

June 2, 1926

Biography of Andrew Johnson  
--Edward Johnson

The parents of the pioneer were Anna and John I. Johnson. The name of the pioneer is Andrew Johnson. He was born on December 24, 1862. The place of his birth was "Gulbrandsdalen," Norway. The town nearest to his home was "Vaage."

The pioneer left for the United States because he had a sister there who wrote home telling of how much more you could earn and the better working conditions; and also because there were many at home and not much work to do. He thought that in the United States there were greater opportunities to earn something for himself. His sister was in North Dakota so he also went there. This was the place she had told of in her letters. It was better to be where you had one that you knew than to be among total strangers. His sister had written to him that he could get work where she was and among Scandinavian people.

It took about one month from the time he left his old home until he arrived in North Dakota. He had to wait in Oslo because the ship was four days late. It took about nine days and ten hours from the time he left Oslo until he arrived in New York. The weather was fairly nice except for one day when there was a storm. All the people were ordered off the deck because the waves washed over the deck. The greater portion of the people became sick. Most of the passengers being newcomers, they were taken to a large building where they were kept until the trains arrived which were going to take them west.

The pioneer arrived at Wahpeton, Richland County, North Dakota on June 30, 1883. He worked in the vicinity of Wahpeton doing farm work and also carpenter work. In the fall of 1885 he came up to Steele and Griggs County. He worked at the S. H. Nelson farm hauling wood from the Sheyenne river when the thermometer registered as low as 40 degrees below zero and the snow piled up over the top of the low stables, so that they could not enter through the door but had to make a hole in the roof through which they entered.

In the summer of 1886 the pioneer worked at the R. C. Cooper ranch. In the haying about twenty men were employed. Eight men were in the stack and the others mowing and hauling hay. In the harvest they had twenty binders and twenty shockers. R. C. Cooper had three threshing machines threshing on his own land. The pioneer worked on the ranch from haying through threshing. When he received his pay he got his money in twenty dollar gold pieces.

In the spring of 1888 Mr. Johnson bought the homestead-right on one quarter of land. It was the northeast quarter of section 6 in Riverside Township. He bought it for \$250. He lived in a small shanty. The first spring he was on the land, it was so cold that the bread froze so hard he had to chop it with an axe before he thawed it up for breakfast.

One day the pioneer was out plowing with the oxen. As he was coming in to lunch, the oxen followed him and went through the stable and tore down the whole stable. The stable was made of poles and sticks taken from the Sheyenne valley. It was covered with straw to keep it warm and tight. He did not have a stable then for two or three months. He tied



the oxen out in the prairie. He then built a sod stable which he had for two or three years. The roof was made of slough hay covered with sod. Mr. Johnson went to Hope and Cooperstown for his provisions. He went mostly to Hope because Cooperstown was not very large and did not always have all he wanted. Hope was eighteen miles away from his home, and he could not always come home the same day. He started out with a team of oxen and a load of oats about 4 O'clock in the morning and returned about dark.

Some of the near neighbors were: Henry Bemis, E. C. Butler, S. H. Nelson, Gunderson Bros., Ole Halvorson, Ole Bolkan, Knute Hagen, Mrs. Anna Halvorson and C. C. Piatt.

The first crop froze so he got only a few bushels of oats. Mr. Johnson and his brother-in-law bought a binder which they used together and also a mower and rake. They bought the first binder that Hammer and Condry sold in Cooperstown. The price of the wheat ranged from 40¢ up to 50¢ per bushel and oats from 18¢ up to 23¢ per bushel.

The fuel that Mr. Johnson used was wood. This he got from the Sheyenne Valley. He bought it from the people living along the river. He sawed down the trees and hauled them home in the winter when there wasn't much else to do, and then burned it up during the summer.

Many times the snowstorms were so bad that the pioneer could not come away from his shanty, and he was thought to be frozen to death by his neighbors. Many times the pioneer lost the track or road and drove around for half the night before he could find any house.

One evening when Mr. Johnson and his sister were coming from town, a snowstorm came up. His sister's place was a mile and a quarter from his. He took his sister home, but the storm was so terrible that he could not come to his home. He had to stay at his sister's place from Thursday evening until Saturday morning.

In the fall of 1891 Mr. Johnson had the best crop he ever raised. Due to the rain and shortage of threshing machines, he could not get it threshed. In the late fall he stacked the grain with snow on it. The next spring before seeding, the grain was threshed but due to the grain being wet and rotted, he did not get much out of it. He sold some of the wheat to R. C. Cooper for 15¢ a bushel and also to some of the neighbors for the same price. He gave away some of it and used the rest himself. All that summer he worked for W. W. Archer to pay the threshing bill.

At one time when Mr. Johnson came from Hope, he got out in a hail storm. He was about seven miles from the nearest house. The hailstones were larger than marbles. His hands were sore for a long time due to the hailstones hitting so hard.

The first shanty that Mr. Johnson had burnt down in the fall of 1894. He then bought a house which he fixed up and repaired. This house burned down in the spring of 1905. He had no insurance on it and not much was saved, so it was a great loss. The house was as good as anyone had at that time.

Mr. Johnson was married that same spring to Miss Mary Brosten. They were married in Griggs County at the home of Andrew Brosten.



Mr. Johnson has three sons now living. They are Rudolph, Arthur, and Edward. They are all at home on the farm in Steele County. The pioneer is still living on the farm for which he bought the homestead right in 1888. This farm is in Riverside Township, Steele County. It is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles southeast of Cooperstown, North Dakota.



June 2, 1926

Biography of Mrs. Mary Brosten Johnson  
--Rudolph Johnson

The parents of the pioneer were Rachel and Rasmus Brosten. The name of the pioneer is Mary Brosten. She was born June 16, 1870. The place where she was born is Stavanger, Norway. The nearest town was Sandneas.

The pioneer left for the United States because her two brothers were going there, and she thought that there was more work to get there. One of her brothers had been in the United States for ten years. He came home and told about the United States, and the pioneer thought that it would be better to go when the others left and also for the high wages for the work in the United States. The pioneer left for North Dakota because her brother had land there.

There were not many storms on the ocean because they were on deck every day. There was sickness on the boat so all that had not been vaccinated, had to be when they went on the boat. Some had smallpox on the boat and one died of it.

The pioneer left Stavanger, Norway, March 25th and came to Coopers-town, North Dakota April 12th. The first summer the pioneer kept house for her brother.

One summer the pioneer worked on a large farm. She had to get up at 4 A. M. and work until 10 in the evening. She worked for three dollars a week, and when she was through, she did not get her pay. She had to go and collect the money. In the winter she worked for one dollar and fifty cents a week. One place she had to work for two dollars a week and milk cows besides doing the house work.

They went to meetings and Ladies Aid in a lumber wagon pulled by oxen. There was full house at the meetings and Ladies Aid's. They were always on time. One time the pioneer went to a meeting with a horse and cart. It began snowing, so they wanted her to stay. She wanted to go back again. It was a hard snow storm, so it was all she could do to see the road. They were surprised to see her coming back because they thought she would not go out in a storm like that.

The pioneer was married to Andrew Johnson, March 25, 1905. Her husband owned a half section of land in Steele County, North Dakota. They were married at the home of the pioneer's brother in Griggs County, North Dakota.

The pioneer has three sons now living. They are Rudolph, Arthur, and Edward. They are all living at home on the farm. The pioneer is still living on the same farm.



PIONEER BIOGRAPHY  
Arnt Johnson

The name of the pioneer's father was John Johnson. The name of the pioneer is Arnt Johnson. He was born January 30, 1876. He was born in Norway, the town was Stavanger.

He went to America because he wanted better work. He came to North Dakota because his brother was here. He started from Stavanger to Hull and then crossed England by train to Liverpool. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean to New York. Then he took the train from New York to North Dakota in the last of March 1892. When he arrived in North Dakota it was only prairie. He started to break up the land with the walking plow. He took up school land from the government. The land is located in Sverdrup township, range 58. The first home was a frame house. He went to Cooperstown to get his provisions. His neighbors are Torkel Vigesaa, Peter Vigesaa, Swen Loge and Lars Loge.

The early crops were wheat and flax. The flax yielded 16 bushels an acre. He used coal for fuel. He hauled it from Cooperstown with a wagon and two horses.

The prairie fires was the most important hardship. He plowed around the buildings for a fire break.

He was married to Taletta Berge. He was married in Norway in 1910. The descendants of the pioneer are Martin Johnson, Arthur Johnson, Edwin Johnson, Bjorn Johnson, Borghild Johnson, Clarence Johnson, Clifford Johnson, and Leonard Johnson.

--Arthur Johnson.



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PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Arnt Johnson

by Arthur Johnson

The name of the pioneer's father was John Johnson. The name of the pioneer is Arnt Johnson. He was born January 30, 1873. He was born in Norway, the town was Stavanger.

He went to America because he wanted better work. He came to North Dakota because his brother was here. He started from Stavanger to Hull and then crossed England by train to Liverpool. He crossed the Atlantic ocean to New York. Then he took the train from New York to North Dakota in the last of March 1892. When he arrived in North Dakota it was only prairie. He started to break up the land with the walking plow. He took up school land from the government. The land is located in Sverdrup township, range 58. The first home was a frame house. He went to Cooperstown to get his provisions. His neighbors are Torkel Vigesaa, Peter Vigesaa, Sven Loge and Lars Loge.

The early crops were wheat and flax. The flax yielded 18 bushels an acre. He used coal for fuel. He hauled it from Cooperstown with a wagon and two horses.

The prairie fire was the most important hardship. He plowed around the buildings for a fire break.

He was married to Taletta Berge. He was married in Norway in 1910. The descendants of the pioneer are Martin Johnson, Arthur Johnson, Edwin Johnson, Bjorn Johnson, Berghild Johnson, Clarence Johnson, Clifford Johnson, and Leonard Johnson.

