

## [A Pioneer Story]

TITLE - A PIONEER STORY

NAME - FRANCES SJUGGERUD

AGE - SIXTEEN

SCHOOL - HOLMEN HIGH SCHOOL

ADDRESS - HOLMEN, WISCONSIN

SIGNATURES

Mildred Holter

Thomas Johnson

AV

A Pioneer Story

Agnethe Fixe was bor October 29, 1863 i Gulbeunsdahn, Norway. She was the oldest of a very poor family of five girls and one boy. Her mother was very strict with her, and she was punished for every little wrong done. One accident of which she told as about was when she was a child of eight. Her mother had washed her stockings, and she had Agnethe hang them by the fireplace. One of the smaller children pushed one of the stockings into the blazing fire. Agnethe's mother made her sit and knit the mate to the other stocking before she let her go to bed. I think a child at that age would not be depended upon so much now days. I think this was a very harsh way to treat a child.

## Library of Congress

At this day and age this lady is our neighbor lady. She is tall, stout, strong, fleshy, and a healthy woman.

She never attended any American school, but was taught to read Norse at home. She was made or taught to read the Bible every day. She was confirmed in one of the Lutheran churches in Norway at the age of sixteen.

She started to work out at the age of fifteen for the clothes she needed and three dollars (\$3) per year. We think this a very small sum, but in Norway at that time they didn't need much spending money. As the prices were very low. It was 2 or 3 cents for a yard of material which we pay 50 to 75 cents for now. Ten to fifteen cents for a sack of clothes and five dollars a year, she thought this was good pay for her labor. The working girls had to work very hard in those days. She was the main person at the place she worked. She did the cooking, cleaning, and clothes washing.

She lived in the land of the midnight sun. As she said, "In the summer she'd sit and sew until after twelve at night by the light of the midnight sun."

In 1884 she came to La Crosse County with her family. She became very sick on the ship. Traveled on sea for two weeks, she didn't eat for three days on account of her illness, so she felt rather weak and tired when she landed.

They settled in the northern part of the country. She began working for a family by the name of John Thompson. And in the year of 1885 became the wife of John Thompson's son Oluf.

After she was married they settled up in Long Coulee. They lived on a large farm four miles northeast of Holmen. She worked very hard all the while she lived on this farm for about 3 twenty years. She had eight children; six boys and two girls. They adopted a girl by the name of Margaret Lee. All her children are married and have children; she has

## Library of Congress

twenty-two grandchildren. She lost one of her sons and daughter-in-law in 1922 who left one little daughter at the age of one who is now in her care.

Mrs. Oluf Thompson has been our next door neighbor lady for twelve years. She has always been strong and healthy and has made use of her strength by helping the neighbors and friends in need.

These last twelve years she has lived on a seventeen acre farm which is kept very good by Mr. and Mrs. Oluf Thompson at their age it is quite a bit work on a farm.

She's been healthy up to one year ago last summer her health is failing and she is unable to keep things going as she used to. She's letting hard work alone now, and does the necessary house work. [?]

Title: A Pioneer Story.

Name: Frances Sjuggerud

Age: 16 years.

School: Holmen High School

Address: Holmen, Wisconsin

Signatures: Mildred Holter Thomas Johnson

Agnethe Fixen was born October 29, 1863 in Gulbeunsdahn, Norway. She was the oldest of a very poor family of five girls and one boy. Her mother was very strict with her, and she was punished for every little wrong done. One accident of which she told me about was when she was a child of eight. Her mother had washed her stockings, and she had Agnethe hang them by the fire-place. One of the smaller children pushed one of the stockings into the blazing fire. Agnethe's mother made her sit and knit the mate to

## Library of Congress

the other stocking before she let her go to bed. I think a child at that age would not be depended upon so much now days. I think this was a very harsh way to treat a child.

At this day and age this lady is our neighbor lady. She is tall, stout, strong, fleshy, and a healthy woman.

She never attended any American school, but was taught to read [norse?] at home. She was made or taught to read the Bible every day. She was confirmed in one of the Lutheran churches in Norway at the age of sixteen.

She started to work out at the age of fifteen for the clothes she needed and three dollars (\$3) per year. We think this a very small sum, but in Norway at that time they didn't need much spending money. As the prices were very low. It was 2 or 3 cents for a yard of material which we pay 50 to 75 cents for now. Ten to fifteen cents for a sack of flour and we pay [\$2.50?] a sack for now. When she was sixteen she got her clothes and five dollars a year, she thought this was good pay for her labor. The working girls had to work very hard in those days. She was the main person at the place she worked. She did the cooking, cleaning, and clothes washing.

She lived in the land of the midnight sun. As she said, "In the summer she'd sit and sew until after twelve at night by the light of the midnight sun."

In 1884 she came to La Crosse County with her family. She became very sick on the ship. Traveled on sea for two weeks, she didn't eat for three days on account of her illness, so she felt rather weak and tired when she landed.

They settled in the northern part of the country. She began working for a family by the name of John Thompson. And in the year of 1885 became the wife of John Thompson's son Oluf.

## Library of Congress

After she was married they settled up in Long Coulee. They lived on a large farm four miles northeast of Holmen. She worked very hard all the while she lived on this farm for about twenty years. She had eight children; six boys and two girls. They adopted a girl by the name of Margaret Lee. All her children are married and have children; She has twenty-two grandchildren. She lost one of her sons and daughter in-law in 1922 who left one little daughter at the age of one who is now in her care.

Mrs. Oluf Thompson has been our next door neighbor lady for twelve years. She has always been strong and healthy and has made use of her strength by helping the neighbors and friends in need.

These last twelve years she has lived on a seventeen acre farm which is kept very good by Mr. and Mrs. Oluf Thompson at their age it is quite a bit work on a farm.

She's been healthy up to one year ago last summer her health is falling and she is unable to keep things going as she used to. She's letting hard work alone now, and does the necessary house work.