

Claimant For State Farm Here

After a lapse of fifteen years during which time no one has ever appeared to lay claim to the title of the state farm one mile south of Sutton which is occupied by Chas. Hafner and family, a man has come here to try to prove that he is the rightful heir to the property. This man is Harry Goodman, a buttermaker of Lastrup Minnesota, a nephew of George Goodman, owner of the estate, who lived on it till his death fifteen years ago.

Harry Goodman learned of the place and the conditions under which it was held by the state of North Dakota through Roy Wagoner, with whom he has been acquainted several years. With the purpose of trying to establish his claim as the rightful heir he came here Wednesday and interviewed some of the old settlers who knew the other Mr. Goodman. From here he went to McHenry and Cooperstown on the same mission.

The story of George Goodman as we have heard it is about as follows: he was born in Pennsylvania but ran away from home when very young. In later years he reached Iowa, and from there came to North Dakota, probably when this part of the state was first being settled. He was a bachelor and of a rather quiet turn, no one ever learning from him anything concerning his past or his family. The information about his early life was obtained from the man who was here this week. He was killed the fall 1908 in attempting to throw the drive belt of a threshing rig while the machinery was going at full speed. Nothing being found among his personal belongings to show whether he had any relatives or heirs the place reverted to the state in due time to be held in trust in case any contingency such as that at present should ever arise.

Harry Goodman expects to find it hard to establish a valid claim for the farm in the absence of much connecting evidence that would prove his relationship to the deceased although there may be no question whatever that he is the rightful heir.