

H. A. Sundeen  
From interview by Hannah Lende

H. A. Sundeen was born March 9, 1857 at Jamntland, Sweden. At sixteen years of age he went to Ostersand and learned the carpenter trade. Here he stayed ~~three~~ years and then went back to Jamntland and worked up his trade.

In the first part of Oct., 1880, he <sup>immigrated</sup> ~~emigrated~~ to America on the ship of the Allan Line. He became acquainted with some passengers on the boat by the name of Bergstrom and Anna Tlegen. He was delayed in New York for about two days and then left by train for Osakis, Minn. He arrived in <sup>Osakis</sup> Oct. 12, 1880. His neighbor in Sweden, Andus Worfien, lived three miles south of Osakis. Mr. Sundeen stayed here and was put to work in a straw pile behind the straw carrier.

Before the month was over, Mr. Sundeen got a job in Osakis as carpenter for Mr. Mills. As yet he didn't understand a word of English. When called to dinner by Mr. Mills, he understood Mr. Mills to tell him to hurry with the work; so Mr. Sundeen worked faster and harder. Mr. Mills came back shortly with a hard look on his face and told him to come to dinner. He soon found out Sundeen couldn't understand what he was saying, so he picked up two biscuits and made motions of eating. Mr. Sundeen caught on and went to dinner.

After two weeks with Mr. Mills, Mr. Sundeen hired out to a <sup>John</sup> Pederson ~~and~~ had a wagon and sleigh making business in Osakis.

Mrs. Pederson taught him his first English. When Mr. Sundeen heard words outside he couldn't understand he asked Mrs. Pederson. Many times he heard men in a blacksmith shop speak some words that he wanted to know the meaning of. When asked of Mrs. Pederson what they were, he felt ashamed that he had asked.

April 18, 1881 Mr. Sundeen hired out to Olaf Johnson, farmer.



In the spring of 1883, having heard of Dakota's prairie land, he and G. Hendrickson started out in search for land. They stayed over night at Lewis Johnson and started north in the morning. They arrived at the Cooper homestead about dinner time. These two were very hungry and asked Mr. Cooper if they could have something to eat. As Mr. Cooper didn't have a hired girl at the house, he gave them an order and told them to go down to the ranch and have the boss give them dinner.

Mr. Cooper informed them that they needn't look for any free land around Cooperstown as it was all taken up, but said there was land farther up north. Mr. Sundeen and Mr. Hendrickson started north from the present Cooperstown and walked <sup>north</sup> north east. They passed a slough full of water and as far as they could see there were claim shantys. Towards dusk they came to the Sheyenne river where Andrew Knutson lived. Mrs. Knutson was home alone, her husband having gone to Valley City for provisions. As these two searchers were strangers to her she was quite hesitant in letting them stay for the night. Mr. Sundeen told her he would sleep <sup>in</sup> the yard all night if she wouldn't let them stay there, and told her they hadn't eaten since dinner. Finally, Mrs. Knutson consented. In the morning after breakfast, they started down the river and claim shantys were all they could see. They soon found some land that hadn't been filed on. Mr. Sundeen took a liking to it and told Mr. Hendrickson he was going to file right there. They went to Fargo and got right to file on Sec. 34, Washburn township.

Mr. Sundeen then went to Valley City and did carpenter work. Around harvest <sup>est</sup> time he worked for Dalrymple of Casselton, N. Dak. Before he was through, he quit and came back and built a shanty 18' by 14'. He hauled the lumber from Valley City with oxen. To make it look like someone was living there, he put an old trunk in the shanty and fixed up a table etc., and went to the Pinery at



St. Cloud, Minn. along Willow river.

Feb. 1883 he came back to Dakota to live. He worked for Geo. Barnard three years, the same <sup>time</sup> proving up his land.

In 1886 he bought a yoke of oxen from Knut Thompson and started to work on his homestead. Shortly after he bought a horse, and machinery and more land.

Nov. 28, 1889, he married Mary Johnson. The couple were married in Cooperstown by Rev. O. D. Purington. Mrs. Sundeen had a homestead on Sec. 34, Washburn township and here they lived and the same winter proved up the land. The next spring of 1890, Mr. and Mrs. Sundeen moved on his homestead, Sec. 34.

In the fall of 1890 a son was born. Jan. 1891 their house burned <sup>completely</sup> completely. Mr. Sundeen then sold his homestead and moved to Geo. Barnard's place, Sec. 28. Mr. Barnard had moved out a couple years previous.

In 1892 they moved to the former Mardell, Sec. 15. Here they lived thirteen years. June 27, 1899 another son was born.

In 1905 Mr. Sundeen bought some land on Sec. 33, Washburn and built a large house. They lived here for many years. During the latter years the crops were poor and nothing to make, so in 1933 Mr. and Mrs. Sundeen moved into Cooperstown where Mr. Sundeen now resides, Mrs. Sundeen having died in Oct. 1934.