

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