--Arthur Johnson



Biography of Ben Johnson  
--Inga Johnson

The parents of the pioneer are John and Kari Engen. The pioneer's name is Ben Johnson. He was born in 1867 on the first of December in Allamakee County, Iowa, near Dekorah.

The pioneer left his former home because of the chinch bugs which had destroyed their crops for several years. When they left they sold their land for thirteen dollars per acre, and it would have been worth \$300. today. Ben Johnson came to North Dakota instead of any other state because there were free homesteads to be gotten.

When Ben Johnson was coming to this state he had many hardships to endure. One thing was that they ran short of supplies so the pioneer's father had to go into Fargo and get some things but he could not get back that night and so Ben Johnson and his brother did not know where to put themselves so they crawled upstairs in a barn. It was real cold. The police had noticed them go upstairs and he was searching for them but they were very quiet and afraid ~~to~~ so they lay quite still, and he didn't find them. They traveled in lumber wagon up here.

Ben Johnson came to North Dakota, that is to Fargo, on the 20th of April, 1881, and up to this part of the country on the 20th of June, 1881. The reason Ben Johnson could not get here before was because of the great flood caused by the Red River. The water was up to the front street of Fargo so he stayed down there with relatives until it went down to normal size again.

When Ben Johnson was up here the first few years the mosquitoes were a great pest. They would have to make a <sup>smudge</sup> fire to get them away. Mr. Johnson said that he would usually take a big kettle along if he going away and set it right in the wagon box and make <sup>smudge</sup> fire in it so as to keep them away. The mosquitoes were just as bad to the animals as they were to the people. A little while later most of them disappeared. The nearest town at that time was Valley City. Mr. Johnson usually went there once a year and it was a long distance when he used oxen. That same spring he got short of flour, coffee, sugar, and tobacco. Early that spring he had to go to Valley City again and it took a whole week to make the trip. There came a large snowstorm and Mr. Johnson had to stay out in the storm one night. There was also another party that happened to have a load of lumber that got caught in the snowstorm. They burned the lumber so as to keep warm and to keep alive.

When Mr. Johnson was here the first years there was government land he settled down on. He had to go to Valley City to file a petition for homestead. Mr. Johnson lives in Washburn Township number 146 and Range 58.

The first home Mr. Johnson had in this state was sort of a dugout. It was built in a hill and had a sort of roof extending outward. They had one room which was not very large. Here they had to both sleep and do their cooking. There was also another little room in which they kept the things cooked in. The whole room was white washed.

Mr. Johnson had to go to Valley City for provisions as I have men-



Biography of Ben Johnson  
--Inga Johnson

tioned. It was the closest town. It took about a week and often had very hard times getting there and coming home again.

The names of Mr. Johnson's nearest neighbors were Arney Arneson, Mr. Seim, Ole Bjugstad, John Qualey, and Omund Nelson Opheim.

Mr. Johnson's early farm machinery were the cradle, flail and walking plow then which took a great deal of time. Instead of the cradle now he uses a binder. The cradle would do very slow and poor work. The flail was used then for threshing machine. A little later they had the threshing machine and power was gotten by using horses and they had to keep on going in a circle. It was very hard work for the horses. Mr. Johnson did not use oxen very much because just a little while after he came he got horses.

Mr. Johnson had quite good success with his crops. The seeds which he usually seeded were wheat, oats, barley, and rye. In wheat Mr. Johnson's fields would yield up to 45 bushels to the acre. The other crops also would be good. The market prices were not so very high at that time but there was such an abundance of it they could make pretty good.

The fuel that Mr. Johnson used in early days was wood. He had quite a good space of trees and therefore had usually plenty of wood for the fire so as to keep that going.

There were some prairie fires but these did not bother very much because of the Sheyenne River. There were quite bad snowstorms. One year there were great big snowstorms in May. Mr. Johnson said they would not be very harmful but the worst was to come from the house to the barn.

Mr. Johnson was married to Ingre Gurina Midstokke on the 7th of January, 1909, at Sharon, N. Dak. Mr. Johnson has three girls whose names are Cora, Gladys, Inga. Cora is 15, Gladys is 9, Inga is 13. He also had a boy who died when four years old.

The present home of Mr. Johnson is 9 miles northeast of Cooperstown in Washburn Township number 146, Range 58, Section 12.



## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

### Ben Johnson

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Ben Johnson (continued)

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Mr. Johnson had quite good success with his crops. The seeds which he usually seeded were wheat, oats, barley, and rye. In wheat Mr. Johnson's fields would yield up to 35 bushels to the acre. The other crops also would be good. The market prices were not so very high at that time but there was such an abundance of it they could make pretty good.

The fuel that Mr. Johnson used in early days was wood. He had quite a good space of trees and therefore had usually plenty of wood for the fire so as to keep a-going.

There were some prairie fires but these did not bother very much because of the Sheyenne River. There were quite bad snowstorms. One year there were great big snowstorms in May. Mr. Johnson said they would not be very harmful but the worst was to come from the house to the barn.

Mr. Johnson was married to Ingre Gurina Midstokke on the 7 of January, 1909 at Sharon, N. Dak. Mr. Johnson has three girls whose names are Cora, Gladys, and Inga. Cora is 15, Gladys is 9, and Inga is 13. He also had a boy who died when four years old.

The present home of Mr. Johnson is 9 miles northeast of Cooperstown in Washburn township, number 146, Range 58, Section 12.

--Inga Johnson



Biography of Ben Johnson  
--Cora Johnson

The parents of Ben Johnson were Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson. He was born December 1, 1867 in Allamakee County, Iowa near Decorah.

His parents left Iowa because of the cinch bugs which destroyed the grain for many years. They came to North Dakota because of the free homesteads they could get.

Ben Johnson was only thirteen years when they came up here. His father, mother and children came from Iowa to Fargo by train. From there they drove by team, and it took about from 3 to 6 days. They came here about the 6th of June, 1881.

When they got here, the land they took was ready for the plow, but it was harder to get fodder for the horses and cattle. The land was located near the Sheyenne river.

Their first home was made of logs plastered between crevices, the size being about 14x14 and 6 feet high. The roof was made of bark peeled from elm trees which made a good tight roof if the bark was laid right. The barn was made of sod, size 40x24.

The neighbors they had were Omund Opheim, John Qualey, and Iver Seim. Their nearest town was Valley City where they went twice a year for provisions. The trip took from 3 to 6 days, six days with oxen and three days with horses.

The early farm machinery consisted of a home made drag. At first they seeded by hand, but at last they got a self raker reaper. The prices of crops were good for the first two or three years, but then the people had so little land in condition to be cultivated that there was not much grain to be sold. In the later years the wheat went down to about 50¢ a bushel. The crops were also good at first, but it became so dry and the gophers were so bad that it destroyed the crops.

The pioneers fuel consisted mostly of wood which was found in great amount along the river and which could be purchased cheap.

Some of the hardships were diseases in great number. One of the worst was diptheria which at that time had no cure. The unsanitary conditions made it worse. Mr. Johnson had two brothers who died in this and no doctor to even take the pain away because the closest doctor was in Valley City. Another hardship was the storms at times so bad people couldn't get out for two days.

Ben Johnson married Gurina Midstokke on January 7, 1910 at Sharon, North Dakota. He has had four children whose names are, Cora Johnson, Inga Johnson, Gladys Johnson, and Alf Johnson who died at the age of 4, in 1919. The pioneer's present home is 9 miles northeast of Cooperstown, North Dakota, 3/4 of a mile from the Sheyenne river in Section 12, Washburn township.



## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Ben Johnson

*by Luga Johnson*

- \* The parents of the pioneer are John and Karl Engen. The pioneer's name is Ben Johnson. He was born in 1867 on the first of December in Allamakee County, Iowa, near Dekorah.
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- \* When Ben Johnson was coming to this state he had many hardships to endure. One thing was that they ran short of supplies so the pioneer's father had to go into Fargo and get some things but he could not get back that night and so Ben Johnson and his brother did not know where to put themselves so they crawled upstairs in a barn. It was real cold. The police had noticed them go upstairs and he was searching for them but they were very quiet and afraid so they lay quite still, and he didn't find them. They traveled in lumber wagon up here.
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Ben Johnson (continued)

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Mr. Johnson was married to Ingre Gurina Midetokke on the 7th of January, 1909 at Sharon, N. Dak. Mr. Johnson has three girls whose names are Cora, Gladys, Inga. Cora is 15, Gladys is 9, Inga is 13. He also had a boy who died when four years old.

\* The present home of Mr. Johnson is 9 miles northeast of Cooperstown in Washburn Township number 146, Range 58, Section 12.

--Inga Johnson



Biography of Mrs. Bertha Mathelda Hanson Johnson  
--Martin Johnson

The name of the pioneer is Mrs. Bertha Mathelda (Tillie) Johnson. The name of the parents of the pioneer are, Mr. Martinus Hanson and Mrs. Anna Hanson. Bertha Mathelda Hanson was born July 9, 1883 near the town of Bergen.

She left her home in Norway and came to America because she desired a change and a chance to better herself. She came to North Dakota because she had relatives there and was asked by them to come. She found this state to be just as good as any other in the union.

The trip was as follows:

She started from Bergen, June 11, 1901 and crossed the North Sea in a boat named Stavangerfjord to Hull, England. From Hull, England they crossed England by train to Liverpool, England. While going through England, she saw very beautiful scenery and many herds of fine cattle, the best that she ever saw. It took eight hours of steady riding to reach Liverpool, England.

At Liverpool she stayed for three days. It was the dirtiest place the pioneer had ever been in, the town and the people were all alike. On the third day she boarded the Magestic which went around by London. At London a group of Indians boarded the ship, the first Indians the pioneer had ever seen. From London they went around by Ireland (couldn't remember the town) where about eight hundred passengers came on. They didn't make another stop till the ship reached America. The officers were very particular who they had on board. All had to be examined when they got on the ship and when they were in New York. Three were held back at that time.

