

Individual Report for Sigvaldason, Árni

Individual Summary: Sigvaldason, Árni

Sex: Male

Father: Jónsson, Sigvaldi

Mother: Jónsdóttir, Arnfríður



Individual Facts:

Name: Sigvaldason, Árni ^[1, 2]

Birth: 12 May 1847 in Hof near Vopnafjörður, Iceland ^[1]

Death: 10 Jan 1901 in Lake Benton, Lincoln, Minnesota, USA ^[3]

Also Known As: Árni Sigvaldason ^[4, 5]

Arrival: 1873; Ships: Björg, Queen (Ak.) ^[6]

Burial: celandic Cemetery at Lincoln County Lutheran site ^[4]

Christening: 13 May 1847 in Hof I Vopnafirdi, Nordur-Mulasysla, Iceland ^[7]

Education: 1876 in Madison, Wisconsin; Student at University of Wisconsin, aka Academy

Emigration: 1873 in Vopnafjörður, Iceland to Milwaukee; Ship: Björg ^[8]

Employment: 1873 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA; Worked railroad shops

Medical Condition: cancer of lower lip and throat ^[4]

Occupation: Limestone township, Lincoln county; office of justice of the peace 16 yrs

Politician: Limestone township, Lincoln county; supervisor when the township of Limestone was organized

Residence: Farmer in Minnesota

Sex: Male ^[9]

Shared Facts: SIGVALDASON, Guðrún (Aradóttir)

Marriage: 1878 in Marshall Minnisota

Children: SIGVALDSON, Skapti Aaron
SIGVALDASON, Pall Thorvaldur
Sigvaldson, Thora Jonina
SIGVALDSON, Julia G.
Sigvaldson, Mary Jacobina
Sigvaldson, Frank
Sigvaldson, John E
SIGVALDSON, Palina Sigurbjorg
SIGVALDSON, Vigfus

Notes:

Person Notes: Died 8:30 am.

About celebration of the 1st settler, Arni came later in 1878.

http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:gZe_ub6-AwEJ:www.vesturfarinn.is/minnsettlement.html+%C3%81rni+Sigvaldason&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=5&gl=us&client=firefox-a

Biographies OF early SETTLERS

Page 319

Before there was a village at Lake Benton he reported he cut hay where the main portion of the town now stands, and lie often went to the image of Marshfield to trade.

Ernest SIGVALDSON was born in Iceland May 12, 1847. In 1873 he emigrated to this country and settled in Milwaukee where he worked for three years in the railroad shops In 1876 he moved to Madison in Wisconsin where he attended the Academy for six months. From there he

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went to Michigan where he stayed a short time and thence to Winnepeg. Manitoba Canada, and worked for a time in a grocery store. In 1878 he came to Marshall Minnesota where he was married the same year to Miss Gudrun Arason. Shortly after he settled on a farm in Limestone township, Lincoln county, where he resided until he moved to Lake Benton in 1899. Mr. Sigvaldson served as one of the supervisors when the township of Limestone was organized. He held the office of justice of the peace for sixteen years, that of town clerk fourteen years. In 1898 he was elected to the office of clerk of court of Lincoln county which office he held until his death January 10, 1901.

unconfirmed if this deed is our earnest

Name: Earnest Sigvaldson Issue Date: 20 May 1885 State of
Record: Minnesota Acres: 160 Accession Number: MN1530__041 Metes and
Bounds: No Land Office: Redwood Falls Canceled: No US Reservations: No
Mineral Reservations: No Authority: May 20, 1862: Homestead Entry Original
(12 Stat. 392) Document Number: 3163 Legal Land
Description: Section Twp Range Meridian Counties 20112-N44-W5th
PMLincoln 20112-N44-W5th PM

<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:3171463&id=I02211>

Below added into Facts

from the Minneota Mascot, January 11, 1901: Arnie Sigvaldson Clerk of Court of Lincoln County Died Yesterday Arnie Sigvaldson died at Lake Benton at 8:30 o'clock yesterday morning, from cancer of the lip and throat. This was the sad but for some time expected news wired from the county seat of Lincoln county, yesterday forenoon. For fifteen years Mr Sigvaldson fought the dreaded disease that caused his death; repeated operations were performed at varying intervals by some of the leading medical experts of the century but with no other result than to postpone for a time the inevitable. For the past four months, deceased was confined to his bed and, with passive Christian fortitude, has suffered indescribable pain. Arnie Sigvaldson was born May 12, 1847, at Vopnafjord, Iceland, came to America in 1873, and located at Milwaukee, Wis. He spent some time as a student in the academic department of the University of Wisconsin. On June 8, 1878, he married Miss Gudrun Arason, and the same year came to Minnesota, making his home on the then barren prairies of Lincoln county. A hard worker, steady and industrious, he made a success of farming, and at his death owned one of the best farms in Lincoln county. In the election of 1898, Mr Sigurdson was elected to the office of Clerk of Court of Lincoln County, and since entering upon the discharge of the duties of that office, in January, 1899, has been a resident of Lake Benton. To make use of a common expression, Mr Sigvaldson was a man whom everybody liked. In the ability to gain and hold the confidence and respect of his fellow men he had few equals. A born leader of men, actuated at all times by the highest Christian motives, his advice was sought and followed and his example

