

Pioneer experiences of Mrs. Omand Ashland,
Bald Hill, W. Va.

Born Apliana Bull, Dec 27, 1872 in Stavanger
(city); Norway. Her father was a tanner and operated
a small store in Stavanger. Times were hard in Norway
so in 1880 the family decided to go to America.
There were Mr and Mrs. Jens Bull and five
children. They came on the ship Tingvalla of the
Danish-American Line. The sisters of Mrs. Jens
Bull (Mrs. Sven Lunde and Mrs. Ole Stokka) and
a brother, Ole Westley, had settled in Briggs Co.
in 1881. The Jens Bull family settled in
St. Paul and in 1882 came to Briggs County.
and took a homestead north east of the present
T. Fuglestad homestead. I think the first school I
attended was the Ballatin school. when I was
ten years old my mother died.

When I was 14 years old I read for the minister
and had to walk ten miles to Rev. Nesheim's for
in 40° below weather. Usually I stayed with my
aunt, Mrs. Sven Lunde, over night. I wore four pairs
of homeknit socks but no shoes or rubbers on
those cold trips. The Sven Lunde had a small
lamp and one gallon of kerosene lasted them a
whole winter. The settlers made their own
candles. I remember we children helped to put the
cords in the candles at Aunt Lunde's.

At age of 17 I married Omand Ashland.
Ashland (later spelled Ashland) and at 18 years of
age I was a mother. We moved to the homestead
north of present Peder Larson home but as there
was no water to be gotten on this land
sold the homestead and purchased land
west of the T. Fuglestad homestead. The first
home I remember in Briggs County was a
rod house with no floor. Although times were
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west of the T. Fuglestad homestead. (The first
home I remember in Briggs County was a
rod house with no floor. Although times
hard, weather was dry and crops were poor
we always had enough of common food
to eat. When my folks came from St. Paul we
stayed with the Sven Lunde family for a
while. When the T. Fuglestad came in 1883
he stayed a while with the Andrew Aarstad
family. The settlers went down to the Sheyenne
River to gather wood. It was green and
damp so we dried it in the oven. Many
were scared that the Indians were coming
on a war path but the only ones I saw were
families of Indians traveling on the
Fort Totten Road.)
When we first came to Briggs County we

were so friendly. when a neighbor butchered we could be assured of getting a piece of meat.

As I remember the first minister was Rev. J. L. Lundebly who preached ~~first~~ in the homes and later in the schoolhouses. Rev. Lundebly was a traveling missionary and did not come very often. men of the community as Andrew Watne and Ola Westby would pray at our services and preach the gospel. The next minister I remember was Rev. Resheim. The first church built by our congregation was the Wesley church. Our church service were much like those in Norway. we used the Lundsdaags Psalmbook; men sat on one side of ^{the} church and the women on the other; we had a "klokkare" (deacon) as in the old country. The "klokkare", a good leader in singing, led the singing, read the first and last prayer and announced the hymns we should sing. I remember that Ola Westby was a "Klokkare" (his father had been a "klokkare" I believe, Ola Ole Stokka, too, was a "klokkare" in Norway). Stokka and Andrew Watne had been parochial school teachers in Norway, as I remember Ole Stokka started a parochial school in the early days. School was held in someone's house. Social times were held by organizing a singing class in our community (sang hymns). The singing class, both old & young met at different homes. One time when they ~~met~~ ^{had a meeting} at Elling (Johnson) Froiland a blizzard came up and everyone had to stay there for three days. There was so little room and so little food that they had to take turns

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The sod house (inside) was walled with mortar and whitewashed. We had sod barns; also sod cellars. We put our cans of milk down (hanging) in the well.

I remember my brother worked in the Whidden store in Cooperstown but Knute Thompson's was the first store there. When neighbors needed help as building a house, cutting grain in a hurry, we

3) when the weather was dry or other hardship came the whole community gathered to pray for rain or other blessings. we had many prayer meetings.

The games, as I remember, were "Ball in Hat", "Last Couple Out" and "Baseball".

The Affold's Forening (Temperance Society) was started by Andrew Vatne as was the Tobacco Society.

4th. Mrs. Ole Stokka, the midwife in the early days in Briggs, often had to leave her own babies in the dead of night to help bring a child into the world. If she was paid her charge was three dollars, but often she received no remuneration. In many cases she was called to the homes of Yankees - she could not understand English and neither could they understand the Norwegian language.

My husband and I had a party open to our first ~~years~~ years in Briggs. After after blizzards the men got into the bar by going down through the roof of the poorly built sod barns.

Our children are Arnold, St. Paul; Dorothy (Mrs. Ludwig Lehr), McHenry; Jens, ~~on~~ on home place, north of Hannaford; Oscar, Hannaford; Albert and Roy, Cooperstown; Henry & Walter, Oregon.

Names of my sisters are Malina (Mrs. O. N. Westley), Hannaford; a half sister, Gurina (Mrs. Carl Johnson of Powers Lake, Julius, Oregon, and Jens (dead); Hans, St. Paul.