They had fine weather on the ocean for four days, with one day very stormy. No one was allowed on deck during the storm. They reached New York on the fifth day. Before any person could enter the United States he had to be examined. She left New York for Chicago by train. From Chicago she left by train for Hannaford, North Dakota. She reached Hannaford, June 23, 1902. She stayed and worked with relatives part of the time. She worked out for others until she met Mr. Gilbert Johnson. She married him on November 20, 1907 at Bertha, Minnesota. They then came to Cooperstown, North Dakota and bought a home where the pioneer is now living.



Biography of Charles Johnson  
--Ruth Dyson

Charles Johnson was one of the best known and best loved pioneers of Griggs County. He kept a small country store and was known far and wide for his good humor and wit. He was sympathetic, helpful and jolly and consequently was very well liked.

Charles Henry Johnson was born in Milo, Maine on April 6, 1847. His father was Levi Johnson, a farmer in Piscataquis County, Maine. There were three boys and two girls in the family. Charles was the oldest of the boys.

When the Civil War broke out he was very anxious to go. In 1864 although he was only sixteen years old and not very tall he tried to enlist but was refused. However, disappointed but undaunted, he put on his father's big overcoat and tried again. This time he was admitted. He served faithfully to the end of the war and was honorably discharged in August, 1865.

After the war he served as apprentice to his uncle in order to learn the carpenters trade.

In September, 1871 he was married to Esther L. Smith at Brownville, Maine.

About this time many people were migrating west. He got the Western fever as many others had. In the spring of 1876 he came west with two other men, one of whom was part owner of a large tract of Red River Valley land in the Dakota territory. They got off the train at Fargo and purchased oxen, plows, lumber and provisions. With these supplies they drove overland forty miles to Traill County. With the lumber they built a small house which served as their headquarters that summer while they broke the land.

They were six miles from their nearest neighbors and twelve miles from a Hudson Bay trading post called Caledonia. The trading post included one store, a blacksmith shop, a flour mill, saloons. and a hotel (a Black Hills to Winnepeg stage station).

1876 was the year of the Custer Massacre on the Little Big Horn in Montana. Rumors of the dreaded Sioux were spreading all over the northwest.

One day when Justin Safford, one of the Men with Mr. Johnson, was out plowing he turned around to find an Indian, carrying a gun, following him in the furrow. He dropped the plow handles and ran to the house where he found the yard and a neighboring grove of trees filled with Indians. That night the Indians had a pow-wow around their camp fire. The young men supposed it was a war dance and that their doom was close at hand. In order to keep the Indians in a good humor they gave them all of their provisions and went to the trading post for more. The next day one of the Indians stepped up to the young men, shook hands with them and said good-bye. He went away chuckling to himself because the young men had been so frightened. Later it was discovered that these were



friendly Chippewa Indians from the reservation in Minnesota. They were on their way to Devils Lake to visit the Sioux.

When the breaking contract was completed, Mr. Johnson returned to Maine and in 1879 he brought his wife and two small daughters with him to Dakota. He bought a lot on thirteenth street in Fargo and built a small home. Fargo was growing rapidly and as a contractor and builder he was very busy. In 1882 his home was broken up by the death of his wife. The following spring he sold his Fargo property and leaving his children with his brother's family he started for Griggs County. He and two other men made the trip with a team of horses and a wagon. There was no bridge across the Sheyenne river and the water was high. The men drove up the river until they came to a place where there was a small boat. With the boat and a long rope they were able to get the horses across one at a time. Then they pulled the wagon over. When the wagon was only about half way across it suddenly dived forward and disappeared under the water. However, the men managed to pull it out right side up.

The men went up to Willow Lake and took up squatters rights on unsurveyed government land. In 1884 the land was surveyed and Mr. Johnson's claim was found to be in section 2, township 148 north, of range 60 west. Immediately after locating his claim he built a log store and home combined, hauling the logs from Willow Lake. He hired some breaking done on his land and plowed a furrow around it to protect it from other settlers. After farming the land for a year or two himself, he rented it for a year for a share of the crop. The wood they used was hauled from along the Sheyenne river. The railroad came to Cooperstown in 1883 so he was able to get supplies for his store there. Serious trouble was often experienced in hauling the provisions. When the water was unusually high, it sometimes took as many as ten or twelve horses to pull an ordinary wagon through the fords of the slews and streams.

Izra Hagerty, E. S. Hamilton and Mr. Johnson were appointed by the county officials to lay out the first road from the Willow region to Cooperstown. They followed the ridges and higher ground all the way necessarily paying very little attention to section lines. There were several slews and creeks on the way with which they could do nothing but pick out the shallowest fords to be found.

When Mr. Johnson came to Griggs County there were no townships. The land was laid out into sections but the sections were ~~divided~~ undivided. Mr. Johnson was one of the leaders in the movement to organize the region around Willow Lake into a township. It was organized on March 15, 1887, one of the first in the county.

The small log store was replaced in a few years by a larger frame structure and soon after Mr. Johnson built a frame house also. At one time the Lawrence brothers were also in Mr. Johnson's store. Later they sold their share to Charles Miller of Fargo. E. S. Hamilton who had a nearby claim worked in the store when he was not busy on his claim. There was a blacksmith shop, a warehouse for grain, two barns, the old log store, the new store and house, a little school house and a building that was used as a cheese factory in the little group of buildings which comprised Mr. Johnson's farm. The school house was a small structure which Mr. Johnson built himself so that his children might go to school. School was ~~only~~ held only during the warm months.



Through the efforts of Mr. Johnson and Le Forest Connant, the cheese factory was started on Mr. Johnson's farm. To this the farmers brought their milk and cream instead of taking it to Cooperstown. The cheese factory was quite a success until the people started to leave the country because of the repeated crop failures.

There were several men who used Mr. Johnson's home as their headquarters living in the old log house when they weren't working on their claims and many people traveling through the country stopped at his farm over night.

Mr. Johnson hired a man to haul his grain to Cooperstown for him. This man would start in the evening driving a yoke of oxen. He would arrive in town in the morning after driving all night. The next evening he would start back again. Mr. Johnson bought the settlers' grain or took it in exchange for groceries. He also kept some of it in his warehouse and sold it in the spring for seed.

In October, 1885, Mr. Johnson married Cora E. Hagerty, the daughter of one of the other new settlers in Willow township. He brought his two daughters and they lived at Willow until 1898.

Joseph Buchheit was their nearest neighbor. Ben Kuhns, Herbert Safford, Izra Hagerty, Andrew Knutson, E. S. Hamilton, George Pratt, Sylvester Flick, Paul Flick, Mrs. Root and Mrs. Ruth were some of the people who lived near them and traded at his store.

Around 1897 there were several crop failures in succession. Many people left Willow township. Many people too were unable to pay their debts in the store so Mr. Johnson was forced to discontinue his business there and come to Cooperstown.

In Cooperstown he took up his contracting work again. He also did some work in Mayville, a town which at that time was growing very rapidly.

Finally he and Erik Erickson started a store in Cooperstown. After a time they took Berg Brothers into their firm and built the building which is now occupied by Albert Larson & Company. Then Charles Johnson sold his share to Albert Larson and ran a small furniture store. At this time he was also county judge.

On April 25, 1899 his life was brought to a sudden end by pneumonia. He left five small children besides his wife and one married daughter.



17.  
CHARLES JOHNSON

*by Ruth Dyson, grand daughter*

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Biography of Earnest Nichol Johnson  
--Hazel Rood *niece*

Earnest Nichol Johnson was born on November 28, 1874 to Ole Lars Johnson and Carolina Steenstrup Johnson. He was born near Farmington, Minnesota which is in Eureka Township in Dakota County. In 1894 his father and other farmers shipped horses to North Dakota, and Earnest was given the chance to take them. He had heard much about North Dakota and desired greatly to see it. He did not intend to remain here, however. But when he got here and saw how it thrived, he decided to remain because he like it much better than Minnesota. Johnson arrived in North Dakota in the early part of March in 1894. He succeeded in getting work at the establishment of Hammer and Condry. His work was to buy and herd the cattle. In the winter there were many storms, and he endured many hardships. He was often forced to let the horses have the rein, and they were usually able to find the way home. In 1896 and 1897, which is called the snow winter, he hauled the mail from Sanborn as the trains were snow bound. The only road he had to follow was the railroad track, this often being very difficult to find. He made six trips during this winter. He bought a livery barn which he had for fifteen years. Here he broke many broncos and wild horses.

Once he was forced to go to Valley City for supplies. The storm was so bad he was forced to walk twelve miles in front of the horses, and by the aid of a shovel, keeping the road. In 1896 on the 22nd day of November, he was married to Natalia Rood. On this week he had been sent out to get a bunch of cattle. As usual it was storming pretty bad. He had a safe place from the storm in a small house. He waited three days for the storm to clear up. On the third, however, he remembered it was his birthday and the date set for his wedding. Rather than disappoint his future wife before they were even wedded, he started out. The work was slow, but finally he succeeded in getting them driven to Hammer and Condry's farm, then eight miles from town. He hurried his horse the following eight miles and finally reached town. With a few hasty preparations he was ready for the wedding. The time for the wedding was seven-thirty. The bride waited long, knowing the groom would arrive at some time during the night. At ten O'clock he appeared and they were married.

After his marriage he settled down to real bronco busting. These afforded him many runaways. On one trip the team ran away, and the pole went into the ground hurling the wagon far into the air. Mr. Johnson fell out hitting the pole. He was unconscious for several hours. When he fell, he injured his ear badly which caused the blood to flow. As the day was very cold, it caused the blood to freeze. This cold ice again made him conscious. This trip cost him much as his face became paralyzed on one side, and he cracked his ear drum. Johnson jokes much about how his face looked then, for every time he laughed you could notice it only on one side. However, his face is now all right, but he is quite deaf in one ear.

