

Mari Gordhamer, Charter member East Norway Lake Lutheran

Mari Olsdatter was born late 1811 or early 1812. She was baptized 12 Jan 1812 in Norderhov, Buskerud, Norway. She was the 5th of 6 children born to Ole Ringerud and Maria Christensdatter.

On 2 Nov 1832 she married Halgrim Jonsen Kjos in Norderhov, Buskerud, Norway. He was born 13 April 1804 in Ringerike, Norway. His parents were Joen Halgrimson. Kjos [1759-1833] and Kari Torgersdatter [1778-1857].

Mari and Halgrim emigrated with their 7 children in the spring of 1856 from Norderhov, Buskerud, Norway. The parish register listed them as Halgrim Johnson Gaardhamer and Mari Olsdatter. Their eight child Martin was born 10 July 1856 in Canada. He was baptized later that summer in the Little Iowa congregation church in Winneshiek County, Iowa. The family settled in Calmar, Winneshiek County.

Their 8 children all lived to adulthood:

1. Ole: born 15 April 1835, died 19 July 1863, married Olena Andersdatter
2. Karen: born 7 Jan 1838, died 14 Dec 1872, married Tosten N. Rosby
3. Maria: born 4 Dec 1841, died 22 May 1927, married Johannes Johnsen Gordhamer
4. Johanna: born 17 Nov 1846, died 30 Oct 1928, married Carl Kittelsen Lund
5. Gunnild: born 5 May 1849, died 10 Feb 1937, married Andrew Arneson
6. Johannes/John: born 13 Dec 1851, died 17 Mar 1936, married Sigri Gottenborg
7. Hans Andreas/Andrew: born 23 Mar 1854, died 31 Aug 1934, married Jennie Mathilda Mankel
8. Martin: Born 10 July 1856, died 6 Dec 1939, married Anne C. Anderson

Their oldest child, Ole, died while they were still living in Calmar, Iowa. He was a member of the 12th Iowa Infantry. He was captured at the Battle of Shiloh 6 April 1862, imprisoned until 20 Nov, 1862 when he was paroled. He died 19 July 1863 in St Louis, Missouri. He is buried in the National cemetery there. He left behind a wife and 2 children.

According to Mari's obituary, Halgrim and Mari and their 4 youngest children, Gunnild, Johannes, Hans Andreas and Martin moved to Arctander Township in 1869. Their daughters Karen, Maria and Johanna and their husbands moved separately to Minnesota. Halgrim died shortly after the move on 28 Nov 1869 and is buried in the East Norway Lake Cemetery.

The 1886 plat map shows Mari as the owner of 120 acres. 40 in section 27 [SE1/4 of SW 1/4] and 80 acres in section 34[NW ½ of NW1/4].

Mari passed away 22 Nov 1900 of old age. She was 88 years old. She is buried in the East Norway Lake Cemetery.

Mari's last will and testament left everything to Anne C. Gordhamer, the wife of her youngest son Martin.

Mari was one of 3 Gordhamers to be charter members of East Norway Lake Lutheran. There are separate biographies of son John H and son in law John J.

Sources:

- Digitalarkviet
- Ancestry.com
- Ancestry public member trees
- Family Search
- Kandiyohi County Historical Association
- Willmar Weekly Tribune- obituary

Written by Carole Heimdahl

Footnote: Andrew [Hans Andreas] was appointed Norway Lake postmaster in 1879.