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emulated by all who had the good fortune of coming under the indulgence of this excellent character. In his house Mr Sigvaldson was an ideal husband and father. His was in every sense of the word a model Christian home and all who partook of the hospitality there so generously dispensed, could be but impressed with the fact that their host's was a model household. But there is another side of his character which helped to make him the popular leader of his community, and that was his ever cheerful disposition. Seldom did Mr Sigvaldson indulge in frowns, but on the contrary, always greeted his friends and acquaintances with a smile that showed its owner was a man who preferred to lead his fellow men to view life with a hopeful spirit. In church affiliations, Mr Sigvaldson was a Lutheran, being a member of the Icelandic church of that denomination in Lincoln county. In church matters he was a sincere, untiring and hard worker and the congregation of which he was a member, as well as the other congregations of the same nationality in this neighborhood, will long miss his encouraging voice and wise counsel from their deliberations. In short, Mr Sigvaldson was "one of nature's noblemen." A wife and seven children are left to mourn a beloved husband and father. The funeral will take place tomorrow from Lake Benton, and the remains interred in the Icelandic cemetery of the Icelandic church, located near the Sigvaldson farm. If the [missing words] from here intend to go on to attend the funeral. The funeral services at the church will begin at one o'clock p m. Hundreds of mourning friends will gather to pay their respects to the memory of this loved comrade, who has gone from the church militant to the church triumphant, and to deposit in its last resting place the earthly habitation of a soul that has joined the rejoicing hosts in realms of everlasting life.

Father: Sigvaldi JOHNSON b: 28 NOV 1820 in Iceland

Mother: ARNFRIDA b: BEF 1830 in Iceland

Marriage 1 Gudrun ARASON b: 4 MAY 1848 in Iceland

- Married: 8 JUN 1878 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (11)

Children

Skapti Aaron SIGVALDSON b: 12 APR 1879 in Limestone Township, Lincoln County, Minnesota

2. Paul Thorvaldur SIGVALDSON b: 10 AUG 1880 in Limestone Township, Lincoln County, Minnesota

3. Thora Jonina SIGVALDSON b: 20 APR 1882 in Limestone Township, Lincoln County, Minnesota

Julia G. SIGVALDSON b: ABT 1884 in MN

Maria Jakobina SIGVALDSON b: 23 DEC 1885 in Limestone Township, Lincoln County, Minnesota

Frank SIGVALDSON b: 7 MAY 1887 in MN

Jon SIGVALDSON b: 15 MAY 1889 in Limestone Township, Lincoln County, Minnesota

Palina Sigurbjorg SIGVALDSON b: 28 OCT 1893 in Limestone Township, Lincoln County, Minnesota

Vigfus SIGVALDSON b: 25 FEB 1894 in Limestone Township, Lincoln County, Minnesota

sources:

1. Title: minneota icelanders.FTW

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Notes:

Repository:

Media: Other

Text: Date of Import: Mar 17, 2001

2. Title: minnesota islanders.FTW

Note: ABBR minnesota islanders.FTW

Note: Source Media Type: Other

Repository:

Note:

Text: Date of Import: May 29, 2001

33. Title: State of Minnesota Death Cards

Author: Minnesota Vital Statistics

Repository:

Note: Minnesota History Center

Media: Microfilm

4. Title: 1910 Federal Census

Repository:

Media: Book Page: MN, Lincoln County, Limestone. Page 105B

5. Title: 1880 Federal Census

Repository:

Media: Book

6. Title: 1885 State of Minnesota Census

Author: State of Minnesota

Repository:

Note: Minnesota History Center

Media: Census

7. Title: 1895 Minnesota Census

Repository:

Note: Minnesota History Center

Media: Census

8. Title: Lincoln County Naturalization Records Index 1878-1951

Repository:

Note: Minnesota History Center

Media: Civil Registry

9. Title: Cemetery Research

Author: Rebecca Davidson

Publication: None

Note: I visited the cemeteries and recorded everything on every tombstone.

