

## Christoffer Erickson<sup>1</sup> and Joran Olsdatter, Charter Members of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church

A Norwegian family history book<sup>2</sup> shows that Kristoffer, born 1840, is the 4<sup>th</sup> child of Erik Eriksen and Astrid Kristoffersdatter. This family were residents of Siljubråten, which is part of the Haugen farm in Eggedal, Buskerud, Norway. The same source states that Kristoffer emigrated in 1869.

In the 1865 census<sup>3</sup> of Sigdal, Buskerud, Norway, Kristofer Eriksen and his father Erik Eriksen are laborers on the Rugland farm. Their birth years were 1840 and 1803, respectively, and both were born in Sigdal Parish. Apparently, the mother has passed.

A local church marriage entry<sup>4</sup> dated 12 March 1872, has:

Christoffer Eriksen 31 aar gammel fra Sigdal og  
Jörand Olsdatter (Jane Gilbertsen) 29 aar gammel

The significance of "Jane Gilbertsen" is not known..

In the 1875 census, there was a Christopher Erickson (age 34) and Joran (32) and an infant, Edward, living in Norway Lake Township<sup>5</sup>, Kandiyohi County. The parents were listed as born in Norway, while Edward was born in MN. A baptism record<sup>6</sup> confirms that Edward was born 25 Jan 1875 to Kristoffer Eriksen and Jörand Olsdatter.

In the hard-to-read hand written 1880 census of Norway Lake Township, we find in Household #7:

Family Name	Given Name	Age	Status	Birthplace
Ereksen	Chres	40		Norway
	Joren	38	Wife	Norway
	Berte	4	Daughter	MN
	Emma	6/12	Daughter	MN
Pedersen	Peter	16	Laborer	Norway

In the 1885 census of Norway Lake Township, Household 48, **the family is listed with last name Berg**: C.E. Berg , age 44; Jaaren, age 43; Berte C., age 9; Ema Anette, age 5; Ole C., age 2.

In the 1900 census<sup>7</sup> the family name is once again Erickson. "Christafor" and Joren reside alone in Household 92 of Norway Lake Township. The birth dates are given as August, 1840 and June 1842, respectively. His immigration year was recorded as 1876 (incorrect, as he was married in Minnesota in 1972) and he is listed as a naturalized citizen. The marriage year is listed as 1873, which is incorrect. Joren's line states that she had 5 children, 2 living, and that she emigrated in 1845.

In the 1905 census of the same township has Christopher E. Berg, age 64, and Jorand, age 62. Years lived in the same Enumeration District were 34 and 36, respectively.

In a local county history<sup>8</sup>, it is noted that, in 1872, Christopher Erickson signed a petition to form School District 73 in NW Norway Lake Township. In 1878 Christopher Erickson contributed to the fund for building the West Norway Lake Church.

Mysteries remain. The birthplace of Jörand could not be found, except that it was in Norway. Sadly, their dates of death and places of burial are not known.

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, October 2018.

1 Starting about 1875, the family frequently used the last name Berg. This was discovered in the Norway Lake Township records, viewed on microfilm at the Kandiyohi County Historical Society in Willmar. The following births are recorded there: Antonette, 2/9/73; Edward, 6/10/75; Berthe, 5/15/76; unnamed, 12/21/79; Ole, 2/3/83. Thanks to Robert Larson of KCHS who discovered this.

2 Sigdal og Eggedal III, published 1953, by Andreas Mørch. Page 1027.

3 [http://www.rhd.uit.no/folketellinger/fliste\\_e.aspx?ft=1865&knr=0621&kenr=008&bnr=0054&lnr=000](http://www.rhd.uit.no/folketellinger/fliste_e.aspx?ft=1865&knr=0621&kenr=008&bnr=0054&lnr=000)

4 Microfilmed ELCA records, image 107, stored under First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake, viewed via Ancestry.com

5 Viewed via Ancestry.com. This record is labeled New London, but careful reading of the handwritten record shows that the township is Norway Lake.

6 Microfilmed ELCA records, image 58, stored as First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake records, viewed via Ancestry.com

7 Household #88, 1900 US census of Norway Lake Township, Kandiyohi County, MN. Viewed via Ancestry.com

8 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County, 1905. Page 341 and 340