At another time he ran straddle of a rock which threw him out of the wagon. He was unconscious because the jolt hurled him out. When he returned to town, he went to look for his horses and found them five miles from town in a large grain field.



In 1906 he went and took up a claim near New England. He went to Dickinson by train and to New England by stage. He took horses and set out to look for land. He found some that proved satisfactory ten miles from New England in Hettinger County, Steele Township between the Rainy Buttes and the Teepees. Their home was a frame shanty, one room 14x16 feet with sod outside. They had forty miles to the nearest railroad town, Dickinson, and did not go there frequently. He moved his household furniture from here, and it took very long going across a large creek where he almost had a tip-over. He lived here ten months.

In the fall his brother joined him, taking up a claim near Earnest's land. That winter diphtheria became very bad. Two of his brother's children got the disease and died. Earnest started across the snow-laden hills to Dickinson to purchase coffins. It was slow and tedious labor. His children also got the disease and he lost his oldest son, Willie. The winter was cold, but they succeeded in getting sufficient fuel from the coal veins in the Bad Lands.

In 1917 he moved back to Cooperstown. He sold his livery barn and purchased the West Prairie Stock Farm which is sixteen miles west and two miles north of Cooperstown. There he spent eighteen years leading a happy and prosperous life. In the election of 1926, he was made sheriff of Griggs County.

His descendants are: Arthur, Wilhelm, Luella, Corpora and Melvin all of Cooperstown, and Mrs. Harold Fowler who lives on the home farm, her post office in Binford. He has two grandsons, Gordon Wayne and Ronald Quinten, who are Melvin's children. Two children, Willie and Corpora died at about the age of ten and a pair of twins early in their infancy.



Biography of Elling Johnson  
--Ovidia Froiland

His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Froiland. Mr. Johnson was born on December 26, 1850 in Stavanger, Norway.

He came to America in 1882 to seek his future or to find better opportunities for the future. He came to North Dakota because other of his friends from Norway had settled here.

He first came to Yellow Medicine, Minnesota and worked there for one year. Then he came to North Dakota in 1883 bringing his family with him. He came in a covered wagon drawn by oxen.

He took up his land in Section 10, Township 145, Range 59. He first had a sod house, then later he had a frame house. They got to town by foot or using oxen. They had to drive 40 miles to Valley City to grind their flour. There were many large prairie fires and fierce blizzards.

His nearest neighbors were T. T. Fuglistad, Jens Bull, and Fred Williams.

His farm machinery was owned by another neighbor and himself. They were: broadcast seeder, 6 feet wide; peg toothed harrow, and a walking plow. The harvesting was hired by a neighbor.

They did not have any church but they gathered in the homes and schoolhouses. Their pastor was Rev. Nasheim. The school they had is the one called Soma School at the present time.

They got the wood from down by the Sheyenne River. They did not have any coal.

He was married to Dorothy Ashland in Norway in 1875. He makes his home at his farm.

His descendents are:

Mrs. Jasper Taxdal, Hannaford, North Dakota  
Mrs. Christ Sildal, Cooperstown, North Dakota  
Mrs. Inga Anderson, Cooperstown, North Dakota  
Mr. Hans Froiland, Cooperstown, North Dakota



## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Mr. and Mrs. Lars Johnson, who now reside in Sverdrup Township, were both born in Sweden. Lars Johnson who was then known as Lars Johanson was born on the 14th of January, 1842, in Dufved, are, Jamtland, Sweden. His parents were Mr. John Larson and Mrs. Brita Nelson Larson. He was the second son in a family of three boys and one girl. Mrs. Johanson was known in her girlhood days as Ingeborg Nelson. Her parents were Nels Olauson and Gertrude LaLander Olauson. She was born on the 19th of April, 1847, in Wik, are, Jamtland, Sweden. She was the oldest child in a family of three boys and five girls. Mr. Lars Johanson and Ingeborg Nelson were married on the third of July, 1870, in Are Church near Dufved, Jamtland, Sweden.

In 1872, after the old home of Lars Johanson's parents had been sold to their oldest son, Mr. Johanson decided to sail for America. On the 9th of May, Lars Johanson and his wife and their infant daughter, Brita Elizabeth, decided to go to Minnesota to seek a new home. They came to Granite Falls, Chippewa County, Minnesota, because Mr. Johanson's youngest brother had come there two years before and had already bought a farm. The Johanson's lived there on a pre-emption for nine years but because of crop failures, due to three years of grasshoppers and drought, they were obliged to leave. On a pre-emption people were given the right to live until they could homestead the land, but since it was impossible to live there because of crop failure they were given permission by the government to leave and go elsewhere to make their living and take a homestead if they wished.

Mr. Matthew Davidson, a Civil war veteran and a neighbor of the Johanson's, had gone to what is now Griggs County a couple of years before. The Johanson's therefore decided to go to Dakota. They built a covered wagon by nailing wooden ribs to the top of the wagon box and covered these, first with unbleached sheeting, then oilcloth to make it waterproof. Into this they loaded all the household goods, consisting chiefly of bedclothes, stove, a few kitchen utensils, and their immigrant trunk filled with clothes for themselves and three children, Brita Elizabeth, Nickolaus, and Margareta. They also had provisions with them for the journey, such as, "knacke" bread, dried beef, homemade summer sausages, smoked ham, and so forth. They also had one-half dozen hens, two geese, and one rooster. They shipped their haymower and plow on the Northern Pacific to Valley City. A small seeder was shipped to Hope later. They had three cows, one heifer and one calf. Their mattresses were filled with straw and laid on top of their household goods. On their journey when the bread gave out they had to lift the stove out of the wagon while they did the baking.

They set out on their journey in company with John and Gustav Forsborg and the Grotness family. They had planned to start in May but due to Mrs. Johanson's illness they postponed



their departure still in June. At the end of the first days journey they camped near a farm. Mrs. Johanson was not feeling well, so the kind farmer's wife invited her and her girls to sleep upstairs in her house. The room was low and hot and she felt feverish. She managed to get downstairs for a drink of water from a rain barrel to quench her thirst. The next morning the lady gave her some medicine and Mrs. Johanson felt well enough so they could continue their journey.

When they reached Fergus Falls they traded their team of horses to a man who had come from the Red River Valley. In exchange for the horses they got two yoke of oxen. Then in company with the Grotnesses and the Forsbergs they continued their journey. Cattle buyers, gold seekers, land seekers, and fortune hunters with their wagons joined in the cavalcade for a longer or shorter time.

They came through Fargo which was then only a town of small shanties. Mr. Johanson wanted to stay in Fargo and go into the restaurant business, but Mrs. Johanson had the vision of a claim and home in Dakota, where she could bring up her children in God's nature and not in a noisy boarding house kitchen, dusty streets and dirty alleys.

The Grotnesses went to Crookston from Fargo but the Johansons and Forsbergs continued westward. Going by the Dalrymple Farm they had to cross a slough three miles long. The water reached over the hubs of the wheels up to the wagon box, but they came through safely because the bottom of the slough was prairie and not soft.

When passing a farm near Fargo one rooster flew out of the crate. They lost track of him, but the Grotnesses asked the farmer to pay them fifty cents. For this they bought a treat. Over one day's journey on this side of Fargo, one of the cows had the misfortune of breaking her leg. This delayed the journey for three or four days. They had to take the cow and her calf back to Fargo, where they sold them both for about forty dollars.

Finally they reached the Sheyenne River after about four weeks journey. They camped on the east side of the valley for a couple of days while Mr. Johanson and other men in the company went out to look for a good peice of land on which to settle. They located on Section 28, Range 58 W., Tounnship 145 N. on the morning of the Fourth of July, 1881, where they are still living.

After they settled on their land, they lifted the cover off the wagon and set it down and lived in that the first summer. When it rained or stormed Mr. and Mrs. Johanson had to get up in the night and hold down the tent. They also had extra oilcloths to put over the children. Mrs. Johanson can



tell many interesting incidents of trying to cook in the open. Mr Johanson has also delighted in telling stories of the early days.

With his team of oxen and a crude plow, Mr. Johanson set to work at once to break the sod. He broke ten acres of land on which he raised wheat the next spring. He also cut hay with the help of his wife and children. Mr. Johanson put up hay for the neighbors to make money for food and clothing. They also put up a thirty ton stack of hay that he sold for two dollars a ton to Mr. Andrew Benson.

The tools and machinery were of the crudest make. Mr. Johanson made his own hay rake and Mrs. Johanson had to lead the oxen while Mr. Johanson managed the rake, but the Johansons were not afraid of work and as they had very little money they were willing to work hard for necessary provisions. They had only forty dollars in cash but with what they earned they were able to send fifty dollars to his brother in Granite Falls. For this he bought a cow and sent with Andrew Benson who came from Granite Falls to this community later in the fall.

In the fall of the year Mr. Johanson went to Valley City and traded off some cattle for lumber to build a shanty. After the shanty was completed Mrs. Johanson said, "I don't believe any king in all his glory is as happy in his palace as I am in my little shanty." After having lived three months in the improvised tent, Mrs. Johanson appreciated living in a house that was stationary. They lived in this little shack till in November, when Mr. Johanson and little son, Nic, had cut the logs and built the one-roomed log cabin. They lived in this one-roomed cabin until in 1885 when they built a large barn. They put a floor in one end of that and lived in it for a few weeks while they moved the log house, added another room, and raised the building making a low room of second floor. This building with the two rooms is still standing on the homestead. The large wood framed building was built about 1904.

