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The area along the Red river, the county's eastern part, was settled first. And two Hallinger, Halvor Hansen and Halvor Bentru were the first settlers. They settled in the area of Whynot in 1872. Next after them came A. Thorkelsen, K. Lagesen and K. Jørgensen (Bentru) as well as J. N. Løiland and T. N. Løiland from Sætersdalen and K. Rue from Hallingdal.

The first to settle in Grand Forks was H. Tharaldsen from Sætersdalen, he came there in 1874.

The same year (1874) there came a group of 8 Norwegian families by oxcart from the region of Northwood, Ia. and settled at Goose River, in the area where the City of Northwood now lies. (Northwood, N. D. is named after Northwood, Iowa) The names of the family heads in the aforementioned group: Ole Arneson Trageton, Halvor Olsen Solem, Iver Tomassen Søndreaal, Paul Tomassen Søndreaal, Thomas Torstensen Raaen and Lars Johannesen Mørk, all from Aal, Hallingdal, Nils Korsmo from Solør and Halvor Berg, from whom Newberg (Nyberg) Town got its name, he was also the place's first postmaster and merchant.

Thomas, the son of Paul and Helga Søndreaal, was the first white child born in Goose River.

Next after the abovementioned families was Paul C. Johnson, Andrew R. Bakken, Ole Haralsen, Ole Clementsen, Halvor T. Bjerke, Gilbert Halvorsen, Anders A. Onsager, Anton T. Gilbertsen, Ole O. Tronsgaard, Angus J. Røset, Martin O. Grefshune, Ole T. Grønlie, P. O. Mandt, Ole Ellingsen Nyhus, Erik O. Vange, Narve Narvesen, Nils J. Benkestuen, Nick Eddie, Ole Sandvik, O. T. Jøssendal and C. J. Ovind.

Another settler who should be mentioned here is P. L. Peterson, in the area of Pilot. In the first time he lived here, it was 16 miles to his nearest neighbour. He settled there in 1878. His parents came from Hardanger.

In the first time they had to take their wheat to Fargo. There was no nearer market.

My correspondent at Reynolds mentions the smallpox epidemic that raged here in 1878. This was a time of distress for the new settlers. That they were far apart and that they were poor, speaks for itself. But the page has turned.

The Red River Valley is now thick with Norwegians, and also owns the world's largest elevator. To say that they as well as the area in which they live in, is looked to by the wheat buyers, is perhaps redundant.

There are 26 Norwegian congregations and 21 churches in Grand Forks County, 11 of them belonging to The United Church, 5 to The Norwegian Synod, 3 to Hauge's Synod, 3 to The Methodist Church, 2 to The Lutheran Free Church and 2 to The Baptist Church.

Tellef Grundbyson was the first Norwegian to hold public office in the county. He was elected County Commissioner in 1879.

Nels Tandberg, Ole T. Gronli and Arne P. Haugen represented Grand Forks County in the State of North Dakota's first Legislature. See the section, 'Norwegians in official positions in America' where these and many others are mentioned.

For information about 'Nordstjernen', 'Nordlyset', 'Grand Forks Tidende', 'Normanden' and 'Fjerde Juli', see the section, 'Norwegian-American newspapers and periodicals'.

For information about the Deaconess Hospitals in Grand Forks and Northwood, see the section, 'Norwegian-American Charitable Institutions' and for Grand Forks College see, Teaching Institutions.

Places with Norwegian names in Grand Forks County; Bentru, Bjørn, Dahl, Newburg and Walle.

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