Note: 1st person

Repository:

Note: on site

Media: Tombstone

10. Title: Minneota Mascot

Publication: March 25, 1898

Repository:

Note: Minnesota History Center

Media: Microfiche

Page: January 11, 1901

11. Title: Minneota Mascot

Publication: March 25, 1898 Repository:

Note: Minnesota History Center

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Media: Microfiche

Page: January 11, 1901

Note: Minneota Mascot, January 11, 1901.

Árni Sigvaldason and Jón Júlíus Jónsson of Winnipeg visited New Iceland to sell 115 sacks of flour

<http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:Qmx6zozFy4gJ:www.telusplanet.net/public/dgarneau/sigurd.htm+Pall+Thorvaldur+SIGVALDASON&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=3&gl=us&client=firefox-a>

He was on the Queen and Borg.

THE VOYAGE TO AMERICA

Emigrants had to sell their property, such as sheep, houses, and farms, and take with them only what they could convey as baggage to the nearest seaport, where they awaited the coming of a ship to transport them. The wait often extended into weeks. Some of the ships were very primitive, such as the Queen, which was to take on 165 passengers at Akureyri August 4, 1873. It was mainly designed to transport horses and conditions aboard were so appalling that several emigrants refused to board. Conditions may have improved after the unloading of 230 horses at Aberdeen.

<http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:ydrEy-x565EJ:archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ICELAND/2002-08/1029961109+Bj%C3%B6rg+ship+and+1873&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=4&gl=us&client=firefox-a>

Vesturfarinn -

Written by Guðni Júlíus Oleson for "Saga Íslendingar í Vesturheimi" (History of Icelanders in the West), Vol. V. Edited by Tryggvi J. Oleson, Dr. Phil. Publ. in Reykjavík, 1953 by Bókaútgáfa Menningarsjóðs. English translation by Cathy Ann Josephson, Vopnafjörður, 2003.

"The Minnesota Settlement"

In 1875 the settlement of New Iceland began, and in the same year the groundwork was laid for the Icelandic settlement in Minnesota when the first Icelandic settler took land along the Yellow Medicine River in Lyon County after driving his oxen 500 miles from Wisconsin. In his wake came a steady stream, and within two or three years the farmland in the Eastern Settlement (the Westerheim/Yellow Medicine area) was settled, very soon expanding westward into Lincoln County.

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The First Settler

The man known as the first settler was Gunnlaugur Pétursson, born at Hákonarstöðum in Jökuldal on 10 Sept. 1830. His family had farmed there for many years, said to be about nine or ten generations. When he was 27 years old, Gunnlaugur married Guðbjörg Jónsdóttir Einarsson. Jón's wife was Guðný Sigfúsdóttir of Snjóholt. Gunnlaugur took over the farming of Hákonarstöðum from his father, a large operation, until he left Iceland in 1873, rather bent with age and labors. He was among the first Icelanders who left East Iceland for the New World, said to have left with some means. Gunnlaugur went first to Wisconsin and was there about two years. In that area were many Scandinavians, and many of them had decided to head further west. At that time much land was becoming available for homesteading in western Minnesota. Many people were heading there, and with this stream of settlers was Gunnlaugur, in May, 1875. He moved all his family and possessions in a wagon pulled by oxen. After traveling about 500 miles, after three weeks time, he arrived in Lyon County, and took land on the banks of the Yellow Medicine River. He named his farm Hákonarstaður. He was the first Icelander who took land in Minnesota, and he lived in that prosperous area until his death. His wife died in 1898, and Gunnlaugur died 4 May 1909. The Icelanders in Minnesota commemorated the fiftieth year of settlement with a celebration at Hákonarstöðum on 23 Aug. 1925, with Gunnlaugur Pétursson and his wife specially honored as pioneers. The festivities were held in a lovely grove which Gunnlaugur had planted and where summer gatherings were often held annually, and were attended by many Minnesota Icelanders as well as many people from the area. There was hymn-singing, a prayer, and the pastor of the Icelanders, séra Guttormur Guttormsson, delivered a short address. The legislator from Lyon County, Jón Gíslason, was master of ceremonies. P. V. Peterson (of Lincoln County) and Sigbjörn S. Hoffeig (Lyon County), both early settlers, spoke about the early years in those settlements. Others who spoke were Jón Gíslason, legislator (son of Björn Gíslason from Grímsstöðum in the Mountains), professor Sigurður H. Peterson from Cornwallis, Oregon (the son of Westerheim settlers), Mrs. J. A. Josephson (Guðný Hoffeig), Björn B. Gíslason, lawyer, and Gunnar B. Björnson, newspaperman. María G. Árnason (poetess and sister of Þorsteinn Oddsson, real estate agent in Winnipeg) read one of her poems, and Jón Runólfsson the poet read an older poem. Jón was often on a long visit to the Minnesota Icelanders. Kristine Gunnlaugsson, Dora Askdal and Marjorie Kompelien, all of Icelandic origin, sang. Marjorie Kompelien, dressed in the Icelandic "faldbúningi" which is the national dress with the white head covering, sang the Icelandic national anthem, "Ó, guð vors lands." There was also singing by others of the settlement.

