

Biography of Peterson Kindso  
--Stella Anderson

May 20, 1929

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



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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.