriff of Duggs County. His descendants
are Arthur, Wilhelm, Luella, Caspar and

Malawi all of Corporation and Mrs. Shaver
I wish to live in the home farm, the
past office in England. He has two grand
sons, Gordon & Lynn and Ronald & Susan
who are Malawi children. Two children
to like and compare with at about the
age of ten and a pair of twins early in
their infancy.

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D. S. Thorne
Malawi children
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World History

Quidia Trilund
Biography of Elling Johnson.
His parents were Mr. and
Mrs. Jonas Trilund.

Mr. Johnson was born in
December, 26, 1850 in Stavanger
Norway.

He came to America ^{in 1882} to
seek his future ^{opportunities} to find better
for ^{the} future in 1882.

He came to North Dakota
because other of his friends, from
Norway, had settled here.

He first came to Yellow
Medicine, Minn., worked there
for one year. Then he came
to N. Dakota in 1883 bringing
his family with him. He came
in a covered wagon and then.

He took up his land in
Sec. 10, Township 145, Range 59.
He first had a sod house,
then ^{later} he had a frame house.
They got to town by foot of
iceing open.

They had to drive 40 miles, to
Valley City, to grind their flour.
There were many large prairie
fires and ^{fierce} blizzards.

His nearest neighbors were
J. J. Douglass, Jas Bull, and
Wm Williams.

His farm machinery
was owned by another neighbor
and himself. They were:
broadcast seeder, 6 ft. wide;
peg toothed harrow, and a
walking plow. The harvesting
was hired by a neighbor.

They did not have any ^{church} church
but they gathered in the homes and
school houses. Their pastor
was Rev. Nashim. ^{Nashim}

The school they had is
the one called ~~Soma~~ school
at the present time.

They got the wood from
down by the Snyman River.
They did not have any coal.

He was married to
Dorothy Jackson in Norway.
In 1875.

II

He makes his home at
his farm.

His descendants are
Masper Tawala - Hannaford
Mrs. Christ Silda - Coopers town
Mrs. Inga Anderson "
Mr. Hans Froeland "

Quidia Troilant
Cooper Hi.

Ruth Lyson

PIONEER ESSAY.

Charles Johnson was one of the best known and best loved pioneers of Griggs County. He kept a small country store and was known far and wide for his good humor and wit. He was sympathetic, helpful and jolly and consequently was very well liked.

Charles Henry Johnson was born in Milo, Maine on April 6, 1847. His father was Levi Johnson a farmer in Piscataquis County, Maine. There were ~~three~~ boys and two girls in the family. Charles was the oldest of the boys.

When the Civil War broke out he was very anxious to go. In 1864 although he was only sixteen years old and not very tall he tried to enlist but was refused. However, disappointed but undaunted, he put on his fathers big overcoat and tried again. This time he was addmitted. He seved faithfully to the end of the war and was honorably discharged in August, 1865.

After the war he served as apprentice to his uncle in order to learn the carpenters trade. I

In September 1871 he was married to Esther L. Smith at Brownville, Maine.

About this time many people were migrating west. He got the western fever as many others had. In the spring of 1876 he came west with to other men, one of whom was part owner of a large tract of Red River Valley land in the Dakota territory. They got off the train at Fargo and purchased oxen, plows, lumber and provisions. With these supplies they drove over land forty miles to Traill County. With the lumber they built a small house which served as their headquarters that summer while they broke the land.

They were six miles from their nearest neighbors and twelve miles from a Hudson Bay trading post called Caledonia. The trading post included one store, a blacksmith shop, a flour mill, saloons

and a hotel (a Black Hills to Winnepeg stage station).

1876 was the year of the Custer Massacre on the Little Big Horn in Montana. Rumors of the dreaded Sioux were spreading all over the north west.

On-e day when Justin Safford, one of the men with Mr. Johnson, was out plowing he turned around to find an Indian, carrying a gun, following him in the furrow. He dropped the plow handles and ran to the house where he found the yard and a neighboring grove of trees filled with Indians. That night the Indians had a pow-wow around there camp fire. The young men supposed it was a war dance and that there doom was close at hand. In order to keep the Indians in a good humor they gave them all of these provisions and went to the trading post for more, The next day one of the Indians stepped up to the young men, shook hands with them and said good-bye. He went away chuckling to himself because the young men had been so frightened. Later it was discovered that these were friendly Chippewa Indians from the reservation in Minnesota. They were on their way to Devils Lake to visit the Sioux.

When the breaking contract was completed Mr Johnson returned to Maine and in 1879 he brought his wife and two small daughters with him to Dakota. He bought a lot on thirteenth street in Fargo and built a small home. Fargo was growing rapidly and as a contractor and builder he was very busy. In 1882 his home was broken up by the death of his wife. The following spring he sold his Fargo property and leaving his children with his brother's family he started for Griggs County. He and two other men made the trip with a team of horses and a wagon. There was no bridge across the Cheyenne river and the water was high. The men drove up the river until they came to a place where there was a small boat. With the boat and a long rope they were able to get the horses across one at a time.

