

Mjaanes, Kristian Martin J.

Ord. 1905 - Hauge synode, 1905-10 - United Ch. - 1910 -

Born near Hagesund, Karmsund, Kristiansand
on Jan 8, 1875, son of Johannes Johanneson and
Bertha Andrine (born Mathiasson) Emigrated 1893;
Attended Red Wing Sem., 1897-1905 (C.T.)
Chicago Luth. Sem., 1905-1905, Pastor Chicago Ill.,
1905-1912; Aneta N.D. 1912 -

Married Augusta Therese Voss Hiller, in 1912,

Translated by M.T. from

Norse Luth. Prest & Amer - 1914 - page 435

Biography of Theodore Moe
--Halfryd Moe

Conrad Moe came to the United States in 1844. He made his home near Fargo, North Dakota.

In 1873 he married Rosella Hjelsing. To them nine children were born, three are dead. The children living are Charlotte, Mrs. Teigen, Edward, Cornelious, John and Theodore, of whom I am now going to write the biography.

Theodore Moe was born December 16, 1876 in Cass County, near Fargo.

During his boyhood he lived on the farm with his parents and brothers and sisters. His young life was spent as most boys will spend their time. Lots of their good times were spent swimming, fishing, and skating in the Sheyenne River as it flowed right by their home.

The school he attended was not like the schools of today, the teacher was a poorly educated one and the conditions of the school were poor in general.

Work was also a part of his day's task, helping with the farm work, and so forth.

At about the age of nineteen he attended the Concordia, only one year. He was also employed in a drug store for a time.

He then went to Richland County. Here they, Theodore and one of his brothers, built a rude shack and a barn. They farmed there for about two years and then moved to Griggs County, nine miles north of Cooperstown.

The trip was made by wagons. The whole journey took four days. This was in April and it was yet cold so it was not pleasant to sleep out in the open. Food they had, which his mother and sisters had prepared, as this was with the whole family Theodore was moving.

Broken furniture, and the loss of one horse, was the result of a runaway. No other accident occurred, however.

When they came here the family bought two thousand acres of land, which they later divided. Conrad, E. C. Moe, (Theodore's father) and another brother, divided the land among them--Theodore then having eight quarters left.

At that time some of the nearest neighbors were--Knut Thompson, Thorval Gunderson, Detwillers, Chamberland, Wilcox and LaPlant.

The farm machinery was different from what it is now. It looked to be more complicated, but could not do the work the machinery does now adays. They had three King binders on which six to eight horses were needed, three plows on which five horses were used, drills and other machinery was also plentiful.

Biography of Theodore Moe
--Halfryd Moe

The first two years they hired threshing. Then in later years Theodore bought the following, Case Steam, Minneapolis Steam, Case Steam (another), Guiser and Gas engine, and then the last which was a Case and Gass engine. Much threshing was done with these machines, for the neighbors and people far away also. Many men were needed with the big threshing machines, so the women folks also had plenty of work to do as, usually, the Moe's boarded them when they threshed for others (in earlier years).

The crops were good and the prices were reasonably high. Blue Stem Wheat, flax, oats, and barley were the chief grains raised. Later in about 1914 Theodore started raising more Duram and Macaroni wheat. More corn was raised and the last years of farming, Marquis, Duram, Dakota and several other kinds of wheat were raised.

The fuel of early days was obtained from the trees at the Sheyenne River which was part of the land bought.

Stock was raised, ranging from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five.

Hardships were plentiful in the early days. In winter the men would have to load wheat at thirty-five below zero. Six loads of straw a day was needed; and many times it was windy and cold so it was no great delight to go out in the cold and work hard all days.

Then the war came. When there was no help to get on a farm and with eight quarters of land, not much could be done to handle it the way it should have been. Theodore and family then moved into town two winters and rented out the farm.

Theodore Moe was in the fall of 1905, at Ayr, North Dakota married to Tenia Peterson, who came here from Bergen, Norway.

The descendants are Johnnie and Halfryd.

Because of hard times and losing the farm, Theodore Moe and family moved to Cooperstown where they have been making their home since the spring of 1926.

