

Elijah Soule Hamilton — *Living in 1958*

By Oscar D. Purinton, Clerk and Historian of the Old Settlers Association.

Elijah Soule Hamilton, son of ~~EXXX~~ C.F. Hamilton, was born at Cape Elizabeth Depot, Maine, on May 31st 1861. He came to Griggs County in the spring of 1882. He homesteaded on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-148-60, Willow township.

During the spring of 1882 Mr. Hamilton made three trips from Sanborn, about sixty miles, on foot, having on several occasions to take off his clothes and wade the streams in which the ice was flowing. Nearly the whole of the level part of the country was covered with water that spring. When he came through Fargo the water in the Sheyenne River was within a few feet of the railroad bridge. He saw all kinds of small building, and some small houses floating down stream or lodged against the bridge.

He built a sod house on his homestead, and hauled lumber from Sanborn to put a roof on it. He paid \$8 per day for a team to haul this lumber. He paid \$16 for thirty bushels of oats, and ten dollars to have them hauled to his claim. Having a few dollars left he paid it to a man to dig a well, and got strong salt petre water.

He farmed at Willow until 1888, then sold his personal property, and entered the employ of Lawrence Bros., a firm then doing business in Cooperstown. He went east in 1889 but returned in the fall, and entered the employ of William Glass, then in the real estate business in Cooperstown.

On Feb. 19, 1892 he was married to Miss Cora Ella Hagerty of Chatfield, Minn. That spring he returned to farming and continued in it for ten years. He came to Cooperstown in 1902, and in 1906 embarked in the business in which he is now engaged (1915), in the firm of Hammer and Condry Company, dealing in real estate, stock and machinery.

His family consists of his wife and one son, Millard. He lost a daughter six years ago at the age of fifteen years.

^{Logan}
E. S. Hamilton, son of C. F. Hamilton, was born at
Cape Elizabeth Dept., Maine on May 31, 1881 and
came to Grigg in the Spring of 1882 & settled
in willow, homesteading SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 2 in that
tp. During the Spring of 1882 I made
three trips to Sault Ste. Marie, about 60 miles,
on foot having on several occasions to
take off my clothes & wade the streams
which were flowing with ice. Nearly the
whole of the level part of the country being
covered with water that Spring. When I
came thru Fargo the water in the Red
River was within a few feet of the bridge,
& I saw all kinds of small buildings
floating down stream. I built a sod house on my
homestead and hauled lumber from Sault Ste. Marie
to put a roof on it, paying eight dollars
per day for a team to haul it. I paid
\$16 for 30 bu. of oats & \$10 to have them
hauled to my claim. Having a few
dollars left I paid it to a man to dig a well
& got strong salt peter water. I farmed at
willow until 1888, then sold my personal
property and entered the employ of
Lawrence Bros., who were then doing
business in Coopers town. I went east the
last part of 1889 but returned in the
fall and entered the

employ of Wm. Glass who was in
the real estate business in Cooperstown

On Feb 1892 I was married to Miss
Cornelia Hagerty of Chatfield, Minn.
and that spring returned to
farming I continued it for 10
yrs. I came to Cooperstown in 1902

and in 1906 entered the business
of which I am now engaged
(1915) of Hammer Condy Co.
dealing in farm machinery &
stock my family consists of
my wife & one son, Willard. We
lost a daughter six years ago
who would now (1915) have
been 27 years old.

Carl Oscar Greenlund (Swede) when coming to Augap
in 1881. Born July 18, 1873 at Landerholm, Minn.
married in 1902 to Bertha Lee and settled on
a homestead in Wilcox later moving to Buffalo,
with wife & six daughters lived at Buffalo, Minn.
first met. Bertha 1902.

Copy

Kimball ^{Main}
June 23/57

Dear Friend Molley,

Dear Friends, Old Settlers and New Settlers,
I just wanted to say that I certainly will be with you in the spirit, if not in person as I certainly (can) be classed as one Old Settler. Yes, I was there one year before there was any Cooperstown. Made it on foot, took a squatter's right claim in N.E. corner of Red Willow Township, and saw and came in conflict with them (hardships) One near Balled Creek where John Mills lost all his buildings except his house, with 70 feet of plowed fireguard. I also took in many of those M.D. Blizzards. Mr. Neighbor (H.B. Sotter) made a practice, after hauling off our own little wheat crop (36 miles from Cooper to our place) to go out one day, get a load from some of our many neighbors that had no team, the next day take it to Cooperstown, leave at 4-A.M., get back at about 9 or 10 P.M., and we got the enormous scale of 6 cents per bushel (glad to do it)

I with big team of mules hauled 60 and he 50. Once a blizzard caught us out about 10 miles we were obliged to go back, made the trip two days later. You can not probably realize what it was like.

Then again seven of us were string along together. When we got to the turn on the Detwiler Hill, the 5 behind went by, said we were going to slow and Mr. S. and I were the only ones that got home that night about 1 A.M. One man drove his horses around and around his sled all night. One dug into a haystack, but they all suffered more or less from the cold.

Hamilton letter - continued.

My good neighbor's wife had a light in the window (that) we could (see), and an oven full of baked beans.

But I put in 42 years of as happy married life as I am sure it was possible to enjoy.

So, the many pleasant times I have to think about now, I just forget the hardships and losses, and praise the Lord every (day) for the blessings I do enjoy, and I still have a very warm place in my heart for N.D.

So sorry I could not be with you.

Am still able to care for myself, with a strict dietetic chart and much vitamins

Very Sincerely

That real old settler

E. S. Hamilton

Dear friend Mollie

I certainly enjoyed bringing your mother a gallon of milk every day, and how is your sister. Now, since Mr. Dyson has left Cooper I seldom hear from Cooperstown,
The old friend
E. S. H.