

Even O. Glesne¹ and Kari Kjærsonlien, Charter Members of East Norway lake Lutheran Church

Even Oleson/Olson Glesne was born 5 August 1838 on the Glesne farm in Krodsherad. He emigrated from Krodsherrad in 1848 at the age of 10 with his parents Ole Evenson (Glesne) and Ragnhild Soland². The family story is that they traveled to New York on an iron ore freighter. The family first went to Ragnhild's brother, Eric Soland, in Kendall, Illinois and then moved to Green County, Wisconsin.

Kari Olsdatter Kjersonlien was born 27 October 1838 in Hallingdal and emigrated 1845, presumably with her parents. Even married Kari in Green County, Wisconsin in 1859

[There is an area called Kjersundlien³ about 8 miles west of Geilo in Norway. Very likely, this is Kari's point of origin.]

In 1860 Even together with his cousins Even and Andrew Railsen traveled to western Minnesota and filed claims in what became known as Norway Lake Township in Kandiyohi County. In the spring of 1861, Even, Kari, and their daughter, Christine, 15 months old, moved to Norway Lake. Kari was pregnant with their second child, Bertha (born December 1861). Even and his family were driven out after the Indian Wars in August 1862 and did not return until 1864 or 1865.

Even is enumerated on the 1875 Minnesota State Census for Kandiyohi County, line 124, page 778 (image 98 of 129 on Ancestry.com). He is listed as "Even Olson." [The household consisted of⁴: Even, age 36; Kari, 34; Christine, 15; Bertha, 13; Ole, 11; Olaus, 8; Ragnild, 6; Joran*, 4; Maria, 1; Edward, 1.]

He is enumerated on the 1880 Federal census for Norway Lake, Kandiyohi County, as Even Oleson, age 43, wife Carline(Kari) age 41, ED 42, page 25, line 59, image 8 of 10 on Ancestry.com. [At this time, the household consisted of⁵: Even, 43; "Carline", 41; "Christene", 21; Berte, 19; Ole, 16; Olaus, 13; Ragnild, 11; Joran*, 9; Maria, 6; Edvart, 6; Elmer, 4.]

[In 1905 Even O. Glesne age 66 was a resident⁶ in Norway Lake Township of Kandiyohi County. Also in the house were Kari (65), Edward (29) and Geoline (21).]

In 1865 or 1866 Even was elected the first clerk of Norway Lake Township and held this position for a number of years.

Kari Olsdatter Kjersonlien died 3 September 1916 in Sunburg. Even Oleson/Olson Glesne died 11 October 1921 in Sunburg. Even and Kari remained on the homestead until their deaths, and are buried in the West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery in Sunburg.

*Note: Joran was better known as Jenny.

- 1 Most of the information on this family is provided by Carol Lundquist, based on her own research as well as that of John Victor Halvorson. Additions by Earl Knutson are shown in square brackets.
- 2 Carol Lundquist adds: "Ole and Ragnhild emigrated to American May 14, 1848 with four children: Even Oleson, 10 years old, Mari born 1841, Kristin about one year old (died at sea during the voyage), and a fourth child who was born and died at sea during the voyage. I do not have any information for Mari other than the birth date. I suspect she may have died as well before they emigrated. There may be another child, Jorand, possibly born 1840 or 1844, but I have not been able to corroborate anything about her. I researched the Norwegian church records at Salt Lake City several years ago and could not find any information on either Mari or Jorand, but I will take another look now that they are digitized."
- 3 <https://kart.1881.no/?r=F5089831>
- 4 http://search.mnhs.org/index.php?q=Even&brand=people&collection%5B%5D=mn_mhs-census&spatial%5B%5D=Kandiyohi+County&year%5B%5D=1875
- 5 <http://gda.arkivverket.no/cgi-win/webcens.exe?slag=visbase&sidenr=1&filnamn=MINN1880&gardpostnr=112600#nedre>
- 6 <http://people.mnhs.org/finder/census/1810405?return=brand%3Dpeople%26q%3DGlesne%2520Kari%26spatial%5B%5D%3DKandiyohi%2520County%26yearrange%3D1895-1997>