Biography of Knut S. Moen
--Adeline B. Moen

This pioneer, Mr. Knut S. Moen, was born at Helengdal, Norway, on March 27, 1849. He was the son of Sever and Bergit Moen. Knut Moen was married in the year of 1872 to Miss Sissel Odegaard in Norway. To this union eight children were born, three being born in Norway and the other five in North Dakota, but only three now living which are Mr. Sever K. Moen, and Carl Butler Moen, who are farmers in Griggs county, North Dakota, and Bertha Celis Moen who resides at home in the city of Aneta, North Dakota. He then left Norway to seek a better home for himself and family. He immigrated to America. He chose North Dakota because he believed it to be a good state for agricultural purposes. He also chose North Dakota for his future on account of free homesteads and because it offered bigger opportunities for a person with small financial means. He immigrated to America in 1881, coming to Hillsboro, N. Dak. where he resided one year, coming there on account of having relatives where he could leave his wife and children while he went in search of a homestead on which to make a home for himself and family.

In the spring of 1882 he left Hillsboro and moved on his first homestead, Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 18, Township 148, Range 58, Lenora Township, Griggs County, North Dakota. To reach his first homestead he hired a man to take himself and family to their new home which was the distance of seventy miles. The trip was made with a yoke of oxen and an open wagon. It took them two days and they slept over night in the open with the sky as a roof.

Their first house was a one room frame house (12x14) partly sided up on the outside. Here they lived seven years and nearly all the time had crop failures on account of draught and sometimes frost. Therefore he had to work out in order to make enough money for food and clothing for the family. There being no crops near by, there was no work to get. He walked to Hillsboro, North Dakota, the distance of seventy miles, and worked through harvest and threshing. Then walked all the way home again sometimes after snow was on the ground and no roads except some places a narrow trail from a wagon and no houses or farms for a distance of twenty miles out of those seventy. The trips to town for provisions were made by oxen and the nearest town was Portland, North Dakota, a distance of forty miles. He was several times overtaken by storms and rain and would be gone for several days. Later on Cooperstown was the nearest town about eighteen miles. During this time there was sickness in the family and he walked all the way to Cooperstown for medicine. In 1885 one daughter died at the age of thirteen years.

For fuel they used wood which he bought from homesteaders living near the Sheyenne River. The trees were chopped down, hauled home, then sawed and chopped for wood.

His nearest neighbors were Anreas Hegna, Christian Jacobsen, and Syver Odegaard.

They were several times visited by prairie fires, but by hard work were able to save the buildings and property, so not much was lost by fire. In 1889 his wife became the heiress of her father's homestead which

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This pioneer, Mr. Knut S. Moen, died December 21, 1926, at his home in Aneta, North Dakota, at the age of 77 years, 8 months, and 24 days. He is survived by his wife, children, brother, and two sisters. His funeral took place in Aneta, North Dakota in the Lutheran Church on December 27, 1926. He was buried at the Valley Grove Cemetery at Kloten, N.Dak. The honor pallbearers being Joe Miller, R. H. Belden, N. O. Westman, Asle Flaten, Even Erlandson, and Hans Almas. The regular pallbearers were A. T. Huso, O. J. Huso, A. E. Moen, John Sletten, Sever Lund and John Carlson.

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--Adeline B. Moen

Obituary, Courier Oct 6, 1904

"Mr. Alex. Moffatt died at 4:45 last Saturday afternoon. The deceased died from heart trouble and he had been a sufferer for several years. He was also subject to severe attacks of asthma which no doubt hastened his death - Last summer he was over at Wimbledon attending to a contract he had there, and one day stood in a drizzling rain and caught cold. This brought on a bad attack of asthma and heart trouble and he had been confined to his home ever since, getting better, and worse, until the past two or three weeks when he rapidly became worse and died last Saturday. He suffered very much at times but through it all bore it heroically and bravely.

He was a christian man and died strong in faith that he would go to that home where sorrow and trouble are not known. His last coherent words practically in which he said farewell to his bereaved wife and children was that it was well with his soul and that he was going ahead a short time. He tried to comfort them all through his sickness and was happy at the thought that he was going to his eternal home. He was a man of few

Jan. 11 - 1907

Mrs Myrtle Porterville
Cooperstown, N. Dak.