Then they pulled the wagon over. When the wagon was only about half way across it suddenly dived forward and disappeared under the water. However, the men managed to pull it out right side up.

The men went up^{to} Willow Lake and took up squatters rights ^{on} unsurveyed government land. In 1884 the land was surveyed and Mr. Johnson's claim was found to be in section ²two, township 148 north, of range 60 west. Immediately after locating his claim he built a log store and home combined, hauling the logs from Willow Lake. He hired some breaking done on his land and plowed a furrow around it to protect it from other settlers. After farming the land for a year or two himself he rented it for a year for a share of the crop. The wood they used was hauled from along the Cheyenne river. The railroad came to Cooperstown in 188³4 so he was able to get supplies for his store there. Serious trouble was often experienced in hauling the provisions. When the water was unusually high it sometimes took as many as ten or twelve horses to pull an ordinary wagon through the fords of the slews and streams.

Izra Hagerty, E.S. Hamilton and Mr Johnson were appointed by the county officials to lay out the first road from the Willow region to Cooperstown. They followed the ridges and higher ground all the way necessarily paying very little attention to section lines. There were several slews and creeks on the way with which they could do nothing but pick out the shallowest fords to be found.

When Mr Johnson came to Griggs county there were no townships. The land was laid out into sections but the sections were undivided. Mr Johnson was one of the leaders in the movement to organize the region around Willow Lake into a township, It was organized on March 15, 1887, one of the first in the county.

The small log store was replaced in a few years by a larger frame structure and soon after Mr Johnson built a frame house also. At one time the Lawrence brothers were also in Mr Johnson's store. Later they sold ~~thare~~ share to Charles Miller of Fargo. E.S. Hamilton who had a nearby claim worked in the store when he was not busy on his claim. There was a blacksmith shop, a ware house for grain, two barns, the old log store, the new store and house, a little school house and a building that was used as a cheese factory in the little group of buildings which comprised Mr Johnson's farm. The school house was a small structure which Mr Johnson built himself so that his children might go to school. School was only held during the warm months.

Through the efforts of Mr Johnson and Le Forest Connant, the cheese factory was started on Mr Johnson's farm. To this the farmers brought there milk and cream instead of taking it to Cooperstown. The cheese factory was quite a success until the people started to leave the country because of the repeated crop failures.

There were several men who used Mr Johnson's home as their headquarters living in the old log house when they weren't working on their claims and many people traveling through the country stopped at his farm over night.

Mr Johnson hired a man to haul his grain to Cooperstown for him. This man would start in the evening driving a yoke of oxen. He would arrive in town in the morning after driving all night. The next evening he would start back again. Mr Johnson bought the settlers' grain or took it in exchange for groceries. He also kept some of it in his ware house and sold it in the spring for seed.

In October, 1885 Mr Johnson married Cora E. Hagefty, the daughter of one of the other new settlers in Willow township. He brought his two daughters and they lived at Willow until 1898.

Joseph Buchheit was their nearest neighbor. ^{Ben} Then Kuhns, Herbert Safford, Izra Hagerty, Andrew Knutson, A.S. Hamilton, George Pratt, Sylvester Flick, Paul Flick, Mrs Root and Mrs Ruth were some of the people who lived near them and traded at his store.,

Around 1897 there were several crop failures in succession. Many people left Willow township. Many people too were unable to pay their debts in the store so Mr Johnson was forced to discontinue his business there and come to Cooperstown.

In Cooperstown he took up his contracting work again. He also did some work in Mayville, a town which at that time was growing very rapidly.

Finally he and Erik Erickson started a store in Cooperstown. After a time they took Berg Brothers into there firm and built the building which is now occupied by Abert Larson & Co. Then Charles Johnson sold his share to Albert Larson and ran a small furniture store. At this time he was also county judge.

On April 25, 1899 his life was brought to a sudden end by Pneumonia. He left five small children besides his wife and one married daughter.

1
Saunderstown, N. Dak.
September 25, 1890

Dear Brother Olaf,

I will send you a few lines as an answer to the letter I received from you a few days ago. Glad to hear that you are well and feeling fine. We are all well and working hard.

We got through with the thrashing Friday. It was a German that done the thrashing for us.

His name was Ed Zimprich. We did not get as good a crop as we expected. We expected to get 400 bushels of wheat but we didn't get more than 350; 390 bushels of oats, and 115 of barley. They were going to furnish everything, but they didn't have any Cook Car, so we had to give them the board; which they got for 20¢ a meal. They had three meals a day. They were thrashing for 10, 7, and 8 Cents per bushel.

None of the Swedes have
threshed any yet. Sundberg and
Jonas Persson didn't get a machine
as they had expected. I see

I see you are beginning
to get tired of farming. So are
we. It wouldn't be so bad if a
person wasn't owning any-
thing. If it wasn't for that a
person could manage to make
a living.

M. L. Ruggals is back to Cooper-
stown. He says he doesn't like
Washington, but likes Oregon pretty
well. *It's been a run this week. I
didn't hear how it turned out with
D. L. Ginner.

