

Biography of Peter Idsvang
Capt. Com. J. Johnson

Peter Idsvang 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 Idsvang'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, ^{and the} first minister was O. St. Krume.
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. Idsvong contested on a
homestead in Romness township.
Beginning with three oxen 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 ~~and~~ and the following year
a new house was built.

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

transportation ³/₄ 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 Binford 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