

Name _____

Subject Bew Johnson. (Biography)

Date _____

Teacher _____

Standing _____

Examination Booklet

Cooperstown High School

Cooperstown, N. D.

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.

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It was situated near the Sheshaone river.

The 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 barn was made of sod 10 x 24.

The neighbors they had were Armond O'Heim, John O'Qualey, and Doc 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 the 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 50¢ a bushel. The crops were also good at first, but it became so dry and the grasshoppers 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

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

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

Ben Johnson married ^{Gurina (Midatoka)} Gurina ^{Midatoka} Jan. 2, 1900 at Sharon N. Dak he had 7 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 Coopertown, N. Dak., $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from Sheyenne river in section 12, Woodburn Township

Lora Johnson
Pioneer Life