Mr. and Mrs Johanson each with a yoke of oxen went to Valley City in the fall to buy provisions for themselves and their neighbors. This was a three days trip. Their own winter provisions consisted of two gallons of kerosene, syrup, fifty cents worth of brown and fifty cents worth of white sugar, five pounds of coffee, some flour, and a few minor articles. They were not in the habit of drinking coffee every day. They made a coffee substitute by baking a kind of course bread, cut it in strips, dried it and browned it, and ground it together with some coffee beans. Sometimes they used the wild prairie tea for a drink.

The next spring Mr. Johanson bought seed for his ground from a farmer near Bald Hill Creek. The grain was large and full, but was mixed with with wild buckwheat seed. As they had no mill Mrs. Johanson and the children had to pick out the buckwheat seed. They did this by spreading the wheat over sheets.



They also bought five bushels of potatoes in Valley City. When they were cutting and sorting the potatoes for seed they cut out some potatoes for a meal. This was a treat as they had not tasted potatoes since they came to Dakota. The potatoes were planted in the ground that had been the fire break, for in those days prairie fires were common and wide fire breaks were necessary. Many times the whole family had to get out and fight the fire.

They had to borrow a reaper to cut their first years crop. This they borrowed from Simon Ouren.

There was one thing these pioneers did not lack and that was fuel. This could be gotten at the Sheyenne River. There were plenty of dry trees and also woods on which no one had monesteaded. After a few years Mr. Johanson bought three acres of land along the Sheyenne River which is known as lot three and section sixteen. From this he has been able to our many a load of wood throughout his forty-five years of residence here. He paid sixteen dollars an acre for this wood land.

Rev. Lundebly was one of the first ministers to visit the community. Though the Johanson's house was small yet it was larger than many of their neighbor's houses. Therefore, Mrs. Johanson was obliged to house the minister. The neighbors brought milk, bread and other provisions for him. Rev. Lundebly was such a tall man that Mrs. Johanson had to piece her short old-country sheets and put a chair at the foot of the bed so that the bed would be long enough for him. This minister told the Johanson children many interesting stories about his travels over the prairie. He dressed in furs and carried a tent with him so that when caught in a storm he could cover his horses, cutter and himself, and camp on the prairie until he was able to get to some settlers home. He would hold services once or twice a year. At one of his services held in 1883 twelve children were baptized at one time. Among these twelve was Mr. and Mrs. Johanson's infant daughter, Kristina Wilhelmina.

In 1886 Lars Johanson and Hans Sundeen went back to Granite Falls and each bought a team of horses. Each team cost in the neighborhood of three hundred dollars. These were bought on the installment plan.

After filing his tree claim, Mr. Johanson set about planting trees. The first year he planted seed and they came up nicely and seemed to thrive but in July a hot rain killed them. He then had to prepare the soil again, buy trees and replant. In 1885 he planted nine thousand trees. Many of these are now sturdy trees. With trees planted in later years they make an excellent windbreak and a cozy looking home.

The first schoolhouse built in the fall of 1884 is what is now known as the Gallatin School. Gallatin was then the Postoffice. The Gallatin Schoolhouse was organized May 29, 1883. Mr. Johanson served on the board as clerk at that time



and later as president of the board. This school grew to be quite large. In 1889, forty-five children of school age, lived in the district. This schoolhouse cost approximately one thousand dollars.

Mr. Johanson received his citizenship papers in June, 1887. George Gullickson and Matthew Davidson were his witnesses. John A. Jorgenson was clerk of court for Griggs County. (See copy of Naturilization Record) Some of the men who became citizens at the same term of court were: Hans Sundeen, Samuel Langford, John Duncan, John J. Lee, Thor Hagen, Ferdinand Fenger, Knut Stromme, and Christ Aarestad. There were fifty-seven applicants for citizenship at this term of court.

Some of the people who were neighbors of the Johanson's in the pioneer days were: Swen Loge, Swen Lunde, Waldemar Klubben, Betuel Herigstad, Ole Westley, Andrew Benson, Christian Aarestad, and Helge Larson.

The descendents of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are Brita Elizabeth (Mrs. Olof Johnson of Hannaford), Nickolaus (Nic Johnston of Aneta, deceased), Christine Wilhelmina (Mrs. O. W. Sandin of Coopers-town), Mathilda LaLander (Mrs. Mathilda Johnson of Cooperstown), and Ida Louise (Mrs. Albert Johnson of Hannaford). Besides these there are sixteen grandchildren. The writer of this paper is one of the grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are still living on the homestead with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Sandin, and are still active but their years of hard labor are beginning to tell their tale.

Though many of these early experiences are forgotten, yet on cold winter evenings when sitting around the fire in their cozy farm home their talk often drifts to reminiscent tales of pioneer days.



Copied from page 44 of Naturalization Record of Second Papers.  
Griggs County

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA  
County of Griggs

DISTRICT COURT  
June Term, June 15th, 1887

In the matter of the application of Lars Johanson to become a citizen of the United States George Gullickson and Matthew Davidson being severally sworn, do depose and say, each for himself, that he is well acquainted with the above named Lars Johanson that he has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past, and for one year last past within the Territory of Dakota; and that during the same period he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and sworn to  
in open Court, this 15 day  
of June 1887.

Signed JOHN A. JORGENSEN  
clerk

Signed GEORGE GULLICKSON

Signed MATTHEW DAVIDSON

TERRITORY OF DAKOTA  
County of Griggs

DISTRICT COURT

I, Lars Johanson, do swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I do absolutely and entirely Renounce and Abjure forever all Allegiance and Fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty whatever; and particularly to the King of Sweden and Norway whose subject I was. And further, that I never have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the degrees of Nobility of the country whereof I have been a subject, and that I have resided within the United States for five years last past, and in this Territory for one year last past.

Subscribed and sworn to  
in open Court, this 15th  
day of June, 1887.

Signed JOHN A. JORGENSEN  
CLERK

Signed Lars Johanson



Transalation of letter written by Lars Johnson to his brother, Jonas, living in Minnesota.

Gallatin, the 20 of September, 1885

Dear Brother, Jonas,

I must, in brief, send you a few words so you may hear we are alive and gifted with health up to this time. Only two year old daughter, Kristine, has poor eyes. I have tried two of the doctors we have here but without any permanent help. If she is not helped we will have to go to Minneapolis.

I planted last spring about 9000 trees. All have grown this summer. Besides I have built a good log stable 42 feet long and 16 feet wide. I have even moved my living house and laid shingle on the roof.

I have both reaped and threshed. I got 1560 bushels wheat on 72 acres, 500 bushels oats on 10 acres and 85 of barley. We have had a dry fall and nice weather.

Let me hear what the prices of horses down there are now and if you know of a good team for sale also if it can be sold on time until spring. I am looking for wheat to go up in price. I still have my oxen. My large team of oxen weighed, after I was through reaping, 5786 pounds. The largest of them is the one I raised down there.

I will also mention that a daughter was born to us last June. Her name is Mathilda.

And so a loving greeting to you all. In haste of your brother.

Lars Johanson



Translation of letter written by Lars Johnson to his brother,  
Jonas, in Minnesota.

Griggs the 27 July, 1883

Loved Brother,

Thanks for your letter of the 28 instant. I see by your letter that you are gifted with life and health as usual. Must also mention that we have also the same good news to tell you, only our infant daughter, Kristina Wilhelmina, who was born the 14 of April has been poorly of late, but just now she is somewhat improved. During the first of the summer the weather was so dry that the grass on the prairies began to wither and dry. The last days of June the weather has been up to 115°, so that the crops in many places look poorly. The fields that were put in early are in the best condition. I sowed about 10 acres before the other neighbors got theirs in. This looks like No. 1. The rest of my crop was sowed soon after so it looks as if that will be good too. Last Saturday we had such a heavy rain I have never seen the like. I had a tub standing outside on the flat prairie. This filled in a foot high. But the ground was so dry that the water soaked into the ground in a short time. The 26 we had another heavy shower. This filled the sloughs and it is now difficult to make hay. I have just started hay-ing. Yesterday we hauled 10 loads. I have a hired man so things are going fast. Yesterday Nic loaded all the hay and "mama" stood in the stack. I unpitched the load and Jacob helped load. We had two teams.

Daniel Erickson came up last spring. He took land near the river. It has 12 acres of wood. Another man had pre-empted that land but had left. He has built a house and is living there with his wife.

My seeder arrived in Hope last March in good condition. I have broken 45 acres--half for myself and half for others.

I must close my letter with dear greetings to you all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

P. S. I will show you how tall wheat grows in the west.



Translation of letter written by Lars Johnson to his brother, Jonas, living in Minnesota.

Gallatin the 13 of February, 1885

Dear Brother Jonas,

Your writing of the 12 of last month, even the named of last summer, I have heartily received. I started an answer to the one from last summer before Christmas, but it was never finished. We are all well according to circumstances and are all gifted with health to the present time. We must say we have had a good summer and a dry fall, and a nice winter even though it is cold off and on. There is so much snow that we must use sleds. We had wagon roads until Christmas time.

We have now already gotten a school house and school a going. Brita and Nickolas have gone to school all winter. We have  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles to the schoolhouse which is situated in the valley. It is now two years since I took the steps necessary to have a school district organized. This did not materialize because when the meeting was held there was a disagreement about where the school should be placed. Those in the Valley wanted it there and those of us on the prairie wanted it in the center which was near my land. But then in the meanwhile the new school laws come into effect and we had then no school house and so nothing came out so what we had done.

