

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--Knute 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.

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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.