

Ole O. Gronhövd, Charter Member of West Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

We are forced to speculate about this charter member. No unequivocal records were found on the internet or in local historical societies. Credit goes to Garth Ulrich, Genealogist of Sigdalslag, for uncovering a few leads.

On the modern map of Norway there is just one farm named Grønhovd¹, and this is likely Ole's ancestral farm. The bygebok for this area, in the section "Grønhovd," it is stated² that Ole, born 1822, is the 8th child of Engebret Narvesen and Anne Knudsdatter. It adds that Ole married Goro Larsdatter Ramstad in 1849 and emigrated to America in 1850. Despite the difference in middle initial, "O" versus "E". it is possible that this is the same person.

Another possibility is found in the marriage records of the Eggedal Church, show³ that on 23 July 1837 Ole Olsen Grønhovdeie married Randi Ellefsdatter of the same farm. Both were 25 years old. Their fathers were, respectively, Ole Olsen and Ellef Halvorsen.

A third possibility is found in the exit records from the Eggedal Church⁴ show an Ole Olsen Grønhovd leaving 11 February 1843, destination America. His age is listed as 26, in consistent with the age in the marriage record. No spouse was traveling with him.

There are 3 Ole Olsens of about the right age aboard ships that sailed from Norway in 1843,

The name Ole Olsen Grønhovd also appears in letter⁵ from the Muskego Settlement in WI written to newspaper editors in Norway, meant to counter disparaging editorials in Norwegian newspapers. This letter was published in the Christiania (Oslo) Morgenbladet newspaper on April 1, 1845 under the heading "An Account of Conditions in North America, an Open Letter from the pioneers at Muskego to the people of Norway." Ole was one of the 85 signers of this letter. It seems highly likely that this Ole was the same person as Ole in the cited in the 1843 exit record.

However, no records were found showing that Ole O. Gronhovd ever lived in Minnesota.

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, March 2019

1 Hvor.no

2 Sigdal og Eggedal, Bind III, Gard og Slekt. By Andeas Mørch. Harald Lyche & Co, Drammen, 1954. Page 890

3 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/15927/43>

4 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/15927/64>

5 <http://www.telelaget.com/pioneers/muskego/manifesto.pdf>