My dear Myrtle: You will no doubt
be surprised to receive this letter
but I remember you real well
for we were county teachers at the
same time. My sister Mina
too was a teacher and about
your age I believe. I am the
youngest of the Moffat girls
and Lottie sent your letter on
to me and asked that I write
you for I seem to be the one who
has kept track of the record of the
family. I am sending you a
copy of my parents wedding
picture taken in Terqu, Canada
eighty-five years ago, also a clipping
from the Courier at the time
father died. Mother lived untill

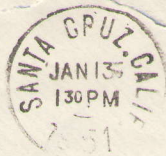
23rd 1927. Had just passed her
19th birthday. She too was born
in Scotland - at "Bonnie Montrose"
as she used to say. She went to
Canada with her parents when
she was 8 years old and lived in
Fergus untill after her marriage
or untill she and the family
moved to the Dakotas - in 1880.
She was the mother of ten children
and raised them all to manhood
and womanhood. I truly have
always felt we surely had a
wonderful heritage for both
Mother and Daddy were fine
true Christian people. Daddy's
folks were very devout Scotch
Presbyterians and his father was
a cousin of the famous African-
Missionary Robert Moffat whose
eldest daughter married David
Livingston - noted Missionary
and traveler, Daddy's mother

3 wanted so much that he
a minister but he decided otherwise
though he was a very deep Bible
student. I could go on and on for
to this very day I am very proud
of my parents and have the fondest
memories of them. The picture
you mention in your letter is a
snap taken immediately after
the ceremony at Brother John's
wedding by Percy Trubshaw. The
bridesmaid is Maude Trubshaw
and best man Willie Moffat
our youngest brother - baby of the
family. Rev. Rivington was the
pastor. He was in the Congregational
Church from 1900 to 1904.

Lillian and John were married
in Trubshaw's home Dec. 24-1902
Our large family remained
unbroken for many years
father going first in 1904, then

wife in 1910 - ⁴The result of a
kunting accident which you may
remember. Then no break until
Mother in 1927 but from 1942 to
1946 - five have gone. Robert, Lizzie,
Johnie, Chrissie, Myrna and all
had passed 68 years - The two
oldest Thomas ⁸¹ & Maureen ⁸³,
Minnie as we call her and Hattie ⁶⁸
and I remain. So we have really
been long lived. I hope I havnt bored
you and that the information
will be of some help in your
hobby. It truly must be most
fascinating. With every good
wish for your success and
the best the New Year holds
to you. Sincerely

Jennie M. Lang
I forgot to tell you Daddy built the
Court House, Bergs Store, Synchron
Store and Cranes, Truslow Hamilton
and almost all of the better homes
built at that time



Mrs Myrtle Porterville
Cooperstown
No. Dakota

72
Mrs Loo Lang
1145 Old San Jose Road
Santa Cruz
California
R.#
2.

Original copy Filed under Chesley A. Hoar

Albert I. Monson

From interview by Hannah Lende

Albert I. Monson was born in Alamokey Co., Hanover township, Iowa, May 6, 1867. His parents were Even and Ingebor Monson. There were five boys and two girls in the family. In 1878 they left Iowa and went to Montevideo, Minn. by covered wagon. Here they lived for two years when they started for Dakota territory, 1881. The covered wagon was pulled by horses to Tower City, where they traded the horses for a yoke of oxen. A company of two other wagons followed the Monsons-- John Arneson and Thor Halverson. The children walked behind chasing the stock.

The party arrived in Dakota territory Oct., 1881 after a six weeks journey. Even Monson and Arneson had been to Dakota in the spring of 1881. Even Monson had taken a homestead on section 6, Greenview township, Steele county and Arneson helped him build a shanty. The shanty was 14' by 16' and made from logs, with bark and sod for roof. A barn was built to last through the winter, for the stock. This was done when they came in October. They all got busy stacking up wood etc. to prepare for winter. Albert worked on the farm for George Barnard for two weeks in November. In the middle of November with his father, Omund Opheim, and John Arneson, he went to Valley City for provisions for the winter. The trip took them four and one-half days, the men sleeping outside under the wagon and by haystacks every night. On their way back they were in the midst of a prairie fire. To save themselves they lit the prairie and followed the fire. That's one time Albert was afraid.

The spring of 1883 the Monsons broke up their land for

farming. The first two years they broke it with cattle. The same year Albert worked in Mayville for James Knutson through haying, plowing, and threshing for five months. He came back just before Christmas. In March, 1883 he went back to work for Knutson again and stayed there til the middle of November when he went back on the farm to help his folks.

During the first years here, the Monsons and the whole neighborhood would gather at the different homes for dances. They were held once every week and sometimes twice a week. The neighbors would walk as far as seven miles to a dance. They were held in the homes of John Torfin, John Qualey, John Arneson, Ole Bjugstad, Matt Hilstad, and other homes. The fiddlers were usually Gilbert Olson and Osmund Windlass, the latter living at Goose river.

