

## **Humboldt County, Iowa** p. 69

Andreas Gullicksen from Vardal at Gjøvik and Christian Rossing from Lands parish were the first Norwegian settlers in this county. They came from Wiota, Wis. and settled at Bode in 1865. Later in the year came Christian and Ole Gullicksen from Vardal and Peder Williamsen from Hallingdal. Wheat and oats were the new settlers main source of income. It was 30 miles to the nearest marketplace, Ft. Dodge.

The Norwegian settlement at Thor and Eagle Grove was founded in the 70s. The first settlers there were Ole Tang from Stavanger, O. W. Willickson, E. Tennesen, O. Sheldos, Lewis Olsen, Stewart Olsen, J. Opheim, N. M. Johnson, N. S. Johnson, Ole Espe, Elling Johnson and Lewis Waage, all from Hardanger, O. Halgrims and H. T. Thompson from Hallingdal, E. Korslund from Eidsvold, E., A. E. and H. E. Gangestad from Skjeberg as well as J. Bjøndal and Hans Thompson from Hadeland.

The last mentioned tells a bit about the new settler's unpleasant life, "With two pair of oxen and an old wagon, we went from Wisconsin to Iowa in the spring of 1869. Poor roads, sloughs, unbridged rivers, mosquitoes and flies made the trip ugly. We came to Ft. Dodge the 11th June, the same day the first passenger train came to town. After having worked for the railroad company through the summer, I went out into the wilderness and took a homestead.

The roof over the dugout, that we had to dig out in all haste since winter had already come, showed itself to not be good enough. Often there was a pile of snow on floor and bed. In the coldest nights we had to keep a fire in the stove steadily so we would not freeze to death, and we had nothing else but hay to burn. My wife watched the stove while I slept and when she slept it was I who stood watch." - Thompson was one of those that came to America at the time that emigrants were shipped from Quebec to Chicago in boxcars - with only planks to sit on. These men experienced a bit of everything.

Badger Congregation, that was established in 1869 by Pastor N. Amlund, was the first Norwegian congregation in the county. There are now 10 congregations and 10 churches, 6 belonging to The United Church, 3 to The Norwegian Synod and 1 to Hauge's Synod.

Christian Gullixsen, who was elected Sheriff in 1877, was the first Norwegian to hold public office here.

E. K. Winne, who was elected State Senator in 1900 is Norwegian, writes Col. Halgrims. But Capt. Rossing writes that no Norwegian in Humboldt Co. has been elected to the State legislature yet. The two of them can fight about that!

Auth. The Lutheran High School was started in 1887, Humboldt College in 1895.

Place names of Norwegian origin; Thor, Renwick, Ottosen, Rutland, Nora and Norway.

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