

Biography of John Wakelam
--Everett Johnson

Edward and Margaret Wakelam were early pioneers of North Dakota. John Wakelam was born February 28, 1852 in Ontario, Canada.

He left his former home merely to seek his adventure and better for himself. He came to North Dakota because it was a new country and it was open to homesteading; also it was the closest state. He traveled from Ontario to North Dakota by covered wagon and horses. He came to North Dakota in October in the year 1897.

He took up his land in Stafford Township where he built himself a sod house. The nearest town was Kenmare which was about twenty-five miles distant and also Minot which was about seventy-five miles away. These trips were made entirely by team and wagon. The winters were very cold and blizzards always lasted at least three days. They were through two floods and so had to move up on higher land.

George Allan was the nearest neighbor. They had two horses to start with and not much machinery.

They had a school. This was also the place where the preacher had his sermons. Wood was obtained from around the Mouse River and coal was obtained from Kenmare.

He is still living and on the first homestead he worked. Sherwood is now the closest town which is about fifteen miles. They have a family of ten children who are all still living.