The crops were good until 1888 when there was a frost and froze all the crops. The same year Albert started farming on his own in section 8, Washburn township.

June 24, 1890 he was married to Mathilda Qualey by Rev. Larson at John E. Qualey's place. Albert lived on his farm until 1896 when he traded his farm for a livery barn in Cooperstown. After owning the livery barn a little over two years he traded it for another farm in Lenora township.

In 1898 Mr. Monson worked for Ford and Lukken, dealers in machinery at ^{Cooperstown} ~~Winley~~, N. Dak. until the spring of 1899 when he started in the machine business of his own. In the spring of 1900 he sold his interests in the machinery to Julius Brua and went into the butcher business for one year. In the spring of 1901 he ^{at Daily} ~~went back to his homestead in Washburn township.~~ ^{moved to Sec. 1, Greenview Twp., Steele Co.}

In 191~~5~~ Mr. Monson moved to Cooperstown when he was elected sheriff and held that position four years and then went back to his farm.

In the spring of 1919 Mr. Monson built a new barn. A flood came the same spring and drove the pigs and cattle out of their sheds. The whole valley was flooded. People and cattle were forced to move to higher land.

Six children were born to this marriage- Myrtle, 1891, Elmer, 1893, Lillian (Mrs. Ed. Balkan), 1895, Elma, 1898, Mrs. Henry Hanson, 1900, and Melfred, 1907.

Biography of Evan Monson
--Melfred Monson

Evan and Ingeborg Monson came from Norway with two of their children. The other seven were born in Alamakee County near Decorah, Iowa. Six boys and three girls, all of whom are still living except Muns, the oldest, who died in March 1926. He left a wife and three children, the oldest of which is ten years old.

Evan Monson emigrated to North Dakota in 1881. He left Iowa on account of the chinch bug and grasshoppers eating up all the crops and also because of the free land in Dakota. He came up in the summer of 1881 and staked out his land and built a dugout with logs for a roof. His claim is seven miles west of where Finley now is. He brought his family up here in the fall. He came as far as Minnesota with horses and then traded his horses for a yoke of oxen. They came from there in a prairie schooner. The four older boys walked all the way with their father, while the youngest boys and the girls and their mother rode most of the way. Albert I monson was then fourteen years old. He was born in 1867. There were many of the old pioneers already here. Omand Opheim came in 1879. Qualey and Ivar Seim came in 1880 and John Hanson Bjudstad and Arneson came in 1881.

The first year they raised wheat and other grains, and the first year they needed all the grains for food and feed. They got all their fuel in the woods on the Sheyenne River about two miles west of their place. Wheat was then about 60¢ a bushel and the other grains were much lower. They used a cradle to cut the grains and they sowed by hand. The first reaper they used, they had to tie the bundles by hand. They cost close to \$300. They had to have two men to run them. They had to go to Valley City for provisions, and it took three and a half days to make the trip. They got their mail from Portland. They got it once a week. A man would go on skis in winter and bring back all the mail for the neighbors. The first winter was a hard one. They had many blizzards and some narrowly escaped getting lost.

Albert Monson married Mathilda Qualey in 1891 and to their union was born, six children, four of which are still living-three girls and one boy, as follows:

Mrs. Edwin Bolkan, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Myrtle Monson, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Melfred Monson, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Mrs. Henery Hanson, Melstone, Montana.

The names of his brothers and sisters are:

Henry Monson, Fowler, Montana.
Hans Monson, Lacrosse, Wisconsin.
Evan Monson, Finley, North Dakota.
Knut Monson, Cooperstown, North Dakota.
Mrs. Harnes Hegge, DeSant, North Dakota
Mrs. J. W. Knoxen, Luverne, North Dakota
Mrs. Johanna Sermgard, Devils Lake, North Dakota

Biography of Evan Monson
--Esther Kruschwitz

Mr. Evan Monson's parents' names are Mr. and Mrs. Monse Nordides. Evan Monson was born in Norway in 1828 on the 28th day of March, near Bergen County, Norway and near the city of Bergen. The people of Mr. Monson's community got the American fever. In 1862 he came to America. He was the first one from that part of Norway to come to America. He came to Iowa first; he then left Iowa to come to North Dakota because he had friends here. He started to North Dakota with a team of horses and a covered wagon, with his wife and ten children. They had bad weather and roads on the way. He came to Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota in the year of 1880 about harvest time. They stayed there until August of the next year. They then started out for North Dakota. There were three families in all--Mr. John Arneson and family and Thor Halverson and family. They came as far as Tower City where they changed their horses for oxen. They drove the balance of the way to Griggs County with oxen. They arrived here on the 25th day of September.

