

Kingsbury County, South Dakota *p. 148*

The first Norwegian settler in this county was J. O. Alseth from Biri. He came from Yankton County and settled in the area of Lake Preston on the 18th May, 1878. Next after him came Tore Toresen and T. T. Omdalen from Nummedal, Chris Foss (now in Minneapolis) from Skien, J. K. Hetland, And. Hetland, J. A. Jacobsen and Thom Jacobsen all from Egersund, as well as S. Pedersen and Ben Løken. Next after them came Hans Røysum, J. Røysum, Iver Fjerstad and H. Thomson, all from Sogn, Kittel Torstensen from Nummedal, John Hansen and K. G. Knudsen from Telemarken, S. B. Bergesen from Kongsvinger, J. G. Bergh from Gudbrandsdalen, Hans Johnson and H. Jacobsen from Hadeland, T. K. Braaten, H. K. Braaten, Ole Iversen, J. T. Høyme, H. R. Fedt and R. R. Fedt, all from Valdres, as well as J. Gilbertsen whose birthplace is unknown to the author. They spread out over a large area. Wheat and oats were the county's main sources of income. Their farm products, they had to take by oxen all the way to Sioux Falls, the nearest railway station, it was between 70 and 80 miles there.

An old pioneer woman gives the young family an account of the manner in which she came to America. She says, "I left from Bergen, alone with five small children. We were 32 days on the trip. There were fierce storms on both the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean and with this bad weather came sickness. And then the treatmen aboard! It was too terrible to be able to describe. When we landed in Quebec, I took the youngest on my back and the next youngest by the hand while the others followed and called 'Mother, Mother!'"

St. Peter's Lutheran congregation and a Baptist congregation that were established in 1882, the first in De Smet and the other in Oldham, were the first Norwegian congregations in the county. There are now 10 Norwegian congregations and 8 churches, 7 of them belonging to The United Church, 2 to Hauge's Synod and 1 to the Baptist Church.

For information about the political arena, se the section 'Norwegians in public positions in America.

Norwegian place names in Kingsbury County: Hetland and Nordland.

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