

## Ole Halvorson<sup>1</sup> and Maria Jacobson, Charter Members of the East Norway Lake Lutheran Church

A baptism listing in the books<sup>2</sup> of a church at Ness, Hedmark, Norway shows that Ole Haavelsen was born 17 July 1839 to parents Haavel Halvorsen and Berthe Hansdatter. A separate church record book<sup>3</sup> from the same place lists an Ole Hovelsen<sup>4</sup>, born 19 July 1839 to parents Hovel Halvorsen Lie and Berthe Andersdatter, disagreeing on date and names. The latter record also mentions Aamot as the name of the church.

An exit record<sup>5</sup> from Land, Torpa, Nordsinni-Østsinni Parish shows that Ole, his parents, and 5 of Ole's siblings left that church on 18 June 1857. In the 1860 US census Ole and two siblings reside with their parents in Monongalia County, Minnesota. (Years later, Monongalia County was absorbed into Kandiyohi County.)

Microfilm records<sup>6</sup> of the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake show (Image 106) that Ole Haavelsen and Maria Jacobsen were married at Norway Lake on 18 February 1870.

Maria's obituary<sup>7</sup> states that she was born in Port Washington, WI and came to Kandiyohi County in 1867 with her father Johannes Jacobson. Microfilmed baptism records of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Port Washington<sup>8</sup> has "Marie" with parents Johannes Jacobson and Kisten Marie Pedersdatter, and gives the year 1853 but not month or day. In the 1860 census of Port Washington, "Marie" is one of 7 children in the household of Johannes and "Gunsten" Jacobson. Maria died 26 April 1882 at age 29 years, 14 days (Image 111).

Ole married<sup>9</sup> Ragna Knudson on 5 May 1886. Ragna was the daughter of charter members Ole and Aase Knudson.

Ole was the father of seven children, the first four with Maria and three with Ragna (image numbers refer to the First Lutheran microfilm, mentioned above):

1. Belinde Marie	born 7 April 1871	image 47
2. Julia Henrietta	born 10 November 1872	image 51
	died 10 October 1874	image 118
3. Julia	born 7 April 1875	image 58
4. Herman Johanes	born 20 December 1877	image 67
5. Mabel Agnes	born 3 August 1888	image 89
6. Clara <sup>10</sup>	born 1890	
7. Otis Rudolph <sup>11</sup>	born 19 December 1895	

Notable among the above:

- Two daughters, one from each marriage, married Thompson brothers and settled in Superior, WI.
- One son from the first marriage, Herman, became a medical doctor practicing in Chicago.

Ole's obituary<sup>12</sup> describes a rather impressive funeral. There was a judge among the honorary pallbearers. Relatives from as far as Chicago and Detroit were in attendance. In one respect the obituary seems to be in error: it states that the funeral service was held at the East Norway Lake church, but Ole's name does not appear in the list of burials found in that church's centennial book.

Locations of and inscriptions on grave markers<sup>13</sup> are as follows:

- Maria is interred at the East Norway Lake church cemetery, 1853-1882
- Ole's and Ragna's markers are at the First Lutheran Church of Norway Lake cemetery
  - Ole, 1839-1924
  - Ragna, 1864-1935

Report prepared by Earl O. Knutson, February 2020

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1 A longer piece, tracing the history of Ole, his parents, and his siblings can be seen at

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

2 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9091/55> - the Minister's book

3 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/9088/39> - the Klokke's book

4 The two above records are handwritten so misreading is possible. Note that the two use a different spelling of the father's name. Most other records agree with the dates and spellings in the Minister's book.

5 <https://media.digitalarkivet.no/view/8980/168>

6 [https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/60722/41742\\_315039-00048?backurl=&ssrc=&backlabel=Return#?imageld=41742\\_315039-00153](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/60722/41742_315039-00048?backurl=&ssrc=&backlabel=Return#?imageld=41742_315039-00153)

7 Willmar Tribune, 4 May 1882

8 Accessed via Ancestry.com, image 44; Ancestry places the actual baptism in Waverly, IA.

9 <https://moms.mn.gov>

10 Clara is mentioned in Ole's obituary, which states she died young. She is listed in the 1895 census as a 5 year old in Ole and Ragna's household.

11 WWII Draft Registration Card, viewed on Ancestry.com

12 Willmar Tribune, 30 July 1924. Page1.

13 <https://www.findagrave.com>