Experiences of the pioneer's days.----Mr. Monson took up a homestead in 1881. He built a shack in what was Griggs County in those days. His homestead was in Greenview Township (Steele County now) 146, Section 6 and Range 57. He lived in a dug out and a log cabin. He went to Valley City and Mayville for provisions, as they were the closest towns. His closest neighbor was John Arneson. Other neighbors were John Qualey, John Johnson, and Amon Opheim.

Some of the early farm machinery and horses were, oxen team, scythe, and walking plow. The early crops were five acres of wheat and a few acres of oats raised on sod. The price of the grain was from 50¢ to 60¢ per bushel.

At that time they burned wood. Mr. Monson got it from Mr. Opheim as an inducement to come to North Dakota.

They carried flour for three miles on their backs from Mardale. They had such hard times that they didn't know from one meal to the next what they would have to eat.

They worked wherever they could get work. One place in particular where they could get work was the Cooper ranch.

The preacher was Mr. Lundebj. The teacher was Lena Spilde. They had church at farm houses and places they could sit down. The school house was near John Qualey's; it was later used as a church.

Mr. Monson was married in Norway on the second day of pentecost in 1858 to Miss Ingaborg Starbo.

Mr. Evan Monson passed away at his home the 23rd day of January, 1911. He was buried in the Sheyenne Valley Cemetery.

Mr. Monson's children and their families:

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Monson, Fowler, Montana

Lawrence Monson

Selma Monson

Helen Monson

Mr. and Mrs. Monse Monson (Deceased)

Arthur Monson

Kenneth Monson

Lloyd Monson

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Monson, Cooperstown, N. D.

Myrtle Monson

Lillian Monson (Mrs. Edwin Bolkan)

Gladys Monson (Mrs. Henry Hanson)

Melfred Monson

Mr. and Mrs. Knut J. Monson, Cooperstown, N. D.

Theodore Monson

Hazel Monson

Kenneth Monson

Edna Monson

Raymond Monson

Mrs. Ole Sermgard, Devils Lake, N. D.

Sigrid Sermgard

Ida Sermgard

Anna Sermgard

Eva Sermgard

Mr. and Mrs. Hegge, New England, N. D.

Agnes Hegge

Eleanor Hegge

Selma Hegge

Selda Hegge

Ida Hegge

Susan Monson (Deceased)

Evan Monson, Finley, N. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Monson, LaCrosse, Wisconsin

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Knoxen, Luverne, N. D.

Alfred Mosher

Alfred Mosher of Sec 18, Erie twp Barnes Co., was born in Vermont, Mar 20, 1834. His parents were Alpheus A. and Susan (Hillis) Mosher who both were born in New York. The father was a carpenter who lived most of his life in New York but both parents died in Manitowoc, Wisc. They raised 6 sons and 2 daughters, One of these girls now lives in Dakota.

The grand father Mosher came from England about 1812 and maternal grandparents were from Pennsylvania.

Alfred Mosher lived in Vermont until 1855 when he went to Putnam Co. Illinois and followed his carpenter trade there until 1861 when he enlisted in Co. H. 16th Ill. Vol. Inf. and after about 60 days was discharged and in 1862 moved to Wisc. and in the fall enlisted ~~from~~ in Co. G. 32nd Wisc. Vol. Inf. and served until July 1865. He was with the Army of the Tennessee and was in the following battles: Meridian, Mississippi skirmishes around Vicksburg, Paducah, siege of Atlanta, and with Sherman to the sea, Fort Mc Allister and other engagements. He escaped without wounds and in 1865 was transferred to the 16th Wisc Reg. a few

Alfred Masher

months before being discharged in 1865. He returned to Wisconsin and stayed there until 1880, working as a carpenter, then went to Cass County where he took a homestead.

Mr. Masher was married in Bennington, Vermont in 1854 to Persis Parker of that State. She was daughter of Thomas and Fannie (Haines) Parker of Vermont. They had 12 children of whom 6 are living: Hattie M. married E. J. Stowers, Warren E., Luella married - Nutting, Arthur A., Edgar L., and Harry H.

Bib: Condensed from Compend of Hist & Bio, 1900, page 1039.