I have never mentioned to you that I had some trouble with 40 acres of the land that I took as a tree claim. A Norman that lived in this same section made known to me and others how he intended to take his land after I had secured my paper and had all things right, so he went and swore to the effect that he had dug a well on this named forty, and so got his papers. This named well was only a hole that he had made in taking out some plaster sand in hill and that there would be a hole was clear. I then had to get two men to go with me to Valley City to witness to that effect. I had an attorney. This witness proof had to be sent to Washington before I got a satisfactory answer and that took a long time, but when it came it was in my favor and he was the loser. During this time he had moved onto this named forty, built a house, and stable, and broken 16 acres. In order that I did not have to go to further law and get him to go I paid him 93 dollars for the house and breaking. He then sold his forty acres and left this community. I now thus have two farms. I intend to move this named house unto my homestead. I bought 7000 cotton wood trees last fall that I intend to plant on my tree claim



#2

I must say I had a rich harvest last fall. We got 1560 bushels wheat, 25 on the acre. Oats were about 400, but the prices as you know are low. But luckily I got hauled out 380 bushels when it was 60 cents and so I have about 400 left to sell. Wheat cost me at home here 52 cents and I got a chance to sell for 48 and 50 cents.

We paid \$2.00 a day from the time harvest started until threshing was over. I had this year a norwegian boy from Wesconsin who worked for me and earned \$80.00 from me until threshing began. Usually the crew follows the threshing machine. C. Aarestad got between 8 or 900 bushels wheat, and H. Larson 600, if I remember correctly.

There is a lot of complaint about hard times and it is perhaps hard for many. I for my part have not known of any hard times since we came up here. It seems to be quite common that people have had too much hope for the future so they have invested too much. I perhaps have done so too, but I have worked my land carefully.

I have again bought a new sulky plow, so I now have two. Also a new wagon which is paid for. I have to pay second installment next coming June on my binder.

I must ask you to send me 2 or 3000 cuttings of the kinds of trees that are best growers. Cut them so they are ready for planting. They would have to be packed in a box. You may not have time to do it but you can get some one to do it. Perhaps Pher Nilson who lives in 12 could undertake to do it. I would pay what it was worth.

You must greet Pher Nilson's from us. Also other friends from us, and you are greeted from us all. In haste of your brother,

Lars Johanson

Should mention that incase trees be sent they must be sent to Cooperstown, Griggs Co., Dakota. I have heard that the roads (rr) have been united but I know not if it is true.



TERRITORY OF DAKOTA  
County of Griggs

DISTRICT COURT

And now, to-wit: At a Term of said Court now being held at Cooperstown in and for the County of Griggs in said Territory, upon the foregoing oath and affidavits, and upon further proof having made by the production of certificate that the said Lars Johanson did before the Clerk of the District Court of Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, the same being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, make the requisite declaration of his intention to become a Citizen of the United States, and to renounce all other allegiance as required by the laws of the United States.

IT IS ORDERED BY THE COURT, That the said Lars Johanson be, and he is hereby admitted to be, A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

By the Court,

Signed WILLIAM H. FRANCIS  
judge.

A true Record. Attest:

Signed JOHN A. JORGENSEN  
clerk



TRANSLATION OF LETTER WRITTEN BY LARS JOHNSON TO HIS BROTHER.

Jonas, in Minnesota.

Griggs the 27 July 1883

Loved Brothor,

Thanks for the letter of the 28th instant. I see by your letter that you are gifted with health as usual. Must also mention that we have also the same good news to tell you, only our infant daughter Kristina Wilhelmena, who was born the 14 of April has been poorly of late, but just now she is somewhat improved. During the first of the summer the weather was so dry that the grass on the prairies began to wither and dry. The last days of June the weather has been up to 115 degrees, so that the crops in many places look poorly. The fields that were put in early are in the best condition. I sowed about 10 acres before the other neighbors got theirs in. This looks like No. 1. The rest of my crop was sown soon after so it looks as if will be good too. Last Saturday we had such a rain I have never seen the like. I had a tub standing outside on the flat prairie. This filled in a foot high, but the ground was so dry that this water soaked into the ground in a short time. The 26 we had another heavy shower. This filled the sloughs and it is now difficult to make hay. I have just started haying. Yesterday we hauled ten loads. I have a hired man so things are going fast. Yesterday Nic loaded all the hay and "mana" stood in the stack. I unpitched the load and Jacob helped load. We had two teams. Daniel Erickson came up last spring. He took land near the river. It has twelve acres of wood. Another man preempted that land but had left. He has built a house and is living there with his wife. My scuder arrived in Hope last March in good condition. I have broken 45 acres---half for myself and half for others. I must close my letter with dear greetings to you all. In haste of your brother,

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P.S. I will show you how tall wheat grows here in the west.



Callatin, the 20th of September, 1885

Dear Brother, Jonas,

I must, in brief, send you a few words so you may hear we are alive and gifted with health up to this time. Only two year old daughter, Kristine, has poor eyes. I have tried two of the doctors we have here but without any permanent help. If she is not helped we will have to go to Minneapolis.

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Let me hear what the prices of horses down there are now and if you know of a good team for sale also if it can be sold on time till spring. I am looking for wheat to go up in price. I still have my oxen. My large team of oxen weighed, after I was through reaping, 5786 pounds. The largest of them is the one I raised down there. I will also mention that a daughter was born to us last June. Her name is Mathilda.

And so a loving greeting to you all. In haste of your brother,

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I have never mentioned to you that I had some trouble with the 40 acres of land that I took as a tree claim. A Norman that lives in this same section made known to me and others how he had intended to take this land after I had secured my paper and had all things right, so he went and swore to the effect that he had dug a well on this named forty, and so got his papers. This named well was only a hole that he had made in taking out some plaster sand in a hill and that there would be a hole was clear. I then had to get two men to go with me to Valley City to witness to that effect.

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Also a new wagon which is paid for. I have to pay a second installment next coming June on my binder.

I must ask you to send me 2 or 3,000 cuttings of the kinds of trees that are best growers. Cut them so they are ready for planting.

They would have to be packed in a box. You may not have time to do it. Perhaps Pher Nelson who lives in IA could undertake to do it.

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Jonas, in Minnesota.

Griggs the 27 July 1883

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town, Griggs County, Dakota. I have heard that the roads (rr) have  
been united but I know not if it is true.



Cooperstown, North Dakota  
September 25, 1890

Dear Brother Olaf,

I will send you a few lines as an answer to the letter I received from you a few days ago. Glad to hear that you are well and feeling fine. We are all well and working hard.

We got through with the threshing Friday. It was a German that did the threshing for us. His name was Ed Zimorich. We did not get as good a crop as we expected. We expected to get 400 bushels of wheat, but we didn't get more than 350; 340 bushels of oats, and 115 of barley. They were going to furnish everything, but they didn't have any cook car, so we had to give them the board, which they got for 20¢ a meal. They had three meals a day. They were threshing for 10, 7, and 8 cents per bushel.

None of the Swedes have threshed any yet. Sundberg and Jonas Person didn't get a machine as they had expected.

I see you are beginning to get tired of farming. So are we. It wouldn't be so bad if a person wasn't owing anything. If it wasn't for that, a person could manage to make a living.

M. L. Ruggals is back in Cooperstown. He says he doesn't like Washington, but likes Oregon pretty well.--It's been court this week. I didn't hear how it turned out with H. Fenner.

I notice by your letter that the Indians have been coming by the hundreds up the river. Some have been going past here, but not by the hundreds. We have no river for them to follow, probably that's why.

I have nothing more of importance to write about so I will close for this time.

With greetings from all of us.

Your brother,  
Esper Johnson

P. S.--Have been to town today with a load of wheat or 18 sacks. It was twenty-nine bushels and he docked 7 pounds on the bushel. I sold it to Cooper.

Note:

This letter is written by Esper Johnson of Cooperstown, North Dakota to Olaf Johnson, who, at that time was farming in Washington.



Family tree of John Kerber and wife Henrietta Kerber  
of Karnak, Griggs Co, N. Dak.

Parents of John Kerber were Henrich Kerber and Anna  
— (Madin name not recalled) Anna was the Bell of Plunk  
Prussia where both were raised by German parents.  
As newly weds they homesteaded in Poland near Warsaw, <sup>in about 1872</sup>  
where they raised five sons and two daughters and died in  
their 80's on the homestead.

Their children were, Henrich, John, William, Peter,  
Anna, Mary and George.

Henrich married & lived and raised his family in  
Warsaw, Poland. Died there.

William, Peter, Anna and Mary emigrated to the U.S. &  
in about 1872. Located in Detroit, Mich. where Anna &  
Mary married and raised their families and died there.  
Peter and William went to Okonago <sup>Mich.</sup> near Lansing. <sup>Peter & William</sup> married  
there and raised their families there and died there.

William went to N. Dak. Homesteaded a quarter in <sup>the section</sup> near <sup>Karnak is built now.</sup> in about  
1875. Married Mary Croft, a later German immigrant in  
about 1897. Raised two sons and two daughters. Robert Kerber  
lives in Denver, Colo. Emma Kerber married August Stiner  
and lives near Homestead in Griggs Co, N. Dak. The other two  
children live in New York, caring for their widowed  
mother.

George Kerber married and lived & raised their  
family on the old homestead of his parents near Warsaw  
Poland where they <sup>lived</sup> raised and died.

The second son of Henrich Kerber, John Kerber.



born in 1845 near Warsaw, Poland. Went with a neighborhood group in covered wagons into Russia into the dense "Black Forest" into a German settlement near a little Jewish village called Sittomer in about 1870. There he met Frederick Krebs and family.

Frederick Krebs and wife, (wife's name not recalled) were born in Germany. Frederick was an orphan. As newly weds they homesteaded in Poland about in 1835. In about 1870 they homesteaded in the dense "Black Forest" in a German settlement near a Jewish Village called Sittomare, Russia.

John Kerber Sr. was married to Henrietta Krebs, (daughter of Frederick) in about 1872.