I notice by your letter that
the Indians have been coming
by the hundreds up the river.
Some have been going past
here, but not by the hundreds.
We have no river for them to follow,
probably that's why.

I have nothing more of
importance to write about so I
will close for this time.

-2-

With greetings from all
of us.

Your brother,
Eesper Johnson

P.S. Have been to town today
with a load of wheat or 18
sacks. It was twenty nine
bushels and he docked 7 pounds
on the bushel. I sold it to
Cooper.

Note;

This letter is written by
Eesper Johnson of Popperston,
North Dakota, to Olaf Johnson
who, at that time was farming
in Washington.

Cooperstown N. Dakota
September 25th 1890

Dear Brother Alof

Jag får nu senda dig några
rader och säga tack för ditt tjusamma brev
som jag fick en vecka sedan.

Bekom. här jag ser att du är
frisk och Mår gät efvoni vi är friska.

Vi blef nu i går ferdig med
bräskingen. det var en tysk som tröskade
för oss han heter Ed. Simprie's. Vi har
nag miss reknat oss för vi fick ej så
mycket som vi trode. Vi beräknade
vi skulle hava fått en 400 Bushel Vete
men vi fick ej mer en 350 bushels
och 340 bushels Oats, och 115 bushels Barley
så det blef meg ej så mycket som vi
trode vi skulle hava fått. De skulle hika
all ting men så hade de ingen
Bording Car så fick de borden haka oss
för 20 cents målet och de åt 3 ganger
hos oss. och vi skulle Betala den 10 och
7 och 8 cents pr bushel.

ingen utaf Svenskarna har

tröskat enn. Det blef ej något
för Sundberg och Jonas Persson
att de fick någon Tröskmaskin.

Jag ser att du börjar att
tröttna med farmingen och vi börjar
börjar också att tröttna men det
finns nog här om man ej vore
skyldig då tycker jag att vi skulle
hava nog till bfringen men när man
är skyldig för all man har då gör det Bakåll.

M. L. Ruggals har nu kommit
till Coopers town igen han säger att
han likar ej Washington men Oregon likar
han ganska bra. Det har nu denna vecka
ting om H. Fanner och det är någ
enär men jag har ej hört hvad det
skall bliva med honom eller jag tycker
att de ej nu veta det.

Jag ser i det bref att Indianerna
kommer i hundra Talls up efter revern.
Her har även varit några tim i
som är men ej till hundra talls
för de hava ej någon reverb till att
vara efter her förbi.

Jag har ej något vidare att omtala
för denna gång utan många 12 gata
helsningar från oss alla.

Teknad din Bröder
 Cooper Johnson

P.S.

Jag har i dag varit in med ett
 lass vete eller 18 skälar och det vog
 29 bush. När han hade datat han —
 datade 7 lbs pr bushel. Jag sålde det
 till Cooper.

~~This~~ ^{letter} Swedish translation
 of
 the same letter.
 is translated as follows:

Name Rudolph Johnson
Subject History II. Biography of Mary Brostein
Date June 2 1926
Teacher Mrs. Porter
Standing _____

Mrs. Johnson

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School

Cooperstown, N. D.

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

Story of Frances

The parents of the princess were Rachel and Francis Brewster.

The name of the princess is Mary Brewster. She was born June 16, 1870. The place where she was born

is Staranger Norway. The name town was Sandness.

The princess left for the U.S.

because her two brothers were going there, and she thought that there was more work to get there. One of her brothers

had been in U.S. for ten years. He came home and told

about the U.S. and the princess thought that it would be better

to go when the others left and

for the high wages for the work

in the United States. The pioneer left for North Dakota because her brother had land there.

It was not much of storms on the Ocean because they were on deck every day. There were sickness on the boat so all that ^{had} not been vaccinated, had to be when they went on the boat. Some had smallpox on the boat and one died of it.

The pioneer left Stavanger Norway March 25th and came to Cooperstown North Dakota April 12th. The first summer the pioneer kept house for her brother.

One summer the pioneer worked on a large farm, she

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had to get up at 4 A.M. and work
until 10 P.M. in the evening. She
worked for three dollars a week
and when she was through,
she did not get her pay. She had
to go and collect the money. In
the winter she worked for
one dollar and fifty cents a week.
One place she had to work
for two dollars a week and
mile could besides doing
the house work.
They went to meetings and
ladies aid in a lumber
wagon with Owen. There was
full house at the meetings
and ladies aid. They were always
on time. One time the piano
went to a meeting with a

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horse and Cart. It began snowing, so they wanted her to stay. She wanted to go back again. It was a hard snow storm, so it was all she could see the road. They were surprised to see her coming back because they thought she would not go out in a storm like that.

The pioneer was married to Andrew Johnson, March 25, 1905. Her husband owned a half section of land in Steele County, North Dakota. They were married at the home of the pioneer's brother in Griggs County North Dakota.

The pioneer has three sons now living. They are Rudolph, Arthur and Edward. They are all living at

has
stil

home on the farm. The pioneer is
still living on the same farm.

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