

raised on twenty acres, so the first wheat crop amounted to four hundred bushels. The next spring Syver Fosholt and I put our oxen together and broke additional acres on his farm and mine. In 1877 I had about sixty acres broken and raised about twenty-five bushels per acre. The following year farming didn't prove so successful, as the wheat was ruined by extreme heat July 11, 12 and 13th. It had looked as promising as the year before. When we tried to tie the bundles that harvest, the straw was so weak it couldn't be tied, so therefore it was necessary to stack it loose. After threshing I hauled eighteen sacks to Nora Springs but the grain was practically worthless. Each sack weighed about one and one-half bushel. I had four hogs which commanded the price of two dollars per hundred. The yield being small and my many obligations which had to be met made things look gloomy. The crops of 1879 and 1880 were practically ruined by Chinch Bugs and Hessian Flies.

In 1879 I could not meet the payments on the farm so they threatened to foreclose on it, but Jason Chambers took up the loan and obtained the mortgage. In the spring of 1881 I was still delinquent on the interest of the mortgage. I went to Chambers and told him that I had decided to go to North Dakota