

Biography of Jonas Person

The names of the pioneer's parents were Per Honson and his wife Colin.

The pioneer's name was Honas Person. In this country a person would take his father's first name and add "son" to it for his last name which accounts for Pioneer's name being different from his father's.

Jonas Person was born in Sweden, June 11, 1831. His closest town was Ostersund. In 1862 he was married to Karin Mattson.

In 1888 Jonas Person decided to come to America because of hard times in Sweden and because he already had three children in America. As his children had settled in North Dakota he came to this state.

The voyage to this country was quite peaceful except for kind of stormy weather on the North Sea. The trip over took sixteen days.

Jonas Person and his family landed in Philadelphia the 29th of June 1888 from where they traveled by train to Cooperstown which was at that time the end of the train line. Here they were met by some relatives in a wagon hooked behind a pair of oxen. They were first taken in a sod shanty where they stayed for a while.

Jonas Person first found employment at the Cooper ranch after which he worked on the railroad for a while.

He bought a homestead for \$25.00, a half section which had been filed but not proved up. It was located about eight miles from Cooperstown.

On this place there was a shanty whose lumber had been hauled from Mayville being built before Cooperstown.

The provisions were gotten by an ox team from Cooperstown.

The names of some of the nearest neighbors were, Dalbones, Persons, and Dahlin.

At that time horses were not much in use and Honas Person had mostly oxen. The farm machinery was not so very much different. In place of a drill, a seeder was used and for hay racks only one horse was used instead of two.

The crops mostly used were wheat, flax, and potatoes, and these were put on braking, so there was quite a yield.

One of the enemies which had to be watched in the fall was prairie fires. One year a fire came which burned up many places. Jonas Person saved his place by plowing around it in a hurry. The fire, however, jumped the plowing and had to be put out by beating it with sacks.

The children of Jonas Person were, Jonas Skanse, Olaf Skanse, Pete Skanse, Mat Skanse, Mrs. Colin Ringval, and Mrs. Watne. Of these Mat Skanse is dead. The name Person was changed to Skanse because there were

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Biography of Jonas Person
--Jerry Watne

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On this place there was a shanty whose lumber had been hauled from Mayville which was built before Cooperstown. The provisions were secured from Cooperstown, an ox team being used to drive into town.

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