

Lars
NILS ULVEN: THE FIRST DEATH AMONG THE SETTLERS

The first death known to have occurred among the pioneers in Griggs County was that of Nils Ulven who was a victim of severe weather in the winter of 1881. Mr. Ulven had a claim up the Sheyenne River and during the summer, fall, and winter, he was employed in the Goose River Settlement, where he could earn some money. Mr. Ulven left Goose River one day in the winter of 1881, heading in a westerly direction, undertaking to walk the twenty miles to his claim, and then to Hope, N. Dak. where he hoped to secure a school, as he was a teacher by profession. As there were no roads to guide him, he lost his bearings and wandered that day and that night and part of the next day before he finally landed at the home of Ole Skren, in what is now Washburn Township. Mr. Ulven was completely exhausted: his feet were frozen, and he was in a delirious condition. Mortification set in and since no doctor was available in the pioneer days, he died despite all the Ole Skren family could do. Mr. Ulven was the first pioneer to be buried in a Griggs County cemetery (what was known then as the Opheim cemetery on the homestead of Omund Nelson Opheim $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of the Ueland Dam on the Sheyenne River. The Opheim homestead (and cemetery) is located 5 miles east and 3 miles northeast of Cooperstown.

Nils Ulven was born in Voss, Norway, and was 30 years old when he died from exposure. At the time of his death, his parents lived in Norway.

Bibliography:

Ole Skren, Ulven, Minnesota
at whose home he died.

John Hagenon, pioneer of Remess Township
Cooperstown, North Dakota

LARS NILS ULVIEN, the first death in GRIGGS COUNTY

(Additional data)

" ^{Quoted.} The first snow in the winter of 1881 came shortly after the New Year, and a bad blizzard followed it. There was a good path leading from the Goose River Settlement to the Omund Opheim home, but Lars Ulven became lost in the storm while coming from the Goose River vicinity. He was lost two days and a night.

After the storm had abated, Oliver Lobben, living one mile south of Opheim's saw Mr. Ulven on the hill. Mr. Lobben took him to his shanty upon finding his feet were frozen. Shortly afterwards, he was moved to the Ole Skrein home. As there were no doctors or nurses in those days, the neighbors would take turns to change the rags on his feet. His feet swelled, mortification set in and the man was delirious and suffered terribly. He lived several weeks before he died. With a few rough boards they made a coffin for him and placed it in the shanty of A.A. Fluto. Shortly afterwards he was buried in the Omund Nelson Opheim land which became the first cemetery in Griggs County.

Bibliography: Christopher Bolkan, pioneer since April 1880. Cooperstown, N. Dakota