

By  
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Subject History II Biography of

Date June 1, 1926.

Teacher Mrs. M. Porterville

Standing \_\_\_\_\_

Mathias E. Fjellstad

# Examination Booklet

## Cooperstown High School

Cooperstown, N. D.

The Biography of Mathias E. Fjelstad  
Name of Parents of Pioneer were  
Evan Evenson and Elie  
Evenson.

Name of Pioneer - Mathias Evenson  
Fjelstad

Mathias Evenson Fjelstad  
was born March 30, 1848 at  
Rineaker County, Norway.  
He left Norway at the age of  
twenty-five in order to find  
a more prosperous place to  
work.

On June 24, 1863 he started  
from Norway on the ship  
"Kong Svar". The trip was  
made with no troubles and  
on July 26 they landed in  
New York. He went directly  
from New York to Preston!

Minnesota where he lived  
for eight years. During the  
fifth year at this place he  
was married to Karen Fjelstad.  
They took up farming and  
one year on account of their  
crops being taken by a "Cham  
bug" they sold out their  
farm and moved to North  
Dakota. With five other  
families they took the train  
to Valley City, where they left  
their families while the men  
went ahead to break land  
for their farms. He settled  
on section twenty-four in  
Ball Hill township. For  
many years they lived in  
a sod house 12 x 16 feet.

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They soon found that only  
milk and honey flowed on  
the prairie so they purchased  
oxen and began to break  
land and command in  
"Ge and ha". Had they seen  
an automobile in those  
days they would have thought  
that lightning and thunder  
was rolling over the prairie.  
The only farm machinery  
they had in those days were  
a binder in which they used  
wire to bind the sheaves,  
they also had plough and  
harrow. The products  
grown on the farms were  
mainly wheat, oats, barley  
& potatoes. The wheat was

sold at the low price of  
seventy-five cents a bushel.  
The grain they raised was  
chiefly for themselves and  
they had very little to sell,  
if any.

During the first year there  
were very heavy storms in  
succed by a dry spell.

For provisions they went  
with their wagons and over  
the long distance of thirty-  
five miles over wild prairie  
over which there were no  
roads or signs to guide their  
way to Valley City. For fuel  
they chopped down and hauled  
trees from the Sheyenne  
valley.

Their nearest neighbors

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were Gritchee Greenland,  
Christian Lee, Edward  
Stair and Louisa Stair.

The winters were very bitter  
and severe. They consisted  
of the most horrible blizzards  
and sleet. After the worst  
of some of these storms the  
snowdrifts were so high  
that all the buildings ~~and~~  
near by places were concealed  
and only smoke seemingly  
coming from the snow  
could be seen. Paths had  
to be dug in order to get  
to the barn and other buildings.  
Several times they had  
to string twine from  
the house to the barn to  
guide their way.

To this Union were born  
five children, two of whom  
are living, Mrs Conrad  
Kalkrey who at present is  
living on the old homestead  
six miles south of Cooperstown  
Martin Djelstad living  
at Rawson, North Dakota.

The three deceased boys  
are Anton, Nels and Nels. Nels  
who was born in Minnesota  
died at the age of one and a  
half years and was also buried  
there. Anton who was eight  
years at his death and Nels  
who was five years are  
buried in the Union Church  
graveyard, eight miles  
south of Cooperstown.

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