

First Trip To Nobles County—1874

children. He wanted to get out of the country. Dad liked Mr. Daugherty and he also liked the land, so next morning, bright and early he walked over to see Mr. Mason.

Mason's sod house and barn was on a little rise of ground near a small slough about one half mile west of the Daugherty place. Mason had filed on this claim at the land office in Worthington. He wanted to sell his relinquishment, or the right to prove up on the land for \$240.00. Dad liked the land and the location evidently, for he made a dicker with Joe and paid him the money in gold. We have no record of whether the man who came with him this far, went on to Dakota Territory, or turned back.

His quest for land settled, Dad started back to Faribault and his family. I like to envision his trip back across the rolling prairie. There were few brigades, and some places the horses would have to swim when crossing the streams. All the trails followed the higher ground, and avoided the lower land and sloughs as much as possible. It was a beautiful country, and since has proven to be one of the richest farming sections of Minnesota.

He spent the rest of the year of 1874 with his family in Faribault. It would seem that he did considerable work in the woods with his team. Dad wasn't fussy. He could and would do most anything.

Both father's and Mother's parents lived in Faribault. It must have been a rather sad parting the next spring when they left for their claim in Nobles County. The nearest town to their claim was Worthington, 12 miles away. They might have shipped their stuff by rail, for the railroad had been completed through their four years previously. They had no money to pay out for freight though. They were not alone in this however, as most everybody was in the same fix. Ox team and wagon was the cheapest way of traveling.

So in the spring of 1875 Dad came out to the claim to make a home for the family. Ma and the three children were to come later by train. The little furniture they had, a few farm tools, and their cloths and bedding, probably constituted most of the load. No doubt he brought some garden seed, wheat, oats and corn.

It was about one hundred fifty miles across the country to their new home. It likely took him the better part of two weeks to make the trip. Oxen were not noted for their fast stepping. He camped along the trail, but would occasionally stop near some