

Western Pioneer Days

To get an impression of pioneer days let us follow the lives of a pioneer family.

My grandfather was born in 1842 in Norway. In 1866 he came to Iowa. With him were his mother, brother, and his brother's family. They lived in Iowa until 1876, and while there my grandfather met his future wife, my grandmother.

In the spring of 1877, my grandfather and his party, came west. They spent the fishing season at Tacoma and then my grandfather came to Idaho. He looked around for land and located at Blaine. He then went back to Oregon after his mother and the rest of the party. They came back here the same year, in November. My grandfather then filed a claim and built a cabin. He planned to plant trees and have a timber claim but the trees didn't grow very well so he changed it to a homestead.

About this time he decided he had a home, so went to San Francisco, where he met my grandmother, and was married in 1883. They went by boat as far as Portland and then took the train as

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far as it went. From there they again took  
a boat on the Columbia river. When they  
<sup>came</sup> reached Lewiston, they took a team  
<sup>to separate</sup> and came to the place my grandfather  
had prepared.

There were then only a few cabins  
scattered around the hills. There was a  
postoffice there <sup>though</sup> and my grandparents'  
place turned out to be a stopping station  
for the stage that went from Palouse  
to Lewiston. The stage driver was  
Felix Warren and he would stop  
there to change teams before continuing  
his journey.

My grandparents' cabin was at  
first a one room cabin but additions were  
built on. There was only one chair and  
they used organ stools and blocks of wood  
to sit on. They had a cow, a few pigs,  
and a few chickens. They lived at this  
place for <sup>with</sup> 35 <sup>thirty-five</sup> years, but at the end of that  
time there were many improvements to be  
seen.

One incident my grandmother told  
me was, I think, rather amusing. It  
was in the winter of 1884, when a bedroom  
had been built on and there <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ a bedroom,

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kitchen, and loft, that two strangers knocked  
at the door. At this time there was a blizzard  
outside and ~~the~~ men wanted to stay  
there all night. Although there were  
already five people there, <sup>perhaps, making?</sup> my grandmother  
consented to let them stay. One of the  
strangers was a sheriff who had  
come to see about some trouble with  
wood thieves, and the other was a post  
inspector to see about some mail that  
had been lost. When night came  
on, the problem of beds arose. Finally  
it was arranged for all to have beds  
but my grandmother. As it was too  
cold to sleep on the floor, she had to  
sleep on the kitchen table. As they were  
snow bound for a week, my grandmother  
had to sleep on the table all week.

This is only a glimpse of a busy, pioneer  
life, in the "nest".

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Marian Smith