

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 soded 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.

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was located southwest $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 3, Township 148, Range 58. He left his homestead and moved on the latter on account of it being better farm land where he lived until the fall of 1908 when he moved to the city of Aneta, North Dakota.

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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Their first house was a one room frame house (12 by 14) partly sodded 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 or 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.

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