Frederick Krebs deeded the daughter & son-in-law an acreage of his land where they lived and raised a family of six children. John Jr. and Will R. were born in 1876, Dec. 24. Henry born in 1878, Mar. 17. Fred born in 1880 Dec. 26, died in 1884. Hilda Kerber born Nov. 13, 1882. Anna born May 15, 1885, Mary born 1887, Dec. 27. Henry died in 1905 age 27.

In 1888 The family emigrated to the U.S.A. to save their three sons from the Russian Army. (He sailed in the ship called Elba which about fifteen years later sunk) Land in Detroit Mich. June 1888. In about Aug. the family moved to Okemos<sup>Mich</sup> where Peter Kerber farmed. For five years John Sr. farmed near Okemos and Lansing<sup>Mich</sup>. In 1889 Dec. 18 a son, George R. was born in Okemos, Mich.

In 1893 the family went to Hammarford, Preger



3 = Co. N. Dak. Bought a section of land on crop payments, on the north side of <sup>the section</sup> where Karnak is built. Here they raised four sons and three daughters. Henry died, single, at the age of 27. Jno. Sr. died in 1878 Sept. 18, Henrietta (wife) died July 1st 1879, each at the age of 82 years.

John Jr. married Delia Orier of Bismark N. Dak. Homesteaded near Goodrich N. Dak. in about 1900. In about 1920 sold the homestead and moved to Karnak, Griggs Co. N. Dak. Here they raised their four sons and three daughters. Sylvia, Norman, Howard, Hazel, Lynn, Eunice and Lloyd. Hazel died age three. Norman married Doris —, Bought a farm and home east of Karnak. Has five sons & daughters. Sylvia married Guy Williams of Bertha Minn. Live there, Have five children. boys & girls.

Howard married Lourois — of England N. Dak. Located in Red Lake Falls, Minn. In 1953 moved to Springfield, Oregon. Have an adopted son and daughter.

Eunice married Louis Longo of Pueblo, Colo. Have two sons and two daughters.

Lynn, married and has a family in Ill.

Lloyd, single, died 1950, Jno. W. Died June 18, 1957

Will R. Kerber married Minnie Rapphune in 1902 moved on to their homestead near Goodrich N. Dak. In about 1917 where they raised their five daughters and three sons. In about 1928 they moved to Sulton Washington. They raised five daughters and three sons.



H= Will R. & sons & daughters. Elsie, Alma,  
Louella, Sorella and Evelyn. Will, W. Rowland and Wardell.  
Elsie married Stanley Copenhaver of Carrington, N. Dak.  
Raised two sons, living at Carrington, both married.  
Alma married — — Has sons and daughters living near Goodrich, N. Dak.

Louella married and lives near Fessenden where they raised sons and daughters.

Sorella married, lives in southern part of N. Dak. have sons and daughters.

Evelyn married Hugh C. Tarbell of Carrington N. D. Have a twin daughter and son. Live in St Paul Minn. Will W. single, now living in Omaha Neb.

Rowland married, has sons and daughters in Minn.

Wardell, single, lives in Section, Washington

Hilda Kerber, single, after nursing in eight states settled in Colorado Springs in 1923.

Anna married Will Casella in 1924 in San Francisco, Calif. Died at the age of 55.

Mary E. single. Has lived in San Francisco Calif since 1926.

George L. married Mabel Selbow of Valley City N. Dak. Lived on the old home place near Karnak N. Dak. Raised a daughter Phyllis and a son Richard. Died Dec. 8, 1956.

Phyllis married Ralph Schmidt of Phillips S. Dak. Settled in Fargo N. Dak in 1953. Have a son Walter, a daughter Carol.

Richard, single, lives on the home place with his widowed mother, at Karnak, N. Dak.



Theo. F. Kerr, M.D.

Theo. F. Kerr M.D., was born near Owasco Lake in Cayuga County, New York, May 29, 1846. He was the 5th in a family of 11 children, 4 boys, 7 girls, born to Alexander and Harriet (Hammond) Kerr. His father was born in New Jersey, and was married in Cayuga Co., N. York. Dr. Kerr's brother John F., was in the Civil War, enlisting in 1864, and was killed at Kinston North Carolina, Mar 8, 1865.

Dr. Kerr moved with his parents in 1856 to a farm near Ann Arbor Mich. He attended the city schools, and graduated from the High School, and then the University at Ann Arbor, where he took a degree in literature and art. He then went to California and accepted the chair of teacher of Latin and mathematics in the Military Academy at Oakland, which position he filled from 1867 to 1871, and during the next year he was principal of one of the public schools of Buffalo New York. Here he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Thomas Lothrop, a prominent physician of that city, and then returned to Ann Arbor and took a course of lectures, and afterward pursued his studies in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, and later in the Columbia University, graduating in the medical



## Dr. Kerr

of 1874. He then began the practice of his profession in Detroit Michigan, and continued there until he went to North Dakota in the early '80's. He located in Cooperstown before the railroad was built to that locality, and experienced many hardships in the practice of his profession through that country. On one occasion he traveled about 25 miles to visit a sick man, and upon his arrival found him in a dying condition in a sod hut, where Dr. Kerr was storm bound 3 days. The patient died, and a young man who was his partner, and the Doctor were forced to stay with the corpse and subsist on meager rations 3 days before the storm broke sufficiently for the Doctor to return. When he did he made the journey through a foot of snow the entire distance.

Dr. Kerr was married, in 1874, to Miss Eliza Hill, in Ann Arbor Mich. She was born in Washtenaw Co. Mich, a daughter of Fitch and Martha Hill. Mr. Hill was a farmer, contractor and builder.

Two children, Kenneth and Theo, both deceased, were born to Dr. & Mrs. Kerr.

Dr. Kerr was the 1st Co. Supt of Schools and held that office until 1894.

Bibliog: Condensed from Compend. of Hist & Bio. 1900, p 409-410.



#### MRS. THEODORE F. KERR.

The death of Mrs. Theodore F. Kerr will bring to the minds of many of the pioneers of Griggs county the personality of a woman whose life was a living embodiment of good will and kind-heartedness toward those with whom she mingled without regard to age or station.

Dr. and Mrs. Kerr were among the first residents of Cooperstown. Their home was a haven for many years, for those who needed, in a new country, the kind ministrations of a home, friends and physician. Many are the recipients who will gratefully testify to the unstinted hospitality, generosity and friendliness of their ministrations in those years.

"Auntie Kerr," as she was lovingly known by her friends, who are legion, was a woman of the broadest human sympathies, actuated by a deep and genuine interest in her fellow beings, who—though bearing her own deep afflictions in the brave and noble spirit of silence, was always ready to share the burdens and trials of those who sought her counsel, or to whom she could minister. Many young mothers and home-makers have called her blessed in recognition of the helpful service she gave them both in the care of their children and in the domestic realm. Many indeed are those whom she has "helped to live happier, healthier and saner" lives by means of her "wise counsel and friendship." One of these, her friends, affirms "her philosophy of life and of daily living has helped me over many a rough path, and I am better for having known her. A book, her last gift, 'Thy Rod and Thy Staff,' Benson, will always be one of my dear possessions."

While not so sure of just how life's greatest problems and its most vital issues are to be solved, as theologians are, yet she believed that the hand of the supreme one, God, directs the affairs of men and nations, and is leading the world to the ultimate goal of a divine purpose. Her rule of life was the faithful performance of the every-day tasks, with a willing spirit, as the service which is the only reasonable part for each individual to perform. Though she may not have defined it so, she regarded life as an investment, an adventure; a giving of the best one has in a cheerful and unselfish service. The keynote of her life was usefulness—

service. Perhaps her finest and most enduring characteristic was her genius for friendship. She was the embodiment of a true friend. She recognized the diversity of personalities, and the strength of her friendship was able to equalize or dispose of any difference of understanding or opinion which might arise. She could close the door upon an unruly difference and remain a true and loyal friend still. The greatest achievement of her life was undoubtedly the incomputable wealth embodied in hosts of friends.

A devoted lover of books, her mind was richly stored with the world's best thought and ideals, and she was always eager to share the treasures of the best literature with her friends. Her letters never fail to mention the books of her present reading, and to give discriminating comments upon them. Handicapped by deaf ears, which she accepted without complaint—almost cheerfully, she was genuinely thankful for the privilege and enjoyment afforded by reading. In writing of the possibilities open to a reader in one of her latest letters, she said: "If I were to select the choicest gift which fate has bestowed upon me, it would be my liking for reading." Had she been asked for it this might reasonably have been her parting message to a world so sadly steeped in materialism and so far from the home of the soul—the ideal, the spirit.

Mrs. Kerr was keenly alive to all the vital concerns with which the world is struggling today in a death grip amid a cataclysm of the nations.

Her mind had an international grasp, and it clung to the highest and noblest ideals for the world's redemption from the blight of exaggerated materialism and the cruelty of its selfishness and greed.

Those who knew her best, know, while she did not long for death, that the summons came as a release from a life of heroic endeavor to perform a true soldier's part.

Eliza Hill Kerr died in Portsmouth, N. H., Sept. 12, 1917, seventy years of age.

The writer knows no better tribute to lay upon her bier or to inscribe upon her headstone, in the name of her multitude of friends, than the fitting title—"Kindheart."

L. M. B. *Mrs. J. N. Brown*  
Cooperstown, N. D.



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Cooperstown, N. D.



## Dr. Theodore F. Kerr

Theodore F. Kerr was the son of Alexander and Harriet (Hammond) Kerr. His father was born in New Jersey, and his mother in New York.

He was born May 29, 1846 near Owasco Lake, Cayuga, New York. In 1856 he moved with his parents to a farm near ~~Cayuga~~ Ann Arbor Michigan. He was a graduate of High School, the University of Michigan, College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City in 1874. He taught Latin and Mathematics in the Military Academy in Oakland California 1869-71. He was Principal of Schools of Buffalo New York in 1872.

