

## Halvor Halvorson, Charter Member of East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

A handsome grave marker at the cemetery of the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake<sup>1</sup> is inscribed “Halvor Hovelson<sup>2</sup>, 6 April 1827 – 19 May 1898.”

A brief paragraph about Halvor is found in a local history book<sup>3</sup>, just below the entry about his father Haavel. It reads;

HALVORSON, HALVOR – Born in Lands parish, Norway, 1827; son of Haavel and Berti Halvorson; filed on claim in timber north of lake in sec. 6, in 1862; single; died May 19, 1898.

A search of baptism records<sup>4</sup> in Lands Parish shows that the date of birth was April 8, 1827 (2 days different from the date on the tombstone). The record also mentions the farm name Frösland.

In the 1870, 1880, 1895 censuses<sup>5</sup> Halvor is listed as living in the household of his younger brother Johannes (John).

No obituary has been found for Halvor. However, the handsome obelisk grave marker at the cemetery of the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake testifies that he was loved and valued by siblings and other relatives. Local legend states that Halvor was active in the church's life and was known for wearing a fashionable tall silk hat.

Further information on Halvor's life in Norway, as well as that of his his parents and his siblings, can be seen in a biographical sketch<sup>6</sup> of the family.

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1 First Lutheran of Norway Lake is a descendant church of the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church.

2 Here we get tangled up in the old Norwegian naming practices. Halvor's father's name, from his Norwegian birth/baptism record is “Haavel Halvorsen” which, in America, was simplified to “Hovel Halvorson.” Thus Hovelson, literally the son of Hovel, is entirely correct for Halvor. However Hovelson and Halvorson are phonetically close so that, over time, Halvorson became the family name.

3 Illustrated History of Kandiyohi County, 1905. See the section of Lake Andrew Township

4 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9356/144>

5 All census records cited here were accessed through Amcestry.com

6 <http://www.nllha.org/HalvorsonsofLakeAndrew.pdf>