

Name Ethel Danielson

Subject History

Date May 20.

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Standing B

# Cooperstown High School

## Examination Booklet

NO. 8 EIGHT PAGE

W. M. WELCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 1516 ORLEANS STREET, CHICAGO

## Life of a Pioneer

John Danielson was born in Naes, Norway July 21, 1868. His Parents were Daniel and Marger Rank. He left Norway in April 1891. He left Norway because there was no prospect for the future there. He came to North Dakota because he had relatives living there. In reaching his destination he traveled by ship from Oslo to New York. Here he boarded a train to Dakota. He got off the train feeling lost<sup>or</sup> there was no one there to meet him, and he did not know where he was to sleep that night. At last he decided to walk down town and make the best of the situation.

He made inquiries if there was any one there that were traveling South that afternoon, as he was anxious to get to his sister's place who lived about 35 mi South of Lakota. Yes, there was someone going, What in? Why in a large wagon with a team of oxen. They started off across the rough country, not a very pleasant ride compared with today. He got a ride as far as the Shyenne River, by this time darkness had settled over the country. He had decided to walk the rest of the way, but looking around he saw a light in <sup>a small</sup> the window. He then made up his mind he would go by

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there and rest. He walked  
slowly up to the door and  
knocked. The door was opened  
by a rather young man, a  
woman was busy around the  
fire getting supper. In a  
glance he took in the content  
of the room. There was no  
floor only black earth. A  
home made table, and two  
chairs, and a cupboard  
was the furniture. The  
room was lighted by a  
small lamp. He was asked  
in, saying supper was  
soon ready, and that they  
wanted wanted him to eat  
supper with them, so they  
all sat down for supper.  
A conversation was started  
telling about the life in  
Norway, of course they had

introduced each other by  
this time. Mr Opoion was  
the owner of the little log  
Cabin, and the newcomer we  
already know.

Miss Opoion now expressed  
herself about not having enough  
to eat, but that he would  
have to try and make the  
best of the meal. The supper  
consisted of salt pork, potatoes  
and coarse bread.

During the meal Mrs  
Opoion asked where he  
planned on going. He said  
he was anxious to get  
to his sister's place,  
Mrs H. M. Hanson. Now  
what do you suppose?  
Mrs Opoion was his brother  
in-law's cousin. Mrs  
Opoion asked him to stay

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over night. He accepted,  
but early the next morning  
he started out to his sister's  
Place.

He reached his sister's  
Place about noon, and  
there was a glad reunion  
between brother and sister.  
His sister lived in a  
dug out. He made his home  
there for the first two  
years, then he decided to  
to begin farming. He bought  
land in Forde township  
Section 17, Range 1.61.

Well, he started farming,  
one of the most difficult  
part of the farming was how  
to get his grain to market.  
He usually took his grain  
to Tahota, a distance of

about thirty miles. In  
winter there would come  
up the most terrible snow  
storm, and they would have  
to stay in town over night.  
They would worry about their  
wife and children at home  
if they would have enough  
fuel to keep them warm until  
they returned. Then on their  
return they would find  
their houses snowed in.

The snow would be nearly  
level with the house top.

Prairie fires would often  
times sweep across the country  
endangering fields and houses.

The farmers would plow around  
the fire so it could not  
break through.

The machinery was very

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different than that of today  
They had a walking Plow  
with a team of oxen.  
Only one furrow at a time  
could be plowed at one time  
Seeding was done by hand.  
so they did not have such  
large fields as they have  
now. A scythe with a  
long small narrow wheel  
was drawn along the field.  
and men would bind the  
wheat, a very slow  
process. Next came the  
process of threshing. They used  
the horse power. It took  
a long time to thresh  
and many times it would  
be snow on the ground  
before they had finished  
The nearest neighbor



were: Mr J. Murby, Mr M.  
Dehr, Mrs J Heronud,  
and Mr. W. Breckamer.

The fuel at this time  
was gotten from the woods.  
They would take the heavy  
Wagons and team of oxen,  
go down to the river, and  
Chop up a load of wood.

The schools were small  
and poorly equipped. The  
first teacher <sup>were</sup> was Maggie  
Nelson, Severt from and  
Mr Bureson.

At this time there were  
no services churches. services were  
held in the homes. The ministers were  
Lundby, and Sveningson. Rev Foodthvedt  
Organized the congregation.

John Danielson married Oline  
Dahler 1898 at Lakota. He is still living.  
His address is Pekin Mo. Dak.