

Pioneers

Badger Clark

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45	Utah.....	Jan. 4, 1896.....	July 4, 1896
46	Oklahoma.....	Nov. 16, 1907.....	July 4, 1908
47	New Mexico.....	Jan. 6, 1912....	}..... July 4, 1912
48	Arizona.....	Feb. 14, 1912}	

The customary arrangement of the stars now is in six rows of eight stars each.

These facts have been compiled after consultation with the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

PIONEERS

By BADGER CLARK*

A broken wagon wheel that rots away beside the river,
 A sunken grave that dimples on the bluff above the trail;
 The larks call, the wind sweeps, the prairie grasses quiver,
 And sing a wistful roving song of hoof and wheel and sail.

Pioneers, pioneers, you trailed it on to glory,
 Across the circling deserts to the mountains blue and dim.
 New England was a night camp; old England was a story.
 The new home, the true home, lay out beyond the rim.

You fretted at the old hearth, the kettle and the cricket,
 The father's little acres, the wood lot and the pond.
 Ay, better storm and famine and the arrow from the thicket,
 Along the trail to wider lands that glimmered out beyond.

Pioneers, pioneers, the quicksands where you wallowed,
 The rocky hills and thirsty plains—they hardly won your heed.
 You snatched the thorny chance, broke the trail that others followed,
 For sheer joy, for dear joy of marching in the lead.

Your wagon track is laid with steel; your tired dust is sleeping;
 Your spirit stalks the valleys where a restive nation teems;
 Your soul has never left them in their sowing and their reaping,
 The children of the outward trail, their eyes are full of dreams.

Pioneers, pioneers, your children will not reckon
 The dangers on the dusky ways no man has ever gone.
 They look beyond the sunset where better countries beckon,
 With old faith, with bold faith, to find a wider dawn.

*Badger Clark is an Iowan, a son of Anna Morris Clark, and born in Albia, January 1, 1883, his father being a Methodist minister. That same year the family moved to South Dakota, which state has since been his home with the exception of four years spent on the Arizona cattle range, two years in Cuba, and shorter periods of travel in California and Florida. Besides poems, he writes short stories. A volume of these has been published.

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