Some of the Oldest Settlers

.... As has been said, Gunnlaugur Pétursson from Hákonarstöðum in Jökuldal was the first Icelander who homesteaded land in Minnesota, settling in 1875. In the settlement history of the Icelanders in Minnesota in Almanak Ó. S. Thorgeirsson in 1900, most of those who had come in the first years were still there, and included: 1876: Sigmundur Jónatansson

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from Þingeyjarsýslu, Guðmundur Henry Guðmundsson of Dalasýslu, Eiríkur H. Bergman, Kristinn Ólafsson and Arngrímur Jónsson from Galtastöðum in Norður-Múlasýslu. 1877: Halldóra Jónsdóttir, a widow with two sons, Snorri Högnason from Ósi in Breiðdal in Suður-Múlasýslu, Jón Kristjánsson from Gröf in Eiðabínghá and Guðmundur Pétursson from Langhúsum in Fljótisdal. 1878: Jósef Jósefsson from Haugsstöðum in Vopnafirði, Sigbjörn Sigurðsson (Hofteig) from Hofteig in Jökuldal, Jón Arngrímsson, the father of Arngrímur named above, Þorsteinn Guðmundsson from Fell in Vopnafirði, Guðlaugur Guðmundsson from Eyjafirði, Árni Jónsson from Hjaltastaðabínghá, Sigurður Jónsson from Eyjafirði, Árni Sigvaldason, Stefán Sigurðsson, Jóhannes Magnússon and Magnús Gíslason. All these men who came in 1878, except Jósef Jósefsson and S. S. Hofteig, settled in Lincoln County, because others had taken all the land available for homesteading in Lyon County. This same year it could be that seven unnamed families from Vopnafirði also came, and settled in Lincoln County that August. 1879: Björn Gíslason from Haugsstöðum in Vopnafirði (bought land in Lyon County).

For a complete copy of this excerpt, or for more information about the years 1870-1914, contact us at: Vesturfarinn email: (vesturfarinn.is)

SOURCE: <http://www.vesturfarinn.is/minnsettlement.html>

Source Home Page -<http://www.vesturfarinn.is/ehome.html>

Sources:

- 1 (Almanak, O.S.Th. 1940, p. 27-28. - Saga Isl. in Vesturheimi, IV, 194, Logberg Febr.10th, 1949), SEC.1 (Aunt) Em Einarson Enns-1954 translated Icelandic Papers, Kristin Jonsdottir, Ljosvallagata, Reykjavik, Iceland.
 - 2 Online Resource, <http://www.vesturfarinn.is/EmYear.html>.
 - 3 Online Resource, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mnlincol/Icelanders/Icelanders.htm>.
 - 4 Online Resource, <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:3171463&id=I02211>.
 - 5 <http://www.vesturfarinn.is/emyear.html>. Emigrants 1873
Ships: Björg, Queen (Ak.).
 - 6 Ancestry.com, 1900 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004), Database online. Lake Benton, Lincoln, Minnesota, ED 141, roll T623 773, page 9B.
 - 7 Online Resource, <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>.
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Sources:

- 8 Kormakur Hognason, PDF_WEB_0016_Christopherson-1 (from Kormakur Hognason). Year name position age port of emigration ship destination source 1887 Þorsteinn Þorsteinsson worker 28 Reykjavík - Winnipeg 1,2 and V.1870-1914 page 148 1887 Ingibjörg Einarsdóttir worker 26 Reykjavík - Winnipeg 1,2 and V.1870-1914 page 148 worker-vinnumaður worker-vinnukona 1873 Sigurður Kristófersson worker 25 Húsavík Hjálmar not listed 1,3 (Vol. 2 page 147) and V.1870-1914 page 319.
- 9 Ancestry.com, Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1905 (Provo, UT, USA, The Generations Network, Inc., 2007), www.ancestry.com, Database online. Record for Earnest Sigvaldson.