In 1874 he ~~began~~ practiced as a doctor in Detroit Michigan 1874 to 1881 when he came to Griggs County.

Dr. Kerr was married in 1874 to Miss Eliza Hill, daughter of Fitch and Martha Hill of Washtenaw Co Michigan, near R. C. Cooper's old home. They had two sons who died in infancy before they came to Cooperstown.

Dr. Kerr served as County Superintendent of Schools in Griggs County from 1882 to 1894. He organized the first schools of the county.

With only surveyor's posts to guide him he went anywhere he was called to the sick. Many stories are told of these trips. On some he went alone, and others with drivers. One such story tells of how he stopped when he got to where he thought the sick person was, but could see no house. Then he saw smoke coming out of a snow bank, and discovered that a drift covered the sod house completely.

On another time he was called into Nelson County not far from Red Willow Lake. While he was there the man died. ~~At that time~~ a blizzard came up, so severe that he was kept there for three days with the dead man.

Dr. and Mrs. Kerr were both interested in



Dr. Theodore F. Kerr

the local activities of Cooperstown. He called a Republican County Convention for Griggs County for Oct 20, 1883 to nominate County officers for the first election after the division of the county. The Doctor was also a member of the first Commercial club in 1888, and Mrs. Kerr worked in church activities.

Mr. and Mrs. Kerr left Cooperstown in 1905 because of the poor health of the Doctor, and returned to Michigan



*from "Compendium of ND."*

This gentleman is the pioneer physician and surgeon of Griggs county and has built an extensive practice throughout that region, and is widely known as an exemplary citizen and skillful practitioner. He has resided in Cooperstown since the early days of its history and has been liberal in rendering aid to all public projects. He is intelligent and progressive and therefore popular as a physician and social friend of his fellows. He has always labored for educational advancement and is one of the promoters of the school systems of that region.

Our subject was born near Owosco Lake, in Cayuga county, New York, May 29, 1846, and was the fifth in a family of eleven children, four sons and seven daughters, born to Alexander and Harriet (Hammond) Kerr. His father was a native of New Jersey and was married in Cayuga county, New York. A brother of our subject, John F., was a soldier in the Civil war, enlisting during 1864, and he was killed at Kinston, North Carolina, March 8, 1865.

Our subject remained in his native county until ten years of age, when he removed with his parents to a farm near Ann Arbor, Michigan. He attended the city schools and graduated from the high school, and then entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, where he took a degree in literature and art. He then went to California and accepted the chair of teacher in Latin and mathematics in the Military Academy at Oakland, which position he filled from 1869 to 1871, and during the next year he was principal of one of the public schools of Buffalo, New York. Here he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Thomas Lothrop, a prominent physician of that city, and then returned to Ann Arbor and took a course of lectures, and afterward pursued his studies in the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City and later in the Columbia University, graduating in the medical class of 1874. He then began the practice of his profession in Detroit, Michigan, and continued there until he went to North Dakota in the early '80s. He located in Cooperstown before the railroad was built through that locality and experienced many hardships in the practice of his profession through that county. On one occasion he traveled about twenty-five miles to visit a sick man and upon his arrival found him in a dying condition in a sod hut, where Mr. Kerr was stormbound three days. The patient died, and a young man, who was his partner, and the Doctor were forced to stay with the corpse and subsist on meager rations three days before the storm broke sufficiently for the Doctor to return, and when he did he made the journey through a foot of snow the entire distance. Such experiences are of the past and Mr. Kerr now enjoys an extensive and remunerative patronage.

Our subject was married in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1874, to Miss Eliza Hill, a native of Washtenaw county, that state, and a daughter of Fitch and Martha Hill. Mrs. Kerr's father was a farmer and contractor and builder. Two children, both of whom are deceased, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kerr, named Kenneth and Theo. Mr. Kerr was the first superintendent of schools of Griggs county and held the office until 1894, and he is one of the foremost men of the county from an educational as well as professional view. He has always affiliated with the Republican party in political faith.



May 20, 1929

Biography of Peterson Kindso  
--Stella Anderson

Peterson Kindso, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peterson Kindso was born November 22, 1855 at Vermeland, Sweden. He spent all of his childhood in Sweden. On October 4, 1878, he married Ellen Halvorson.

In 1880 with their son, Martin, they left for America. About two weeks was spent in their journey across the ocean.

They landed in New York and immediately left for the western part of the country. They travelled by train and by covered wagon for about two weeks until they came to Reneville, County, Minnesota. They lived there for two years.

But North Dakota seemed to have more advantages. Land was cheaper, the soil was better, Indians were friendlier, farming conditions were better and as a whole the state seemed to be a much better one to make a permanent home in, so they left Minnesota. They came to North Dakota on June 24, 1882, where they settled in Griggs County.

Land was taken up under the Homestead Act and later they bought more land so their property was enlarged from what it had first been. They now have the land included in Section 24 in township of Washburn.

Their first house was a one room log cabin. Later, when lumber was introduced into the state, they built a two room house and then again a large, more modern home.

The winters were very cold and as their only fuel was wood, they would chop great piles of it every fall. There were many blizzards and it was very dangerous for anyone to be alone on the prairies in winter for a storm could come up most any time.

They did not suffer from prairie fires or floods. Once the Sheyenne River overflowed its banks, but it was not enough to do any harm.

Portland was the nearest town where they could get supplies, so every once in a while, all the settlers in that vicinity would go together to town. They went in wagons drawn by oxen. By all going together they were more safe from Indians and they could also have more fun.

Although there were a number of Indians around there, they never bothered the white people.

The nearest school was the one commonly called the Mardell school. The first teacher was Sever Sermegaard. The nearest church was the Swedish Hafva Lutheran Church. It was not yet founded when these pioneers came to North Dakota but it came into existence later. The first preacher was Rev. Cavellin. This church is still in existence today and is located about eleven miles east of Cooperstown in Steele County.

The farm machinery was very different from what it is today. The plows had only one share; it was held up by a man walking behind it and was pulled by one or two oxen. There were very few horses in the



Biography of Peterson Kindso  
--Stella Anderson

community, oxen being used in their place.

Many times hailstorms destroyed their crops but more often they were good.

Mr. and Mrs. Kindso had four children besides the one already mentioned. They were Hilda, Minnie, Oscar and Effie. Hilda married Albert Anderson, Minnie married Ernest Nelson, Oscar died a few hours after birth, and Effie married John Anderson.

Martin died when he was twenty-seven years old. Mrs. Ernest Nelson also died.

For some time Mr. Kindso had been suffering from high blood pressure and on February 29, 1920 he died when a blood vessel burst. He was buried with his two sons and daughter in the cemetery of the Hafva Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Kindso is still living with her youngest daughter and son-in-law on the farm that she first came to.

The descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Kindso are:

Mrs. Albert Anderson, Mrs. Gust Olson, Floyd Olson, Edna Olson, Ellard Olson, Elvira Anderson, Mabel Anderson, Inez Anderson, Arthur Anderson, Stella Anderson, Clarence Anderson, all of Finley, North Dakota. Mrs. Elmer Wendlick, Dorothy Wendlick, Kenneth Wendlick, all of Luverne, North Dakota. Mrs. John Anderson, Helen Anderson, Eunice Anderson, Walter Anderson, of Cooperstown, North Dakota. Elsie Nelson, Helen Nelson, Clarence Nelson, of Raub, North Dakota.



## PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

### Jacob Kittelson

The names of the pioneer's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Ole Kittelson. The name of the pioneer is Jacob Kittelson.

Mr. Kittelson was born November 2, 1865, three miles south of Rushford, Minnesota in Tilmore County. He left Minnesota because of his parents. He went with his parents to North Dakota and he does not know why his parents came here.

Some experiences that happened when he came from Minnesota with oxen. It was very cold. They stopped at Valley City one week then came up here.

Mr. Kittelson came to North Dakota in the year of 1879. He took up land east of Hannaford. Afterwards he went back to Minnesota. When he came back another man claimed it and he had to give it up. The location of the land which he took up was in Greenfield township, range 59 W. Mr. Kittelson's first house was made of sod. At first they had to go way to Valley City for provisions. Afterwards Hannaford was built and they could get some of their provisions there. Some of his near neighbors were Jakob Olson, J. M. Freer, and Nels Ostlund.

His early farm machinery and teams were a mower and a team of oxen. All the rest of the work was done by hand. The crops raised were mostly hard wheat. He had ten acres of it. It yielded thirty bushels per acre. The fuel they had was mostly wood from the Sheyenne River and at times they bought coal in Hannaford,.

Some experiences and hardships were: One winter they had a snowstorm that lasted a long time. They had neither coal or wood to supply them through the storm. They burned three chairs to keep warm. Then Mr. Kittelson took a sack and walked to Hannaford, had it filled with coal and he carried it way home in the snowstorm. Another experience was when he visited Jakob Olson. A snowstorm began. He started for home and got lost. He came to a straw stack, he went further on, walked and walked, till he reached the straw pile again. This he did three times, the fourth time he reached Jakob Olson. He stayed there the rest of the night and went home the next day.

Another time he was at K. Kalvik's, one of his neighbors. This time it was a dark night. He started for home and lost his way. After he had walked a long time he came to a haystack. Here he stopped and hollered and his wife came with a lantern and he walked in the direction of the light.

He used to operate a separator of a threshing rig and he hardly even slept in a barn or house. Sometimes he would sleep in a straw stack and find himself covered with an inch of snow the next morning. Sometimes he would sleep in a granary and separator.

He was married in 1890 to Miss Olson at Cooperstown.

Mr. Kittelson's descendants are Edwin Kittleson, Hannaford, N. Dak., John Kittelson, Cooperstown, N. Dak., and Emil Kittelson, Hannaford, N. Dak.

The present home of Mr. Kittelson is six miles east of Hannaford, N. Dak.

--Ingvald Rood