

F. H. Kelling in Kadoka, South Dakota

Historical records and newspaper archives paint a vivid picture of Frederick Henry (frequently recorded as **F. H. Kelling** or **Fred Kelling**) as an active pioneer, community member, and long-serving lawman in the Kadoka area.

- **Early Settlement:** Kadoka was founded in 1906, and F. H. Kelling was there in the town's infancy. He appears in local newspapers like *The Kadoka Press* as early as 1908. He was an engaged local resident—a 1909 article even notes him winning a buggy whip in a local contest.
- **Career in Law Enforcement:** He spent a significant portion of his life in law enforcement. A 1916 edition of the *Philip Weekly Review and Bad River News* notes Fred Kelling serving as a Deputy Sheriff for the region. His dedication to the profession was lifelong; a later World War II-era clipping mentions him traveling to Rapid City to attend a Police Officers School conducted by the FBI.
- **Family & Descendants:** His family put down deep roots in Jackson County and the surrounding area.
 - His daughter, **Clara Iona (Kelling) Woodard**, married Hiram J. Woodard Sr. They ranched near Long Valley (south of Kadoka), and their son, Hiram J. Woodard Jr., was born in Kadoka in 1916.
 - Newspaper records also mention F. H. Kelling visiting another daughter, Mrs. Lyn Gladstone. Her husband, Capt. Gladstone, was notably in charge of publishing the famous Army newspaper *Yank* in Tehran, Iran, during World War II.
- **Town Legacy:** The Kelling footprint is permanently stamped on the town's geography. To this day, modern real estate and property listings in Kadoka feature legal descriptions located within the **"Kelling Addition"** (or Kelling Add), indicating that he or his immediate family platted a portion of the town's residential lots.

If you are looking to dig deeper into primary sources, browsing the digitized archives of *The Kadoka Press* or requesting historical land deeds from the Jackson County courthouse will likely yield even more details about his property and daily life.